



City of Racine, Wisconsin
AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE: 3/7/2022

SUBJECT:

Communication sponsored by Alder Melissa Lemke requesting approval of supporting a grant application with an amount of \$200,000 from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Sustain our Great Lakes grant program). Grant control #00432

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS)

PREPARED BY: Tom Molbeck, Director of PRCS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Finance & Personnel Committee recommend authorization to apply for the grant of \$200,000 from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Sustain our Great Lakes grant program). Grant control #00432.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:

The Pershing Park Habitat and Water Quality Improvements Plan will store runoff improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, and provide beneficial habitat for migratory shorebirds along the shores of Lake Michigan. Through the conversion of 2.4 acres of impervious gravel parking in downtown Racine to a lakefront wetland and meadow complex, native plants will filter pollutants and provide needed pollinator habitat while creating an opportunity for residents of the area to engage with nature and build awareness of the importance of green infrastructure practices. Additionally, this project will set the stage for future implementation by providing the necessary funds to jumpstart this project and help it to be built.

Phase I - Site Investigations & Concept Refinement: This phase includes collecting information on the underlying soil conditions, analyzing wave overtopping, and completion of upland surveys. Once the technical information is gathered, the City will work with residents and stakeholders to develop a plan for the transformation of Pershing Park, specifically looking at the half-mile lakefront segment between the Pershing Park Drive and the lakeside revetment. The plan will explore alternatives, educate participants about the value of the project, and gather input on community preferences. A preferred plan will be generated and will serve as a roadmap for the next phase.

Phase II - Design & Engineering: This phase will include advancing with the detailed design and engineering of improvements between Pershing Park Drive and the lakefront revetment. Construction ready plans will be generated for improvements within this zone, specifically those relating to water quality enhancements and corresponding habitat. Recreational improvements within this zone will also be developed and integrated as part of the construction-ready documents.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: Grant total of \$200,000, with no city match required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Finance & Personnel Committee recommend authorization to apply for the grant of \$200,000 from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Sustain our Great Lakes grant program). Grant control #00432.

