



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 21, 2016

Re: Recreational Trails Program Grants & Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Appropriations

## Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting Council approval to execute three agreements with the Department of Natural Resources to accept a total of \$310,000 in grant funding provided by the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and to appropriate the grant funds. The Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded a \$150,000 RTP grant to assist with the replacement of bridges #5 and #7 on the MKT Trail. The total project budget is \$380,000, which includes \$230,000 in Park Sales Tax Funds. The Department was also awarded a \$10,000 RTP Education Grant to replace existing educational signage throughout the Columbia Trail System and replace the main entry sign at Forum Nature Area. The RTP Grant funding requires a minimum 20 percent sponsor match, for a total project cost of \$13,330. The final grant awarded to the department is a \$150,000 LWCF grant to supplement the phase II construction at Norma Sutherland Smith Park. The grant funding will allow for the construction of a skate spot, improved playground and protective surfacing and supplement costs associated with the basketball and baseball amenities. The total grant project cost for Smith Park is \$375,000, which includes \$225,000 in Park Sales Tax Funds. All three projects will be completed using a combination of contract labor and park staff. The Recreational Trails Program education project is expected to be completed by December 2017 and the other two projects are anticipated to be completed by spring 2018.

## Discussion

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a competitive grant program administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, and serves Missouri communities through grant funding opportunities for trail construction, acquisition and education projects. The Parks and Recreation Department applied for and has been awarded two RTP Grants in the FY2016 funding cycle. The Department has been awarded a \$150,000 RTP Grant to supplement the costs associated with the replacement of bridges #5 and #7 on the MKT Trail. The total project cost is \$380,000, which includes \$230,000 in funding from the 2015 Park Sales Tax. The bridge replacement project is necessary due to the age and condition of the existing bridges and inability to take vehicles across the bridges due to weight restrictions. Park staff will return to the Council at a later date to request permission to proceed with the bridge replacement project and provide additional information related to the replacement of the bridges, trail access closure dates, and detour routes.

The Department was also awarded an RTP Education Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to improve existing trail education signage, add new signage along recently constructed trails



# City of Columbia

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and replace the entry sign at the Forum Nature Area. The total cost for the project is \$13,330, which includes \$3,330 in local funding from the Parks and Recreation FY 2016 operating account. The education project includes the addition of 19 trail informational signs promoting trail rules and etiquette related to safe, responsible shared use of the Columbia Trail System. The second portion of the education project will be to replace the existing entry sign at Forum Nature Area. The Forum Nature Area serves thousands of park and trail patrons on an annual basis as a key nature area for the community and as a main trailhead for access to the MKT Trail.

The third grant awarded to the Parks and Recreation Department is a \$150,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The LWCF is a competitive grant program and provides funding for a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects intended to help communities meet the recreation needs of the citizens. On October 17, 2016, the City Council approved the Norma Sutherland Smith Phase II Improvement Project. The project will add a large playground, basketball court, baseball field, walking trail and connecting ADA walkways. The LWCF Grant funding will allow for the construction of a skate spot, improved playground and protective surfacing and supplement costs associated with the basketball and baseball amenities.

All three projects will be completed using a combination of contract labor and force account labor to complete the different aspects of the three projects. The Recreational Trails Program education project must be completed by December 2017 to meet the grant requirements. Park staff anticipates the completion of the phase II improvements at Norma Sutherland Smith and the replacement of bridges #5 and #7 on the MKT trail by spring 2018, which will satisfy the grant completion requirements.

## Fiscal Impact

**Short-Term Impact:** Park staff is requesting Council approval to execute three agreements with the Department of Natural Resources to accept a total of \$310,000 in grant funding provided by the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and to appropriate the grant funds to corresponding projects. The RTP grants require a minimum 20% match from the sponsor, which will be funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and the Parks and Recreation FY 2016 operating budget. The LWCF requires a minimum 55% match by the sponsor organization. The match for the LWCF grant in the amount of \$225,000 is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax.

**Long-Term Impact:** The RTP grant funding will allow park staff to replace two 100+ year old bridges on the MKT Trail that require ongoing maintenance to remove logs, debris and trash trapped by the bridge columns situated in the Hinkson Creek and periodic replacement of rip rap bouldering under the bridges. Once the bridges are replaced with new free-span bridges, these issues will not occur due to improved design of the end walls and removal of the columns. The LWCF Grant funding will supplement projects that will have minimal expense increases once added to the park. Staff is already at the park on a weekly basis for trash removal and shelter maintenance. The baseball field will require infield maintenance



biweekly and the other amenities will only require trash collection and periodic inspections by park staff.

## Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

### Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Parks, Recreation & Greenways, Secondary Impact: Transportation, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Public Safety, Tertiary Impact: Operational Excellence

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Infrastructure

## Legislative History

| Date       | Action   |
|------------|--|
| 10/17/2016 | <a href="#">Ordinance #022972, Authorizing construction of Phase II improvements at the Norma Sutherland Smith Park</a>  |
| 03/21/2016 | <a href="#">Resolution #R30-16, Authorizing application for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant from the MO Dept. of Natural Resources relating to improvements at the Norma Sutherland Smith Park on Waco Road</a> |

## Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the execution of one LWCF and two RTP Grant agreements and appropriating the funds.