



Date: December 7, 2010

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager
From: Rhonda B. Parker, Director, Parks and Recreation
Subject: Acceptance of Grant from Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Executive Summary

In November 2010 the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) awarded an Adopt-A-Trail grant to the City of Durham Parks and Recreation Department. The grant of \$3,245 will provide funding for the renovation of the trail and bridges around the lake at Campus Hills Park.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the City Council adopt the 2011 Adopt-A-Trail Grant Project Ordinance and authorize the City Manager to execute a grant agreement in the amount of \$3,245.

Background

This park and recreation center is heavily used by the citizens of Durham. The recreation center has a well-attended afterschool program serving an average of 60 children per month. The summer day camp serves 100 children. Environmental education is a major component of both afterschool and summer day camp programming. The renovation of the trail around the lake will greatly enhance the opportunities provided to the children in these programs. The City's Environmental Education program regularly offers programs that bring citizens to the lake area. This recreation center also offers a significant number of programming for mature adults; a key component of several programs is regular walking. In addition, the trail will be used by park visitors using picnic shelters and the playground as well as those who have family members at athletic practices. A portion of the trail is a connector route between adjacent neighborhoods and the park and recreation center. The trail will be a wonderful addition for the new Wellness Center, as we can promote the walking trail to those using the weights and cardio equipment. Finally, with the renovation of the trail, DPR can again offer fishing programs at Campus Hills Park.

The trail circling the 2.5 acre lake in the park has grown over in several locations. In addition to reconditioning the trail, three of four bridges on the trail need extensive repairs and, in one case, replacement. The trail will have an improved natural surface; plans include using fallen trees and branches from the property to line the edges of the trail. There is an asphalt drive leading to the trail that will be repaired as a part of this project. DPR, in partnership with the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission, will achieve this renovation with volunteer labor coordinated by DPR staff.

Issues/Analysis

While this grant does not require a match DPR is planning to spend up to \$1,200 of additional funding on this project if needed. This amount will include purchase of supplies as needed as well as refreshments for the volunteers who will be renovating the trail.

Alternatives

The City Council could choose not to adopt the proposed grant project ordinance; DPR would not accept the grant from DENR for the renovation of the trail around the lake at Campus Hills Park

Financial Impact

The grant for \$3,245 is matched by \$1,200 in funding and various in-kind services from the Durham Parks and Recreation Department

Attachments:

Grant Project Ordinance for the 2011 Adopt-A-Trail Grant Project

Grant Contract from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.