

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM

MEETING DATE: 12/21/2010

Action Requested:

Buncombe County Parks, Greenways and Recreation Services (BCPGRS) requests the Board of Commissioners consider and endorse the following proposed capital project as an addendum to the 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

Land Acquisition of Collier Property

BCPGRS has been offered the opportunity to purchase a 30+ acre tract of land in the Mills Gap and Royal Pine neighborhoods. The property lies along a steep sloped mountainside and has over 2 miles of maintained hiking trails. The property owners are offering to sell the property at a reduced price to BCPGRS to be conserved as parkland and not be developed for anything other than passive recreation use.

BCPGRS is applying for funding through the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF). The asking price for this 30+ acre parcel of land is \$300,000, nearly half of its market value. PARTF would consider the discount the property owners are willing to take on the land as part of our matching funds. Our financial obligations for the property would be \$39,000 and Buncombe County would have 3 years to pay their portion of the funds.

NCGS Requiring Service: N/A

NCGS requires we PROVIDE: _____

or ENSURE AVAILABLE IN COMMUNITY: YES

Alternative Service Delivery Methods considered and evaluated:

As stated previously, BCPGRS is applying for a grant through the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for funds to purchase a parcel of land in Southern Buncombe County that has existing trail infrastructure. BCPGRS is the best leader for the implementation of this project as this area of the County is in need of additional park space. Another alternative would be for an outside agency within the community to purchase this land for public recreational use.

Funds/Staff requested:

As noted above, Buncombe County would be responsible for \$39,000 in matching funds needed to complete the 50/50 match. In addition to the purchase of the land, we would need to construct a small parking lot at the top access point at Rhododendron Drive and post signage with the park name and park policies and rules. Quotes are being gathered, but an estimated \$125,000-\$170,000 can be expected as improvement capital needed.

Request submitted by: Jessica Stevermer for Fran Thigpen, Director

Date Submitted: 12/13/2010