



ARPA-28

ARP Application - Jefferson County

Status: Active

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Applicant

Internal Section

Certification

Digital Signature

Jennifer Myers
11/03/2021

Contact Information

Organization Name

Jefferson County Parks & Recreation Commission

Address

235 Sam Michaels Lane

Website (if applicable)

www.jcprc.org

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3047283207

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Project Summary

1. Brief description of the proposal

Jefferson County Parks and Recreation seeks to develop an infrastructure plan, designed for future growth and expansion of James Hite Park. At present James Hite Park, located in the Leetown area of Jefferson County, has no water, sewer, or electrical infrastructure. The development of an infrastructure plan will allow for planned growth within the means and necessity of Jefferson County residents, related to the recreational use of the park. It is the goal of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission to designate and maintain a focus on green infrastructure initiatives within this park space. This plan will consider the feasibility

and develop metrics for green infrastructure practices and installation, while supporting the already developed park master plan.

2. Purpose and key anticipated outcomes

Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission strives to advance recreation and park growth and offerings in a planful way to benefit the largest populations while practicing fiscal responsibility. The James Hite Park master plan was developed with input from the community and to serve the needs for a wide variety of sports and recreational options for residents and visitors to Jefferson County. The park has been heavily utilized by travel soccer teams for game play since the park was opened to the public in 2015. At present the park includes a versatile, open field layout that allows for soccer play while maintaining the health of the grass playing surface, a fishing pond, a 2-mile walking/jogging trail, three picnic pavilions, and an accessible playground. Future plans for the park include baseball/softball fields, additional football fields, tennis courts, skatepark and dog park, which could allow regional tournaments if infrastructure is in place. Porta-pots are placed and utilized as restrooms throughout the season. Lights, water, and electricity are not available in the park and cannot be made available without the necessary infrastructure to provide these services. This is the first necessary step in making these necessary infrastructures upgrades, which will drive additional recreational tourism, including the potential to host large regional youth sports tournaments which attract overnight visitors from other areas, securing the future of this park.

The youth soccer community in Jefferson County is robust, thriving, and growing. Travel youth soccer groups utilize green spaces across Jefferson County, including the fields at James Hite Park. An estimated 1000 (250 EPIC, 650 AYSO, 100 WVFL) Jefferson County residents travel in various seasons for competitive, recreational youth soccer gameplay. Tournaments and larger-scaled games require participants and their families to travel to nearby states (Maryland and Virginia), as there are no public tournament spaces in Jefferson County that have the infrastructure to support them. It is the desire of JCPRC to help reverse the flow of traffic over our bridges to bring thousands of sports participants into our state and keep our residents here. This kind of athletic/recreational tourism will support economic development in retail, hotel, restaurant, and fuel sectors while supporting healthy play and future development of our parks. Infrastructure development at James Hite Park is necessary to attain this goal.

3. Individuals or communities served

Jefferson County Parks & Recreation provides recreational and arts programming for the county. It serves the populations of Charles Town, Ranson, Bolivar, Harpers Ferry, Shepherdstown, and Shenandoah Junction. Programs, festivals, and seasonal events draw participants from Jefferson and Berkeley counties in West Virginia, as well as visitors from nearby Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In 2020, out-of-county participation in programming accounted for approximately 10% of overall customer participation. It can be said with confidence, offerings in the parks in Jefferson County draw visitors to the area, including James Hite Park.

4. How the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated this request

Efforts to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic response while keeping public health a priority made evident the importance of public outdoor spaces. While concert venues, theaters, and indoor gyms remained closed to the public, outdoor events moved forward, bringing the community together in a safe environment. Participation and interest in outdoor activities grew faster than previous years. While this is likely due to response to COVID-19, growth continues to remain higher than any other measured data, including grocery stores, workplaces, transit, and more. The value in outdoor activities has been noticed and celebrated in West Virginia and around the United States. If new opportunities for shared community experience in our parks become available, it is reasonable to expect this momentum and appreciation for outdoor spaces and outdoor recreational play to be maintained or grow.

Access to outdoor spaces is important for the mental, physical, and social health of our community and visitors. One of the number one things coming from the pandemic is that families have refocused on the

importance of parks in their community. “Parks are not just green spaces. They’re public spaces for people. They’re not just for physical health, but for mental.”
([healthhttps://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/2020/04/10/covid-19-era-renewed-appreciation-our-parks-and-open-spaces](https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/2020/04/10/covid-19-era-renewed-appreciation-our-parks-and-open-spaces))
Jefferson County celebrates our rich history, beautiful landscapes, incredible views, and amazing spaces. The health and well being of our community is dependent upon maintaining mental health and propelling physical health opportunities for a stronger, healthier community.

5. Amount of funding requested

100,000

6. Amount of any bids or cost estimates received to date, if applicable

100,000

7a. Amount of matching funds raised or committed by your organization

25,000

7b. Source of matching funds raised or committed by your organization

Jefferson County Parks & Recreation Commission

8. How ARP funds, if awarded, will be used

ARP funds will be used to contract an engineer to develop a site plan to bring water, sewer, and electric into James Hite Park with a focus on green technology that will serve to keep operating costs down while protecting the environment and health.

9. How long it will take you to complete the project if awarded funding

9-12 months

Proposal Details

1. Please describe the problem or need which your project seeks to address

The Project will result in a plan for infrastructure development that will serve as the basis to estimate the cost and begin implementation of park utility improvements, namely water, sewer, and electric service. JCPRC has been very successful in obtaining public and private grants for the development of park and recreation infrastructure. The plan developed from this project will put JCPRC in a position to apply for grants, including those supporting development of green infrastructure, to further develop Hite Park to better serve the interests of Jefferson County citizens and businesses.

2. Please describe goals and expected outcomes of your proposal.

The project will provide a site plan and costs associated with green infrastructure development of James Hite Park. JCPRC will not receive grants, loans, or other sources of funding if development plans for infrastructure are not in place. JCPRC will seek additional sources for funding assistance to provide water, restrooms, and concessions to park visitors including necessary grants. In 2019, it was estimated sports tourism in the United States generates \$8.96 billion, with 25.65 million players and spectators participating.
(www.humankinetics.me/2019/04/04/the-remarkable-growth-of-sports-tourism/)
(<http://www.humankinetics.me/2019/04/04/the-remarkable-growth-of-sports-tourism/>)) Advancing the development infrastructure plans at James Hite Park, will provide opportunity to host tournaments in the Eastern Panhandle, bringing tourism dollars into Jefferson County.

3. Please provide your project timeline

Design/Permit, RFP Timeline:

- RFP 1-2 months
- Plan Development: 6-9 months

4. Please provide your project's total proposed budget.

We are estimating the cost of the site plan at \$100,000 due to past costs associated with this type project.

5. Please list any partners in this proposal, and the partner’s role and your relationship with them.

Currently, JCPRC provides outdoor facilities for numerous athletic groups within the county. Some of our current partners include Jefferson County Youth Soccer League, EPIC Soccer, Jefferson County Little League, Summit Point Baseball, WV Venom Football, Jefferson County Schools, and Freedom’s Run. All our partners would benefit from this project.

6. Please describe your plan for sustainability of the project or initiative after the grant award has been exhausted.

This project focuses on infrastructure planning that will provide sustainability for future development, environmental impacts, and economic development. Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission provides parks for recreation and leisure activities as part of the overall amenities bringing growth and development to Jefferson County. An infrastructure plan will create a roadmap for future development as indicated on the James Hite Park master plan.

Organization Information

1. Please provide your organization's mission statement.

Jefferson County Parks and Recreation exists to provide places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment. Its mission is to take a leadership role in harnessing resources for planning, developing, implementing, evaluating, and operating a county-wide system parks, recreation, conservation areas, and trail opportunities for people who live, work, and visit here.

2. Describe the history of your organization, tell us about your current programs and activities

The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission (JCPRC), established in 1970, is a component unit of the Jefferson County Commission. It is run by an eleven-member volunteer board. JCPRC, a 501c3 organization, operates or maintains nine county parks that encompass over 400 acres of park land and a variety of park facilities, including the Jefferson County Community Center, the AMP, picnic pavilions, concession stands, walking trails, playgrounds, tennis courts, athletic fields, and open space. In addition, JCPRC offers over 400 program opportunities each year to youth and adults in the county. As part of programming, JCPRC offers numerous special events each year. JCPRC generates approximately 51% our budget from revenue-based programming and facility rentals.

3. Please describe three significant accomplishments of your organization.

Purchase and development of 119-acre James Hite Park. The park provides much needed sports and recreation fields and facilities. The sports played on the fields keeps Jefferson County children’s sports in Jefferson County.
AMP at Sam Michaels Park – 40 year project brought to fruition
Offer over 400 programs and activities that promote public health already in place. Additional programs will be added as parks grow.

Developed a 10-year Park Master Plan to ensure responsible, forward-thinking public parks.
Received over \$1,500,000 in grant funding.


4. Please list your Owner(s), Board of Directors, senior staff members, or other key members of your organization:

JCPRC Board of Directors: Giordana Baker, Missy Thompson, Jimmy Pierson, Heather Morgan
Dale Manuel, Debra Lee Allen, Paul Marshall, Toni Milbourne, Susan Benzinger, 2 vacancies
Clare Ath - Commission Liaison
JCPRC Senior Staff: Jennifer Myers, director, David Kling, Assistant Director, Tim Michaels, Park Manager,
Brenda Whittington, Finance Coordinator, Becki Zaglifa, Community Development Coordinator, Tommy Van
Vliet, Program Coordinator, Shane Hovatter, Park Maintenance, Mary Kate Baker, Customer Engagement and
Services Assistant


5. Please list the staff involved with this project and describe their roles and responsibilities:

Jennifer Myers, Director
David Kling, Asst. Director
Paul Marshall, Treasurer
Tim Michael, Park Manager
David Hill, Construction Manager (Volunteer)


Cash flow statement for applicant's most recent fiscal year

 Statement of Cash Flows.pdf
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Two years of audited financial statements

 Financial Statements.pdf
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Current operating budget

 Operating Budget.pdf
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If the applicant has not been audited, please include an unaudited balance sheet and income statement as prepared by the applicant


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7. List any federal, state, local or private grant awards or funding received in the last three years and the current status of those funds. If your organization has previously received funds from Jefferson County, please list the amount, nature of the project(s) and current status of the funding and project(s).

2018 WV Culture & History (AMP)
2019 WV Culture & History (Concert)
2019 Herbert Henderson (Mobile Recreation)
2020 WV Culture & History-Fastrak Grant (AMP ADA Sidewalk)
2020 Levitt Foundation (Sam Michaels Park-Summer Concert Series)
2020 LWCF (James Hite Park-Playground)
2020 First Energy (Sam Michaels Park-ADA Sidewalk)
2020 Cares Act-State of WV (Reimbursement for Covid Expenses)
2020 Payment Protection Plan-SBA
2021 Outdoor Heritage and Conservation Fund (In partnership with the Chesapeake Conservancy)*Awarded
2018, 2019,2021 Jefferson County Youth Fund
2022 Levitt Foundation (2022 Summer Concert Series) *Awarded

2022 LWCF (James Hite Park) *Application Underway
2022 First Energy (AMP-Lighting) *Application Submitted

8. If you have made an application for funding for this project from other sources (city, state, private or non-profit organizations) please list the same here.

JCPRC will contribute \$25,000 to the development of a green infrastructure plan. Additional development grants are in the process of being applied for; including the addition of tennis/pickleball and basketball courts as well as a tot lot through the West Virginia Land and Water Conservation Fund. We anticipate the grant application in the amount of \$250,000.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Please explain the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it relates to your request.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic WV provided a list of essential services and public outdoor space was prominent in the list with outdoor recreation identified as an essential activity, even during the periods of stay-at-home orders. According to NRPA, the park usage grew exponentially during the pandemic. The Jefferson County Park System also saw this increase and part of the adaptation to accommodate it was the provision of portable toilets. At Sam Michaels Park in particular usage levels were high due to the wide array of outdoor amenities. However, Sam Michaels Park is on a septic system which, while well maintained, cannot support the increase in park attendance required to improve the resiliency of this park to function as an essential service during this or any future pandemic.

Populations flooded public parks in response to mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic. When theaters, gyms, restaurants, and school classrooms were closed, families and whole communities flocked to parks, trails, amphitheaters. Family and community events moved into outdoor spaces as burn-out from interior and virtual spaces took hold. A return to natural places and open air drove populations to new places. Jefferson County is home to the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy which recorded this extreme tourism growth. JCPRC reopened The AMP at Sam Michaels Park to record numbers of concert goers and saw participation in camps and outdoor rentals flourish. Even as the pandemic response wanes, continued appreciation for the outdoor spaces in Jefferson County Parks remains. As the population continues to grow around are parks, growth of parks and park infrastructure is imperative to continue growth in to meet the new-found demands of recreational tourism in our community.

2. How will ARP funding, if awarded, aid in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic?

Populations flooded public parks in response to mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 responses redirected activities and focus to outdoors, which elevated the urgency to further develop and maintain park spaces in Jefferson County. James Hite Park continues to support outdoor sports and recreational play for Jefferson County children and adult residents and visitors to our community. Infrastructure planning is necessary for continued growth, highlighting the health and wellness of our populations in the Eastern Panhandle.

3. Are you requesting lost revenue due to COVID-19

No

Supplementary Information

1. Please enter contact information (name, email, and phone) for at least one third-party reference.

Steven Shafer, BCT sshaffer@mybct.bank (mailto:sshaffer@mybct.bank) 304-728-2406

2. Please include any supplementary information or documentation (such as letters of support, newspaper articles, etc) which you feel will be essential to the County’s review.



Hite Road Concept_0.jpg
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Attachments

pdf 2016_1013_Jefferson County Parks_Final Report REDUCED (7) (1).pdf
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History

Date	Activity
Nov 3, 2021 at 5:58 pm	Jennifer Myers started a draft of Record ARPA-28
Nov 3, 2021 at 6:30 pm	Jennifer Myers added attachment 2016_1013_Jefferson County Parks_Final Report REDUCED (7) (1).pdf to Record ARPA-28
Nov 3, 2021 at 6:35 pm	Jennifer Myers submitted Record ARPA-28
Nov 3, 2021 at 6:35 pm	approval step Application Review was assigned to Michelle Gordon on Record ARPA-28
Nov 3, 2021 at 6:35 pm	changed the deadline to Nov 04, 2021 on approval step Application Review on Record ARPA-28