

Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title and purpose of this initiative:

Reallocation of ARPA Funding to Henry Anderson III Community Park Basketball Court and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Bicycle Pump Track

Department:

Recreation, Parks & Cultural Resources

What are the racial and equity impacts?

Reallocation of this funding from the Horseshoe Pit Reconstruction and the Music Festival Performer Payment projects will provide a broader impact to the community as more residents utilize the basketball court and pump track facilities than the horseshoe pits and the Music Festival. The Music Festival payments for FY24 were covered by the Town's general fund, so this money is already available for reallocation.

For the basketball courts, while we do not have quantifiable data regarding demographics of the users of this facility, observations by staff have indicated that many of our Latinx and African American community members use the courts on a regular basis. As the courts are used almost daily year-round, this would provide a great benefit.

For the pump track, specific user data is not available, but the site offers opportunities for youth in the community to ride in a safe environment away from potential hazards on the road and non-Town property.

For both facilities, the primary driver for these projects is the safety of current and future users since both facilities have safety concerns that need to be addressed as soon as possible.

Who is or will experience community burden?

Current users and those living around or visiting MLK Jr. Park and Hank Anderson Park will have a slight burden during the construction process as the Town would anticipate brief closure of these facilities to allow for contractors to perform the work. The burden would include extra vehicles, noise, and potential debris while the repairs take place. This could impact users of adjacent facilities, such as the playground and the community gardens at MLK Park, though closures would not be anticipated during the projects.

Who is or will experience community benefit?

The primary beneficiaries of these projects would be community members who utilize these facilities. We see a large cross-section of the community using the basketball courts and many youths that use the pump track. Additionally, the Town would benefit by being able to address concerns we have received from the community, and it would help limit liability that currently



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exists due to the conditions of these sites. It is also likely that the marketing announcing the upgrades of these facilities could result in new patrons utilizing these amenities.

What are the root causes of inequity?

Participation in recreational programs and access to amenities often comes with a cost. This may be in the form of user fees, or it may be availability of transportation to access the sites. More affluent community members may have access to private facilities, may have the means to have alternatives at their home (ex. home basketball goal), or may have a means to access comparable public facilities in surrounding areas, such as pump tracks in Wake and Durham counties. The two facilities being upgraded are both free for all members of the community to access so it is important to keep them in good operating condition. These two amenities are also located in different areas of the Town, so it spreads out upgrades to two different areas and 10-minute walksheds.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

Shifting funding from the Music Festival Performer Payments would not result in any negative consequences as the event has already passed and those payments were made. Shifting of funding from the horseshoe pit reconstruction defers maintenance needed at that site which could impact the playability of the site during Town-sponsored tournaments and rentals.

As with any park project, issues could be identified during the work or issues may occur resulting from the work (ex. accidental damage or lights, fencing, etc.) that could cause extended delays in access to these amenities or result in increased costs.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences?

The Department plans to notify the community in advance of, during, and upon completion of the projects to keep patrons informed. Basketball courts at Carrboro Elementary School and Brewer Lane Mini-Park could be publicized as alternatives during construction.

The Department will work with Public Works to supervise the construction to help mitigate any issues and limit any negative impacts. Regarding the horseshoe pit project, this project is more feasible to do in stages through the CIP/budgeting process and could be done by Town staff whereas the basketball courts and pump track would require professional contractors.