



Date of Council Work Session: March 7, 2016

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Information Memo

Subject: Grant Opportunities for Park Development

Staff Contacts: Bill Ference, Parks and Open Space Planner
Rich Williams, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

Council Action Requested: None. Informational purposes only.

Staff Recommendation: Not applicable.

Commission Recommendation: Not applicable.

Fiscal Impact: Not applicable.

Work Plan Impact: Not applicable.

Executive Summary: At the February 22, 2016 Town Council Work session, Council requested information on potential grant opportunities for park development with riverfront access. It was noted by Council that the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) has had success in securing such grants in the past.

Background: At the February 22, 2016 Work Session, Town Council requested information on potential grant opportunities for park development with riverfront access.

- A. As a result, Town staff contacted the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA), and the County of Loudoun Parks and Recreation Department, and identified two grant resources as listed below that the Town has also used in the past. **Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant:** This is a federal reimbursement program for the acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation areas. The grant itself is for a 50% match of funds. The grant recipient must be able to show 100% funding for the project prior to applying for reimbursements. This means a project must have funding identified within a Capital Improvements Program prior to the grant application. Program wide, there is approximately \$1,000,000 available in grant funding, and the maximum requested amount is \$500,000.

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B. Virginia Recreational Trails Program: This reimbursement program is for the building and rehabilitation of trails and trail related facilities. The grant itself is for an 80% match of funds. The grant recipient must be able to show 100% funding for the project prior to applying for reimbursements. This indicates a project must have funding identified within a Capital Improvements Program prior to the grant application. For this program, there is a minimum award request amount of \$100,000 and a maximum of \$250,000.

The Town has been the recipient of grant awards from these sources in the past. Grant funding was received for the Ida Lee Park Trail Phase I & II, as well as for the development of the soccer field access road.