

Ordinance No. 635-2025

By Council Members Howse-Jones,
Bishop and Griffin (by departmental
request)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

Authorizing the Director of Parks and Recreation to enter into one or more agreements with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Areas Land Conservancy, or its designee, relating to co-sponsoring a grant with the Natural Areas Land Conservancy, or its designee, from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to complete the Hough Community Green Space Project; and to accept the donation of the Hough Community Green Space from the Natural Areas Land Conservancy, or its designee, for use as a dedicated City–operated park upon completion of the project.

WHEREAS, under Ordinance No. 980-2021, passed December 6, 2021, this Council authorized the Director of Community Development to acquire the former John Raper School site from the Cleveland Municipal School District (“CMSD”) and to enter into a development agreement with Natural Areas Land Conservancy, or its designee (“NALC”), for future redevelopment of the site; and

WHEREAS, among other things, the development agreement transferred ownership of the site acquired by the City under Ordinance No. 980-2021 to NALC to allow NALC to develop the parcels into a community park and green space referred to herein as the Hough Community Green Space Project which upon completion of the development the site shall be transferred back to the City and dedicated as a City-operated community park and green space (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the parcels identified in Ordinance No. 980-2021 have since been consolidated into one (1) parcel identified as Permanent Parcel No. 106-22-179 (“Site”); and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (“ODNR”) is offering a \$200,000 grant to be used to complete the Project by the end of 2026, but ODNR is requesting that the grantee or one of the co-sponsors of the grant hold an interest in the property for at least fifteen (15) years; and

WHEREAS, to satisfy the requirement of the grant offered by ODNR, NALC has requested the City co-sponsor the grant which will allow NALC to receive the necessary grant funds needed to complete the Project; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the Project, NALC shall transfer the Site back to the City for use as a dedicated City-operated community park and green space; and

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WHEREAS, the Project will benefit the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance constitutes an emergency measure providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That the Director of Parks and Recreation is authorized to enter into one or more agreements with ODNR and NALC relating to co-sponsoring a grant from ODNR needed for NALC to complete the Project. The agreement or agreements shall provide, among other things, that NALC shall transfer ownership of Project and the Site back to the City of Cleveland so that it can be dedicated as a City-operated community park and green space. The Director is further authorized to file all papers and execute all documents necessary to implement this ordinance.

Section 2. That the Director of Parks and Recreation is authorized to accept, on behalf of the City, the donation of the Project and the Site, from NALC for the purposes constructing the Project and is more fully described in the map depicted in **File No. 635-2025-A.**

Section 3. That the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Director of Law, and other appropriate City officials, are authorized to execute other documents and certificates, and take other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the donation authorized by this ordinance, and to employ and pay all fees for title companies, surveys, escrows, appraisers, environmental audits, and all other costs necessary to accept the property.

Section 4. That the agreement or agreements shall be prepared by the Director of Law and shall contain any terms and conditions to protect and benefit the City's interest.

Section 5. That this ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

GB:nl
5-12-2025
FOR: Director Nichols

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READ FIRST TIME on MAY 12, 2025 **REPORTS**
and referred to DIRECTORS of Parks and Recreation, Finance, Law;
COMMITTEES on Municipal Services and Properties,
Finance Diversity Equity and Inclusion

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READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

CITY CLERK

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APPROVED

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

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