

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Funding Report

General Section

Park or Trail Name: Cascade Lake Park

Park ID: 14-018D Funding Application #: 16-038F

Date Designated: 2015-10-07 District6

Lead Organization: Rochester

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Project Name: Cascade Lake Park Access, Play Area & Garden Improvements

Project Description:

Through the City's Park System Plan that was developed and approved this year the community has identified Cascade Lake Park as the highest ranked park improvement program to be completed for the entire City of Rochester. Cascade Lake is a master planned regional park consisting of over 225 acres created out of the reclamation of a sand mining area. This park is intended to be both a natural based park and a park with a regional draw. This urban oasis park is at the cross-section of the southern terminus of the City's extension of the MnDNR's Douglas Trail and the trail extension leading into Rochester's downtown core. The Park currently has some trail development completed and has some interim open space uses. The park was first conceptualized in approximately 1969 but was more formally refined in the 1990's and again in the early 2000's. Since the 1990's the City has been expending significant funds acquiring the necessary lands, relocating power lines, and creating a naturalized creek to fulfill the vision for the park. This is along with constructing some basic park improvements like a few benches, some tree planting, beach construction, and some trail improvements in the area. Water quality, habitat, erosion control, safety, and access have played a significant role in the park plan and has guided the improvements made to date. Projects in the park have been ongoing as funding has been available. This approach to construction of the park has had a limiting effect on the park development and park use. In anticipation of a push to develop this regional park resulting from our engagement activities and the Park System planning efforts the City updated the cost estimates for the project and refined the details of the 2004 master plan this year. In addition to the funding the City has already invested the City is again dedicating funds to advance this nature based park. We are at a point where a larger project is necessary to advance the programmatic intent of the regional park. The City has received a significant bequest that was intended to also help advance the park development. The City and Private funds combined with Legacy funding support will set the stage to allow the park to be utilized as envisioned as a regional park. This phase of the project that is proposed consists of multiple elements that are needing to be planned and developed together in

the southern portion of the park to take advantage of mass site grading, and parking development. An entry road, parking and storm water management feature will address the vehicular access to support the park users coming to the site and it will sustainably manage site runoff. The construction of perimeter trails, trail lighting and bridges will connect adjoining neighborhoods and provide safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists. Development of the nature based landscaping creating various topographic changes and niche enclaves will allow the patrons to be immersed in micro landscaped and natural environments. Creation of the nature based play areas intermixed with the other natural based elements located within the park allows exploration for young and old alike but also creates opportunities for intermixing of generations and physical abilities. Lastly the project will include an iconic sundial and landscape feature created on a point in the north eastern corner of the lake. This project meets the ideals of a nature based park all while being located only blocks from the nearby downtown urban setting. This location serves both the community and the large visiting population.

Funding Section

Project Cost Breakdown: Site grading and storm water - \$520,000; Entrance road, parking lot and lighting - \$605,000; Park trails and access bridges A & B - \$781,000; Natural playground area, natural landscape gardens, paths, trees and seeding - \$973,000; Site furnishings, amenities and shelters - \$351,000; A detailed cost breakdown is attached.

Grant Funding Request: \$1,550,000

Local Match: \$1,680,000 Funder: City of Rochester

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Total Funding: \$3,230,000 Percentage of Local Match: 52.0%

Completion Timeframe: 18 months