

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN NON-STATE GRANT PROGRAM
FUNDING FOR THE STARIN PARK SPLASH PAD
AND PARK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, this resolution was reviewed by the Park and Recreation Board and is recommended for approval by said board; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin, through the Department of Administration (DOA), has announced a competitive Non-State Grant Program for shovel-ready local government projects that demonstrate immediate community benefit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater recognizes that access to safe, inclusive, and affordable recreation facilities is essential to community health, wellbeing, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, public input gathered through the City's forthcoming Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan (2026–2031) identified strong community support for construction of a splash pad as one of Whitewater's highest recreation priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Board has reviewed community feedback and system-wide needs and has identified Starin Park as the preferred site for the splash pad, based on its central location, existing infrastructure, parking, restrooms, and accessibility. The project will also include complementary park enhancements such as fencing, a picnic shelter, landscaping, and shaded seating to create a welcoming and family-friendly destination. Utility connections can be readily extended to serve the facility, and the site is otherwise shovel ready for construction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater has included the Starin Park Splash Pad and Park Enhancement Project in its 2026 Capital Improvement Program, demonstrating a local financial commitment and readiness to proceed upon award of State funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater has a poverty rate significantly higher than the Wisconsin state average, reflecting a diverse population that includes working families and students with limited resources, and recognizes that a no-cost public splash pad will provide equitable access to recreation, social connection, and outdoor activity for all residents regardless of income or ability; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project aligns with the goals of the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Non-State Grant Program by providing an immediate, visible improvement to public facilities, strengthening community resilience, and enhancing the quality of life for residents across socioeconomic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the Starin Park Splash Pad and Park Enhancement Project has received strong local support from residents, community organizations, and the City's Parks and Recreation Board, reflecting a shared commitment to expanding equitable, no-cost recreation opportunities for families throughout Whitewater; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater has the demonstrated capacity and experience to successfully manage state and federal grant-funded park projects, including DNR Stewardship and LWCF programs, and maintains qualified staff and contractors to ensure timely, compliant completion and long-term maintenance of the Starin Park Splash Pad and Park Enhancement Project.

WHEREAS, the project site is shovel ready and that all site, utility, and design elements necessary for construction are in place or can be completed promptly to meet the State's funding timeline.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Whitewater, Walworth and Jefferson Counties, Wisconsin, that the City of Whitewater hereby authorizes the Director of Parks, Recreation and Facility Maintenance to prepare and submit an application to the Wisconsin Department of Administration Non-State Grant Program for the Starin Park Splash Pad and Park Enhancement Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Whitewater commits to providing the required local match and to maintaining and operating the facility as a no-cost public recreation amenity for the long-term benefit of the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager and Director of Parks, Recreation and Facility Maintenance are hereby authorized to execute all documents and take all actions necessary to submit and administer the grant application on behalf of the City of Whitewater.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Common Council affirms its **strong support** for the Starin Park Splash Pad and Park Enhancement Project and designates it as a **priority community investment** under the City's Parks and Recreation system improvements.

Resolution was introduced by Council Member _____, who moved for its adoption.

Seconded by Council Member _____.

DATE	October 21, 2025			
	YES	NO	PASS	ABSENT
Michael Smith				
Orin Smith				
Steven Sahyun				
Brian Schanen				
Neil Hicks				
Greg Majkrzak				
Patrick Singer				
Total:				

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ADOPTED: _____

John Weidl, City Manager

ATTEST:

Heather Boehm, City Clerk