




CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, MAYOR

Office of the Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor

FROM: Monica R. Lamboy, Executive Director 

DATE: June 10, 2010

SUBJECT: PARC grant application for Dickerman Playground renovation costs

The Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development (OSPCD) respectfully requests that you forward to the Board of Aldermen a proposal to submit an application for the Department of Conservation Services' (DCS) Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant for FY 2011. The grant application guidelines require a municipal vote that acknowledges that this is a reimbursable grant, and that the City will provide funding for the project. This language is attached to this Staff Report as a letter to the Board of Aldermen for approval.

BACKGROUND

The PARC Program (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program) was established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Any town with a population of 35,000 or more year-round residents, or any city regardless of size, that has an authorized park /recreation commission is eligible to participate in the program.

OSPCD proposes to submit a PARC grant application for partial reimbursement of the Dickerman Playground renovation construction costs. This park is currently in design, and scheduled for construction beginning in Spring 2011. The PARC grant application is due on July 15, 2010 to qualify for the FY 2011 grant round. If the PARC grant is awarded to the City for Dickerman Playground, the State of Massachusetts will provide 64% reimbursement for construction costs during 2011. The total estimated construction cost of the park is \$400,000 so if the City is successful in its application, the grant will fund \$256,000 and the City will be responsible for the balance of \$144,000.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Aldermen approve OSPCD's submission of this PARC reimbursement grant for the Dickerman Playground renovation project, seek funding and enter into any understandings or assurances with the Commonwealth to receive funds to assist in the construction costs for renovation to Dickerman Playground.