



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT WARDS: 1, 2, 5 AND 7

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$62,000 FROM THE REGIONAL PARK SPECIAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR INSTALLATION OF MAP KIOSKS, TRAIL MARKERS, AND SIGNS IN SYCAMORE CANYON WILDERNESS PARK; MINOR TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY TRAIL SYSTEM; AND TRAIL EASEMENT ACQUISITIONS

ISSUES:

Approve a \$62,000 supplemental appropriation from the Regional Park Special Capital Improvement Fund and authorize use of funds to: install map kiosks, trail markers and signs in Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park; perform minor trail improvements to the City trail system; and acquire trail easements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. By at least five affirmative votes, approve a \$62,000 supplemental appropriation to the Regional Park Special Capital Improvement Fund, Trail Development Project, to install map kiosks, trail markers, signs, trail improvements in Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park, and perform trail improvements and acquire trail easements for the City trail system.

BACKGROUND:

At approximately 1,400 acres, Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park is the City of Riverside's largest park. This regional reserve park provides several miles of trails used for hiking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and similar outdoor recreation. The park is also a designated habitat reserve for the endangered Stephens Kangaroo Rat.

On August 17, 2021, City Council adopted the updated City Trails Master Plan (TMP). The TMP serves as the guide for where trails are implemented in the City, as well as provides design standards for trail development. Some segments of the Trails Master Plan route require acquisition of private property in order to implement the trail.

The Regional Parks and Reserve Parks Development Fee fund may be utilized for the acquisition and development of regional parks and reserve parks (RMC 16.44.010).

The Trails Development Fee fund may be utilized for the acquisition and development of trails (RMC 16.76.010).

DISCUSSION:

Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park

To improve safety within the park, the Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team volunteers plan to install trail markers in the park. Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park currently has very limited signage and trail markers, making wayfinding in the park difficult due to the vastness of the open space and nature of the terrain. Additionally, it can be difficult for emergency responders to locate park users if they call for help because of the lack of markers and landmarks to describe locations within the park. The trail markers will include emergency response location numbers, so that park users can convey their location to responders.

The materials for the improvements will be purchased by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD), and City or contractor labor will be used to install the kiosks. Labor to install the kiosks is projected to cost \$16,000. Materials to be purchased are projected to cost a total of \$34,000 including fire resistant trail marker posts, kiosks for maps and park information, signs, decals, and related materials required for installation work. Regional Parks and reserve Parks Development Fee funds are proposed for use to pay for materials and labor for this work at Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park. Purchase of materials and services will be in accordance with Purchasing Resolution No. 23256.

The Fire Department concurs with this item.

Trail Easement Acquisitions and Minor Trail Improvements

The following work will be provided by the City totaling \$12,000:

- City's Public Works Department processing trail easement dedications.
- Labor and materials for installation of trail markers, signs, property line markers and various minor trail improvements

Trail Development Impact Fee funds are proposed for use to pay the cost for the trail easement acquisitions and minor trail improvements.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The work contributes to the "Arts, Culture and Recreation" priority of the Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan, which aims to provide diverse community experiences and personal enrichment opportunities for people of all ages.

The work contributes to goals 1.3, to improve parks, recreational amenities, open space, and trail development, and fulfill critical lifecycle and facility maintenance needs, and goal 1.4, to prioritize safety at parks, trails, arts, cultural and recreational facilities.

The item aligns with *the five Cross-Cutting Threads* as follows:

- a) **Community Trust** – The work is consistent with the City's Trails Master Plan. To build

community trust and ensure that the 2021 Trails Master Plan reflects the public's interests, the planning process included extensive community engagement, including an online survey, online interactive mapping tool to collect comments on a geospatial platform, community meetings, social media posts, e-blasts, stakeholder and technical advisory committee meetings, and workshops.

- b) **Equity** – Equity was a factor used to prioritize projects within the 2021 Trails Master Plan update, to ensure that there are trails created to serve disadvantaged and underserved communities. One trail easement to be acquired is part of a high priority segment and the other is part of a medium priority segment.
- c) **Fiscal Responsibility** – Purchase of materials and services will be in accordance with Purchasing Resolution 23256. Trail markers in Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park will be installed by volunteers, resulting in savings to the City.
- d) **Innovation** – The work is part of the 2021 Trails Master Plan Update, which was adopted as a component of the City's PACT plan (Pedestrian Safeguarding Plan, Active Transportation Plan, Complete Streets Ordinance, and Trails Master Plan Update), a collaborative planning effort with the Public Works Department to provide an integrated system of bike and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the City, to promote and expand user-friendly and safer active transportation and recreation opportunities.
- e) **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The trail system contributes to the infrastructure needed to promote active transportation modes, creates healthier and happier residents, reduces vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions, and contributes to a more sustainable community that is resilient to the impacts of fossil fuel depletion and climate change.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of this recommendation is \$62,000. Funds are available in Fund Balance in the Special Capital Improvement Fund. Upon Council approval, \$62,000 will be appropriated to Special Capital Improvement Fund, Trail Development Project, project expenditure account 9919054-440305.

Prepared by: Randy McDaniel, Interim Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
Certified as to availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney