



# REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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**Title:** Request for Council Action – Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) Application – Trail System from Quarry Park to Foster Lake

**Preferred Agenda:** March 26, 2024

**Submitted By:** Cecily Hope Pretty, Administrative Services Director

**Reviewed By:** Kelcey Young, City Manager

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

**Relevant Code/Policy:** Comprehensive Plan, Transportation System Plan, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

**Towards Council Goal:** Infrastructure, Be an Effective and Efficient Government, Rejuvenate Essential Services, Economic Strength, Image Building

**Attachments:** Resolution No. 3 for 2024

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## **Purpose of this RCA:**

To seek City Council approval for the City Manager to submit a grant application to the OPRD to establish an improved trail system between Quarry Park and Foster Lake.

## **Background/Context:**

The City of Sweet Home has adopted a Comprehensive Plan and Transportation System Plan, both of which cite trail connectivity as a priority. Additionally, local agencies such as Linn County have also expressed interest in expanding regional trail systems. Quarry Park and Foster Lake are two of the landmark destinations in the Sweet Home area, which currently have no walkable connection. Funding for the trail project proposed in the OPRD grant application would allow for establishment of a connection between the two. Many of the intended outcomes of the trail project are in alignment with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). In addition to enhancing connectivity, it would provide co-benefits such as improved health and recreation facilities for residents and visitors, as well as the potential for public safety enhancement through establishment of new fire breaks within the area.

## **The Challenge/Problem:**

Without grant assistance, there is insufficient funding to pursue a trail system for this area.

## **Stakeholders:**

1. **Citizens:** Citizens deserve well-connected natural facilities and opportunities for recreation to enhance their physical and mental health.
2. **City Council:** City Council will be working towards their overall citywide goals, both for established residents but also through attracting visitors to enhanced parks and recreation opportunities.

3. **City Staff:** Staff will be empowered to seek funding that supports the park system while balancing the needs of other parks and recreation facilities identified in City Council goals and the Capital Improvement Plan.

**Issues and Financial Impacts:**

This grant requires a 40% local match, which may include in-kind services; adequate resources have been identified in the annual budget and through donations by local agencies, should the grant funds be awarded.

**Elements of a Stable Solution:**

A fiscally responsible method to improve connectivity between two of the City's greatest natural resources that takes advantage of outside funding opportunities to the greatest extent possible.

**Options:**

1. Do Nothing: The City Manager will not submit the grant application and no trail system will be pursued at this time.
2. Amend the Application: Suggest an alternate project to submit to ORPD, though gathering the new necessary information for the grant may not be possible before the submission deadline.
3. Authorize the City Manager to Submit the Application: Move to approve Resolution No. 3 for 2024 authorizing the City Manager to submit the application.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Option 3: Move to approve Resolution No. 3 for 2024 authorizing the City Manager to submit the application.