



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2011

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Land Trust For Santa Barbara County Grant For Rattlesnake Trail
And Escondido Park Improvements

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to enter into a grant agreement with the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County; and
- B. Increase revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$22,150 in the Fiscal Year 2012 Parks and Recreation Department Miscellaneous Grants Fund.

DISCUSSION:

In April 2011, the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County (Land Trust) received a grant from an anonymous donor through the California Community Foundation. The grant is designated to benefit local public parks. The Land Trust solicited project ideas from the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) and subsequently accepted the Department's proposals to undertake improvements to Rattlesnake Trail and Escondido Park.

Rattlesnake Trail

Rattlesnake Trail is a 2.6 mile trail within the City's 452-acre Rattlesnake Canyon Park. Rattlesnake Trail is also managed as part of the Santa Barbara Front Country Trails system. The trail improvement project will be focused on the lower 0.5 mile section of the trail which has severe erosion issues and uneven terrain due to the exposed bedrock, boulders, and gullied trail bed. Trail improvements will improve drainage, reduce erosion, and create more even terrain in the trail bed. The Department will work with the Los Padres National Forest and the Santa Barbara County Trails Council in the implementation of the project.

Escondido Park

Escondido Park, a two-acre neighborhood park, is located at the top of Flora Vista Drive above Santa Barbara's Westside neighborhood. The park includes a children's playground, picnic tables, barbecues, and a basketball court. The picnic area is popular with area residents, neighborhood children regularly use the playground, and there are frequent informal pick-up games in the basketball court. Recent improvements completed by the Department include replacement of the playground in 2009. In addition, the basketball court was resealed and restriped in spring 2010. The grant funds will complete additional improvements that could not be funded by the Department. These improvements include new fencing, native landscaping, and pathway repairs.

Both of these projects are scheduled for implementation in the first six months of Fiscal Year 2012.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The grant from the Land Trust is \$22,150. Of these funds, \$8,560 is allocated for the improvements to Rattlesnake Trail and \$13,590 is allocated for the Escondido Park improvements. Both projects will be managed by the Parks Division and include volunteer opportunities through trail work days and native landscape planting.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Open space management, park enhancements, and recreation opportunities are key components of a sustainable community. Sustainable trail management in Santa Barbara's front country also improves creek water quality, and protects natural habitat including oak and riparian woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral.

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SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office