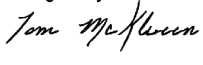




AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE:	April 13, 2026	Regular
DEPARTMENT:	Parks & Rec	Tom McKlveen, Parks and Recreation Director
SECTION OF AGENDA:	Reports & Presentations	
AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	Presentation Providing an Update on the City's Advancement to the Second-level Application for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for Improvements at Birmingham Park.	
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:	The purpose of this item is to inform Council of the City's advancement in the RTP grant process through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for Birmingham Park improvements, including progression beyond the competitive portion of the grant cycle. The presentation provides an overview of the project scope, including a trailhead restroom, ADA parking, trail improvements, and bridge repair, along with the current status and next steps.	
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None	
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	No formal action is needed at this time.	
ALTERNATIVES:	Alternatives include not pursuing the grant funding, pausing the project, or advancing only a portion of the proposed scope.	

Signed by:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff is excited to share that the City has advanced to the second-level application for the RTP grant through Georgia DNR for improvements at Birmingham Park. This is a great milestone, as it moves us beyond the competitive portion of the process and puts us in a strong position moving forward.

The proposed project includes a restroom at the trailhead, ADA parking to support it, trail improvements, and repairs to the bridge on the yellow trail. The grant is expected to contribute \$200,000 toward the project. While there's no immediate financial impact with this item, there will be a future local funding component if the project moves forward to final approval.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this item is really to share some good news and give Council a heads up on what's coming.

Staff applied for the RTP grant through Georgia DNR to support park and trail-related improvements, and Birmingham Park was a strong candidate based on needs we've already identified. The scope of the project ties directly back to the Trail Prioritization Plan and includes a restroom facility at the trailhead, ADA parking, trail improvements, and a bridge repair on the yellow trail.



We've had good success with DNR grants over the past several years, and this continues that momentum of bringing outside funding into our park system where it makes sense.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

From staff's perspective, this is a really positive step forward. Getting through the most competitive part of the grant process is no small task, and it shows that the project is well-aligned with what the state is looking to fund.

The improvements themselves are practical, but impactful. A restroom at the trailhead is something users will appreciate right away. Pairing that with ADA parking helps make sure it's accessible to everyone. The trail work and bridge repair address some of the more functional needs that help keep the park usable long-term.

This isn't a one-off project either, as it's part of a bigger picture. These improvements were already identified through our planning efforts, so this is a good example of us matching funding opportunities with projects we already know are priorities.

At this stage, we just wanted to bring Council along in the process. There are still a few steps ahead before anything is finalized, but things are moving positively.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There's no immediate financial impact tied to this agenda item.

Looking ahead, the total estimated project cost is around \$405,000, with the grant expected to cover \$200,000 of that. The Birmingham Park capital account currently has approximately \$1.35 million available. If the grant moves forward, we'll come back to Council with any needed approvals related to funding and project implementation.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Staff could have chosen not to pursue this grant and instead wait to fund improvements locally, but given the alignment with the project and available funding, it made sense to go after it.

We also could have waited to bring this forward until final award, but felt it was worth sharing now since getting through the competitive phase is a meaningful milestone.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS:

Nothing immediate for this item. If the grant is awarded, staff will work through all required agreements and ensure compliance with DNR requirements and standard City processes.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT:

Overall, this will be a positive addition to Birmingham Park. The restroom and ADA parking will improve the day-to-day experience, and the trail and bridge work will help with long-term usability.

There will be some operational considerations down the line with construction and maintenance, but those will be worked through as the project progresses.

COMMUNITY OR STAKEHOLDER IMPACT:

This is the kind of improvement that residents will notice and appreciate. Birmingham Park is well-used, and these updates directly support how people are already using the space. While staff realize that improvements such as bathrooms may not fit in all Milton parks and greenspaces, Birmingham Park is a logical fit due to its consistent utilization.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

This aligns well with our broader goals of maintaining and improving our parks and trail system, while also being thoughtful about leveraging outside funding where possible.

It also ties directly back to the Trail Prioritization Plan, which helps ensure we're being intentional about where we invest.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Council allow staff to continue moving forward through the next steps of the grant process. Council will be briefed with any formal actions as needed as the project advances.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

No formal motion is required.

REVIEWS & APPROVALS:

Financial Review:

Legal Review:

Concurrent Review: Steven Krokoff, City Manager

DocuSigned by:
Steven Krokoff
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ATTACHMENTS: