

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Dean Klingner, Community Services Director
Mike Calhoon, Parks Director
Jill Wuertz, Senior Manager Park Planning and Development, Parks
Dave "DK" Kemp, Senior Trails Planner, Parks

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 102, 2024, Appropriating Prior Year Reserves in the Conservation Trust Fund for Park Planning and Development Funding Community Bike Park Feasibility and Community Engagement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to request an appropriation of \$70,000 to Park Planning and Development to conduct a community-scale bike park feasibility study as directed by Council at the June 11 Work Session. The feasibility study will include an evaluation of potential bike park locations, associated capital and on-going costs, identification of park amenities and features, and a community engagement process. This item is in response to public input from the 2021 Parks and Recreation Plan: Recreate, and recent significant community input.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

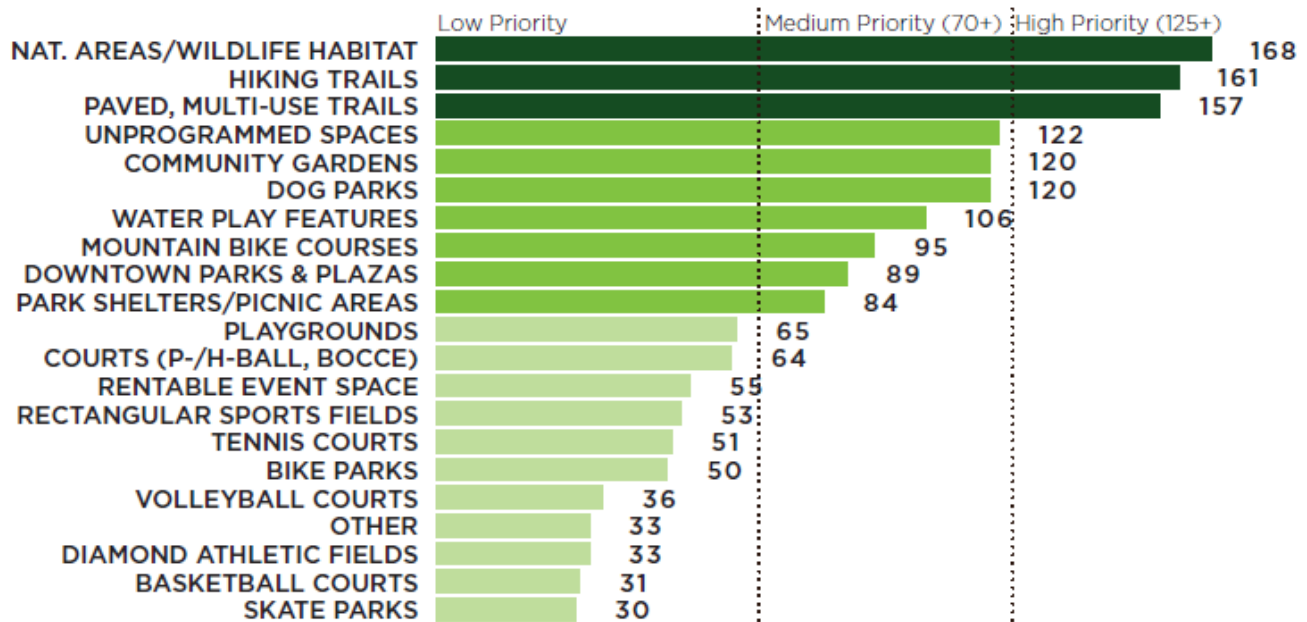
BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Fort Collins 2021 Park and Recreation Plan, ReCreate, examines park and recreation needs in the context of the City's system of public spaces and articulates a vision for parks and recreation in the future.

To implement this vision, the plan weaves together strategies, guidelines, and decision-making tools that the City can use as map to shape the system. The process of developing this plan included many opportunities for residents, advocates, and elected leaders to weigh in and provide input.

In-person and online engagement and a statistically valid survey were conducted in the winter of 2019 by mail, phone, and web to measure residents' needs across Fort Collins. The demographic makeup of the survey sample reflects the demographic makeup of the City as a whole. Results of the survey show mountain bike courses as a priority investment rating and are eighth on the outdoor facility prioritized list.

Priority Investment Rating: Outdoor Facilities



In addition, information gathered for the report [“Community Engagement Findings for the Former Hughes Site to the City of Fort Collins City Council”](#) prepared by Kearns & West for the City of Fort Collins and conducted between October 2022 and February 2023 details additional feedback for a community bike park.

The intent of the community bike park feasibility study is to determine whether a new, community-scale bike park facility is feasible, and if so, the appropriate size, location, amenities and cost.

Other small bike park locations currently exist in Fort Collins including a 2.0 acre BMX course at Twin Silo Park, a small 0.27 acre pump track at Traverse Park, a small 0.53 acre pump track at Soft Gold and a 0.7 acre mountain bike skills course at Spring Canyon Park. Fort Collins is also recognized as a Platinum Bicycle Friendly City by the League of American Bicyclists.

The general scope of the requested feasibility study should include, but not limited to the following aspects:

- **Siting and land evaluation:** Evaluate potential locations throughout the City of Fort Collins, including the former Hughes stadium site, to determine if applicable sites exist; and to rank sites on evaluation criteria, for example:
 - Connectivity to the trail system, low traffic streets, and other existing smaller bike parks,
 - Land cost
 - Wildlife habitat considerations
 - Expandability
 - Equity and accessibility
 - Partnership opportunities

Background information on properties will include land ownership, zoning, floodplain designation, current property value and assessment information, location description, and neighborhood characteristics.

- **Regional bike park analysis:** Provide an inventory and analysis of similar sized facilities within the Northern Colorado region and identify unique considerations
- **Features:** Review current bike park standards, best practices, and precedents to evaluate types of bike park features desired at a community-scale bike park, e.g. Slopestyle, Single track loops of varying sizes, gravity-fed dirt jumps, pump track variations, including size, user level, adaptive capability, and surface type (dirt/asphalt).
- **Accessory Elements:** Identify and understand key siting and costs of accessory elements such as shade shelters/pavilions, restroom, gathering area, parking, overflow parking, water resources, and maintenance equipment storage.
- **Capital and on-going costs:** Understand cost scenarios associated with initial construction and ongoing maintenance of bike parks relative to size and types of features.
- **Potential funding strategies:** Compile information on multi-year phased funding approaches, grants, and/or other local resources

Project schedule: Approximately 6-9 months.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Upon adoption, this Ordinance will appropriate \$70,000 for Park Planning and Development from the Conservation Trust Fund reserves for this project. Any unused funds will return to the parent account for Conservation Trust Fund revenue. The City Manager has determined that these appropriations are available and previously unappropriated.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs distributes the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) dollars quarterly, on a per capita basis, to over 470 eligible local governments: counties, cities, towns, and Title 32 special districts that provide park and recreation services in their service plans. Funding can be used for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites or for capital improvements or maintenance for recreational purposes on any public site. On July 3, 2024, staff received confirmation from staff at the Department of Local Affairs that the cost of the bike feasibility study is an eligible use of the CTF.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Refer to "Background" section.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance for Consideration