

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, INTERIM CITY MANAGER
FROM: JEFF MUCK, PRCS DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: PRCS GRANTS UPDATE
DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Mayor and Council –

Please see a quick status update on the recent grant applications we've submitted. As noted previously, we were granted one worth \$150,000.

- Victor

Oakland County Senior Centers Grant

In December 2022, PRCS submitted a grant application to the Oakland County Senior Centers Grant Program for development of pickleball courts at Meadowbrook Commons Activity Center. The grant would help fund the addition of four courts with nets, fencing, shade, benches, and connector pathways at an estimated cost of \$577,364. The City requested \$250,000 in Oakland County funds for the project with a City match of \$327,364.

In late January, PRCS was notified that upon recommendation of the Healthy Aging Oakland County Ad Hoc Committee, the grant application was approved in the amount of \$150,000. The City's match would now stand at approximately \$427,364.

PRCS and KMG staff are planning to form a focus group of five to six residents of Meadowbrook Commons to provide input on court design, programming, rules, and other items. The first meeting will be held in late February. Results of these meetings will be used in the formation of the site plan. PRCS staff plans to bring design award for the project to City Council this spring. If approved, construction would take place in 2024.

Jessica's Splashpad Grant

A grant request for \$50,000 was submitted to the Ralph C Wilson Jr Foundation for the splashpad. Carol Starr assisted PRCS Director Muck with the application. Unfortunately, we received the following notification of award status in January:

"Thank you for your application to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation requesting support for Novi Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services in the amount of \$50,000. Unfortunately, the scope of your project does not fall within our areas of focus that were determined by our Board of Trustees. Please accept our best wishes for success in this effort."

State of Michigan Spark Grant for Wildlife Woods Parking and Pickleball Court Expansion

The DNR announced today results of the first round of applications for the Michigan Spark Grants. More than 460 applications totaling more than \$280 million in requests were received from across the state. Novi's application was not funded.

The press release states, "Nearly three years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, almost two dozen of the hardest-hit Michigan communities are benefiting from \$14,178,900

in Michigan Spark Grants funding – a big boost toward creating, renovating or redeveloping public recreation opportunities for residents and visitors."

Some of the funded projects in this round include:

- **\$1 million** to rehabilitate the St. John Street Neighborhood Memorial Park along the Flint River, in **Genesee County**, through improved and accessible trails, parking and a kayak/canoe launch, plus a new playground.
- **\$716,600** to revitalize Alford Park in Sault Ste. Marie, in **Chippewa County**, with the addition of accessible pedestrian paths and amenities such as bike racks, picnic tables and benches.
- **\$475,000** for replacement of the aging boardwalk at the Covert Park Beach and Campground, located along the Lake Michigan shore in **Van Buren County**.
- **\$393,000** to renovate the Marlette Community Park, in **Sanilac County**, with an accessible walking trail and playground equipment and updated pavilions.
- **\$250,000** to rebuild the city of Muskegon's existing community splash pad, in **Muskegon County**.

[All first-round grant recipients and project descriptions](#) are available on the Michigan Spark Grants webpage.

The release also indicates that given the overwhelming interest in these first-round grants, the DNR will be working to determine next steps and application timeline, as well as look at opportunities to work with Michigan's broader philanthropic community on ways to remove additional barriers to grant funding. Approximately \$50 million in additional Michigan Spark Grants is expected to be awarded later this year.

Applicants who did not receive Michigan Spark Grant funding in this round are being encouraged to explore the department's other recreation-centered grant opportunities, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Recreation Passport, and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund programs. Applications for these three programs are due April 1.

The PRCS Grants Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 16. Discussion will be held on whether to apply for the second and third round and/or to submit a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) development grant for the project. A MNRTF grant application would require a public hearing, City Council resolution and commitment of matching funds. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2023.