

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 24, 2015

Agenda Item:	4a2	Action
Topic:	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Request	
Presented by:	Larry Warren, Internal Services Administrator	

Background:

Congress established the LWCF in 1964 to create parks and open space; protect wilderness; wetlands and refuges; preserve habitat; and enhance recreational opportunities. The federal funds for this program come, primarily, from Outer Continental Shelf revenues derived from leasing oil and gas sites in coastal waters.

The program is divided into two distinct funding pots: State grants and Federal acquisition funds. The "stateside" of LWCF is distributed to the states and territories by legislative formula. Over time, Oregon has received approximately \$59 million from this source. For Fiscal Year 2014, Congress appropriated an additional \$3 million specifically designated for a new competitive grant program, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant.

Eligible projects include acquisition, development or rehabilitation of outdoor recreation areas located within or serving jurisdictions with populations of 50,000 or more people. In addition to the competition objectives, projects must advance goals or meet needs identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Project Sponsors must provide at least 50% funding match. Funded projects must be maintained in perpetuity.

OPRD received one application from the City of Portland to develop a 25-acre park on a former brownfield in the Cully neighborhood of northeast Portland. The grant will restore habitat and support development of an accessible playground, walking trail with exercise equipment, scenic overlooks, off leash dog area, Intertribal Gathering Garden, and a youth soccer field at Thomas Cully Park. Eight projects, including Thomas Cully Park, were selected nationwide for funding by the National Park Service.

Prior Action by Commission: None, other than annual LWCF approvals through time.

Action Requested: Staff requests that the commission approve distribution of LWCF grant funds in the amount of \$500,000 to the City of Portland.

Attachments: None

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