

APPROVED
09-21-2016

BOARD OF RECREATION
& PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 16-209

DATE September 21, 2016

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ASCOT HILLS PARK INTERPRETIVE NATURE FACILITIES (PRJ21075) PROJECT – HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM – SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION; CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION; ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS

AP Diaz _____ V. Israel _____
R. Barajas _____ K. Regan _____
H. Fujita _____ *N. Williams NDW



General Manager

Approved

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the submission of a Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) Program grant application in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the Ascot Hills Park Interpretive Nature Facilities (PRJ21075) Project (Project), subject to the approval of the Mayor and the City Council;
2. Designate the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) General Manager, Executive Officer, or Assistant General Manager as the agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Ascot Hills Park Interpretive Nature Facilities (PRJ21075) Project;
3. Recommend to the City Council the adoption of the accompanying Resolution, herein included as Attachment No. 1, which authorizes the submission of a grant application for the HCF grant in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the Ascot Hills Park Interpretive Nature Facilities (PRJ21075) Project;
4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to establish the necessary account and/or to appropriate funding received within "Recreation and Parks Grant" Fund 205 to accept the HCF grant in an amount up to \$75,000.00 for the Ascot Hills Park Interpretive Nature Facilities (PRJ21075) Project; and
5. Direct staff to transmit a copy of the Resolution to the City Clerk for committee and City Council approval, in accordance with the HCF grant guidelines.

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SUMMARY

The Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) Program grant, established as a result of the passage of the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, provides approximately \$2,000,000.00 in annual competitive grant funding to local agencies to acquire, enhance, restore or develop facilities for public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat protection purposes. Applications for this round of funding are due by October 3, 2016.

At its meeting of October 19, 2011, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners approved the submission of a HCF grant application for the Ascot Hills Trails Pavilion project, which consisted of constructing a new trailhead and shade pavilion that would include educational wildlife kiosks and signage (Report No. 11-293). However, the pavilion project was not funded. In May 2016, the Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board (PAB) contacted RAP to consider seeking HCF Program funding for a trails-related project at Ascot Hills Park that would help patrons to navigate the park's natural trails and educate them on the indigenous plants and wildlife. After meeting with the PAB's representative and vetting the project, RAP's Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch staff determined that the Project is viable and consistent with RAP's future development plans for this Park, as approved at the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners meeting of June 18, 2015 (Report No. 15-140). RAP staff also received concurrence from Councilmember José Huizar's Office, Council District 14, for this Project.

The Project, located in the Northeast Los Angeles community at 4371 Multnomah Street, Los Angeles, CA 90032 (see Ascot Hills Park Analysis Report, herein included as Attachment No. 2), involves: 1) constructing an interpretive nature center to serve as a starting point or trailhead for park users to become oriented to the park before venturing out onto the park's network of hiking trails; 2) enhancing existing trails alongside the stream with site-related displays; and 3) installing trail maps at key trailheads. The development work would not involve the removal or disturbance of any trees, as the Project site is located on a flat plain that is free of any trees and will be accessible to all patrons including those with physical challenges. Once the design work, which will be funded by the Ascot Hills PAB, is completed, the Project is estimated to take approximately three months to construct. Funding for the project will include a pledged \$75,000.00 in Quimby funds and the unsecured \$75,000.00 in HCF funding, if awarded, for a total of \$150,000.00.

In accordance with the HCF Grant Guide, an authorizing Resolution, herein included as Attachment No. 1, which approves the submission of the grant application for the proposed project, must be approved by the grantee's governing body.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Once the final plans for the Project are approved, the Project will become subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Therefore, in accordance with Section 15378 (b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Board's action does not constitute a "project under CEQA." Further CEQA determinations will occur if the grant funds are awarded and the Project plans are finalized.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

At this time, the proposed HCF grant and Quimby funds are sufficient to develop the proposed Project. Therefore, there is no anticipated fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund. With regard to maintenance, there is no anticipated fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund since there will be no change to current staffing levels.

This Report was prepared by Isophine Atkinson, Senior Management Analyst II, Grants Administration, Finance Division.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Resolution of the City Council of the City of Los Angeles
- 2) Ascot Hills Park Analysis Report

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE
HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM
ASCOT HILLS PARK INTERPRETIVE NATURE FACILITIES PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, which provides funds to the State of California for grants to local agencies to acquire, enhance, restore or develop facilities for public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat protection purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the HCF Program, setting up necessary procedures governing project application under the HCF Program; and

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

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HEREBY:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Habitat Conservation Fund Program; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the required match and sufficient funds to complete the project; and
3. Certifies that the applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project(s), and
4. Certifies that the applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the provisions contained in the contract shown in the grant administration guide; and
5. Delegates the authority to the Department of Recreation and Parks' General Manager, Executive Officer, or Assistant General Manager, to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the project.
6. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines

The undersigned City Clerk of the Applicant here before named does hereby attest and certify that the forgoing is a true and full copy of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Los Angeles adopted at a duly convened meeting on the date above-mentioned, which has not been altered, amended or repealed.

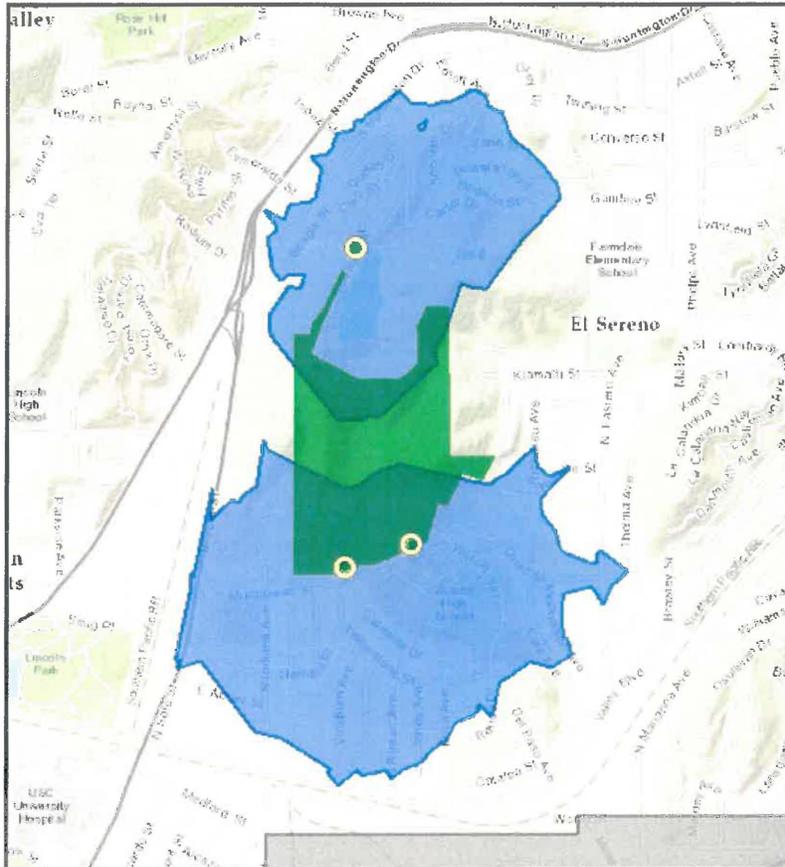
HOLLY L. WOLCOTT, City Clerk

By: _____



EQUITABLE PARKS & AMENITIES
DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM

Park Analysis Report



Scenario Information

Scenario Name:
**Ascot Hills Park Interpretive Nature
Facilities (PRJ21075)**

Description:
**Construction of an interpretive nature center;
enhancement of existing trails alongside the
stream with site-related displays; and installing
trail maps at key trailheads**

Scenario Type:
**Existing Park Upgrade
Ascot Hills Park**

Park Class:
Neighborhood

Baseline Dataset*:
All Parks (RAP and Non-RAP)

*The baseline dataset is the existing parks dataset whose service areas are used to calculate the currently non-served metrics given below in blue. These residents and households, which would be served by the proposed park, are not currently served by any existing park in the baseline dataset.

Population and Age Breakdown

	Total Residents Served:	Currently Non-Served Residents Served:
Residents Served:	2,736	2,671
Residents Served by Age		
Under Age 5:	166	157
Age 5 to 9:	165	160
Age 10 to 14:	187	183
Age 15 to 17:	122	119
Age 18 to 64:	1,663	1,627
Age 65 and Over:	433	425

Household and Income Breakdown

	Total Households Served:	Currently Non-Served Households Served:
Households Served:	780	759
Households Served by Annual Income		
Under \$25,000:	199	194
\$25,000 to \$34,999:	72	70
\$35,000 to \$49,999:	163	158
\$50,000 to \$74,999:	172	166
\$75,000 and Over:	174	171

Source: Census/ACS 2010