


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	23-235	Meeting:	May 8, 2023
	Agenda Item:	29	Roll Call:	23-0653
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Ratification of National Park Service (NPS) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant application seeking \$5,291,000 for Birdland Park and Marina Master Plan Improvements Phase 1.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the NPS LWCF ORLP Program grant application by the Parks and Recreation Department seeking \$5,291,000 for Birdland Park and Marina Master Plan Improvements Phase 1 and ICON Improvements at Birdland Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$13,341,000

Funding Source: Various funding being:

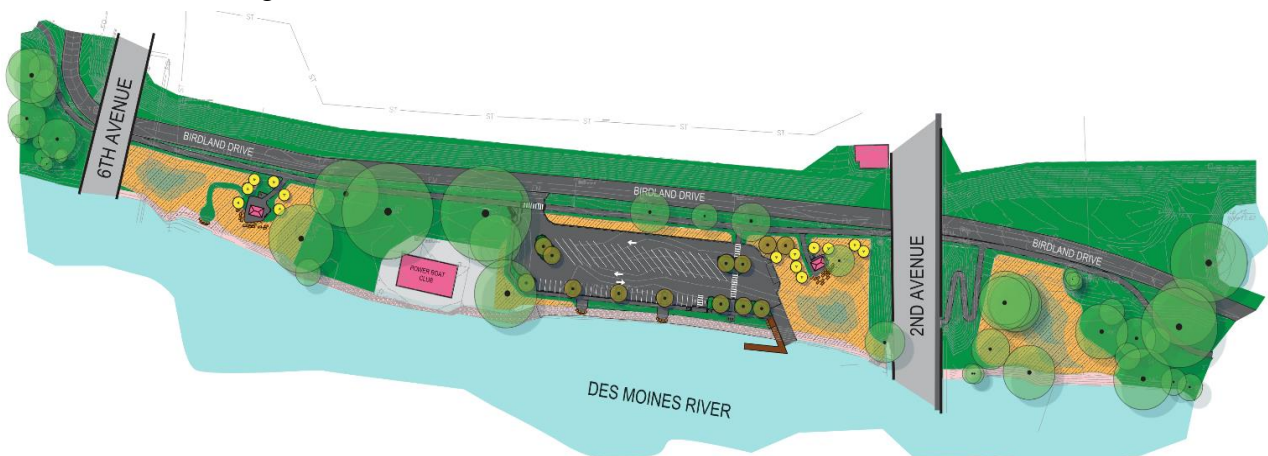
- \$5,291,000 – Anticipated in LWCF funding from Iowa Department of Natural Resources via the National Park Service
- \$1,400,000 - ICON Water Trails
- \$10,000 - Friends of Des Moines Parks
- \$5,000 - Volunteered services match facilitated by the Parks and Recreation Department
- \$6,635,000 – 2023-2027 CIP, Park Improvements PK137, Page 71 and 2023-2027 CIP, Park Improvements PK189, Page 88

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The NPS LWCF ORLP is managed through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and supports cities with populations of 30,000+ proposing to develop projects in areas with a poverty rate over 20% that are also lacking in walkable, publicly accessible outdoor recreation. Project sponsors must request a minimum of \$300,000 and may request up to a maximum of \$10,000,000 per project proposal for the development and/or acquisition of land for natural resources and outdoor recreation.

- The Parks and Recreation Department is applying for approximately 39.66% of the pre-design estimate of \$13,500,000 for the combined Birdland Park and Marina Master Plan Improvements Phase 1 Project and the ICON Water Trails Improvements at Birdland Park which represent portions of Phases 4 and 5 of the master plan. This application requires that the City Council provide certain authorizations and certifications when making the application that are standard to many grant programs. The application was coordinated with ICON Water Trails in accordance with a funding strategy memo between ICON and the City.
- The grant proposal consists of three project sites within Birdland Park that are proposed to be bid and constructed independently. Sites #1 and #2 represent the Birdland Master Plan Phase 1 Project and Site #3 represents the ICON Water Trails Project.
- Anticipated grant agreement terms will dictate that the park facility must remain as public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. All of Birdland Park and Union Park have been proposed for perpetual protection as public outdoor recreation areas. Anticipated terms would also include a three (3)-year performance period and reporting requirements typical of federally funded grant programs.
- The IDNR will select submissions from the State of Iowa through a competitive process in late May 2023. If selected, the grant submission proceeds for consideration by the National Park Service for nationally competitive grant funding. The anticipated date of award notifications is January 1, 2024.
- Grant guidelines dictate that all grant funding must be managed and reported on by the project sponsor, therefore a new sub-agreement between ICON Water Trails and the City would be required to detail ICON's role in the project if grant funding is received. The City proposes that ICON, in collaboration with others, lead their portion of the project to the maximum extent possible including bidding, construction administration, and acceptance of work while all contract payments and financial reporting would need to be completed by the City. This proposal has been discussed with National Park Service staff grant administrations staff and they have committed to providing feedback on any specific requirements for that agreement.
- Per existing agreements between ICON Water Trails and the City, ICON is responsible for reimbursing the City costs to maintain the ICON Water Trails improvement at Birdland Park (Site #3 below) once it is implemented.

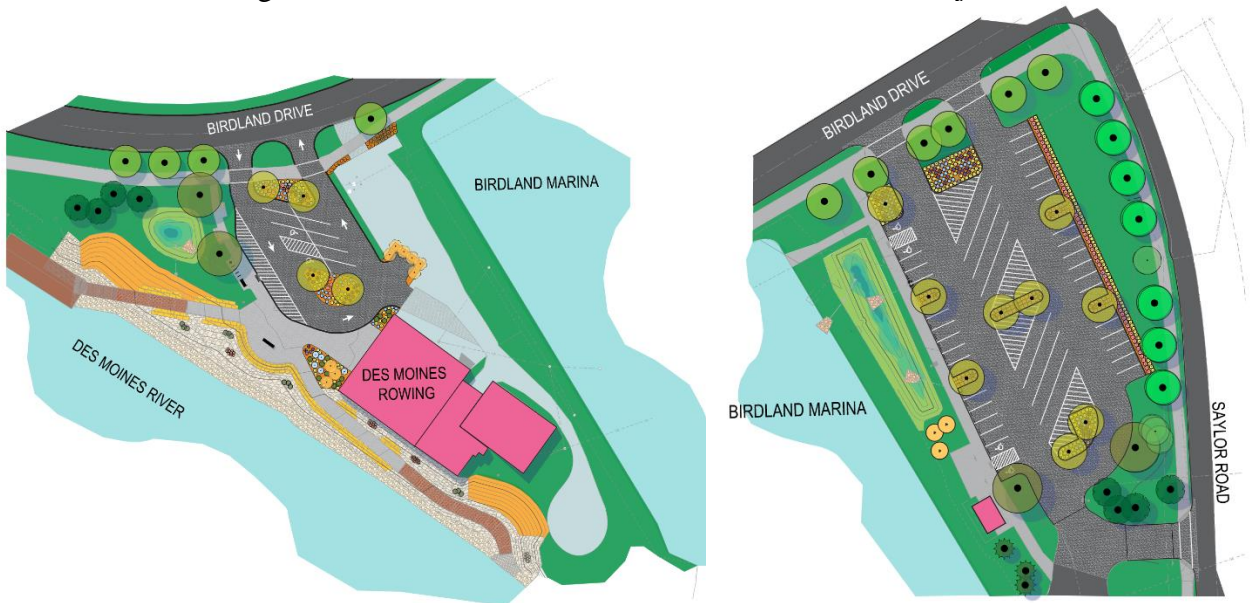
Site 1 Plan Rendering – Birdland West



Site 2 Plan Rendering – Birdland East



Site 3 Plan Renderings – Birdland South / ICON Water Trails Birdland Project



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: March 22, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-0465](#)

Action: [Birdland](#) Park and Marina Master Plan. ([Council Communication No. 21-135](#)) Moved by Westergaard to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: February 23, 2021

Resolution Number: 21-011

Action: Motion by Facto to approve the Birdland Park Master Plan. Second by Woodard. Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Anticipated actions include acceptance of grant award and agreement, construction agreement with ICON Water Trails, ordering construction, public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, approval of contract and bond, partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

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