



Agenda Action Form Overview

The Durham County Matching Grants Program is seeking funding approval for the 2018-19 program applicants. The Matching Grants Committee of the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission received six applications towards development of new recreational initiatives in Durham County.

Background/Justification

The Durham County Matching Grants Program, now in its 28th year, provides matching funding for local non-profits to pursue projects that protect open space or provide recreational opportunities for citizens of Durham County.

The 2018-19 cycle of the Matching Grants Program received six applications this cycle, for projects that totaled \$111,275. The Matching Grants Committee of the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (DOST) met several times and provided feedback to the groups to modify the requests to bring the projects to a total of \$77,175, the amount budgeted for this year. All groups agreed to the project revisions and awarded amounts which are summarized below and in Attachment 1. The DOST Commission recommended approval of the projects at their meeting on January 16, 2019.

The projects are wide ranging, and geographically spread across Durham, as shown on the attached map (Attachment 2). The projects are summarized below:

1. Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association: \$13,400

The Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association project includes the creation of a trail at Pearl Mill Nature Preserve along the bioretention areas that will connect nearby residents to the creek, contracted mowing of the parcels north of the bioretention areas and seeding with native plants to establish a natural meadow, and engineering to begin Stage 2 of the Strayhorn Branch Stream Restoration design process. This project has a combination of volunteer in-kind labor and existing funding to provide the matching funding.

2. Keep Durham Beautiful: \$5,725

The Keep Durham Beautiful project includes trail renovations to the current trail that encircles the Jordan High School campus. Trail improvements will include the construction of two short footbridges, gravel, mulch and signage to increase the usability of the trail. Additional improvements will include ¼ mile long by 4-foot wide pea gravel and edging trail improvement in one particularly eroded location. This project has a combination of volunteer in-kind labor and donor contributions to provide the matching funding.

3. E.K. Powe Elementary PTA: \$20,000

The E.K. Powe PTA project includes the development of a playground-wide Stormwater Concept Design to include a single stormwater retrofit treatment train (2-3 bioretention cells with associated overflow swales) and a playing field improvement that includes field crowning and 10” of soil amendments for additional water storage. This project has matching funds from an existing 319 grant obtained through the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association.



4. Maureen Joy Charter School: \$15,000

The Maureen Joy Charter School project includes the installation of an outdoor basketball court in an open field that is directly behind the school, on school property. There is currently no gym, or basketball facilities at the school. The court would be available to the public in off school hours, and all day on the weekends. Maureen Joy Charter School has funds available to provide the matching funds.

5. Durham Parks Foundation: \$11,350

The Durham Parks Foundation project includes numerous items planned for phase three of the construction of the and Environmental Education Pavilion at West Point on the Eno park. The third phase includes restoring and protecting the natural habitat around the existing building including different nature-based recreation and learning opportunities for both programmers and casual visitors like hop logs, hide-away-dens and balancing trees, astronomy pads for viewing stars, plantings designed to encourage interaction with plant life, bat and bird boxes and animal viewing blinds. This project has a combination of volunteer in-kind labor and donor contributions to provide the matching funding.

6. Friends of the DPS Hub Farm: \$11,700

The Friends of the DPS Hub Farm project includes transforming a defunct pond into a thriving wetland and meadow system to provide vital ecosystem services and enhance outdoor learning at the Hub Farm. Funding will assist with Phase I and II of this project, to rehabilitate the soil and install significant wetland and meadow plantings. Specific soil rehabilitation activities will include filling and re-grading the basin, tilling the new surface, and sowing cover crops for erosion control and remediation. Planting activities (phase II) will include propagating native plants from those currently growing on the Hub Farm site, purchasing additional plants, and installing all plantings. This project has matching funds from the 2016 Durham Public Schools Bond Referendum.

Policy Impact

This program supports Goal 2 of the strategic plan, “Health and Well-being for All” by increasing the quality of life in Durham County, as well as Goal 4: Environmental Stewardship and Community Prosperity”.

Procurement Background

The Matching Grants program is a competitive grant program with staffing provided by the Open Space and Real Estate Division. The grant cycle was advertised beginning in late summer 2018 including a fall open house for interested applicants, and the application deadline was Nov. 14.

Fiscal Impact

The recommended projects equal the \$77,175 allocated to the Matching Grant program for FY 2018-19. No additional funding is needed.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board approve the organizations and amounts for the 2018-19 Matching Grants cycle totaling \$77,170.