

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Patty Huffman, Grants and Projects Manager
Through: Eric Meyer, Director of Economic Development and Planning
Date: March 8, 2013
Subject: Request to submit an application to the MS Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for a MS Recreational Trails Program grant

REQUEST:

The Economic Development and Planning Department requests City Council authorization for the submission of a grant application to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for a Mississippi Recreational Trails Program grant for trail improvements at Shepard State Park.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Congress first authorized the Recreational Trails Program in 1991. For 2013 and 2014, the Federal funds have been reauthorized as a set-aside from the new Transportation Alternatives Program. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The RTP provides funds to states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

DISCUSSION:

A grant application is proposed for up to \$100,000 for improvements to Shepard State Park trails for non-motorized use. The RTP is a reimbursement program that requires grant recipients to pay 100% of the cost of an item before submitting a request for payment for 80% of eligible costs. The 20% match can be from cash, donation of materials or services at fair market value. The total project cost would equal no more than \$125,000.00 (100,000 grant + 25,000 match).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Economic Development and Planning Department staff recommends that City Council authorize submission of a grant application for the Mississippi RTP grant for up to \$100,000 in grant funding with a 20% cash/in-kind match up to \$25,000.

City Council may:

1. Authorize submission of an application for up to \$100,000 in grant funding as described above; or
2. Authorize submission of a grant application with changes; or
3. Disapprove submission of a grant application.

ATTACHMENT(S):

N/A