

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
Mayor's Office of Capital Projects
Director DeRosa

Request for Authority to Enter into a Joint Sponsorship with the City of Shaker Heights and City of Cleveland Heights to File an Application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Program

Ordinance No: 1328-2024

Legislative Purpose: Authorizing the Director of the Mayor's Office of Capital Projects to enter into a joint sponsorship with the City of Shaker Heights and City of Cleveland Heights to file an application with the ODNR LWCF grant program.

Project Summary: The LWCF is a National Park Service (NPS) grant program that was established in 1964 when the U.S. Congress passed the LWCF Act that aimed to safeguard natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. The NPS issues LWCF grant funding to each state, which in turn, is responsible for identifying and allocating funds to state and local government subdivisions for specific projects. The ODNR is the designated State of Ohio administrator of the LWCF grant program.

The LWCF grant program provides up to 50% reimbursement assistance for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas. The minimum and maximum award amount is \$50,000 and \$500,000, respectively.

The City of Shaker Heights and City of Cleveland Heights are seeking \$500,000 in LWCF grant funding for the construction of the 10-foot wide Attleboro-Shelburne Trail in Horseshoe Lake Park that will connect the two cities.

While Horseshoe Lake Park is physically located in the City of Shaker Heights and City of Cleveland

Heights, the land is owned by the City of Cleveland and leased to them. Consequently, the City of Shaker Heights and City of Cleveland Heights have requested the City of Cleveland enter into a joint sponsorship with them regarding their application to the LWCF grant program in order to meet landowner requirements, which states:

Long-term leases from one public agency to another are allowable with a joint sponsorship agreement stipulating that the lessor will assume compliance responsibilities for the LWCF boundary area in the event the lease is terminated, and the term of the lease must have at least 25-years remaining at the time of grant award.

In the event the City of Shaker Heights or City of Cleveland Heights defaults on their lease, or any party terminates the lease, the City of Cleveland will be required to assume LWCF compliance responsibility for Horseshoe Lake Park. Additionally, the City of Cleveland will be required to comply with Section 6(f) of the LWCF Act, which states that Horseshoe Lake Park cannot be converted from public outdoor recreation use without the approval of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The LWCF grant program requires a minimum 50% local funding match. The City of Shaker Heights and City of Cleveland Heights anticipate fulfilling this local funding match requirement by-way-of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS). Therefore, the City of Cleveland will not have any financial obligations regarding the minimum 50% local funding match.

Cost: \$0

PPN: 732-01-001 (Horseshoe Lake Park)

Ward: N/A (City of Shaker Heights and City of Cleveland Heights)

Attachments: Map of Horseshoe Lake Park