

May 19, 2021

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council 202101888

**From:** Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager

**Subject: Emergency Ordinance – LeBlond Recreation Center Walking Trail Grant**

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Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**ESTABLISHING** new capital improvement program project account no. 980x199x211917, “ODNR LeBlond Walking Trail Grant,” for the purpose of providing grant resources for the engineering, design, and construction of a 0.25 mile long trail connecting the LeBlond Playground to the St. Rose Soccer Field; and **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant in an amount up to \$120,000 from the NatureWorks grant program awarded by the State of Ohio, Ohio Department of Natural Resources to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x199x211917, “ODNR LeBlond Walking Trail Grant,” for the purpose of assisting the Cincinnati Recreation Commission with the construction of a walking trail at the LeBlond Recreation Center.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to establish capital improvement program project account no. 980x199x211917, “ODNR LeBlond Walking Trail Grant,” for the purpose of providing grant resources for the engineering and design work required for the construction of a 0.25 mile long trail that would connect the LeBlond Playground to the St. Rose Soccer Field and will also authorize the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant in the amount of up to \$120,000 from the State of Ohio, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) NatureWorks grant program to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x199x211917, “ODNR LeBlond Walking Trail Grant,” to assist with the construction of a walking trail at the LeBlond Recreation Center located at 2335 Riverside Drive. This trail is a total of 0.25 miles long and would connect the LeBlond Playground to the St. Rose Soccer Field. The City property along Riverside Drive was previously swapped with property along the river so this trail could be installed. Construction will include the engineering and design work required.

NatureWorks is funded through the Ohio Parks and Natural Resources Bond Issue. The NatureWorks grant program provides up to 75% project funding. The required 25% match of \$40,000 will be partially offset by Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) providing engineering and design services and in-kind labor contributed by department staff. The remaining need for the local match will come from resources available in Outdoor Facilities Renovation capital improvement program project accounts. The department will have submitted the grant application prior to City Council authorization of this ordinance in order to meet the application deadline of June 1, 2021. No resources will be accepted without authorization from the City Council. There are no new FTE's associated with this grant.

This Emergency Ordinance is in accordance with the “Live” goal to “Create a more livable community,” as described on page 156 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to apply for, accept, and appropriate the grant resources in a timely manner.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Christopher A. Bigham, Assistant City Manager  
Karen Alder, Finance Director



Attachment