



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of March 10, 2025

Title/Subject

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for grant funds to improve the Hermiston Oregon Sportsplex.

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. 2358 the City is required to allocate the matching funds. Matching funds are expected to originate from Made to Thrive and will be committed to this City-led effort.

Local Government Grant Program information:

The State of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) has \$15 million in grant funds available in 2025. 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.

Hermiston Oregon Sportsplex background:

On October 24, 2022, the Hermiston City Council approved a Construction Lease Agreement between the City of Hermiston and Made to Thrive, enabling the development of sports fields on the front 20 acres of the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center (EOTEC) property. This agreement allowed for the creation of a premier sports complex designed to enhance recreational opportunities for community and club sports. As improvements are purchased and constructed, the assets are given to the City and transfer out of Made to Thrive ownership.

The HEROS Committee spearheaded a private fundraising effort to finance and construct six full-sized sports fields. The HEROS Sportsplex has made significant progress through its phased development over the past few years:

- **Spring 2023:** Completed initial site preparation, including field leveling, grass seed planting, and installation of electrical infrastructure and light pole bases.
- **Winter 2024:** Installed field lighting on the first two fields.
- **Spring 2024:** Hosted the first games, featuring lacrosse tournaments and league play. Purchased field equipment for additional sporting leagues/tournaments.
- **Summer 2024:** Completed construction of a storage building to support field operations and maintenance.

Planned Additions & Grant-Funded Improvements:

To enhance the usability and long-term sustainability of the HEROS Sportsplex, several key infrastructure improvements are planned with anticipated grant funding. These include:

- Installation of lighting on the remaining four fields.
- Acquisition of a portable and ADA-accessible restroom trailer.
- Improved ADA parking and field access for greater inclusivity.
- Electrical upgrades to support facility needs.
- Irrigation improvements to maintain field quality.

Impact & Benefits

The completion of these planned improvements will allow the HEROS Sportsplex to host large-scale tournaments, drawing teams and spectators from outside the region. This will generate a significant economic impact for Hermiston, benefiting local businesses, hotels, and restaurants. Additionally, the fully developed complex will provide increased recreational opportunities for residents, furthering the city's commitment to quality sports facilities.

Tie-In to Council Goals

Goal 2 & 3: Hermiston ensures a healthy and safe environment for all through abundant recreation and wellness opportunities. Goal 3, Hermiston responsibly plans and invests in community infrastructure and the built environment to support the critical needs of daily life and sustainable growth for the future.

Fiscal Information

The City, in partnership with Made to Thrive, will apply for up to \$1,000,000 in LGGP grant funding to support improvements to HEROS Sportsplex. The final grant request will likely be less than \$1,000,000. To meet the grant's matching funds requirement, the City will utilize fundraised contributions, financial commitments, and in-kind donation commitments pledged to Made to Thrive.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

1. Approve Resolution No. 2358 authorizing the City Manager to apply for State funding for HEROS Sportsplex improvements.
2. Modify the funding request in Resolution No. 2358.
3. Reject Approve Resolution No. 2358.

Recommendation

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2358.

Submitted By:

Brandon Artz, Parks & Recreation Director