

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: September 16, 2003

TITLE: Approve Funds to Update the Recreation and Parks Master Plan and Proceed with the Project

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| DEPARTMENT: Recreation and Parks | PUBLIC HEARING: NO |
| ATTACHMENTS: A. Master Plan Map B. Executive Summary of 1994 Comprehensive Master Plan C. Unofficial Recreation and Parks Commission Minutes D. Resolution | FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: L. Bing Roenigk – 918-7300 Anita Jones-McNair – 918-7381 |

PURPOSE

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek approval from the Board of Aldermen to proceed with updating the Recreation and Parks Master Plan.

INFORMATION

On August 21, 2003, The Board of Aldermen requested that staff identify funding to update the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. The Recreation and Parks Commission is in support of this project.

The first comprehensive plan was prepared by Woolpert, a professional park planning firm in October 1994. The executive summary of that report is listed as Attachment B. The main purpose of the plan is to provide the Town of Carrboro with an accurate, usable plan to guide its action and decisions concerning:

- The future role of Recreation in the Town of Carrboro
- Park and greenway acquisitions, renovations and developments
- Facility renovations and developments
- Recreation programming strategies

In order for the Town to move forward with park system plans and consider alternative funding, an updated plan is needed. This updated document will evaluate where Carrboro stands in terms of National Recreation and Park standards. The current master plan does not include Simpson Street Mini Park, Town Commons Play Area, Hillsborough Road Neighborhood Park, Smith Middle School Soccer field and the Century Center. This plan will also analyze how these new facilities impact Carrboro.

Finally, most grant funding sources require an updated master plan as part of the application process. This updated document will allow us to consider and seek grant funds for future projects.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding is available within the Capital Reserve Fund to pay for this master plan. The estimated cost is \$20,000. Moving forward with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will require the Board to commit to setting aside \$20,000 within the Capital Reserve Fund.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen set aside \$20,000 within the Capital Reserve Fund and staff proceed with this project through a RFP process.