



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 3, 2025

Re: Rock Quarry Park Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application Approval

Executive Summary

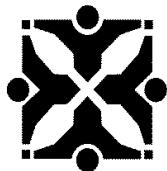
The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting authorization to submit a grant application to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant for partial funding for park improvements at Rock Quarry Park, located at 2002 Grindstone Parkway. LWCF grants provide up to \$500,000 in funding and require a minimum 50% match from the agency applying for the grant. Total project cost is estimated at \$1,200,000. Park staff will submit a grant application requesting \$500,000 in LWCF funding, with \$700,000 in matching funds provided by the 2021 Park Sales Tax and donations. If awarded, the proposed LWCF grant funding would provide partial funding for the replacement of the playground at the park. The LWCF grant application guidelines require a resolution authorizing the grant application and ensuring commitment to maintain public access to the project for a minimum of 25 years.

Discussion

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is currently accepting applications for the 2026 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant cycle. The LWCF grant program provides up to \$500,000 in funding per project and requires a minimum 50% match from the agency applying for the funding. Parks and recreation staff have identified improvements at Rock Quarry Park and has allocated funding, totaling \$700,000, through the Park Sales Tax and donations. Staff will use these funds as the grant match for the proposed project.

The LWCF is a competitive grant program and provides funding for a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects intended to help communities meet the recreation needs of their citizens. The grant will provide the necessary funding to renovate the existing 16,000-square foot playground area at the park. The new playground will include inclusive play features and pour-in-place rubber surfacing to create an accessible play area for youth throughout our community.

LWCF grant applicants are required to have City Council approval to apply for a grant. The department is requesting a resolution authorizing the grant application. If the City of Columbia is selected to receive the grant, staff will return to Council with an agreement to accept the grant and request approval for the proposed improvements at the sports complex.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: If the grant is awarded, the Parks and Recreation Department would appropriate the funds as part of the Council approval process for the Rock Quarry Park capital improvement project. The City's portion of the match funding, totaling \$700,000, is provided by the Park Sales Tax and donations. Total estimated cost for the project is \$1,200,000 and will be funded by the LWCF grant, Park Sales Tax and donations.

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|------|--------|
| N/A | N/A |

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution authorizing City staff to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for improvements at Rock Quarry Park.