

## STAFF REPORT

To: Recreation Advisory Board Date: July 11, 2016  
From: Roderick Simmons, Director, Parks and Recreation Dept.  
Prepared by: Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Dept.  
Subject: City of Asheville Bond Referendum 2016

Summary Statement: Presentation of the City of Asheville Bond Referendum 2016 detailing Parks and Recreation projects.

Review: At its meeting on July 5, 2016 the Asheville City Council approved the adoption of resolutions authorizing staff to proceed with the necessary action to conduct a general obligation bond referendum on November 8, 2016.

The referendum includes the following:

Parks and Recreation	\$17,000,000 (Parks & facilities improvement, land acquisition)
Transportation	\$32,000,000 (infrastructure, transportation safety, greenway)
Housing	\$25,000,000 (affordable housing)
Total	\$74,000,000

Roderick Simmons, Director, Parks and Recreation Department will present a detailed overview of the \$17,000,000 Parks and Recreation bond designed to support the cost of expanding and improving existing parks and recreation facilities, and purchasing land for future park development.

Please see the attached Parks and Recreation Category Overview for the \$17,000,000.

Recommendation: The report serves as information for the Recreation Advisory Board and does not require action.

## Parks and Recreation Category Overview

**Funding Recommendation: \$17 Million**

### Option Justification:

The City of Asheville – located in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains – has a history and culture that supports the benefits of cultural and recreational opportunities within the community. As outlined in the City Council adopted Parks, Recreation Cultural Arts and Greenways Master Plan (2009), the City must invest in improvements to existing facilities and programs, and development of new parks and facilities in order to maintain and enhance the level of service in Parks and Recreation.

This proposed package of investments in Parks and Recreation was developed in conjunction with the following principles:

- Assuring high quality facilities by concentrating facility improvement efforts on bringing older facilities up-to-date such as neighborhood centers before adding new community-wide center elements to the system
- Providing for facilities and resources across the community that meet level of service needs within those areas
- Focus on improvements of assets across the community in a manner that maximizes access to quality resources community-wide and within each area of the community, or through centralized and accessible resources

As outlined below, a bond package that focuses investment within these areas enables the community to complete significant capital maintenance and improvement projects that otherwise would not be completed within the next 5-10 years, if not later. In addition, the investments enable the community to maximize its resources on long-term improvements rather than in a piece-meal manner that is focused on short-term reactionary maintenance efforts in an environment of competing interests for limited resources.

### Recommended Projects:

PROJECT	AREA	AMOUNT
Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center Phase II	Central	\$4.65 million
Memorial/Mountainside Stadium	Central	\$4.075 million
Jake Rusher Park	South	\$825,000
Montford Park Complex Improvements	North	\$1.7 million
Richmond Hill Park Restrooms	West	\$520,000
Outdoor Courts and Playgrounds	City-Wide	\$2.03 million
Ball Field Lighting	North & South	\$1.2 million
Land Acquisition for Parks	North & South	\$2 million
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$17 million</b>