



City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
FINANCIAL ITEMS

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
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www.rochesterhills.org

Legislative File No: 2019-0132

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Ken Elwert, Director of Parks & Natural Resources, Extension 2552

DATE: March 25, 2019

SUBJECT: Support for **Land and Water Conservation Fund** Grant Application and Matching Funds – Innovation Hills Park Playground

REQUEST:

We are requesting that the Rochester Hills City Council approve submission of a grant application to the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and \$300,000 as a match. Elements of the grant request include a portion of the overall playground development. Items include four (4) Universal Design playground areas, walkways between the play areas, native landscaping, water gardens and solar/LED pathway lighting. Note that submission of the grant requires a minimum 50% commitment of matching funds by the governing body prior to submission. Total estimated project cost is \$600,000. Cost was obtained from 2019 engineer's estimates provided by Spaulding DeDecker Engineering. Total requested grant from the LWCF is \$300,000. Application deadline is March 29, 2019.

REASON FOR PURCHASE:

This specific project is recommended because: (1) The Playground is a key component of Innovation Hills offerings in an area of the City that is underserved with parks and playgrounds (2) Specific Universal Design elements of the playground making it usable by all will appeal to those both in the local community and regionally.

This project is included as part of the 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Plan. The City of Rochester Hills Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020 identifies development of Riverbend Park (now Innovation Hills) as a major goal.

PROCESS:

Approximately 50% of the LWCF grants submitted to the MDNR are funded based on a competitive scoring system. If our grant request is accepted, we will be notified by the MDNR in the winter of 2019/2020. A project agreement will then be prepared by the MDNR and will be presented to City Council for approval. Once the project agreement is signed by both parties' work can begin on the project. This is a reimbursable grant: any work done on the project prior to the signed project agreement is not reimbursable and may not count towards our match. If the grant is awarded, it is expected construction will begin in 2020/2021.

BUDGET:

In the 2019 Adopted Budget and 2020 Projected Budget, \$2,000,000 is allocated in the Facilities Fund for the development of Innovation Hills Park Playground.

If this grant application is approved, this portion of the Playground development phase of \$600,000 would be offset by a LWCF grant in the amount of \$300,000, leaving a total City match of \$300,000.

| Fund Name | Department Account No | Account No. Description | 2019-2020 Budget Amount | 2019-2020 Cost | 2019-2020 Remaining Budget |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Facilities | 631.974000 | Land Improvements - Playground | \$2,000,000 | \$600,000 | \$1,400,000 |

RECOMMENDATION:

We are requesting that the Rochester Hills City Council approve submission of a grant application to the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund for development of four (4) Universal Design playground areas and walkways between the play areas, native landscaping, water gardens and solar/LED pathway lighting. Submission of the grant requires a minimum 50% commitment of matching funds by the governing body prior to submission. Total estimated project cost is \$600,000. Cost was obtained from recent estimates provided Spaulding DeDecker Engineering. Total requested grant is \$300,000. Match requested by City Council is \$300,000. Application deadline is March 29, 2019.

| APPROVALS: | SIGNATURE | DATE |
|--|-----------|------|
| Department Review | | |
| Department Director | | |
| Budget Content: Chief Financial Officer | | |
| Purchasing Process: Supervisor of Procurement | | |
| Mayor | | |
| Deputy Clerk | | |