



CITY OF MENIFEE

SUBJECT: Resolution to Approve Grant Application for Land and Water Conservation Funds for the Quail Valley Park Project

MEETING DATE: May 17, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Kori Jones, Senior Management Analyst

REVIEWED BY: Jonathan Nicks, Deputy City Manager

APPROVED BY: Armando G. Villa, City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Adopt a resolution authorizing the City of Meniffee to approve a grant application for Land and Water Conservation Funds for the Quail Valley Park Project, located north of Canyon Heights Drive; and
2. Approve and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all necessary agreements and other grant related documents thereof to the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

DISCUSSION

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a competitive Federal Grant Program offered through the California Department of Parks and Recreation and is aimed at providing outdoor recreation access to communities. Lands acquired, or developed, using LWCFs are permanently dedicated as federal land reserved for public outdoor recreational use. Proposed projects must meet at least one Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) criteria which include New Park Access, Multi-Use Parks for All Ages, Health Design of Park, Safety/Beautification, and Preservation for Public Recreation.

The need for parkland in the Quail Valley community has been recognized in the Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Master Plan originally adopted in 2016, and more recently in the preliminary findings of the updated Parks Master Plan to be presented to City Council at the upcoming Workshop scheduled for May 31, 2023. Community Services staff have identified approximately 5-acres of vacant parkland in Quail Valley, north of Canyon Heights Drive, as a potential site to develop a community park. The property is currently owned by the Canyon Heights Homeowners Association (HOA) and has been fenced off to prevent access and is minimally maintained to prevent weed overgrowth. The HOA has expressed a desire to sell the

property to the City, at market value, contingent upon award of LWCF Grant funding. A letter of intent to transfer has been included as an attachment hereto. Quail Valley is home to many of the City's more rural areas and undeveloped public spaces. According to the California Park Access Report, 53% of residents in this community live further than half-mile from a public park and, overall, the area offers less than 3-acres of park per 1,000 residents. The population is also heavily comprised of senior, low-income, and youth residents which are groups that SCORP identifies as benefiting most from public recreation opportunities.

The proposed park features would include a gravel parking lot, pedestrian walking trail, permanent restroom, walkway lighting and benches, turf and irrigation overhaul, exercise equipment, shade trees and landscaping. A phased development approach can be utilized to expand/upgrade park amenities over time. To be considered for the LWCF Grant, a 50% funding match and Council resolution are required as part of application. Projects funded for acquisition must be developed for public use within 3-years of award. Future development to improve access could also be allocated to surrounding streets adjacent/leading to this public space under the Active Transportation Program.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

Community Engagement and Social Infrastructure

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. However, should the City be awarded grant funding, an acquisition of the property at market value would be initiated where 50% would be reimbursable to the City. Appraisal of the property is currently underway, and is expected to be received prior to the Grant application deadline of June 1, 2023.

As a part of the Capital Improvement Program, staff have proposed \$500,000 to be allocated in Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and an additional \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2024/2025 for a total of \$750,000 in matching funds from Local Park (Quimby) and Development Impact Fee funds.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution
2. Project Fact Sheet
3. Letter of Intent to Sell
4. LWCF Grant Application Guide