REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

PREFERRED AGENDA: February 12, 2019
SUBMITTED BY: Angela Clegg, Associate Planner
REVIEWED BY: 

TITLE: Oregon Parks and Recreation Grant
ATTACHMENTS:
- Phase I, II, III Maps
- Parks 7 Year Grant Plan
- Sankey Park Conceptual Redesign
- Park 5 year CIP
- Sankey Park Plan, Schedule, and Cost document
- Park & Tree Committee Donation/In-Kind Solicitation Plan

TYPE OF ACTION: RESOLUTION
MOTION
OTHER

PURPOSE OF THIS RCA:
The purpose of this RCA is to provide background information for the City Council; so that the Council can make an informed decision on whether the City should apply for an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Development Project Grant to improve Sankey Park.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT:
In 2016 the City of Sweet Home hired Community Service Center (CSC) associates from the University of Oregon to provide planning and technical assistance for a new vision at Sankey Park. CSC Associates and City Staff provided multiple opportunities for community engagement through surveys, face to face meetings, and meetings in the park where citizens could vote on what they wanted to see. Sankey Park has been an iconic public space for generations of Sweet Home residents. The Park’s central location makes it readily accessible to members of the Sweet Home community and visitors of all demographics. In addition to typical city park amenities such as play equipment and restrooms, Sankey provides access to serene natural areas and wooded trails. The site plays host to many events each year from community movie nights to the annual Oregon Jamboree music festival (Exhibit C).

Through the conceptual redesign process it was determined that while the park provides opportunities for recreation and access to green space in the heart of downtown, this comes with serious concerns of inappropriate park use and poor stewardship by park visitors. Longtime residents share fond memories of the site while simultaneously noting concerns about the disrepair of current facilities. Issues of loitering and illegal behavior have caused safety concerns for residents who are apprehensive about bringing children, family members, and visitors to the space. The current plan re-envisions Sankey as a vibrant community space for all Sweet Home residents and visitors. Drawing insights from the community itself, it honors the site’s past while looking forward and providing for the future (Exhibit C).

The City began implementation of the Sankey Park Concept Plan in 2018; which included the removal of the manufactured home, tree thinning, parking lot improvements, and installation of a new restroom. Removal of the old restroom is scheduled to occur in the next month.
The City of Sweet Home Staff and the Park and Tree Committee have identified projects and costs for proposed redesign elements using the conceptual redesign document as a guide. The City Engineer drafted a Park 5 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and a Sankey Park plan, schedule and cost documents. The Committee and staff drafted the Sweet Home Parks 7 Year Grant Plan (Exhibit B) using the staff engineer’s documents as the template. The Park and Tree Committee reviewed the CIP and chose items to include in the grant (Exhibit D1 and D2). Once items were identified and approved for recommendation by the Park and Tree Committee, they formed a sub-committee of three members to help with the grant process. They held several meetings and consulted with staff and public works to create their Grant Plan recommendation. The Park and Tree sub-committee and staff are recommending applying for a reimbursable grant of $243,000 to help cover the costs identified in the Sweet Home Parks 7 Year Grant Plan. (See Issues and Financial Impacts for a more detailed funding breakdown).

THE CHALLENGE/PROBLEM:

Should the City Council submit a grant application for $243,000? The City would need to match 40%, $162,000, which can include a mix of cash and in-kind services. (See Issues and Financial Impacts for a more detailed finding breakdown).

STAKEHOLDERS:

The proposed grant would assist the City with the ability to complete projects at Sankey Park and therefore fulfill the goal of providing a vibrant community space for all Sweet Home residents and visitors.

- **City of Sweet Home**: Having better more vibrant parks increases positive use, lowers crime, and increases the property values of homes near the park.
- **Surrounding Residence**: Studies show that there is an increase in property values with homes near and abutting parks. Increased positive use in the parks can result in lower crime rates in surrounding neighborhoods and a more positive, family-friendly environment,
- **Outer Residence**: improved parks creates a family friendly gathering area that has safe park amenities mixed with open natural areas for families to explore.
- **Businesses**: Increased amenities within the community show vibrancy and will bring more people to town.
- **Visitors**: they see a vibrant and inviting community that makes them want to visit time and time again, and potentially chose Sweet Home as a place to live.

ISSUES & FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

- Project Amount: $405,000
- Grant Amount: $243,000
- 40% Match Requirement: $162,000
  - City Parks Projects/Improv. Budget: $30,000 (secured match from 2018-2019 budget)
  - Donations/In-Kind Contributions: $132,000

Project Components In order of Priority (see attached map):

1. Playground #1 (all new) $120,000
2. Playground #2 (upgrades) $ 30,000
3. Path A1, B1, and bollards $ 80,000
4. Path Lighting A1, A2, and B1 $120,000
5. Weddle Bridge Plaza $ 30,000
6. Tables and Benches $ 20,000
7. Bike Rack, Signage/Wayfinding $ 5,000
The grant amount is comparable to other projects similar in scope and awarded through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. (Exhibit E)

If approved the Park and Tree Committee have formed a plan to solicit for community donations (Exhibit F) thus fulfilling our goal of increased community involvement.

If 1/3 of the match requirement is not raised or pledged by March 8, 2019 staff will work with Public Works and the Sub-Committee to scale down the project and grant request, starting from the bottom of the priority list and working up. The grant application is due April 1, 2019.

**ELEMENTS OF A STABLE SOLUTION:**

To secure funding to complete the lower Sankey Park upgrades identified by the community and City staff.

**OPTIONS:**

1. Direct staff to submit the proposed Parks and Recreation Department Development Project Grant as submitted;
2. Direct staff not to submit the proposed Parks and Recreation Department Development Project Grant;
3. Direct staff to submit the proposed Parks and Recreation Department Development Project Grant with recommended City Council changes (specify);
4. Take no action; or
5. Other

If the City Council approves the proposed grant, staff will prepare and submit the grant application. The grant submission deadline is April 1, 2019.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff and the Park and Tree Committee recommend that the City Council approve the proposed Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Development Project Grant Application for $243,000. This grant application would be submitted by April 1, 2019, reviewed in June 2019, awards will be announced in September 2019, and if awarded projects could start late fall 2019.

**EXHIBITS:**

Exhibit A1 - Sankey Park Phase I Map (completed items)
Exhibit A2 - Sankey Park Phase II Map (grant submission)
Exhibit A3 - Sankey Park Phase III Map (future projects)
Exhibit B - Sweet Home Parks 7 Year Grant Plan
Exhibit C - Sankey Park Conceptual Redesign
Exhibit D1 - Park 5 Year CIP
Exhibit D2 - Sankey Park plan, schedule and cost document
Exhibit E - 2018 OR Parks and Recreation Grant Awards List
Exhibit F - Park and Tree Committee Donation/In-kind solicitation Plan