



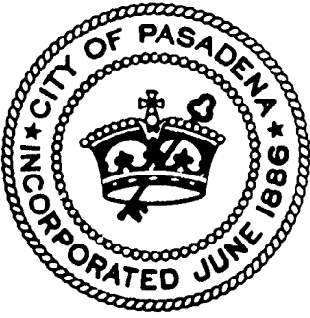
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

January 28, 2002

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager
SUBJECT: Approval of the Park Bonds and Grants Plan

At the Legislative Policy Committee meeting on January 15, 2002, the Committee voted to approve recommendations #1 and #3 as is and voted to approve recommendations #2 and #4 subject to the views and recommendations of the Recreation and Parks Commission.

The Recreation and Parks Commission considered this matter at a special meeting on January 16, 2002 and supported staff's recommendations with one amendment to recommendation #3. They would like the following type of language added: If the City does not receive Proposition 40 funds, General Funds will be appropriated to this project.



Agenda Report

TO: City Council

January 28, 2002

THROUGH: Legislative Policy Committee

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of the Park Bonds and Grants Plan

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve the *Competitive Park Grant Application Plan*, authorizing staff to apply for the various grants detailed in Attachment A;
2. Approve a journal voucher amending the FY 2002 Capital Improvement Program Budget to appropriate Funds for Proposition 12 in the amount of \$408,200 to various deferred maintenance projects detailed in Attachment B;
3. Approve the submittal of "Eaton Wash Park Improvements Project" to Pasadena's State Legislative Representatives as the City's request for inclusion in the *Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Bond (Proposition 40)*; and
4. Approve the proposed allocation of Proposition 40 Block Grant funding as detailed in Attachment C. These funds will only become available if Proposition 40 passes on the March 5, 2002 ballot and would return to the Council for appropriation at that time.

RECOMMENDATION OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION

The Recreation and Parks Commission will review this plan and its recommendations at a special meeting on January 16, 2002.

BACKGROUND

One of the City’s most important assets is its public parks. Pasadena has a citywide parks system that includes 680.13 acres in 24 specific dedicated parks. The care and improvement of this system is a city priority that has frequently gone unfunded, as the primary source of revenue is the General Fund. There currently exist several opportunities that have the potential of providing Pasadena with a significant amount of new park funding. Some of this funding is already available through block grant funds from the recently passed *Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Proposition 12)* or from the city’s successful application for competitive grants from a variety of sources. Other funds may soon become available if the voters approve the *Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Proposition 40)* in the March 5, 2002 election.

To be competitive, the City must identify park projects that meet the specific criteria for each grant opportunity. At the same time, it is staff’s intent to equitably distribute funding across the city. These two goals are sometimes difficult to reconcile when the grant criteria are narrowly focused. This report evaluates all priority park projects and seeks to match each with the most competitive funding opportunity.

Over the past year, the City has applied for and in many cases been successful at receiving various grants for city parks. Attachment D – *Competitive Grants for Parks ~ Status Report – Grant Applications Submitted 1998 to Present*, lists the grants the City has applied for over the past three years and the status of the grant application. Grants # 1 – 7 have been applied for and are pending; Grants # 8 – 13 have been awarded; and Grants 14 and 15 were denied.

COMPETITIVE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

To ensure the City is competitive for a variety of funds, staff has prepared a *Competitive Park Grant Application Plan*. The plan, which is highlighted in Attachment A, lists the potential grant opportunities available over the next twelve months and the park projects which qualify under each program. The chart below summarizes staff’s recommendations.

GRANT	REQUEST AMOUNT	SUBMITTAL DATE	RECOMMENDED PROJECTS	PARK
Riparian and Riverine Habitat Grant Program - FY 2002	\$365,000	2/1/02	Implementation of a Portion of the Perimeter Trail at Hahamongna	Hahamongna
Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program – FY 2002	Up to \$1,000,000	3/29/02	Replacement of Recreational Facilities at Robinson Park	Robinson
Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$585,000	5/1/02	Bird Watching Trails to Enhance the Bird Sanctuary in the Arroyo Seco	Arroyo Seco
Murray-Hayden (Prop 12)	Up to \$3,000,000	5/1/02	Replacement of Recreational Facilities	Robinson

Recreational Trails Program, Non-Motorized Trail Projects – FY 2003	\$200,000	10/1/02	Pasadena Arroyo Seco Trails	Arroyo Seco
Habitat Conservation Fund, Anadromous – FY 2003	Up to \$300,000	10/1/02	Eaton Canyon – City will work with Los Angeles County to develop a joint trails project	Eaton Canyon – Joint with Los Angeles County
Prop. 14 – Library Construction and Renovation Act	\$2.3 million	6/2/02	Construct a New Facility Joint between City and PUSD	Allendale
Proposition 40 (on the March ballot) – Urban and Special Needs Agencies Competitive Grants	\$210 million total available	To be determined	Implement Projects being Developed in the Master Plan	Washington Park

PROPOSITION 12 – PER CAPITA BLOCK GRANT OF \$1.7 MILLION

In addition to the competitive opportunities, the City has received \$1.7 million in per capita funds from *The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Proposition 12)*. On February 14, 2000, the City Council received an information report from staff which listed three projects as the highest priorities for use of the per capita block grants which Pasadena received. They were:

- New Multi-Purpose Athletic Fields \$800,000
- One Year of Turf Management \$400,000
- Deferred Park Maintenance Projects \$500,000

Since that report the turf management program has been implemented with General Fund dollars in the Operating Budget.

In February 2000 the Multipurpose Sports Field Task Force was formed in response to the significant shortage of field space for organized sports throughout the community. The Task Force presented their recommendations to the City Council on October 30, 2000. Their recommendations contained a three-phased plan for implementing a series of improvements to enhance existing and provide for new athletic fields. At this meeting, the Council voted to fund the total cost of the Phase I plan which was \$870,000. A total of \$264,000 of the Proposition 12 block grant funds was appropriated for improvements to sport fields at Audubon, Don Benito, Elliot, Field and Marshall Schools. Phases 2 and 3 of the task force’s plan will be implemented over the next two to four years. The remaining \$536,000 of the Proposition 12 block grant funds for multi-purpose athletic fields will be appropriated as the next two phases move forward.

On July 31, 2001, the City Council voted to appropriate \$488,299 of General Fund money and \$488,299 of the Proposition 12 - block grant funds for the removal, replacement and

retrofit of playground equipment to bring it up to the most recent safety and ADA standards (See Attachment E). This action left \$400,000 of per capita money to be appropriated for deferred maintenance projects. Attachment B – *Suggested Appropriations of Proposition 12 Block Grant* – outlines staff’s deferred maintenance project recommendations for the distribution of these funds.

PROPOSITION 40 – 2002 PARK BOND

On October 13, 2001, Governor Davis signed AB 1602 (Keeley/Burton) which places the *Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Bond Act – Proposition 40* before the voters on March 5, 2002. If this measure is passed, \$2.6 billion dollars will be available for parks throughout the state.

The major difference in this proposal from earlier bond acts is the limited number of competitive grant categories. The Legislature and Governor shall appropriate \$642.5 million for projects as a part of the state’s budget cycle. This places a much greater responsibility on agencies to ensure their legislators are aware of the priorities of the agency in order to push the project through the state’s budget cycle.

Staff recommends “Eaton Wash Park – Improvements” to be included in this process. Eaton Wash Park is one of the few undeveloped parcels of vacant land that exist in Pasadena. The master plan was approved in concept by the City Council on August 9, 1999 and includes amenities such as landscaping, walking paths, road improvements, parking lots, a playground, and a restroom. The total cost of these park improvements is \$1,225,000. Currently, there is \$190,454 in Residential Development Fees and \$23,000 Private Capital appropriated to this project.

GRANT	REQUEST AMOUNT	SUBMITTAL DATE	RECOMMENDED PROJECTS	PARK
Proposition 40 (on the March ballot) – Inclusion in the \$642.5 million the Legislature shall appropriate	\$1.2 million	ASAP	Eaton Wash Park Improvements	Eaton Wash Park

In addition to the amenities listed above, the master plan proposes an “off leash” dog area in the amount of \$220,000. The Pasadenans Organizing Off-Leash Canine Habitats Group (POOCH) has raised almost \$17,000 for the construction of the off-leash area, and the group has obtained a \$30,000 commitment for additional donations. However, in order for the POOCH park to be constructed, the portion of the park fronting on East Orange Grove Boulevard, including the road and parking improvements that will be shared by the POOCH and other park users, need to be constructed. This grant would allow the City to add much needed open space and assist POOCH with the ability to move forward with the dog park. Loose dogs continue to be a concern in parks citywide. A dedicated POOCH park is

expected to relieve pressure on many other parks from loose dogs and the concerns that have been raised about park safety. We believe it will assist residents citywide.

PROPOSITION 40 – PER CAPITA BLOCK GRANTS

It is anticipated that the City of Pasadena will receive approximately \$1.1 million in per capita grant funds as a part of proposition 40. Due to the large number of unfunded deferred maintenance park projects in the FY 2002 CIP budget, staff recommends this per capita money be used to fund these projects. Attachment C –*Per Capita Allotment for Proposition 40* – outlines staff's recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City has identified \$20.4 million in unfunded park projects as part of the Capital Improvement Program budget. The City has been unable to provide funding for these projects. With the funds made available through the parks bond recently passed, as well as grant funding and the possible passage of the *Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Proposition 40)*, the City has the potential of adding \$17.5 million in park improvements funding over the next two years.


The appropriation of Proposition 12 funds to park projects detailed in Attachment B will increase the FY 2002 – 2006 CIP budget by \$408,200.

Respectfully submitted,



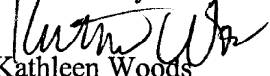
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City Manager

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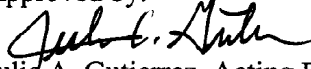
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