

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number: 26-087	Meeting: March 9, 2026
	Agenda Item: 30	Roll Call: <input type="text"/>
	Submitted by: Benjamin R. Page, Parks and Recreation Director	

AGENDA HEADING:

Ratifying Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), seeking \$250,000 for Allen Park Phase 1 Site Improvements Project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend ratification of the National Park Service (NPS) LWCF grant application by the Parks and Recreation Department seeking \$250,000 towards the Allen Park Phase 1 Site Improvements Projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$250,000 LWCF grant revenue, if awarded, toward an overall pre-design/concept estimate of \$960,000.

Funding Source: FY2026 CIP, Page 96, Allen Park Improvements, PK198, \$450,000 G.O. Bonds Issued and Anticipated \$450,000 in private funding: \$250,000 in LWCF funding from IDNR, \$225,000 in legacy grant funding from Prairie Meadows, \$5,000 Friends of Des Moines Parks, and \$30,000 in other private donations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The NPS LWCF is managed through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources 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 the full potential funding amount for the Allen Park Phase I Site Improvements project. 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 South Central DSM neighborhood, the 4.2-acre Allen Park was originally acquired in 2022 as two (2) separate parcels.
- The north parcel is open space where Phase I improvements will be implemented. The majority of the space will remain open for use with the planned improvements. The south

parcel features a woodland that surrounds Yeader Creek where the future Phase II improvements will be implemented.

- The proposed Phase I improvements at Allen Park will include:
 - A new 5- to 12-year-old focused playground area
 - A new 2- to 5-year-old focused playground area
 - A new shelter and seat wall
 - New sidewalk connections and a space for a portable restroom enclosure
- Public input in 2022 played a large role in the design of these features. This robust outreach process supports those perspectives directly informing the final design direction and feature selection and included:
 - Distribution of more than 500 mailers to residents within the service area to inform them of the project and opportunities for input.
 - Five (5) community meetings, including presentation and participation from the South Central neighborhood association, presenting concepts, gather feedback, and facilitate open discussion regarding project elements.
 - Providing two (2) public questionnaires focused on site amenities, playground options, and desired features to better understand community priorities.
 - Creating a dedicated project webpage on the Parks and Recreation Department's website to serve as an on-demand resource hub, including access to questionnaires, meeting information, conceptual plans, and staff contact information.
- A winter 2026 bid period is anticipated with a start to construction in spring 2027.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 22, 2022

Roll Call Number: [22-1318](#)

Action: [Acceptance](#) of real estate documents from the James R. Scavo 2013 Revocable Trust, Anna P. Scavo 2013 Revocable Trust, and Rose M. Scavo 2013 Revocable Trust for voluntary acquisition of property located in the vicinity of SE 5th Street and East Titus Avenue for the relocation of Allen Park, and dedication of the property as parkland. ([Council Communication No. 22-382](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- Anticipated actions include LWCF acceptance, 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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