



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Council Session

Item G-13

#2019-146 - Approving Pheasants Forever/Nebraska Natural Resources Districts Agreement to Enroll Areas of Heartland Public Shooting Park in the “Corners For Wildlife” Habitat Program

Staff Contact: Todd McCoy

Council Agenda Memo

From: Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director

Meeting: April 23, 2019

Subject: Approving Agreement to Enroll Areas of Heartland Public Shooting Park in the “Corners For Wildlife” Habitat Program

Presenter(s): Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director

Background

Heartland Public Shooting Park (HPSP) consists of 420 acres of land. Improvements to the site include six skeet ranges, eight trap ranges, a ten station sporting clays course, rifle and pistol ranges, a seven acre lake, RV campground, archery venue, and a new bunker trap. HPSP host numerous regional and national shooting sports event which includes the National 4H Championships, Zombies in the Heartland, USPSA Area 3 Championships, and more. Volunteers play a major role in the operation of the facility.

Discussion

HPSP has been supportive or participated in a number of wildlife habitat programs. HPSP qualifies for the Corners For Wildlife program administered by Pheasants Forever and Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts. Corners For Wildlife is a five year program in which the City will receive \$100/acre per year to plant and maintain areas of native grasses and shrubs that will benefit wildlife habitat. Staff estimates the initial cost to HPSP for spraying unwanted weeds and seeding 68 acres at approximately \$4,500.00. By the end of five years HPSP will receive \$34,000.00 for participating in the program.

Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the agreement to enroll 68 acres located at HPSP in the Corners For Wildlife program administered by Pheasants Forever and Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the Corners For Wildlife agreement.

Corners For Wildlife



Corners For Wildlife provides landowners with the option of enrolling in a program to help establish wildlife habitat on center pivot corners. Pivot corners already containing wildlife habitat are not eligible for the program as the object of the program is to establish new wildlife habitat.

Cover Practice #1

Landowners will establish nesting and brood-rearing habitat from a highly diverse PF Biologist designed seed mixture. This cover practice will be **seeded by May 10th** of the first year of the contract. Yearly contract payment is a maximum of \$60 per acre.

Cover Practice #2

Landowners establishing nesting and brood-rearing habitat and adding wildlife shrub thickets will receive a maximum contract payment of \$100 per acre. Number of shrub thickets will be determined by a PF Biologist based on each project size. Typically 2 thickets per every 7 acres is needed. Grass mixtures are to be **seeded by May 10th** and shrub thickets are to be **established by May 30th** of the first year of the contract.

Project Payments:

Projects will be inspected at least one-time per year to ensure compliance with project requirements. Following project inspection, contract payments will be made in five payments starting one year after the planting and establishment of the project (Planting in May 2019 will mean payment #1 is made in June of 2020 & the final payment being made in June of 2024). Payments will be mailed from PF to the NRD and the NRD will issue the individual landowner payments.

Project Requirements:

1. Grass seed mixtures are cost-shared at a rate of 75% by Pheasants Forever. See Program Guidelines for details.
2. Shrub and tree material costs are cost-shared at a rate of 75% by Pheasants Forever.
3. Shrub and tree planting costs are cost-shared at a rate of 100% by the NRD.
4. Site preparation and seed drilling costs are the landowner's responsibility.
5. Fabric weed barrier for tree plantings is cost shared at a rate of 50% by Pheasants Forever. FWB is not needed for shrub thicket plantings.
6. Landowner agrees to pay 25% of the seed mixture cost and 25% of the shrub material cost.
7. Landowners are responsible for site or ground preparation as outlined in the CFW Program Guidelines.
8. Landowners are responsible for planting of the grass seed, including all prep, drill rental, and drilling costs.
9. Project must be maintained until the contract end date (after the 5th annual contract payment) and may not be grazed, hayed or mowed.
10. Two Corners For Wildlife signs are required to be posted on each project.
11. Landowners are responsible for performing chemical weed control of shrub thickets and/or trees according to the Program Guidelines
12. Violation of contract requirements results in forfeiture of past and future contract payments and reimbursement of all cost shared funds for grass seed, trees, shrubs, tree/shrub planting, and project signs from PF and the NRD.

Corners For Wildlife



Nebraska's
Natural Resources
Districts
www.nrdnet.org
Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future



NRD: Central Platte

Landowner Name: City of Grand Island

*Name listed should be the payee and match the W9 form

Mailing Address: PO Box 1968

City, State, Zip: Grand Island, NE 68802

Phone: 308-385-5048

County: Hall S: 29 T: 11 R: 10W

Practice (grass only, grass and shrub thickets, tree rows): grass and shrubs

Total Acres: 68

Payment Rate: \$100 per acre

*up to \$60 for grass only, up to \$100 for grass and shrub thickets, up to \$75 for tree rows

Total Annual Payment (acres x payment rate): \$6,800.00

Landowner Signature and Date

NRD Representative Signature and Date

Pheasants Forever Signature and Date

Supporting Documents Needed:

Signed contract
Aerial photo
Shrub plan

Return Supporting Documents To:

Pheasants Forever
1202 Clover Ridge Court
Rapid City, SD 57701

mpatten@pheasantsforever.org, 308-428-3062

CFW Plan Map

Date: 1/25/2019

Customer(s): City of Grand Island HPSP
District: CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Field Office: GRAND ISLAND
Agency: USDA - NRCS
Assisted By: Bryan O'Connor

Legal Description: SE1/4 16 - 12N - 10W

Land Units:



Prepared with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service



480 0 480 960 1,440 1,920 Feet



RESOLUTION 2019-146

WHEREAS, the Heartland Public Shooting Park (HPSP) consists of 420 acres of land; and

WHEREAS, HPSP qualifies for the Corners For Wildlife program administered by Pheasants Forever and Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts; and

WHEREAS, Corners For Wildlife is a five year program in which the City will receive \$100/acre per year to plant and maintain areas of native grasses and shrubs that will benefit wildlife habitat. Staff estimates the initial cost to HPSP for spraying unwanted weeds and seeding 68 acres at approximately \$4,500.00. By the end of five years HPSP will receive \$34,000.00 for participating in the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, approve the agreement to enroll 68 acres located at HPSP in the Corners For Wildlife program administered by Pheasants Forever and Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, April 23, 2019.

Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

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| Approved as to Form | ☐ _____ |
| April 19, 2019 | ☐ City Attorney |