



Legislation Text

File #: 2019-1152, **Version:** 1

To: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Department or Agency Name(s): Sonoma County Regional Parks
Staff Name and Phone Number: Elizabeth Tyree, 565-2575
Vote Requirement: Majority
Supervisorial District(s): First

Title:

Larson Park Renovation Statewide Park Program Grant

Recommended Action:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Regional Parks to apply for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program in the amount of \$3.162 million for Larson Park Renovation and to execute all documents which may be necessary to carry out and administer the grant.

Executive Summary:

Regional Parks is seeking \$3.162 million for Larson Park improvements identified by the community through the Larson Park Master Plan process. The proposed Master Plan recommends a significant renovation project with goals of addressing the deferred maintenance of the aging infrastructure, improving the play value of the recreational features, enhancing safety and community connections, and protecting the natural resources of this cherished neighborhood park. State Parks requires a resolution authorizing a position to apply for grant funds and to execute all documents which may be necessary to carry out and administer the grant.

Discussion:

Regional Parks is requesting the Board's support to apply for \$3.162 from State Parks' Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (Statewide Park Program). Regional Parks is currently completing the Master Planning process for Larson Park, proposing renovations and new park features based on feedback from the community. This Master Plan is anticipated for presentation to this Board in November 2019.

The total estimated cost of improvements proposed in the Master Plan is approximately \$4 million. Currently, \$820,000 in local funds has been identified for these improvements with \$725,000 from Parks Measure M Category 2, \$20,000 from the Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation, and \$75,000 from County Service Area 41. Local funding would complete only a portion of the renovation work recommended and Regional Parks is seeking sufficient funding to complete all major elements described in the pending Master Plan.

Based on feedback from the community and various stakeholders during the Master Plan process, the site improvements at Larson Park would include upgrading, replacing or otherwise renovating nearly all of the existing facilities. The project proposes a renovated soccer field, renovated baseball field, a new and enlarged children's play area, renovated tennis courts and new pickle ball courts, renovated basketball court, improved parking and vehicle circulation, improved pedestrian circulation, community garden improvements, new group

picnic area, and a new restroom. The project also proposes protecting and restoring the creek corridors, including removing invasive plants and revegetating with native plants.

At this time, the Statewide Park Program offers \$255 million statewide in competitive grant funding. The goal of this grant program is to create new parks and new recreation opportunities in critically underserved communities. Critically underserved communities are defined as an area with less than 3 acres of park space per 1,000 residents or a median household income below \$51,026. This grant will only fund ready to go projects for creating a new park, expanding an existing park, or renovating an existing park. The demographics of Sonoma County offer few areas within the household income threshold, but none overlap with shovel-ready park acquisition or development projects. Larson Park meets the shortage of park space requirement and would be ready for construction if grant funding was awarded at the end of this calendar year. Grant applications, including an authorizing resolution, are due the beginning of August. Should funding be awarded, this grant program requires applicants to certify that adequate funding will be available to complete the project and to operate and maintain the project.

Should this funding be awarded, construction is anticipated to be complete in 2021 or early 2022. Following construction, ongoing Larson Park operations and maintenance costs are not anticipated to increase, and Regional Parks would continue managing this County park facility.

Prior Board Actions:

June 11, 2019 received the County of Sonoma Capital Project Plan 2019-2024, including subject Larson Park project.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Expenditures	FY 19-20 Adopted	FY20-21 Projected	FY 21-22 Projected
Budgeted Expenses			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
Total Expenditures			
Funding Sources			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
Total Sources			

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

There is no fiscal impact to this item. If the grant application is approved, this funding and the related expenditures will be included in the FY 2019-2020 budgets. Matching funds up to \$800,000 will be allocated from local funds already dedicated to and included in the project's FY 2019-20 budget and local funds dedicated to the project in the following fiscal year.

Staffing Impacts:			
Position Title (Payroll Classification)	Monthly Salary Range (A-I Step)	Additions (Number)	Deletions (Number)

Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

None.

Attachments:

Resolution

Related Items "On File" with the Clerk of the Board:

None.