



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

Item No: 40.1

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DIVISION: Administration
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AGENDA SECTION: New & Continued Business
MEETING DATE: May 21, 2013

ISSUE STATEMENT & SUMMARY:

The Parks and Recreation Commission have reviewed the previously distributed Bear Creek Corridor Restoration and Enhancement Plan (Plan) as presented by the Rogue Valley Council Governments (RVCOG). This agenda item is for the consideration of a formal adoption of this plan and for staff to move forward with the implementation as funding and partners are identified.

BACKGROUND:

A. Commission Action History

January 8, 2013, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the draft Plan as presented by Greg Stabach of RVCOG.

April 16, 2013, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the final Plan and requested that staff bring back for consideration of adoption.

B. Analysis

As part of the rehabilitation of Hawthorne Park, staff contracted with RVCOG to develop recommendations along with cost estimates for the removal of non-native vegetation in order to increase safety and environmental improvements along the Bear Creek Greenway. The Plan covers a portion of the Medford Urban Renewal area that borders 10th Street and moves north towards McAndrews.

The Plan accomplished the following:

- Identified property owners along the east side of Bear Creek between the project area of 10th Street and McAndrews.
- Develops recommendations on the removal of non-native vegetation in the Plan area along with the proper native vegetation replacement plantings.
- Outlines maintenance requirements for each of the five zones contained in the Plan.
- A comprehensive cost estimate and permit requirements for all aspects of the Plan.
- Identifies possible partners that the City could work with in accomplishing the goals of the Plan.
- Provides information to possible funding sources for implementation.

C. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

\$37,500 for Zone 2 has been budgeted and is contained within the Hawthorne Park Rehabilitation Project as provided by the Medford Urban Renewal Agency. The approximate \$150,000 for the remaining areas will be sought through partnerships, grants, donations and other City funding.

D. Timing Issues

Adoption of the plan is necessary in order for staff to begin the work on finding funding and partnerships for the zone areas not covered through the funding provided by the Medford Urban Renewal Agency.



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STRATEGIC PLAN:

Theme: Safe Community

Goal 1: Ensure a safe community by protecting people, property and the environment

Objective 1.10: Protect the water quality in natural streams

Theme: Quality Public Services

Goal 8: Provide recreational activities and opportunities to improve the lives of Medford residents

Theme: Responsive Leadership

Goal 13: Preserve natural resources within the City of Medford and its Urban Growth Boundary

Objective 13.1: Protect waterways and wetlands which are unique components of the urban landscape

COMMISSION OPTIONS:

Option A: Approve the Plan.

Option B: Deny the Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approval.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Move to approve the adoption of the Bear Creek Restoration and Enhancement Plan.

EXHIBITS:

Bear Creek Corridor Restoration and Enhancement Plan was distributed to each Commission member via mail.