

**Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment and Notice of Intent to Request
Release of Funds for the Urban Ecology Center Washington Park Project,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

These Notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Urban Ecology Center (UEC).

Request for Release of Funds (RROF): On or about March 17, 2025, the City of Milwaukee, on behalf of the grant recipient, UEC, will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to release Community Project Funding (CPF) - \$2,000,000 awarded to UEC.

Purpose: The CPF funds will support the updating and expanding of the existing Urban Ecology Center building in Washington Park that will double their capacity for K12 school partnerships and start new early childhood education programs, while continuing to serve as an environmental education center for people of all ages and a community gathering location. Outdoor project activities include construction of a paved driveway, landscaped greenspace, concrete walkways/sidewalks, surface parking spaces paved with HMA pavement, and canoe/kayak storage. The project includes the demolition of a portion of the building and the renovation of the northern-most portion. Additional construction will be added to the south of the renovated portion of the building. The Urban Ecology Center building will include living spaces, classrooms, animal rooms, bathrooms, equipment storage spaces, a library, office space, and an accessible roof area with landscaping and greenery.

Determination: It has been determined that such request for release of funds for this project will not constitute actions significantly affecting the quality of the natural or human environment, and that this is a finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record.

Environmental Review Record: An environmental review has been made by the City of Milwaukee. The Environmental Review Record (ERR) is on file at the address listed below and is available for public examination and copying upon request, between the hours of 8:00am and 4:45pm. All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the City to:

Attention: David Misky
Assistant Executive Director-Secretary of RACM
Department of City Development
809 N. Broadway, 2nd Floor
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

This material is available in alternative formats for individuals with disabilities upon request. Please contact:

City of Milwaukee ADA Coordinator
Department of Administration
200 East Wells Street, Room 606
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Phone: (414) 286-3475
TTY: 711
Fax: (414) 286-5475
Email: ADACoordinator@milwaukee.gov

Provide a 72 hour advance notice to ensure accommodation of request.

Such written comments should be received at the above address on or before March 15, 2025. All such comments so received will be considered, and the City of Milwaukee will not request the release of Federal funds or take any administrative action on these projects prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

Public Comment: Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development (see above for contact information). All comments received by March 15, 2025 will be considered by the City of Milwaukee and UEC prior to submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. Following the RROF, HUD will be accepting comments for 15 days following receipt of the RROF.

Release of Funds: The City of Milwaukee certifies to HUD that Mario Higgins in his capacity as Director, CDGA, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibility under NEPA and allows UEC to use Program funds.

Objections to Release of Funds: HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Milwaukee certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Milwaukee; (b) the City of Milwaukee has omitted a step or failed to make a decision for finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the HUD Milwaukee Field Office at MKE-ENV@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the HUD Milwaukee Field Office via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Mario Higgins, Director, CDGA