



CENTER FOR CREATIVE
LAND RECYCLING

RECLAIM. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.

Let's Create a Park!

PLANNING A CREATIVE FUNDING STRATEGY
FOR SUCCESSFUL PARK DEVELOPMENT

Who We Are



OUR MISSION

The Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR (pronounced “see-clear”)) promotes sustainable, community-led, and responsible reuse of underutilized and environmentally-impacted properties known as brownfields. We educate, advocate, assist, and convene stakeholders to revitalize communities through land recycling.

OUR SERVICES

The Center for Creative Land Recycling provides cost-free or low-cost technical assistance for land-reuse projects.

Visit CCLR.org to schedule a meeting and learn more.

Services that we provide included:

- Custom Training, Webinars and Events
- Planning & Community Engagement
- EPA Brownfield Grant Review
- Grant Management
- Site Assessment & Cleanup
- Equitable & Sustainable Reuse
- Consulting Services

Cover Image:

*Mariposa Park (Former Railyard)
San Francisco, CA (WRT)*



WRT's interdisciplinary team of planners, urban designers, architects, and landscape architects has executed more than 250 park planning and design assignments nationwide and abroad. These range from regional parks and greenways to urban trail networks, located in environmentally-pristine rural areas and reclaimed urban brownfields, in small communities and major cities.

Advisory Panel

We would like to thank the park professionals that have generously contributed to the development of this document. Their expertise brought valuable insights to this endeavor.

Hilary Moak / Tuolumne River Trust

Julia Meltzer / Clockshop

Lauren Chavez / San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Linda Hwang / The Trust for Public Land

Mike Svetz / PROS Consulting

Mikey Goralnik / Great Springs Project

Richard Joaquin / City of Tracy Parks, Recreation & Community Services

Tina Núñez-Osterink / City of Gresham Parks

THANK YOU!

How to Use This Guide



Georgetown Waterfront Park - Washington, D.C. (WRT)

The ultimate goal of CCLR’s Park and Open Space Development Initiative is to reduce barriers to park and open space development, especially in communities with a historic lack of park investment. In conversations with communities, a lack of financial strategy and institutional capacity were identified as the greatest inhibitors to park development. This guide highlights strategies and resources to help you overcome these obstacles to create the parks, open space and recreation amenities your community deserves.

HELPFUL RESOURCES & APPENDIX

Look for helpful reports, guides, sample master plans, case studies, and more throughout the guide and appendix to supercharge your park funding strategy.

NOTE: To access the appendix from print versions of this guide, scan the QR code on page 19. If you are viewing this online, just keep turning the pages!

We hope readers will walk away with the following skills:

- Strong understanding of the sequential phases (and associated activities) of park development
- Ability to build accurate cost estimates for park development, distinguishable by phase.
- Ability to, and confidence in, identifying potential funding sources across multiple channels (including Federal, State, and Private) and comprehensive understanding of what activities are eligible under each funding source.
- Strong understanding of how to leverage multiple funding sources to create a comprehensive funding strategy.

Introduction

The Challenge:

FUNDING PARK & RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

Developing public parks and recreation facilities, including parks, open spaces, trails, community centers, and other recreational amenities, is both vital and financially challenging. These facilities significantly contribute to community well-being, environmental health, economic development, and recreational access, but they often rank lower in funding priorities compared to other critical infrastructure such as roads and utilities. Communities frequently lack the general funds necessary for large-scale capital projects, making parks and recreation development a formidable task that often requires several different funding sources. The fragmented nature of funding further complicates the process, which, without a strategic approach, can be overwhelming to coordinate. Additionally, finding and securing grant funding is time-consuming, requiring expertise that many resource-strapped communities simply do not have.

The Solution:

A CREATIVE FUNDING STRATEGY

To turn parks and recreation projects into reality, communities need a systematic process to identify and organize multiple funding sources into a comprehensive and creative funding strategy. This guide presents a framework to achieve just that. From understanding your project's unique characteristics to identifying funding opportunities and managing post-grant requirements, this roadmap provides actionable steps to help communities access diverse funding sources without overburdening their limited resources.

NOTE: References to federal funding sources may have changed since the publication of this guide. We will continue to monitor these sources as circumstances evolve.

Let's get started!

How to Build a Creative Funding Strategy



Step 1: Understand

what's required to build a park, including the development process, your site, your community, and your vision (pg.6)



Step 2: Identify

funding sources that match your project's characteristics (pg.12)



Step 3: Sequence & Stack

applicable funding sources into a comprehensive Creative Funding Strategy (pg. 16)



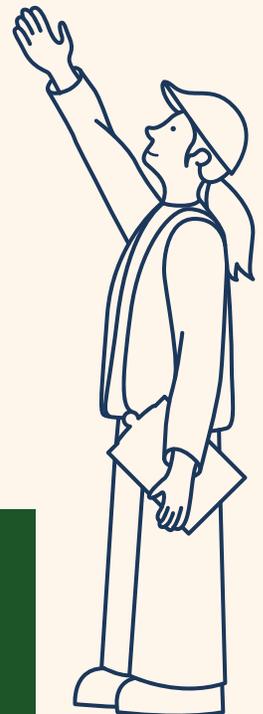
Step 4: Secure

the identified funding opportunities (pg.17)



Step 5: Manage

to ensure your project/organization meets all funding requirements (pg.18)



STEP #1:

Understand

Successfully funding a park project begins with a thorough understanding of the park development process, followed by clear insights into your project's site, community, and vision. This foundational knowledge ensures that funding efforts are targeted, comprehensive, and aligned with community needs.

The Park & Recreation Development Process

Park development typically follows a multi-phase process, each with unique funding needs. Thus, it is important to understand where your project falls in the process to be able to anticipate what funding is needed when.



Acquire & Assess:

Secure and assess the site for park development



Engage & Design:

Create a vision plan informed by community input/needs



Detail & Build:

Develop construction documents and build according to Master Plan vision



Maintain & Operate:

Conduct long-term care and enhancement



Bothin Marsh Adaptation Plan Existing Conditions - Mill Valley, CA (WRT)

Understand Your Site

The site's existing conditions directly impact its development potential and funding needs. Key considerations to assess include:

- **Size and Scope:** Large multi-acre sites or more complex projects often necessitate additional funding resources.
- **Characteristics:** Factors such as site topography, access, utility service, vegetation and shade coverage, soil composition, and adjacent land uses will influence both the project's cost and applicable funding opportunities.
- **Special Contexts:** The following characteristics may be open for specialized grants—critical habitat, contaminated soils, extreme heat, flooding and sea level rise impacts, and historical/cultural resources, etc.

RESILIENT PLANNING PAYS OFF!

Prioritize integrating environmental and adaptation strategies early in your park development process in order to mitigate the impacts of increasingly extreme weather. Resilient designs are a critical form of risk management to ensure the long-term success of your project and protect the health and safety of your local community and habitats.

For more information see:

["Strategies for Climate Change Adaptation" from Environmental Resilience Institute \(Indiana University\)](#)

[The Power of Parks to Address Climate Change \(TPL\)](#)

[EPA Climate Smart Brownfields Manual](#)

HIGHLIGHT

Ensuring Engagement Throughout the Development Process

Community-led development goes beyond singular actions; it embodies a set of principles and values that guide every phase of the project. It's crucial to evaluate your project's impact through an equity lens to ensure fair access to benefits and prevent unintended harm to the surrounding community. The existing surrounding community should be integrally involved in design development to provide essential input and knowledge. Both communities and park projects benefit from a collaborative process.

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT:

- Share leadership and decision-making power
- Learn and acknowledge the community history and current needs
- Recognize and value local knowledge
- Meet people where they are at
- Build intentional partnerships

Source: Advancing Equity in Land Reuse Planning & Visioning – Groundwork USA and Center for Creative Land Recycling

Helpful Resources:

[Great Parks Should Not Uproot Communities – Trust for Public Land](#)

[Greening without Gentrification – UCLA](#)



Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park, Los Angeles (Source: Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation)

Understand Your Community

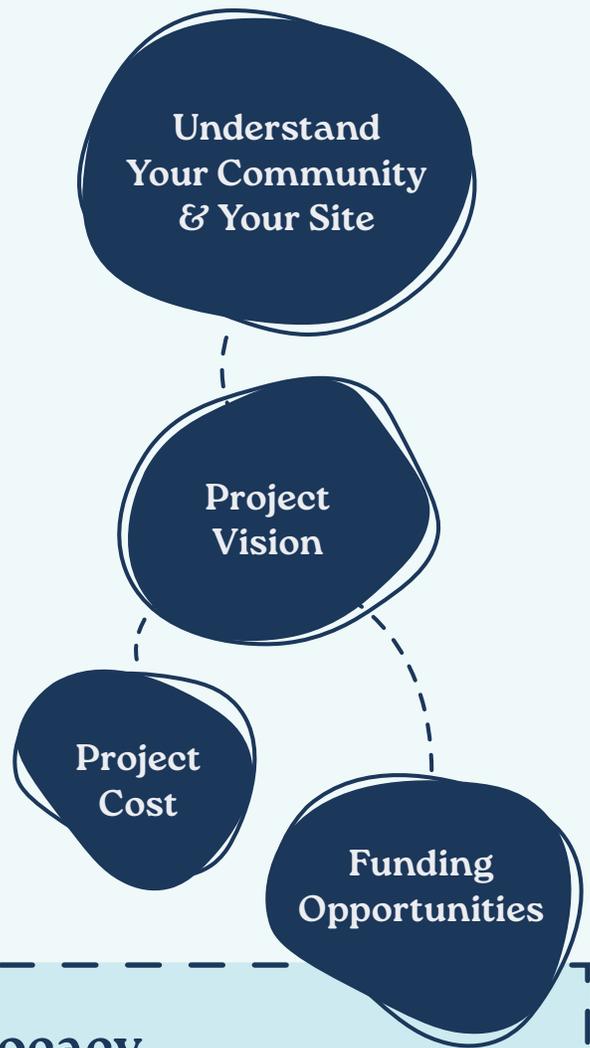
Your project's success hinges on its alignment with community needs and leadership. Most grants require robust engagement conducted over time (and even if they didn't, parks are most beneficial when they serve community needs). Key considerations for knowing your community's needs include:

- **Demographics:** Who will your project benefit and who will it burden? Data on income, sensitive populations (young, elderly, pregnancy rate), pollution burden can reveal community needs and demonstrate your community's eligibility for funding opportunities tailored to underinvested or marginalized groups.
- **Community Engagement:** What are the community's needs and desires? An intentional community engagement process not only allows for a deeper understanding of community needs, but also builds support and excitement around the project. The most successful projects are the ones with the most unified, community-wide support, so extra time and attention should be dedicated here.
- **Your Organization & Leadership:** Who is championing your project? Political and organizational support is essential for building momentum and securing buy-in. Additionally, a dedicated project manager will ensure clear leadership and continuity from project conception to completion. Review your community's governing plan, parks and recreation master plan, and other relevant policy guidance to ensure you park project aligns with established goals and objectives.

- **Your Partners:** Partnering with local community groups, such as schools, religious institutions, advocacy organizations, and trusted community liaisons, can further bridge trust between your agency and the community, particularly when trying to reach under resourced populations. Strong community partners can demonstrate widespread community support for your project which will strengthen your funding proposal. These partnerships can also be a source of construction or maintenance funding through joint-use agreements or in-kind donations.

Helpful Resources:

- [Case Studies \(Appendix - end of this document\)](#)
- [Connect with Nature: Planning Parks and Natural Areas with Communities of Color by Metro](#)
- [Using Data to Make Your Case: Resources to Jump-Start Your Journey to Revitalization](#)



HIGHLIGHT

Leverage Expertise and Advocacy

Engaging experts and advocates, such as community members, consultants, and nonprofit partners can bring specialized expertise that helps ensure a successful project. Their involvement should be planned for early-on, with careful consideration of how and when they should be engaged, as well as appropriate compensation for their time and contributions.

Consultants such as landscape architects, outreach specialists, grant writers, cost estimators, and construction managers are invaluable in shaping a project’s vision, engaging the community, and securing funding. Small investments in early phases, like public engagement or conceptual design, can set the foundation for larger grant opportunities.

Partnering with nonprofit advocacy groups, such as Trust for Public Land (TPL) or Fresno Building Healthy Communities, can enhance the process by providing grant-writing expertise, connections to park constituents, and insights into community needs, helping to align your project with available opportunities and maximize its impact.

Helpful Resources:

- | | |
|--|--|
| San Lorenzo Creekway Master Plan (see Chapter 3) | Buchanan Street Mall - Park Improvement Equity Action Initiative (PIEA): Project Site / Vision Statement / Contract Award (see page 5) |
|--|--|

Define Your Project's Vision

A clear, well-defined project vision that responds to the unique characteristics of your site and community is essential. This vision should encompass all critical aspects of the project, including proposed amenities, programming, circulation patterns, vegetation, topography, etc. By addressing these elements, an accurate cost estimate for both construction and operations/maintenance can be developed, providing a comprehensive understanding of the funding required and enabling a strategic approach to pursuing funding opportunities aligned with your project's scope and objectives.

COMMON EXPENSE CATEGORIES

- Planning & Design (~10-20% of project budget)
- Recreation Amenities (play equipment, sports courts/fields, amphitheater, etc.)
- Structures/Buildings (restrooms, pavilions, recreation centers, etc.)
- Hardscape (walkways, plazas, parking areas, etc.)
- Softscape (trees, vegetation, mulch, etc.)
- Site Furnishings (benches, tables, trash receptacles, signage, etc.)
- Irrigation
- Lighting/Electrical
- Site Preparation/Grading
- Walls/Fences
- Other special features (public art, water features, landmarks, etc.)
- Long-Term Operations & Maintenance (staffing, equipment, landscape renewal/curation, etc.)



NOTE: While planning and design can be estimated at a range of 10-20% of a project's overall budget, other expenses categories can't be generally estimated in the same way. They will vary widely based on the needs of each project. For instance, one may require a small restroom facility while another may require a large recreation center.

Connect Vision to Funding

Narrowing your funding search starts with identifying what common funding missions align with your project's characteristics and vision. Many grants are mission specific. Understanding how your project aligns with these topics helps streamline your search and improve your chances of securing funding.

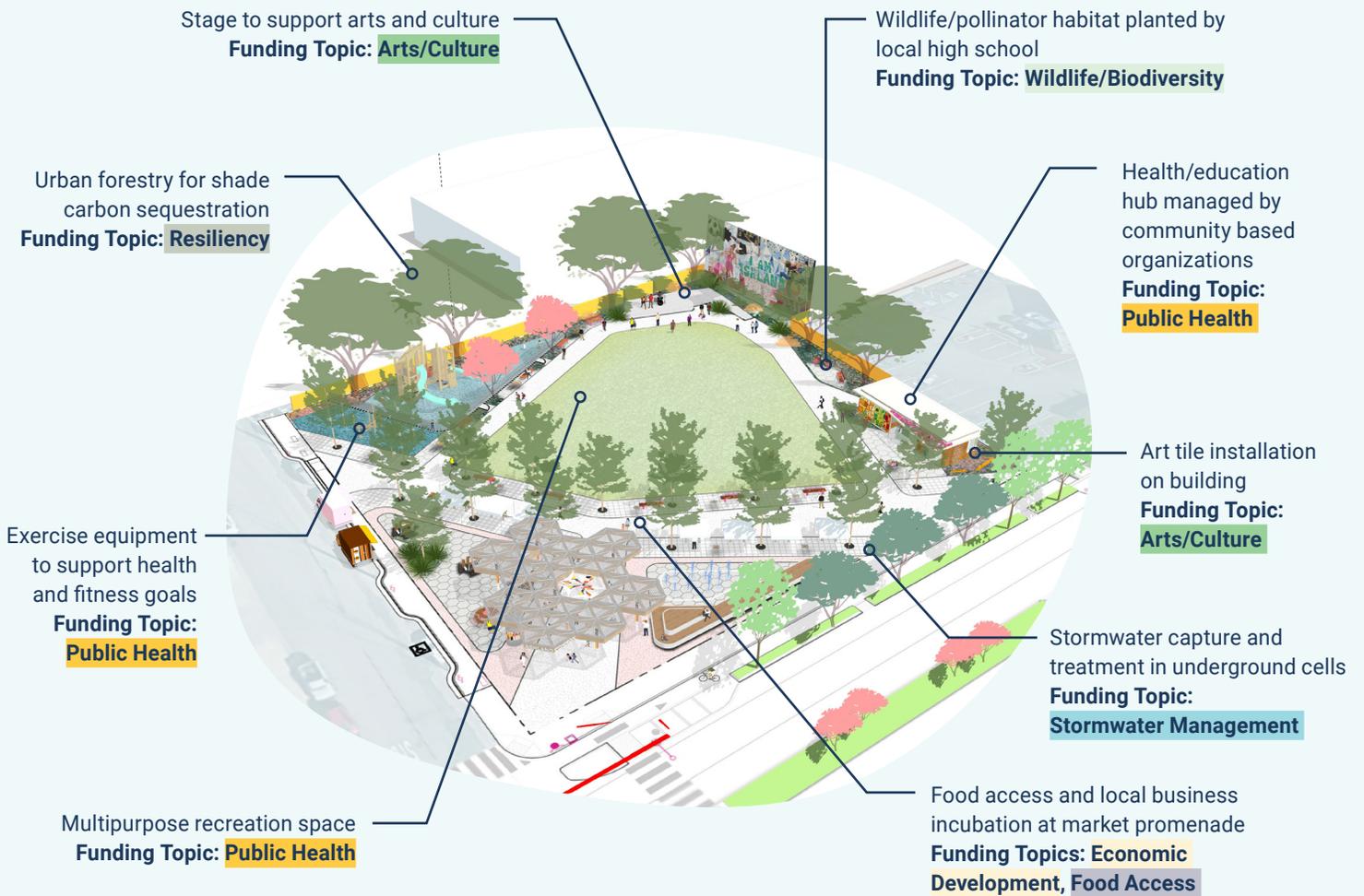
COMMON FUNDING TOPICS:

Community/Organization

- Community-Based Organizations
- Housing Authorities
- Local Government Agencies *
- Low-Income Communities *
- Schools/Educational Institutions
- Senior/Youth-Focused Communities *
- Tribal Nations

Project Vision

- Accessibility/ADA Compliance
- Arts/Culture *



- Economic Development *
- Environmental Education/Interpretation
- Food Access *
- Intergenerational Features
- Public Health *
- Recreation *
(e.g., parks, trails, recreation centers, etc.)
- Renewable Energy
(e.g., solar or wind installations)
- Resiliency *
- Stormwater Management/Water Quality *
- Transportation (including trails)
- Urban Forestry
- Wildlife Habitat/Biodiversity *

Site Characteristics

- Brownfields *
- Coastal Areas
- Historic Sites
- Natural Areas/Preserves
- Rural Areas
- Urban Areas *
- Wetlands

* Funding topics relevant to Ashland Zocalo (diagram above)

Ashland Zocalo: The property was acquired by the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, the Alameda County Economic Development Agency, and the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL).

Funding Topics: Local Government Agencies, Low-Income Communities, Senior/Youth-Focused Communities, Recreation, Brownfields, Urban Areas

Identify Sources

Finding the right funding requires aligning your project with available resources and strategically leveraging them. Funding for public park development generally falls into two categories: **municipal funding tools** and **grants**. Local funding is foundational for financing project construction and long-term maintenance and operations. Grants, on the other hand, provide significant cash flow during critical periods of investment, helping to drive major project milestones. For example, in Groveland, California, an initial \$15K municipal general fund investment in concept development and engagement followed by an additional \$70k for grant application support led to significant grants wins: \$1m (Clean CA Local Grant Program) and \$5m (Caltrans Active Transportation Program). This demonstrates how small local investments can be leveraged to secure substantial grant funding.

Municipal Funding Tools

Municipal funding tools, often including taxes, bonds, or fees, provide a stable base for park projects and are critical for long-term maintenance. Creative funding strategies, such as local sponsorships and partnerships, can also reduce reliance on traditional tax increases. There are many municipal funding strategies used for park development (see the Helpful Resource Links to the right). The following are a few key examples:

- **General Funds:** Allocations from a municipality's main budget that is typically foundational for park operations, maintenance, and improvements.
- **New Development Fees/Dedications:** Require developers to contribute funds or land for parks as part of new residential or commercial developments.
- **Bonds:** Voter-approved or impact bonds can finance large-scale park improvements or acquisitions, with repayment spread over time.
- **Special Taxes/Assessments:** Targeted taxes, such as those for park districts, directly fund development and maintenance.
- **Use Fees:** Revenue from park facilities, such as rentals, events, or recreation programs, supports ongoing operations.
- **Private:** Local benefactors, foundations, civic organizations such as park conservancies, civic organizations, and corporate sponsorships.

Helpful Resources:

[Local Agency Strategies for Funding the Development and Maintenance of Parks and Recreation Facilities in California by Change Lab Solutions](#)

[City Park Funding Hub – by City Park Alliance / \(Local Funding Page\)](#)



SteelStacks Arts and Cultural Campus - Bethlehem, PA (WRT)

Grant Funding Opportunities

While grants are often time-consuming and competitive, they are unique in that they offer substantial financial support without the need for repayment. There are numerous grant opportunities offered by federal, state, regional and private entities.

FEDERAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

There are several federal grant opportunities for local park and recreation projects, with some of the most significant of which highlighted below. Many federal programs are administered through your state grant agency, so check their website for current application details.

NOTE: References to federal funding sources may have changed since the publication of this guide. We will continue to monitor these sources as circumstances evolve.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):

- Funds outdoor recreation projects at various stages, including land acquisition and facility development.
- Has funded 46,000 state or local projects since 1965, prioritizing projects that enhance public access, protect natural resources, or increase recreational opportunities
- [More Information \(LWCF Website\)](#)

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program (an LWCF program):

- Funds projects enhancing outdoor recreation in under resourced urban areas.
- Prioritizes projects increasing access to green spaces.
- Multifaceted application process, variable by state grant agency



Ashland Zocalo - Ashland, CA (WRT)

- Required minimum 1:1 funding match
- [More Information \(ORLP Website\)](#)
- [Recent Award Recipients](#)

Additional Federal Grant Resources:

- [Grants.gov](#)
- [Equitable Park Funding Hub – City Parks Alliance](#)
- [The Funders Network](#)

STATE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Each state offers a wide range of park funding programs. Visit your state’s grant database for additional information.

State Grant Resources for EPA Regions 9 & 10:

- [Alaska](#)
- [Arizona](#)
- [California](#)
- [Hawaii](#)
- [Idaho](#)
- [Nevada](#)
- [Oregon](#)
- [Washington](#)

PRIVATE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Private philanthropic organizations, such as foundations, corporations, and individual donors, provide valuable funding opportunities for various projects and initiatives. These grants are often more mission-driven, focusing on causes aligned with the funder’s priorities. Compared to government grants, private grants typically have fewer bureaucratic requirements, offering organizations greater flexibility in the use of funds and project implementation.

Private Grant Resources:

- [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)
- [P3 Local Partners - Prevention Institute](#)

Funding Operations & Maintenance

As you are developing your project’s funding strategy, it is important to consider funding needs after construction. Long term maintenance is often not funded by capital grant programs, so other sources are needed. Strategies can include combinations of municipal funding, such as general funds, tax measures, impact fees, tax increment

financing (EIFD, CRD), use fees, and partnerships (CBOs, non-profits, volunteer programs, public-private partnerships, etc.). Continuing to leverage partnerships established through the planning and design process is key. Creative methods can be used to leverage grant dollars to mitigate maintenance costs, such as building durable, high-quality parks and incorporating multi-year maintenance periods into the construction contract.

LIFECYCLE PHASE	DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL COSTS	COMMON FUNDING SOURCES
	Site analysis, engagement, planning, design, and construction.	Feasibility studies, outreach, conceptual design, construction documentation, permitting, construction.	General funds, grants, bonds, mitigation funds, private donors.
	Ongoing park management, activation, and routine upkeep.	Staffing, utilities, programming, insurance, equipment.	General funds, user fees, special service districts, local partnerships, volunteers.
	Upgrades or redevelopment as facilities and amenities age.	Major repairs, replacements, redesigns.	General funds, improvement levies, revitalization grants.

Helpful Resources:

[From Creation to Care: The Need for Ongoing and Additional Funding to Operate and Maintain Parks \(NRPA, 11/14/2024\)](#)

[Fresno Parks Master Plan \(WRT\)/Sample O&M Tasks - Pages 150-156](#)

[Castro Valley Boulevard Maintenance Plan \(WRT\)/In-Depth Maintenance Plan](#)

STEP #3:

Sequence & Stack

Once you have a comprehensive list of potential funding sources, the next step is to organize them into a clear, actionable **Creative Funding Strategy**. This involves sequencing the funding opportunities by phase of the Park Development Process and determining which sources can be stacked, or used simultaneously, to maximize your funding. Proper sequencing and stacking are essential to ensure your project moves forward smoothly while securing necessary resources for each stage.

Key Considerations

GRANT MATCHING

Many grant opportunities require a local match to receive funding. This stresses the importance of identifying local funding sources that can be utilized to fill the gaps that grant funding does not satisfy. Some grants require a local match to be cash, but others allow matching to be in-kind or from a variety of different sources, allowing applicants to be creative in identifying and assembling their required match.

BACK-UP OPTIONS

Grants are highly competitive, and not all applications will be successful. Additionally, project budgets and timelines often evolve, requiring adaptability in your funding approach. Pursuing multiple funding options ensures your project remains financially supported, regardless of unexpected challenges or setbacks.

TIMING

Aligning the timing of funding opportunities is critical. Grants may have application deadlines and funding cycles that need to be aligned with your project's timeline. Phasing the project—starting with one portion and waiting for additional funds for later phases—can provide the flexibility needed to accommodate the availability of funds.

Helpful Resources:

[Case Studies \(Appendix - end of this document\)](#)

[Stacking up Success: An Introduction to the Art of Brownfield Redevelopment Funding Webinar \(CCLR, 2024\)](#)



STEP #4:

Secure

As you are developing a clear Creative Funding Strategy, it is important to also consider the application process. Securing funding—whether through grants, bonds, donations, etc.—requires careful planning and attention to detail. While casting a wide net can be beneficial, it's essential to prioritize opportunities that align closely with your project's goals and timeline. This targeted approach ensures your efforts are focused on high-potential opportunities, maximizing your chances of success. By approaching the process strategically and thoughtfully, you can position your project for the best possible outcome.

Tips to Consider for Successful Grant Applications

HIGHLIGHT COMMUNITY IMPACT:

Use data, public input, testimonials, and statistics to demonstrate how your project addresses local needs. Showcase any community-wide benefits, such as economic development, reduced crime, improved air quality, or enhanced quality of life, especially in under resourced communities.

PRESENT A CLEAR AND DETAILED PLAN:

Provide a well-organized application with specific goals, timelines, and a realistic, itemized budget. Include details about

long-term maintenance and funding for ongoing operations. A clear, sustainable plan demonstrates that your project is feasible and worth the investment.

BUILD STRONG PARTNERSHIPS:

Strengthen your application with letters of support from community organizations, local governments, or nonprofits. Highlight collaborative efforts and in-kind contributions from stakeholders to show broad community backing and enhance the project's credibility.

USE DATA AND VISUALS:

Incorporate maps, site plans, charts, and graphs to help reviewers quickly understand your project's scope and impact. Include photos of the current site, especially if they illustrate a clear need for the park or its improvements. These visuals can make your application more compelling and memorable.

Helpful Resources:

Many grant programs provide technical assistance for interested applicants, so make sure to check your grant program and take advantage of their offered resources.

Additional resources include:

[Jodi Tanner Tell – Grant Writer for Nonprofits and Public Agencies](#)

STEP #5:

Manage



Verde Carter Park - East Oakland, CA (Trust for Public Land)

Funding Management

Securing funding is just the start. Grants come with strict reporting requirements and deadlines that must be met to access funds and maintain good standing with grantors. Similarly, managing municipal funding tools requires a proactive approach to ensure efficient use of funds and successful completion of project milestones. The following responsibilities can be expected once awarded funding:

- **Compliance:** Ensure adherence to funding terms, timelines, and reporting requirements. This requires attention to detail and knowledge of funding regulations.
- **Financial Oversight:** Manage budgets, monitor expenditures, and ensure financial accountability by reconciling reports and tracking spending.
- **Reporting:** Prepare and submit progress, financial, and final reports while keeping accurate records for audits.

- **Communication:** Coordinate with funders and internal teams to address inquiries and align project goals, requiring clear communication and relationship management.
- **Risk and Capacity Management:** Identify and manage risks, train staff, and stay updated on funding trends and best practices.

Helpful Resources:

[Case Studies \(Appendix - end of this document\)](#)



Important Note:

Steps 3 (Sequence & Stack), 4 (Secure), and 5 (Manage) **happen simultaneously**. You will be applying for funding at different, overlapping times.

Let's Get Going!

We sincerely hope that this guide proves to be beneficial in supporting your pursuit to create more parks.

While this guide—including the “Helpful Resources” and other links—is not exhaustive, they are intended to provide a starting point to get you on your way. To continue to build momentum, we encourage you dive deeper into additional resources specific to your region, and connect with other local parks and allied professionals who may be able to offer further insight and potentially collaborate toward achieving your goals.

Additional Resources

APPENDIX

We have compiled an appendix with case studies that illustrate a variety of successful park projects that relied on multiple funding sources. It also includes links to reference documents, such as Park Master Plans that provide important background information to starting or jump starting your projects.

To access the Appendix from print versions of this guide, scan the QR code below (guide and appendix). If you are viewing this online, just keep turning the pages!



CONNECT & SHARE

We'd love to hear from you!

Please share success stories, case studies, or resources so we can distribute them to our network and add them into this publication.

Need technical support or more information to overcome park challenges?

Email us at info@cclr.org



FDR Park - Philadelphia, PA (WRT)

PROJECT PARTNERS:



**CENTER FOR CREATIVE
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FEDERAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY:



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APPENDIX

Let's Create a Park!

**PLANNING A CREATIVE FUNDING STRATEGY
FOR SUCCESSFUL PARK DEVELOPMENT**

In This Document

CASE STUDIES / PAGE 3

The select case studies included in the Appendix illustrate a variety of successful park projects that relied on multiple funding sources.

RESOURCE DOCUMENTS / PAGE 10

We have included links to documents that illustrate various ways to implement the steps described in the guide (i.e. building cost estimates, maintenance plans, etc.).

Case Studies

Spokane Riverfront Park / Spokane, WA



The Spokane Riverfront Park Restoration and Redevelopment Project has revitalized one of the city’s most beloved public spaces, enhancing its natural beauty, accessibility, and recreational offerings. Originally developed for 1974 World’s Fair, the park now features improved walking paths, restored native landscapes, and upgraded attractions such as a carousel and playgrounds. The Pavilion, with its dynamic LED displays, serves as a focal point for community gatherings, while new public art and event spaces enrich Spokane’s cultural scene. With a focus on sustainability and modern design, the restoration ensures Riverfront Park remains a vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike.

Project Owner(s): City of Spokane

Project Location:
N Howard Street, Spokane, Washington

Year Constructed: 2012 - 2021

Total Design/Engagement Cost: Unknown

Total Construction Cost: \$74,210,429

FUNDING SOURCE 1

Name of Source	Municipal Bonds
Amount (\$)	\$64.3m
Project Phase	Detailed Design and Construction
Funding Topic(s)	Project Construction

FUNDING SOURCE 2

Name of Source	EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grants
Amount (\$)	\$600,000
Project Phase	Construction
Funding Topic(s)	Site Remediation. Cleanup involved off-site disposal and on-site consolidation and capping of contaminated soil.

FUNDING SOURCE 3

Name of Source	Private Contributions
Amount (\$)	\$11m
Project Phase	Detailed Design, and Construction
Funding Topic(s)	Project Construction

Old Fort Lowell / Tucson, AZ



Previously operated as a military barracks in the 1800s and early 1900s, Fort Lowell was turned into a museum. In 2022, the Museum underwent rehabilitation to preserve the original buildings. In addition to restoring original buildings, park amenities and places to shop and eat will be added to the property.

Upgraded recreational amenities, including picnic areas and walking paths, complement the park's natural desert landscape, making it a welcoming space for both history enthusiasts and outdoor lovers. By blending historical preservation with modern accessibility, the rehabilitation ensures that Old Fort Lowell Park remains a cherished cultural and recreational destination for future generations.

Project Owner(s):

City of Tucson Parks and Recreation

Project Location: Tucson, Arizona

Year Constructed: 2023 - 2024

Total Design/Engagement Cost: \$240,400

Total Construction Cost: \$3,450,000

FUNDING SOURCE 1

Name of Source	Municipal Bonds
Amount (\$)	\$3,150,000
Project Phase	Planning/Engagement, Detailed Design, and Construction

FUNDING SOURCE 2

Name of Source	Arizona State Parks
Amount (\$)	\$300,000
Project Phase	Construction
Funding Topic(s)	Rehabilitation of historic structures on the property.

East 14th Street Park / Hayward, CA



The East 14th Street Park project in Ashland, an unincorporated area of Alameda County, is a community-driven initiative aimed at transforming a 1.7-acre vacant lot into a vibrant public park. Led by the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD) in partnership with The Trust for Public Land (TPL), the park’s design, shaped by extensive community engagement, will feature a multi-use lawn, active recreation zones, accessible play areas, walking paths, and spaces for social gatherings, fostering a more inclusive and dynamic environment.

The primary objective of the project is to enhance recreational access and green space for Ashland residents, particularly in underinvested communities. By incorporating elements like sports facilities and gathering areas, the park aims to promote wellness, social connection, and environmental sustainability. Additionally, the development aligns with broader urban revitalization efforts, connecting with the planned Mateo Street Park and the Madrone Terrace affordable housing project. Soil remediation

efforts were scheduled for early 2024, paving the way for construction and ensuring a safe and accessible park for future generations.

Project Owner(s): Hayward Area Recreation & Park District (HARD)

Project Location: E 14 Street near Ashland Avenue, Hayward, CA

Year Constructed: 2021 - 2026

Total Design/Engagement Cost: Unknown

Total Construction Cost: \$13,733,000 (to date), Unknown (remaining)

FUNDING SOURCE 1	
Name of Source	Land and Water Conservation Fund
Amount (\$)	\$3,997,500
Project Phase	Design and construction
FUNDING SOURCE 2	
Name of Source	CA Department of Toxic Substances Control Equitable Community Revitalization Grant
Amount (\$)	\$883,914
Project Phase	Remediation
Funding Topic(s)	Site Remediation and Cleanup

India Basin Shoreline Park / San Francisco, CA



The India Basin Shoreline Park project in San Francisco is a large-scale waterfront revitalization effort aimed at transforming the southeastern shoreline into an accessible, sustainable, and vibrant public space. The project's scope includes restoring tidal wetlands, improving water quality, and developing new walking and biking trails to enhance connectivity along the Bay. Plans also include recreational amenities such as open green spaces, playgrounds, gathering areas, and waterfront access for kayaking and other activities. A key focus of the project is environmental resilience, incorporating native habitat restoration, stormwater management, and climate adaptation strategies to protect the shoreline for future generations. Additionally, public art, cultural programming, and historical storytelling elements will highlight the rich heritage of the surrounding Bayview-Hunters Point community.

Key stakeholders in the project include the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, the Trust for Public Land, local community groups, and environmental organizations, all working together to ensure that the redevelopment serves both ecological and social needs. Community engagement has played a central role in shaping the park's design, with a focus on equitable access and economic opportunities for residents. The project's primary objectives are to restore and protect the natural shoreline, provide inclusive recreational spaces, and strengthen the connection between the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood and the waterfront. By balancing conservation with community-driven development, India Basin Shoreline Park will serve as a model for sustainable and inclusive urban park design.



Project Owner(s): San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department

Project Location: Hunters Point Boulevard, San Francisco, CA

Year Constructed: 2021 - Ongoing

Total Design/Engagement Cost: \$15,000,000

Total Construction Cost: \$145,000,000

FUNDING SOURCE 1	
Name of Source	Private Funding including: The Hellman Foundation, Pritzker Family Fund, Baker Street Foundation, etc.
Amount (\$)	\$75,000,000
Project Phase	Planning/Engagement, Detailed Design, Construction, or Maintenance
FUNDING SOURCE 2	
Name of Source	Public Funding including: Proposition 68 Funding, 2020 San Francisco Health and Recovery Bond, CA Coastal Conservancy, plus additional funds yet to be determined
Amount (\$)	\$125,000,000
Project Phase	Planning/Engagement, Detailed Design, Construction, or Maintenance

Mariposa Creek Parkway / Mariposa County, CA



The Mariposa Creek Parkway project is a community-driven initiative aimed at enhancing the natural beauty, accessibility, and recreational opportunities along Mariposa Creek in Mariposa, California. The project's scope includes the expansion of walking and biking trails, restoration of native habitats, and the creation of gathering spaces to promote outdoor recreation and environmental education. Designed to preserve the area's ecological integrity while improving public access, the parkway will incorporate interpretive signage, shaded rest areas, and potential public art installations that reflect the region's cultural and natural heritage. By integrating sustainable landscaping and water conservation practices, the project aligns with broader environmental stewardship goals.

Key stakeholders in the Mariposa Creek Parkway project include local government agencies, conservation groups, community organizations, and residents who have provided input on the parkway's design and

amenities. Partnerships with environmental agencies and grant funding sources have helped drive the project forward, ensuring a balance between development and ecological preservation. The primary objectives are to provide a safe and scenic outdoor space for recreation, support local biodiversity, and enhance connectivity between different parts of the community. By creating a welcoming and sustainable public space, the Mariposa Creek Parkway aims to foster a stronger sense of community while celebrating the region's natural beauty.

Project Owner(s): Mariposa County

Project Location: Mariposa County CA

Year Constructed: 2022 - Ongoing

Total Design/Engagement Cost: TBD (Ongoing)

Total Construction Cost: TBD (Ongoing)



FUNDING SOURCE 1	
Name of Source	CA Natural Resources Conservancy Urban Greening Program
Amount (\$)	\$911,850
Project Phase	Planning, Design, and Construction
Funding Topic(s)	Green Infrastructure
FUNDING SOURCE 2	
Name of Source	PG&E Resilience Hub Program
Amount (\$)	\$25,000
Project Phase	Planning and Design
Funding Topic(s)	Resiliency
FUNDING SOURCE 3	
Name of Source	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Amount (\$)	\$496,800
Project Phase	Planning and Design
Funding Topic(s)	Supporting recreation and tourism

FUNDING SOURCE 4	
Name of Source	CA Natural Resources Conservancy Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program <i>(Application Narrative link)</i>
Amount (\$)	\$429,330
Project Phase	Planning/Engagement and Design
Funding Topic(s)	Ecological and Habitat Restoration
FUNDING SOURCE 5	
Name of Source	Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Program <i>(Application Narrative link)</i>
Amount (\$)	~\$200,000
Project Phase	Planning and Design
Funding Topic(s)	Increasing use of active modes of transportation

Resource Documents

The documents in this section are included to illustrate various ways to implement the steps described in the guide (i.e. visioning, building cost estimates, maintenance plans, etc.).

Master Plans



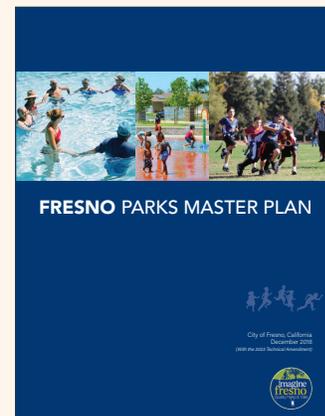
[East Palo Alto Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan](#)



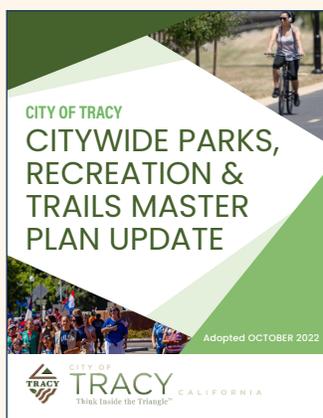
[Tiburon: Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan](#)



[San Joaquin River Parkway - Western Reaches Access & Activation Plan](#)



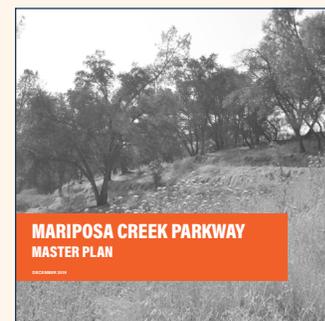
[Fresno Parks Master Plan](#)



[Tracy Citywide Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan Update](#)

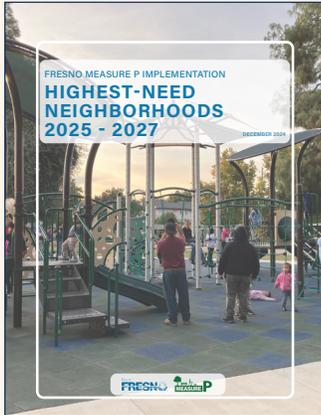


[San Lorenzo Creekway Master Plan](#)

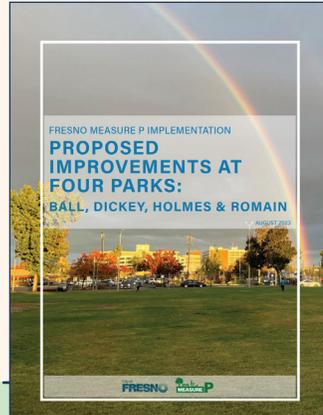


[Mariposa Creek Parkway \(MCP\) Master Plan](#)

Implementation



Fresno Measure P:
Highest-Need
Neighborhoods
Report



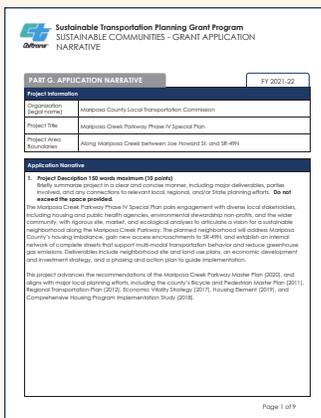
Fresno Measure P:
Proposed
Improvements at
Four Parks

Maintenance

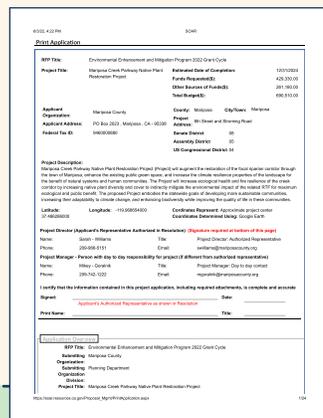


Castro Valley Boulevard
Maintenance Plan

Grant Applications



MCP Grant App
Narrative - Caltrans



MCP Grant App
Narrative - CA
Natural Resources
Conservancy



CENTER FOR CREATIVE
LAND RECYCLING
RECLAIM. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.

