



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of February 23, 2008**

DATE: February 23, 20087

SUBJECT: Park Enhancement Grant Program Awards FY 2008.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an allocation of \$61,884 from previously appropriated County Park Enhancement Grant Program funds for eight projects as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission.

ISSUES: As part of the regular annual Park Enhancement Grant award the County Board is being requested to approve the projects recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission.

SUMMARY: The Park and Recreation Commission has reviewed the final Park Enhancement Grant applications and recommends that funding in the amount of \$61,884 for eight projects be approved by the County Board. Staff supports the approval of the selected projects.

BACKGROUND: The criteria the Park and Recreation Commission uses for evaluating PEG projects states that any project should: 1) support or comply with current County park policy; 2) be on County owned or long-term leased property or privately owned common space for which a public use easement has been granted; 3) improve or beautify existing County parks; 4) employ a sound environmental approach and best management practices; 5) provide long term service to a substantial number of citizens; 6) not duplicate nearby services; 7) always be available for general public use; and 8) conform to the Neighborhood Conservation Plan for that area, if one exists. In making its recommendations to the County Board, the Commission gives preference to projects which demonstrate the support of local neighborhood groups, offer volunteer assistance with maintenance, attract matching funds, and serve residents who do not have access to the type of facility proposed. The maximum grant amount is \$12,000.

DISCUSSION: The eight projects recommended for approval by the Commission are for park and open space improvements at the Lang Street Community Gardens, Utah Park, Herndon Park and 13th Street Park, Lucky Run Park, Walter Reed Community Center, Maywood Mini Park, Fort Myer Heights Park, and Thomas Jefferson Park Community Center.

A description of each of the eight projects is as follows:

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Carol Ann Perovshek, DPRCR/PDD

1. The recommended grant award for Lang Street Community Gardens will fund the installation of two utility sheds that will be used to securely store gardening equipment shared and utilized by the members of the garden club. The community garden parcel is located at the intersection of South Glebe Road and South Lang Street. One shed will be located in the center of the garden parcel, and the second will be located in the northwest corner of the parcel. The proposal is sponsored by the Glebe Garden Club and supported by the Arlington Ridge Civic Association. The total recommended grant is for \$6,490.
2. The recommended grant for Utah Park will fund the installation of an ADA compliant picnic table, grill and accompanying concrete slab and walkway. The proposal is sponsored by the Fairlington Citizens Association. The total recommended grant award is \$4,675.
3. The recommended grant for Herndon Park and 13th Street Park will provide the installation of trees and landscaping. The proposal is presented by the Hartford Condominium Association and is supported by Clarendon Dogs and the Lyon Village Civic Association. The recommended grant award is \$12,000.
4. The recommended grant for Lucky Run Park will fund the installation of a new bench, trash receptacle, and informational kiosk. Matching funds in the amount of \$200 are being supplied by the Claremont Citizens Association and will be utilized to supply two solar powered lights and heavy duty trash bags which will support volunteer efforts to maintain the landscaping bed around the neighborhood sign. The proposal is sponsored by the Claremont Citizens Association and has the support of the Claremont Garden Club. The recommended grant award is \$5,003.
5. The recommended grant for the Walter Reed Community Center will fund bed preparation and landscape installation along a section of South 16th Street. This new landscaping will serve to screen the view of the parking lot from the neighborhood and beautify the area. The proposal is presented by Mr. Peter Jones and has the support of the Columbia Heights Civic Association. Matching funds in the amount of \$600 is being donated to the project by the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society. The recommended grant award is \$6,913.
6. The recommended grant award for Maywood Park will fund the removal of an existing split rail fence and the installation of a new ornamental steel fence and gate along the park's street frontage. The project is supported by the Maywood Civic Association, the Maywood Parks Committee and the Friends of Thrifton Hill Park. The recommended grant award is \$10,969.
7. The recommended grant award for Fort Myer Heights Park will support the installation of two new standard park benches, one of which will be ADA compliant, including accompanying concrete pad and walkways. The funding will also provide new bilingual signage at the park's entrance on North Fort Myer Drive, and appropriate plant material to create a 250 sq. ft. area rain garden. The proposal is submitted by the Radnor/Fort Myer Heights Civic Association (RAFOM) and supported by the association and adjacent

property owners, as well as numerous residents throughout the neighborhood who demonstrated their support via signature petitions. The recommended grant award is \$6,834.

8. The recommended grant for Thomas Jefferson Community Center will fund the installation of two new standard benches, an urban-style kiosk, and a new water meter and spigot. This proposal is submitted and supported by the Arlington Heights Civic Association, which is contributing \$2,000 in matching funds to the project. The recommended grant award is \$9,000.

In addition to the proposals listed above, the Park and Recreation Commission received two additional final applications. The Commission chose not to fund the installation of two new benches in Zachary Taylor Park at a cost of \$2,860. The Commission's decision was based on the fact that Zachary Taylor Park has been the recipient of several PEG grant awards in the recent past and has been adequately supported by the program. The Commission also chose not to fund the removal of an existing chain link fence along the back and one side of the Fort Barnard Heights Park and replace it with a new 250 linear feet ornamental steel fence with press point pickets and 2-1/2" square posts at a cost of \$14,292. The Commission's decision not to fund the proposed ornamental fence is because the proposed hollow steel ornamental fencing does not meet the current County standard and the estimated cost exceeds the PEG funding ceiling. In an effort to facilitate the applicant's request, staff suggested a new black vinyl mesh fence as a more affordable fencing option. The applicant rejected the black vinyl-mesh fence recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT: The PEG Program is funded through Pay-As-You-Go Capital Improvement Program funds. Funds are available from the Fiscal Year 2008 PAYG (313.480001.80001.SP8.0649.0000)

Excluding the initial expenditure of \$61,884 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.