

SUBJECT:
Cherokee Recreation and Parks Grant Award.

MEETING DATE:
October 4, 2022

SUBMITTED BY:
Kristi Bosch

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Consider accepting the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund Project Agreement from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$1,600,000.00 for the Site Improvements to the Long Swamp Creek Recreation Area and consider approving a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$600,000.00.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

In October 2021, Cherokee Recreation and Parks applied for a grant through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) under the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act, to obtain funding for the construction of Phase 1 of the Long Swamp Creek Recreation Area on Ball Ground Road/SR 372 just south of Ball Ground.

In February 2022, the County was notified by GA-DNR that we successfully passed the first review and moved into the second phase of evaluation and pre-award review. The total amount of funding approved was \$600,000 with a commitment from Cherokee County to match that amount. County staff submitted documents to GA-DNR for the second-level application process.

In May 2022, the Board of Commissioners reviewed and approved the conceptual design of Long Swamp Creek Recreation Area from the consultant, TSW. The estimated costs for Phase 1 are \$1,600,000.

In September 2022, Georgia DNR notified the County of final approval for the grant and the project along with the final budget at \$1,600,000 and sent the Project Agreement to be signed by a ranking representative of Cherokee County.

The County's matching funds for the project will come from SPLOST and are currently identified in the Recreation & Parks capital improvement plans. A Budget Amendment is required to allocate the grants funds to the FY23 Budget.

Anticipating the award of the grant, the County recently released an RFP for design services for Phase 1. The master plan for the park includes an outdoor archery range, canoe and kayak launch, primitive camping sites, trails and picnic areas along with the necessary parking and restroom facilities. The County will work with the successful consultant to further define the limits of the Phase 1 construction project to match available funding.

ATTACHMENTS:

[GOSP Project Agreement Cherokee County.pdf](#)

[Grant Budget Amendment](#)