

PARKS SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

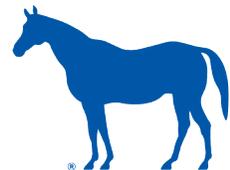
PARK FUND 4031

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee Meeting

March 18, 2025

Parks and Recreation

Monica Conrad, Director



LEXINGTON

Park Fund Policy Fundamentals

- Purpose
- Principles
- Park Fund Capital Expenditures
- Governance and Program Oversight



Park Fund Policy Fundamentals

Purpose

- The Park Fund is a dedicated source of funding for the improvement and development of Lexington's parks, green spaces and associated infrastructure. It is levied through a percentage of local taxes, specifically earmarked for parks purposes.
- This Parks Fund Program Policy reflects Lexington's commitment to create parks and recreational spaces that are accessible, well-designed, and responsive to the diverse needs of our community, ensuring that Lexington's parks are a source of pride for all residents.

Principles

- Accessibility
- Engagement
- Accountability



Accessibility

Goal: Ensure access to parks and recreational amenities for all residents, regardless of race, ability, income, or neighborhood.

Geographic: Capital investment will be prioritized using the Parks Master Plan Social Needs Index, Composite Service Area Analysis, and other data-driven tools that identify neighborhoods with the greatest needs.

Inclusive Design: Projects will be designed with the goal of being accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. All new and upgraded parks will meet or exceed ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards, providing access for individuals with disabilities.

Multigenerational Spaces: Capital spending will prioritize the creation of spaces that cater to diverse age groups and family needs.

Cultural Sensitivity: Projects will respect and celebrate the historical and cultural diversity of Lexington.



Engagement

Goal: Involve the community in the decision-making process to ensure that park development meets the needs and desires of residents.

Community Input: Lexington Parks and Recreation will engage with residents through public meetings and surveys to gather input regarding capital projects.

Advisory Committee: The Chair of the Parks Advisory Board will appoint a strategic planning subcommittee of Parks Board and community members.

Partnerships with Local Organizations: Lexington Parks and Recreation will collaborate with local community organizations, schools, and civic groups.

Parks Master Plan: Park master plans shall include community engagement in the form of workshops, surveys, community conversations, presence at community events, and special interest focus group discussions.



Community Engagement Matrix

Project Outcome	No change	Partial change	Significant change or new park amenity	New development
Examples	Repaving a parking lot or replacing a roof	Changing the size of a parking lot, changing a pool feature	Relocating a playground, adding a new picnic shelter	Developing a new park or community center
Level of Engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Partner
Actions and Methods	Inform public using social media, website updates, email, yard signs and administrative updates	Collect stakeholder input and share how input influenced design using surveys, meetings and website	Include stakeholders in design process using innovations such as demonstration projects	Explore collaborative opportunities; include partners in decision-making
Engagement Goals	Provide easily accessed, factual, and timely information to understand the project	Listen and acknowledge feedback, keep public informed through design and construction	Ensure perspectives are understood and reflected in project outcome	Share ownership of process and project outcome

Accountability

Goal: Ensure accountability in the allocation, management, and spending of Parks funds.

- **Funding Priorities:** Lexington Parks and Recreation will provide an annual capital spending plan.
- **Approval:** Lexington Parks and Recreation will present the requested Capital Improvement Plan through the annual LFUCG budget approval process.
- **Public Updates:** Capital project status will be shared with the public through neighborhood and stakeholder meetings, Parks Advisory Board meetings, and online reporting.
- **Annual Report:** An Annual Report will be created and published annually for the previous fiscal year.
- **Auditing and Oversight:** LFUCG Internal Audit will review the spending of Parks funds and ensure that they are being used in accordance with the Park Fund ballot language, the Park Fund Program Policy and other applicable policies.



Park Fund Website

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[Facilities](#)

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Park Fund

What is the Park Fund?

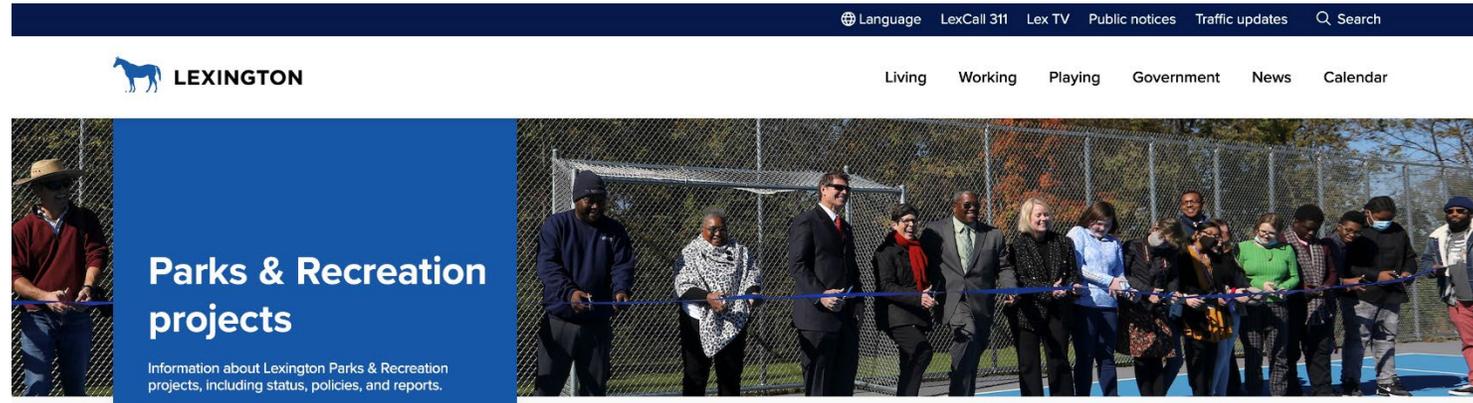
Voters approved passage in November 2024. This dedicated fund will provide over \$8 million annually to improve and develop our park system.



What was the ballot language?

For the ratification of the establishment of a dedicated public "Park Fund" program that will provide funds to improve and develop neighborhood parks, walking and hiking trails, nature parks, bike trails, swimming pools, playgrounds, dog parks, recreational facilities and other related facilities for children, adults, families, and seniors to be financed by the levy of an additional two and one-quarter cents (\$0.0225) per one hundred dollars (\$100) on all taxable real property, effective Jan. 1, 2025.

Park Fund Website – What’s Next



Language LexCall 311 Lex TV Public notices Traffic updates Search

LEXINGTON

Living Working Playing Government News Calendar

Parks & Recreation projects

Information about Lexington Parks & Recreation projects, including status, policies, and reports.

Informed by our Master and Strategic plans and public input, Lexington Parks & Recreation undertakes projects across the city in our parklands and facilities. Funded by the Park Fund and other funding sources, these projects are tracked from idea to completion. Use the links below to follow along with current projects, submit a project you would like to see, learn more about the process through frequently asked questions, and review our policies, procedures, and annual reports.



Parks & Recreation project tracker

Submit a Parks & Recreation project

Parks & Recreation project FAQ

-  Parks & Recreation project policies and procedures
-  Parks & Recreation project annual reports
-  Parks & Recreation master and strategic plans
-  Park Fund Information

Parks Capital Improvements – Project Mockup

D

Douglass Park

Project: Basketball Court Improvements & Resurfacing
Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Act
Budget: \$34,515.00
Start Date: May 1, 2023
Completion Date: June 15, 2023



Before photo



After photo

M

Mary Todd Park

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Eligible Investments

Referendum Approved by Fayette County Voters – Nov 2024

Ballot Language: FOR RATIFICATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEDICATED PUBLIC "PARK FUND" PROGRAM THAT WILL PROVIDE FUNDS TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, WALKING AND HIKING TRAILS, NATURE PARKS, BIKE TRAILS, SWIMMING POOLS, PLAYGROUNDS, DOG PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND OTHER RELATED FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN, ADULTS, FAMILIES, AND SENIORS TO BE FINANCED BY THE LEVY OF AN ADDITIONAL TWO AND ONE QUARTER CENTS (\$0.0225) PER ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100) ON ALL TAXABLE REAL PROPERTY, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025.

Ineligible Expenses*

- **Personnel**
 - Wages, FICA, leave, benefits, unemployment insurance, etc.
- **Programming**
 - Professional services, rent/lease equipment, food and household items, contract services, programming supplies, etc.
- **Operating**
 - Mowing, landscaping, portable toilets, chemicals, utilities, software, operating supplies and equipment, etc.
- **Land Acquisition**
 - Parks will continue to utilize the Park Acquisition Fund



* This list may not include all ineligible expenses.

Project Prioritization and Selection

Capital Construction, Repair and Replacement Projects

Life Safety: Projects that prioritize health, safety, welfare of the public and risk reduction.

Code Compliance: Projects that ensure features and facilities are meeting current regulations and codes for the safety of the public.

Stewardship/Preserving Assets: Rehabilitation of parks facilities or feature that experience unplanned failure.

Master Plan: Projects identified by a system wide analysis of park and facility needs.

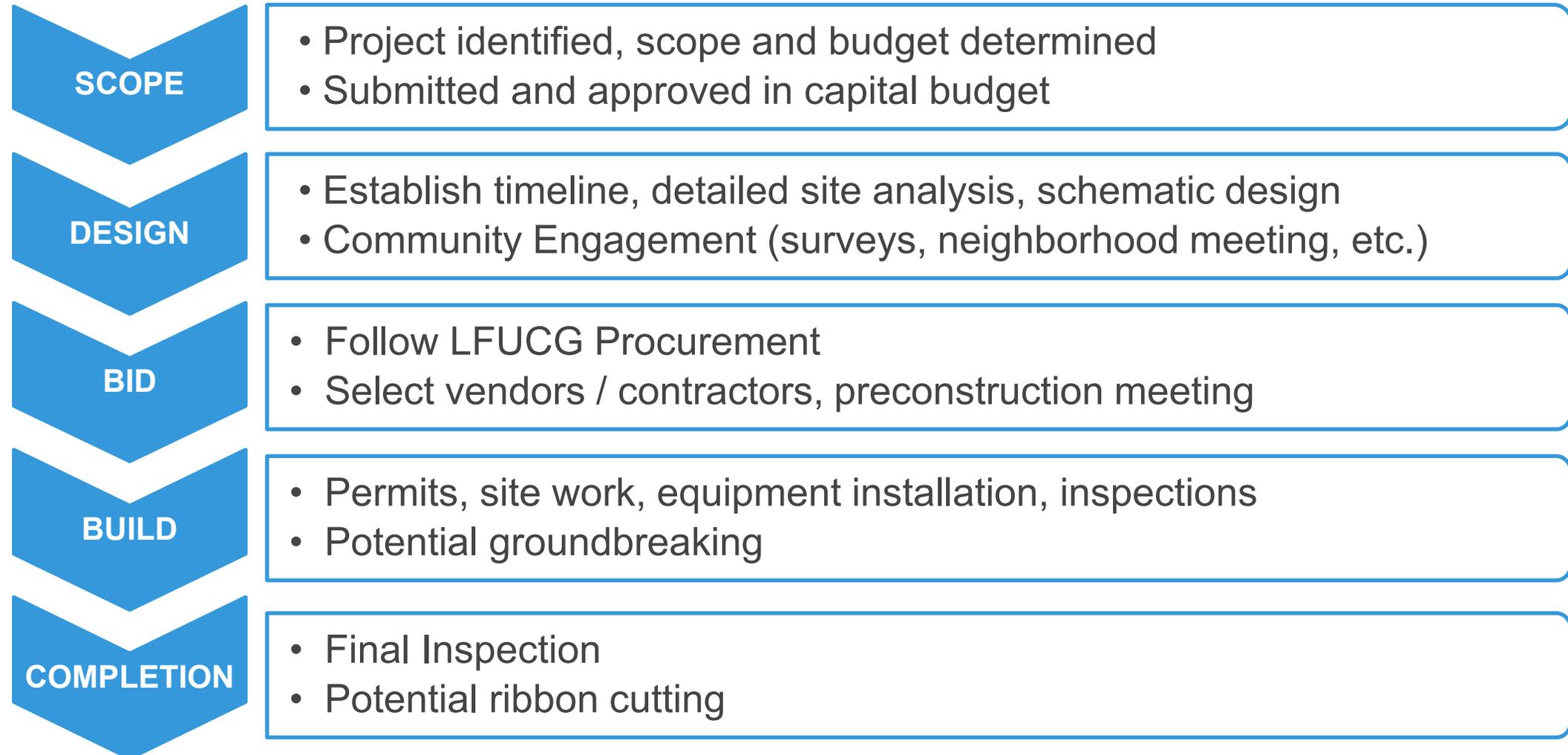
Emerging Opportunities: Projects identified through trend analysis or community input arising outside of the master plan process.

Capital Repairs Unassigned/Contingency: A contingency of up to 10% of the total annual Parks Fund revenue will be set aside for unassigned repairs, unexpected capital failures and cost overruns on previously approved projects.

Governance and Program Oversight

- Mayor, Council and Administration have approval authority.
- All projects shall abide by all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
- Parks and Recreation Leadership will ensure that expenditures align with the mission, vision, goals and objectives of the division.
- Community engagement and feedback will be utilized throughout the life cycle of capital projects.
- This policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually.

Capital Construction Process



Park Fund – Year 1 Projects

Park Name	Project	District	Category	Cost/Funding	Status/Project Details
Castlewood	Sport Court Complex Rehabilitation	1	Rehabilitation	\$ 1,000,000	Court replacement due to safety issues
Martin Luther King	Playground	1	Rehabilitation	\$ 800,000	Community park playground replacement due to safety issues
Whitney Young	Community Building Restroom/ Path of Travel Renovation	2	Rehabilitation	\$ 300,000	Restroom rehabilitation for ADA Compliance
Lou Johnson	Park Improvements	3	Rehabilitation	\$ 200,000	Park improvements (fencing, signage, potential shelter)
Veterans	Trail Construction - Phase 1	4	New	\$ 300,000	Trail development due to safety issues
Lansdowne-Merrick	Playground	5	Rehabilitation	\$ 800,000	Community park playground replacement due to lifecycle
Constitution	Concession Building Construction	6	Rehabilitation	\$ 800,000	Concession building replacement
Jacobson	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	7	New	\$ 400,000	New Outdoor Fitness Equipment with shade
Tates Creek	Aquatic Center Renovation - Phase 1	8	Feasibility/ Design	\$ 800,000	Recurring mechanical and infrastructure failures require aquatic center replacement
Higbee Mill	Playground	9	New	\$ 500,000	Deliver neighborhood infrastructure - new playground
Moondance Ampitheater	Facility Improvements	10	New	\$ 300,000	Facility improvements due to high usage
Harrod Hill	Park Improvements	10	Rehabilitation	\$ 300,000	Park improvements (fencing, signage, potential shelter)
Addison	Sport Court Rehabilitation	11	Rehabilitation	\$ 400,000	Court replacement due to lifecycle
Floyd Park	Demolition & Stabilization	12	Rehabilitation	\$ 200,000	Demolition and stabilization due to safety issues
	Unassigned Capital Repair & Contingency	0	Contingency	\$ 800,000	
				\$ 7,900,000	

Questions?