

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUND OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION TO SUPPORT THE INSTALLATION OF MULTI-USE TRAIL SIGNS

ISSUE: Submission of a grant application to the Recreational Trails Fund of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to support the installation of multi-use trail signs.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit a grant application to the Virginia Trails Recreational Fund of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of \$32,000 to support the installation of multi-use trail signs; and
- (2) Execute all documents that may be required.

The grant opportunity was recently announced by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Staff is currently preparing the grant application which is due March 1, 2004.

BACKGROUND: Shortly after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities like other departments, began a concerted effort to enhance its level of emergency preparedness. To this end, the Department has worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Code Enforcement and the City Emergency Operations Team to identify areas that must be addressed. To further ensure the safety and well-being of the users of the City's trails, limited directional signage at the entry and along the trails is an area that must be addressed. Over a two-year period, the Department, in consultation with the Park and Recreation Commission and Bicycle Study Committee, has developed an *Emergency Response Signage System* for implementation at strategic points along Holmes Run, Cameron Station, Eisenhower Avenue Greenway, Fort Ward, Chinquapin, Four Mile Run, Potomac Yards, Mt. Vernon and Mt. Vernon Railroad Access trails, where informational and directional should be installed.

DISCUSSION: The Virginia Recreational Trails Fund is a grant program established for the purposes of providing and maintaining recreational trails and trails-related facilities. The Federal Highway Administration allocates funds to states to implement this program. Private organizations, city governments, county governments and other government entities are eligible for funding.

The intent of the proposed *Emergency Response Signage System* fits the scope of the Virginia Recreational Trails Fund. Staff has determined that 218 signs are needed along this 20-mile span of trails. There are three specific types of signs being recommended for installation:

- Type A -- 4"x4" signs that will display a sign number, the name of the trail, the City logo, a directional arrow and will be placed every tenth of a mile along the trails.
- Type B -- 9"x12" signs that will feature the sign number, the name of the trail, a directional arrow, the name of the closest intersection, mileage information and will be placed along the spur of the trails. The signs will also contain the name of the access spur under the name of the trail.
- Type C -- 12"x18" signs that will explain the emergency response signage system to the users of the trails and will be placed at the major entrance to the trails.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Virginia Department of Conservation, Virginia Recreational Trails Program grant will provide funding for 80 percent of the total project cost of \$40,000 or \$32,000. A local in-kind match of 20 percent of the project cost, or \$8,000, is required. The City's local match requirement will be provided by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities in monies budgeted under trail renovation in the Capital Improvements Budget.

The grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal office hours.

STAFF:

Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Kirk Kincannon, Deputy Director, Parks, Natural Resources and Capital Projects, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Deborah Brown Anderson, Special Projects, Division Chief, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Aimee Vosper, Landscape Architect Supervisor, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities