



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE ITEM SUMMARY REPORT

MEETING DATE: MARCH 23, 2021
TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FROM: HEATHER GUREWITZ
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF ON PREPARING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR RURAL RECREATION AND TOURISM PROGRAM FROM THE STATE OF CA

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW:

The Rural Recreation and Tourism (RRT) Program is administered through California State Parks and intended to create new recreation opportunities within rural communities to support health-related and economic goals. This program is funded by Proposition 68 (2018 Bond Act), which is found in Public Resources Code §80090(a)(b).

The City recently applied for funds to renovate Bainbridge Park from the Prop 68 Statewide Parks Program (SPP). Announcements are expected in July 2021. The full Application guidebook can be accessed using the following link: https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1008/files/Rural_Rec_and_Tourism_%20Program_Final_Application_Guide_10.9.2020_Rev.%201_9_2021_1.8.21.pdf

The RRT program has a different focus than the SPP program and can be used for the following eligible projects and priorities:

- Regional Sports Complex
- Amphitheater/performing arts dance, music, and theater stage
- Athletic fields (soccer regulation or “futbol-rapido”, baseball, softball, football)
- Athletic courts (basketball, “futsal”, tennis, pickleball, etc.)
- Year round complexes
- Winter recreation features: skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, etc.
- Summer recreation features: hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, etc.
- Visitor, interpretive, cultural, historical structures
- Wildlife viewing structure or shade structure/COVERED PARK area
- Non-motorized trail, Equestrian trail, bikeways, pedestrian/bicycle bridge
- Botanical or demonstration gardens and orchards
- Recreation center/gymnasium
- Dog park

- Jogging and walking loop, par course, running track
- Gym exercise equipment (stations fixed into ground) or outdoor exercise equipment
- Disc Golf
- Open space and natural area for public recreation use
- Campground (developed or primitive campsites)
- Picnic/Bar-B-Que areas
- Playground and tot lot
- Plaza, zocalo, gazebo
- Public art (mosaic tiles, sculptures, murals)
- Skate park, skating, roller blading, or ice rink, and BMX or pump track (nonmotorized bike tracks)

The total amount available is \$23,125,000 and competitive grants will range from \$200,000 to \$3 million. There is no match requirement because the median household income for Fort Bragg is below \$56,982. The due date is November 5, 2021.

The former city pool building is still “vacant” and in need of structural repair. If this space were turned into a new recreation feature compatible with the above project, it would be eligible for funding. Other projects might include adding recreation features to the coast trail such as an inter-generational playground/exercise equipment or additional water access features.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction to staff to move forward with the required public processes and prepare to apply for the grant and make recommendations on priority projects.

ALTERNATIVES:

Direct staff not to move forward with the public process and grant application; or

Direct staff not to move forward with grant funding at this time.