



# REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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**Title:** Resolution No. 13 for 2022: Grant Application to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for a Parks Master Plan Update

**Preferred Agenda:** April 26, 2022

**Submitted By:** Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director

**Reviewed By:** Christy Wurster, City Manager Pro Tem

**Type of Action:** Resolution   X   Motion       Roll Call       Other      

**Relevant Code/Policy:** City of Sweet Home Park System Master Plan

**Towards Council Goal:** Aspiration I: Desirable Community; Aspiration III: Viable and Sustainable Infrastructure; Goal 1.2 Community Awareness of Infrastructure Needs and Appropriate Planning Documents

**Attachments:** Resolution No. 13 for 2022

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## **Purpose of this RCA:**

The purpose of this RCA is to request adoption of a resolution supporting the City's application to the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) for a Planning Grant to update the City's Parks System Master Plan.

## **Background/Context:**

The City's current Parks System Master Plan was adopted in January 2014. While it is not as outdated as the plan that it replaced, which was created in 1983, the current plan is limited in its recommendations and is missing guidance in two key areas: First, the plan contains no standards for what amenities a park needs to have, and second, there is no standard on the maximum distance that a resident needs to travel to get to a park. Overall, the current plan's guidance on new parks is limited to a gross park acreage target, and it provides very little guidance on new amenities.

Recently, this was a problem when donors came to the City with the request to create a dog park. There is no guidance in the plan to help with such a request and constructing a park amenity outside of the master plan gives preference to the voice of a few over the voice of the whole community.

OPRD offers Planning Grants for parks. These grants can be used for planning projects ranging from individual parks to park system master plans. The grant program requires a 40% match by the local government, and the maximum award is \$40,000. The grant program requires that a supporting resolution from the City accompany the application.

**The Challenge/Problem:**

How does the City plan for future park improvements?

**Stakeholders:**

- Sweet Home Residents – Residents deserve a well-designed park system that provides recreation opportunities and beautiful open space.
- Sweet Home City Council – The City Council is responsible for ensuring that City infrastructure and services meet the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.

**Issues and Financial Impacts:**

This resolution commits the City to paying the required 40% match *if OPRD awards a grant*. Staff expects that an updated Parks System Master Plan could cost between \$30,000 and \$45,000, which would result in a match between \$12,000 and \$18,000.

**Elements of a Stable Solution:**

A stable solution includes planning for current and future park needs in a cost-effective way.

**Options:**

1. Do Nothing – The Council could choose to do nothing at this time, and staff would not apply for a grant from OPRD.
2. Adopt Resolution No. 13 for 2022 Authorizing an Application to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for a Parks Planning Grant as presented – This action will allow Staff to submit a grant application for an updated Parks Master Plan.
3. Adopt Resolution No. 13 for 2022 Authorizing an Application to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for a Parks Planning Grant with changes – Staff can make changes to the resolution and include it with the application.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends option 2: Adopt Resolution No. 13 for 2022 Authorizing an Application to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for a Parks Planning Grant as presented.