



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE ITEM SUMMARY REPORT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 27, 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 RRT program has a different focus than the SPP program and can be used for the following eligible projects and priorities:

- Amphitheater/performing arts dance, music, and theater stage
- Regional Sports Complex
- 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 (non-motorized 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.

At the last Community Development Committee meeting, the committee requested that staff bring back 3-4 projects to review. All three projects are designed to maximize benefits without exceeding the available funding amount.

Staff evaluated several possible projects that have been identified by the City:

1. Rehabilitating the former City Hall East pool building to provide a recreation space
2. Construct ball courts at the CV Starr Center
3. Purchase and construct a pocket park at the corner of Redwood and Franklin
4. Acquire land along the Noyo River for trail and river access
5. Modify parkland around Guest House Museum to create public gathering space

The Pump track will not be evaluated for this grant because this project is already funded.

After an initial review, the three projects that were identified as possible options were:

1. City Hall East Pool Building Conversion - Turning the former pool building into a multipurpose recreational atrium including structural improvements to the existing gym and the creation of public restrooms at the site.
2. CV Starr Covered Outdoor Ball Courts – The plans developed for the CV Starr courts in 2016 were estimated at \$12 Million which is beyond the scope of this project. However, it is possible to do a limited version of the project and create two outdoor covered and fenced courts.
3. CV Starr Indoor Ball Court – Another option is to create one indoor ball court (max 5,200 Square Feet) at the CV Starr Center.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction to staff on the project or projects to move forward for public scoping for an RRT grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

Direct staff to move forward with only one location.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Staff PowerPoint Presentation