

<b>1. Type of Project (check one):</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Wetland Protection and Habitat Restoration <input type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source Pollution Control <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Resources and Community Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes Education <input type="checkbox"/> Public Access and Historic Preservation
<b>2. Project Title (max. 15 words):</b> Mitigation Planning – Greater Pershing Drive/Myers Park Area (Racine, WI)		
<b>3. Organization applying:</b> City of Racine		<b>5. Organization nine-digit DUNS Number:</b> 020472601
<b>4. Contact Person and Address (include full, <u>nine-digit</u> zip code):</b> Tom Molbeck, City Hall Annex 800 Center Street, Room 127 Racine, WI 53403-1481  <b>Phone:</b> 262-636-9452 <b>Email:</b> Tom.Molbeck@cityofracine.org		<b>6. Primary County where project is located:</b> Racine  <b>7. Other Counties where project is located:</b> None  <b>8. Congressional District #:</b> 1st  <b>9. State Senate District #:</b> 22nd  <b>10. State Assembly District #:</b> 66th
<b>11. Total Project Cost:</b> \$60,000		
<b>12. WCMP Share:</b> \$30,000		<b>14. WCMP Percent:</b> 50 %
<b>13. Applicant Share:</b> \$30,000		<b>15. Applicant Percent:</b> 50%
<b>16. Brief Summary of the Project (300 word maximum).</b> Include (a) Project Description (1-2 paragraphs) and (b) Tasks/Deliverables (title and 1-2 sentence description for each task/deliverable). The project should have at least one task: add more as applicable. <u>Consider completing this portion of the application last to summarize your proposal.</u>		
<p>a. Project Description:          This project proposes to develop a mitigation plan for the greater Pershing Park Drive/Myers Park area within the City of Racine, Wisconsin in response to unprecedented damages incurred as a result of historic high Lake Michigan water levels and more frequent/intense storm events. Rebuilding to pre-disaster or near pre-disaster conditions (partial mitigation) will not reduce or eliminate long term risk, perpetuating Racine’s vulnerability to future disasters.</p> <p>Coastal hazard mitigation planning is a proactive approach and municipal necessity in order to avoid repeated damages resulting from adverse conditions projected under multiple climate change scenarios. The creation of a mitigation plan will allow the City of Racine to extend beyond solely rebuilding critical infrastructure and community amenities damaged by a catastrophic January 2020 storm to the creation of a more sustainable and resilient shoreline; one that is supportive of the multiple uses that the citizens of this community have enjoyed along this stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline for the last 100 years, including recreation. Diverse stakeholders will be engaged throughout the process to ensure that past and future use preferences are considered.</p>		
<p>b. Project Tasks/Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning Document: A comprehensive mitigation plan, which leverages current efforts, will be developed in concert with the selected consultant and distributed to participants and local decision makers.</li> <li>2. Management Plan: As an addendum to the mitigation plan, a management plan will be developed for any existing/proposed green infrastructure components to ensure optimal/ongoing functionality.</li> <li>3. Stakeholder Engagement: The City of Racine will engage stakeholder groups that are informative to the development of the mitigation plan throughout the process and present the final plan to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Board.</li> <li>4. Final Report: A final report, summarizing the process and findings, will be provided to the WI Coastal Management Program.</li> </ol>		

**1. Background/context:** Concisely state the problem or issue that this proposal addresses. Include important background information.

Coastal hazards, especially shoreline erosion and flooding, is an issue being confronted by many Great Lakes coastal communities, with near historic high water levels not seen since 1986. With a change of over six feet since 2012, property owners within the public and private domains have faced challenges ranging from damage to buildings and gray/green infrastructure, landscape alterations, as well as forfeited revenue due to loss of utility/equity. Adapting to climate change, including high water levels, will require a unique and holistic perspective to creating a resilient shoreline. However, 60% of coastal community planners and managers surveyed by UW Sea Grant stated “that they do not have a planning mechanism to address coastal storm hazards” and the majority of planners indicated that their communities were not comprehensively planning for coastal storms (UW Sea Grant 2014).

Hazard mitigation is action taken to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. Hazard mitigation is a cornerstone of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), designed to reduce vulnerability to disasters from natural hazards. Its long-term focus and proactive nature is dedicated to breaking the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage from disasters (FEMA 2000, Godschalk 2003). Mitigation necessarily requires a review of the built environment and municipal framework that formed it in order to achieve resiliency.

Resilient communities are able to withstand adverse environment conditions/events because critical property and infrastructure assessments have been performed, natural spaces have been preserved and there is an element of cooperation amongst stakeholders. At its most effective level, coastal risk management should be considered more than just protection against erosion, inundation, flooding and other hazards (CPSL 2010). It should serve as a continuous feedback loop to reduce or avoid states of vulnerability through a review of past and current practices, data and other metrics and their effectiveness at providing a proactive rather than retrospective response to changing weather and climatic patterns.

Intense storms and historic high lake levels are threatening coastal assets within the City of Racine. As a result of a single January 10 – 12, 2020 storm event, the city suffered a collective loss of \$6.9 million, resulting in a FEMA federal disaster declaration. Restoration to pre-disaster conditions may be insufficient in light of the increasing frequency and severity of such events, making mitigation planning for coastal hazards an important part community resiliency. Future utilization, and the stability of the shoreline, depends on the permanency of these critical shoreline assets.

This proposal specifically addresses the need to create a more resilient lakefront along the contiguous Pershing Park Drive/Myers Park area on the shore of Lake Michigan within the City of Racine. Through a better understanding of coastal vulnerability/hazards and development of a comprehensive mitigation plan the municipality will be better prepared to address the following:

- How do we protect existing assets (inclusive of physical structures)?
- How do we design and construct going forward?
- What sort of ongoing maintenance can be expected?
- How can we reduce risk while maintaining functionality/utilization?

**References:**

CPSL, 2010. CPSL Third Report. The role of spatial planning and sediment in coastal risk management. Wadden Sea Ecosystem No. 28. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Trilateral Working Group on Coastal Protection and Sea Level Rise (CPSL), Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

FEMA. 2000. Planning for a sustainable future: The link between hazard mitigation and livability, Washington, D.C.

Godschalk, D. 2003. Urban Hazard Mitigation: Creating Resilient Cities. Natural Hazards Review, Vol. 4, No. 3, August 1, 2003.

University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute. 2014. Great Lakes Planning and Mitigation Needs Assessment of Coastal Storm Hazards - Survey Summary.

**2. Project Description:**

- a. Describe the project for which funding is requested. Describe how the project will address the issue(s) outlined in the Background/Context section, above. Do NOT include information about tasks that are not part of the funding request.
- b. Describe how this project is part of an integrated effort or approach.

a. The City of Racine seeks to engage a consultant with expertise in coastal engineering/planning to develop a mitigation plan for the greater Pershing Park Drive/Myers Park area to enhance the resiliency of physical (gray/green) infrastructure and the natural environment to changes in Lake Michigan water levels and intense coastal storm surges. The development of a mitigation plan, and subsequent implementation of elements contained therein, will increase the ability of Wisconsin’s fifth largest community to withstand adverse environment conditions, avoiding the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage from disasters which would have severe economic repercussions.

b. The City of Racine is currently working with FEMA to certify/approve projects and access federal disaster funding to rebuild areas of

shoreline damage along Pershing Drive/Myers Park resulting from the January 2020 storm event. The Public Health Department Laboratory division is participating on the statewide Coastal Actions for Resilience and Economic Security (CARES) of Southeastern Wisconsin Bluff, Beach, and Infrastructure Assets grant as part of a "Community of Practice" network of local officials, scientists, and outreach specialists in the region to provide a framework to share ideas for addressing coastal hazards in the region. Under this parent project, the City of Racine was also awarded funding to better understand coastal hazard impacts through parcel mapping, shoreline classification, public outreach and local ordinance review as well develop best management plans for WI DNR designated public beaches in Racine County. The city is also working with the US Forest Service and US Fish & Wildlife Service to maintain native plant/tree communities within Myers Park, which function as green infrastructure, and address storm damage to coastal wetlands and critical species habitat not under consideration by FEMA. Existing efforts require integration across multiple municipal departments, state/federal agencies, regional planning, local emergency management and the broader stakeholder community. Many of these same departments, agencies and/or stakeholders may be brought into the mitigation planning effort to supplement/augment consultant subject matter expertise through the provision of local knowledge that would be informative to the process. Some non-FEMA funding is directed towards mitigation, which would be enhanced if incorporated into the proposed planning effort.

**3. Impact on Coastal Resources:** Address all of the issues listed below as they relate to your project.

- a. Describe the coastal impacts of the project. How will the project address a coastal problem, need or priority?
- b. Describe the extent to which the project permanently addresses the problem or need.
- c. Describe how this project addresses priorities identified in local, state, regional, or national plans (such as remedial action plans, basin plans, Lakewide Area Management Plans, State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan, county Land and Water Conservation Plans, et cetera), the priorities of the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, or the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy.
- d. Describe the measurable results (give estimated benefits for all that apply) that you will be able to report. Use the suggested indicators listed below, or others that are appropriate to your project.

Type of Project	Suggested Indicators
Wetland Protection and Habitat Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres of habitat restored or protected</li> </ul>
Nonpoint Source Pollution Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in tons of soil erosion/sedimentation</li> </ul>
Great Lakes Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of people trained</li> <li>• Projected audience</li> </ul>
Coastal Resources and Community Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of municipalities included in a plan</li> <li>• Land area/coastline covered by the plan</li> <li>• Type of coastal resource (e.g., habitat) protected</li> <li>• Ordinances developed</li> </ul>
Public Access and Historic Preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linear feet of coastline made accessible or acquired</li> <li>• Acres Acquired</li> </ul>

a. This project will enhance the ability to respond, withstand or adapt to coastal hazard. Resiliency cannot occur unless a planning mechanism to address coastal storm hazards exists. This project also creates a foundation for science-based, informed coastal hazard decision-making at the municipal level through the assemblage of comprehensive resources, drawn from local, state, regional and federal sources and consultant subject matter expertise. A better informed municipality is likely to make more sustainable choices. Lastly, this project addresses three of the four possible actions resulting from completion of the Coastal Resilience Self-Assessment by the City of Racine, including priority areas "Understanding Coastal Hazard Impacts", "Public Education Engagement" and "Local Ordinances".

b. Long term risk of damages resulting from lake level fluctuations and intense storm surges cannot be fully met without comprehensive planning that fully identifies shoreline vulnerabilities and makes appropriate mitigation recommendations. In this context, the proposed mitigation plan will fully meet these needs.

c. Elements of this project are in line with the stated mission, goals and objectives of the US EPA Approved 9-Element Pike River Watershed Restoration Plan. These include identifying and protecting natural areas/open space that provide passive recreational benefits and increasing water and land based recreational opportunities. This project also supports the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Sustainable Development Strategy Team Recreation Work Group Vision Statement which states the need for "a sustainable Great Lakes ecosystem that ensures environmental integrity and that supports, and is supported by, economically viable, healthy human communities." This project is also aligned with the Council of Great Lakes Governors priority of adopting "sustainable use practices that protect environmental resources and may enhance the recreational and commercial value of our Great Lakes." This priority is echoed by the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative who focuses their efforts on protecting and restoring the vitality of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and improving the quality of life for the residents of the region through an integrated approach to environmental, social and economic agendas

d. While the proposed project only encompasses a single municipality, Racine, it will provide the framework for permanent protection of ~8 acres of land area/0.7 miles of Lake Michigan coastline that includes multiple gray/green infrastructure components, multimodal

transportation, diverse recreational outlets and habitat in a migratory bird flyway. Myers Park also includes coastal wetlands proposed for inclusion as critical species habitat by SEWRPC).

**4. Methodology and Timetable**

- a. Provide a timeline (list, table, or chart) with grant and match-funded tasks and major milestones.  
**Your timeline may begin no earlier than July 1 (this includes activities that are to be counted as match funding).**
- b. Provide a list of work products or deliverables. Describe how you will develop the work products and/or achieve tasks. "Measurable results" from Section 3d should be incorporated into this section.
- c. Describe how the project will encourage public participation and how the final product(s) will be distributed (as appropriate). If the project requires public participation (by state or other regulations), does the project exceed minimum standards?
- d. For Public Access projects, please describe how the project incorporates planning for changing lake levels.

a.\* November/December 2020 – RFP for selection of firm

\* January 2021 – Selection of Firm

\* January/February 2021 – Public Engagement Meeting

\* January – May 2021 – Work with relevant city departments to develop a Comprehensive Master Plan

\* March 2021 – Second Public Engagement Meeting

\* June 2021 – Final Comprehensive Master Plan

b. Deliverables and tasks for this project include 1) Summary of Background Information (including lakebed grant descriptions, shoreline assessments and other previous studies); 2) Stakeholder & Public Engagement (including initial meetings with key stakeholders and public outreach about future adjacent land uses); 3) Opportunities Analysis to define project goals, understand the site constraints, coastal conditions, and review opportunities for habitat and GI; 4) Alternatives Review (including public input); and 5) Mitigation plan (draft, final, and adoption).

c. Public engagement for this project would occur during Task 2 to gauge initial desires about future land uses adjacent to the site, during Task 4 to review alternatives developed for the shoreline mitigation, and Task 5 as a final presentation of the mitigation plan.

d. N/A

**5. Project Budget**

- a. Provide a breakdown of the proposed project budget using **Table 1**. WCMP Grant projects with a total budget of \$60,000 or less require a 50% match (that is, 1 to 1). Projects with a total budget larger than \$60,000 require a 60% match (that is, 1 to 1.5). Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 should contact the WCMP while they develop their applications.
- b. Provide the rate and list items included in Fringe Benefits.
- c. Contractual costs must be itemized (if known) using Table 2. Applicant may also provide further budget details using additional categories/sub-categories in the Table 3 or in another format, if necessary.
- d. Each table must show proposed *total* cost in each category rounded to the **nearest** dollar.

Table 1: Budget (Required)

Activity ( <i>do not change categories</i> )	WCMP Request	Match	Total
Personnel ( <i>names required, if known</i> )	\$	\$	\$
Fringe Benefits ( <i>provide rate and included benefits</i> )			
Equipment			
Travel			
Supplies			
Contractual (complete Table 2)			
Construction			
Other			
Indirect Charges ( <i>requested indirect should not exceed 15% of total requested amount</i> )			
<b>Totals</b>			

Table 2: Contractual (Required if there is "Contractual" funding in Table 1)

Activity – Contractual Costs	WCMP Request	Match	Total
Personnel	\$29,700	\$29,700	\$59,400
Fringe Benefits <i>(provide rate and included benefits)</i>			
Equipment			
Travel	\$100	\$100	\$200
Supplies	\$200	\$200	\$400
Contractual			
Construction			
Other			
Indirect Charges <i>(requested indirect should not exceed 15% of total requested amount)</i>			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

Table 3: Additional budget items (optional)

Activity	WCMP Request	Match	Total
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Totals</b>			

**6. Budget Description**

- a. Describe the composition and source of the matching funds. Indicate whether nonfederal matching funds have been secured or committed. Are all funding and activities counted as match in direct support of the project?
- b. Describe efforts to fully explore other grant funding sources, to establish the project's need for WCMP funding.
- c. Describe how the project will leverage additional funding, separate from the WCMP grant and match amounts.
- d. Describe any past WCMP-projects that are directly related to this project, if applicable. (For example, if WCMP provided past funding for site planning at a proposed public access project.)

a. Matching funds are comprised of city staff salary and fringe for the time spent at various meetings, site visits and research for requested information throughout the process. Additional in-kind will come from the use of city vehicles/equipment, telephone, computers and supplies. All matching funds are derived from non-federal sources (i.e. existing resources or 2020/2021 tax levy support) and are committed

b. The city will approach the Fund for Lake Michigan (FFLM) and the FEMA BRIC Program to expend a more comprehensive master plan

c.

d.

**7. Bonus objectives.** Address all of the issues listed below as they relate to your project.

- a. Build partnership alliances with other organizations or agencies (describe their roles).
- b. Develop exceptional marketing, outreach, or education strategies.
- c. Encourage coast-wide projects or solutions.
- d. Engage underrepresented communities.

a.

b.

- d. The proposed mitigation planning effort is replicable in other shoreline communities and can serve as an example of a proactive approach to addressing coastal hazards and creating resiliency.
- e. Underrepresented communities will be targeted as part of the stakeholder engagement effort.