

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: August 12, 2025

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of City Council

From: Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager
Ken Millett, Economic Development Director

Council Action Requested:

Items Related to Award of a Grant from the N.C. Land and Water Trust Fund for The Grounds Project:

- A) Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of the Grant
- B) Amendment to the FY 2025-2026 Project Budget Ordinance

Strategic Focus Area: N/A

Strategic Plan Objective: N/A

Summary of Information:

The State of North Carolina's FY 2023-2024 budget included a Directed State Grant of \$35 million to the City of Winston-Salem for infrastructure serving the joint Carter/Front Street Capital mixed-use project now known as "The Grounds" along Deacon Boulevard. Construction continues, and approximately \$15.8 million has been disbursed through July 2025.

The City was subsequently awarded a \$787,662 grant from the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources through its NC Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) for The Grounds. The grant does not require a local match from the City. The funds were designated for the restoration of the natural hydrology and stream channel to a severely degraded and eroded 2,150 linear foot tributary to Silas Creek. Invasive species will also be removed and replaced with native species.

In addition to improving downtown impacts and restoring a native habitat for wildlife and vegetation to thrive, per Exhibit A the restoration will be a focal point for the proposed adjacent mixed-use development, providing an outdoor natural amenity for the nearby communities.

Committee Action:

Committee	Finance 8/12/2025	Action	Approval
------------------	-------------------	---------------	----------

For	Unanimous	Against	
------------	-----------	----------------	--

Remarks:

The attached resolution accepts the \$787,662 grant and authorizes the City Manager and City Clerk to execute an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to receive the funds and a sub-recipient agreement with Carter USA/Front Street Capital to use the funds. The sub-recipient agreement will specify the planned uses of the grant funds, timeline for expending the funds, reporting requirements, and disbursement schedule. The agreement with Wake Forest University will outline land-use restrictions and the obligations under the grant agreement that will be their responsibility as the property owner. The attached Project Budget Ordinance also amends the FY 2025-2026 budget.