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Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 17, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront

Subject: Grant Application: Statewide Parks Program (SPP) Cycle 5 – West Berkeley Brownfield to Neighborhood Park Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or their designee to: submit a grant application in an amount of up to $8 million to the Statewide Parks Program (SPP) Cycle 5 grant program for the West Berkeley Brownfield to Neighborhood Park Project; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Statewide Parks Program (SPP) grant program does not require any local match. If the City is awarded grant funds, they will be deposited in the One-time Grant Fund (336). Per the grant contract guidelines, any improvements funded by this grant shall remain in-place for thirty years.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP) is a competitive grant program that creates new parks and new recreation opportunities in critically underserved communities across California. Previously, Proposition 84 (2006 Bond Act), Proposition 68 (2018 Bond Act), and 2021/22 and 2023/24 State General Funds supported four rounds of SPP. Proposition 4 (2024 Bond Act), passed on November 5, 2024, continues this program's legacy and will provide $188.5 million statewide for the SPP Round 5 funding cycle. A proposed project must involve either development and/or acquisition to: (1) create a new park, (2) renovate an existing park, or (3) expand an existing park. In addition, the project site within a half-mile radius must have: (1) a ratio of less than three acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, or a median household income that is less than 80% of the California median household income (less than $73,524), or the project is within proximity to a Climate Vulnerability(ies). The grant proposal must include a minimum of five community meetings in order to reach as much of the community as possible, including youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities. City staff evaluated a range of potential sites and determined that the empty

parcel formerly known as the North Lawn Bowling Green on City property just east of the Corporation Yard (1326 Allston Way) would be the City's most competitive project for the grant program. The final scope and budget of the project will be finalized for the grant upon completion of the public outreach process, and the total grant request shall not exceed $8 million.

BACKGROUND

On April 20, 2021, Council authorized staff to submit a California Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program (SPP) grant application for the Santa Fe Railroad Trackbed to Park Conversion Project and execute the project upon securing the grant. In early 2022, the City was notified of a grant award of $5 million and on March 14, 2022 the grant contract was executed. The full project, including soil remediation and the installation of new park features is expected to be completed in the summer of 2027.

In the Fall of 2026, cycle 5 of the Statewide Parks Program (SPP) grant program was announced, with a submittal deadline of December 17, 2026. City staff evaluated a range of potential sites and determined that the empty parcel formerly known as the North Lawn Bowling Green on City property just east of the Corporation Yard (1326 Allston Way) would be the City's most competitive project for the grant program. The North Green was the original location of the Berkeley Lawn Bowling Club in 1929. In the early 1960's, the Lawn Bowling Club built a new clubhouse and new lawn bowling green on City property at 2270 Acton St via a lease agreement. Since that time, the club no longer had the need for the North Green. The City has looked at several potential uses of the vacant North Green, but the lack of funding and the need to remediate contaminated soils at the site have prevented any new projects from moving forward. If the City is successful in obtaining SPP grant funding for a new park at the North Green, it will be removed from the current lease between the Berkeley Lawn Bowling Club and the City and will be added to the current inventory of City parks. The Lawn Bowling Club fully supports this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

This project will help the City promote Strategic Plan Goal 1 – to provide state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities, and Goal 2 of Chapter 3 in the City's Climate Action Plan to increase access to parks and plazas.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

These grant funds will allow the City to complete this project to create new parkland in West Berkeley.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The Council could choose not to apply for the funds, in which case the City would not have the resources to address contamination on the property in order to develop this lot as park space.

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6703
Evelyn Chan, Supervising Civil Engineer, PRW, 981-6430

Attachments
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley City Council hereby: Approves the filing of an application for the West Berkeley Brownfield to Neighborhood Park Project; and

Certifies that said Applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the sufficient funds to complete the project; and

Certifies that if the project is awarded, the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, and

Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and

Delegates the authority to the **Director of Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront** to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope; and

Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of Berkeley City Council on _____, 2026 by the following vote:

Ayes: _____
Noes: _____
Abstain: _____
Absent: _____

_____
Adena Ishii, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Mark Numainville, City Clerk