



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Approved by:

Council Meeting of: March 15, 2023

Joseph Hebert

Agenda Number: E-1

Joseph Hebert, Parks & Community Services Director

Arnoldo Rodriguez

Arnoldo Rodriguez, City Manager

SUBJECT:

Lions Town & Country Trail Update #2

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is submitted for City Council (Council) consideration of options in the pursuit of funding for the Lions Town & Country Park trail system conditions and rehabilitation plans

SUMMARY:

Lions Town & Country Park (LTC) is the City's largest park and consist of approximately 50 acres. One of the park's amenities includes its trail system spanning over one mile. The Parks Maintenance division is responsible for the maintenance of the trail system at LTC, as well as all other trails in the City.

The LTC trail is in need of repair. During the October 19, 2022, regular meeting of the Council, staff presented an informational report on the trail system conditions and rehabilitation plans, with no action being requested. Staff is now presenting on the trail system conditions and rehabilitation plans, with a request for guidance on possible funding for the needed repairs of the trail.

DISCUSSION:

The LTC trail is made up of decomposed granite (DG). This material is a common and popular material found across gardens, pathways, walking trails, etc., and can be compacted to create a beautiful, natural surface while remaining firm and permeable. Although DG is a common material, it also presents a series of issues over time. Some of these include the lack of solid surfacing DG can ultimately provide, especially with the amount of foot traffic the trail experiences. This means DG needs to be regularly refilled, as the DG shifts and rearranges from

the activity it is privy to. Over time, loose DG easily erodes and becomes muddy when wet. This then results in uneven solid surfacing that can lead to potholes and poor drainage. This combination together results in wet, muddy areas of puddles in the potholes.

To address the needed rehabilitation of the LTC trail, in 2020 staff began an estimate of probable construction costs for the trail, taking into consideration the desired end-results of the project. This included such work needed as clearing and grubbing, subgrade preparation, installation of asphalt concrete, striping, and earthwork excavation, to name a few. The engineer's estimate of probable construction costs placed the project cost at \$772,820. The project became tracked as Capital Improvement Project (CIP) PK-00071. However, funding for the project was, and remains, undetermined.

To bring urgency back to the needed rehabilitation of the LTC trail, on April 17, 2022, staff submitted a funding allocation request through Congressman Jim Costa's Office under the FY 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Community Project for \$850,000. The amount took into consideration the last project estimated cost was completed in 2020, and cost for materials, labor, etc., have increased since then. Requested funding was not awarded.

Most recently in 2023, staff has completed, or is planning, the following efforts:

1. Staff is anticipating submitting a grant application for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The RTP is administered by the Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) and provides funds annually to develop non-motorized recreational trails and trails-related facilities. This grant cycle there are \$6.7 million available to fund projects for the 2024-2026 federal fund year. The application deadline is June 15, 2023 and does require at a minimum a 12 percent match funding.
2. Staff is anticipating submitting a grant application for the Clean California Local Grant Program (CCLGP) Cycle 2 with the grant application due April 28, 2023. CCLGP funds are intended to go to local communities to beautify and improve local streets and roads, tribal lands, parks, pathways, and transit centers. Through the combination of adding beautification measures and art in public spaces along with the removal of litter and debris, this effort will enhance communities and improve spaces for walking and recreation. An anticipated \$100 million is available and would be awarded late summer 2023. The City was successful in Cycle 1 of the CCLGP funding opportunity, being awarded \$832,350 for litter abatement and improvement projects along the Fresno River and Vernon McCullough River Trail.
3. Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria met with staff and City officials on March 2, 2023. During this meeting, staff identified the LTC trail repairs, in addition to other projects, as a project needing funding. Assemblymember Soria indicated the State's budget will be tight due to less-than-anticipated revenues, but she is willing to advocate for the City.

4. It should also be noted that at time of Council meeting on March 15, 2023, staff will have submitted a congressionally directed spending request through Senator Dianne Feinstein's office for the FY24 Appropriations due March 10, 2023. The request is for improvements at LTC Park, including the trail repairs, amphitheater upgrades, playground equipment additions, and parking lot expansion plans.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The 2020 engineer's estimate of probable construction costs for the trail indicated the LTC trail project cost at \$772,820. This included such work needed as clearing and grubbing, subgrade preparation, install of asphalt concrete, striping, and earthwork excavation. Taking the 2020 estimate, escalating 3 percent per year for 3 years, plus an additional 10 percent contingency would equate to an estimate of \$926,611 for needed trail repairs in today's market.

As they stand, the repairs needed at LTC Park for the trail system are unfunded.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternatives will be considered as part of Council discussion.

ATTACHMENTS:

None