



MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.2

Agenda Item: Spark-Y Grant Application

Presenter: Kevin Reich

Meeting Date: 12 November 2024 **Flexibility:** Yes No

Estimated Time: Consent Agenda 10 Min. 15 Min. 30 Min. 45 Min. 1 Hour

Action Request: Information/Review Motion to approve Budget Change Other

Board Action: Approved Denied Tabled Accepted Report Other

Date of Action: 12 November 2024

Background

Spark-Y is applying for an EPA Community Change Grant in collaboration with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. If awarded, this grant could infuse over 10 Million dollars into North and Northeast Minneapolis for green infrastructure projects supported by workforce development participants in Spark-Y's apprenticeship program.

Examples of the green infrastructure work include an update to the urban farm and greenhouse at Edison High School (EHS), installation of irrigation infrastructure to increase the use of the water captured under the football field, in-classroom touchpoints with 1–2 EHS classes per semester, and a wind & water learning station. The grant would provide for a greenhouse, outdoor learning garden, a community garden, and educational and neighborhood outreach capacity to start the creation of a comprehensive and age appropriate Green Campus at the Nellie Stone Elementary. Green Stormwater Infrastructure opportunities in this key Northern Green Zone location would address identified flooding issues and potential water reuse.

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2023-028

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPORT FOR SPARK-Y'S APPLICATION FOR AN EPA COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MISSISSIPPI WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, MWMO funds and supports efforts that fund green stormwater infrastructure, connections to the Mississippi River, environmental education and relevant community outreach;

WHEREAS, MWMO primarily works in partnership to achieve its goals, especially with mission-aligned public and non-profit entities;

WHEREAS, A well-established working relationship between the non-profit Sparky-Y and MWMO has delivered successful projects that have had a strong emphasis on developing a "Green Workforce" whereby Spark-Y has established formal working relationships with MWMO's member jurisdictions of the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant would provide resources that would significantly accelerate high-priority work in the Green Zones and River Connection locations and could fund design work, BMPs and environmental educational materials;

WHEREAS, MWMO is not obligated to any specific funding commitment, and its role would be the listed governmental partner and to provide guidance and technical assistance as needed

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners supports Spark-Y's application for an EPA Community Change Grant and formally signs on as the official Government Partner, and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 12th day of November, 2024.

Review for the Board:

Randy Stille, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director