



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Stefanie Levine, Project Manager
CC: David Stoneback, Public Works Agency Director; Lara Biggs, City Engineer
Subject: Resolution 78-R-21, Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Grant Application for State Funding through the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant Program
Date: August 9, 2021

Recommended Action:

Staff requests the City Council approve Resolution 78-R-21, Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Grant Application for State Funding through the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant Program.

Funding Source:

If the City of Evanston receives this grant award, the City will be required to budget \$400,000 in matching grant funds in 2022, which will need to come from 2022 General Obligation Bonds unless another source of funding is identified.

Council Action:

For Action

Summary:

The Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant program provides municipalities and park districts with up to 50% matching funds up to a maximum of \$400,000 to develop outdoor recreation areas. OSLAD grant applications for the 2022 cycle are due to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on or before September 1, 2021. Grant awards are typically announced in the spring following submission. Grant associated improvements must be completed within two years of grant award.

Located east of the North Shore Channel between Bridge Street and Green Bay Road, Twiggs Park was recently identified as the future site of a new skate park to serve Evanston's residents. With initial public engagement for the project already in progress and the park's location in a CDBG target area, staff believes that the project is an excellent candidate for the OSLAD program.

As part of the 2022 capital improvement program, staff will be recommending a budget of \$750,000 for the funding of a new skate park at Twiggs Park. If the OSLAD grant is awarded to the City of Evanston, the City can elect to either expand the project scope, or significantly reduce the local funding commitment required to implement the project. Therefore, staff recommends approval of Resolution 78-R-21 authorizing the City Manager to sign the OSLAD grant application.

Attachments:
[Resolution 78-R-21](#)

78-R-21

A RESOLUTION

Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Grant Application for State Funding through the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant Program

WHEREAS, the City of Evanston leases property along the North Shore Channel from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the subject leased parcel is a 13.2 acre portion that lies between Bridge Street and Green Bay Road, east of the North Shore Channel and commonly referred to as “Twiggs Park”; and

WHEREAS, the east end of Twiggs Park has been identified for a new skate park to serve Evanston residents (the “Project”) for a total project cost of \$800,000; and

WHEREAS, the City of Evanston wishes to apply for state funds through the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant Program, which would provide fifty percent (50%) of the funding, \$400,000, necessary for this Project and therefore the City portion of funding is also \$400,000; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Evanston has determined it is in the best interests of the City to apply for the OSLAD grant for state funding to fulfill the aforementioned Project goal,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1: The City Council hereby adopts the foregoing recitals as its findings, as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2: The City Manager is hereby authorized to sign and submit all necessary application documents for the OSLAD grant to fund the Twiggs Park skate park project.

SECTION 3: The City Manager is also authorized and directed to negotiate and execute any additional documents required for the grant application as she may determine to be in the best interests of the City.

SECTION 4: That this Resolution 78-R-21 shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

Daniel Biss, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Nicholas E. Cummings, Corporation Counsel

Attest:

Stephanie Mendoza, City Clerk

Adopted: _____, 2021