



City of Boynton Beach Agenda Item Request Form

Meeting Date: 11/18/2025

Discussion and Update- Eco Park Project Timeline and Grant Status.

Requested Action: Receive the Eco Park project update and provide direction to staff regarding the grant provider's response requiring the city to maintain the revised project scope to keep grant funding.

Explanation of Request:

The Eco Park Project started with a budget of \$870,000 inclusive of \$364,250 in grant funding. When construction bids came in during 2023, they were all significantly over budget, leading to attempts to redesign the project to get it within budget and keep our grant funding.

The project has faced several challenges including bid withdrawals and budget shortfalls. The grant provider has now informed the city that reducing the revised project scope further is not acceptable. The city must maintain the revised amenities to keep the grant, which will require significant additional funding.

Key project timeline actions include:

1. Initial Design Phase: Original project design exceeded budget. Consultants scaled back the plans to fit within \$870,000.
2. Bid Process:
 - Fall 2023: Received three construction bids ranging from \$1.3 to \$1.7 million
 - Lowest bid exceeded budget by over \$560,000
 - Staff searched for additional funding to cover the shortfall
3. Contractor Engagement:
 - December 2023 - January 2024: After meetings with city staff, the lowest bidder withdrew their bid, saying they couldn't complete the work at that price
4. Grantor Coordination:
 - June 2024: City updated grant provider about the budget problems
 - Grant provider gave two options: scale back the project or withdraw the grant
5. Commission Direction:
 - August 2024: Commission directed staff to reduce the project scope and keep the grant
6. Grantor Review:
 - November 2024: Submitted scaled-back plans to grant provider

- August 2025: Grant provider requested additional information about the reduced project, including budget updates and explanations for removed features
- October 2025, the grant expired while waiting for response from the grantor.
- November 2025: Grant provider responded that the additional scope reduction is not acceptable—original amenities (trails, pavilions, and ADA sidewalk) must be included to maintain grant requirements.

The grant provider has determined that we cannot reduce the project scope and maintain the grant. To keep the grant funding, we must include all revised approved amenities, which will require approximately \$560,000 in additional funding beyond the current \$870,000 budget.

The Commission must decide whether to:

- Proceed with the full project and identify additional funding sources
- Withdraw from the grant program and defer or cancel the project

How will this affect city programs or services? Maintaining the grant and completing the full project will require identifying additional funding, which may impact other capital projects or require budget amendments.

Budgeted Item: Yes

Account Line Item and Description: Yes (current allocation of \$870,000 is insufficient to complete the project)

Fiscal Impact:

At the time the project was bid the project required approximately \$1.43 million based on lowest bid received. With the current budget of \$870,000, an additional \$560,000 must be identified.

Options include

- Reallocating funds from other CIP projects
 - Budget amendment using reserves
 - Withdrawing from the grant and forfeiting the committed grant funds
-