



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

Date: October 4, 2017

To: Recreation and Park Capital
Capital Committee

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Dawn Kamalanathan, Capital Program Manager

From: Toni Moran, Environmental Specialist- Fiscal/Grants, Capital Program Division

Subject: McLaren Park Trails Improvement Outdoor Environmental Education Facility
Grant

Agenda Wording

Discussion and possible action to 1) adopt a resolution to apply to the State of California for an Outdoor Environmental Education Facility Grant for McLaren Park Trails Project in the amount of \$250,000; 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to accept and expend the Grant; and 3) authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the State to administer Grant.

Strategic Plan Reference

Strategy 3, Inspire Investment: Through community engagement, advocacy, and partnerships, cultivate more financial resources to keep San Francisco's parks and programs accessible for all.

Objective 3.3: Cultivate increased philanthropic support.

Strategy 4, Conserve and Strengthen Natural Resources: Protect and enhance San Francisco's precious natural resources through conservation, education, and sustainable land/facility management practices.

Objective 4.2: Increase eco-literacy of park users and park maintenance staff

Background

The Outdoor Environmental Education (OEE) program is a competitive grant program for the development of public outdoor structures and exhibits that facilitate Outdoor Environmental Education. The program is administered by the State Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The Recreation and Park (RPD) Capital Division identified the McLaren Park Trails Improvement Project as a good match for this grant program because the project is a priority within the McLaren Park Vision Plan and because the area of the park targeted for grant funding is already used by students and youth and adult stewards and the grant-funded improvements would help support this work. The McLaren Park Trails Improvement Project ("Project") will ensure safe recreation and access, maintain and build on natural character, protect natural



resources and clarify circulation routes. It will also support opportunities for environmental education.

On September 1, 2017, RPD submitted an OEE grant application to DPR in the amount of \$250,000 to support trail work in the Upper Half Core of McLaren Park. This area is in the northern half of the park, between the amphitheater, Philosopher's Way hill and Group Picnic Area. The grant requires the adoption of a resolution to apply (Attachment 1) which delegates the authority to General Manager, and his/her designee, to conduct grant related business.

If awarded, grant funds would support educational habitat plantings, plant establishment maintenance, improvements to trail alignment and drainage in the park's core. The grant would also fund signage in that area and other key areas of the park including trailhead maps and wayfinding signs to make the park more accessible and interpretive signage to educate and inspire stewardship

Project Schedule:

Public Outreach (Vision Plan component) July 2016 - October 2017

Vision Plan Commission Approval, November 2017

Refinement of Trails Improvement Plan Concept Plan and CEQA: 2018

Commission Approval of Trails Improvement Plan Concept Plan: 2018

Construction documentation and bid award: TBD (2018 / 2019)

Commission approval of construction contract award, construction, project closeout: TBD

Source of Funds and Amount:

Recreation and Park Department, 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park Bond, \$3.5 million

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Recreation and Park Commission 1) adopt a resolution to apply to the State of California for an Outdoor Environmental Education Facility Grant for McLaren Park Trails Project in the amount of \$250,000; 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to accept and expend the Grant; and 3) authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the State to administer Grant.

Supported By: Recreation and Park Youth Stewardship Program Staff

Opposed by: None known

Attachment 1: Application Resolution