City of Stoughton, 207 S. Forrest Street, Stoughton WI 53589

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

Authorizing the submittal of an EDA ARPA Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Grant for Yahara River Corridor Project.

Committee Action:

Fiscal Impact: City sponsored match of up to 20% of project costs or $1,719,320

File Number:	**Date Introduced:**

WHEREAS the City of Stoughton is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application; and,

WHEREAS financial aid is desired to carry out the project; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Stoughton has budgeted a sum sufficient to provide up to a 20% match and complete the project; and,

HEREBY AUTHORIZES the Parks & Recreation Director to act on behalf of the City of Stoughton to:

Submit and sign an application to the United States Economic Development Administration for any financial aid that may be available; and

Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

Council Action: ☐ **Adopted** ☐ **Failed** **Vote** _____

Mayoral Action: ☐ **Accept** ☐ **Veto**

_____

Tim Swadley, Mayor Date

Council Action: _____ ☐ **Override** **Vote** _____

CITY OF STOUGHTON
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Date: September 16, 2021

To: Whitewater Park Steering Committee, Parks & Recreation Committee, and City Council

From: Dan Glynn, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: EDA ARPA Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Competitive Grant

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is offering a grant program to help communities and regions devise and implement sustainable economic recovery strategies through a variety of non-construction and construction projects to response to damage to the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors from the coronavirus pandemic and to promote the economic resilience of regions dependent on those industries. Construction activities include:

- New outdoor recreation and trail infrastructure and public access enhancements
- Nature-based infrastructure projects to improve access to recreation

EDA defines resilience broadly as the ability of a community or region to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from various disruptions to its economic base. An examples of resiliency from the notice of funding opportunity includes:

- Efforts to enhance business retention and expansion to strengthen these sectors

The grant application will include the following Yahara River Corridor improvements:

- Jefferson St pedestrian bridge
- RDA-Mandt Park pedestrian bridge
- River walk trail
- Yahara River Park including the dam reconstruction
- Yahara River Park area trails, underpass, and pedestrian plazas
- Restoring and remediating the millpond sediment
- Mandt Park canoe/kayak launches
- Mandt Park parking and updated roadway system
- Mandt Park trails
- Mandt Restroom

These improvements will create a live, play, and learn synergy for the region which addresses many economic development issues faced by the region. The Madison Region has a Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Advance Now 2.0. The project aligns with many strategic directions, key actions, and best practices highlighted in the CEDS. These are:

- Leveraging best practices for growing the talent base. Talent today is primarily attract
    - Talent today is primarily attracted to quality of life rather than employment opportunities. Building infrastructure that promotes high quality of life is likely to be an attractor for talent to Stoughton and the Madison Region.
- Maximize Opportunities to retain local secondary and post-secondary graduates.
    - Stoughton's approach of developing an innovation center, riverfront residential development, and the Yahara River Corridor Improvements will create a synergy of learn-work-play.
- Encouraging more compact development, ranging from high-density transit-oriented development to traditional neighborhoods with homes within walking distance of parks, schools, and businesses.
    - The riverfront residential development will create 200 housing units where people will be able
- Enhancing the region's bicycle and pedestrian network to improve access to activity centers, neighborhoods, and other destinations.
    - The river walk trails will connect to the regional Lower Yahara River Trail. Providing residents access to downtown Stoughton, Yahara River Park, Livsreise, and other points of interest in Stoughton, McFarland, and Madison.
- Showcase the region as a place not only to work, but also as a community to live, play and learn.
    - According to the Potential Economic Impacts of a Proposed Whitewater Park: A Market-based Case Study of Stoughton, WI (2018), thousands of visitors will visit Stoughton annually to use the Yahara River Park. This will showcase Stoughton and the Madison Region's assets.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity states that the EDA expects to fund at least 80%, and up to 100%, of eligible project costs. Sponsors that provide a match will rank higher. The total costs of the aforementioned Yahara River Corridor improvements is $8,596,148. A 20% match would be $1,719,320. However, $807,228 of grants have been secured for the project that can be used as a match. Additionally, other state grants such as the DNR's Stewardship Fund could be applied for in the future and could further reduce the City's responsibility to $187,002.