



MEMO

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: Rip Robertson, Director, Parks & Recreation
CC: Tami Hanlin, City Manager
Date: May 9, 2022
RE: Memo for Johns Homestead Park (JHP) Park and Dam Improvement Project

Issue:

Because of the history associated with the John's Homestead Park (JHP) and the City of Tucker's commitment to preserving this vital park, it is necessary to replace the failing dams at Twin Brothers Lake. Along with the Friends of JHP, the City and County conducted a lengthy study to understand the issues and propose solutions. The city applied for and was awarded a Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) grant. This grant will provide funding for the rehabilitation of both dams and a complete renovation of the park. (This does not include any work on the homestead site.)

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approving an agreement with Root Design Studio, LLC in the amount of \$208,500.00 to provide schematic design, construction documents, permitting, bidding and construction administration for this vital park project. Root Design is a Tucker business and one of our "on-call" Landscape Architects. They have completed many projects for the Department, including the JHP Master Plan that was adopted as part of the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Background:

There is a history of issues with the lakes and dams at JHP. These issues prompted DeKalb County to conduct a study in 2020 with AECOM to determine the causes of these issues and any possible solutions. With the results of this study, the City and County began a search to provide funding for the proposed solutions. Along with addressing the solutions, it was decided to also renovate the park with new trails, bridges/boardwalks, family/community features and to restore native plantings and improve the overall environment within the park. The GOSP was a program designed to provide funding for these types of projects and the city was successful in acquiring full funding.

Summary:

This project will restore proper drainage from the lakes heading downstream, which will provide an improved environment for the wildlife in and around this historic park. It will also provide exciting new features for the surrounding communities as well as the whole of Tucker. The dam replacement/rebuild portion of this project will also protect surrounding homes and property from possible dam breaches, lake failures (channel) and flooding.

Financial Impact:

This item will be funded with \$2.5M GOSP funds with the City providing the required 25% matching funds through CIP and ARPA funding.