

Application Details

Initial Submit Date:
Initially Submitted By:
Last Submit Date:
Last Submitted By:

Primary Contact Information

Wilmington North Carolina 28402
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (910) 254-0907 Ext.
Phone
###-###-####

Fax: ###-###-####

Name*:	Wilmington, City of
Organization Type*:	City Government
Tax Id:	56-6000239
County*:	New Hanover
Organization Website:	https://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/
Address*:	PO Box 1810

Wilmington North Carolina 28402-
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
(910) 254-0907 Ext.
###-###-####
###-###-####

Phone*:

Fax:

Accessible Parks Application

Project Contact Information

Local Government Contact Person for the Grant

(must be an employee of the sponsoring local government)

*:

Andrea Talley
First Name Last Name

Cultural Programs Specialist City of Wilmington Parks and Recreation
Title Organization

Mailing Address*:

PO Box 1810

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Wilmington North Carolina 28402-____
City State Zip Code

Phone Number*:

910-254-0907

Email Address*:

andrea.talley@wilmingtonnc.gov

Local Government Manager*:

Anthony Caudle
First Name Last Name

City Manager
Title

Organization:

City of Wilmington

Mailing Address*:

PO Box 1810

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Wilmington North Carolina 28402
City State Zip Code

Phone Number*:

910-341-4658

Email Address*:

tony.caudle@wilmingtonnc.gov

Chief Elected Official*:

Bill Saffo
First Name Last Name

Mayor
Title

Mailing Address*:

PO Box 1810

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City*:

Wilmington North Carolina 28402-____
City State Zip Code

Recreation Resources Service (RRS) Regional Consultant*:

Brittany Shipp - Southeast Region
Please choose one.

Project Information

Project Name*:

Fit For Fun Center Accessible Outdoor Playground

Project Location: 34.23175
Latitude (00.00000)

Longitude: -77.93662
Longitude (-00.00000)

Project Address*: 302 S. 10th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401

Is this an LWCF-funded park on these [lists of NC projects?](#)

LWCF Project*: No

List the Grant Numbers:

Certification and Approval by Local Governing Board

I hereby certify the information contained in the attached application is true and correct and the required dollar-for-dollar matching funds will be available during the project period. This application has been approved by the local governing board.*: No

Chief Elected Official*: First Name Last Name

Signed Document*:

Project Description

Describe your project in 3-5 sentences, including improvements to remove accessibility barriers.

Project Description*:

The City of Wilmington is applying for funds to support the replacement of the Fit For Fun Center's outdoor playground with an ADA-Accessible, intentionally inclusive playground. Input from advocates and people living with disabilities will inform the final design of the playground, which will include extended pour-in-place surface, ramps and stairs (for children who are developing mobility), generation and accessible swings, and accessible ground-level features. The Fit For Fun Center is frequently utilized by families and therapists who work with children with disabilities, and the new playground will be a place for developing social, emotional, and mobility skills. Children and adults with disabilities will feel welcome and will enjoy a playground that was intentionally designed with them in mind.

Project Justification

Describe how this project will address accessibility and meet the unique needs of persons with disabilities or enable them to participate in recreational and sporting activities and how it will impact your community.

Project Justification*:

The City of Wilmington's Fit For Fun Center is a vital community resource that celebrates the developmental milestones of early childhood through the power of play. Dedicated to serving children from birth to 5 years old and their caregivers, the Center provides a safe, nurturing, and dynamic environment for exploration, creativity, and caregiver-child bonding. In alignment with its mission, the Center prioritizes inclusivity and accessibility for all children and their families, including those living with disabilities. This grant proposal seeks \$235,200 from the North Carolina Accessible Parks Program to replace the Center's outdoor playground with an ADA-accessible structure. By doing so, the Center aims to foster a more inclusive environment, enhance recreational opportunities, and address the unique needs of those with disabilities.

The existing outdoor playground at the Fit For Fun Center, installed in 2002, is no longer adequate to meet the needs of its diverse users. As a facility that sees a high volume of use, the playground is showing signs of wear and lacks the features necessary to support children and adults with disabilities. Its current design does not comply with modern ADA standards, creating barriers for families who wish to use the space for physical therapy, play therapy, or simple enjoyment.

This project will replace the outdated structure with an expanded, ADA-accessible playground and surfacing. Key features will include ADA-compliant equipment to ensure children of all abilities can actively participate. The installation of rubberized, shock-absorbing playground surfaces will provide mobility aid users with safe and smooth access. Inclusive design elements will create spaces that encourage interaction among children with and without disabilities, fostering social inclusion and understanding. Enhanced safety measures, such as upgraded fencing and perimeter features, will ensure the safety of all users, particularly young children and those with mobility challenges.

The enhanced playground will directly address the unique needs of those with disabilities by providing opportunities for physical therapy. Families utilizing the space for therapeutic purposes will benefit from equipment specifically designed to aid motor skill development and strength building. Additionally, an inclusive playground promotes interactions between children of varying abilities, reducing stigma and fostering empathy and friendships. By ensuring accessibility, caregivers with disabilities or those assisting children with disabilities will find the playground easier and more enjoyable to navigate.

The new playground aligns with Fit For Fun’s overarching goal of creating a welcoming and enriching space for all families. Enhanced community cohesion will result from providing a venue where families can connect and share experiences regardless of ability levels. Accessible play opportunities will support early development, offering benefits that are critical for physical, cognitive, and emotional growth. Moreover, the new playground will reinforce Wilmington’s reputation as a city committed to inclusion and accessibility.

The replacement of the outdoor playground at the Fit For Fun Center represents an opportunity to advance accessibility and inclusivity for Wilmington’s families. By addressing the unique needs of those with disabilities, this project will create a safe, engaging, and equitable environment for all young children to learn, grow, and thrive. Securing this grant will allow us to continue fulfilling our mission of fostering joy, connection, and development through the power of play. This project can help ensure that every child, regardless of ability, has access to the benefits of recreation and community engagement.

AP Site Information

Access Impact

Named Attachment	Required	Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
List of Facilities: No Access to Minimum Access (ADA)						
List of Facilities: Minimum Access (ADA) to Maximum Access						
List of Facilities: No Access to Maximum Access						

Site Plan

Site Plan*:

Type of Site Control

Fee Simple Title*: Yes

Entire or Portion of Site: Entire Site
Please choose one.

Lease (25 years or longer)*: No

Easement*: No

Limitations

Limitations, Conditions or Encumbrances*: No limitations, conditions, or encumbrances
Please choose one.

Site Control (Attorney’s Certification Required)

An attorney has reviewed the site of the proposed project identified on this page and certify that the information provided above is accurate to the best of their knowledge. The proposed project will be on one contiguous site.*: No

Name*: First Name Last Name
Title Date

Signed Document*:

Site Operation and Maintenance

Please choose from the following:

- *The applicant has a full-time parks and recreation department that will manage the project site to provide programming and ensure adequate operation and maintenance.
- *The applicant has a full-time staff, such as public works, who will manage the project site and ensure adequate operation and maintenance.
- *The applicant will manage the project site with part-time staff or by contractual agreement to ensure adequate operation and maintenance.
- *An organized volunteer group, such as a civic group or youth sports association will operate and maintain the site.

Site Operation and Maintenance*: Full-Time Parks and Recreation Department
Please choose one.

AFP Project Costs

Accessible Parks Project Costs

Project Element	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Item Cost
Existing play structure demolition	1	\$13,580.00	\$13,580.00
Site Preparation	1	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00
Installation	1	\$69,640.00	\$69,640.00
ADA-Accessible Play Structures	1	\$93,609.24	\$93,609.24
Double Bay Swing Shade	1	\$12,664.00	\$12,664.00
GT-Impax Poured in Place	3124	\$23.00	\$71,852.00
Perimeter Chain-Link Fencing	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Freight	1	\$4,604.76	\$4,604.76
			\$280,000.00

Planning Costs

Planning Costs

Construction management, site planning, preliminary design, survey and appraisals, or the cost of preparing the application (not to exceed 20% of the cost of the project or \$120,000 - whichever is less)

AP Planning Costs*: \$0.00

Contingency Costs

Contingency for the Cost of Building/Renovating

Contingency (not to exceed 5% of the cost to build or renovate or \$50,000 - whichever is less)

Contingency*: \$14,000.00

Source of Matching Funds

Name or Description of Source	Amount of Funds
Parks Capital Budget	58800.00
	58800.00

Accessible Parks Budget Summary

Total Project Cost: \$294,000.00

Total AP Grant Request*: \$235,200.00

Total Local Match*: \$58,800.00

Environmental Review

Environmental Review

Describe in detail the existing or proposed park property including the park acreage (for land and water), topography, streams, lakes, and any significant natural resources that are on or adjacent to the site.

Site Description*:

The Fit for Fun Center lies within the 18-acre Robert Strange Park, a heavily used park which contains a Community Center, 6 tennis/pickleball courts, 2 softball fields and 1 baseball field, a pool, 2 outdoor basketball courts, and the Sherriedale Morgan Fitness Center. The remainder of the park surface is grass and concrete. The 0.1-acre surface of the outdoor playground area to be replaced is pour-in-place rubber and grass. There are no known significant natural resources on or near the site.

What are the past and/or current uses of the property?

Examples: Urban/developed, forest, agricultural, industrial site, landfill, water, or wetland.

* Important: If the property has been contaminated (example: brownfield sites), all clean up actions must be completed before an AP project can begin.

Use this space to describe any clean up actions that are needed.

Past/Current Property Use*:

The property has been developed for at least a century. Robert Strange Park was the site of the World War One Marine Hospital site and then a prisoner of war site during World War Two until 1946. It is unclear in what year the park was established. The 0.1-acre surface of the outdoor playground to be replaced is currently half pour-in-place rubber and half grass. The proposed project will replace both with new pour-in-place rubber, which will be easier to maintain and more accessible.

Describe any wetland areas on the site including the acreage.

Describe any disturbance of wetlands needed to develop the proposed project. Please state if no wetlands exist on the site.

Wetlands*:

No wetlands exist on the site.

Please Attach a Wetlands Delineation

[Wetland Delineation.pdf](#)

Map*:

Describe any floodplain areas within or adjacent to the site and delineate floodways. Please state if none exist. Include delineating 100-year floodways and floodplains.

Floodplain Areas*:

The Overall Flooding Hazard risk is rated as "low" by the North Carolina Flood Risk Information System. No floodways exist on or near the site.

Describe the predominant tree and wildlife species on or adjacent to the site.

Tree and Wildlife Species*:

Tree species within Robert Strange Park include laurel oak, live oak, American sycamore, and pecan. Wildlife species include grey squirrels and common birds such as the Northern Cardinal and the American Crow.

List any known archaeological or historical sites within the project site or in the vicinity of the site. Has the area been surveyed by an archaeologist? If so, when and by whom?

Archaeological or Historical Sites*:

The site has been a park for at least fifty years. Prior to becoming a park, the site housed a World War I hospital and then a World War II Prisoner of War camp. It is unclear whether the park site has been surveyed by an archaeologist.

List all existing recreational facilities and other structures on the site, regardless of their age. Indicate if any structure is more than 50 years old. Provide a photograph and pertinent historical information about the structure(s) which are 50 years or greater. Indicate whether any existing structure(s), regardless of age, will either be demolished or renovated for recreational use by the proposed project?

Existing Structures*:

On the outdoor playground site, there are one large play structure and several small play structures, four posts which support a shade canopy, and a chain link fence surrounding the outdoor play area. The outdoor play area is adjacent to the Fit For Fun Center Building. The existing play structures and fence will be demolished and replaced by the proposed project.

Describe any existing utility easements within the site; including the width and length. Also, describe the existing water, sewer, and road systems at the site.

Describe any water, sewer, or road systems included in the proposed project.

Utilities*:

The HVAC system is adjacent to the playground area within a separate locked fence. Within the current playground fencing there is water access with one water hose hook up. Just outside the fence, within the HVAC area, is an electrical outlet.

How many acres are to be disturbed and/or cleared for the proposed development?

Ground Disturbance / Site Clearing*:

0.10

Is a new indoor facility proposed?

New Facility*:

No

Is a greenway or trail proposed?*

No

List all permits that have been or will be applied for or received, such as erosion control, CMAA or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits. Include a brief discussion and documentation of interactions with permitting agencies.

Permits*:

No permits are required.

Documentation:

Environmental Review

Review Requirement

Wetlands

[National Wetlands Inventory](#)

Attach a copy of the map of the park site from the National Wetlands Inventory.

[Wetland](#)

[Inventory.pdf](#)

Streams on Site

[NC Surface Water Classifications](#)

Attach a copy of the map of the park site from this NC DEQ Surface Water Classifications resource.

[Surface Water Classifications.pdf](#)

Floodplains

[NC Flood Risk Information System](#)

Attach a copy of the map of the park site from the NC Flood Risk Information System.

[Flood Risk.pdf](#)

Archaeological or Historic Sites

[NC HPOWEB 2.0](#)

Attach a copy of the map of the park site from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office GIS Web Service. Once here, click on the "View" button on the right side to enter your site address. Note: Any project with a federal funding component or with any ground disturbance requires a SHPO review, regardless of HPOWEB results.

[Historic Preservation Map.pdf](#)

Planning and Public Involvement

Planning

Comprehensive Systemwide Plan

The applicant has a Comprehensive Systemwide Parks and Recreation Plan and the project conforms to the plan.

Comprehensive Systemwide Plan: Yes

Date the Plan was Produced: 11/30/2022

Comprehensive Plan: [2022-11-30 Wilmington Comprehensive PROS Master Plan 1.pdf](#)

The local governing board has adopted the systemwide plan.

Plan Adopted: Yes

Date the Plan was Adopted: 01/10/2023

Evidence of Adoption: [Resolution Adopting 2022 Parks Recreation Open Space Comprehensive Plan.pdf](#)

Page(s) the Project Identified on: 2-7, 2-11, 2-55, 2-65, 3-31, 5-7

ADA Transition Plan

The applicant has an ADA transition plan, and the existing park is identified in the plan.

ADA Transition Plan: Yes
Please choose one.

Date the Plan was Produced: 04/03/2023

ADA Transition Plan: [ada-transition-plan-addendum-1_final.updated-links.pdf](#)

Page(s) the Project Identified on: 12-13

ADA Self-Evaluation

The applicant does not have an ADA transition plan, but has completed a self-evaluation [using an ADA Checklist](#). Applicant should complete the checklist for the entire project site to receive points.

ADA Self-Evaluation: Yes
Please choose one.

ADA Self-Evaluation Upload: [ADA Play Spaces Self-Evaluation.pdf](#)

Public Involvement: Meetings & Parks and Recreation Board

The applicant conducted a public meeting exclusively for discussing the AP grant project and obtaining comments within the past 24 months. The meeting was widely advertised, which means applicant must demonstrate more than one source of advertisement.

Public Meeting: Yes

Date of Meeting(s): 01/13/2025

Public Meeting Supporting Documentation:

The applicant presented the AP grant project to the parks and recreation advisory board or a similarly appointed, nonelected group, and received a motion of support for the project within the last 24 months.

Support From a Parks and Recreation Board: Yes

Supporting Documentation: [Advisory Board Documentation.pdf](#)

Public Involvement: Group Presentations

Name of Organization	Date of Presentation	Meeting Agenda or Letter Included	How does this group serve or advocate for people living with disabilities?
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No Data for Table

Public Involvement Statement

Public Involvement Statement:

Application Supporting Documentation

Application Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
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No files attached.