

DATE: 02/23/26

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**AGENDA ITEM:** Resolution No. 049 (2025/2026) - Authorizing Application for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Assistance – Harrington Park Improvements

**HISTORY:** The City of Nevada is preparing a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application for improvements at Harrington Park. The City's adopted Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) already includes a \$450,000 local commitment toward Harrington Park improvements through FY2029. Based on preliminary planning estimates, the full improvement scope is anticipated to total \$640,575. LWCF funding would allow the City to complete the full revitalization plan using the existing CIP commitment, without relying heavily on future revenues or needing to identify additional new match beyond what is already planned. LWCF requires governing body authorization to submit the application and confirm the City's local share.

### OPTIONS:

1. Approve the Resolution No. 049 (2025/2026) authorizing the LWCF application and confirming the City's local CIP commitment as the match for Harrington Park Improvements.
2. Deny the Resolution No. 049 (2025/2026) and do not submit the LWCF grant application by the March 6 deadline.

### STAFF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator that Council approves Option 1.**

RESOLUTION NO. 049 (2025/2026) ON ACQUISITION OR DEVELOPMENT FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

County: Story

WHEREAS, the City of Nevada, Iowa (City/County) is interested in acquiring lands or developing outdoor recreational facilities on the following described project for the enjoyment of the citizenry of

Site Name: Harrington Park and the State Iowa.

Site Address: Harrington Park, Nevada, IA 50201

Project Title: Harrington Park Improvements

Total Estimated Cost: \$ 640,575

Brief Description of Project:

Construct improvements at Harrington Park including two pedestrian water crossings (approx. 120' and 50'), paved and gravel trail segments, limestone creek crossings, a mini-pitch, disc golf course expansion (9 holes), and development of a fenced dog park, along with associated grading, site work, and related project costs.

AND, Land and Water Conservation Fund financial assistance is being sought for the acquisition or development of said outdoor recreational facilities,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Nevada City Council that the project described above be authorized,

AND, be it further resolved that said City of Nevada, Iowa make application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to seek Land and Water Conservation Fund financial assistance from the National Park Service in the amount of 39 % of the actual cost of the project,

AND, be it further resolved that said City of Nevada, Iowa certifies to the following:

1. That it will accept the terms and conditions set forth in the NPS Grants-in-Aid Manual and which will be a part of the Project Agreement for any grant awarded under the attached proposal.
2. That it is in complete accord with the attached proposal and that it will carry out the acquisition and/or development in the manner described in the proposal and any plans and specifications attached thereto unless prior approval for any change has been received from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
3. That it has the ability and intention to finance its share of the cost of the project and that the project will be operated and maintained at the expense of said City of Nevada, Iowa for public outdoor recreational use.
4. That no financial assistance has been given or promised under any other federal program or activity with regard to the proposed project.
5. That it will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, or natural origin in the use of any property or failure acquired or developed pursuant to this proposal, and shall comply with the terms and intent of the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, P.L. 88-352 (1964), and of the regulations promulgated pursuant to such Act by the Secretary of the Interior and contained in 43 CFR 17.
6. That it will maintain adequate financial records on the proposed project to substantiate claims for cost-sharing.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly and legally adopted by the

Nevada City Council at a legal meeting held on this 23rd day of February, 20 26.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)  
Mayor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)  
City Clerk/Employee Services Director  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(title)

Moved by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_  
that Resolution No. 049 (2025/2026) be adopted.

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The Mayor declared Resolution No. 049 (2025/2026) adopted.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a record of the adoption of Resolution No. 049 (2025/2026) at the regular Council Meeting of the City of Nevada, Iowa, held on the 23rd day of February, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Erin Mousel, City Clerk



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# Harrington Park LWCF Grant – Main Questions and Answers

## Short Project Description

*Please keep responses under 250 words.*

- The City of Nevada is seeking LWCF support to improve Harrington Park, a long-time community gathering place located across from Nevada Middle School and Nevada High School. Harrington Park has hosted generations of recreation and community events and remains heavily used today for school softball, skating, walking, and informal play.

This project will add the core infrastructure needed to make the park safer, more connected, and more usable for all ages. Planned improvements include two pedestrian water crossings (approximately 120 feet and 50 feet), about 600 feet of 8-foot-wide paved trail, and about 1,100 feet of gravel trail, plus additional limestone creek crossings to improve access throughout the site. Recreation amenities will be expanded with nine additional disc golf holes, a soccer mini-pitch, and a fenced dog park split into small- and large-dog areas with separate gates.

These improvements build on approximately \$1,000,000 in creek and watershed improvements already completed through an SRF-supported project, allowing this LWCF phase to focus on public recreation access, safety, and amenities. Nevada is committing \$450,000 in local CIP funding through FY2029, and LWCF funding would accelerate completion of key elements and help deliver a more complete park experience for residents, students, and visitors.

## Project Abstract Summary

*Describe the project in plain language. Use 4,000 characters or less. Do not include sensitive or proprietary information as this summary may be made available on public websites or databases.*

- The City of Nevada is requesting Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) support to restore and reimagine Harrington Park as a signature, close-to-home recreation destination for families, students, and residents. Located directly across from Nevada Middle School and Nevada High School, Harrington Park has long been part of the community's shared memory. Dedicated in the 1980s and named for the Harringtons, the park became a natural gathering place for youth sports, informal play, and community celebrations. For many residents, it was a central setting for Fourth of July activities and other events that brought people together year after year.

Over time, the park's full potential has been limited by recurring flooding and drainage challenges. Harrington Park sits within a watershed that receives stormwater and seasonal runoff from agricultural land to the north. In many spring and summer seasons, high water has impacted park usability, disrupted access, and increased erosion and maintenance demands. Rather than

accept that as “just how it is,” the City took a long-term approach and invested in the underlying problem first.

Nevada recently completed an approximately \$1,000,000 SRF-supported creek and watershed improvement project at Harrington Park to improve flow and reduce the impacts of flooding and agricultural runoff, supporting healthier downstream conditions. The results are already visible. In the summer months, the creek corridor is a standout feature, and the park is positioned for a recreation-focused phase that builds on the stability created by the watershed work.

This LWCF project focuses on that next step: public recreation access, safety, and amenities that make the park more connected and usable for all ages. Planned improvements include two pedestrian water crossings (approximately 120 feet and 50 feet), approximately 600 feet of new 8-foot-wide paved trail, approximately 1,100 feet of gravel trail, and additional limestone creek crossings to improve access throughout the site. Recreation amenities will be expanded to include nine additional disc golf holes, mini-pitch, and a fenced dog park split into small- and large-dog areas with separate gates.

Nevada is committing \$450,000 in capital improvement funding through FY2029. With LWCF support, the City can accelerate key elements and deliver a more complete, welcoming park experience that reflects Harrington Park’s history and returns it to a place young families will choose to visit again and again.

### **Relationship to SCORP**

*Describe how the project goals align with priorities identified in Iowa’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). You may also include how the project goals meet priorities as described in other applicable state, regional, or local recreation plans or planning initiatives (30 pts).*

- Harrington Park improvements strongly align with Iowa’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) by expanding close-to-home outdoor recreation access, improving basic infrastructure that supports walking and biking, and delivering a higher-quality, more inclusive recreation experience.

SCORP emphasizes increasing the availability and accessibility of outdoor recreation opportunities and reducing barriers for “casual” users with limited time, funds, or mobility. This project does that by creating a safer, more connected park layout through new pedestrian water crossings, paved and gravel trail connections, and improved creek crossings, allowing residents and students to comfortably move throughout the park without needing specialized equipment or extensive travel. The park’s location directly across from Nevada Middle School and Nevada High School also supports SCORP’s focus on daily, convenient outdoor activity for youth and families.

The project also supports SCORP’s quality-of-life and public health goals by encouraging regular outdoor activity and providing diverse recreational options for people of all ages and interests. Trail improvements expand low-cost “gateway” activities like walking and biking, while the dog park, disc golf expansion, and mini-pitch broaden use and increase year-round appeal.

Finally, SCORP highlights the importance of balancing recreation with the protection and improvement of natural resources. Nevada has already invested approximately \$1,000,000 in SRF-supported creek and watershed improvements at Harrington Park to address flooding, improve flow, and reduce runoff impacts. This LWCF phase builds on that foundation by focusing on public

recreation access and amenities that are compatible with the restored creek corridor, helping ensure the park is both functional and sustainable for long-term community use.

### **Local Need and Impact**

*Describe how project goals will satisfy local outdoor recreation unmet needs. Assessment of need should include scope of impact (regional/city wide/neighborhood); lack of resources or age/condition of resources; specific needs of user groups; and distance to other recreation opportunities. For acquisition, describe why the parcel is a high priority and will serve current or future needs of the area impacted (30 pts).*

- Harrington Park improvements address a clear, close-to-home recreation need in Nevada by making an existing, heavily used park safer, more connected, and more functional for everyday users. The scope of impact is citywide, with strong neighborhood and youth-serving value because the park sits directly across from Nevada Middle School and Nevada High School. That location creates a constant demand for safe walking connections and spaces where students, families, and residents can be active before and after school, on evenings and weekends, and during school-related activities.

Today, the park's usability is limited by two practical issues: access and conditions. Even with recent investment in the creek corridor, the site still lacks the internal connections that allow people to move comfortably throughout the park. Without water crossings and defined trail links, visitors are often forced to backtrack, avoid portions of the site, or navigate areas that are not ideal for kids, older adults, or anyone with mobility limitations. These gaps also make it harder for the park to function as a cohesive destination rather than a collection of separate activity areas.

The proposed improvements directly solve those barriers. Two pedestrian water crossings, new paved and gravel trail segments, and additional creek crossings will connect activity areas and improve circulation across the full park. That means safer, clearer routes for students walking over from school, families pushing strollers, residents walking dogs, and users accessing softball areas, disc golf, and the mini-pitch. Adding a fenced dog park, expanding disc golf, and mini-pitch also respond to documented community interest in practical, high-use amenities that serve a wide range of ages.

Overall, this project meets a local need by upgrading an existing community asset into a park that is more usable day to day, more inclusive, and better equipped to serve Nevada residents for years to come.

### **Partnerships and Support**

*Explain how project partners and cooperators are involved (financial, volunteer, etc) and how local input and participation was solicited during planning (20 pts).*

- This project is supported through a combination of city commitment, prior state partnership work, and ongoing community engagement around parks and recreation priorities. The City of Nevada has already demonstrated long-term investment in Harrington Park by completing approximately \$1,000,000 in SRF-supported creek and watershed improvements that improved flow, reduced flooding impacts, and addressed runoff concerns. That work laid the foundation for this recreation-focused phase by stabilizing site conditions and improving the creek corridor, enabling the park to be improved safely and sustainably.

The City is also committing local match through its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), with \$450,000 programmed through FY2029 to advance Harrington Park improvements. LWCF funding would allow Nevada to accelerate key elements and deliver a more complete set of connections and amenities within a shorter timeframe, rather than spreading improvements over multiple budget cycles.

Local input and participation have helped shape the direction of park investments, including Harrington Park. The Nevada 2040 Plan identifies community interest in additional recreation amenities, including a dog park, and reinforces the importance of improving outdoor recreation opportunities for residents. Harrington Park's location across from the middle school and high school also creates consistent use and visibility, and the project reflects feedback and practical needs observed through day-to-day park use for school activities, walking, and informal recreation.

In addition, the City expects strong community support for implementation. Nevada has a proven track record of fundraising and volunteer energy for major recreation initiatives, including a nearly \$3 million community fundraiser for the Nevada Field House. Similar community support is anticipated for Harrington Park improvements through coordinated fundraising and local involvement as the project moves from concept to construction.

### **Project Readiness**

*Provide evidence as to how your project will be ready to initiate after award. Show capacity by describing: funding (is match available and secure); well-defined project scope (are plans developed/completed, partners identified); reasonable project timeline (can project be completed with the customary three-year period of performance); and clearly stated goals with progress benchmarks. The timeline should include project milestones and measures that will provide quantifiable progress (design phase, bid letting, construction period, etc). Please also provide an estimated date when the project will be complete and open to the public (10 points).*

- Nevada is positioned to promptly initiate the Harrington Park improvements after award, as the project has a defined scope, a stable site foundation, and a programmed local funding plan. The City has already completed approximately \$1,000,000 in SRF-supported creek and watershed improvements at Harrington Park, which addressed the underlying flooding and drainage challenges that historically limited park usability. With the creek corridor improvements complete, this LWCF phase can focus on recreation access and amenities with reduced risk of redesign or rework.

Funding capacity and match are clearly identified and scheduled in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Nevada has committed \$450,000 in local match across three fiscal years: \$50,000 in FY27 (beginning July 1, 2026), \$200,000 in FY28 (beginning July 1, 2027), and \$200,000 in FY29 (beginning July 1, 2028). LWCF funding would accelerate construction of priority elements and allow the City to deliver a more complete set of improvements within a shorter timeframe while maintaining the planned local investment.

Project scope is well defined and supported by engineer-developed cost estimates and quantities. Improvements include two pedestrian water crossings (approximately 120 feet and 50 feet), approximately 600 feet of new 8-foot-wide paved trail, approximately 1,100 feet of gravel trail,

additional limestone creek crossings, nine additional disc golf holes, a mini-pitch, and a fenced dog park with separate small- and large-dog areas. The project will be bid and constructed in accordance with standard public procurement procedures, with clear specifications and measurable deliverables.

Following the award, the City will proceed through final design completion and required permits and reviews, then move into bid letting and contractor selection. Construction will be sequenced to prioritize the core access and connectivity elements first (water crossings, paved trail segment, and limestone crossings) so public-use benefits are realized early, with remaining amenities (mini-pitch, expanded disc golf course) completed as subsequent phases under the same overall schedule. The City anticipates opening components to the public as they are completed, with full project completion targeted by the fall of 2029.

### **Sustainability and Maintenance**

*Describe how the design or materials used have long lifespans and/or are low maintenance.*

*Describe how the project will be maintained into the future (responsible agencies/organizations). For acquisitions, describe how the property could impact climate change resilience, connectivity, or future recreational needs (10 points).*

- Sustainability and long-term maintenance are central to Nevada's approach at Harrington Park, especially given the site's history of high water and seasonal flooding. The City addressed the largest long-term risk first by completing approximately \$1,000,000 in SRF-supported creek and watershed improvements to improve flow, reduce erosion, and lessen the impacts of flooding and runoff. This work protects the park's natural corridor and reduces long-term maintenance pressure, allowing the LWCF phase to focus on recreation access and amenities that can remain functional and safe over time.

The proposed improvements emphasize durable, low-maintenance materials suited for year-round public use. Pedestrian water crossings will be prefabricated structures designed for long service life and reduced upkeep compared to site-built alternatives. The paved trail segment will use standard public infrastructure materials and construction practices intended to withstand freeze-thaw cycles, routine plowing, and heavy pedestrian use. Gravel trail sections and limestone crossings are selected for practicality and ease of repair, allowing City crews to address localized wear with standard equipment and readily available materials. The dog park will include durable fencing and gates, with a layout that supports straightforward mowing, waste management, and long-term upkeep.

Harrington Park will be maintained by the City of Nevada through its normal parks operations and capital planning processes. Routine maintenance will include trail surface inspections, vegetation management, water crossings and crossing checks, trash collection, and periodic repairs as needed. The City's planned capital investment through FY2029 supports both construction and ongoing stewardship, and the project scope is designed to fit the capacity of a municipal parks system without creating specialized maintenance burdens.

Beyond facility durability, the project supports long-term resilience and future recreation needs by improving connectivity within the park and creating safer access across the creek corridor for all users. By pairing watershed stabilization with permanent recreation infrastructure, Nevada is making a long-term investment that protects the site's natural features, reduces lifecycle costs,

and ensures Harrington Park remains a reliable, close-to-home recreation destination for residents, students, and visitors.