



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 17, 2025

Re: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Application Approval – MKT Trail Bridge Replacement and Renovation

## 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 and renovation project. This project will replace and/or renovate bridge #9 and bridge #10 located on the MKT Trail. RTP grants provide up to \$250,000 in funding and require a minimum 20% match from the agency applying for the grant. Total project cost for the bridge replacement project is estimated at \$600,000. Park staff will submit a grant application requesting the maximum amount of \$250,000, with \$350,000 in matching funds provided by the 2021 Park Sales Tax and donations from the Richard T. Eyler Trust. The RTP grant application guidelines require a resolution authorizing the grant application and ensuring commitment to maintain public access to the project for a minimum of 25 years.

## Discussion

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is currently accepting applications for the 2025 Recreational Trails Program grant cycle. The maximum grant match for the program is \$250,000. One of the projects identified for funding by the 2021 Park Sales Tax ballot is the replacement and renovation of bridges on the MKT Trail. Staff is proposing to replace and/or renovate bridge #9 and bridge #10 with the current project funds. The source for the grant match will be the 2021 Park Sales Tax and donations from the Richard T. Eyler Trust in the amount of \$350,000.

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 and donated funds to replace and renovate two bridges on the MKT Trail.

RTP grant applicants are required to have City Council approval to apply for the grant. The Department is requesting a resolution authorizing the grant application and ensuring commitment to maintain public access to the project for a minimum of 25 years.

## 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 and renovation project, which will be appropriated to the project by future Council legislation.

**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 | 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. <a href="#">R141-21</a> |

## Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution authorizing City staff to apply for a 2025 Recreational Trails Program grant for the MKT Trail bridge replacement and renovation capital improvement project.