



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 3, 2022

Re: Whitegate Park Property 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 the development of the Whitegate Park Property, located at 2203 Whitegate Drive. LWCF grants provide up to \$500,000 in funding and require a minimum 50% match from the agency applying for the grant. The total cost for phase I development is estimated at \$400,000. Park staff will submit a grant application requesting \$200,000 in LWCF funding, with \$200,000 in matching funds provided by the 2021 Park Sales Tax. If awarded, the proposed LWCF grant funding would provide partial funding for the construction of a playground, shelter, basketball court, sidewalks, landscaping and necessary utilities 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 2023 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. The development of the park property 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 2021 Park Sales Tax funding in the amount of \$200,000.

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, basketball court, sidewalks, landscaping and necessary utilities within the property.

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 to begin phase I development of 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 Whitegate Park Property capital improvement project. The \$200,000 in grant match funding is provided by



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the 2021 Park Sales Tax. Total estimated cost for the project is \$400,000 and will be funded by a LWCF grant and Park Sales Tax.

Long-Term Impact: After completion of the phase I development, staff expects 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 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
01/02/2018	B396-17: Authorizing a contract for sale of real estate with Columbia Mutual Insurance Company for the purchase of property located on the northeast corner of the White Gate Drive and Towne Drive intersection. https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3294841&GUID=9398D677-2715-4B27-96A9-3FBFC1D17BF4&Options=&Search=

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution authorizing City staff to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for the development of the Whitegate Park Property.