

City Council Agenda Item Memo

From: Kristin Zimmerman, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director

Council Meeting: April 20, 2026

Subject: Resolution 26-026: support of application for the Land and Water Conservation Fund 2026 Grant Cycle

Presenter: Kristin Zimmerman, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director

Summary and Recommended Action:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution supporting the Playground Replacement Project at Lion's Park and submission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application.

Item Details:

This project will enhance play opportunities at Lions Park through the replacement of the existing playground with a lion-themed play feature designed to complement the Truman's Den section of the park playground and enhance the overall character of the park. This project will be designed to be highly accessible and to exceed ADA standards where feasible. Stakeholder groups, including the Brookings Disability Awareness Committee, parent groups, and others, will be engaged throughout the design process to help inform the final design and ensure the project reflects community needs and priorities.

Additional park amenities may be added over time as grant funding and donations are secured. Lions Park was designated as a Land and Water Conservation Fund site in 1979; therefore, no additional land restrictions will be placed on the property as part of this grant application. Funding for the project is anticipated through \$170,000 identified in the Parks, Recreation & Forestry 2027 Capital Improvement Plan, along with grant funding and private donations.

Legal Consideration:

None

Strategic Plan Consideration:

- **Safe, Inclusive, and Connected Community:** The playground replacement expands access to play, improves usability for a wider range of children and families, and strengthens Lions Park as a community gathering space.
- **Service and Innovation Excellence:** The project reflects thoughtful park planning, community input, and investment in higher-quality amenities that better serve residents.

- **Economic Growth:** A themed destination playground can help enhance Brookings' quality of life, make the park system more attractive to residents and visitors, and support Brookings as a family-friendly community.

Financial Consideration:

This project will use 2027 capital project funding, grants, and donations.

Supporting Documentation:

Resolution

Preliminary Playground Renderings