

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: EMILY ANDER, PARK PLANNER ASSISTANT
JEN SANTOS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-PARKS
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: MATCHING GRANT APPLICATION TO THE SONOMA COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
FOR THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MASTER
PLAN FOR A PLACE TO PLAY COMMUNITY PARK

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department, that the Council, by resolution, 1) authorize the submittal of a matching grant application to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District for continued implementation of the Master Plan for A Place to Play community park; 2) authorize submittal of matching funds of \$2 million from Park Development Impact funds; and 3) authorize the Assistant City Manager to negotiate and execute the Matching Grant Agreement and any amendments thereto.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The approved resolution will authorize the Transportation and Public Works Department to apply for the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's (District) Matching Grant Program and execute the required documents to provide funding toward continued implementation of the Master Plan for A Place to Play community park if the submitted grant application is selected for funding. The Project is consistent with Council Goal 4, "Maintain and Enhance Our City's Historical, Cultural and Recreational Assets" by providing additional improvements at A Place to Play.

BACKGROUND

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has approximately \$4 million for the 2020 Program Year Matching Grant Program. The Matching Grant Program was established in 1994 to support open space projects for local agriculture, community recreation, natural resource restoration and public access in or near incorporated cities and other communities in Sonoma County.

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The Matching Grant Program is a competitive process and all eligible applications are evaluated using the following criteria: project need, benefits, design, funding, and readiness, as well as, public support for the project, past Matching Grant Program performance, projects in fire and flood impacted areas, demonstratable experience, quality of the application and fiscal capacity.

Projects eligible for the Matching Grant Program include acquisition and/or improvement of real property for open space, agricultural, natural resource or community recreational use or a combination thereof.

The Matching Grant Program requires the Council to authorize, by resolution, the application for funds and appoint the Assistant City Manager or similar designee to act as an agent to conduct all necessary negotiations and execute all documents necessary to complete the project.

The total project cost of both design and construction is estimated to be \$4 million; therefore, the City is seeking \$2 million from the Matching Grant Program. Improvements will include two multipurpose fields with artificial turf, lighting infrastructure, fencing, pathways, spectator seating, a restroom building, drinking water stations, natural pavilion for environmental education, and creation of a formalized trail system around the pond and open space with educational signage and landscaping.

The City's match for improvement of \$2 million will be obtained from the City's Park Development Impact Funds, Zone 1, Northwest Quadrant.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable

ANALYSIS

The City of Santa Rosa meets the minimum eligibility requirements to submit an application under the District's Matching Grant Program. Implementation of the A Place to Play Master Plan is a project identified under Section 6-2 of Santa Rosa's 2035 General Plan and fills a community need for additional athletic fields.

The grant application includes the community's most frequently requested amenity, multipurpose sports fields, as well as, a nature pavilion for environmental education and formalized trails with interpretive signage around the duck pond. These natural and educational amenities were also highly desired by the community, and in combination with the multipurpose sports fields will provide for a competitive grant application that fits the funding limits of the District's Matching Grant Program.

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The Master Plan also identifies the following amenities that are not included in the grant application: basketball courts, shuffleboard, bocce ball, a skatepark, a pedestrian access bridge across Santa Rosa Creek, a horseshoe court, a children's play area and sand volleyball courts. These amenities will be realized as additional funding becomes available. Potential future funding sources include Park Development Impact Funds in Zone 1, Northwest Quadrant, an allocation of Measure M (Parks for All) funds or other grant sources.

In 2017 and 2019, the community, including local sports organizations, were invited to attend meetings to provide feedback to amend A Place to Play's Master Plan. There was strong support for completing the multipurpose sports fields and each year Santa Rosa's sports teams strongly encouraged the completion of the remaining fields. This grant application, if selected by the District, will add two highly desirable multipurpose sports fields along with the natural and educational amenities of the park which are important to meet the District's goals, community's interests, and help provide a balanced park. All improvements will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Successful Matching Grant Program applicants will enter into a Matching Grant Agreement and a Conservation Easement and/or Recreation Covenant with the District for distribution of funds.

All awarded Matching Grant Program improvement projects must be completed within five years from the date the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Board accepts the project into the Program.

FISCAL IMPACT

Estimated total project amount is \$4 million. The maximum grant can be 50 percent of the estimated value of the project; however, final award is determined by the Matching Grant Program and is subject to final acceptance by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's Board of Directors.

The Program requires applicants to provide a matching contribution of one-to-one. The City intends to contribute \$2 million from Park Development Impact funds. Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund.

Conditions for disbursement of funds toward improvement projects includes finalization of the required Program supporting documents (Matching Grant Agreement, Conservation Easement and/or Recreation Covenant – if applicable) before funding will be received.

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Approval of the resolution authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to appropriate any awarded grant funds to the A Place to Play project #09578.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), on November 13, 1997, the Planning Commission adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the A Place to Play Master Plan. Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines identifies the threshold for requiring an update or addendum to an adopted CEQA document. There are no substantial changes in the A Place to Play Master Plan, no substantial changes in circumstances, and no new information of substantial importance. No additional environmental review is necessary.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – A Place to Play Master Plan
- Resolution/Exhibit A

CONTACT

Emily Ander, Park Planner Assistant, eander@srcity.org, 707-543-3774