



# City of Kansas City, Missouri

## Docket Memo

Ordinance/Resolution #: 250260

Submitted Department/Preparer: Neighborhoods

Revised 6/10/24

Docket memos are required on all ordinances initiated by a Department Director. More information can be found in [Administrative Regulation \(AR\) 4-1](#).

### Executive Summary

Accepting and approving four vendor contracts as part of the previously appropriated \$5,100,000.00 ARPA Stormwater Infrastructure Grant award from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to fund riparian restoration along the Blue River and recognizing this ordinance as having an accelerated effective date.

### Discussion

In 2021 Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill designed to speed up the American economic recovery after the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the co-occurring recession. Within specific categories such as support for public health expenditures, addressing negative economic impacts caused by COVID-19, replacing lost public sector revenue, and investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, states and local governments have flexibility to decide how best to use their funding to meet the needs of their communities. As part of ARPA, Missouri received approximately \$2.7 billion in State Fiscal Recovery Funds for a variety of approved grant programs.

In the spring of 2022, the Kansas City Parks & Recreation Department (KCPRD) was approached by four local nonprofit organizations with a grant proposal under the state's ARPA Stormwater Infrastructure Grant. This program is administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) using ARPA funds for projects requiring necessary stormwater infrastructure improvements. KCPRD worked closely with the four nonprofit partners to fine-tune the proposal and submitted it in the summer of 2022. The final proposal seeks to restore 200 acres of riparian habitat along the Blue River, improve green infrastructure in three nodes along the Blue River corridor, and plant 2,000 trees along the corridor. This project will span across Council Districts 3, 5, and 6. In the fall of 2022, the City found out it was selected for an award of \$5,000,000.00 for its project proposal.

Due to bandwidth issues within KCPRD, the project was transferred to the Office of Environmental Quality in the Spring of 2024 to administer as the overall project

closely aligns with a number of strategies and actions in the City's 2022 Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan (CPRP). Nearly all the strategies under the Natural Systems section of the CPRP apply: N-1 Expand the network of trees and natural areas; N-2 Promote regenerative, ecologically healthy soils and landscapes; N-3 Promote sustainable water supply and use; and N-4 Use natural systems to manage stormwater runoff. Therefore, OEQ worked closely with MDNR and the four nonprofit grant partners to complete the necessary paperwork to obligate the funds and accept the grant award as required by the statutory deadline of December 31, 2024.

The City is now ready to award the vendor contracts to the four nonprofit partners that were named in the application and have worked on it since its inception. OEQ has sought all the proper approvals including a solicitation waiver from the City's Procurement Office and permission to use a noncompetitive bid process with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. These documents will be attached to the ordinance materials.

## **Fiscal Impact**

1. Is this legislation included in the adopted budget? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. What is the funding source?  
The funds are appropriated through Ordinance 241012 in funds:
  - 25-2030-707772-611060-G10DNRARPA (\$100,000.00 City match); Parks Fund
  - 25-2580-575806-619080-G57DNRARPA (\$5,000,000.00 Grant award); General Grants Fund
3. How does the legislation affect the current fiscal year?  
This legislation approves vendors/contractors for a grant award in the current fiscal year. This is additional grant funding for riparian restoration along the Blue River. This funding will carry over into future fiscal years.
4. Does the legislation have a fiscal impact in future fiscal years? Please notate the difference between one-time and recurring costs.  
The award amount of \$5,100,000.00 will be distributed once. However, since the grant cycle goes through December 31, 2026, the funds will carry over into the next two Fiscal Years, 25-26 and 26-27.
5. Does the legislation generate revenue, leverage outside funding, or deliver a return on investment?  
Yes, since these funds are being received from an outside grant award, they are leveraging outside funding. Additionally, conducting the riparian restoration along the Blue River should help to reduce flooding during storm events and

increase the area's resilience to heat by reducing the urban heat island effect, both of which would provide a return on investment.

### Office of Management and Budget Review

(OMB Staff will complete this section.)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. This legislation is supported by the general fund. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. This fund has a structural imbalance.              | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Account string has been verified/confirmed.        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |

### Additional Discussion (if needed)

This legislation estimates revenue sufficient to cover the additional appropriation.

## Citywide Business Plan (CWB) Impact

1. View the [Adopted 2025-2029 Citywide Business Plan](#)
2. Which CWBP goal is most impacted by this legislation?  
Infrastructure and Accessibility (Press tab after selecting.)
3. Which objectives are impacted by this legislation (select all that apply):
  - ☐ Engage in thoughtful planning and redesign of existing road networks to ensure safety, access, and mobility of users of all ages and abilities.
  - ☐ Enhance the City's connectivity, resiliency, and equity through a better-connected multi-modal transportation system for all users.
  - ☐ Build on existing strengths while developing a comprehensive transportation plan for the future.
  - ☒ Develop environmentally sustainable infrastructure strategies that improve quality of life and foster economic growth.
  - ☒ Ensure adequate resources are provided for continued maintenance of existing infrastructure.
  - ☐ Focus on delivery of safe connections to schools.

## Prior Legislation

Ordinance number 241012 previously accepted, approved, and appropriated the grant award for these contracts under the grant award.

Adding this here for additional context: prior to applying to the application solicitation, KCPRD sought approval from the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners to apply for this award. That was provided through the Parks Board Resolution #31984 on July 6, 2022. Additionally, as part of the paperwork necessary to accept the award, OEQ sought approval from the Parks Board to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department, as some of the work will be done on County property. That was approved through Resolution #32663 on October 8, 2024.

## **Service Level Impacts**

The project will restore 200 acres of riparian zone along the Blue River. The green infrastructure enhancements and riparian restoration will improve channel stability, reduce peak velocities during storm events, and provide water quality benefits for nonpoint source pollution – all of which will benefit surrounding communities by reducing the impacts of flooding during storm events. In addition, the enhancements will add to green infrastructure previously implemented by the Smart Sewer Program in the Blue River basin under Kansas City's Consent Decree, addressing critical combined sewer water quality issues for residents. Importantly, riparian restoration will also help reduce flood flows and pollutant loads from upstream areas in Kansas that are beyond the scope of the City's Smart Sewer and Consent Decree activities.

Additionally, the project is adjacent to HUD Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs), particularly the northern section, which is entirely encompassed by QCTs. In fact, low-income households are isolated and highly concentrated in six Kansas City zip codes, four of which are addressed by this project. This will therefore enhance equitable access to nature. Riparian restoration and native plant demonstration gardens will help generate recreation opportunities in both planned and grassroots ways along the Blue River Greenway.

Finally, as part of the project, vendors/contractors will be working with communities surrounding the project area to provide educational opportunities about the benefits of green infrastructure. Both trees and native plants will be provided to interested citizens and consultations with Nature Advisors will help interested residents determine the best locations and species of native plants for their properties.

## **Other Impacts**

1. What will be the potential health impacts to any affected groups?  
Reducing the impacts of flooding during storm events could have an impact on affected groups by reducing the mold and mildew build-up due to standing water, thus improving air quality in homes with regular flooding. Water quality

will be improved as less sewer overflows will be diverted to the river during storm events if we are not overloading the combined sewer water system. Additionally, increased tree canopy and native plants will ultimately help reduce the urban heat island effect and the local impacts of climate change. This will improve public health in our City by reducing the impact of heat-related health issues caused by climate change. Finally, it has been shown that access to natural spaces improves mental health. As we are in a national mental health crisis, increasing access to natural areas will provide the public with more ways of combatting these issues.

2. How have those groups been engaged and involved in the development of this ordinance?

Residents were not directly engaged in the development of the project proposal. However, the proposal was built off the strategies listed in the City's CPRP, which was heavily influenced by public outreach and feedback during its development in 2022.

3. How does this legislation contribute to a sustainable Kansas City?

As stated throughout the Docket Memo, this is ultimately a sustainability project. While it is a stormwater infrastructure project, it largely contributes to a more sustainable Kansas City as it aligns with all the strategies laid out in the Natural Systems section of the City's Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan.

1. N-1: It will expand our network of trees and natural areas, thus helping to increase the City's urban forest/canopy, reduce the urban heat island effect, and increase the effectiveness of pervious land areas for water absorption.
2. N-2: It will promote regenerative, ecologically healthy soils and landscapes by removing invasive species and replacing them with native plants that will better support the local ecosystem of plants and animals.
3. N-3: It will promote sustainable water supply and use by planting natives that don't require additional watering and that help filter non-point source pollution so that less processing is needed further down the chain.
4. N-4: It will use natural systems to manage stormwater runoff by providing natural sinks that help to soak up water during storm events, sending less to the combined sewer system which reduces the chance of overflows and the need for increased wastewater processing downstream.

4. Does this legislation create or preserve new housing units?

No (Press tab after selecting)

Click or tap here to enter text.

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5. Department staff certifies the submission of any application Affirmative Action Plans or Certificates of Compliance, Contractor Utilization Plans (CUPs), and Letters of Intent to Subcontract (LOIs) to CREO prior to, or simultaneously with, the legislation entry request in Legistar.

Yes - I have submitted documents for CREO Review (Press tab after selecting)  
Please attach or copy and paste CREO's review.  
Please see the attached Contract Goal Request Forms from CREO.

6. Does this legislation seek to approve a contract resulting from an Invitation for Bid?

No(Press tab after selecting)

Click or tap here to enter text.

7. Does this legislation seek to approve a contract resulting from a Request for Proposal/Qualification (RFP/Q)?  
No(Press tab after selecting)