

Item 5

COMMISSION FILE NO: 25-069-6 DATE INTRODUCED: June 9, 2025

**INTRODUCED BY:** Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Operations Committee

**RELATING TO**: Approval of 2025 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Projects G98024P27, G98024P28, G98024P29, G98024P30, G98024P31, G98024P32, and G98024P33

#### SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to authorize the Executive Director to approve seven projects, G98024P27, G98024P28, G98024P29, G98024P30, G98024P31, G98024P32, and G98024P33, under the 2025 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program (GIPP) in a total amount not to exceed \$2,681,632. The 2025 GIPP funding was allocated in the approved 2025 Capital budget. Four additional project awards, G98024P34, G98024P35, G98024P36, and G98024P37, are within the Executive Director's authority and, therefore, are not requested for Commission approval. They are included in this document for reference only.

The primary goals of this program are to contribute toward meeting the 50-million-gallon green infrastructure (GI) goal in the five-year Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, continue progress toward the District's 2035 Vision goal of providing 740 million gallons of stormwater capture capacity in any given storm by 2035, implement the Regional GI Plan, and support Commission Policy 1-01.14, Comprehensive Environmental Management. This program also helps form mutually beneficial partnerships to further awareness of the importance of implementing GI to contribute toward a climate resilient community.

The District received 12 applications from private property owners, municipalities, and developers in response to the District's notice and request for applications.

ATTACHMENTS: BACKGROUND	KEY ISSUES					
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COMMITTEE ACTION:		_ DATE:				
COMMISSION ACTION:						

Approval of 2025 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Projects G98024P27, G98024P28, G98024P29, G98024P30, G98024P31, G98024P32, and G98024P33

The following projects and partners are recommended for funding and are requested for Commission approval:

Project Name Applicant		Award Amount	Project Number
Grange Avenue Best			
Management Practices	City of Cudahy	\$552,352	G98024P27
	The Shul Center, Schlitz-		
Bayside – Lake Drive GI	Audubon Nature Center,		
Improvements	and Village of Bayside	\$391,285	G98024P28
Carmen High School of			
Science & Technology	Carmen Schools	\$391,225	G98024P29
Milwaukee Public Schools			
(MPS) Green Schools,	Milwaukee Board of		
Transforming Communities	School Directors on behalf		
Collaboratively – Cass Street	of MPS Cass Street		
School	School	\$383,186	G98024P30
MPS Green Schools,	Milwaukee Board of		
Transforming Communities	School Directors on behalf		
Collaboratively – Dr. Martin	of MPS Dr. Martin Luther		
Luther King, Jr., School	King, Jr., School	\$329,555	G98024P31
MPS Green Schools,	Milwaukee Board of		
Transforming Communities	School Directors on behalf		
Collaboratively – Milwaukee	of Milwaukee French		
French Immersion School	Immersion School	\$320,325	G98024P32
MPS Green Schools,	Milwaukee Board of		
Transforming Communities	School Directors on behalf		
Collaboratively – Trowbridge	of MPS Trowbridge School		
School of Great Lakes Studies	of Great Lakes Studies	\$313,704	G98024P33
	Total	\$2,681,632	

Approval of 2025 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Projects G98024P27, G98024P28, G98024P29, G98024P30, G98024P31, G98024P32, and G98024P33

These projects are summarized below:

### Grange Avenue Best Management Practices – submitted by City of Cudahy (G98024P27)

This project will manage stormwater flows from an existing storm sewer for the neighborhood south of E. Morris Avenue and from a proposed storm sewer along E. Grange Avenue and S. Barland Avenue in the City of Cudahy. It will include three large native landscaping rain gardens and a regenerative stormwater conveyance (RSC) (stepped bioswales) system. The rain garden areas will manage increased flows to contribute to the goal of no increase in peak flow or volume of stormwater to the Kinnickinnic River watershed during the critical time period of the 100-year, 24-hour storm. The RSC will also provide stormwater quality treatment.

Location: 5215 S. Barland Avenue, 5245 S. Barland Avenue, S. Barland Avenue right-ofway, Cudahy, WI 53110 <u>Projected GI Capture Capacity:</u> 2,291,161 gallons <u>GI Strategies</u>: Bioswales (RSC system) and rain gardens.

### Bayside – Lake Drive GI Improvements – submitted by The Shul Center, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, and Village of Bayside (G98024P28)

The Lake Drive GI Improvement Project is a cooperative vision of the Village of Bayside and two highly visible community institutions: the Shul Center and the Schlitz-Audubon Nature Center. The intersection of Lake Drive and Brown Deer Road has been plagued by flooding in recent years, which affects safe and reliable access to the two properties and to the Pelham Heath and lakeshore neighborhoods nearby. The Shul Center's parking lot also has been seriously affected by overland flooding from the north side of the property. The Village has evaluated potential solutions through flow path mapping and other studies but cannot affect a viable solution on its own. The project will include a variety of GI solutions on the Nature Center and Shul properties and in the Village rightof-way.

Location: Intersection of N. Lake Drive and E. Brown Deer Road in the Village of Bayside, WI 53217

Projected GI Capture Capacity: 552,183 gallons

<u>GI Strategies</u>: Constructed wetland, cistern, and bioswales.

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### Carmen High School of Science & Technology – submitted by Carmen Schools (G98024P29)

The project is a new high school for Carmen Schools of Science & Technology to be located at W. Oklahoma Avenue and S. 20th Street. Carmen is a college preparatory charter high school with a liberal arts curriculum that emphasizes science and engineering and encourages students to intern at local corporations or nonprofit organizations. The new 120,000-square-foot, three-story building will house up to 1,100 students from Carmen's South and Southeast High School locations. With the size of the school and the parking required to support it, there were limited options for GI. The artificial turf soccer field with underground storage was selected from several alternatives as the best possible value and most efficient way to provide GI to manage stormwater on the site.

<u>Location:</u> 2005 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215 <u>Gallons Captured</u>: 200,628 GI Strategies: Artificial turf field with underground storage.

# MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Cass Street School – submitted by Milwaukee Board of School Directors on behalf of MPS Cass Street School (G98024P30)

Cass Street School is located on Milwaukee's Lower East Side, just south of Brady Street within walking distance of museums and cultural attractions. The school integrates science, technology, engineering, art, math, and mindfulness to equip students for success in high school and beyond. Large areas of asphalt on the schoolyard will be removed to make way for more porous ground cover/GI. The proposed GI on the schoolyard also offers a unique opportunity to support the academic and social/emotional wellbeing of students and community members around the publicly accessible school.

<u>Location:</u> 1647 N. Cass Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 <u>Projected GI Capture Capacity</u>: 200,655 gallons <u>GI Strategies</u>: Porous pavement, cisterns, stormwater trees, bioswales, and pavement removal.

Approval of 2025 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Projects G98024P27, G98024P28, G98024P29, G98024P30, G98024P31, G98024P32, and G98024P33

# MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., School – submitted by Milwaukee Board of School Directors on behalf of MPS Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., School (G98024P31)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., School is located in Milwaukee's Harambee neighborhood and offers families an African American Immersion environment that focuses on the history and culture of African Americans while drawing upon the strengths of the scholars. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., School's conceptual plan calls for removing approximately 33,200 square feet of asphalt and replacing it with new green space and mixed-use recreation and educational areas. The design includes three outdoor classrooms and gathering areas, bioswales, and the addition of 80 stormwater trees. The inclusion of a variety of native plantings allows for unique spaces on the schoolyard that can represent natural Wisconsin ecosystems, complete with student-created signage.

<u>Location:</u> 3275 N. 3rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212 <u>Projected GI Capture Capacity</u>: 173,940 gallons <u>GI Strategies</u>: Cisterns, stormwater trees, bioswales, and pavement removal.

# MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Milwaukee French Immersion School – submitted by Milwaukee Board of School Directors on behalf of Milwaukee French Immersion School (G98024P32)

Milwaukee French Immersion School (MFIS) is a K4-Grade 5 elementary school founded in 1985 by MPS. MFIS offers an educational experience focused on bilingualism and global citizenship. The redevelopment project will transform the current asphalt heavy playground into a nature inspired landscape, enhancing urban biodiversity and creating a vibrant, sustainable schoolyard. This green space will serve as a destination for both students and the wider community, offering outdoor learning opportunities and fostering environmental stewardship. By involving families and community members, the project seeks to create an outdoor environment that is welcoming to all and prepares students to be future stewards of the environment.

Location: 2630 N. 52nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

Projected GI Capture Capacity: 167,660

<u>GI Strategies</u>: Porous pavement, cisterns, stormwater trees, bioswales, and pavement removal.

Approval of 2025 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Projects G98024P27, G98024P28, G98024P29, G98024P30, G98024P31, G98024P32, and G98024P33

# MPS Green Schools, Transforming Communities Collaboratively – Trowbridge School of Great Lakes Studies – submitted by Milwaukee Board of School Directors on behalf of MPS Trowbridge School of Great Lakes Studies (G98024P33)

Trowbridge Street School of Great Lakes Studies, located just 2.5 blocks from Lake Michigan, integrates ecology, Great Lakes, and freshwater studies into its curriculum. The school offers hands-on learning experiences through its science and hydroponics lab, butterfly garden, and perennial rain garden. Partnerships with local organizations, such as the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences and the United States Coast Guard, further enrich students' science education, extending their learning beyond the classroom. This renovation project will remove a significant amount of impervious asphalt pavement to make room for a variety of GI types to help manage water where it falls.

Location: 1943 E. Trowbridge Street, Milwaukee, WI 53207 <u>Projected GI Capture Capacity</u>: 163,625 gallons <u>GI Strategies</u>: Bioswales.

The following projects and partners are included for reference only. They are within the Executive Director's authority and are not requested for Commission approval:

Project Name	Applicant	Award Amount	Project Number
Milwaukee County Zoo Front			
Entrance Reconfiguration	Milwaukee County	\$250,000	G98024P34
MPS Green Schools,			
Transforming Communities	Milwaukee Board of		
Collaboratively – Emerson	School Directors on behalf		
School	of MPS Emerson School	\$246,693	G98024P35
	Sagewind Brown Deer,		
Fireside – Brown Deer	LLC	\$175,000	G98024P36
	Historic Patterson Place,		
Historic Patterson Place	LLC	\$90,707	G98004P37
<b>NOTE:</b> Commission approval			
not requested for these			
projects	Total	\$762,400	

#### BACKGROUND

Approval of 2025 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Projects G98024P27, G98024P28, G98024P29, G98024P30, G98024P31, G98024P32, and G98024P33

This program provides funding support for a series of GI projects to demonstrate the importance of GI as a sustainable practice in managing the volume, rate, and quality of stormwater runoff. These projects may also catalyze more widespread GI strategies that can benefit the operation of municipal storm and sanitary sewers and the District's system. They may also provide potential added benefits to the award partners, including energy savings, reduction of the urban heat island effect, improved aesthetics, improved air quality, and improved water quality.

Partners were selected based on:

- The visibility of the projects and their benefits to the public (public accessibility).
- Partner match, commitment to outreach, and job training.
- Demonstration of a long-term commitment to the projects (maintenance).

The partners chosen through the request for application and evaluation process will share funding responsibility (cost share) with the District. The partner share includes costs associated with the design and construction, monetary contributions, and long-term commitments to maintain the projects. Through this program, the District can leverage significant money for GI.

The District's 2020 Facilities Plan recommended stormwater management demonstration projects to determine best practices the District could recommend. The GIPP allows for a wide array of GI practices to be used to manage stormwater. Projects are evaluated from a qualitative standpoint post-construction, and that information is reported in District publications.

Projects qualifying for funding from the capital budget must qualify for a minimum award of \$25,000, and the District maintains a limited-term conservation easement or maintenance covenant on the project for 11 to 20 years.

#### RESOLUTION

Approval of 2025 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program Projects G98024P27, G98024P28, G98024P29, G98024P30, G98024P31, G98024P32, and G98024P33

**RESOLVED**, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized to approve seven projects, G98024P27, G98024P28, G98024P29, G98024P30, G98024P31, G98024P32, and G98024P33, under the 2025 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program, and that the Executive Director is directed to execute contracts and agreements for the projects in a total amount not to exceed \$2,681,632.