

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Tonsler Fitness Court
Staff Contact(s):	Chris Gensic, Park and Trail Planner, Riaan Anthony, Director of Parks & Recreation, Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Presenter:	Chris Gensic, Park and Trail Planner
Date of Proposed Action:	October 19, 2026

Issue

City Council action is needed to accept and appropriate funding from two separate grants awarded to the City of Charlottesville to construct an outdoor gym at Tonsler Park, which is part of the recently approved Parks & Recreation's Master Plan that calls for a fitness area at the park.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR") awarded a grant of \$149,500.00 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program ("LWCF"), which DCR administers in the Commonwealth of Virginia on behalf of the National Park Service. The LWCF grant requires a local match of \$149,500.00.

The National Fitness Campaign ("NFC"), a private-public wellness initiative that builds and fund installations of its trademarked Fitness Court® in the United States, awarded a grant of \$40,000.00 through NFC's 2025 Aetna-Virginia funding cycle – a joint statewide grant initiative to provide funding to help municipalities and schools construct free outdoor gyms. The NFC grant is confirmed only after City Council passes a Resolution providing confirmation of funding for the remaining project costs and a scheduled shipping date with a storage plan.

Background / Rule

While the City has a fitness trail at Pen Park, it is not readily available to downtown residents. An outdoor gym at Tonsler would have equipment similar to an indoor gym, such as stationary bicycles and other workout apparatus.

NFC's \$40,000.00 grant requires (1) a Resolution of Adoption endorsed by the local governing body; (2) authorization to proceed documented by formal funding confirmation (commonly a purchase order); and (3) confirmation of a scheduled shipping date for NFC's outdoor gym and storage plans. NFC's Grant Program Requirements (GPR) milestones must be met to maintain funding eligibility. NFC cannot guarantee grant availability within a campaign year if milestone dates are missed because grant funding in each state is limited.

Analysis

Two grants, a \$149,500.00 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant and a \$40,000.00 National Fitness Campaign (NFC) grant, will help fund the project. Council must accept and appropriate both.

Financial Impact

The grants will fund the purchase of NFC's outdoor gym. The City will need to create the concrete pad and take on maintenance responsibilities after the outdoor gym is installed. The required grant match will come from previously appropriated funds in the City's CIP fund.

Recommendation

Parks & Recreation staff recommend that Council adopt resolutions accepting and appropriating the LWCF grant of \$149,500.00 and the NFC grant of \$40,000.00 for the outdoor gym.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

I move adoption of the resolutions accepting and appropriating the LWCF grant and the NFC grant for the Tonsler Park outdoor gym.

Attachments

1. RES_\$40,000 Tonsler Park Outdoor Fitness Court
2. RES_Tonsler Gym Equipment Grant