



**Council Agenda Item 26-0249R**

**MEETING DATE:** April 13, 2026

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO RACHEL CONTRACTING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE HILLSIDE SPORT COURT PARK SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kooper Andringa, Project Tech, Property & Facilities Management

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:** Approved Resolution 23-0617R - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HILLSIDE SPORT COURT PARK PLAN.

Approved Resolution 23-0980R – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR A GRANT OF UP TO \$1 MILLION FOR FUNDS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HILLSIDE SPORT COURT PARK PLAN.

Approved Resolution 24-0164R – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM FOR A GRANT OF UP TO \$350,000 TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HILLSIDE SPORT COURT PARK PLAN.

Approved Resolution 24-0600R – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH SAS+ASSOCIATES FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR HILLSIDE SPORT COURT PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$57,660.00.

Approved Resolution 24-0600R – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT OF \$350,000 FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HILLSIDE SPORT COURT PARK PLAN.

**BACKGROUND:** The Hillside Sport Court Park is a long-serving neighborhood recreation space located in Duluth's Central Hillside, a community with limited access to high quality public park amenities. Over the past decade the park's facilities including the sport court, playground, and supporting infrastructure have experienced significant wear, accessibility challenges, and deferred maintenance. In response to these conditions, the City initiated a community-driven planning process in 2022 to evaluate the park's needs and establish a long-term vision for reinvestment.

The resulting Hillside Sport Court Park Plan, adopted by Council in August 2023, outlines a comprehensive set of improvements designed to enhance safety, accessibility, and recreational opportunities. The plan calls for replacing aging amenities, improving site circulation, adding new gathering spaces, and addressing structural issues such as deteriorated retaining walls, fencing, and stairs.

To advance the implementation of this adopted plan, the City prepared construction documents and solicited competitive bids for the first major phase of improvements. The recommended contract will allow the City to begin long awaited upgrades that align with community input, support equitable access to recreation, and reinvest in a park serving one of Duluth's most densely populated and economically diverse neighborhoods.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:** Budget is \$1,369,367.50 from the Parks Fund-Community Resources-Parks Capital-Improvements Other than Buildings- Cap Mtce Fund 205, Hillside Sport Court Park, Park Implementation Plan fund.

**OPTIONS:** Approve the resolution and the construction contract can move ahead as planned and the project will begin this spring. If denied the project will be halted

**NECESSARY ACTION:** Approve.

**ATTACHMENTS:**