

Application: 24134

City of North Port

Started at: 2/25/2025 02:47 PM - Finalized at: 3/4/2025 09:13 AM

Page: Basic Information

Category

Flagship Grant

Flagship Grant Application

1. Common name of Applicant Organization (Max: 60 characters)

City of North Port

Legal Name of Applicant Org

Organization Street Address

4970 City Hall Boulevard

Organization Street Address Line 2

Organization City

North Port

Organization State

Florida

Organization Zip / Postal Code

34286

Organization's Project Manager First / Last Name

Devon Poulos

Organization's Project Manager Title

Aquatics Manager

Organization's Project Manager Phone

+1 941-429-3573

Organization's Project Manager Email

dpoulos@northportfl.gov

4. Organization Tax Status

A municipality

5. Organization Federal Tax Identification Number

596072227

Website

www.northportfl.gov/Home

X Handle (formerly Twitter)

@CityofNorthPort

Facebook Page Name

@northportfl.gov

7. Has your organization applied for an AARP Community Challenge previously?

No - Did not apply

8. How did you hear about this grant opportunity?

Social Media

Page: Community Details

Note: This information is for AARP's internal analysis only, and will not be used in award information, etc.

City

North Port

County

FL

State

Florida

Zip Code

34286

10. Would you describe this community as:

Suburban

11. How many residents do you estimate will directly benefit from the project per year?

150000

Please estimate the percentage (%) of those residents that are age 50 or over:

51

Residents - Please explain:

150,000 residents use the Warm Mineral Springs Park every year, and the media age of the City is 48.8. Most users of the park itself are over the median age, suggesting 90,000 or more users per year will benefit from a MobiMat while using the park

12. This project will primarily reach residents living:

Across the whole community (e.g., city, county, unincorporated area)

Page: Project Details

- Partisan, political or election related activities
- Planning activities, assessments or surveys of communities without tangible engagement
- Studies with no follow-up action
- Publication of books or reports
- Acquisition of land and/or buildings
- Purchase of a vehicle (such as a car or truck)
- Sponsorships of other organizations' events or activities
- Research and development for a nonprofit endeavor
- Research and development for a for-profit endeavor
- The promotion of a for-profit entity and/or its products and service

13. Project Description

Warm Mineral Springs Park is a cherished natural resource in our community, attracting approximately 150,000 visitors annually, most aged 50 and older. To enhance accessibility and ensure that all guests can fully enjoy the Springs' therapeutic benefits, we propose installing a MobiMat.

A MobiMat is a high-quality roll-out pathway that provides stable and slip-resistant access over sand, grass, and other uneven surfaces. It is made of durable, eco-friendly materials and is ADA-compliant, making it ideal for improving accessibility in natural areas. The MobiMat will extend from key entry points around the Spring, offering a continuous, user-friendly pathway for individuals with limited mobility.

The MobiMat reduces the risk of injuries by, providing a secure and stable walking surface. Visitors with mobility impairments can confidently navigate the springs, lessening their reliance on others for assistance. Older adults can fully explore the springs and enjoy physical and mental health benefits. Installing the MobiMat will ensure safe and convenient pathways for older visitors, making it easier for them to enjoy more of the park's natural beauty. Accessible pathways encourage frequent visits, allowing guests to comfortably connect with friends and family.

1. Creating Vibrant Public Places—Installing a MobiMat will enhance Warm Mineral Springs' accessibility and usability, improving visitors' ability to navigate the area safely and comfortably. This will create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all guests, particularly older adults with mobility challenges.
2. Improving Transportation & Mobility Options – By extending accessibility pathways by over 300 feet, the MobiMat will allow individuals using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids to navigate the springs easily. It will also enhance walkability, ensuring that older adults can move safely without the risk of slips or falls on uneven terrain.

14. Flagship Project Short Summary

Installing a MobiMat at Warm Mineral Springs Park will significantly enhance accessibility, ensuring that all visitors—regardless of mobility level—can fully enjoy the unique and restorative experience of Warm Mineral Springs Park.

AARP Community Challenge projects should be quick-action in nature and able to be completed by December 15, 2025. Please provide a brief project timeline using the month boxes below. **Be sure to include time to receive any municipal approvals, land-use agreements, request for proposals/contractor bidding process and approvals, impact of potential weather (heat, cold, rain), supply chain lead time, etc.**

NOTE: We anticipate that grantees will receive selection notifications in May and payment in June/July. Projects must be completed by December 15 and After-Action Reports are due December 31, 2025. Please see the [Your Questions Answered](#) webpage for more information on the grant cycle timeline.

June:

Begin Procurement Process according to City of North Port Protocols

July:

Purchase MobiMat

August:

Begin Installation

September

Complete Installation

October

Follow up as needed with AARP via CNP Grants Office

November:

Follow up as needed with AARP via CNP Grants Office

December:

Submit After-Action Report

16. Land-Use Approvals

Yes

Please Explain

Warm Mineral Springs Park is fully owned and operated by the Parks and Recreation department of the City of North Port. This project has only a minimal impact on operations during installation.

17. Upload one attachment if needed.

[Download File](#)

18. Project Type

Permanent physical improvements in the community

19. Flagship Project Category

Create vibrant public places in the community through solutions that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities for residents (especially those 50-plus).

Public Places Subcategory

Park enhancements to serve all residents with emphasis on people 50-plus (e.g., accessible park equipment improvements, new structures, dog parks)

20. Flagship Project Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable: The City will purchase and install a Mobi-Mat at Warm Mineral Springs Park to make the park a more inclusive, intergenerational and age-friendly public space for older adults and all residents in the City.

Quantity: 1

Deliverable: The City will conduct outreach to the community to communicate the new aspects of the Park. This outreach will include social and traditional media about the project, ensuring all citizens and especially citizens over the age of 50 are aware of the enhancements.

Quantity: 1

Deliverable: The City will install AARP branded signage at the Park crediting AARP's assistance with this vital Park enhancement.

Quantity: 1

I. The Organization will purchase and install structures with LED lighting with custom side panels at (ADDRESS)

a. Quantity: 3

II. The Organization will purchase and install ADA compliant benches that will seat a minimum of two people at (ADDRESS)

a. Quantity: 7

III. The Organization will purchase and install AARP branded signage at (ADDRESS)

a. Quantity: 15

IV. The Organization will purchase and install accessible raised garden beds made of materials suitable for outdoor use

a. Quantity: 10

V. The Organization will hold event on (DATE) (event examples: workshops, hackathon, trainings)

a. Quantity: 1

VI. The Organization's goal is to have community members to be trained at workshops on 50+ issues, with at least half of attendees being age 50 and older.

a. Quantity: 250

VII. The Organization will hold a (kick-off, ribbon cutting, etc.) event on November 1, 2025.

a. Quantity: 1

VIII. The Organization has a goal of attendees at event, with at least half of attendees being age 50 and older.

a. Quantity: 400

IX. The Organization will engage volunteers over the course of the project – including painting accessible benches made of outdoor materials, installation, and the kick-off event, with half being age 50 and older.

a. Quantity: 70

Page: Project Narrative

21. Organizational Livable Communities Activities

The Parks and Recreation department is deeply committed to a strategic vision of developing and maintaining facilities that enhance the quality of life for all residents, but we are especially attune to the needs of our residents over the age of 50. Our park facilities and programs cater especially to this demographic, as it constitutes nearly half of the population of the entire city.

Over the last 10 years, North Port has seen a growing proportion of middle-aged adults, which has lead to an increase demand for bicycle and walking trails, arts and cultural events, and fitness programs and facilities for this group. As a result, the City has worked to provide "age-friendly" communities that meet senior residents needs. Such elements for age-friendly and thus livable communities include: clean, pleasant, public areas; a sufficient number of well maintained, paved, wheelchair accessible paths; safe pedestrian crossings; separate cycle paths; good street lighting and signage; and reliable public transportation. North Port is home to several well-maintained parks, such as the popular Warm Mineral Springs Park and the North Port Aquatic Center, which offer residents the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in a safe and enjoyable environment. These parks provide walking paths, shaded areas, and benches, making them ideal for seniors who may want to engage in light exercise or simply relax in nature.

The North Port Senior Center offers a variety of programs that cater to the interests and needs of older adults. These programs include fitness classes, arts and crafts, social clubs, and educational seminars, all of which help seniors remain engaged and active. Additionally, North Port's parks and recreation department organizes regular social events, such as dances, movie nights, and holiday celebrations, which are open to the entire community but often attract seniors looking for opportunities to meet others and stay active.

22. Community Engagement

The results of the 2023 National Community Survey offer insights into how City of North Port residents feel about the livability of their community and the services their local government provides.

The survey, conducted for the City by the National Research Center at Polco, gathered opinions from a representative sample of 500 North Port residents. About eight out of every 10 respondents rated North Port as a good or excellent place to live. About the same percentage also planned to remain in the city for the next five years and said they are likely to recommend living in North Port to someone who asks. And seven in 10 participants rate the overall quality of life as excellent or good.

A livable community encourages civic participation and ensures that residents have opportunities to engage in local decision-making processes. North Port provides numerous avenues for residents, including seniors, to become involved in civic life. The city regularly holds town hall meetings, public forums, and community advisory boards, where residents can share their opinions and help shape policies that affect their daily lives.

Additionally, North Port's seniors are encouraged to participate in volunteer activities and leadership roles within local organizations. The Senior Friendship Centers, for example, offer volunteer opportunities for older adults to contribute their time and skills to the community, from helping with events to mentoring younger generations. By fostering such opportunities for seniors to be civically engaged, North Port ensures that older adults have a voice in shaping the future of their community.

Parks and Recreation plans to promote the enhancements at Warm Mineral Springs park utilizing traditional and nontraditional media, reaching out to local organizations that cater to citizens over 50. Some of these include: Allamanda Garden Club, Amvets and American Legion, Coastal Cruisers Bicycle Club, Friends of the North Port Library, and others.

23. Older Adults

This project is directly targeted and benefitting residents age 50 and over, as the installation of a Mobi-mat will allow greater and safer access to one of the most treasured resources in our community: Warm Mineral Springs Park.

Installing a MobiMat at Warm Mineral Springs Park will significantly enhance accessibility, creating a more inclusive

and enjoyable experience for our aging population. This project aligns with the grant’s mission to improve public

spaces and expand mobility options for residents aged 50 and older. With support from this grant, we can ensure

that all visitors—regardless of mobility level—can fully enjoy the unique and restorative experience of Warm Mineral

Springs Park. Here are examples of its impact.

1. Increased Safety: The MobiMat reduces the risk of injuries by, providing a secure and stable walking surface.
2. Greater Independence: Visitors with mobility impairments can confidently navigate the springs, lessening their reliance on others for assistance.
3. Enhanced Recreation Experience: Older adults can fully explore the springs and enjoy physical and mental health benefits. Installing the MobiMat will ensure safe and convenient pathways for older visitors, making it easier for them to enjoy more of the park’s natural beauty.
4. Improved Socialization Opportunities: Accessible pathways encourage frequent visits, allowing guests to comfortably connect with friends and family.
5. Low maintenance: 100% recycled PET bottles.
6. Environmentally Friendly: Non-intrusive, low impact pathway solution that provides ground protection while facilitating the safe transport of people.

24. Role of Volunteers

No

25. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

No

26. Addressing Disparities

No

27. Veterans and Military Families

No

Page: Project Budget

28. Liability insurance requirement

Yes

Please include the total grant request and specify all expenses that will be covered by this grant.

- *AARP reserves the right to award less funds than requested – applicants should be prepared to discuss how they would scale down their proposal if asked.*
- *The AARP Community Challenge will typically only award grants that spend 0-15% on indirect, overhead, and staff costs. However, AARP reserves the right to award compelling projects that go beyond this range.*
- *Project marketing, branding, etc. can and should be included in project budget. Please budget for any banners, stickers, etc. you'll need to purchase for your project to align with the AARP's branding requirements.*
- *Details on the requirements for insurance, limits on indirect costs and branding are described on the [Your Questions Answered](#) webpage.*

Enter whole numbers only in the amount field. No \$ dollar sign, cents or commas.

TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$

15000

CONTRACTED SERVICE COSTS, IF ANY: \$

0

Contracted Service Additional Information:

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, IF ANY: \$

15000

Materials and Supplies Additional Information:

300 ft of Mobi-Mat. Please see attachment.

TRAVEL EXPENSES, IF ANY: \$

0

Travel Additional Information:

MARKETING, BRANDING, OR OUTREACH, IF ANY: \$

0

Marketing, Branding, or Outreach Additional Information:

Part of regular Parks and Recreation budget.

LIABILITY INSURANCE, IF ANY: \$

0

Liability Insurance Additional Information

Provided by the City

INDIRECT, OVERHEAD, AND STAFF COSTS, IF ANY: \$

0

Indirect, Overhead, and Staff Costs Additional Information:

Part of regular Parks and Recreation budget.

Matching funds are NOT required. Please detail any matching/supporting funds or in-kind support the organization will receive to contribute toward this project. Include volunteer/donated work as in-kind support.

PRIVATE (INCLUDING NONPROFIT) Matching Funds / Supporting Funds: \$

0

PRIVATE (INCLUDING NONPROFIT) In-Kind Support:

0

PUBLIC Matching Funds / Supporting Funds: \$

0

PUBLIC In-Kind Support:

Parks and Recreation will cover the cost of installation and maintenance.

31. Livable Newsletter Consent

Yes, I consent

32. Other Funding

Yes

An opportunity for other possible AARP funding. Please note that by submitting a proposal for the AARP Community Challenge initiative, you and your organization give AARP permission to reach out to you and others at your organization about other possible AARP funding opportunities that your proposal may be eligible for based on the AARP Community Challenge criteria. However, please note that AARP is not obligated in any way to consider your proposal for any additional AARP funding.

Page: Notification

When you SUBMIT this application, you will receive a confirmation email within the hour. Please make sure to check your spam folder if you do not see it. If you do NOT receive a submission confirmation, you have NOT submitted successfully. Please go back and make sure you completed ALL required questions and did not go over the text box character limits.

All applicants will be notified of their selection by email in May 2025. To receive funding, selected applicants must execute and return a binding Memorandum of Understanding and completed financial forms to the AARP National office in a timely manner.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

If you submit this application, you agree on behalf of yourself and your organization to release AARP and its affiliates and their respective officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents and representatives from all liability associated with submission and evaluation of your organization's application.

By submitting an application to AARP, the applicant agrees that:

- The decisions of AARP regarding the eligibility of applicants and the validity of entries shall be final and binding.
- All submissions will be judged by AARP, whose decisions and determinations as to the administration of the award and selection of award recipients are final.
- AARP has the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, or suspend the award.
- All projects and applications shall not violate any third-party rights.
- Except where prohibited by law, participation in the AARP Community Challenge constitutes the Applicant's consent to AARP's use of the organization's name and corporate logo, street address, city, state, zip code, county, and names, likenesses, photographs, videos, images, and statements made or provided by the Applicant's representatives regarding the award for promotional purposes in any media without further permission, consent, payment or other consideration in perpetuity.
- For the *Flagship* and the *Demonstration Grant*, the organization agrees to carry and maintain comprehensive general liability and professional liability in an amount not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and workers' compensation insurance in an amount as required by applicable law covering all personnel engaged in the execution of the grant.
- For the *Capacity-Building Microgrant*, the organization agrees to carry and maintain comprehensive general liability insurance in an amount that's appropriate to cover the potential liability of the project as determined by the organization.
- All promotional materials (such as newsletters, press releases), events and signage related to the funded project will include a statement indicating that support was received from AARP and Community Challenge supporters as required by AARP.
- The organization is required to capture photos, videos and/or stories from the project. As the organization captures photos, videos and/or stories from the project, if an identifiable individual appears in the photos, videos and/or stories, the organization is responsible for having him/her sign the AARP General Release. (This document is provided to grantees with the Memorandum of Understanding and other required paperwork). In addition, the organization should not include any element in photos or videos provided to AARP that may violate third party rights, such as artwork and trademarks in text and logo other than those owned by the organization and AARP. The organization may be asked to send work-in-progress photos to AARP upon request. Following the grant period, grantees are required to respond to periodic requests for updates from AARP.
- The submission of the After-Action Report at the conclusion of the project is required by the deadline. Failure to submit the required report will result in the removal from the AARP website until the time of submission, and non-completion will disqualify an applicant from future AARP Community Challenge grant programs.
- AARP and its affiliated organizations, subsidiaries, agents and employees are not responsible for late, lost, illegible, incomplete, stolen, misdirected, illegitimate, or impermissible submissions or any other error whether human, mechanical or electronic.