



## NRPA & THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY PLAY SPACES GRANTS

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### ELIGIBILITY

We are a nonprofit organization that partners with our local government. Can we apply?

No. The applicant for the grant must be a government agency (e.g., municipal park and recreation department, tribal recreation department, park district, etc.)

Can my school or daycare apply for a grant?

No, the applicant for the grant must be a government agency (e.g., municipal park and recreation department, tribal recreation department, park district, etc.)

Can our parks foundation serve as the fiscal agent?

Yes, the funds can be issued to a non-profit local park foundation, but the grant applicant must be a government agency.

What project sites are eligible?

Grants will support park and recreation agencies doing projects in publicly-owned sites that are open to the public and under the authority of a local, municipal, regional, or state government agency (e.g., park and recreation department) or federally recognized tribal community.

Do we have to be a current member of NRPA in order to apply?

NRPA encourages membership to ensure that your agency has access to the full suite of education and resources available; however, you do not have to be a current member of NRPA to be eligible to apply.

Are municipalities/organizations outside of the U.S. eligible to receive grants?

Grants will only be awarded to projects located within the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.

#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

How is this “Meet Me at the Park” Disney campaign different from the Earth Month voting campaign that just happened in April, 2017?

“Meet Me at the Park” is being expanded to provide additional communities with increased access to physical activity and play spaces. Park and recreation agencies in all states are invited to share their best ideas on increasing access to play spaces for children and families. Agencies with the most innovative and impactful project ideas will be awarded grants to carry out their projects.

How many grants will be awarded?

We anticipate that 30 grants ranging from \$10,000 - \$50,000 will be awarded nationwide. A total of \$800,000 will be awarded and the average grant amount will be \$26,000.

Is there a certain type of community that is most likely to receive a grant?

Underserved communities of all sizes – rural, suburban and urban - will be considered in all states.

What types of projects will be funded?

Proposed projects must fit within one of four themes:

1. **Mobile Play** vehicle or flexible pop-up play equipment that can travel to multiple parks and recreation centers and be placed in a location temporarily.
2. **Trail and walking path enhancements** that increase visibility and accessibility, add elements of play, and/or improve wayfinding that guides and encourages kids to walk the trail.
3. **Play spaces**, nature play spaces, pocket-play spaces, and/or inclusive play spaces that bring unique play features to new or revitalized parks.
4. **Sport field/court enhancements** that improve or create unique sports fields or courts that encourage community use, small sided play, and/or creative games in places that lack opportunities for formal sports participation.

Can our agency apply for more than one grant?

No, you may not apply for more than one grant. One application will be considered from each agency so please select one project and submit only one application.

Is this the first time you are offering these grants? Will you offer this grant again next year?

This is the first time we are offering this grant program, so we do not have a list of past awardees or project summaries. Future grants of this type are dependent on future funding, which we have not secured. Therefore, at this time, this is the only round of grants of this type that we are able to offer.

Are letters of support required?

Letters of support are not required, but can be included as part of your application. Typically letters come from the head of your agency (director, superintendent, etc.) or a local community group or nonprofit partner.

How much time will we have to complete the project?

Significant progress towards the project outcomes must be demonstrated by October 31, 2017. All projects must be completed by April 30, 2018. A required final report will be due on May 1, 2018 (template to be provided).

How should grantees engage the community in this project?

Community engagement is very important to this program. Successful projects will involve the community throughout the project from design to implementation. Volunteerism is another important component of this program. The community will be engaged by providing opportunities for members of the local community and Disney employees to be actively involved and assist with project planning and implementation.

How should grantees promote the project?

Grantees should promote the project locally through its own communication channels and on social media. A toolkit for social media and other communications will be provided.

If awarded a grant, we will be required to gather data through an intercept survey. What is that?

The intercept survey consists of questions asked of community members at the improved space and the collection of stories from them about the improved space.

How do we administer the intercept survey?

Grantees will be required to administer a quick survey from a minimum of 25 people who are familiar with the project. A template will be provided and grantees will need to use a smart phone, tablet or laptop computer to collect responses.

If awarded a grant, will my agency be chosen to participate in a more extensive evaluation?

In addition to the intercept survey, four grantees will be selected to participate in a more in-depth evaluation to understand the change in use and activity levels for each type of project.

What is the evaluation measuring and what responsibilities are required if chosen to participate in the in-depth evaluation?

The in-depth evaluation is intended to capture how the selected projects have impacted the community. Grantees will be required to collect data before the project is built and after. At each time, there will be 4 consecutive days of data collection, collected 3 times per day by two observers each time.

Agencies selected to participate in the evaluation will be trained on and be required to use evaluation tools for data collection including an observation protocol for selected grantees to measure the average number of people active in the park

Will NRPA visit my project in person?

It is possible that NRPA staff (and potentially staff from Disney) might arrange to perform a site visit to see the project. Videos and photos might be taken that might be shared on NRPA and Disney communications channels.

## FUNDING

What are eligible expenses for these grant funds?

Grant funds can be used for project design fees, construction costs and project-specific expenses, such as the purchase of mobile play equipment or materials, for example.

Are matching funds required?

Yes, a 1:1 match is required. Eligible match can include cash, staff time, design fees and construction costs.

## DEFINITIONS

How are you defining an “underserved” community”?

NRPA defines underserved communities as neighborhoods comprising a majority of individuals of color and/or living in poverty or near poverty.

What do you mean by “innovative”?

Projects that feature new methods or introduce new ideas. Projects that are original and creative in thinking.

What do you mean by “inclusive”?

A play space in which measures have been taken to ensure that ALL community members are welcome and are able to fully participate amongst their peers. The physical environment is accessible to people of all abilities equally (cognitive, intellectual and other developmental disabilities, mobility, visual, hearing, and mental health disabilities). For more information, please visit [this link](#).

What do you mean by “mobile play”?

Impermanent, flexible play elements and activities that can be used in multiple locations.

What do you mean by “scalable”?

Projects that can serve as a model for other communities; projects that be expanded to other locations, reaching more people and extending to new populations.

Who can I contact with additional questions about this grant opportunity?

If you have questions regarding this grant opportunity, please email [playspacesRFA@nrpa.org](mailto:playspacesRFA@nrpa.org)