



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE

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www.LBParks.org



September 19, 2017

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to submit a grant application to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Grant Program; accept said grant, if awarded, in an amount up to \$500,000, for completion of the Willow Springs Outdoor Education Trailhead and Trail Network; and, execute all documents necessary to accept the funds and implement the project. (District 7)

DISCUSSION

On March 5, 2002, voters passed the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40). The passage of Proposition 40 provided \$2.6 billion in funds for local assistance grants for projects intended to acquire and develop neighborhood, community, and regional parks and recreational areas for land, air, and water conservation programs, including acquisition for those purposes, and to acquire, restore, preserve, and interpret California's historical and cultural resources.

In February 2017, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) began soliciting applications for the Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Grant Program (Grant), funded by Proposition 40. This competitive Grant provides assistance to local agencies and community-based organizations for the development of outdoor environmental education facilities and public outdoor structures and exhibits that facilitate focused learning in a natural outdoor setting with native vegetation, and inspire environmental stewardship and an appreciation of the natural world.

DPR has notified applicants that approximately \$10 million is available for one grant cycle. Grant awards are anticipated to be announced in March 2018.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is proposing to apply for up to \$500,000 in Grant funding through Proposition 40 to supplement the Willow Springs Outdoor Education Trailhead and Trail Network (Project). This Project, developed in partnership with the Office of Sustainability, will serve as the center of operations for the Long Beach Office of Sustainability, enabling them to provide programs, host events, and create educational opportunities that promote environmental stewardship, sustainable practices, and hands-on sustainability focused training for at-risk youth. The Project will recreate the environmental visitor's center and California Avenue trailhead originally envisioned for the 1907 Depot building, which was destroyed by fire in 2016. As a result of this loss, an alternative trailhead concept has been developed, which will act as an outdoor environmental classroom and shaded gathering area that connects to the various park amenities, while maintaining the original environmental visitor's center and trailhead concept of communicating and educating visitors about native habitat and the history of the land, and encouraging sustainability practices and outdoor exploration.

The Project will be located at the site of the former Depot building, and will reuse the foundation left in the wake of the fire. The Project will feature a shade structure and interpretive signs in an open outdoor gathering area that will provide an introduction to the local habitat and site sustainability features, history of the site, and directions to the trail network. The trail network will include additional wayfinding and interpretive signage, and several adventure play nodes with logs, boulders, and educational signage focused on sustainability and environmental stewardship will be installed to keep youth engaged and encourage exploration and discovery.

This Project was determined to best fit the Grant program requirements and maximized competitiveness because it, 1) provides a location for outdoor environmental and sustainability education; 2) provides educational opportunities for visitors; 3) is located in a park-deficient area and serves target populations needing access to open space; and, 4) will leverage funding already appropriated by the City of Long Beach (City). In addition, the Project further develops the Willow Springs Master Plan, adopted by the City Council in January 2013, and ensures activation in, and access to, Willow Springs Park, a unique asset in Long Beach's park system.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Linda T. Vu on August 11, 2017 and by Budget Management Officer Rhutu Amin Gharib on August 23, 2017.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Project funding will support implementation of the Willow Springs Master Plan, increasing access to additional acres of open space that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. The trailhead and trail network will provide new passive walking trails that encourage healthy outdoor exercise, which help to decrease obesity and other adverse health impacts. This Project will use and feature sustainable materials, such as native drought tolerant plants, will capture stormwater for beneficial reuse onsite, and existing materials will be reused, including the concrete foundation of the 1907 Train Depot. This Project is consistent with the City's sustainable construction practices and Livability Initiative and provides the community an opportunity to experience native habitat and open space.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on September 19, 2017, to submit the Resolution to DPR within 60 days of the Grant deadline, which is September 1, 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is a one-cycle Grant program. If awarded, \$500,000 in Grant funds will offset the following eligible direct Project costs: outdoor freestanding shade structure, outdoor trailhead plaza, outdoor environmental and sustainability exhibits, interpretive signage, drought-tolerant native plantings, nature trail connection and adventure play nodes. City staff time directly related to Project management will be charged directly to the Project; however, City administrative (indirect) costs are not eligible for reimbursement. The Grant does not require matching funds or in-kind services. To maximize competitiveness of the Grant application, the Grant funds are proposed to be leveraged with \$274,387 of construction and demolition funds appropriated in FY 17 to the Capital Projects Fund (CP) in the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department (PR) for future upgrades to Willow Springs Park, and an additional \$148,000 budgeted in the Capital Projects Fund (CP) in the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department (PR), as part of the FY 18 Capital Improvement Program. If awarded, an appropriation increase will be requested for the Grant funds prior to Project initiation. This recommendation will result in a positive impact on jobs, although the exact number is unknown at this time.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



MARIE KNIGHT
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

MK:SS:MR:en

Attachment: Resolution

APPROVED:



PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Lona Beach, CA 90802-4664

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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH APPROVING THE APPLICATION
FOR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
FACILITIES GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been
delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the
administration of the Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Grant Program, setting
up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks
and Recreation require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the
application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, successful applicants will enter into a contract with the State of
California to complete the grant scope of work;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as
follows:

Section 1. The City Council approves the filing of an application by the
City of Long Beach ("Applicant") for the Willow Springs Outdoor Education Trailhead and
Trail Network ("Project").

Section 2. The City Council certifies that said Applicant has or will have
available, prior to commencement of any work on the Project included in the application,
the sufficient funds to complete the Project.

Section 3. The City Council certifies that if the Project is awarded, the
Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Project.

Section 4. The City Council certifies that the Applicant has reviewed,
understands, and agrees to the general provisions contained in the contract shown in the

1 Grant Administration Guide.

2 Section 5. The City Council delegates the authority to the City Manager,
3 or designee, to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not
4 limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be
5 necessary for the completion of the grant scope of work.

6 Section 6. The City Council agrees to comply with all applicable federal,
7 state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

8 Section 7. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption
9 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

10 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council
11 of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 2017 by
12 the following vote:

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14 Ayes: Councilmembers: _____
15 _____
16 _____
17 _____

18 Noes: Councilmembers: _____
19 _____

20 Absent: Councilmembers: _____
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City Clerk

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