



Executive Summary

City Council Workshop

AGENDA ITEM: Outdoor Recreation Grant Program
PREPARED BY: Kevin Larson, Assistant City Administrator
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion

Summary:

This workshop provides an overview of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Outdoor Recreation Grant Program and discusses two potential park improvement projects for future consideration. The Outdoor Recreation Grant Program offers matching grants of up to 50 percent of eligible project costs to local units of government for the development or redevelopment of local parks and recreation facilities. Eligible projects include amenities such as picnic shelters, athletic facilities, and ice rinks, with a minimum total project cost of \$100,000. Grant applications are expected to be reviewed in spring 2026, with preliminary awards announced in summer 2026 and project construction generally occurring during the 2027–2028 seasons.

Two possible projects that could align with the grant program and the City's park improvement goals. The first option would bundle replacement of the warming house with ice rink replacement and leveling, with an estimated total cost of approximately \$390,845. The second option would involve construction of a new picnic shelter at Veterans Memorial Park, including ADA-compliant restrooms and supporting amenities, with an estimated total cost of \$300,000.

Staff is looking for the City Council feedback on these projects, discuss alignment with grant eligibility and long-term capital planning, and provide direction on whether staff should further evaluate one or both projects for potential grant application.