



City of Gardner - *Executive Department*
Mayor Michael J. Nicholson

November 8, 2023

Hon. Elizabeth J. Kazinskas, Council President
And City Councilors
Gardner City Hall, Rm 121
95 Pleasant Street
Gardner, MA 01440

RE: Free Cash Appropriation Request – PARC Grant City Matching Portion

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

Earlier this year, the City applied for a grant from the Commonwealth's Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant program to replace the former wooden playground equipment that was located at Ovila Case Playground but removed due to structural integrity and safety issues.

This grant program has a 70% - 30% cost sharing requirement, in which the Commonwealth covers 70% of the project and the City would have to cover the remaining 30%. The full cost of the project is \$521,400. The City applied for a grant of \$364,980, which if awarded, would leave the remaining \$156,420.00 up to the City to pay for.

We anticipate that we will be hearing from the Commonwealth in the very near future if the grant was awarded or not, however, having the match appropriated up front allows the City to go to bid on the project once the funds are awarded, so that we can get the construction portion of the project done in early spring so it can be completed by summer time for children to be able to use the new equipment.

If the City is not awarded the grant, a rescission measure would be put forward to the City Council later on that would allow the funds to be used for other purposes should that occur.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Nicholson
Mayor, City of Gardner

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