

FORM No. 3: NATUREWORKS QUESTIONNAIRE

This section is a very important element in the evaluation of your application. Priority rating criteria, associated points and importance hierarchies are listed in this section.

Please provide complete answers to scoring criteria questions 1 – 6. Applicants are encouraged to provide any and all information that could be beneficial. This may include statistics, photographs, survey results, master plans, etc. It is better to provide too much information than not enough. For example, if a survey was done, rather than simply so stating, provide a summary of results or copies of the survey report. Use additional space or pages as needed.

Question 1. Purpose and Need: Justification and Explanation

Why is the project needed? What is the existing problem? How will the project solve this problem or address the need? Need should be identified using specific local data and not just a general statement. Discuss local supply and demand - rather than only regional or national information. Community-wide surveys, master plans for specific sites, participation studies, local socio-demographic trends, or other documented public input will have priority over general statements of need. Photographs and/or other visual aids are encouraged.

Applicant Response to Question 1:

Avon is one of the fastest growing communities in Northeast Ohio. In 1990, the City of Avon had a population of 7,200 residents. Today the City has a population of 22,302 with 8,007 households.

The City of Avon has always offered its residents many alternatives as it relates to recreation options, all managed by the City Parks and Recreation Department and supported through the collaborative efforts of various city departments (Service, Police, etc...). The City's recreational amenities include 5 community parks, 3 walking paths, 9 water fountain/hydration stations, 4 playgrounds, 1 splash pad, 1 aquatic center and 1 community recreation center. The City of Avon also has an active partnership with the Lorain County Metroparks which operates the 50-acre Miller Nature Preserve Center on State Route 83 in the Avon. This partnership has lead to Avon working to support the Metroparks in their recent purchase of three additional parcels totaling over 150-acres for public opens space and environmental improvements within the city.

Parks are essential for children and youth to access the 60 minutes of physical activity recommended daily. As kids age it is a challenge to get the activity they need, especially if they are not good at sports, lack active role models and come from busy working families. Even with time the desire to be active rather than engage in more sedentary undertakings (e.g., watching TV or playing video games) may not be easy to motivate kids to move. In the 2012 Help Me Grow Report and the 2015 Lorain County Community Health Assessment indicate 28.8% of children ages 2-5 were considered overweight or obese and a similar number of older children do not get the 60 minutes a day physical activity recommended by experts.

Veteran's Memorial Park is located in the south-western part of the City (See Attachment No.3: Site Vicinity/Location Map) and encompasses nearly 112.2 acres and is home to the annual Avon Heritage Duct Tape Festival. There are a multitude of activities offered at the park including 4 baseball fields, 3 softball fields, 2 soccer fields, 2 football fields, 1 practice field, a small fishing pond, a playground, 2 pavilions with grills and a concession/restroom building. The fields are available for rental. We have attached (See Attachment No.6) pictures so you can get a visual feel for the existing park and its amenities.

In a recently completed Parks and Recreation Department Survey (See Attachment No.7), the City asked its residents what they like, what needs attention and what they would like to see. Results from the survey show that 96% of the residents find walking paths very important or important. Also, the residents made a couple specific recommendations for Veteran's Park, it could use a second entrance and needs more parking. Presently the park entrance is shares with a couple homes and a nursery. The proposed plan for the site (See Attachment No.5) will construct an asphalt path through the new park area, provide for a second entrance along the western edge of the proposed park expansion and will provide for an additional parking lot near Detroit Road.

As you may be aware, the City of Avon recently purchased an additional 16.3 acres of property to expand Veteran's Memorial Park to 112.2 acres through a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant. Subsequently, in order to begin implementing the overall plan for the park, a State Capital Grant in the amount of \$100,000 was sought and secured to provide funding for the construction of a signature fishing pier. Since the property ownership of the expansion area transferred to the City of Avon earlier this year, the City Service Department is in the process of a general site cleanup, removal of concrete pad areas, pond assessment, pond maintenance activities, and excavation/roadbed preparation work along the proposed access driveway. The proposed driveway will connect Detroit Road (State Route 254) to the main existing access driveway into the park. The City intends to bid for the proposed access driveway asphalt paving work in the near future. The enhancements being proposed with this NatureWorks grant (asphalt multi-purpose path, pavilion, picnic tables, playground installation, and benches) in combination with the Fishing Pier and the new access driveway from Detroit Road will provide an initial core of public vehicular access, public bike/pedestrian access and desirable amenities for residents to enjoy while they visit the park to explore its natural beauty. Subsequent city efforts will then seek to fully implement the overall plan for the expansion area in a sustained and purposeful way as time, funding opportunities and financial resources allow.

The City of Avon is already moving forward with its own forces and resources to implement an established overall plan to utilize the recently acquired property to expand Veteran's Park. Avon wants to be a good financial partner that will leverage our local resources while willingly sharing the credit with those outside partners that provide vital assistance in the development of and expansion of the Veteran's Park. The City is committed to moving forward with the expansion plans that the residents asked for through the Park and Recreation Survey with the ultimate goal of providing a park that will showcase the natural beauty of the area in a way that all visitors to the park can take part in and enjoy.

PURPOSE and NEED: JUSTIFICATION and EXPLANATION	
Only one score will be selected	Points
In depth explanation and data	25
Moderate explanation and data	20
General explanation and data	12
Explanation without support of data	5
No explanation and no data	0

The following are *suggested* approaches to 'Purpose and Need Justification and Explanation' for common project scenarios. Other approaches may also be used.

- **Acquisition Projects**

For purposes of conservation: The applicant should discuss and provide documentation of the unique characteristics of the property (i.e., wetlands, flora and fauna, geological features, streams, habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered species, etc.). Are similar public opportunities available in the area?

For purposes of recreation facility development: The applicant should discuss and provide documentation of the local need for the facility (i.e., playgrounds, game fields, camping, etc.).

- **Game fields/courts (baseball, soccer, etc.)**

Fields for organized teams and leagues: The applicant should discuss and provide documentation on the following:

- Number of current and projected activity participants,
- Number, location, condition etc. of existing fields,
- Capacity of existing fields/courts versus documented demand (for example - a log illustrating that access to participation has been denied due to lack of fields/courts, schedules, etc.)

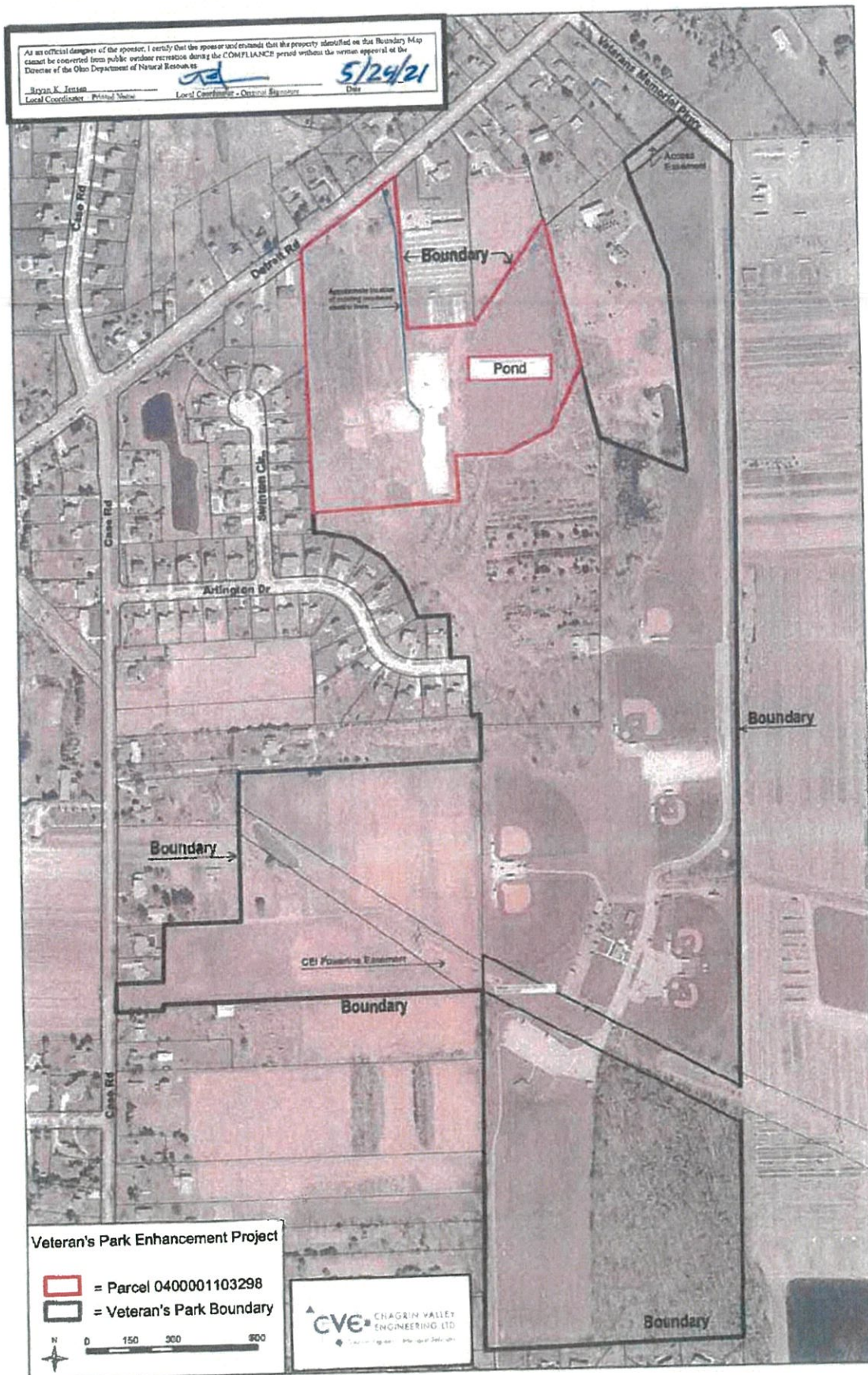




EXHIBIT "B"

Nature Works Grant

Veteran's Park Expansion – Phase 1A

May 27, 2021

This proposed project will consist of the installation of playground equipment, park benches, picnic tables and a pavilion within Veteran's Memorial Park. These items will be installed near the proposed fishing pier. Listed below are the costs associated with the installation of these items.

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
20' x 40' Metal-Roofed Pavilion including Installation	1	LUMP	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
24' x 44' x 4" Thick Concrete Pad for Pavilion	1	LUMP	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00
8' Metal Park Benches	4	EACH	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
8' Metal Picnic Tables	10	EACH	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00
Playground Equipment & Installation Complete (See Attached Price Quote & Plans)	1	LUMP	\$82,640.00	\$82,640.00
Subtotal Estimate of Construction Costs				\$154,140.00
10% Contingency				\$15,000.00
Total Estimate of Construction Costs				\$169,140.00