



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Memorandum

To: Finance and Administration Committee Members

CC: David E. Weiss, Mayor
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Joyce G. Braverman, Director of Planning
Ann Klavora, Principal Planner

Subject: 2019 ODNR Natureworks Grant; Application for **Fernway Community Park**

Date: April 15, 2019

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This is a request to authorize a grant application to, and to accept a grant from, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) NatureWorks program for Fernway playground improvements. The Planning Department will submit a grant application for \$100,000. The required 25% local match will be provided by the Shaker Heights School District.

NatureWorks projects are funded through the Ohio Parks and Natural Resources Bond Issue, which was approved by Ohio voters in November 1993. The NatureWorks grant program provides up to 75% reimbursement assistance for local government subdivisions for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas. Approximately \$4.4M in grant funding is available through in the program statewide; \$281,236 is available for projects in Cuyahoga County. The maximum grant request is \$150,000.

The City received a \$60,000 NatureWorks grant in 2013 for the Lake-to-Lakes Trail project.

The 2019 grant application will request funding to construct a community park adjacent to Fernway Elementary School. The City is collaborating with the School District to assist with the rebuilding of the school campus after the devastating July 2018 roof fire.

The Fernway Community Park will be an outdoor community space for Shaker residents of all ages and physical abilities. It will be a public park providing playground equipment, fitness resources and recreational/educational green space. The School District will organize a public meeting in late April to gather community input for the design process.

Recommendation

This is a request for Finance Committee to recommend Council authorization of a \$100,000 grant application to, and acceptance of a grant from, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The City Planning Commission reviewed and approved this request at their April 2 meeting. Public comment was accepted at the meeting and was supportive.

Grant applications and supporting legislation are due to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources on June 1. Grant recipients will be notified of awards in fall 2019.