



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 20, 2023

Re: 2023 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Application Approval – MKT Bridge Replacement

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting authorization to submit a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant application for partial funding for the MKT Trail Bridge Replacement Project. RTP grants provide up to \$250,000 in funding and require a minimum 20% match from the grant applicant. Park staff is proposing to use the RTP grant funding to offset the costs to replace bridges #2 and #9 on the MKT Trail. Park staff is proposing to submit a RTP grant application requesting the maximum amount of \$250,000. A total of \$340,000 in matching funds is available and includes \$275,000 in Park Sales Tax funding and \$65,000 in donated funds. Any remaining funds after the replacement of bridges #2 and #9 will be used to make needed repairs to bridge #10. The RTP grant application guidelines require a resolution authorizing an application for federal assistance from the Recreational Trails Program for replacement of bridges #2 and #9 on the MKT Trail and the provision of a 25-year deed restriction for the MKT Trail ensuring a commitment to maintain public access. If the grant is successful, staff will return to Council to accept the grant and appropriate the funds to the project.

Discussion

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is currently accepting applications for the 2023 Recreational Trails Program grant cycle. The maximum grant match for the program is \$250,000. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a competitive, federally-funded grant program and provides funding for a variety of trail related projects. The purpose of this program is to promote motorized and non-motorized recreational trails. If awarded, the grant will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to leverage available Parks Sales Tax dollars to replace two bridges on the MKT Trail and complete needed repairs on a third bridge.

A 2013 Engineering Study identified bridges #2 and #9 on the MKT Trail as two of seven original railway bridges most in need of repair and subsequent replacement to accommodate maintenance and emergency vehicles. Park staff is proposing to replace bridges #2, #9 and, with any remaining funds, make needed repairs to bridge #10. A partial source for the grant match will be funds totaling \$275,000, from the 2021 Park Sales Tax. The remaining funding match, totaling \$65,000, will be provided from the Columbia Parks and Recreation Fund as the result of a donation from the estate of Rich Eyler. Mr. Eyler was a frequent trail user and volunteer who passed away in 2021.



RTP grant applicants are required to have City Council approval to apply for the grant. The Department is requesting a resolution authorizing an application for federal assistance for replacement of bridges #2 and #9 on the MKT Trail and the provision of a 25-year deed restriction for the MKT Trail ensuring a commitment to maintain public access.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: There is no short-term fiscal impact associated with applying for the grant. If the grant is awarded, there will be up to \$250,000 in grant funds available for the MKT Trail bridge replacement project. Staff will return to Council at a later date to approve the grant agreement and appropriate the funds to the project.

Long-Term Impact: None.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Inclusive Community, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
9/7/21	<p>R141-21: Declaring the intent of the City Council on utilization of the funds anticipated to be generated by the proposed ten (10) year extension of the one-eighth of one percent local parks sales tax; declaring priorities for expenditure of funds for additional parks projects in the capital improvement plan if additional funds become available.</p> <p><a data-bbox="261 1497 1511 1560" href="https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5084715&GUID=088C6BBF-2D3E-4D74-8A62-B509601FDC32&Options=&Search=">https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5084715&GUID=088C6BBF-2D3E-4D74-8A62-B509601FDC32&Options=&Search=</p>

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution authorizing staff to apply for a 2023 Recreational Trails Program grant for the MKT Trail bridge replacement project.