

File #001822 is a resolution relating to the application, acceptance and funding of an Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) grant for children's play area rehabilitation.

Background

1. The Department of Public Works - Buildings and Fleet Division's annual budget includes funding within the Capital Improvement Funds for the building and restoration of playgrounds and totlots within the City of Milwaukee. \$500,000 is included in the 2001 Capital Budget for Recreational Facilities. These funds are used to provide mandatory upgrades as well as the maintenance of new and existing City totlots and recreational facilities. The proposed 2001 Budget includes 6 sites to be refurbished by outside contractors.
2. The U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Services, has \$28 million available nationwide through UPARR for financial assistance to preserve valuable recreational facilities in high-density, lower income areas. Last year (2000) this program was funded at only \$2 million. The projects funded through this grant would be facilitated over the period September 2001 through September 2003. The maximum grant available is \$400,000, which would be 70% of the total project. The in-kind funds, which the City would need to provide for a \$400,000 grant, would be approximately \$171,400.

Discussion

1. This resolution authorizes Buildings & Fleet to apply for and accept a UPARR grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Services, for the renovation of Green Bay Playfield, Reservoir Park and the 16th & Hopkins children's play area. These first two sites are located in the 6th aldermanic district while the 16th & Hopkins playlot is in the 7th aldermanic district.
2. Buildings and Fleet selected sites within the City most closely meeting the criteria of the grant. These three sites met the criteria of the UPARR grant. They are among the City's oldest playground sites. They are within highly populated areas with a majority of low to moderate-income families. In addition, local support for the renovation of the Green Bay Avenue site has been expressed by Harambee. The total cost of renovating these three sites is \$233,700 of which 70% of the funding (\$163,590) would be provided by the Dept. of Interior, National Park Services grant.
3. If the resolution is approved and the grant secured, Buildings & Fleet anticipates renovations of these three facilities would take place between 2001 and 2003. Buildings & Fleet does not anticipate any delays in their current recreation facilities capital improvement program due to the addition of these sites because outside contractors are used for renovations on recreational facilities.

Fiscal Impact

1. Funding for the project would total \$233,700. The City is responsible for 30% of the total funds, which will amount to \$70,110, with the remaining 70% to be provided by the grantor, which accounts for \$163,590 of the total funds needed for the project. In order to receive the UPARR grant the City must show they can provide 30% of the total project cost. Buildings and Fleet expects the \$70,110 to be provided through the City's borrowing authority for grant and aid projects. This resolution authorizes the Comptroller to commit funds for this project within the Capital Project/Grant Parent Account of the 2001 Special Revenue Grant and Aid Projects.

Other Information

1. Buildings & Fleet applied for a \$98,000 grant through this program last year but they were not awarded the grant. Because funding in the program has increased by 1400%, from \$2 million in 2000 to \$28 million in 2001, Buildings & Fleet desires to reapply for funding this year and has included an additional site (16th & Hopkins) in the grant application request.
2. It is expected this grant, if awarded, would not be made until September 2001. Buildings & Fleet is not sure whether the funds would be received as a lump sum at the beginning of the project or in phases as the work is scheduled and completed.
3. As part of the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, the Green Bay Ave. playlot is scheduled for restoration in the 2002 requested budget (due to the deteriorated condition of the playlot), if funds for restoration are not received through UPARR this year.

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LRB – Fiscal Review
April 18, 2001