

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE MEMORANDUM
#22-2021**

DATE: Sept. 27, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*

FROM: Amanda J. Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture *ajp*
Juliana Berry, Parks Project Manager

SUBJECT: CR-99 – Adams County Open Space Grant Support for Justice Center West Park Construction

PURPOSE

To consider CR-99, a resolution supporting the submission of a grant request in the amount of \$1.5 million to help fund the construction of Justice Center West Park.

BACKGROUND

There are two opportunities each year to seek grant funding from Adams County Open Space (ACOS). Funding for these grants comes from the ACOS tax, of which 68% is distributed through a competitive grant process. Adams County Resolution 99-1 and the ACOS Policies and Procedures Manual outline eligible uses for these funds.

The 5.85-acre site that is currently referred to as “Justice Center West Park” (JCW Park), due to its proximity to the Northglenn Justice Center, is currently undeveloped. In 2018, a master plan was completed for the site. The plan identified JCW Park as a “water-wise” neighborhood park with trails, sculpture, and nature play components, and was accepted by City Council at the July 16, 2018, City Council meeting. In 2019, additional funding was secured to complete the design and construction documents.

The completed design showcases the natural contours of the site and the views of the Front Range, with parking added to promote the park as a regional destination. Park elements have been designed to fit in with the landscape, supporting the “nature play” theme. Native plant materials were selected throughout much of the park to serve as a demonstration of how water-wise gardening can provide visual interest. Small areas of traditional bluegrass would provide an inviting space to play. Although not included in the initial design, an adventure play course could be incorporated during the construction phase to appeal to the tween and teen park users. Other improvements include the on-site detention pond, which would also serve the adjacent properties.

Funding is not currently identified in the City’s Capital Projects Fund to complete the construction phase of the project.

UPDATE

A Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request in the amount of \$3.5 million was submitted through U.S. Sen. John Hickenlooper’s office in June 2021. This request is still under review; notification of a grant award, if any, is anticipated in late October. If CDS funding is awarded, an additional \$1.5 million will still be needed to complete the project.

Staff intends to submit a grant request to ACOS for that remaining \$1.5 million. If full funding is received from both entities, there would be adequate funding to move forward with the construction of the park. If funds are not awarded through CDS and/or ACOS, staff intends to resubmit an application to ACOS or other eligible grant sources in future grant cycles.

If approved, this resolution would be submitted with the grant application for the Adams County Open Space grant program.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

ACOS grant applications are due by Sept. 30, 2021. The proposed resolution, along with the full grant proposal, needs to be submitted to Adams County by that date.

Grants will be reviewed by the ACOS Advisory Board in October 2021, and staff will participate in presentations and respond to questions from the board. Funding decisions are anticipated to be made in November or December.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of CR-99.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have any questions, please contact Amanda Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture, at apeterson@northglenn.org or 303.450.8950.

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR LEIGHTY

COUNCILMAN'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-99
Series of 2021

Series of 2021

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GRANT APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ADAMS COUNTY OPEN SPACE FOR FUNDING FOR THE JUSTICE CENTER WEST PARK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Justice Center West Park Construction Project will provide a new water-wise neighborhood park with trails, sculpture, nature play components, and added parking to promote the park as a regional destination; and

WHEREAS, the new park will showcase the natural contours of the site, views of the Front Range, and native plant materials promoting water-wise gardening, and will provide an opportunity to incorporate an adventure play course to appeal to teen park users; and

WHEREAS, the Northglenn City Council believes construction of the park will provide new recreational amenities to users of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to express its support for the submission of an Adams County Open Space Grant Application to obtain funding for the Justice Center West Park Construction Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Northglenn is in full support of submitting a grant application to Adams County Open Space to obtain funding for the Justice Center West Park Construction Project.

DATED, at Northglenn, Colorado, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney