

September 5, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202401937

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – OES: ODNR NatureWorks Grant Application

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for a grant of up to \$150,000 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks program to redevelop the former City playground located at 1721 Linn Street into a community greenspace.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to apply for a grant of up to \$150,000 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (“ODNR”) NatureWorks program to redevelop the former City playground located at 1721 Linn Street in the West End neighborhood into a community greenspace.

In 2016, the former City playground located at 1721 Linn Street was attracting excessive criminal activity and was deconstructed following a vote by the West End Community Council. The City wishes to transform this property into a community greenspace, a design that was developed through the 2022 SafeGrowth report and the Spaces to Places Program with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (KCB).

The NatureWorks Grant requires a 25% local match of up to \$37,500, which the City intends to supply with in-kind labor. If needed, resources are available in the capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x231029, “Green Cincinnati Sustainability Initiatives – GF,” and can be transferred to the Office of Environment and Sustainability’s General Fund operating budget for the local match requirement. There are no additional FTEs/full time equivalents associated with the NatureWorks Grant.

The City already applied for the NatureWorks Grant to meet the application deadline of August 15, 2024, but no funding will be accepted without City Council approval.

Redeveloping the former City playground located at 1721 Linn Street into a community greenspace is in accordance with the “Live” goal to “[b]uild a robust public life” and strategy to “[d]evelop and maintain inviting and engaging public spaces to encourage social interaction between different types of people” as described on pages 149 – 152 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the need to provide an approved ordinance to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources by September 15, 2024.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director
Karen Alder, Finance Director



Attachment