

FINANCE COMMITTEE

09-parkgrant

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION REVIEW THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A  
NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

BY COUNCILOR FEDORA:

WHEREAS, the city has removed playground equipment that was deemed unsafe from several city parks; and

WHEREAS, much of that equipment was either not replaced or only a portion of the original equipment was replaced; and

WHEREAS, city residents have expressed dissatisfaction with the state of playground equipment in existing city parks and are interested in helping to improve their neighborhood parks by raising funds to pay for new park equipment or repairs to existing equipment; and

WHEREAS, the city council believes that such improvements are beneficial to neighborhoods and the community as a whole and would like to aid residents by establishing a grant program to match funds raised by residents and neighborhood groups to repair and/or replace playground equipment in existing city parks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the city council hereby requests that the parks and recreation committee review the feasibility of creating a Neighborhood Playground Equipment Revitalization Grant Program which would contain the following provisions:

(a) The City of Duluth will match funds raised by a neighborhood for the purchase of new playground equipment or the repair of existing equipment on a 50%/50% basis up to a maximum matching grant amount of \$15,000.

(b) Only existing, recognized city parks will be eligible for grant funds.

(c) A neighborhood's 50% contribution may be made through various fund-raising activities but the City will only match verifiable cash deposits and will not accept pledge amounts.

(d) Grant applications shall include a formal site plan along with equipment specifications. Final site plans and equipment purchases shall be

subject to approval by the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Department.

(e) City staff shall conduct any site preparation and equipment installation or repair however a neighborhood group must contribute no less than 50 hours of volunteer labor to aid in the site preparation and equipment installation or repair.

(f) Funds for the grant program shall come from the city's Capital Expenditures Budget and shall be limited to \$75,000 annually.

Approved as to form:

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Attorney

CCREQ/ATTY    GBJ:cjk    6/25/2009

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution requests the Parks and Recreation Commission review the feasibility of establishing a Neighborhood Playground Equipment Revitalization Grant Program to provide city matching grant funds to neighborhood residents who desire to repair and/or replace playground equipment in existing city parks.