



Date: April 19, 2016

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager
From: Rhonda B. Parker, Director, Parks and Recreation
Subject: Acceptance of 2016 Parks Build Community Grant from the National Recreation and Park Association

Executive Summary

In March 2016, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) awarded a Parks Build Community grant to the City of Durham Parks and Recreation Department (DPR). This is the second award DPR has received in as many years. The grant of \$20,000.00 will support significant renovation to one of three parks that were selected to compete for this funding. Durham residents are casting votes online between April 1 and April 30, 2016 to select the park to be funded.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the City Council adopt the 2016 NRPA Parks Build Community Project Ordinance and authorize the City Manager to execute a grant agreement in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Background

In January of 2016, DPR was one of 15 cities nationwide to be invited to submit an application for the second year of NRPA's Parks Build Community initiative. This initiative is funded by the Disney Company, ABC, and ESPN. The initial invitation asked DPR to identify four to six potential park renovation projects. The proposed projects were required to be focused upon at least one of three principals:

- Connecting kids and nature
- Helping kids and families live healthier
- Improving kids' access to sports

NRPA, Disney, ABC, and ESPN then selected three parks from those submitted for potential funding: Hillside Park, West Point on the Eno Park, and Wrightwood Park.

This unique grant opportunity has a public voting process that results in the selection of one of these parks to receive the award. The public voting process is conducted via an online voting platform managed by NRPA between April 1, 2016 and April 30, 2016. The City of Durham will be notified of the winning park in early May. The funded project must be completed between May and August and will include opportunities for community engagement with local Disney, ABC, and ESPN employees.

DPR is using all means available to encourage public participation in this voting process so that the residents of Durham select the park to receive the funding.

Issues/Analysis

This funding will be used to provide renovation work at one of three parks. The proposed renovation projects are specific to the needs within each park.

- Turn an underutilized outdoor roller skating rink at Hillside Park into a futsal soccer court so youth have the opportunity to participate in this exciting, blossoming sport.
- Help those with disabilities enjoy the 400 acres of parkland and river at West Point on the Eno by enhancing a natural playground area and installing an accessible boat launch.
- Add a new feature to Wrightwood Park by transforming a drainage swale into a shallow stream for children to explore, watch their boats constructed from bark set sail in and discover stream biology.

Alternatives

The City Council could choose not to adopt the proposed grant project ordinance; DPR would not accept the grant from NRPA.

Financial Impact

The grant of \$20,000 does not require a match. There is no known negative financial impact to receiving this grant.

Attachments:

Grant Project Ordinance for the 2016 NRPA Parks Build Community Grant
NRPA invitation to apply for the 2016 NRPA Parks Build Community Grant