

# funding resources

As expressed in the city’s 2022 Parks & Recreation CIP Study, the City of Northfield must seek additional funding to provide for, maintain, and operate their parks, trails, and open spaces. Securing additional funds to invest in Sechler Park is critical to the future implementation of the recommendations outlined in this plan.

Currently, the city is using (mostly) designated general funds to maintain and improve their parks, trails, and recreational facilities. In the future, the city should consider the following funding sources, mechanisms, and partners to assist in the planning and implementation of various park improvements:

Funding Option	Description	Source
<b>General Funds</b>	A city’s general fund is the main operating account that covers basic operating costs such as planning, police and fire services, and street and park maintenance	Money collected by the city in taxes, fines, fees, and revenues
<b>Dedicated Tax Levy</b>	Cities can hold a referendum to levy a dedicated tax for a specific purpose. In the case of parks and recreation, the tax can fund operations, maintenance, and capital improvement projects	Property taxes
<b>Bonding</b>	Borrowing obligations that incur interest and require repayment at a specific date; typically issued to pay for larger capital projects	Annual appropriation bonds, tax abatement bonds, and revenue bonds
<b>Local Option Sales Tax</b>	Minnesota Statute gives cities the authority to levy a local sales tax by an election process for specific capital improvements	Sales tax addition
<b>State Aid</b>	Funds available to pedestrian and bicycle improvements on state aid roadways (key county highways), most beneficial during construction or reconstruction projects	State of Minnesota
<b>Park and Trail Dedication</b>	Land or cash in-lieu of land from new subdivision developments that must be used for new equipment or park facilities	Developers
<b>Partnerships</b>	Partnerships with private and/or other public entities can be in many forms, including funding, design, operations and maintenance agreements, etc.	Public or private organizations, clubs, agencies, governments, etc.
<b>Donations</b>	Gifts of cash, equipment, labor or others from private individuals or groups	Individuals, businesses, groups, etc..

Table 6: Funding resources

Funding Grants	Description	Agency
<b>AARP Community Challenge Grant</b>	Small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages	AARP
<b>America Walks Community Change Grants</b>	Awards stipends to communities for projects related to creating healthy, active, and engaged places to live, work, and play	Foundation
<b>American Trails Trail Fund</b>	Assists the trails community with funding to support maintenance, research, and stewardship training needs	Foundation
<b>Bridge Investment Program</b>	Provides funding for communities to replace, rehabilitate, and preserve bridge infrastructure	U.S. Department of Transportation
<b>Invasive Species Eradication Funding Opportunity</b>	Provides funding for projects that seek to eradicate invasive species (part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)	U.S. Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>Clean Water Funding</b>	Provides hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities to youth and young adults while providing low-cost labor to eligible applicants	Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
<b>Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant</b>	Provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
<b>Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program</b>	Provides funding to restore, protect, or enhance prairies, wetlands, forests, or habitat for fish, game or wildlife in Minnesota	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
<b>Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund</b>	Aims to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)
<b>Federal Recreation Trail Program</b>	Provides funding to encourage the maintenance and development of motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
<b>Fields for Kids</b>	Provides financial support to improve baseball and/or softball facilities for youth in the Upper Midwest and Southwest Florida	Minnesota Twins Community Fund
<b>Fishing Pier and Shore Fishing Area Program</b>	Joint Power Agreement with the DNR for installation, operations, and maintenance	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
<b>Local Trail Connections Program</b>	Provides funding to promote short trail connections between where people live and significant public resources	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)

Table 6: Funding resources (continued)

Funding Grants	Description	Agency
<b>Minnesota Festival Support Grant Program</b>	Provides arts experiences through festivals celebrating arts, building community, and exposure to diverse art forms	Other - Minnesota
<b>Natural and Scenic Area Grants</b>	Provides funding to increase, protect, and enhance natural and scenic areas	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
<b>No Child Left Inside</b>	Aims to support and increase efforts to expand programming that connects youth to the outdoors	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
<b>Our Town Grant Program</b>	Supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes	National Endowment for the Arts
<b>Outdoor Recreation Grant Program</b>	Provides funding to increase and enhance outdoor recreation facilities in local and community parks throughout the state	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
<b>Parks and Trail Legacy Grant Program</b>	Provides funding for parks and trails of regional significance outside of the seven county metropolitan area	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
<b>PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program</b>	Provides funding that supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride	Other - Minnesota
<b>The Rapid Response Fund</b>	Provides financial resources to assess and support response actions for quick containment or eradication of newly detected species	National Park Service
<b>Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program</b>	Supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation	National Park Service
<b>Rural Initiative Grant Fund Program</b>	Provides funding to encourage collective and involved endeavors among citizens in rural communities	Foundation
<b>Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grants/ Safe Routes to School Planning Assistance Grants</b>	Provides funding for the development and implementation of infrastructure projects which enable students to walk and bike to and from schools	Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT)
<b>State Park Road Account Program</b>	Provides funding to assist local governments in improving access to public recreation facilities	Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT)

Table 6: Funding resources (continued)