



BOARD SUMMARY REPORT

Date: June 4, 2020

To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: Shannon Carter, Intergovernmental Relations and Open Space Director
Glen Poole, Open Space Operations Manager

From: Matthew Szumilas, Open Space & Trails Supervisor

Subject: Purchase and Asset Number for Trailer Mounted Mobile Pressure Washer

Direction/Information

Open Space Operations Staff is seeking Board direction and approval for the purchase and the assignment of an asset number for a trailer mounted mobile pressure washer. Operations staff needs a pressure washer to address public safety concerns with COVID-19 and to provide a safer, high value visitor experience in our open spaces, parks, and trails. Our goal is to purchase the pressure washer with the intent of requesting a reimbursement through federal 2020 CARES Act funds.

Request and Recommendation

Open Space Operations is requesting approval and the assignment of an asset number for a trailer mounted pressure washer with the capability of hot water and chemical disinfection of park shelters, playgrounds, and other public amenities. The unit cost is \$15,000 dollars.

Background

Historically Open Space, Parks and Trails staff have provided basic cleaning services for our tables, shelters, trash receptacles and playgrounds at our public properties. Due to the impact of COVID-19 over the last several months, it has become evident that staff do not have the appropriate equipment to effectively meet the need to disinfect our open space and park amenities at a level that provides for a safe user experience. Staff have completed the necessary research to identify a trailer mounted pressure washer that will assist in meeting the new level of service and disinfection of public amenities at our open spaces and parks.

Discussion

The COVID-19 virus appeared in Colorado in early March. The ongoing public health issue is having a large impact on the County's Open Spaces, Trails and Parks. Staff have documented increased numbers of visitors to our properties due to closures of local restaurants, entertainment facilities, state travel limitations and people's ability to gather and interact with each other. Some Open Space properties saw a roughly 50% increase in visitation this spring. Despite the closure of

park amenities, people continued to use Arapahoe County public spaces. Open Space Operations staff have developed a disinfecting program with guidance from state and county health officials utilizing current equipment resources.

COVID-19 has changed Open Space operations in ways staff were not equipped to handle. Staff have been tasked with the disinfection of park and trail amenities to protect visitors. The current disinfection process uses backpack sprayers and hand-held spray bottles to treat amenities with disinfectant during staff daily and weekly inspections. For the disinfectant to be effective, the chemical is supposed to dry on the treated surface. This method leads to the accumulation of disinfectant on the surfaces of our various public amenities.

Our park and trailhead amenities have accumulated residue that needs to be removed on a regular basis to reduce the chances of degradation of the finishes of our amenities and for aesthetic reasons. A standard pressure washer is not very effective on removing the residue that has been dried by the sun and current warm temperatures. Pressurized hot water cleaning is needed for effective residue removal and disinfection.

Another advantage to using a hot water pressure system is the decreased need for chemical disinfectant. With this method, we can provide a safer experience and amenities in our open spaces, parks, and trails by reducing our user's exposure to chemicals residues.

The pressure washer can also be utilized for other operational needs including vehicle / equipment disinfection and cleaning of large amenities like playground equipment.

A trailer mounted pressure washer would allow Open Space staff to realize the following operational advantages:

1. Capitalize on the opportunity to use Federal 2020 CARES Act funding to purchase equipment needed to provide a higher level of service to our visitors.
2. Provide a safer and more enjoyable user experience in our Open Spaces, Parks and Trails by adding hot water cleaning and disinfection to our standard maintenance operations.
3. Reduce the likelihood of our visitors being exposed to COVID-19 virus.
4. Allow us to maintain our Open Space, Park and Trail amenities at a higher level than we are currently able to provide in an efficient manner.
5. Increase the service life of our current amenities and facilities with better maintenance practices.
6. Reduce the amount of chemical disinfectant needed to be applied to complete disinfection processes.

Alternatives

Open Spaces Operations staff have identified two options:

1. Provide an efficient and higher quality of service to our visitors with the purchase of the trailer mounted pressure washer utilizing 2020 CARES Act funding.

2. Continue with our current practices utilizing the equipment resources Open Space Operations currently have within their inventory. This option will require a higher level of staff time to comply with current public health orders.

Fiscal Impact

This purchase qualifies for reimbursement under the 2020 Federal CARES Act. The fiscal impact will temporarily impact the Open Spaces Maintenance Fund until the Department completes the reimbursement process outlined by the Federal Government.

Links to Align Arapahoe

Quality of Life

The current public health orders due to COVID-19 impact the County's ability to maintain and provide safe amenities and outdoor experiences at our open spaces, parks, and trails for the residents of Arapahoe County.

Service First

The current public health orders due to COVID-19 provide recommendations to our Operations staff, which result in the need to provide additional cleaning services at our open spaces, parks and trailheads to support public health and safety of our visitors.

Fiscal Responsibility

Utilize resources and staff time in a responsible way to assist open space, park, and trail visitors as they engage public spaces, while trying to reduce possible exposure to COVID-19.

Reviewed By

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