



## FY 2023 Recommended Budget

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### Narrative

The following narrative document outlines priority project areas developed with the GR Forward Goal Alliances over the past few months. Projects and funding represent commitments to on-going obligations, as well as existing, on-going, and new projects in the next fiscal year.

### **Goal 1 – Creating a Connected and Equitable River Corridor**

#### River Governance Incubation

Support to advance on recommendations flowing from the work begun in FY20 to define a long-term organizational and funding strategy for Grand River corridor revitalization. In addition to continued project management support, this includes proposed investment to develop or support the following:

- A corridor framework plan that maps the strategic assets, identifies opportunities for broader collaboration and defines key projects to support river corridor revitalization from Riverside Park to Millennium Park.
- Fundraising services to help identify and pursue capital and infrastructure funding partnership opportunities, including Federal grant opportunities
- An equity framework plan of action that presents a shared definition around “equity” grounded in common goals, measurable outcomes and tactics.
- An economic benefits analysis of river corridor revitalization. This work builds and expands on the initial, limited in scope benefits analysis conducted in FY21. Project partners will include Experience GR, Grand Rapids Public Museum and other corridor stakeholders.
- River-specific communications, engagement and activation that help reconnect Grand Rapidsians to the Grand River . These efforts, organized in close collaboration with community partners, will support more informed and robust community participation in ongoing river planning and activation initiatives.

### **Goal 2 - Create a True Downtown Neighborhood Which is Home to a Diverse Population**

#### Downtown Enhancement Grant

Funding for the Downtown Enhancement Grant Program. Funds will be used cover existing obligations, and to continue to assist property and business owners in the rehabilitation of the Downtown public realm. Funds are utilized to reimburse eligible activities, including installation of street furniture, snowmelt, and other public realm improvements.

### Infrastructure Improvements - Miscellaneous

Funding improved public infrastructure in Monroe North, including new tree plantings.

## **Goal 3 - Implement a 21st Century Mobility Strategy**

### Accessibility and Streetscape Improvements

Includes funding for pedestrian and human-scaled enhancements within Monroe North streetspaces, including seating, banners, lighting, trees, and planters.

### Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements

Funding for further implementation of repair stands and bicycle parking in partnership with Mobile GR.

### Transit Improvements in Monroe North District

Funding to help support the continued operation of DASH North.

## **Goal 5 - Reinvest in Public Space, Culture and Inclusive Programming**

### Canal Street Park Improvements

Funding to help support the reconstruction of Phase 1 Priority Area at Canal Street Park. Phase 1 reconstruction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2023.

### Urban Recreation

Funding for continued enhancements to Monroe North Parks, including the implementation of River for All Design Guidelines.