

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the Mayor to accept funding from the University of Connecticut (UCONN) as a subrecipient to a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Fund and sign any associated state agreements with contractors and other documents that may be desirable or necessary, including any subsequent amendments to agreements, for shoreline protection, habitat restoration, and associated activities. (Submitted by: Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer)

REPORT: **1571-08**

ADVICE: **Approve**

BACKGROUND

The UCONN Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaption (CIRCA) is applying for funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Fund (NFWF) to both monitor the living shoreline at East Shore Park and construct erosion protection measures and habitat restoration for Ft Hale Park. The Board of Alders previously approved a grant from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) to construct two living shorelines in Long Wharf Park and East Shore Park. This opportunity would extend the improvements to Ft Hale Park, where there is poor tidal flushing of the existing wetlands/moat, and also erosion concerns on the harbor side of the Fort.

The grant would provide \$1.2M to the City as a subrecipient to construct improvements in the Park, and an additional \$1.1M would go to UCONN for scientific monitoring of the East Shore and Ft. Hale Park installations. As the project will monitor the East Shore Park living shoreline installation as well, \$2.3M of the construction cost for that project would be considered match for the NFWF grant. This grant will not require any direct contribution of City funds, the project will leverage the existing funding for East Shore Park to secure funding to improve Ft. Hale Park

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

In its Comprehensive Plan, the City of New Haven had identified East Shore park and Fort Hale Park as "significant recreation-oriented parks" (VII-11). Perusing funding opportunities to construct improvements (erosion protection measures and habitat restoration) in the Ft Hale Park and to monitor the East Shore and Ft. Hale Park installations complies with the City's Comprehensive Plan:

New Haven Vision 2025, Sections VII-22, III-10


“Implement shoreline stabilization measures as recommended within the New Haven Coastal Program (2006) and increase plant and natural buffer along the coast... **Continue to protect the city’s endangered species** by regulating development activities at locations where such species are found” (Sec. VII-22)

“Encourage “living shoreline” measures such as salt marsh restoration to protect both hardened shorelines and natural ones.” (Sec. III-10)

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Order in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: July 15, 2020
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Aicha Woods
Executive Director, City Plan Department