



Staff Report

June 1, 2026 Council Workshop Meeting

RCO Grant Application Authorization

Presenter: Chris Witkowski, Parks & Recreation Director

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The State’s Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) funds grants committed to the advancement of parks and recreation initiatives in Washington. The agencies mission is to be “an exemplary partner that provides statewide leadership and funding to protect and improve the best of Washington’s natural and outdoor recreation resources, now and for future generations.” Grant applications are accepted in spring of every even numbered year and, in the past, the City of Camas has been the recipient of funds that have assisted with the development of projects such as Crown Park Improvements and South Lacamas Creek Trailhead.

SUMMARY: In 2026 Camas Parks and Recreation is partnering with Camas Little League (CLL) to apply for an RCO grant under the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) program to enhance the west baseball field at Forest Home Park. The project will improve playing conditions at the City’s busiest little league field, provide opportunities for a wider age range of athletes, and expand CLL’s softball program. Proposed improvements include:

- Artificial Turf Infield
- Flexible Pitching Mound & Basepaths
- Improved Outfield Drainage
- LED Lighting
- ADA Compliant Dugouts, Bathrooms, and Walkways

Preliminary cost estimates total \$1,100,000 for the entire project. Per YAF program requirements, the applicant must contribute a 50% match to the RCO request. Projected funding breakdown is:

- RCO: \$550,000
- City Capital Budget: \$350,000 (already allocated for Forest Home in the 2025/26 budget)
- Park Impact Fees: \$150,000
- Camas Little League: \$50,000

The application consists of two parts: Technical Review and Final Submission. Technical Review was submitted by City staff on April 29 with Final Submission due July 7. As part of the latter, RCO requires an approved resolution from Camas City Council, authorizing the Mayor to sign the Applicant Authorization Form.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: This project will enhance baseball and softball offerings in our community while strengthening the long-time partnership between Camas Parks & Recreation and CLL. The successful project will open opportunities for more softball players and become more inclusive by improving ADA access in both the park and playing area.

STRATEGIC PLAN: This project aligns with the strategic goals of Vibrant Community Amenities and Stewardship of City Assets.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: Budgeting and inflation are the biggest risks to this project. Applications are due in July 2026 but funding won't be announced until August 2027. Consequently, inflation and rising construction costs could result in a reduced scope if the project is awarded funding. To mitigate this risk, City staff built contingency and inflation estimates into the project funding total, as well as prioritized improvements in case scope has to be reduced.

BUDGET IMPACT: City funding is already in place for this project through previously approved capital budget and park impact fees. With funding through our partners in RCO and CLL, the City's financial contribution to the full scope of the project is \$500,000 (45% of project total).

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends this Resolution be placed on the June 15, 2026 Council Regular Meeting Agenda for Council's consideration.