

Project Abstract Summary

Funding Opportunity Number: P24AS00498

CFDA: 15.916

Applicant Name: Dr. Joshua T. Medeiros, Ed.D., CPRE

Project Title: Rockwell Park Revitalization

Project Abstract:

The Rockwell Park Revitalization project aims to transform the City of Bristol's largest 105-acre active community park situated in the disadvantaged/environmental justice census tract serving Bristol's West End. Rockwell Park offers a variety of recreational amenities that host thousands of guests and hundreds of diverse programs throughout the year. Unfortunately, these heavily utilized amenities are outdated, haven't been renovated in almost 20 years, incur significant annual maintenance costs, and are on the verge of being unusable. With an anticipated total budget of \$3,860,000, the Rockwell Park Revitalization project is an essential project that will provide much needed enhancements to save and improve outdated amenities, create new recreational opportunities, and provide equitable enhancements that will make the park more accessible and inclusive for all.

Project elements were defined using community feedback and recreational needs assessment data gathered during a comprehensive parks master planning process in 2020. The project includes renovations to popular outdoor recreation amenities such as the splash park, playgrounds, outdoor pool and bathhouse, ADA trails and access improvements, construction of a new fitness track, Fraser Field ADA improvements, basketball court light installation, and 18-hole disc golf course improvements. The project includes a mix of replacing recreational amenities, enhancing existing amenities, ADA upgrades, and new builds. Full replacements will be made at the splash park and playground, enhancements will be made at the pool, bathhouse, 18-hole disc golf course, and basketball courts, and ADA upgrades will be made along the trails and Fraser Field which hosts the Bristol Little League and Girls Softball programs. A new build for an outdoor fitness track will enhance the existing outdoor fitness equipment installed in 2023.

The Rockwell Park Revitalization project is central to the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department mission to deliver high-quality services and facilities to improve quality of life of Bristol residents. The project directly aligns with both SCORP and ORLP's collective goals to provide new and significantly improved recreation opportunities in urban, disadvantaged communities lacking access to walkable outdoor recreation. The project specifically addresses SCORP goal 1 to provide equitable and sustainable access to outdoor recreation in Connecticut and goal 2 to enhance visitor experience and tourism by providing welcoming, safe, and well-maintained outdoor recreation areas and recreation amenities.

Public engagement and planning completion is expected to be completed in late winter/early 2025, with the project going out to bid in late spring 2025, and construction commencing in summer 2025 with an anticipated total project completion by the end of summer 2026.