



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** David Gill, Director of Parks & Recreation

**DATE:** January 26, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the City Manager to apply for Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant administered by National Park Service via the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for the purpose of constructing the next phase of the Terrill Park Master Plan (CIP#59)

### **Recommendation:**

Authorize the City Manager apply for Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant program for the purpose of constructing Phase Two of the Terrill Park Master Plan (CIP#59).

### **Background**

Terrill Park is a 21-acre park set on the east banks of the Merrimack River. The mostly underdeveloped park is uniquely positioned as it will serve as a park for Ward 8 residents, is part of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail that travels along the riverbanks of the park, great access and visibility from I93 and is home of Concord's only dog park.

The approved Master Plan for Terrill Park shows a new athletic field, additional parking, a playground and a paved path along the Merrimack River that supports the long-term vision of a North-South paved route of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail. Final design and permitting was completed in 2019 and is included in the City's Capital Improvement Plan as a multi phased, multiyear project. The new park is fully designed and permitted (AOT, Army Corp, NHDES, etc.), permits will start to expire in 2027.

Working with the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail, the City was awarded a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to complete Phase 1 of the Terrill Park Master Plan. Phase 1 opened in Fall 2020 and included: new dog park, new small parking and the first section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail. The cost of this phase was just over \$380,000 and was funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, City of Concord, Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail and the Concord Rotary Club. The new dog park is maintained by the Pope Memorial SPCA.

The second phase for Terrill Park as indicated in the city’s annual capital improvement plan will dramatically improve access to this undeveloped and relatively unused park. This phase would build new athletic field with an option for field lights, new parking lot, open space and related site improvements. The phase can be built without affecting other fields/parks and construction will take 12-14 months depending on when construction starts.

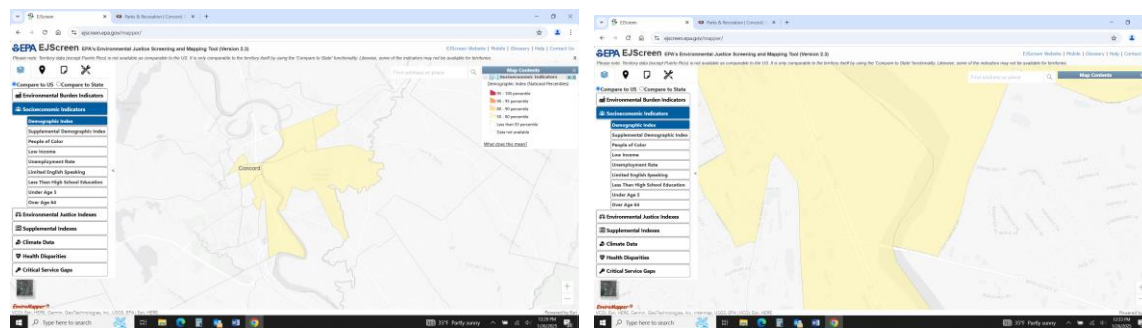
## **Discussion**

The federal Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant program. Established in 2014 and supported by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the ORLP offers 50/50 matching grants to create new parks or revitalize existing parks in underserved urban neighborhoods. Until recently grant applications had to come from communities with a population of 50,000 or more.

In late 2024 the Department of Interior announced \$254 million for local parks, the largest investment ever in the program’s history. Grants can be used for land acquisition, new park development, or the substantial renovation of existing parks, to (re)connect people with the outdoors.

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program provides nationally competitive matching grants up to \$10 million dollars per project to cities for park projects in underserved communities. The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program is now for communities having a population of 25,000 or more in the 2020 census and the park project must be within a community/census tract determined as disadvantaged.

The screen shot shows the areas in Concord that are determined as disadvantage using the Environmental Protection Agency’s EJScreen tool.



City of Concord

Close up of Terrill Park

City staff attended a required per application meeting in January, 2025 and the Terrill Park Project is an eligible grant project. In addition to meeting the grant requirements our Terrill Park project should rate very competitive nationally as the Park is already fully designed and permitted. The park is “shovel ready” meaning the construction could begin in a couple of months after full funding is in place.

Based on the grant requirements and cities goal of creating a new riverfront park, staff recommends that the City apply for the ORLP grant to construct phase two of the Terrill Park Master Plan.

## Approved Master Plan For Terrill Park



Area in blue was constructed and opened in 2020

