

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Staff Contact: Katherine Carttar, City Administrator

Agenda Item: Consider Resolution No. 154-2026 authorizing the City of Westwood to apply for a grant from VarietyKC and designating an authorized representative

Background/Description of Item

VarietyKC and the Peter and Veronica Mallouk Family Foundation are granting a total of \$30 million to create truly inclusive playgrounds where every child can Be Active, Be Social, and Belong. The goal is for every child in the metro area to be within 10 miles of an inclusive park.

Letters of Interest were due on June 1 outlining the proposed project concept, identified site, and overall readiness to move forward. Selected municipalities to be invited to submit a full application later this summer. A resolution illustrating the support of the City Council is required.

Staff Comments/Recommendation

Staff submitted a letter of interest for the design and construction of an inclusive park at Joe D. Dennis Park, requesting the maximum \$3,000,000 and designating the City Administrator as the authorized representative.

While the Kansas City region has expanded inclusive recreation opportunities, access remains limited in many older communities located in the core of the metro. In the northeast corner of Johnson County, bordered by Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri, Westwood is a true play desert with no inclusive recreation within 1.5 miles in any direction.

Joe D. Dennis Park, the only park in Westwood, presents a unique opportunity to address this gap. Located on Rainbow Boulevard, the park serves residents of Westwood, KCK and KCMO. Its central location near dense residential neighborhoods, schools, medical facilities, and major transportation routes creates the potential for a regional destination that welcomes families of all abilities.

The project aligns with Westwood's recent investments in accessibility, safety, and active transportation. An inclusive playground at Joe D. Dennis Park would build on this momentum while expanding equitable access to recreation for families throughout the region.

Suggested Motion

I move the City Council approve Resolution No. 154-2026 authorizing the City of Westwood to apply for a grant from VarietyKC and designating an authorized representative.