

Memo

To: Mayor and Board of Commissioners
From: Paul Horne, Parks Planner
Date: November 14, 2016
Re: Comprehensive Parks Master Plan



Discussion

About Systemwide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plans

A parks and open-space plan outlines a systematic approach to providing parks and recreation services to a community. Parks and open-space resources within a community include environmental, recreational, scenic, cultural, historic, and urban design elements.

Reasons to Prepare a Parks and Open Space Plan

Jan Gehl (1987), the Danish urbanist and architect, states, “The proper hierarchy of planning is life, space and buildings, not buildings, space, life.” Therefore communities need to plan for open spaces that provide a multitude of public functions before development occurs. These functions are numerous and may include:

- Protection of natural resources and biodiversity;
- Creation of places for recreation;
- Support for economic development opportunities;
- Development of neighborhood gathering spaces;
- Promotion of public health benefits;
- Creation of civic and cultural infrastructure; and
- Shaping patterns of development through open spaces.

American Planning Association. (2006). Parks and open-space plans. In *Planning and urban design standards* (p. 38). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Parks Plan for Pittsboro

The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners recognize the social, economic, health and environmental benefits of parks. The funding of this plan demonstrates the Town’s dedication to investing in parks and recreation facilities to ensure that Pittsboro is a location of choice for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

This plan envisions active public engagement and participation, through a planning process which will guide policies, inform decisions, and provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the myriad values of parks, recreation, greenways and open-space.

Background

The project is expected to last 8 to 9 months and will span into the next fiscal year.

AECOM is the selected consultant for the project, their core fee is \$80,605. A brochure and firm introduction is included in this agenda item, as is their scope of services.

Additionally, The Chatham County Health Department has agreed to contribute \$12,000 to this plan in order to promote positive health outcomes for Pittsboro's residents. Alta Planning and Design will conduct a Health Evaluation component to the plan contracted separately.

Finances

Project Revenues	
\$60,000	FY 2016-17 Town Allocation
\$12,000	County Health Department Grant
\$72,000	Total FY 16-17 Revenues
\$16,235	FY2017-18 Town Allocation
\$88,235	Total Revenues

Note that pre-authorized allocations this fiscal year are capped at \$60,000, plus the additional \$12,000 should the board accept the Health Department grant. This approach envisions the future allocation of \$16,235 in fiscal year 2017-2018 to complete portions of the project extending into that fiscal year.

Project Expenditures	
\$80,605	Core AECOM Plan (including some Health Dept. required scope)
\$6,220	Health Evaluation Component via Alta Planning & Design
\$1,410	1.6% Contingency
\$88,235	Total Expenditures

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) has been consulted on this plan and has unanimously endorsed full funding of it, their resolution particularly mentioned the critical importance for systematic planning for parks as we face the prospect of rapid growth.

Attachments

- AECOM broad timeline
- Letter from the Chatham County Public Health Department offering their contribution
- Contract for AECOM's services
- Scope of Alta's services (Health Evaluation Component)
- AECOM Brochure on Parks Master Plans
- Resolutions Accepting Health Grant & Authorization to enter into two contracts

Recommendation

- 1) To resolve that the Board will accept the \$12,000 offer from the Chatham County Health Department.
- 2) That the Board authorize the Town Manger to enter into contract with AECOM for the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan project,
- 3) That the Town Board authorize the Town Manager to enter into contract with Alta for the Health Evaluation component of the Parks Master Plan.