



## Legislation Text

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File #: 2024-0353, Version: 1

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**Public Hearing:** YES  NO

**Department:** Board of Commissioners - District 5

**SUBJECT:**

**Commission District(s):** District 5

An item to allocate \$150,000 of the American Rescue Plan Tranche II Funds Assigned to POETA Account 106388.63230.521209.10.05.602778 to the Trust for Public Land for the Community Schoolyards Project for use at schools identified in District 5

**Information Contact:** Mereda Davis Johnson, District 5 Commissioner

**Phone Number:** 404-371-2159

**PURPOSE:**

The community schoolyards movement is taking hold across the world as a recognized solution to address climate, equity, and health challenges facing the 21st century. In addition, community schoolyards represent the single greatest opportunity to improve park access for millions across the country.

Too often neglected, schoolyards present a unique opportunity to meet our need for access to nature. Relatively small investments of time and resources can create vibrant spaces that help children learn. Welcoming residents during non-school hours builds social bonds and strengthens the community.

**NEED/IMPACT:**

Community schoolyards, also known as green schoolyards, are open to the community after school hours and are designed by students, teachers and neighbors as nature-rich hubs for outdoor play, community health and climate resilience. They can include outdoor classrooms, gardens, stormwater capture, traditional playground equipment, nature play areas, trails, trees, water features, and more.

Time spent learning and playing in nature benefits the whole child and can help children reach their full potential. Access to safe, natural areas can enhance children's physical and mental health, from improving cardiovascular vitality and weight management to reducing stress and ADHD symptoms. In addition, regular access to high quality green space inspires strong connections to the natural world.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

To appropriate \$150,000 of American Rescue Plan Tranche II Funds Reserved for Appropriation for District 5 to the Georgia Public Trust for Land for the Community Schoolyards Project at schools located in District 5 from POETA Account #: 106388.63230.521209.10.5.602778

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve the resolution and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.....