

Council Agenda Item 25-0428R



MEETING DATE: May 27, 2025

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO REQUEST AND ACCEPT FROM ST. LOUIS COUNTY, ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, CERTAIN TAX FORFEIT LAND TO BE USED FOR TRAIL, TRAIL BUFFER, AND OTHER RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

SUBMITTED BY: Danielle Erjavec, Senior Property Services Specialist

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BACKGROUND: This resolution authorizes the City to request of and accept a certain tax-forfeited parcel (the "Parcel") from St. Louis County, on behalf of the State of Minnesota to be used for trail, trail buffer, and other recreational purposes.

The Parcel is a landlocked, single lot south of London Road near 22nd Ave. E. The City owns all property surrounding the Parcel, and the Lakewalk goes along or through the Parcel.

Resolution No. 23-0162 authorized the City to apply for a United States Department of Transportation Grant for "Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity" for resilient rehabilitation of the Lakewalk (the "Grant"). The Grant was awarded and will fund the following activities: (i) restoration and stabilization of portions of the shoreline, (ii) retreatment and rehabilitation the Lakewalk in certain sections, (iii) increase neighborhood and Downtown connectivity to the Lakewalk, (iv) improvement accessibility and safety, and (v) reduction of congestion on the Lakewalk (collectively, the "Project"). During a review of the City's real estate interests in the Lakewalk and surrounding land, it was determined that the City does not own the Parcel. The City needs to acquire the Parcel so that it can be improved under the Grant and ensure the public's continued access and use of the Parcel. The Parcel is currently used for trail buffer, lakeshore access, and other recreational purposes.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: The acquisition of the Parcel will be a free conveyance under Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Subd. 1a(e)(3). The City will be responsible for paying the state's administrative costs, recording fees and deed tax associated with the transaction, which are estimated to be between \$750-1,000; payable from Fund 450-030-5535-CP450-20BOND-LKWALK (Capital Improvements, Finance, Non-Capital Improvements, Capital Projects-Other Fund Contributions, City & State Bonds 2020, Lakewalk Shoreline Hazard Mitigation).

OPTIONS: Approve resolution or the City will not be able to improve the Parcel under the Grant and the public's current use of the Parcel will be at risk.

NECESSARY ACTION: Authorize acquisition of the property

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A, Map