



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 7, 2022

Re: Battle 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 Battle Park, located at 2500 Battle Avenue. 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 \$740,000. Park staff will submit a grant application requesting \$370,000 in LWCF funding, with \$370,000 in matching funds provided by the 2015 and 2021 Park Sales Tax. If awarded, the proposed LWCF grant funding would provide partial funding for the construction of a playground, shelter, restroom, outdoor amphitheater/classroom, park infrastructure, necessary utilities and trails within the property. 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 2022 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. City Council approved the master plan and phase I development of Battle Park on Nov. 16, 2020. Park staff and Crockett Engineering have completed all necessary engineering and design for the phase I improvements to the park. The phase II development of the park is scheduled to be funded in FY2023 as part of the 2021 Park Sales Tax ballot. The source for the grant match will be the combined funding from the 2015 Park Sales Tax and 2021 Park Sales Tax in the amount of \$370,000.

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 the citizens. The grant will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to construct a playground, shelter, restroom, outdoor amphitheater/classroom, infrastructure, park utilities and trails within the property. The grant funding will allow the Department to complete all aspects of the master plan at one time.

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 phase II improvements at the park.



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 FY2023 Battle Park improvement project. The portion of funding provided by the Park Sales Tax includes \$220,000 in 2015 PST funding and \$150,000 in 2021 PST funding. Total estimated cost for the project is \$740,000 and will be funded by a LWCF grant and Park Sales Tax.

Long-Term Impact: Park staff anticipates an increase in annual maintenance at the park once the proposed improvements are completed due to ongoing maintenance of the shelter, playground and other park amenities. Staff will provide an estimate of maintenance costs when construction of the phase II project goes through the City Council approval process.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Inclusive Community, Tertiary Impact: Safe Neighborhoods

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|------------|---|
| 11/16/2020 | B313-20: Naming Battle Park; approving the Battle Park Master Plan; authorizing construction of Phase I improvements to Battle Park to include construction of an entry drive from Battle Avenue to the park, installation of electric and water service, construction of a parking lot, small shelter, gravel trail and mountain bike trail, and additional grading work to enlarge the existing lake and prepare for future amenities on the west side of the park; calling for bids for a portion of the project through the Purchasing Division. https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4681180&GUID=B4F2B8C8-FD35-4DF6-AF83-0DCABEC29757&Options=&Search= |

Suggested Council Action

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