

ORDINANCE NO. 14880

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 7 - 2011

INTRODUCED BY

FEBRUARY 16, 2011

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2011 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars to provide for the receipt of a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This grant will provide funding which will be used to assist with the Jackson Street Community Park Development Project.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That City Council authorizes an increase of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars to the unappropriated balance of the Capital Fund Budget.

SECTION TWO: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation from the unappropriated balance of the Capital Fund in the following manner:

**Capital Fund
Department of Parks and Recreation
Jackson Street Community Park Development Project**

001-08-1685-1110-46	Contract/Service Fees	\$30,000	
001-08-1685-1110-76	Construction Contracts		<u>\$70,000</u>
	Total		<u>\$100,000</u>

SECTION THREE: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

	Yea	Nay
W. Michael Donovan	X	
Jeanette Eichenwald	X	
Julio A. Guridy	X	
Ray O'Connell	X	
Michael Schlossberg	X	
Peter G. Schweyer, Vice President	X	
Michael D'Amore, President	X	
TOTAL	7	0

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was passed by City Council on April 6th and signed by the Mayor on April 8, 2011.



 CITY CLERK

- **What Department or bureau is Bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?**

Department of Parks & Recreation.

- **Summary and Facts of the Bill**

The ordinance places awarded grant funds of \$100,000 into the capital project designated as the for the purpose of implementing the development of the project as per the master plan.

- **Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:**

- **What does the Bill do – what are the specific goals/tasks the bill seek to accomplish**
- **What are the Benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this**
- **How does this Bill related to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities**

This ordinance will allocate grant funds received to be used for the purpose of implementing a phased approach for the Jackson Street Community Park Development Project.

The Jackson Street Community Park is a unique pocket park located at the intersection of Jackson and 9th Streets. This pocket park serves the core areas of downtown Allentown and is located within one of Allentown's densest neighborhoods. As recommended in the City of Allentown Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2006), there are several heavily populated neighborhoods that are deficient in reasonably accessible park and recreation resources. Due to the density of the residential development surrounding the park, and the lack of other immediate open space, the City purchased an abandoned parking lot and building directly adjacent to the park for expansion of this pocket park.

Park Planning Process

In 2006, the City of Allentown, in cooperation with the Harry C. Trexler Trust, completed a master plan for the City's park and recreation system. One of the key goals identified in the plan was, 'All residents in the City should have parkland within a 10-minute walk from their residence'. The opportunity to expand this heavily used pocket park within this densely populated section of the City, specifically in this key strategic location, will provide the opportunity to achieve one of the plan's major goals and objectives.

In June of 2009, the City of Allentown hired an architectural firm to develop the master plan for the site which indentified through various public meetings, key person interviews and surveying the key park recommendations from the public.

The Jackson Street Community Park Master Plan features improved and expanded playground equipment for a variety of age groups, walking paths, open lawns for both passive and active recreational activities, pavilion with associated barbecues and drinking fountain, and an off-leash dog park for neighborhood dog owners to enjoy. Particular features of the Master Plan include:

- The existing garage is to be demolished and replaced with two (2) handicap parking spaces.
- The proposed pavilion is located to maintain street visibility to the park, and may serve as a picnicking area or game/bingo night location.
- Park benches are conveniently stationed along asphalt walking paths creating a 1/3 mile loop throughout the site. These paths provide an opportunity for exercise and ADA accessibility to all key features of the park. Trail steps are included to complete the connection between Jackson Street Community Park and Fountain Park.
- An off-leash dog park furnished with a doggie bag dispenser, trash can, and signage indicating the rules of the park provides an opportunity for local dog owners to bring their dogs out to play freely and distinctly independently of other park visitors.
- A suggested Park Gateway and sign would signify the transition from Center City to Allentown's system of interconnected parks, with Jackson Street Community Park now at the forefront of that system.
- Open lawn spaces can be used for pick-up sports, picnicking, sledding in winter, etc., and programming events including movies at the park and music series.

- Sufficient lighting is provided for nighttime safety.
- The ground material for the two play areas is to be poured rubber surfacing for ease of maintenance, durability, slip-resistance, and ADA accessibility.
- The main entry to the park is designated in the center of the block, including a crosswalk and suggested pedestrian crossing lights along Jackson Street.

- **Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:**

- **Cost (initial and ongoing)**
- **Benefits (initial and ongoing)**

The funds have been awarded by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and will not involve any costs other than staff time needed to process.

- **Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:**

- **If transferring funds, please make sure bill gives specific accounts; if appropriating funds from a grant list the agency awarding the grant.**

NA

- **Priority status/Deadlines, if any**

March 31, 2011

- **Why should Council unanimously support this bill?**

To allow for additional fundraising efforts to develop project fully and begin with the development of construction documents and necessary permitting.