



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Parks and Trails Advisory Board
Meeting Date: October 9, 2024
From: Rochelle Anderholm-Parsch, Parks and Recreation Director
Subject: Grant Letter of Support for Tickle Creek Park & Trail Restoration

DECISION TO BE MADE:

The Parks and Trails Advisory Board is asked to support and approve the signing of a letter of support for the Tickle Creek Park & Trail Restoration Project grant application.

PURPOSE / OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of this request is to secure a formal endorsement from the Parks and Trails Advisory Board to strengthen the City's grant application for Phase 1 of the Tickle Creek Park & Trail Restoration Project. This support will underscore the community's commitment to restoring and enhancing this key natural and recreational asset.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has issued a Call for Proposals (CFP) to fund projects promoting urban and community forest investment and tree equity, particularly in overburdened and underserved communities. The subaward program aims to support urban forest planning, tree planting and maintenance, and forest-centered education and workforce development in alignment with ODF's Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Program's mission and priorities.

The Tickle Creek Park & Trail Restoration Project will involve a comprehensive evaluation, expert recommendations, and a detailed restoration plan to protect and restore this vital community resource in Sandy, Oregon. The project seeks to align with the grant's goals of advancing equity, community well-being, and environmental resilience by fostering investments in trees and green infrastructure.

Tickle Creek Park & Trail spans 71.65 acres and provides critical recreational opportunities with its 5 miles of hiking, biking, and walking trails. However, the park has faced significant ecological challenges, including storm damage, loss of cedar trees, and stream erosion, prompting the need for restoration. The project will focus on enhancing biodiversity, improving stream health, and ensuring long-term resilience against environmental challenges while fostering partnerships with local nonprofits.

Phase 1 will involve a thorough evaluation of the park with consultant-led assessments, development of recommendations, and creation of a comprehensive restoration plan. This groundwork will lead to Phase 2, the implementation of restoration activities such as native tree planting, stream bank reinforcement, and workforce development through community engagement.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

The signing of the letter of support will:

- Demonstrate the Board's commitment to environmental stewardship and natural habitat restoration.
- Enhance the grant application by showing community support for urban forestry and the ecological improvement of Tickle Creek.
- Align with the City's long-term goals for environmental resilience, recreational enhancements, and equitable access to green spaces.

The Board's support will highlight the significance of this project to funders and the community, enabling critical restoration work to move forward.

BUDGET IMPACT:

The requested grant funding amount for Phase 1 is \$490,691.76. This will cover comprehensive evaluations, planning, and initial restoration efforts without direct financial impact on the City's current budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Trails Advisory Board approve and sign the letter of support for the grant application for the Tickle Creek Park & Trail Restoration Project.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:

- Draft Letter of Support for the Grant Application
- Project Narrative Summary for Tickle Creek Park and Trail Restoration - Phase 1