



Legislation Text

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Item:

Durham County Matching Grants Program - Approval of FY 2020-21 Grant Cycle

Date of BOCC Meeting: March 8, 2021

Request for Board Action:

The Board is requested to approve the funding requests for the current cycle of the Durham County Matching Grants Program for four projects totaling \$77,175. The Durham County Matching Grants Program for Open Space and Recreation Projects, now in its 30^h 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 projects must be open to the public. The program is annually funded from the County's operating budget, which for FY20-21 totaled \$77,175. The program requires a 50% match from applicants, which can include a cash match as well the value of volunteer labor towards producing the project. Over the life of the program, the Durham County Matching Grants program has supported 116 wide ranging community projects with a total value of over 6 million dollars using just over \$1.9 million in county matching funds.

The 2020-21 cycle of the Matching Grants Program includes four applications, for projects that totaled \$77,175. New for this year's cycle, the Durham County Matching Grants Program allowed qualifying projects within priority focus areas to apply for up to \$5,000 using a simplified application with a reduced applicant match of 25% (county matching funds are 75%) and received one grant proposal under this format (Maureen Joy Charter School). The Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (DOST) recommended approval of the projects at their meeting on January 20, 2021. The groups and amounts are as follows: Beth El Synagogue \$20,000, El Futuro \$25,000, Urban Community AgriNomics (UCAN) \$30,175, and Maureen Joy Charter School for \$2,000. The projects are further described in the attached supplemental document with locations shown on the attached map.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

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".

Resource Persons: Brendan Moore, Open Space Land Manager; Annette Montgomery, Chair, Matching Grants Committee of DOST; Jane Korest, Open Space and Real Estate Manager

County Manager's Recommendation:

The County Manager recommends that the Board receive the attached Matching Grants Project recommendations and approve funding for the proposed projects totaling \$77,175.

County Manager: _____