



# DeKalb County Government

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

## Agenda Item

File ID: 2021-3484

Substitute

12/14/2021

Public Hearing: YES  NO

Department: Board of Commissioners

### SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): District 7

To Amend the Appropriation of \$50,000 From The District 7 Reserve for Appropriation to the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance.

Information Contact: Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

Phone Number: 404-371-2899

### PURPOSE:

To amend the appropriation of \$50,000 to the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance made pursuant to 2021-2871 to provide for the provision of services to assist DeKalb County during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to protect the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve and promote outdoor recreation and leisure activities to an increased number of visitors during the pandemic. Services include maintenance of trails, maintenance of restrooms, surveying signs, cleaning interior garbage stations and gateway entrances, removing litter and maintaining website updates as described in more detail in the Attachment to protect DeKalb County residents, visitors and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### NEED/IMPACT:

The \$50,000 appropriation is for the provision of services to assist DeKalb County during the COVID-19 pandemic at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve and promote outdoor recreation and leisure activities due to an increased number of visitors during the pandemic. The number of visitors reported to date totaled over 500,000 and visitation was reported to have increased by approximately 300%.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase appropriations for the following account by the amount indicated below:

Non-Departmental – Unincorporated Fund – Transfer to Grant Fund (09130.611250.272.0000.0000) - \$50,000

Decrease appropriations for the following account by the amount indicated below:

Non-Departmental - Unincorporated Fund - Reserve for Appropriation (09130.579002.272.0000.0000) - \$50,000

### RECOMMENDATION:

To approve an amendment of an appropriation made pursuant to 2021-2871 from the District 7 Reserve for Appropriation to the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance to allow for the provision of services and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.



December 13, 2021

DeKalb Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs  
1950 West Exchange Place  
Tucker, GA 30084

Dear Director Ellis:

The Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance (AMHAA) is pleased to provide **Greenspace Planning Support Services during the Pandemic to the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve**. AMHAA worked with DeKalb Parks staff, volunteers, and leadership, in challenging times, to protect DAMNP and to promote outdoor recreation and leisure activities to increasingly larger numbers of visitors.

Summarized below are tasks and initiatives the Alliance supported with the DeKalb Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs Department:

- Litter removal, debris collection/control along the Klondike Corridor, from Woodrow Road to Browns Mill Road;
- Secured the Feasibility Plan to evaluate best management practices for parking and explored funding strategies;
- Reviewed and commented on major, identified greenspace planning documents (i.e., DAMNP/Department Comprehensive Ten-Year Master Plans);
- Community Outreach and Development (i.e., internal planning meetings, design charettes, and public greenspace planning meetings);
- Monitoring and tracking conservation and historic preservation-focused projects in conjunction with the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners;
- Representation provided County-wide and regionally on significant issues that affect greenspaces and outdoor recreation in DeKalb County (to include but not limited to): transportation, traffic calming, parking analysis, community improvement districting and overlay districting (i.e., the Arabia Mountain Overlay Conservation District);
- Grant support and prioritization;
- Recreation and Visitor Services Support at trailhead/parking lots, Wilborn Farms, Ragsdale House and the Arabia PATH Trail System;
- Led the DAMNP Intern program to support trail maintenance/building; and
- Coordinated with the DeKalb County to protect and promote water trails throughout the NHA and DAMNP-connected events.

The Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance is a partner in support of the goals and mission of the Davidson Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve. When the world and State of Georgia CLOSED, outdoors was OPEN and together we served countless visitors. We understand the one-time management services fee, \$50,000 will be provided by DeKalb County.

### **Alliance DAMNP Connection**

Located within minutes of DAMNP and downtown Atlanta, the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area encompasses over 40,000 acres in three counties and proudly offers a variety of recreational opportunities to the more than 500,000 annual visitors. Our efforts since 1998 have led to the conservation of over 4,000 acres of public land. Arabia Mountain and the surrounding communities strengthen our regional and national story-telling ability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rely", written in a cursive style.

Cy: Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson  
AMHAA Executive Board  
RPCA Project Files