THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

City Council Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Subject: Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) 2026 - Walton Street Park

Staff Resources: D. Tyrell McGirt, Director, Parks & Recreation; Pete Wall, Assistant Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for grants in the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) 2026 in the State of North Carolina, and authorizing the City Manager to accept funds if granted, and to execute all documents, as approved by the City Attorney, to use and manage the funds for the Walton Street Park project.

Background:

- The State of North Carolina has allocated funding to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for eligible uses for local governments.
- The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provides matching grants to local governments to assist with public park and recreation projects, pursuant to G.S. 143B-135.56.
- The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) awards will be selected by the NC Parks & Recreation Authority in August 2026.
- Prioritization will be given to applicants from qualifying counties designated by the US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development as most impacted and distressed counties from Hurricane Helene. Buncombe County is a qualifying county.
- The application deadline is May 1, 2026.
- A 1:1 match is required for awarded projects, with a $500,000 maximum request requirement. FEMA or other grant funds may be used for the match.
- The Walton Street Park project is budgeted in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and funded by the City of Asheville 2024 General Obligation Bond program. If awarded, the PARTF grant will allow the City to recoup a portion of these funds.
- The anticipated project period is November 1, 2026 to October 31, 2029.
- If awarded, Council will approve all applicable procurements.
- It is the intent to apply for funding to support improvements to Walton Street Park.

Council Goal(s):

- Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment
- Financially Resilient
- Thriving Local Economy
- Well-planned and Livable Community

Council Priority Recovery Areas Include:

- People and Environment
- Infrastructure

Committee(s):

- n/a

Pro(s):

- Provides 1:1 matching state funding for projects, easing the budget burden and/or increasing opportunities for park improvements.
- Enhances public safety, infrastructure resilience, and community preparedness.
- Aligns with long-term capital planning goals.
- Aligns with and community engagement findings.

Con(s):

- All grant funds must be spent by October 1, 2029; which may limit long-term or phased projects.
- Funds are disbursed on a quarterly basis as a reimbursement once the grant contract is executed, requiring available capital.

Fiscal Impact:

- No action at this time. A budget amendment will be presented to City Council for each individual project grant award.
- A 1:1 match is required for awarded projects, with a $500,000 maximum request requirement. FEMA or other grant funds may be used for the match.
- The Walton Street Park project is budgeted in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and funded by the City of Asheville 2024 General Obligation Bond program. If awarded, the PARTF grant will allow the City to recoup a portion of these funds.
- The Walton Street Park project is already budgeted in the CIP. This grant will reimburse a portion of these funds. The grantee will need to report expenses quarterly for the grant project to NC State Recreation Resources for reimbursement.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to: apply for grants in the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) 2026 from the State of North Carolina; accept the funds if awarded; and execute all documents, as approved by the City Attorney, necessary to use and manage the funds for the Walton Street Park project.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 26-___

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR STATE PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND GRANT, ACCEPT FUNDS IF GRANTED, AND EXECUTE ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO USE AND MANAGE SAID FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. §§ 160A-17.1 and 160A-353 to accept grant-in-aid from other governmental entities for parks programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has the authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. §§ 160A-355 and 160A-356 to operate and finance parks programs; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provides matching grants to local governments to assist with public park and recreation projects, pursuant to G.S. 143B-135.56; and

WHEREAS, The PARTF awards will be selected by the NC Parks & Recreation Authority in August 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has identified a grant opportunity to financially support the construction of recreation facilities at Walton Street Park providing 1:1 matching state funding for the project, easing local budget burdens and/or increasing opportunities for park improvements;

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to: apply for grants from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) 2026; accept grant funds if awarded; and execute all documents, as approved by the City Attorney, needed to use and manage the funds for the Walton Street Park project.

Read, approved, and adopted this 24th day of March, 2026.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney