

THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO..... DATE.....

APPROVED.....MAYOR

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY'S GRANT APPLICATIONS BEING
SUBMITTED TO
THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Resolved that,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City of Warwick is submitting 9 grant applications for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Recreation Acquisition & Development Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the 9 proposed projects are described in the document attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the 9 proposed projects will preserve and enhance the City's municipal park system, improve the parks with state-of-the-art services to meet residents' needs for recreational and open space areas; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to strongly support the grant applications being submitted by the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby approves and strongly supports the 9 grant applications described in the document attached hereto being submitted by the City to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Recreation Acquisition & Development Grant Program.

The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Recreation Acquisition & Development Grant Program with the grant applications.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

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SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN SOLOMON
COUNCIL PRESIDENT TRAVIS
COUNCILMAN COLANTUONO
COUNCILMAN CHADRONET
COUNCILWOMAN VELLA-WILKINSON
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COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL

Public Informational Meeting

WARWICK CITY COUNCIL

MAY 16, 2016

RIDEM

RI RECREATION ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Applicant: City of Warwick
Location: Various citywide locations

Background

The RIDEM is accepting applications for recreation acquisition and development grants. Grants will provide funding to acquire open space and/or develop or renovate outdoor recreation facilities. Grants will be awarded in the following categories:

- Recreation Acquisition Projects: grants will be for 50% of the project cost with a maximum grant award of \$400,000.
- Large Recreation Development Projects: grants will be for 80% of the project costs and require a 20% match of which 100% may be in-kind contributions. The maximum grant award will be \$400,000.
- Small Recreation Development Projects: grants will be for 80% of the project cost and require a 20% match of which 100% may be in-kind contributions. The maximum grant award will be \$100,000.

Chapter 5 of the Warwick Comprehensive Plan entitled *Parks, Open Space and Recreation* has set out a list of goals and policies which serve as a basis for the decision to submit these applications for consideration. The goals, policies and findings that will be addressed through these grant applications are as follows:

- A preserved and enhanced parks and open space system.
- Recreation facilities that are state-of-the-art and meet the needs of all Warwick residents.
- Promote high quality park design and environmental stewardship.
- Improved maintenance and improvements at existing parks is important.
- More resources need to be dedicated to the improvement of existing facilities.
- Identify measures to use existing facilities more efficiently.
- Incorporate low-maintenance design and sustainable practices.
- Explore alternative energy sources, such as solar or wind power, to reduce electricity costs over time in recreational areas.
- Seek a variety of funding sources for capital improvements to the park and recreation system.
- Ensure that facilities for both active and passive uses are available in the parks.

The Planning Department, in following the direction of the Comprehensive Plan, is preparing at least one application for each of the eight, (8) Planning Districts, resulting in nine (9) grant applications for submission (District #2 has 2 applications). The grant regulations require that the local City/Town Council must approve the submission of any applications. Action of the City Council under unanimous consent will satisfy this grant requirement as well as the requirement for at least one, (1) public meeting to be held not more than 120 days prior to the grant submission and meet the deadline for submission to DEM of May 27, 2016. The applications , in no particular order, are as follows:

❖ **City Park Improvements**

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Location: | Warwick City Park, Asylum Rd |
| Assessor's Plat: | 372 |
| Assessor's Lot | 1 |
| Zoning District: | OS (Open Space) |
| Land Area: | 160 acres |
| Planning District: | 4 |
| Grant Type: | Large Recreation Development Grant |
| Grant Amount: | \$400,000 |

This grant application will result in needed improvements to the City's largest and most used park. Dedicated as the "Warwick Park at Buttonwoods" by the City Council in 1954, this 160 acre site is home to various types of flora and fauna, passive and active recreation opportunities and acres of open space that has been left in its natural state for over 60 years. The park is used by over 140,000 visitors a year for activities such as walking, running, hiking, biking, softball, lacrosse, soccer, dog parks, in-line skating, playgrounds, swimming, picnics and outings, National Guard training, Ham radio sessions, beach going and open space use. The park has 4 softball fields, two dog parks, a saltwater beach, nature trail, 2.75 mile bike/walking/running path, in-line hockey rink, soccer field, 2 playgrounds, model car motocross track, 2 picnic shelters and large tracts of open space available for various casual recreation uses.

Over the years, as with many of our facilities, the park has experienced challenges to upkeep and upgrades for facilities. These proposed improvements will provide new, state-of-the-art facilities for the park which are very much needed and long overdue. The improvements are:

- Three, (3) solar powered, composting, fully enclosed restrooms.
- Two, (2) new 30'x44' open sided picnic shelters.
- Eight, (8) dugout shelters.
- Four, (4) solar powered trash receptacles.

The restrooms will replace two temporary port-a-johns which are wholly inadequate. The picnic shelters will replace the structurally deficient shelter located to the rear of the park and add a new one near the ballfields. The dugout shelters will provide protection from the elements for the 8 ballfield benches and the trash receptacles will replace the existing 55 gallon drums used for waste collection.

❖ **Pontiac Park**

Location: 145 Greenwich Ave.
Assessors Plat: 273
Assessors Lot: 438, 501
Zoning District: OS, A-7
Land Area: 2.27 acres
Planning District: 6
Grant Type: Small Recreation Development
Grant Amount: \$100,000

Pontiac Park is located at the corner of West Natick Road and Greenwich Ave, next door to the historic Pontiac train station. The proposed improvements are identified in the *Pontiac Village Master Plan Update*, prepared by the Cecil Group, Inc. dated June 2009. Improvements to the community park will include: Resurfacing of the 20 year old walking track, creation of an additional parking area, installation of new benches, landscaping improvements and playground improvements. Matching funds will source from CDBG monies allocated to the Pontiac Neighborhood Association.

❖ **Rocky Point Park**

Location: Rocky Point Ave.
Assessor's Plat: 380
Assessor's Lot: 286,287
Zoning District: A-10,15,40
Land Area: 41 acres (City property)
Planning District: 3
Grant Type: Large Recreation Development
Grant Amount:

In 2010, the City acquired 41 acres of waterfront property at Rocky Point for preservation as open space and active and passive recreation. Since then, the City has made improvements to the property which includes: a walking/biking paved path, benches and picnic tables, a 40+ car parking lot and landscaping improvements. In addition, all of the summer homes on the north end of the property have been razed.

The continued development of the property will coincide with future development planned for the 80 State owned acres that make up the remainder of the property. For this grant application, the City is applying for funding to continue our development of the City owned property through the following improvements:

- Additional picnic tables and benches overlooking the "pool area beach".
- Interpretive signs along the waterfront at selected locations.
- Asphalt removal and loam and seeding south of the pool area to reclaim more acreage for open space use.
- Repair to the seawall and stairs abutting the pool area beach.

- Five, (5) installed charcoal grills.

❖ **Salter Grove Playground Improvements**

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Location: | Narragansett Parkway |
| Assessor's Plat: | 304 |
| Assessor's Lot: | 187 |
| Zoning District: | OS |
| Land Area: | 10.4 acres |
| Planning District: | 1 |
| Grant Type: | Small Recreational Development |
| Grant Amount: | \$100,000 |

Salter Grove is a State owned park that is leased by the City of Warwick through the year 2034 for passive and active recreation uses. The leased portion of the property includes the green space that abuts Narragansett Parkway and well as the area of the breachway commonly referred to as Rock Island. It does not include the causeway that connects the breachway with the green space. Presently, the City, DEM, CRMC and the neighborhood are working towards a plan to repair the breaches in the causeway to allow for safe passage to the causeway. This project is separate and apart from this application.

Section 3 of the Park Use Agreement states the following:

During the term of this agreement, the city shall have the sole responsibility for the maintenance and care of the Premises. The Premises shall be maintained in good condition, suitable for use by the public for the activities specified in Section 2 of this agreement. The City must obtain the prior written consent of the Department for any alteration or construction which is not part of the general maintenance of the Premises.

The application will consist of the following:

- Install proper safety ground cover under and around playground apparatus.
- Remove and replace the playground apparatus with new, handicapped accessible apparatus.
- Install new picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles.
- Install low fence (3'-4') around playground for child safety.
- Remove existing flowerbed and replace with loam and seed.

❖ **Conimicut Park Boat Ramp**

Location: Conimicut Point Park
Assessors Plat: 334
Assessors Lot: 459
Zoning District: OS
Land Area: 14.25 acres
Planning District: 2
Grant Type: Large Recreational Development
Grant Amount: \$400,000

This project includes the rehabilitation, repair or replacement of an existing concrete plank boat ramp as well as construction of a new parking area capable of accommodation boat-trailer parking using this boat ramp. The abutting Conimicut Point Park will annex the new boat ramp and parking facility with its ingress and egress redesigned to make use of the existing entrance and exit to and from the Park.

The existing ramp is located on the north side of Conimicut Point. The existing ramp, covered by sand, will be exposed and either repaired or replaced. To support the boat ramp and regulated traffic, the existing parking facility at the Park will be expanded westward to provide additional parking. The interior park roadway will be reconfigured to direct traffic back onto the entry drive to the Park. There will be no access to the ramp or the park from Shawomet Ave.

The project will conform with many of the goals, policies and objectives of the Warwick Comprehensive Plan (WCP):

- **WCP Chapter 5: *Open Space and Recreation Inventory*:** There are appx. 13 boat launching ramps located within the coves, in various states of repair. Many of them lack adequate parking for cars and boat trailers, as well as service facilities.
- **WCP Chapter 5: *Parks, Open Space & Recreation*:** Boat owners in Warwick and surrounding communities who do not have access to moorings or dock space within the city rely on public access and launching ramps throughout the city for access to the water.
- **WCP Chapter 9: *Transportation & Circulation*:** Many small boat ramps are located in densely developed neighborhoods with inadequate parking. Additionally, deteriorating infrastructure and siltation have rendered many neighborhood ramps difficult to use. Ensuring that there are useable boat ramps in each cove of the city is a stated objective of the Harbor Management Plan.

❖ **Conimicut Point Playground Improvements**

Location: Conimicut Point Park
Assessors Plat: 334
Assessors Lot: 459
Zoning District: OS
Land Area: 14.25 acres
Planning District: 2
Grant Type: Small Recreational Development
Grant Amount: \$100,000

An important part of the Conimicut Point Park, the playground at the park is constantly used by neighborhood and citywide residents. The park and the playground serve as an important gathering place for a variety of uses. In addition to the playground, the park offers a salt water beach on Narragansett Bay, benches and picnic tables, fishing, swimming, shell fishing and active and passive opportunities. The Conimicut Point lighthouse, which is owned by the City, is just offshore from the park.

The playground equipment has been in place for over 25 years. The equipment is in need of replacement as many of the pieces are broken and beyond repair, pieces have rusted and the surface does not meet required safety standards. In addition, most of the playground is not handicapped accessible.

The Conimicut Village Association, an organization started to improve life and conditions in the village has secured a \$5,000 legislative grant for the purchase and installation of handicapped accessible swings.

This grant would be used to replace the rest of the playground apparatus, install handicapped accessible apparatus and install the required safety surface.

❖ **Lincoln Park Recreation Improvements**

Location: 1651 Post Rd(behind Fire Station #8)
Assessor's Plat: 310
Assessor's Lot: 1
Zoning District: Residential A-7
Land Area: 4.5 acres
Planning District: 5
Grant Type: Small Recreational Development
Grant Amount: \$100,000

Lincoln Park is a 4.5 acre neighborhood park that was created after the acquisition of 23 homes and the abandonment of Connecticut Ave. and portions of Michigan Ave and California Ave due to airport expansion during the late 1980's (1988). This pocket park provides the surrounding neighborhood with badly needed open space in a highly developed, urban area. The park provides a wonderful area for all types of active and

passive recreation uses. It includes a ¼ mile paved walking path as well as a small playground of three swings and one slide. The playground equipment is at least 25 years old and in need of replacement. The present equipment is inadequate and should be replaced with modern play equipment for safety and use reasons.

The application proposes to replace the old, inadequate equipment with new playground apparatus that will meet all safety and htcp. Requirements, the installation of a new playground surface meeting all safety standards and the installation of picnic tables and benches.

Beagle Club

Location: 821 Cowesett Rd
Assessor's Plat: 239
Assessor's Lot: 69
Zoning District: Residential A-15
Land Area: 20.75 acres
Planning District: 7
Grant Type: Recreation Acquisition
Grant Amount: \$400,000

The Little Rhody Beagle Club ("Club"), located on Cowesett Rd, is one of the last large open tract of land in the City. The Club actually encompasses appx. 94 acres. However, the Club has decided to market this 20.75 acre site and retain the remaining acreage for the Club activities. The available site is accessed through Blue Ridge Rd off of Cowesett Rd. The property is being marketed at \$800,000.

The preservation of this valuable piece of open space is identified in the Comprehensive Plan as "Private Open Space" with no permanent deed restrictions. The Comp Plan also identifies the Cowesett neighborhood as one of the City's underserved areas for playgrounds, playfields and recreational facilities. The Comp Plan also identifies as one of its goals as working towards a goal of a park within walking distance of every resident of Warwick. One action proposed to achieve this goal is to identify both existing municipally owned and privately owned parcels for conversion to parks or permanently protected open space in underserved areas. The acquisition of the 20.75 acres at the Beagle Club would satisfy this goal.

Potowomut Playground

Location: Potowomut Rd
Assessor's Plat: 213
Assessor's Lot: 8
Zoning District: Residential A-7
Land Area: 2.3 acres (playground is part of the site for Fire Station #10)
Planning District: 8

Grant Type: Small Recreational Development
Grant Amount: \$100,000

The existing playground is a part of the Station #10 complex that was retained with the construction of the new station in 2015. The playground was originally a part of the Potowomut School facility. With the closing of the school, the playground is still heavily used as the only municipally owned playground in Recreation District #8 (Ward 9).

Upon recent inspection, it was found that the playground has two broken slides, a broken swing seat, no protective safety surface and is suffering from general wear and tear. In addition, there is no handicapped accessible apparatus.

This grant will propose funding for the replacement of the broken apparatus and any other pieces that need replacement due to wear, the installation of handicapped accessible apparatus and the installation of a safety surface that meets all State and Federal requirements.