



Legislation Text

File #: 0478-2024, **Version:** 1

Background: This ordinance authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into a grant agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for the McNaughten Road Greenspace Protection Project. This ordinance will also authorize the appropriation of the grant and matching funds. The grant amount is \$620,120.00 and the local match amount is \$224,880.00. There is a total of \$845,000.00 available for this project being authorized by this ordinance.

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) accepted the Recreation and Parks application for the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation program. OPWC administers statewide grant funding to preserve natural areas and greenway corridors and this ordinance authorizes an application for 2023 Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program grant funds. This grant will be used towards the fee simple acquisition of various sites in Columbus, including an eight acre greenspace on McNaughten Road in the City's Far East Community. In July of 2023, Recreation and Parks applied for Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Funds for property acquisitions for the project, Ordinance 2103-2023.

This project will also acquire two parcels along the McNaughten Road corridor in the Far East Community of Columbus for greenspace preservation and a neighborhood park. The residents along the two and a half mile stretch of McNaughten Road, from East Broad Street to Livingston Avenue, have no parkland or protected natural area. The past three years have seen a substantial number of apartment development projects proposed or built. These parcels are among the last remaining in the entire corridor that are possible for greenspace preservation. This parkland is on the south end of the McNaughten Road Corridor, near East Main Street. In 2019 and 2023, Columbus Recreation and Parks studied the McNaughten Road area as part of a citywide land plan. These neighborhoods rated among the City's least served for parks and open spaces.

Principal Parties:

Ohio Public Works Commission
Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, Clean Ohio Conservation Fund - District 3
65 East State Street, Suite 312
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Emergency Justification: Emergency action is being requested so that the Director of Recreation and Parks can immediately sign the grant agreement and accept the funding to meet the property acquisition deadline of April 15, 2024.

Benefits to the Public: Protection of the City's high quality waterways, greenway corridors, ravines, and urban forests is of great benefit to current and future generations. These sites are within rapidly urbanizing areas of the city and preservation of key natural sites is one of the main missions of Recreation and Parks.

Community Input/Issues: During the past decade, residents in these communities, and the city at large, have expressed strong priority for more greenspaces, protected stream corridors access to nature, walking paths, and urban forest conservation.

Area(s) Affected:

Far East (58)

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the Recreation and Parks' Master Plan by improving access to trails and greenways corridors while providing safe connections to the regional trail network for nearby neighborhoods. It will

provide long term protected corridors for walking, biking, and outdoor experiences while improving the equitable access to trails and greenways.

Fiscal Impact: This ordinance will authorize the appropriation of \$620,120.00 in grant funds in the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund 2283. This ordinance will also authorize a grant match of \$224,880.00 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund 7702. \$224,880.00 is budgeted and available from within the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund 7702 to meet the financial obligations of this grant match. There is a total of \$845,000.00 available for this project. Future legislation will be prepared to expend these funds once acquisition is ready to move forward.

To authorize the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into a grant agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for the McNaughten Road Greenspace Protection Project and accept a grant in the amount of \$620,120.00 with a local match of \$224,880.00; to authorize the appropriation of \$620,120.00 in the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund; to authorize the amendment of the 2023 Capital Improvements Budget Ordinance; to authorize the transfer of \$224,880.00 within the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$845,000.00)

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2103-2023 authorized the Director of Recreation and Parks to apply for funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program and OPWC has awarded the City of Columbus a grant for the McNaughten Road Greenspace Protection Project; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to accept a grant in the amount of \$620,120.00 and enter into an agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission for the McNaughten Road Greenspace Protection Project; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to authorize the appropriation of \$620,120.00 to the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to authorize that the 2023 Capital Improvements Budget Ordinance 1711-2023 be amended in order to provide sufficient budget authority for this legislation and future projects; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to authorize the transfer of \$224,880.00 within the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operations of the Recreation and Parks Department in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Director to immediately sign the grant agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission to meet the property purchase acquisition deadline, all for the immediate preservation of the public health, peace, property, safety, and welfare and, **NOW, THEREFORE**

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

SECTION 1. That the Director of Recreation and Parks is authorized and directed to accept a grant and enter into a contract with the Ohio Public Works Commission for the McNaughten Road Greenspace Protection Project. The amount of the grant is \$620,120.00 and requires \$224,880.00 in City matching funds. There is a total of \$845,000.00 available for this project. Future legislation will be prepared to expend these funds once acquisition is ready to move forward.

SECTION 2. That from the unappropriated monies and from all monies estimated to come into said fund from any and all sources and unappropriated for any other purpose during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, the sum of \$620,120.00 is appropriated to the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund 2283 per the account codes in the attachment to this ordinance. Appropriation effective upon receipt of executed grant agreement.

SECTION 3. That at the end of the grant period, any repayment of unencumbered balances required by the grantor is

hereby authorized and any unused City match monies may be transferred back to the City fund from which they originated in accordance with all applicable grant agreements.

SECTION 4. That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

SECTION 5. That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this ordinance.

SECTION 6. That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to transfer the unencumbered balance in a project account to the unallocated balance account within the same fund upon receipt of certification by the Director of the Department administering said project that the project has been completed and the monies are no longer required for said project.

SECTION 7. That the transfer of \$224,880.00 or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized between projects within the Recreation and Parks Bond Fund 7702 per the account codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 8. That the 2023 Capital Improvements Budget Ordinance 1711-2023 is hereby amended as follows in order to provide sufficient budget authority for this ordinance and future projects.

Fund / Project / Project Name / Current Revised Authority / Current Remaining Authority / Change / Amended Revised Authority / Amended Remaining Authority

Fund 7702 / P512005-100000 / Community Creative Campus (Voted Carryover) / \$0 / \$0 / \$6,695 / \$6,695 / \$6,695 (to match cash)

Fund 7702 / P512005-100000 / Community Creative Campus (Voted Carryover) / \$6,695 / \$6,695 / (\$6,695) / \$0 / \$0

Fund 7702 / P517000-100000 / Opportunity Projects - Misc. (Voted Carryover) / \$398,727 / \$398,727 / (\$217,560) / \$181,167 / \$181,167

Fund 7702 / P517020-100000 / Opportunity Projects - General Design & Construction Management Services / \$14,125 / \$625 / (\$625) / \$13,500 / \$0

Fund 7702 / P510930-513000; OPWC - McNaughten Road Greenspace Protection Grant Match (Voted Carryover) / \$0 / \$0 / \$224,880 / \$224,880 / \$224,880

SECTION 9. 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 ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.