


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	24-281	Meeting:	July 15, 2024
	Agenda Item:	48	Roll Call:	24-0976
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Ratification of the National Park Service (NPS) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application by the Parks and Recreation Department seeking \$145,000 for Cheatom Park Playground Improvements Project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend ratification of the NPS LWCF grant application by the Parks and Recreation Department seeking funding towards the Cheatom Park Playground Improvements Project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$145,000 LWCF grant revenue, if awarded, toward an overall pre-design/concept estimate of \$310,000.

Funding Source: Anticipated \$145,000 in LWCF funding from Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and remaining funding from Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 76, Park Playground Improvements, PK185, \$145,000, G.O. Bonds and Local Option Sales and Service Tax, and estimated \$20,000 off-set from value of volunteer installation of equipment

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The NPS LWCF is managed through the IDNR and supports cities with populations of 50,000+ in seeking up to \$250,000 for the development and/or acquisition of land for natural resources and outdoor recreation.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is applying for 58% of the full potential funding amount of \$250,000 for the Cheatom Park Playground Improvements project, which is 47% of the total estimated project cost of \$310,000. This application requires that the City Council provide certain authorizations and certifications when making the application that are standard to many grant programs.

- Located within the Cheatom Park neighborhood, the 3.5-acre park serves over 2,600 residents within a 10-minute walk based on the current Trust for Public Land (TPL) ParkServe report.
- The park features beautiful mature trees, open lawn areas for active recreation, basketball court, futsal mini pitch court, open-air shelter, restrooms, playground, sidewalks, pathways, picnic tables, benches, charcoal grills, and a drinking fountain.
- The proposed improvements at Cheatom Park will include the following:

Removal of the existing playground equipment and surfacing, restoration of the existing area to turf grass, relocation of playground area in the park, excavation and grading, installation of concrete playground containment curbing, accessible walkway(s) and playground ramp, paved seating areas (picnic tables and/or benches), sidewalk concrete repairs, purchasing new playground equipment, blown-in engineered wood fiber mulch surfacing, hydro-mulch and seed for restoration, rental equipment need for volunteer playground build, and site amenities (benches and bike racks).

- Public input in summer and fall 2024 will play a large role in the concept design development and layout of the new playground area, as well as selection of play equipment program, type, and aesthetics and color palette.
- Pending City Council approval and grant award, bidding in early 2025 is anticipated with construction anticipated to be completed later in 2025.
- The playground equipment is planned to be installed by volunteers. The Parks and Recreation Department will oversee a volunteer playground build program to offer meaningful, well-organized volunteer experiences, which supports community pride and sense of ownership and project cost savings and overall value add. The volunteer playground build is estimated to occur late in 2025.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Anticipated actions include ordering construction, public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, approval of contract and bond, partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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