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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Brent Walker, Parks and Recreation Manager

Date: September 12, 2011

Subject: **Discussion of Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Grant Acceptance**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Staff has received final word that Dunwoody has been awarded \$100,000 in grant funds to create a multi-use trail in Brook Run Park and recommends acceptance.

BACKGROUND

Brook Run Park is traversed by a trail system that was originally created in the 1970s when the site was used by the State of Georgia. On November 22, 2010, the Mayor and City Council, through Resolution 2010-10-47, supported staff's application for \$100,000 in grant funds through the Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Grant Program to create a multi-use trail at Brook Run Park.

The grant funds are intended to be used to conduct an assessment of the existing trails system and transform this underutilized amenity into a new recreational opportunity that will be designed to meet the needs of users with a variety of different abilities. A multi-use recreational trail through Brook Run Park will allow the community to traverse the expanses of the park and provide linkages between recreational resources and community activities.

In March, staff received preliminary word from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources that our application had met the established criteria and would continue in the approval process. In June, the City allocated \$40,000 to meet the matching requirement of the grant as part of the Parks Capital Budget.

In August, staff received word that our Brook Run Park Recreational Trail project has been approved by the State Historic Preservation Office, the Georgia Natural Heritage Program, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other applicable agencies. In order to receive funds, the City must provide a Resolution that authorizes the acceptance of the grant and enter into a Project Agreement with the Department of Natural Resources.

If the City accepts these funds, the assessment, design, and engineering phase of the project would begin as early as fall 2011. Based on DNR reporting and project requirements, construction of the trail will likely not begin until mid-2012.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends accepting the \$100,000 grant via Resolution and authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to execute all documents.