

Kaylin Clement
Assistant City Administrator

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Memorandum:

TO: Mayor Krachmer and City Council Members

FROM: Kaylin Clement, Assistant City Administrator

DATE: July 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Community Park Pavilion Next Steps – DNR Grant Not Awarded

Recommended Council Action

In light of the City not being awarded the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation grant for the Community Park pavilion, staff would like direction on how to make the most impact toward the overall project goal with the existing allocated funds (\$275,000) less \$4,200 spent on the soil survey.

Background

Ongoing discussions about the state of the pavilion at Community Park, the need for replacement, and the gap in budgeted funds to bring the project to fruition, have taken place for more than a year.

As a refresher, the City budgeted \$275,000 for a new pavilion and requested proposals from vendors and architects for services related to this project. The City received four proposals, one of which was selected (Double Jack Design & ABNET Construction). Double Jack provided quotes for design, construction management and demolition of the existing pavilion at Community Park aligned with the \$275,000 budgeted amount. Visual listening sessions with the Park, Recreation & Trails Commission, as well as Council and Mayor led Double Jack to create a custom designed structure, specific to the wants and needs expressed in listening sessions, however coming in well over budget, totaling \$587,800. The status of the project was then put on hold in the summer of 2022.

At the February 7, 2023, City Council Workshop, the topic was revisited and staff were directed to apply for an Outdoor Recreation grant in the amount of Grants are reimbursed based up to 50 percent of the total eligible costs. The maximum grant award is \$350,000 (for a total project of \$700,000).

On June 27, 2023, a representative from the DNR provided the following update to Asst. City Administrator Kaylin Clement:

“We completed the review of the FY24 Outdoor Recreation Grant Program applications. We received over \$18.2 million in grant requests for an available \$6.3 million funding. Unfortunately, your application was not selected for funding this year.”

With the gap in funding still existing, and the cost of construction/material/labor likely to keep rising, Council is asked to consider and give direction on which of the following options make the most sense at this time:

- Use the \$275,000 allocated to the project to:
 - A. Help fund the Park and Trail Master Plan
 - B. Help fund costs associated with the Koehler Rd. Trail project
 - C. Fund the removal of the failing pavilion at Community Park, currently
 - D. Any combination of the above options, and/or other ideas

The allocated funds are ARPA dollars, which must be obligated to an eligible project by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026.

Attachment: MN DNR Grant Denial Letter

June 22, 2023

Kaylin Clement
Assistant City Administrator
City of Vadnais Heights
800 East CR E
Vadnais Heights , MN 55127

RE: FY24 Outdoor Recreation Grant Program
Community Park

Dear Kaylin:

We completed the review of the FY24 Outdoor Recreation Grant Program applications. We received over \$18.2 million in grant requests for an available \$6.3 million funding. Unfortunately, your application was not selected for funding this year.

If you would like information regarding your application or the grant program, please contact me at 651-259-5549 or audrey.mularie@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Audrey Mularie, Grants Coordinator
Division of Parks and Trails