



AGENDA ITEM ANALYSIS

Project/Issue Name: 25-R-42 A Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the City to Apply for the Land & Water Conservation Fund Program for Construction of New Playground Features at JR Martin Park.

Submitted By: **Kris Parks, Parks and Recreation Director**

Date: November 4, 2025

Issue Statement

A resolution to apply for grant funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for Phase 2 improvements to J.R. Martin Park

Discussion and/or Analysis

The Parks and Recreation Department is applying for \$500,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for Phase 2 of “The Loop” at J.R. Martin Park.

- The LWCF program was established in 1965 and allocates funds from the Department of Interior’s National Park Service to the states for distribution.
- Missouri’s State Parks Department and Missouri’s Department of Natural Resources accept applications for projects two to three years ahead of the award of funds.
- If awarded an LWCF grant, funds will not be available for construction until 2028 and the City of Republic will be given two years to implement the construction of the project.
- The Parks Department will leverage surplus capital funds from 2026, 2027, 2028 and/or 2029 for its match contribution of \$500,000.
- The grant application is due November 14th, 2025 and grant awards are not formally made until September 2027.
- Missouri State Parks scores and ranks applications between December 2025 and March 2026. During this time period, the State of Missouri makes site visits to verify the site’s eligibility for grant funds. The top grant applications are then selected by the State of Missouri and then submitted to the National Parks Service for selection.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends approval. If awarded the \$500,000 grant, the Parks Department can adjust its schedule of capital improvement projects to provide its match of \$500,000.