



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of February 26, 2024

Title/Subject

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the matching funds for the development of Cimmaron Park.

Summary and Background

Passage of a Resolution is required by the State of Oregon for application to the Local Government Grants Program. As identified in the Resolution No. 2314, the City is required to allocate the matching funds.

Local Government Grant Program information:

The State of Oregon's Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) has \$30 million in grant funds available in 2024. The LGGP is a competitive grant program designed to help local government agencies fund projects to acquire, develop and rehabilitate parks and public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Eligible applicants are cities, counties, metropolitan service districts, park and recreation districts and port districts. The \$30 million is more than double the funds available last year and the most ever available in one grant cycle.

Cimmaron Park background:

The Park Agreement for Cimmaron Terrace Development outlines a collaborative effort between the City of Hermiston and the property owner, Rotschy, Inc. to develop a park as part of the Cimmaron Terrace development. Key elements include the dedication of a 8.61-acre wetland area by the owner to the city for park purposes, with additional improvements required before the city's acceptance. These improvements consisted of utility stubs, a natural surface trail loop, entrance paving with four parking spaces, and a simple kiosk.

In 2021, the City expanded the park beyond the initial 8.61 acres by purchasing an additional 0.61 acres, enhancing park accessibility, visibility, security, and green space. Under the agreement, the owner committed to dedicating the 8.61-acre parcel for the park, selling two smaller tracts to the city (.61 acres), and completing specified on-site improvements. The City, in return, agreed to purchase the additional land for \$165,000, install irrigation and decorative landscaping within 12 months of ownership, and seek further funding for playground equipment and furnishings within five years.

Grant Request:

The City of Hermiston will apply for \$400,000 in LGGP grant funding to support enhancements at Cimmaron Park. To meet the grant's matching funds requirement, the City will leverage the \$165,000 previously invested in purchasing the .61 acre tract of land designated for development within the park. This approach enables the City to fulfill the matching fund criteria for the LGGP application without additional financial allocations.

The development plan for this tract is part of the larger vision for Cimmaron Park, which includes trails and wetlands, aimed at improving park accessibility and recreational facilities on the eastern side of Hermiston. This initiative aligns with the goals of the 2020 Hermiston Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan, focusing on the installation of new playground equipment, an irrigation system, lighting, fencing and trail improvements to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the park by all residents.

These improvements are strategically planned to benefit the diverse community residing in adjacent areas, including single-family homes, a mobile home park, and multi-family units, reflecting Hermiston's commitment to creating inclusive, vibrant, and active public spaces. By utilizing the land purchase as a match for the LGGP funding, the City of Hermiston demonstrates a resourceful approach to funding critical park developments, ensuring the project's advancement and the enrichment of the community's recreational landscape. Approval of this grant application by the City Council will facilitate significant enhancements to Cimmaron Park, contributing to the overall quality of life for Hermiston residents.

Tie-In to Council Goals

Goal 2: Hermiston ensures a healthy and safe environment for all through abundant recreation and wellness opportunities, high-quality health care, collaboration with community partners, and a healthy and attractive built environment.

Fiscal Information

The City will leverage the \$165,000 purchase of 2 tracts of land as matching dollars to the Local Government Grant Program and apply for \$400,000 in grant funding for a park capital improvement plan.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

1. Approve Resolution No. 2314 authorizing the City Manager to apply for State funding for Cimmaron Park improvements.
2. Modify the funding request in Resolution No. 2314.
3. Reject Approve Resolution No. 2314.

Recommendation

Approve Resolution No. 2314 authorizing the City Manager to apply for State funding Cimmaron Park improvements.

Requested Action/Motion

Approve Resolution No. ___ authorizing the City Manager to apply for State funding for Cimmaron Park improvements.

Submitted By:

Brandon Artz, Parks & Recreation Director