



Legislation Text

File #: 1033-2018, **Version:** 1

Background: This ordinance authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to apply for grant funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, NatureWorks for the Chatterton Park Improvements Project and to provide the necessary match funds per grant requirements. If awarded funding, a separate piece of legislation will be submitted at a later date to enter into a grant agreement and allocate the local funds. The grant amount is anticipated at \$194,500.00 from the NatureWorks Grant Program (ODNR) with the City of Columbus being responsible for a match amount of \$204,500.00 from CIP Funds.

In 2016, the Department acquired a 10.75 acre tract for future parkland development at the intersection of Chatterton Road and Brice Road. Based on community input and the opportunity to acquire high quality open space, the Department began a planning process for future development of a neighborhood park.

The NatureWorks Grant is administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to assist Ohio public entities in the acquisition or development of public outdoor recreation areas. This grant will be used for the construction of a playground, athletic field, ¼ mile loop walk, and site furnishings to open the park. These improvements will serve residents of the Eastland/Brice area by providing a needed and easily accessible neighborhood park.

Principal Parties:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
2045 Morse Road, E-2, Columbus, OH 43229
Mary Fitch 614-265-6477
CC#: 31-6402047

Emergency Justification: An emergency is being requested to apply for this grant as the application must be submitted by May 15, 2018.

Benefits to the Public: Improving Chatterton Park will benefit the surrounding community by providing a park that will provide significant benefits to the health, inclusiveness, social equity, and economic vitality of the surrounding community.

Applying for grant funds is a part of the Department's commitment to smart growth and financial stability, as these funds provide critical development resources, expanding the reach of parks open for all, while also meeting the state-wide goals of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Community Input Issues: Beginning in 2017, Planning and Design staff began working with the community to develop a master plan for Chatterton Park. This coordination included multiple meetings with park neighbors held on site. Input gathered at these meetings was used to create and refine the plans for park improvements. As the project moves forward, the community will continue to be engaged as plans are refined and finalized.

Area(s) Affected: Eastland/Brice Rd. Planning Area 24.

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the mission of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by making facilities within a park accessible to pedestrians and locating neighborhood parks within one half mile of all neighborhoods.

Fiscal Impact: This ordinance requires no City of Columbus Funds. If awarded the grant, future legislation will accept and appropriate the grant funds as well as identify a City match. The grant amount is anticipated at \$194,500.00 from the NatureWorks Grant Program (ODNR) with the City of Columbus being responsible for a match amount of \$204,500.00 from CIP Funds.

To authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to apply for grant funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, NatureWorks Fund for the Chatterton Park Improvements project and provide the necessary match funds per grant requirements; and to declare an emergency. (\$0.00)

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, NatureWorks Fund is accepting applications; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Parks Department wishes to apply for a grant for the Chatterton Park Improvements project; and

WHEREAS, future legislation would accept and appropriate the grant funds as well as identify a city match; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Recreation and Parks Department in that it is immediately necessary to apply for said grant to meet application deadlines; **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the Director of Recreation and Parks be and is hereby authorized and directed to apply for grant funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks Fund for the Chatterton Park Improvements project and provide the necessary match funds per grant requirements.

SECTION 2. That this ordinance authorizes an application for the grant funds only and is not a commitment to expend city funds.

SECTION 3. That future legislation will follow to authorize acceptance, appropriation, and expenditure of funds.

SECTION 4. That the City of Columbus does agree to obligate the funds required to satisfactorily complete the proposed project and become eligible for reimbursement under the terms and conditions of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, NatureWorks Fund.

SECTION 5. That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or 10 days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.