

Source

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** City Manager and Staff  
**DATE:** November 12, 2008  
**RE:** Wireless Internet in Parks (Tracker #2225)



Mike Hood  
*MH*

Summary: Councilperson Janku requested information from staff regarding the possibility of providing wireless internet in various public spaces, including parks such as Flat Branch and Stephens Lake Park. City Information Technology staff prefers the use of an independent private contractor due to security issues. A local internet provider, iZones was asked to submit a proposal to provide equipment and monthly service for wireless internet at Flat Branch and Stephens Lake Parks. Total equipment cost for these two parks is \$7,280 including \$2,740 at Flat Branch Park and \$4,540 at Stephens Lake Park. Additionally, iZones has tentatively agreed to provide the city with complimentary internet connection in exchange for advertising. This advertising includes mention of iZones as the sponsor on rules signs at the park and on the park's web pages. This sponsorship is worth \$100 per station. At Flat Branch Park, there are two proposed stations and at Stephens, there are four proposed stations. If the entire proposal is accepted, this results in an annual sponsorship of \$2,400 per year at Flat Branch and \$4,800 per year at Stephens. Park staff is seeking direction on how to proceed.

Fiscal Impact

YES   
 NO

Project Description: Councilperson Janku requested information from staff regarding the possibility of providing wireless internet in various public spaces, including parks such as Flat Branch and Stephens Lake Park. In discussions with Robert Simms, Director of Data Processing, the use of an independent private contractor is preferred due to security issues with the City providing free access to the internet.

Other Info.  
 Ward 1 Flat Branch  
 Ward 3 Stephens

Based on a recommendation from Information Technology staff, park staff contacted iZones and received a proposal that provides full coverage of Flat Branch Park and Stephens Lake Park. The initial cost for equipment at Flat Branch Park is \$2,740 and includes a base station and an additional access point. Cost includes the following:

- a. **Base Unit:** (1) 5 Ghz subscriber unit, (1) 2.4 Ghz 802.11g access point, Hot Spot wireless with Walled Garden, installation, setup & warranty: \$1,590.  
 Note: City/Park staff provides outdoor enclosures and electricity: \$250  
**Total Cost Per Base Unit: \$1,840.**
- b. **Additional Access Units:** (1) 2.4Ghz 802.11g access point, Hot Spot wireless with Walled Garden, installation setup and warranty: \$750.  
 Note: City/Park staff provides outdoor enclosures and electricity: \$150  
**Total Cost Per Additional Access Units: \$900.**

In order to provide full wireless internet coverage to Flat Branch Park, the following equipment is required:

a.	Base Unit:	\$1,840
b.	Additional Access Unit:	<u>\$ 900</u>
	Total Flat Branch Park Equipment Costs:	\$2,740

In order to provide full wireless internet coverage to Stephens Lake Park, including the Riechmann Pavilion, park shelters, and the beach/amphitheater area, the following equipment is required:

a.	Base Unit:	\$1,840
b.	Three Additional Access Units:	<u>\$2,700</u>
	Total Flat Branch Park Equipment Costs:	\$4,540

Total cost for equipment is \$7,280. A base unit is required at each park and the Council may determine coverage area by selecting the number of additional access units. Funds for the equipment may come from the department's Annual Park Maintenance Park Sales Tax funds or other sources.

Additionally, iZones has tentatively agreed to provide the city with complimentary internet connection in exchange for advertising. This advertising includes mention of iZones as the sponsor on rules signs at the park and on the park's web pages. This sponsorship is worth \$100 per station and at Flat Branch Park, there are two proposed stations and at Stephens, there are four proposed stations. If the entire proposal is accepted, this results in an annual sponsorship of \$2,400 per year at Flat Branch and \$4,800 per year at Stephens. Park staff anticipates that there will be notification and rules signs explaining to the public about the internet service and feel that the mention of iZones as a sponsor is similar to advertising on signs at existing recreational facilities such as golf courses, athletic fields, pools and concession stands.

Pending a decision to move ahead, park staff will need to install the electrical outlets and the protective NEMA rated outdoor enclosure. Depending on the weather, this could take 2-4 weeks. Once park staff is ready, iZones indicates that it will require about 30 days to receive and install the equipment.

Park staff has received numerous requests for wireless internet service, particularly at Stephens Lake Park and the Riechmann Pavilion and at Cosmo Park. The requests at Cosmo are primarily generated by those that utilize the athletic fields for tournaments and league games. Flat Branch Park is an excellent site for wireless internet as it represents an example of a traditional downtown, urban park. Park staff may need to consider shaded seating areas to improve viewing opportunities at Flat Branch as currently, all benches are exposed to the sunshine.

Recommended Council Action: Council may direct staff to proceed with any of the following options: (1) *Recommended Option.* Authorize staff to proceed with the full coverage installation of wireless internet at Flat Branch and/or Stephens Lake Park; (2) Authorize staff to proceed with a modified coverage area at Flat Branch and/or Stephens Lake Park; (3) Delay plans to install wireless at any parks; or (4) Another option based on Council recommendations.

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

APARTMENTS

AULICOURT

WINDY LAKE

BLUETT DRIVE

FOUR DRIVE

ONE DRIVE

PROPOSED HINSON CREEK TRAIL TO CONNECT TO BOONE COUNTY PARKWAY

EAST WALNUT ST

WOOD AMPHITHEATER

BEACH & PLAYGROUNDS

LAKE - 11 ACRES  
- SWIMMING  
- FISHING  
- NON-MOTORIZED BOATS

6 WIDE HARD SURFACE LAKE TRAIL

Recreation Pavilion

OPEN PLAYFIELD

SLEEPING PORCH

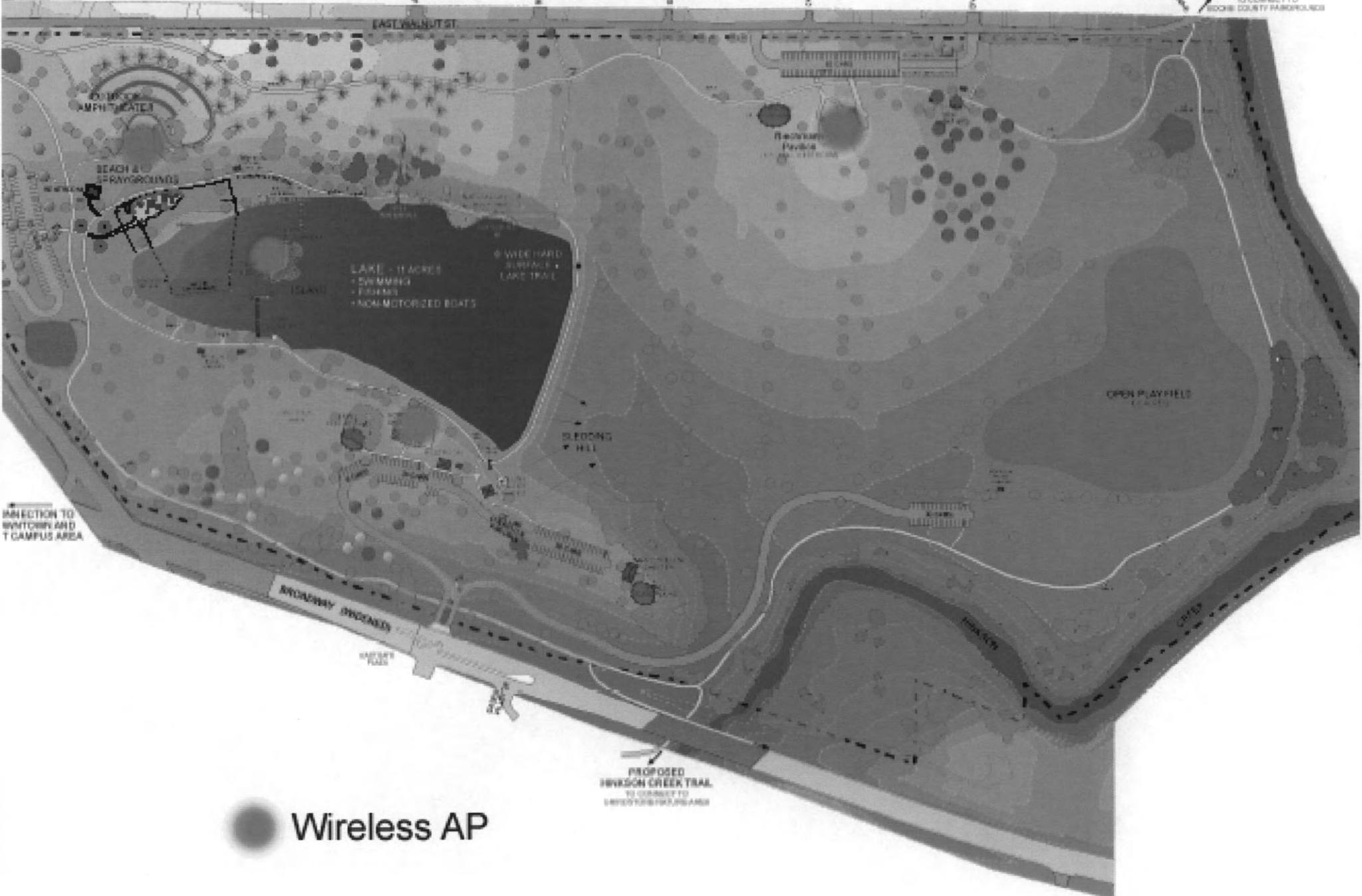
BYRONWAY DRIVEN

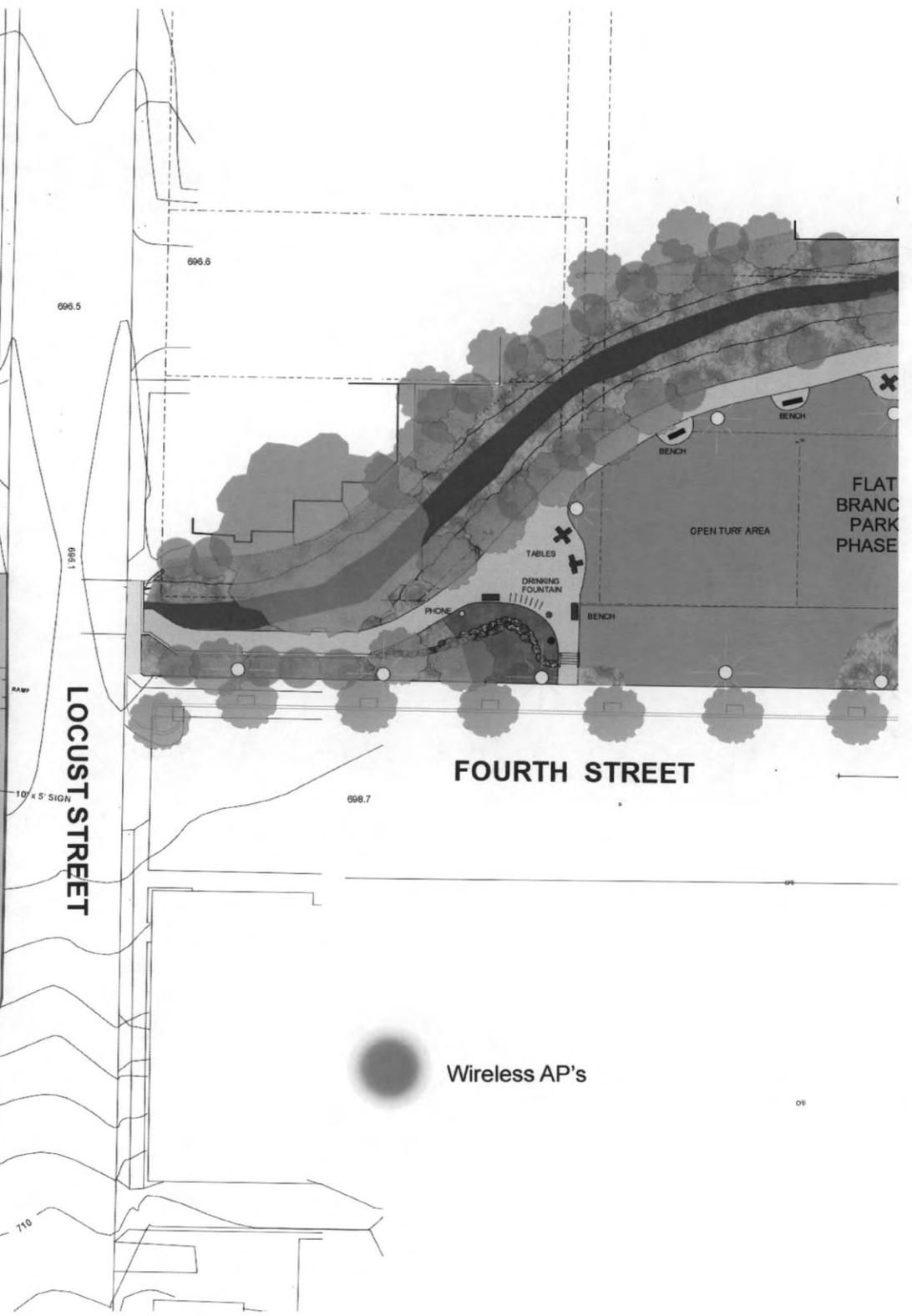
WINDY LAKE

PROPOSED HINSON CREEK TRAIL TO CONNECT TO WINDY LAKE PLAYFIELD AREA

● Wireless AP

DIRECTION TO WYNTON AND T CAMPUS AREA





● Wireless AP's

19

705.5

710

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