

June 3, 2026

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council

**From:** Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202601726

**Subject: Emergency Ordinance – Parks: ODNR NatureWorks Grant Application**

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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 Grant Program to provide resources for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of public outdoor recreational areas.

Approval of 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 Grant Program to provide resources for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of public outdoor recreational areas. Parks will commit capital resources to develop and rehabilitate public parks and then be reimbursed under the terms of the NatureWorks Grant Program.

This grant requires 25 percent matching funds which would be provided from existing and/or future Parks capital resources, including private donations from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation. There are no new FTEs/full time equivalents associated with this grant.

Acquiring, developing, and rehabilitating public outdoor recreational spaces is in accordance with the “Sustain” goal to “[p]reserve our natural and built environment” and the “Collaborate” goal to “[w]ork in synergy with the Cincinnati community” and the strategy to “[u]nite our communities” as described on pages 193-195 and 209-211 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to meet grant submission deadlines.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director  
Steve Webb, Finance Director

Attachment

