



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: 2018-1593

Substitute

3/13/2018

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Watershed Management

SUBJECT: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area & Recreational Tourism Development - Lyon Farm Restoration

Commission District(s): 5 and 7

Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area & Recreational Tourism Development - Lyon Farm Restoration – Cost to the County:
\$225,000

Information Contact: Scott Towler, PE, Director of Watershed Management

Phone Number: 770-621-7234

PURPOSE:

To create a repair and maintenance project for the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration not to exceed \$225,000 funded through the Department of Watershed Management (DWM) Operating Fund (511-08032-522201) and to authorize the CEO to execute all necessary documents.

NEED/IMPACT:

The Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area is a 2500+ acre preserve that includes Arabia Mountain, one of the oldest granite outcroppings in the State (older than Stone Mountain), wetlands, pine and oak forests, multiple streams, two lakes, bike paths, hiking/walking trails (paved and natural) and a nature center. The Lyon Farm Homestead is located within the National Heritage Area in southeast DeKalb County. This homestead, under consideration to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is considered the oldest homestead in DeKalb County and as such is a unique County asset of historical value that needs restoration and preservation.

In 2006, DWM purchased the property as part of the Pole Bridge Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant buffer. As part of the purchase, DWM agreed to maintain the structural integrity of the historic house and historic outbuildings. In 2017, due to the lack of maintenance, the buildings were placed on the Georgia Trust's Places in Peril list. DWM, working with the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, developed a plan to restore the structural integrity of the house and smokehouse to protect these cultural treasures for generations to come.

The proposed restoration consists of repairing the foundation and replacing degraded framing, siding, flooring, windows, roofs, and other structures and systems including electrical and plumbing as needed for the farmhouse and rebuilding the historic smokehouse including the foundation to bring the buildings to a reusable, safe and structurally sound condition. Additional restoration, including finishing and furnishing will not be included in this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This action will allow the CEO or his designee to set-up the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration Project of up to \$225,000. Funds for this project will come from the DWM Operating Funds repair and maintenance account 511-08032-522201.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the creation of a repair and maintenance account for Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration Project funded through DWM Operating Fund (511-08032-522201) with a not to exceed budget of \$225,000, due to accelerated deterioration of the site and to authorize the CEO to execute all necessary documents.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION THAT ALLOWS FOR RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE LYON FARM PROPERTY

WHEREAS, DeKalb County, Department of Watershed Management is authorized by DeKalb County Code, Chapter 25 to provide water, sewers and sewage disposal within the County: and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County, Department of Watershed Management purchased the Lyon Farm property in 2006 as buffer property for the Pole Bridge Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Disposal Sprayfields; and

WHEREAS, the Lyon Farm property contains a historic farmhouse and smokehouse that are believed to comprise the oldest homestead in DeKalb County settled pursuant to a Revolutionary War land grant to the Lyon family; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Watershed Management verbally agreed to maintain the historic structures with the family to purchase the property and due to lack of maintenance the property was placed on the Georgia Trust's Places in Peril list; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Watershed Management does not have expertise in historic preservation and believes it to be in the best interest of the County to allow the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance to manage and coordinate restoration of the structural integrity of the property; and

WHEREAS, the attached documentation presents the condition of the structures and the work required to restore the structural integrity of the buildings and preserve them for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Watershed Management has allocated \$225,000 from the Department's Operating Fund; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Department of Watershed Management will establish a project entitled, Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration, with a not to exceed budget of \$225,000 and to authorize the CEO to execute all necessary documents.

SUBJECT: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area & Recreational Tourism Development – Lyon Farm Restoration

PURPOSE:

To create a repair and maintenance project for the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration not to exceed \$225,000 funded through the Department of Watershed Management (DWM) Operating Fund (511-08032-522201) and to authorize the CEO to execute all necessary documents.

NEED/IMPACT:

The Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area is a 2500+ acre preserve that includes Arabia Mountain, one of the oldest granite outcroppings in the State (older than Stone Mountain), wetlands, pine and oak forests, multiple streams, two lakes, bike paths, hiking/walking trails (paved and natural) and a nature center. The Lyon Farm Homestead is located within the National Heritage Area in southeast DeKalb County. This homestead, under consideration to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is considered the oldest homestead in DeKalb County and as such is a unique County asset of historical value that needs restoration and preservation. In 2006, DWM purchased the property as part of the Pole Bridge Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. As part of the purchase, DWM agreed to maintain the structural integrity of the historic house and historic outbuildings. In 2017, due to the lack of maintenance, the buildings were placed on the Georgia Trust's Places in Peril List. DWM, working with the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, developed a plan to restore the structural integrity of the house and smokehouse to protect these cultural treasures for generations to come.

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This action will allow the CEO or his designee to set-up the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration Project of up to \$225,000. Funds for this project will come from the DWM Operating Funds repair and maintenance account 511-08032-522201.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Create a repair and maintenance project of Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Lyon Farm Restoration Project funded through DWM Operating Fund (511-08032-522201) with a not to exceed budget of \$225,000 and to authorize the CEO to execute all necessary documents.