

MDNR 2021 Land and Water Conservation Fund

Grant Application Narrative for Herman Brys Park Exercise Equipment, ADA Access Improvements and Baseball Dugout and Field Renovation

- DRAFT 3/8/2021

Application Narrative

I. Project Description

The City of St. Clair Shores is requesting funding to install exercise equipment, improve American Disabilities Act (ADA) access and renovate the baseball dugouts and field at Brys Park. Brys Park is 17.3 acres and is the 2nd largest community park in the City of St. Clair Shores. Brys Park is a highly utilized City park that provides many public recreation opportunities including a 24-hole disk golf course, two baseball fields, a soccer field, a walking path around the perimeter, a bathroom and the City's dog park. The City of St. Clair Shores recently updated its Five-Year Recreation Master Plan for years 2019 to 2023. The City of St. Clair Shores received a 2019 MDNR LWCF grant to renovate the bathrooms and playground to meet ADA standards. The scope of this project will bring more areas of Brys Park into compliance with ADA standards. In addition to adding exercise stations to the park, this grant includes providing access to field viewing areas, the expansion of twelve disk golf tee pads, solar lighting along the walk/run path, a new ADA drinking fountain, new improved signage and baseball field renovations including new dugouts. The Master Plan supports upgrading facilities to ensure that City parks meet ADA safety and accessibility standards.

Future Brys Pak improvements include the installation an ADA accessible playground, an ADA bathroom renovation, replacement of walking path sections and a new parking lot in the summer of 2021.

II. Project Justification and Support:

This project is supported by City of St. Clair Shores' current approved Recreation Master Plan (2019-2023) as well as helps accomplish Objective Four of the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018–2022: Improving Recreational Access by enhancing proposed recreation opportunities available to residents and visitors of differing abilities. Page 30 of the City of St. Clair Shores Master Plan describes pursuing grants to accomplish ADA compliance under the heading: Accessibility Assessment & Grant Assisted Projects. The proposed grant scope items provide access and new path amenities are supported by the Recreation Master Plan on the pages cited below:

- Add connections from parking lot to walking track, to the athletic fields, benches and watching areas (pg. 30)
- Add exercise stations (pg. 87)
- The addition of an accessible drinking fountain (page 54)
- Brys Park signage improvements. Signs that explain the different park amenities: ex. disk golf course map, mobile link to course map, dog park information (pages 67, 90)
- The addition of security lighting (pg. 54)

The walk/run path at Brys Park has many users, adding these improvements will enhance the Recreation experience at Brys Park.

Another proposed scope item is the Baseball Field and Dugout Renovation (pg. 54). Currently, the dugouts on both fields are much too small to host typical size baseball/softball teams. The dugout foot prints are narrow, which doesn't allow freedom of movement within the dugout. The benches sit low and are poorly positioned. Field #1, located to the west in the park, is used for all divisions from intermediate and below. The infield skin to the outfield grass line recommendation for the intermediate division baseball is 115 feet. The current grass line is approximately 150 feet. Outfield fences are approximately 300 feet from home plate and are well beyond the recommended length of 200 feet for league play. Changing the skin infield mix, increasing the footprint of the dugouts, and adjusting the outfield fence line and infield grass line on Field #1, would create a much more usable and conducive field for our league teams and our visiting teams from other communities. This grant proposal is to renovate the dugouts and reduce the Field #1 size from 300ft to 200ft and the infield from 150ft to 115ft making it age appropriate for the group that plays on this field.

Herman Brys Park Baseball/Softball Field #2 and Baseball Field #1 are currently used by multiple divisions of the Lac. St. Clair Little League in multiple seasons. The league consists of over 400 players and over 30 teams participating in league play with other league teams as well as neighboring community teams. Field #2 also plays host to our Special Needs Softball Teams, which participate in a travel league with multiple communities. The spring summer league starts practices in March/April, weather permitting, and plays games till the middle of July. The LSCLL second season starts in August and runs until October. Divisions with players ranging age from 8 to 12, boys and girls, use these fields on a daily basis. Generally, the distance between base paths on fields for 12-year-olds and below in baseball and in all divisions of softball is 60 feet. The Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division for regular season play use 70 feet bases. The following distances are recommended from the back of home plate to the outfield fences: baseball, Major Division and below, 200 feet; Intermediate (50/70) Baseball is 200 feet as well.

The Parks Division budget for 2020-2021 is \$615,879 with total revenues at \$119,000. This budget will support the ongoing maintenance tasks required for this project. Funding for St. Clair Shores Parks and Recreation is generated from user fees, the Community Partnership Program and Specialized Services (SMART), the Area Agency on Aging sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), other

grants, and donations. The remaining balance is supported by the City's general fund. The Brys Park maintenance plan is attached to this application. A public hearing will be held on March 15, 2021 to publicize, gather public comment and promote the proposed project at Brys Park. St. Clair Shores City Council will be asked to approve the matching funds for this grant application.

III. Project Design:

A walk/run track exists along the perimeter of Brys Park with one central bisecting walk. This project includes several path enhancements. Along the path, 11 accessible exercise stations as well as 12 solar powered lights, approximately 500 ft apart along the path, will be added. Twelve disk golf tee boxes located next to the path will be connected and enlarged. An 800 ft area of the existing run/walk path at the north side of the park is too steep for ADA standards. The path in this section would be lowered and repaved to achieve the ADA standard. Various other connections will be made as well, including a path to the baseball and soccer field viewing areas, a path from the sidewalk to the east of the park to the tee pad #1 as well as a path from the parking lot to the north portion of the walking path. When the dog park was added, the fence broke up the connection back to the main entrance parking lot. This connection will be made as well.

Three new park information signs will be added to provide park users with information on the 24-hole disk golf course, exercise stations as well as dog park information. The signs will be located at the will be located at the playground area, at the main path entrance and the path to disk golf tee box #1.

The dugouts will be renovated to allow better access and the Field #1 size will be reduced from 300ft to 200ft and the infield from 150ft to 115ft making it age appropriate for the group that plays on this field. The viewing areas for the soccer and baseball fields will have access paths and ADA bleachers will be added.

Environmentally sustainable features include the 12 solar powered lights and benches made of recycled materials to be added along the walk/run path.

IV. Additional Information:

Brys Park is located fifteen miles north of Downtown Detroit and is accessible from the I-94 freeway. Access to the park is via Harper Ave. The design of the entrance and traffic flow pattern into the park is safe and convenient for all-vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists and people using personal assistance devices (e.g., wheelchairs), etc. Brys Park has identification signs posted on Harper Ave. for northbound and southbound traffic, listing all recreational opportunities. The parking area is well lit with light poles for visitors. Park hours, rules, and regulations are clearly marked at the park entrance. Residential homes border the north fence line. The City of St. Clair Shores converted a small area of Brys Park to allow a cell tower to be

erected. The cell tower helps provide cell phone reception in the south area of the City. Additional information is attached in the Amendment to Project Agreement 26-00630 Amendment #1 that was provided to the MDNR and will be attached to the final application.

The City of St. Clair Shores owns and operates thirteen parks totaling approximately 240 acres of park land. They include three waterfront parks, two large community parks, five neighborhood parks, and several pocket parks. The three waterfront parks do have a “residents only” policy for entry. However, all three parks offer access to non-residents for various special events and programs as described in the Applicant History and Stewardship section of this application. The City’s Recreation Department also owns and operates the Civic Arena, an outdoor pool and the Golf Club. Veterans Memorial, Lac Sainte Claire, and Blossom Heath/Wahby parks are the community park properties located on Lake Saint Clair. The parks accommodate passive and active uses and are also used for community events. Kyte Monroe and Brys Park are the two large community parks. There are five neighborhood parks which serve as immediate local destinations. They include Alexander, Gaffke, Kaufman, Frederick, and Welsh parks.

Construction Estimate
Brys Park Improvements

Line Number	Description	Quantity Provided	Unit	Unit Price in Figures	Line Total
	2021 DNR Grant - ADA Accessibility				
1	Accessible Fitness Stations (Installed) (11 Units)	1	LSUM	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 62,000.00
2	Solar Lights on 10' poles	12	EACH	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 15,000.00
3	Bleachers - 15', 5 Tier ADA accessible	6	EACH	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 51,000.00
4	Signage (Main Path, Park Entry, Disc Golf) w/QR codes	3	EACH	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 4,200.00
5	ADA Drinking Fountain with Bottle Filler	1	EACH	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 5,750.00
6	Trail Benches	12	EACH	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 21,000.00
7	Player Benches (Soccer and Baseball)	6	EACH	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 7,200.00
8	Baseball Dugout Fencing	350	LF	\$ 60.00	\$ 21,000.00
9	Baseball Dugout Shelter Structure	4	EACH	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 42,000.00
10	Baseball New Outfield Fence (Reduced Size Field)	375	LF	\$ 60.00	\$ 22,500.00
11	Baseball Existing Fence Removal	725	LF	\$ 18.00	\$ 13,050.00
12	Disc Golf Accessible Path Connectors 6' wide asphalt	295	LF	\$ 30.00	\$ 8,850.00
13	Disc Golf Concrete Pads 5'x8' (Relocated)	4	EACH	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,600.00
14	Bleacher Accessible Connector Paths 6' wide asphalt	925	LF	\$ 30.00	\$ 27,750.00
15	Bleacher Concrete Pads 25'x15'	2	EACH	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
16	Soccer Field Pathways 6' wide asphalt	275	LF	\$ 35.00	\$ 9,625.00
17	Path Section to be lowered and repaved	800	LF	\$ 40.00	\$ 32,000.00
18	Site Restoration	1	LSUM	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
19	Baseball Field - grass Infill of Infield	625	SY	\$ 25.00	\$ 15,625.00
20	Baseball Field - Infield material removal	30	CY	\$ 45.00	\$ 1,350.00
21	Baseball Infield athletic meal	50	CY	\$ 95.00	\$ 4,750.00
22	Drainage Structures	4	Each	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 6,000.00
23	Drainage Piping	250	LF	\$ 40.00	\$ 10,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$ 413,250.00
	Contractor General Conditions	5	%		\$ 20,662.50
	Contractor General Requirements	2.5	%		\$ 10,331.25
	CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL				\$ 444,243.75
	Engineering	15	%		\$66,637
	ENGINEER'S OPINION OF PROJECT COST				\$ 510,880.31

