

Resolution 2024-39

A Resolution to Authorize Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Trails (ORPT) 2024 Playground Grant Application

WHEREAS, in 2022, the City of New Castle, worked with the Playground Sub-Committee, the Old New Castle Outdoor Recreation Coalition (ONCOR Coalition) to update the aging and inaccessible playground facilities in the Battery Park Playground by completing Phase 1 of the Playground upgrades; and

WHEREAS, Phase 1 of the Battery Park Playground upgrades were completed with the funding of various grant sources such as the Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Trails (ORPT) DNREC grant; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Castle, has worked with the Playground Sub-Committee, the Old New Castle Outdoor Recreation Coalition (ONCOR Coalition) to continue to work towards completing Phase 2 of the update and improvements of playground facilities in Battery Park and continue to pursue grant funding to complete the project; and

WHEREAS, the City has been invited to apply for the 2024 Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Trails (ORPT) after completing the pre-application in the spring of 2024 and has applied for a grant in the amount of \$125,000.00 in September 2024 to partially fund playground improvements which will continue to improve access to the playground for all children including disabled children. These updates include additional playground equipment with accessible ramps, bridges, and slides on an accessible surface along with benches and a shaded landscaping system ; and

WHEREAS, the City Administrator will serve as the Project Manager of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City has secured approval of funding in the amount of \$375,000.00 from the FY 2025 State Bond Bill to finance playground equipment for the Project, and accessible playground surfacing and ONCOR Coalition is continuing to pursue numerous grant opportunities to fund the completion of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees of the New Castle Common (the "Trustees") who control the operation of Battery Park, have consented to the Project and have provided a letter of support to support the grant application; and

WHEREAS, City of New Castle has allocated funds and the City of New Castle and ONCOR are pursuing additional funding measures from various sources to contribute to the Battery Park Phase 2 playground.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of New Castle hereby resolves as follows:

1. The City Council hereby approves the application for the ORPT grant as described above and authorizes the City Administrator the authority to complete the application process.
2. The City Administrator will serve as the Project Manager for purposes of the ORPT grant and application.
3. The City has secured approval of funding in the amount of \$375,000.00 from the FY 2025 State Bond Bill to finance the project.
4. The Old New Castle Outdoor Recreation Coalition (ONCOR Coalition) will continue to pursue additional grant funds to complete the entire project.

PASSED this 8th day of October 2024

Suzanne Souder, City Council President

Joseph F. Day, III, Councilperson

Nermin Zubaca, Councilperson

Andrew Zeltt, Councilperson

Brian Mattaway, Councilperson

Attest:

Courtaney Taylor, City Clerk

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