



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of January 21, 2012**

DATE: December 19, 2011

SUBJECT: The Park and Recreation Commission ("Commission") requests that the County Board approve funds for nine Park Enhancement Grant projects.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an allocation of \$83,637 from appropriated Park Enhancement Grant ("PEG") Program funds for nine projects as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission.

ISSUES: County Board approval of funding is required for implementation of the listed Park Enhancement Grant awards. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The Park and Recreation Commission have reviewed the final Park Enhancement Grant applications and recommends that the County Board approve the amount of \$83,637 for the nine projects listed below. The Commission has determined that these nine projects will improve the parks and open spaces within the County. The sites are shown on **Attachment 1**.

The approved projects include invasive plant removal, the installation of new park furniture, construction of a "Discovery" playground, landscaping, production of a bilingual historic sign, new fencing for a community canine area, a trail kiosk and installation of two bat houses. Once the funding is approved the projects will be implemented in 2012. County staff supports and recommends the approval of the Commission-recommended projects.

BACKGROUND: The purpose of the PEG program is to enable Arlington citizens to initiate small capital improvement and beautification projects for Arlington's parks and recreation facilities in their neighborhoods, to encourage community support for public parks, and to enable these improvements to be completed without going through the normal County budget process. The Commission initially had fourteen applicants who submitted letters of intent for the program and ten applicants continued through the process to submit a final application. Out of the ten final applications, the Commission chose nine projects to either fund fully or partially. The final nine projects selected for funding in FY2012 all meet the selection criteria used by the Commission to evaluate projects.

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

BRC

[Signature]

Staff: Diane Probus, PRCR

28.

DISCUSSION: The nine projects recommended for approval by the Commission are for park and open space improvements at the following sites in Arlington County:

1. Right of Way Landscaping at I-395 ramp/Arlington Ridge Road Intersection – The project is located in the Arlington Ridge neighborhood. It involves replacement of the grass in a landscaped neighborhood entrance with native plant groundcover. The Arlington Ridge neighborhood has been maintaining the site for a number of years and will contribute \$450 to the project. The total recommended grant is for \$10,371.
2. Zachary Taylor Park – Located in the Donaldson Run Neighborhood at North 26th St. across from Marymount University. The project is for invasive plant removal treatments in an area next to a grassed open space and for planting trees and other native plants in the cleared site. The grant award includes a one-year watering contract. The total recommended grant is for \$10,938.
3. Shirlington Community Canine Area – Located at 2601 S. Arlington Mill Drive in the Fairlington – Shirlington Neighborhood. Project is for redesign and fabrication of the main entrance of the CCA for safer access and better visibility. The total recommended grant is for \$8,148.
4. Bluemont Park Trail Entrance – The site is located at N. Greenbriar Street and N. Granada Street just north of Arlington Boulevard in the Arlington Forest neighborhood. Project includes invasive plant removal for a two-acre wooded area around the trail, installation of a kiosk, and the design and production of a park map to guide trail users. The total recommended grant is for \$14,888.
5. Old Westover Library site – The site is located at the corner of Lexington Street and 18th Street N. in the neighborhood of Highland Park – Overlee Knolls. It borders the neighborhoods of Tara Leeway Heights and Westover Village. The project includes the installation of benches and picnic tables on existing cement pads to complete the construction of amenities at the site. The total recommended grant is for \$11,550.
6. Long Branch Nature Center – Located at 625 S. Carlin Springs Road in the Glencarlyn neighborhood. The project site is located near the nature center along a trail that leads to the stream. The project includes removal of invasive plants, installation of additional split-rail fencing, installation of five boulders, construction of a new bridge and a few other structures to create a nature discovery area where kids can play. The total recommended grant is for \$11,539.
7. Prospect Hill Park – Located at 1025 S. Arlington Ridge Road in the Arlington Ridge neighborhood. The funding will cover installation of a bike rack, two benches and a recycling can, purchase and installation of two bat houses, two educational plaques for interpretation of the bat houses, and relocation of two existing historic signs closer to the path for ADA accessibility. The total recommended grant is for \$7,656.

8. Henry Wright Park (Buckingham Village I) – This project is located in the redeveloped Buckingham Village I development between Henderson Street, N. George Mason Drive and N. Pershing Drive in the Buckingham neighborhood. The funding will provide for translation of the history of the Buckingham Villages history and the residential community into Spanish and funds for an additional sign if needed. The total recommended grant is for \$2,497.
9. Fort Scott Park – The project is located in the Arlington Ridge neighborhood. The project includes installation of boulders between the parking lot and Fort Scott Drive. The park manager will determine the number of boulders and their location and will design so that boulders appear as part of the landscape. The total recommended grant is for \$6,050.

FISCAL IMPACT: The PEG Program is funded through Pay-As-You-Go Capital Improvement Program funds. Funds are available from the Fiscal Year 2012 PAYG (ACC 313.437405.80001.SP7.0649.0000).

Excluding the initial expenditure of \$83,637 to implement the nine projects, there are no additional direct fiscal impacts. All of the recommended projects will have minimal impact on maintenance since the improvements do not require maintenance beyond those levels currently provided in the parks.



Recommended 2012 PEG Projects