

Submitted By: Citizens for the Improvement of Southeast Clarke Park
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Project Classification: Social Well-Being
Project Focus: Quality of Life
Project Type: Park Renovation, Improvements, or Expansion

Previously Submitted and Rejected:

Continuation Project: Yes - SPLOST 2000 29-Southeast Clarke Community Park

Project Total Cost: \$ 16,647,000

Total Operating Cost: \$ 52,000

Project Description: The Mayor and Commission approved Southeast Clarke Park Master Plan takes a comprehensive and unified approach to adding much-needed facilities for the benefit of Athens-Clarke County Citizens. It provides a roadmap for the future development and relevance of the park for today and future generations. In order to fulfill this vision, stakeholders representing youth through seniors from every socioeconomic background have partnered to promote the construction of the following facilities;

- (a) Competition quality 400 meter all-surface running track including facilities and equipment to accommodate standard running and field events
- (b) Multi-use field platform that includes football and field events among others
- (c) 12 pickleball courts
- (d) 40,000 square foot street course skate park

Infrastructure and supporting amenities such as additional parking, restrooms, stormwater management, announcer's booth with storage, bleachers, timing system and scoreboard, landscaping, shade and gathering areas would be common where feasible, increasing the efficiency of the project and long-term benefits to the citizens.

Project Mission Statement/Goals & Objectives: Our mission is to enhance the lives of Athens citizens by providing opportunities for diversified recreation, leisure activities, education, and competition at all levels through high quality facilities.

Current facilities at the Park are used daily and on many occasions the facilities are crowded and cannot meet demands for use by the public. Additional facilities would not only allow more people to participate but would allow the Park to host events such as pickleball tournaments, regional and state track meets, football games, skateboarding and BMX competitions. Premier facilities will attract state and regional competitions, creating a positive economic and social impact for Athens Clarke

County.

Goals and Objectives:

- Provide a positive outlet for area youth
- Serve ACC citizens of all ages and backgrounds by providing high quality facilities development of social and physical well-being
- Facilitate and encourage healthy lifestyle by offering options attractive to all segments of our society
- Increase participation through increased and enhanced facilities
- Provide sufficient facilities to alleviate overcrowding
- Fill the gap in ACC facilities and bring Athens to a standard comparable to other communities in the region
- Attract regional competitions and enhance a reputation for excellence in Parks a Recreation

Projected Useful Life of Project: These facilities can be expected to last in excess of 50 years with proper drainage, preventative maintenance and periodic resurfacing.

To meet the Project Goals & Objectives, when should this project be completed? Due to the fact that there is no public track in Athens-Clarke County and that current pickleball courts, skate park and multi-use fields cannot accommodate demand we need this to be included among the first tier of SPLOST expenditures.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building System compliance: The bulk of the SECP improvement project will consist of outside facilities with minimal energy use. Best management practices for sustainable building should be followed during the construction of facilities. Buildings should be LEED certified and incorporate renewable energy and sources wherever feasible.

How will this project help meet the Public Safety, Basic Facilities/Infrastructure, and/or Quality of Life needs in Athens-Clarke County? Providing a positive outlet for people of all ages encourages both social and physical development. Additionally, sport brings athletes from a variety of backgrounds together in an atmosphere that promotes camaraderie and teamwork.

The benefits of physical activity are indisputable and are proven to make a positive impact on brain development and health. Doctors and Health Professionals recommend a minimum of 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Obesity is a major problem in the US. The CDC has reported that the obesity rates in the US are climbing and inactivity is a major factor in weight gain and obesity. Current obesity rates in children and adults are about 19% and 40%, respectively. In addition to weight control, reports from the Mayo Clinic show that physical activity helps (a) prevent stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression, arthritis, and some types of cancer; (b) increase good cholesterol and decrease bad cholesterol which helps lower blood pressure; (c) improves mood and lowers depression; (d) boosts energy; (e) helps brain health and memory; and (f) in the elderly it reduces muscle loss and builds bone density.

Two major factors why people do NOT exercise on a regular basis are lack of time and dissatisfaction with facilities. We can do nothing about time but we can help improve user's satisfaction with their exercise program. The activities included in this request are competitive, fun and provide social interactions which

increases user enjoyment and encourages them to exercise on a regular basis. These activities give participants a chance to unwind, enjoy the outdoors, and connect with family and friends.

How is this Project recommended/included in any approved ACCGOV Land Use Plan, Master Plan, Study, Service Delivery Plan, Envision Athens, etc.? This project will implement the 2018 Mayor and Commission approved Master Plan for Southeast Clarke Park.

Triple Bottom Line Impacts

Positive Benefits for the Prosperity of Athens-Clarke County: Economic benefits from improved health are difficult to quantify. A study published in Lancet reported that inactivity in the US cost about \$28 billion annually in increased medical cost and lost productivity. The Journal of the American Heart Association reported that individuals who met the recommended weekly exercise regimen spent an average of \$2500 less on annual health cost than those who were inactive. This study included healthcare cost associated with heart disease; not cost savings which would be associated with other diseases such as type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, depression, etc.

A more direct economic benefit would come from holding pickleball tournaments, track and field meets, skatepark competitions and football tournaments. The proposed facilities creates the opportunity for camps in all areas.

The Athens Area Pickleball Association (AAPA) host a 3 day tournament in February each year. This event is limited to about 190 players because there are only 9 courts available. Approximately 18% of the players are from the Athens area, 62% from other counties in Georgia and 20% from surrounding states.

Currently, a shortage of venues exists to host local (approx. 400 athletes), regional (1000 athletes plus coaches & parents), national competitions (over 6,000 athletes competed at 2016 Jr. Olympics) this would impact hotels, restaurants and small businesses during the summer months and bring positive publicity to the area.

According to USATF, in 2016, 1,077,101 student-athletes participated in track & field, making it the #1 participatory sport for boys and girls. It again reigned as the #1 sport for girls (485,969) and #2 sport for boys (591,133, behind football).

Detrimental Impacts to the Prosperity of Athens-Clarke County: None

Positive Benefits for our Citizens and Visitors: The proposed improvements to Southeast Clarke Park would benefit people of all ages and socioeconomic status. The current participants range in age from 4 (youth football, track, skateboarding and BMX) to 92 (pickleball and track). Sport activities are often thought of only as competitive games but there is a large social aspect that is often overlooked. It is this social aspect which draws people back to the game and the exercise. Parents and family of children competing in football and track & field interact with one another and get to know each other. Pickleball players interact and

become friends between games and during monthly pot-luck lunches. Pickleball, skateboarding and track and field are multi-generational social sports. Groups across the country welcome visiting players. In Athens, players welcome visitors and try to be goodwill ambassadors for the Athens area.

Over the past 5 years, the gap between children ages 6-12 participating in a sport in the lowest income households and those of the highest have doubled to 34.9 percent. This project will offer cost-free access to excellent sports facilities that will help remove economic barriers which contribute to this gap.

Due to minimal barriers to entry track and field, more than almost any other sport, brings athletes together from a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. They become teammates and friends, dissolving social divides and stereotypes which impacts relationships for a lifetime. Participation begins as young as 3 years old and many continue to run and compete into their 90's.

Detrimental Impacts for our Citizens and Visitors: Increased traffic during major competitions.

Environmental Benefits, including but not limited to Positive impacts on existing Infrastructure/Systems: Native landscaping, plants to attract and increase the habitat for pollinators, natural water control and solar panels for energy production are included in the plan.

Detrimental Impacts for the Environment, including but not limited to Negative impacts on existing Infrastructure/Systems: Loss of permeable surface.

Positive/Negative Impacts on ACCGOV Departments, Agencies, or other Organizations, if not covered in one of the above questions: None

Project Costs

Detailed project capital budget costs (to be funded from SPLOST 2020 only):

Project Costs (round to thousand)	Amount
1. Land Acquisition / ROW / Easement:	\$ -
2. Design Fees: (Min.12% of New Const.; 14% of reno,; 16% for LEED proj.)	\$ 1,688,000
3. Miscellaneous Fees: (Min. Minimum of 3% of Construction Costs – used for permitting, etc. Utilize minimum of 10% if land acquisition if necessary.	\$ 317,000
4. Fixtures, Furniture, and Equipment (for a facility): A detailed estimate is preferred – but dependent upon the specific project, utilize at a minimum \$15 to \$20 per square foot.	\$ -
5. Construction:	\$ 10,545,000
6. Construction Contingency: (10% of the Construction line item)	\$ 1,055,000
7. Acquisition of Capital Equipment:	\$ 20,000
8. Testing:	\$ 317,000
9. Project Management: (4% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 558,000
10. Project Contingency: (10% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 1,450,000
11. Public Art: Calculated at 1% of the Construction line item.	\$ 106,000
12. Other 1: Environmental Restoration (1%)	\$ 106,000
13. Other 2:	\$ -
Project Subtotal:	\$ 16,162,000
14. Program Management (3% of Project Subtotal):	\$ 485,000
SPLOST 2020 Project Total:	\$ 16,647,000

Attachments:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3154419/68784085/453236472/68784085_southeast_park_conceptual_cost_estimate_2018-11-09_version_2.pdf

Operating Cost

Total Annual Net Operating Costs when Project is complete:

Only identify additional or net operating costs to be paid by ACCGOV. Identify the additional or net costs needed above ACCGOV's current operating budget to operate the requested project and any additional project related revenues that would be generated. Provide budget costs for each identified category below.

Operating Costs (round to thousand)	Estimated Impact for Annual Operating Expenditures
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES FROM PROJECT	-
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	
1. Personnel Costs: from Appendix A	-
2. Annual Utilities:	
• Gas:	-
• Electrical:	18,000
• Water:	8,000
• Sewer:	4,000
• Phone:	-
• Solid Waste Collection:	-
• Other:	-
3. Operating Supplies:	7,000
4. Equipment Maintenance:	-
5. Facility Maintenance:	15,000
6. Fuel:	-
7. Other:	-
8. Other:	-
9. Other:	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	52,000
NET OPERATING COSTS OF PROJECT:	\$ 52,000

Project Financing

Is the proposed Project to receive funding from source(s) other than SPLOST 2020? Yes

If yes, please fill in information below.

Total Capital Financing for Project:

If the proposed Project is to receive funding other than SPLOST 2020, provide a listing of amounts from each of the categories listed below. Please round all dollar amounts to the nearest \$1,000.

Project Sources (round to thousand)	Amount
1. SPLOST 2020 ¹ :	\$ 16,647,000
OTHER SOURCES	
2. ACCGOV General Fund:	\$ -
3. ACCGOV Enterprise Fund:	\$ -
4. State Grant:	\$ -
5. Federal Grant:	\$ -
6. Previous SPLOST:	\$ -
7. Other (describe): Athens area Pickleball Association	\$ 20,000
8. Other (describe): Skatepark of Athens Phase Two Project	\$ 17,000
TOTAL SOURCES:	\$ 16,684,000

¹ If any additional sources of funding other than SPLOST 2020 are indicated above, please provide information related to the source here. Be specific and be prepared to provide all necessary written approvals. (For example: Roadway projects that have approval for Federal Aid and will utilize SPLOST 2020 funding for matching funds, you would need to provide specific written approval by GDOT)

Describe the current commitments for the other sources funding this project: None

Attachments:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3154419/70969127/453236472/70969127_southeast_clarke_park2.pdf

Project Site

Will the proposed Project require any land, whether existing sites, new site, easements, or Rights of Way? No