

Council Memo

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 20, 2026

Re: Northeast Regional Park – Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Application

Impacted Ward: Ward 3

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting authorization to submit a grant application to the National Park Service and Missouri Department of Natural Resources for an Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant for partial funding for park development at Northeast Regional Park, located at 5212 North Oakland Gravel Road. ORLP grants provide up to \$15,000,000 in funding and require a minimum 50% match from the agency applying for the grant. The total project cost is estimated at \$8,000,000. Park staff will submit a grant application requesting \$4,000,000 in ORLP funding, with \$4,000,000 in matching funds provided by the 2021 Park Sales Tax. If awarded, the proposed ORLP grant funding would provide partial funding for the development of outdoor park amenities, including lighted athletic fields, 1-mile walking trail, shelters, playgrounds and parking. The ORLP grant application guidelines require a resolution authorizing the grant application and ensuring commitment to maintain public access to the project in perpetuity.

Discussion

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program was established by Congress in 2014 and is administered through the National Park Service. The program is funded through the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program. This competitive grant program helps urban communities address outdoor recreation deficits by supporting projects in cities and densely populated urbanized areas that create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and outdoors. In 2017, the City of Columbia was selected as one of 22 recipients for grant funding from across the United States for construction of improvements at Clary-Shy Community Park.

ORLP grant applicants are required to have City Council approval to apply for a grant. The department is requesting approval of 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 Northeast Regional Park.

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funding would provide partial funding for the development of outdoor park amenities, including lighted athletic fields, 1-mile walking trail, shelters, playgrounds and parking. The ORLP grant application guidelines require a resolution authorizing the grant application and ensuring commitment to maintain public access to the project in perpetuity.

If the Parks and Recreation Department is not selected for the ORLP grant, staff will propose a phased development plan to the City Council for approval. Phase I development would only include the \$4,000,000 in Park Sales Tax funding.

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 Northeast Regional Park capital improvement project. The City's portion of the match funding, totaling \$4,000,000, is provided by the dedicated Park Sales Tax. Total estimated cost for the project is \$8,000,000 and would be funded by the Park Sales Tax and ORLP Grant.

Long-Term Impact: N/A

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Resilient Economy, Tertiary Impact: Organizational Excellence

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Economic Development, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution authorizing staff to apply for an Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant through the National Park Service for the development of Northeast Regional Park.