



Source: Parks and Recreation *AMH*

Agenda Item No: REP 112-12

To: City Council  
From: City Manager and Staff *MM*

Council Meeting Date: Jul 16, 2012

Re: Public Input for the Grindstone Creek Trail Phase I

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting authorization to proceed with the next round of public input for the first phase of the Grindstone Creek Trail. The project budget is \$1,570,000 and is designed to connect Grindstone Nature Area to Mcguire Blvd. The project was included in the 2010 Park Sales Tax ballot issue and was the only trail development project. If Council concurs, staff will schedule an interested party meeting in late July/early August, solicit input and recommendations from various commissions, and then return to Council for a public hearing.

**DISCUSSION:**

In September of 2011, the Park and Recreation Department entered into a contract with Allstate Consultants to conduct a preliminary engineering study to evaluate alternative trail alignments for Phase I of the Grindstone Trail. Phase I of the trail was proposed to link Maquire Boulevard and the businesses located in the Lemone Industrial Park to the existing Hinkson Creek Trail in the City's Grindstone Nature Area. Funding for this project was included in the 2010 park sales tax ballot issue. While there were other trail related projects, i.e. restroom at Bear Creek/Garth Trailhead, on the ballot issue, this was the only trail development project.

Allstate Consultants evaluated a number of alternative alignments for the proposed trail and made recommendations as to preferred routes. On April 2, 2012, staff provided Council and the Parks & Recreation Commission copies of the final report. The report was also posted on the department's website and shared with residents in the Eastpointe Homeowners Association. Following their review of the report, it is staff's understanding that the Homeowners Association has expressed opposition to the recommended trail route. To date, however, no public meetings allowing the general public to respond to the recommendations of the preliminary engineering report have occurred.

Staff is recommending that the City proceed with a public review of the report findings, and would suggest that the following be scheduled:

- 1.) An interested parties meeting. Date and location of meeting to be coordinated with Council members wishing to attend.
- 2.) Review by Missouri Department of Conservation with respect to possible impact of the different trail alignments on the Waters-Moss Wildlife Area.
- 3.) Referral of the report to the Park and Recreation Commission, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission, and the Disabilities Commission for their review and recommendations.

Upon completion of the above reviews, staff will provide Council with input developed from the reviews and schedule a formal public hearing. Following the public hearing, Council direction will be sought as to the future development of the trail.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This phase of public input will not have any direct fiscal impact. Staff will return to Council for a public hearing where the approval of the project and selection of the preferred trail alignment will determine actual construction costs of the project.

**VISION IMPACT:**

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Meetings/visionimpact.php>

Vision goal 12.4 identifies the need for an extensive, safe network of trails to accommodate a variety of users ranging from recreational to non-motorized travelers. This network may include roadway and public transportation infrastructure to connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.

**SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

If Council concurs that this phase of public review of the proposed trail project should occur, direct staff to proceed.

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:					
City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply		Program Impact		Mandates	
City's current net FY cost	\$0.00	New Program/ Agency?	No	Federal or State mandated?	No
Amount of funds already appropriated	\$0.00	Duplicates/Expands an existing program?	No	<b>Vision Implementation impact</b>	
Amount of budget amendment needed	\$0.00	Fiscal Impact on any local political subdivision?	No	Enter all that apply: Refer to Web site	
Estimated 2 year net costs:		<b>Resources Required</b>		Vision Impact?	Yes
One Time	\$0.00	Requires add'l FTE Personnel?	No	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	12.4
Operating/ Ongoing	\$0.00	Requires add'l facilities?	No	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	
		Requires add'l capital equipment?	No	Fiscal year implementation Task #	