



GRESHAM

The Children's Fountain

Project Overview

Contacts

For questions about
The Children's Fountain:

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To submit official public
comments about the
proposed Section 108
loan application for The
Children's Fountain by
4:30 p.m. on April 3:

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What is The Children's Fountain?

The Children's Fountain is a proposed interactive fountain (also known as a "contact" fountain or "splash pad") to be constructed at the Arts Plaza, located in downtown Gresham between Northeast 2nd and 3rd streets, and N.E. Hood and Kelly Avenues.

What is the origin of this project?

The Children's Fountain has always been a planned element of the City's Arts Plaza, which was constructed in 2008 after years of planning. In an effort to complete the Plaza and activate the space with this people-attracting amenity, City Council has included The Children's Fountain on its annual Work Plan for the past two years.



What is the purpose of this project?

The co-location of a water feature for kids and an outdoor event space provides a gathering place for everyone and will be a successful tool to draw a broad base of visitors to downtown Gresham. This not only fills a much-needed gap in Parks and Recreation amenities for Gresham, but serves as an economic catalyst to downtown Gresham by increasing business activity and helping to spur development and private investment in Gresham's core.

What is the cost of this project?

The total cost for this project is \$1.5 million. Maintenance would require about \$25,000 per year, which is a small percentage of the City's annual budget for Parks maintenance.

Why now?

The City has an opportunity to pursue federal grant dollars for this project. In tough economic times seeking alternative funding sources for public amenities that the entire community to enjoy is vital.



What is the funding plan for this project?

The City is proposing to use grant dollars to fund 100 percent of the construction of The Children's Fountain. This means that no money would be paid directly by Gresham residents or businesses. The City is proposing to use a federal tool called Section 108 to borrow the money and then repay the loan with a portion of its annual federal CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) allocation.

Does the cost to construct this project take away from essential City services, such as Police and Fire?

No. The federal grant money that the City is proposing to apply for cannot be used to fund ongoing City services such as Police or Fire. In addition, the project would only be repaid with a portion of the City's CDBG resources allocated for "Public Improvements", which do not compete with projects that provide public services or housing to low-income residents.

Why is the fountain planned to be located at the Arts Plaza downtown?

The Children's Fountain has always been an integral part of the plan for the Arts Plaza, and is needed to complete the vision for the Plaza of bringing more people downtown. In addition to bringing more people downtown and serving as an economic catalyst, this free parks and recreation amenity would be easily accessible by MAX train, car, or bicycle, providing a place for Gresham's families to gather and have fun.

How can I ask questions or provide my input to the City about this project?

Please contact Steve Fancher (503-618-2583, steve.fancher@greshamoregon.gov) to ask questions about The Children's Fountain. Please contact Louise Dix (503-618-2618, louise.dix@greshamoregon.gov) to submit official public comments about the proposed Section 108 loan application for The Children's Fountain by 4:30 p.m. on April 3.



Above: Two views of a children's fountain, Silver Spring, MD