

# NOTES

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Ann E. Wall, City Manager

DATE: March 20, 2019

SUBJECT: Materials for Your Information

Please find attached the following materials for your information:

1. A memo from Gary Fenton, Recreation and Parks Director, regarding Parks and Recreation Trust Fund application update

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Attachment

# MEMO

**To:** Ann Wall, City Manager  
**From:** Gary Fenton, Director of Recreation and Parks *GF*  
**Date:** March 20, 2019  
**Re:** PARTF Application

As we move forward with applying for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) support for our “adventure park,” there are several considerations I’d like to share.

The first is that, clearly, approval of our grant application is not a certainty. We applied for PARTF support for the Drew Steele Center three times before the project received PARTF funding, but our perseverance was eventually rewarded.

Factors considered when the Park & Recreation Authority Members award grants:

- ✓ Ranking based on the PARTF scoring system (*We’ll be unable to generate points in a few areas, due, for example, to the age of our Recreation and Parks Comprehensive Master Plan. But that won’t stop us from applying.*)
- ✓ Geographic distribution of funds across NC (*Who else is applying? Are there any other applicants within Pitt County? If they are awarded a grant, we probably won’t be.*)
- ✓ The population of the area (*We’re not small, but other areas certainly have larger populations, and a grant can be perceived as impacting more citizens.*)
- ✓ Our administration of previous grants (*We’ve never received criticism or complaints about that!*)
- ✓ Amount requested (*The amount sought can and usually does impact one’s chances of receiving funding. Generally, smaller grant requests stand a better chance of funding than larger ones.*)
- ✓ PARTF funds available (The FY19-20 Governor’s budget recommendation is for \$7.2 million for local parks and recreation agency grants. If approved that will be about \$1M more than FY 18-19, but obviously could only fund about 28 \$250,000 grants statewide, half that many \$500,000 grants.)

We have an extremely worthy project, and our first PARTF application will seek funding in support of acquisition. Any PARTF support received will then free up acquisition dollars which can then be targeted toward early development projects which will focus on enabling public access to the property feasible: cleanup, parking, trail development, etc.

We would anticipate a second PARTF application in 2021, after our fund raising initiatives targeted at specific components of the park’s master plan are well underway, and hopefully, have “borne fruit!”

Please let me know if there are any questions.

cc: Michael Cowin, Assistant City Manager