



COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM

DEPT./DIVISION SUBMISSION & REVIEW:

Chuck Ramm, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
Kevin Beavers, Director of Parks and Recreation
Mike Hemker, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Consider adopting a resolution authorizing a memorandum of understanding with the National Recreation and Park Association to construct a nature themed play area at Prewitt Park through grant funding in the amount of \$111,000.

BACKGROUND: Authorization of this memorandum of understanding (MOU) with National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) will provide for the construction of a play area at Prewitt Park. NRPA is managing the administration of this grant program, which is made possible, in part, through the support of Niagara Bottling, LLC and Target Corporation. Grants through this Program are intended to support park improvements that advance health and sustainability outcomes for communities, while also increasing access to play and physical activity for families.

Prewitt Park is an approximate 8-acre undeveloped park located at 1511 East French Ave. Though the official address is on East French Ave, access to the Park will be on the south side of the Park, which is addressed as 1720 East Downs Ave. This project was submitted to NRPA as there is a need in this community for a play area that serves approximately 135 homes. The closest park to this housing addition is Ferguson Park located at 1203 East Adams Ave. In order to get to Ferguson Park, one must cross four lanes of traffic on East Adams Avenue. The new play area will be within ¼ mile radius of these homes.

Though there is no match required for this grant, the Department intends to use interest earnings from escrowed developer fees in the amount of \$19,000 to enhance the play area and bring the total project to \$130,000.

The play area will include native tree plantings, recycled features, and an overall nature theme created by a mix of both natural materials found in the outdoors along with manufactured equipment.

A series of public meetings with the neighborhood will help drive the final product for the play area. It is anticipated that local staff from Niagara Bottling will volunteer to assist the Parks Department and neighborhood on the installation.

Though the grant is effective until September 30, 2021, Staff's goal is to have the project complete prior to the summer of 2021.

ALIGNMENT WITH ADOPTED PLANS:

Plan	Comments
Strategic Plan	This item supports the City's Strategic Plan goals of "An open, responsive, and accountable government," and "Beautiful spaces and unique experiences," as well as the Strategic Plan commitments to "Employ fiscally-responsible practices and policies that ensure City investments are made based on sound review and analysis," and to "Enhance and expand our infrastructure of parks, recreation centers, greenspaces, and trails to encourage active living and wellness."

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a resolution as described in the item description.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS RECOMMENDATION: This item was not reviewed by any of the official boards and commissions.

FISCAL IMPACT: A budget adjustment is being presented for Council's approval to appropriate funding for the construction of a nature themed play area at Prewitt Park. After approval of the budget adjustment, funding in the amount of \$111,000 will be available in account 110-3500-552-6516 and \$19,000 in account 110-3500-552-6332, project 102374 for a total of \$130,000.

Though there is no match required for this \$111,000 grant, the Department intends to use interest earnings from escrowed developer fees in the amount of \$19,000 to enhance the play area and bring the total project to \$130,000.

ATTACHMENTS:

Budget Adjustment
MOU
Resolution