

Full Proposal Project Narrative

1. Organizational overview -Mission Statement:

The mission of the Southport Park Association is to establish public-private partnerships committed to historic preservation and sustainable environmental stewardship throughout Kenosha's lakefront park system, as an enduring legacy for generations to come.

- Brief overview of your organization's history, purpose, activities and program areas:

The Southport Park Association of Kenosha was founded in 2014 by community volunteers as a 501© (3) not-for-profit corporation. We have endeavored to connect people, parks, and preservation in our efforts at Southport Park and throughout Kenosha. The primary goal of our organization is to serve as a community-based partner to the City of Kenosha in the implementation of the Southport Park Master Plan, adopted by the Kenosha Common Council in 2013. Our initial efforts in Kenosha's Southport Park have focused on enhancing public engagement in historic preservation, and environmental stewardship of this treasured community resource.

Learn more about the Southport Park Association here:

<https://www.southportparkassociation.org>

- Key accomplishments

In 2017, the Association signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with City of Kenosha**, thereby establishing a public/private partnership in planning and design for Southport Park

<https://live-southport-park-association-2020.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MOU-signed-copy-pdf.pdf>

Southport Beach House Utilization and Design Recommendations

(At the request of Mayor Antaramian in 2018)

https://live-southport-park-association-2020.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SPA-Utilization-Design-doc-6_2020.pdf

Southport Park Conceptual Landscape Plan

(Adopted by the City of Kenosha Parks Commission August 2020)

<https://www.southportparkassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/May-2020-SPA-Conceptual-pdf.pdf>

This plan envisions the following improvements to the Southport Park Landscape

- ▶ Naturalistic Prairie Garden landscape installation
- ▶ Walking and cycling pathways
- ▶ New activity areas for all age groups
- ▶ Expansion of ADA accessibility throughout the park
- ▶ Venue for watercraft and play equipment rentals
- ▶ Defined location(s) for future parking expansion
- ▶ Upgraded signage
- ▶ Upgraded lighting elements
- ▶ Accessible power sources throughout the park

Partnership with Watershed Program of Southeast Wisconsin

<https://watershedprogram.com>

Bike Valet in Harbor Market and Kenosha Public Market

The Kenosha Bike Valet allows cyclists to ride to the Kenosha Harbor Market and the Kenosha Public Market, park their bikes safely while shopping and exploring downtown Kenosha. This free service is operated by the Southport Park Association and community volunteers. Cyclists leave their bikes on racks in the monitored bike corral.

To learn more about the Southport Park Association activities and partnerships:

<https://www.southportparkassociation.org/newsletter/>

2. Project overview

- Need/Purpose

Southport Park Watershed Rejuvenation Project (Phase 1 Design and Engineering)

The Southport Park Association and the City of Kenosha are seeking financial support from public and private sector grantors. Developing detailed engineering specifications for the storm water drainage system in the Southport Beach House and designing a detailed landscape plan to implement the Southport Park Association Conceptual Landscape Plan (CP) will enable us to provide the level of documentation required from government agencies and potential private partnerships as these projects move forward.

- Project goals

Southport Park Watershed Rejuvenation Project Phase 1 (Design and Engineering)

This request for Phase 1 design and engineering funding includes 2 projects which are responsive to the objectives of the DNR Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan for the Pike River-Kenosha SE01 Watershed, which includes the Pike Creek Watershed. The historic Southport Park Beach House storm water drainage system has fallen into disrepair and requires modernization in order to implement best practices for nonpoint source pollution abatement. In conjunction with this effort, the Southport Park landscape would

be redeveloped to utilize extensive planting of native grasses and other native plant species to establish a naturalistic watershed filtration system. This approach to Kenosha’s coastal parkland will serve as a living laboratory of environmental stewardship, educating park visitors about the importance of careful management of the Lake Michigan watershed.

“More than 200 million acres of North America — from Canada to Texas — used to ripple like a vast sea of grass. Today, less than 1 percent of that prairie landscape remains. Fortunately, this vital and beneficial habitat is slowly making a comeback. Native plants have evolved over hundreds of years to adapt to their surroundings. They may require a little help with weed control as the seeds or young plants develop in a new area for the first year or two, but they require minimal care once established.

The deep roots of prairie plants and nutrients provided by them helped build the rich black soil that was tilled for farming in the 1800s. Those deep roots help stabilize sloped areas and prevent erosion. This can be especially vital for shorelines along lakes, rivers or wetlands. Prairie plants also help prevent pollutants from washing into waterways.” -Southport Park Association Conceptual Landscape Plan

- Specific activities you will undertake to achieve those goals

The Southport Park Association will work in partnership with the City of Kenosha, Parkitecture, and GRAEF engineering to develop design and engineering plans consistent with the DNR WQM plan for the Pike Creek Kenosha SE01 Watershed.

<https://www.parkitecture.org/what-we-do>

<https://graef-usa.com/services/environmental-services/>

- Project deliverables

Phase 1 deliverables will be detailed design and engineering plans to guide implementation of DNR WQM planning in the Southport Park watershed area.

- Expected outcomes

Comprehensive landscape design and professional engineering of the Southport Beach House drainage system will guide future construction, parkland redevelopment, and financial planning for these improvements.

3. Project partners

- List key project partners and describe their role in the project.

The City of Kenosha will serve as the general contractor for the design and engineering phase of this project. We anticipate they will engage the services of 2 consulting firms, Parkitecture and GRAEF to develop detailed design and engineering documents.

4. Project context

- Please note whether your project is part of a larger initiative, is identified as a priority in a watershed restoration or other plan, or falls under the work of a broader coalition of organizations or agencies.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has designated the Pike Creek watershed in the City of Kenosha an Area of Special Natural Resources Interest [ASNRI]. Southport Park lies within this ANSRI, along the coast of Lake Michigan. The Pike Creek watershed is currently “303d Listed”, prioritized for abatement planning for nonpoint source pollution and stormwater reconstruction grants, and for targeted runoff management. Southport Park has been recommended for federal grants including (among others) USEPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants, grants from the National Parks Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Working with the City of Kenosha and stakeholders throughout Wisconsin, the Southport Park Association envisions an enduring system of beautiful parklands on the shore of Lake Michigan. Our initial efforts in Kenosha’s Southport Park have focused on enhancing public engagement in historic preservation, the creation of recreational and educational programs, and environmental stewardship of this treasured community resource.

5. Project timeline

- Please provide a monthly or quarterly timeline of major project activities. If your project can be broken down into discrete phases, please describe each phase.

We anticipate Phase I Design and Engineering will be completed in the first quarter of 2022.

6. Funding

- Have matching or other funds been secured to support this project? If so, please identify sources and amounts of funding.

This phase is part of a multi-year City of Kenosha project involving restoration of the historic Southport Beach House and shoreline revetment repairs along the entire coastline of Southport Park. To date the city has expended over \$8 million in shoreline revetment reconstruction and over \$1M of a total budget of \$1.8 million for Beach House restoration.

- Will the project move forward if you are unable to secure all the necessary funding?

These funds will provide an essential stepping-stone to larger project goals throughout Southport Park. For landscape improvements we anticipate a total project cost of over \$1.3 million, which will be raised from public and private sources. In addition, over \$1.8 million has been budgeted by the City of Kenosha for the Southport Beach House restoration. This proposed design and engineering project will ensure the \$1.8 million already committed by the city for these renovations will result in a storm water run-off system that will mitigate watershed pollution along the coast of Southport Park. It is unlikely the park landscape watershed upgrades and the redesign of the Beach House storm water drainage system will move forward without full funding of this request from the Fund for Lake Michigan.

7. Permits and Approvals

- Have you or will you need to secure any permits or approvals to carry out the proposed activities?

Phase 1 Design and Engineering of watershed improvements in Southport Park will not require permits or approvals and will be overseen by the City of Kenosha Public Works Department.

- For green infrastructure or habitat restoration projects, please indicate if designs have been completed for the project.

The City of Kenosha Parks Commission approved the Conceptual Landscape plan in August 2020 and has approved the renovations to the historic Southport Beach House. The Beach House renovations have also been approved by the City of Kenosha Historic Preservation Commission and the State of Wisconsin Office of Historic Preservation. This application is a request for funding to complete project design and engineering.

8. Project evaluation

- Provide a detailed evaluation plan and describe how the results of the project will be measured. If applicable, describe what metrics will be used to evaluate success (e.g., number of feet of restored shoreline, acres of habitat restored, reduction in tons of P delivery, amount of stormwater runoff diverted, percentage change in pollutants, etc.).

This is a request for monies toward design and engineering plans that will be responsive to the objectives of the DNR WQM Plan for the Pike River SE01 Watershed.

9. Project Challenges

- Please describe project risks or anticipated challenges and how you plan to address them.

None anticipated during Phase 1. We anticipate the challenges typically associated with fundraising, construction, and implementation of a large community project. However, with the support of the City of Kenosha as well as a growing list of committed community partners and volunteers, we believe the culture of teamwork we have been building will assure the long-term success of this project.

10. Outreach

- Does the project include an outreach component or strategy for sharing lessons learned? If so, please describe.

Southport Park Association anticipates broad community engagement with the improvements envisioned in this plan. Prairie gardens are created for both their environmental and educational value. Several organizations have already offered their support in the creation of the new park landscape and local news outlets are following our efforts closely. We also anticipate the City of Kenosha will be updating the city website and assisting with public relations initiatives to bring attention to these long-awaited improvements in one of Kenosha's most treasured parks.

From the Southport Park Association Conceptual Landscape Plan:

“Prairie gardens are educational landscapes for students of the biological sciences in all age groups. They encourage responsible environmental stewardship of our precious land and water resources, as well as providing habitat for the protection and preservation of natural species. These gardens offer year-round beauty and can inspire myriad opportunities for education, play, relaxation, and volunteerism in Southport Park and beyond- throughout Kenosha’s public lakefront spaces.”

Current list of community partners: <https://www.southportparkassociation.org/community-partners/>

11. Sustainability

- Describe how the grant's work will be sustained after the grant period is complete. If the project will require long-term management, describe your plans for ensuring continued funding and/or maintenance after the grant period.

The Association envisions a long-term partnership with the City of Kenosha, our growing list of community partners, and citizens throughout our area. Since this plan will be implemented in City of Kenosha parkland, we anticipate ongoing maintenance will be managed by the city in a way that will attract residents and visitors to the facilities, programs, and parkland envisioned in this initiative.

12. Capacity to conduct project

- Please address the capacity of your organization and project staff to carry out the proposed work. Please describe whether your organization has conducted similar projects in the past and who will be responsible for project management.

The City of Kenosha has agreed to serve as the general contractor for the Southport Park Watershed Rejuvenation Project, Phase 1 Design and Engineering. The Association has requested their contracting and management oversight of this phase, given their long expertise in parks management and their detailed knowledge of Southport Park site considerations; as well as their specific knowledge of the structural and design requirements that have been recommended by the State Office of Historic Preservation for the Southport Beach House.