



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

DATE: MAY 15, 2023

WARDS: ALL

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: PARKS DIVISION UPDATE ON DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ISSUE:

Provide a Parks Division update on deferred maintenance projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Park and Recreation Commission provide feedback on deferred maintenance projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act and receive the report for file.

BACKGROUND:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to facilitate the recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. ARPA established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and ARPA 2nd Allocation Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which provides a combined \$350 billion in assistance to eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to assist in the economic and health recovery by providing resources to address impacts resulting from the crisis.

On February 7, 2023, City Council approved the allocation of ARPA funds to the Parks Deferred Maintenance Projects in the total amount of \$10 million.

DISCUSSION:

The \$10 million in ARPA funding will allow the city to invest in park infrastructure that has a high impact on community well-being such as playground renovations, parking lots, HVAC, and flooring in various wards. Maintenance and replacement of parks infrastructure allows the city to meet the public's needs by providing free recreational opportunities and promoting the safety and health of the community. By utilizing funding on playgrounds, it ensures families have access to recreational opportunities in the community. As private sector recreational opportunities increase in cost, it is important to continue investing in public parks, open spaces, community

centers, and recreational amenities for affordable and accessible options for all to enjoy. Parking lots and flooring focus on safety issues and assist in preventing accidents at centers. HVAC ensures community centers remain open to the public for programming, events, and activities, as well as continue to serve as cooling and heating centers. Investing in the maintenance of the parks system is an investment in the community's health and well-being.

This ARPA funding allocation is in addition to funding for the Bordwell Park Gymnasium and other programs.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The work contributes to **Strategic Priority 1 – Arts, Culture and Recreation**, and **Goal 1.3 – Improve parks, recreational amenities, open space, and trail development, and fulfill critical lifecycle and facility maintenance needs**, and **Goal 1.4 – Prioritize safety at parks, trails, arts, cultural and recreational facilities**.

This item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Maintaining clean and safe parks, facilities and amenities benefits the community overall. With over 50 natural and developed parks, all within the community have access to the City of Riverside's park system.
2. **Equity** – Public parks are open to all to utilize and enjoy, and maintenance allows all to have access to a safe and well-maintained park.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – Ensuring that routine maintenance of parks, trails, open spaces, recreational amenities, and facilities is completed, prevents more costly repairs.
4. **Innovation** – The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department seeks opportunities for funding and grant opportunities to assist with deferred maintenance costs when available.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Ensuring that routine maintenance of parks, trails, open spaces, recreational amenities, and facilities is completed, ensures the longevity of equipment, and that the parks and recreation system is sustained for future use.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report. Funding for repairs and replacements are included in the Department's budget.

Prepared by: Pamela M. Galera, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Approved by: Pamela M. Galera, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Attachment:

1. PowerPoint Presentation

2. ARPA Park Projects List