



## Waynesboro City Council Agenda Briefing

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	March 8, 2021	<b>Staff/Council Member(s):</b> Mike Hamp, City Manager Trafford McRae, Programs and Budget Manager
<b>Agenda Item #</b>	7	
<b>Resolution#</b>		
<b>Department:</b>	City Manager's Office, Planning, Parks and Recreation, Public Works	
<b>Subject:</b>	Loth Springs Natural Area Project Update and Resolution	

**Background:** The City received \$1,217,000 in grant funding in 2018 from the DuPont Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement for the development of a passive recreational area or "Natural Area" near the Arch Avenue access to the South River Greenway. The project site is comprised of three areas: four acres including Loth Springs that were donated to the City by DuPont in 2019, City-owned lots that include the Appalachian Trail hiker campground that was previously Critzer Trailer Court, and a five-acre parcel on the southern extent of the South River Complex that was acquired using NRDA grant funds. Together these parcels equal approximately twelve acres.

The grant funding is overseen by a group of Trustees made up of federal and state natural resources officials. The trustees approved funding for the project that included acquisition of the property from the South River Complex as well as environmentally focused design and construction of the site to improve habitat and water quality within the South River watershed. Possible activities that will take place include construction of stormwater facilities to reduce pollution before it reaches the South River, restoration of wildlife habitat through planting native trees and grasses, and exposing 300 linear feet of the stream that flows from Loth Spring to the South River. The grant also includes funding for the development of a limited number of walking paths for recreational use. Overall, staff envisions this as a project that can build on efforts to improve the health of the South River and enhance the experience of Greenway users by providing a more open and natural section of trail.

The approximate project timeline involves engaging a professional engineering and design firm to develop plans for the site through the Spring of 2022 with construction to follow in the Fall of 2022 and Spring of 2023.

The grant funds are managed by the trustees in such a way as to ensure projects are carried out to meet the overall settlement goals of improving the ecology of the South River. The trustees have requested that the City Council adopt a resolution dedicating the Loth Springs Natural Area as a Public Recreation Facility as a show of good-faith that the City and the trustees have a similar vision for the project site.

**City Manager's Recommendation:** Adopt the resolution dedicating the Loth Springs Natural Area as a Public Recreation Facility.

**Suggested Motion(s):** Move to adopt the resolution dedicating the Loth Springs Natural Area as a Public Recreation Facility.

**Attachments:** Map, Resolution