



TO: Gahanna City Council
Clerk of Council

FROM: Stephania Ferrell, Director of Parks & Recreation
Kevin Schultz, Sr. Director of Operations
Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin

Cc: Raymond J. Mularski, Esq., City Attorney
Joann Bury, Director of Finance

DATE: May 4, 2023

SUBJECT: Dept. of Parks & Recreation Report to Council (May 8, 2023 COTW Meeting)

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM # 1 – RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR NATUREWORKS PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The creation of a Mountain Bike Trail at Academy Park was initiated by a resident group. The excitement for the project quickly attracted local business owners, school districts and athletic clubs, as well as regional enthusiasts of the sport. The Gahanna Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies adventure sports, including mountain biking, as a popular activity for youth, and adventure sports have experienced a surge of participation in the last five years. A trailhead was identified as part of the Trail to be a resource that provides trail users with a dedicated location to prepare for their ride and to rest and rehydrate. It will be a hub to provide intentional space with trail rules and guidance, fully-serviced bike racks, a water fountain and bike repair station. The space also lends itself to provide lessons for new riders as well as instruction on bike repairs.

The Parks and Recreation Foundation is supporting this initiative by supporting a grant writer to apply for grant funding through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks Program for the construction of the mountain bike trailhead. The application requires a Resolution of Authorization to be passed by the governing body of the agency to approve the submission for financial assistance and to obligate the funds required to complete the project.

The Administration is respectfully requesting a Resolution of Authority to seek alternative funding by means of the ODNR NatureWorks program.

Legislation Needed: Resolution

Emergency/Waiver: N/A

Name & Address: N/A

Already Appropriated (Amounts & Accounts Names/Titles): N/A

Supplemental/Transfer (Amounts & Account Names/Titles): N/A

Attachments: PR – ATT – NatureWorks Resolution of Authorization