

TO: Michael C. Van Milligen, City Manager
FROM: Marie L. Ware, Leisure Services Manager
SUBJECT: National Recreation and Park Association Great Urban Parks Campaign Grant Submittal
DATE: May 3, 2016

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memo is to share the grant application submitted to the national Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for the Great Urban Parks Campaign Grant. The grant is for components to be developed in the Lower Bee Branch.

BACKGROUND

Many components of the Lower Bee Branch have already been developed including an enlarged detention basin at 16th Street, hike/bike trail, daylighted Bee Branch Creek to the railroad and planting of trees and native grasses. The overlook is currently under construction.

The Great Urban Parks Campaign Grant purpose was to demonstrate the effectiveness of green infrastructure to positively affect environmental change in underserved low-income communities and communities of color and thereby increase community engagement, connection to nature, and physical activity by community residents.

The grant would fund 1) increased public access to recreational opportunities and access to nature via parks in underserved low-income communities and communities of color; 2) improved environmental quality and increased hazard mitigation by reducing flooding, improving the site's ability to hold and retain stormwater, improving water quality, improving wildlife habitat and increasing biodiversity; and 3) a community engaged in improving environmental quality through green infrastructure solutions to stormwater management.

DISCUSSION

A team of Alexis Steger, Steve Brown, Laura Carstens, Deron Muehring and Marie Ware came together to review the grant requirements and projects not fully funded for

the Bee Branch. It was determined that projects in the Lower Bee Branch were best suited for the grant. The projects needed to be completed by October of 2017.

The floating treatment wetland (floating island), a permeable small craft boat ramp and access, fishing docks and piers, interpretive signage and rain garden were physical projects submitted in the grant. The purchase of a set of kayaks and associated equipment is proposed to help get residents on the water. Lastly a Bee Keeper's environmental stewardship program is proposed. The Bee Keepers were a concept proposed as a part of a 2013 EPA technical assistance workshop.

The equipment that is proposed would be managed by the Recreation Supervisory staff. They would be used for programming and brought out for special events and activities. They would be made available to activities like the summer playground and others through the appropriate staff member. They would be made available for group usage to groups such as scouts, church groups or school groups through the same staff. Additional opportunities would be researched and developed later.

BUDGET IMPACT

The grant request is \$555,100. The grant requires no matching funds, however it was expected the grant supplemented substantial secured funding necessary to complete the project. The application outlined \$82,249,321 in secured funding. This grant if received will match the RECAT grant for the floating island.

RECOMMENDATION

I respectfully request the grant be received and filed.

MLW:et

attachment: grant application

copy Laura Carstens, Planning Services Manager

Alexis Steger, Senior Budget Analyst

Steve Brown, Project Manager

Deron Muehring, Civil Engineer

Gus Psihoyos, City Engineer

Steve Fehsal, Park Division Manager

Dan Kroger, Recreation Division Manager

Farris Muhammad, Multicultural Family Center Director