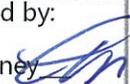


Mayor  
Patrick Slayter  
City Council  
Neysa Hinton, Vice Mayor  
Michael Carnacchi  
Una Glass  
Sarah Glade Gurney



## City of Sebastopol

Agenda Report Reviewed by:  
City Manager/City Attorney 

City Manager/City Attorney  
Larry McLaughlin  
City Clerk  
Mary Gourley

Meeting Date: Meeting of April 17, 2018  
To: Mayor and City Council  
From: Kenyon Webster, Planning Director  
Subject: Matching Grant Application for AmeriCorps Trail Improvement Project  
Recommandation: Adopt Resolution Authorizing Application  
Funding: Currently Budgeted: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No X N/A

### Introduction:

This staff report recommends that the City Council authorize submittal of a Matching Grant application to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District for the AmeriCorps Trail Improvement Project. This project is presently under design and has a high degree of readiness.

### AmeriCorps Trail Improvement Project:

The 'AmeriCorps Trail' is a primitive trail in the City's Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Preserve. The Trail was created by a large group of AmeriCorps volunteers and other volunteer workers. The trail parallels Morris Street, just west of the Laguna channel, starting just south of the larger ballfield next to the Community Center.

The Trail and associated improvements are on City property. The Laguna Preserve Management Plan (required by the District) calls for improved connectivity within the Preserve, which is the key objective of the Improvement Project.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation obtained a restoration grant that is being implemented in the southern area of the Trail extension; design of the improvement project is being coordinated with this grant project.

A planned connection to the sidewalk along Sebastopol Avenue is within a Caltrans right of way and may require Caltrans permitting.

The improvement project involves improvements to the Trail, including the following:

- Extension of the Trail from its present terminus behind the City 'Lift Station' to connect with the sidewalk on Sebastopol Avenue. This includes a pedestrian bridge over Zimpher Creek.

- Minor improvements to the existing trail, such as steps, boardwalks over swale areas, benches, potential placement of gravel or other appropriate materials on Trail surfaces, Trail wayfinding signs, and up to three interpretive signs.
- A connector trail from Morris Street to the AmeriCorps Trail.
- Several simple, low-cost entry arbors to demarcate entry points.

The Council budgeted funding for design of the project using Park Impact Fee funds, and Questa Engineering will present the planned design to the Planning Commission on April 24, and later to the City Council.

### **Matching Grant Program**

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District offers a Matching Grant program, generally every two years. This year the program includes substantial focus on fire-recovery projects, however the District generally also aims at awarding a variety of projects throughout the County, and the scale of the AmeriCorps project also appears competitive in terms of District funding parameters. Applications are due April 30.

This is a 'matching' grant program, requiring a 50% local match. A limited part of the local match can come from future maintenance; in addition the Laguna Foundation grant project may also qualify as a match. Park Impact Fee funding will be needed for the balance of the local match.

In addition to the AmeriCorps Trail project, the City has other significant park improvement project needs. The Ives Park Renovation Plan would entail expenditure of \$4 -\$5 million; in addition to the City not having detailed construction plans, even an application for a major element of the Plan would be unlikely to be funded by the Matching Grant project this year, given stated District priorities and funding limits. Another potential project involves the former 'cement plant' property on Morris Street; however a City Council subcommittee is working with an applicant at that site, and the potential park/open space concepts at that location are not yet definitive enough to support an application.

There is a possibility of major State park grant programs in the next several years that may provide funding opportunities for park projects.

In that the AmeriCorps Trail project is currently being designed, is not high-cost, and there do not appear to be any significant issues with implementation, the project has a high degree of readiness.

The attached resolution references a maximum grant of \$181,000. Pending further evaluation, the actual request is expected to be a lesser amount.

The attached resolution authorizes submittal of a grant application.

Attachment: Resolution authorizing application to the Matching Grant program

City Council  
City of Sebastopol

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

*Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sebastopol, authorizing the submittal of an application for funding for up to a \$181,000 grant to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's Matching Grant Program for the AmeriCorps Trail Improvement Project, located in the City of Sebastopol's Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Preserve east of Morris Street and to the west of the Laguna channel; determining that the project is consistent with the City of Sebastopol General Plan; acknowledging that there are sufficient match funds and fund to operate and maintain the project; and authorizing the City Manager to sign and submit all required documentation for the application and grant agreement documents, if awarded.*

Whereas, in accordance with the voter-approved Expenditure Plan, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (District) has established a competitive Matching Grant Program (the Program) for projects that provide open space, community recreation, or public access opportunities within and near incorporated areas and other urbanized areas of Sonoma County; and

Whereas, the District released Guidelines and Application Materials for the 2018 round of funding on January 31, 2018; and

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Sebastopol has identified the AmeriCorps Trail Improvement Project (Project) in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Preserve as a priority project for implementation under the General Plan, and the Laguna Preserve Management Plan; and

Whereas, the City of Sebastopol acknowledges that the Project would be competitive under the District's 2018 Program Guidelines as an improvement project that will enhance access to and within the Wetlands Preserve project and will provide, at relatively low cost, critical pedestrian connections and access in the Wetlands Preserve, and is being implemented in conjunction with a native plant restoration project on a portion of the Trail route implemented by the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, and is also consistent with and supportive of a previously-funded Matching Grant project within the Preserve on Meadowlark Field; and

Whereas, the District's Program requires applicants to provide a one-to-one matching contribution for the project; and

Whereas, the City of Sebastopol has secured or will secure matching funds, other grants, or in-kind contributions as required under the Program, which may include but may not be limited to: design costs incurred by the City for Improvement Project design; capital improvement funding from the City's Park In-Lieu Fee Fund; the restoration grant obtained by the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation targeted in one area of the Improvement Project; future maintenance of the improvements by the Department of Public Works; and potential other grants; and with the understanding that matching requirements are subject to verification in the Grant application process.

Whereas, the total project cost for the construction of the Project is estimated at \$181,000, including District Grant requested funds, matching funds, and any other funds, but not including in-kind contributions and grants relating to the project obtained by other entities; and

Whereas, if implemented, the City of Sebastopol will operate and maintain the Project, which will be the responsibility of the City; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City Council of the City of Sebastopol hereby finds, determines, declares, and orders as follows:

1. Truth of Recitals. That the forgoing recitations are true and correct.
2. The Planning Director of the City of Sebastopol is hereby authorized to submit an application for funding to the District's Program in an amount not to exceed \$181,000.
3. General Plan Consistency. That the Project is consistent with the City's General Plan, specifically under Conservation and Open Space Element Policy COS-4-4, Conservation and Open Space Element Actions COS 4a, 4b, and 4d; Conservation and Open Space Element Policies 12-4 and 12-10; and Community Services and Facilities Element Policies CSF 2-4 and 2-10.
4. Grant Agreement. The City Manager of the City of Sebastopol is hereby authorized to conduct all negotiations and submit and sign all documents, including but not limited to, application, matching grant agreement, conservation easement, recreation covenant, irrevocable offer(s) of dedication, amendments, reimbursement requests and so on, which may be necessary for completion of the project.
5. Matching Funds. If awarded funding, the City of Sebastopol has or will have available matching funds and sufficient funds to complete the project.
6. Operation and Maintenance. The City of Sebastopol has or will have available sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, if awarded funding.
7. Program Guidelines. The City of Sebastopol has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the provisions contained in the Program Guidelines.
8. Legal Compliance. The City of Sebastopol acknowledges that if the Project is funded, it will be required to comply with all federal state and local laws.

Passed and adopted at a meeting of the City Council of the City of Sebastopol on April 17, 2017.

Authorized Original Signature:

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Printed Name: Patrick Slayter  
Title: Mayor

Clerk Signature:

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Printed Name: Mary Gourley  
Title: City Clerk