

2023 SPLOST Funding Reallocation
Regular Council Meeting: April 24, 2023

Background:

As part of the 2023 Budget approval process, the city council allocated funds for various parks projects. Most of these projects were taken from the records kept by previous parks staff and capital projects management staff. The City Engineer and Parks Director has made an onsite evaluation of parks projects and prioritized current project needs.

Discussion:

Southeast Athletic Complex

Staff made a site visit to Southeast Athletic Complex (SAC) and made evaluations of the needs based on the existing facilities. Staff has prioritized the needs based on health, safety and welfare of the daily users, various sports teams and event goers of the SAC.

1. Additional Restrooms

Currently there are two toilets for female and two toilets and two urinals for male . Additional toilets are needed to accommodate the patrons during rented festivals, games, and practice sessions.

2. Additional Parking

Currently there are 367 regular parking spaces and 8 handicap spaces available at the location. Additional parking is required to accommodate the festivals and other functions. Currently, off-site parking is utilized and bussed to and from SAC during major events. A minimum of 200 additional parking must be designed and constructed in the near term. There is not much land available to construct additional parking spaces at the site. There are two potential locations identified based on the Parks Masterplan.

3. Irrigation System

Southeast Athletic Complex has an extensive irrigation system in place. The city of Stonecrest doesn't have plans for the irrigation system and the condition of the control structures and valves are not known at this time. Prior to upgrading the baseball fields, all irrigation lines must be mapped, assessed for leakage, and repaired. There are several known irrigation line leaks that exist at this time. In addition, all irrigation system valves, and other control structures must be mapped, and their condition must be assessed. Cost estimate to repair and bring the system to an operable condition without leaks should be completed.

Salem Park

Salem Park Master plan provides various infrastructure improvements. Based on the site visit and evaluation of existing facilities, staff identified several needs.

1. Additional Parking

Currently there are 15 parking spaces available at Salem Park. The council awarded a contract for engineering design of additional parking space.

2. Sanitary Sewer Connection

Salem Park is not served by Sanitary Sewer. There is a water connection to the park with a water fountain near the Children's play area. It is important to provide restroom facilities if additional pavilions are to be constructed. The nearest sanitary sewer line is located at the intersection of Bleckley Drive and Bleckley Court north of the park.

3. Additional Trails Installation

Installation of additional soft surface trails is one of the major elements in the Master Plan. Installation of additional trails based on the master plan will significantly increase the trail length at the park. These soft trails will be installed with low ground clearing/mulching within the wooded area no or less tree removal.

Fairington Park

There is a need for additional parking at Fairington Park. These additional parking spaces could be used by patrons of the future New Fairington Park/Botanical Garden also. Master Plan for Botanical Garden shows parking lot at the location where a new multi-family development is being developed.

Recommendations:

Projects are recommended based on order of priority contingent upon funding availability.

Southeast Athletic Complex

1. Design and construct additional restrooms.
2. Design and construct additional parking spaces.
3. Map, evaluate the irrigation system and make necessary repair/replacement.

Salem Park

1. Design and construct additional parking spaces (funded in 2023 Budget)
2. Design and construct additional trails.
3. Installation of outdoor exercise equipment (funded in 2023 Budget)
4. Construction of Second Gazebo (funded in 2023 Budget)

5. Pursue Grants from Atlanta Hawks to install two basketball courts. (After completion parking lot)
6. Design and Install Sewer line extension from Bleckley Drive. (Future project)

Fairington Park

1. Design and construct additional parking spaces at lower level.

New Fairington Park/Botanical Garden

1. Design and construct Phase I of Botanical Garden (funded in 2023 Budget)

Project No	Previous Description	New Scope	Amount	Recommended Amount
Fairington Park				
P2023-012	Master Plan	None	\$80,000	\$0
P2023-018	Renovation	Design and construct lower-level parking	\$200,000	\$280,000
New Fairington Park/Botanical Garden				
P2023-016	Master Plan	Design and construct Phase I	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Salem Park				
P2023-0014	Gazebo	Gazebo	\$50,000	\$60,000
P2023-0021	Outdoor Exercise Equipment	Outdoor Exercise Equipment	\$80,000	\$80,000
P2023-0024	Walking Path Upgrades	Install new soft surface Trails	\$33,007	\$53,007
P2023-0025	Install Granite Walls	None	\$30,000	\$0
Southeast Athletic Complex				
P2023-0019	Parking Lot Paving	Design and construct parking lots	\$300,00	\$500,000
P2023-0020	Fencing Improvement	None	\$100,000	\$0
P2023-0013	Baseball Field upgrade	Mapping, evaluation, and repair of Irrigation system	\$100,000	\$100,000
P2023-0023	Basketball court Upgrades	None	\$160,000	\$0
P2023-0022	Park Furniture	None	\$160,000	\$0
P2023-0026	None	Design and Construct Restrooms	\$0	\$220,000

Notes:

1. No net additional Funding is requested.
2. Several Benches have been installed around the walking path at Salem Park. Due to this reason Granite Walls project is removed and funding is re-allocated to soft trail installation. This is one of the projects in the Master Plan.
3. Current Master Plan for Fairington Park is adequate, therefor funding for Master Plan is reallocated to design and construction of lower Parking Lot
4. Fencing at Southeast Athletic Field is funded by ARPA funding, so SPLOST allocation for Fencing is reprogrammed to Parking lot design and construction.
5. A new project for Rest Room design and construction at Southeast Athletic Complex is created.