

Source: Parks and Recreation ~~AAH~~

Agenda Item No: REP 88-12

To: City Council  
From: City Manager and Staff

Council Meeting Date: Jun 4, 2012

Re: Council Tracker 3369: Stephens Lake Park Walkways

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report has been prepared in response to a Council request that staff explore options for creating a bicycle/pedestrian access that connects Stephens Lake Park to Jack Estes Way. Sponsors of major events in the park often arrange with Boone Hospital to use the Hospital's parking facilities to provide parking for event visitors. To access the park, individuals utilizing the Boone Hospital parking facilities have to travel on the same path as motor vehicles or cross turf areas which is difficult for disabled users or those pushing strollers. As shown on Exhibit A, staff is proposing Access A which would provide a direct connection from Jack Estes Way to existing park trails.

Park staff have also received numerous requests for a safe, ADA route that connects residents that live north of the park to Broadway. These are residents that usually want to travel to one of the Eastgate area shops and when crossing through the park, find that they have to walk or bike down the steep driveway that services the Gordon, Collins and Happy Hollow Shelters. Staff is proposing Access B which starts at the Stephens Lake boardwalk and connects to the perimeter trail on Broadway. Since some users may come from the east side of the lake, a short connecting walkway from Gordon Shelter is also proposed and is labeled as Access C.

Total cost for the proposed improvements is estimated at \$25,318. Funding to construct the walks is available in the 2010 Park Sales Tax, ADA Capital Project Account. If authorized, construction will be completed by contract labor with park staff providing landscaping support. Staff is seeking Council direction as to whether to proceed with construction of some or all of the proposed walkways. At their May 17, 2012 meeting, the Parks & Recreation Commission voted to recommend to Council that all three access walkways be constructed.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The attached Exhibit A shows walkway options currently identified by staff for getting pedestrians and bicyclists from the west side of Old Highway 63 Drive into Stephens Lake Park as well getting residents located north of East Walnut directly through the park and onto Broadway.

Existing Crosswalk: Public Works has recently finished a new sidewalk along the north side of Walnut Street that connects to a dedicated Old Highway 63 crosswalk which then connects to the park's existing trail system. Staff believes this is safest Stephens Lake Park connection route from the west for most users and normal park activities.

Access A: For the larger special events such as Art-in-the-Park, a Community Service Aide or Police Officer is usually stationed just north of the Jack Estes Way intersection in order to help park visitors cross the Old Highway 63. An existing sidewalk is on the north side of Jack Estes Way and it is the safest spot for traffic control. Staff is proposing a new 6-foot walkway in the park at this point that would connect users to the narrowest crossing of the parking lot and then on through the landscape bed and to the main entrance of the park. This is identified as Access A on the attached plan and is an ADA accessible walkway approximately 150-foot long. Cost for Access A is estimated at \$5,788. Staff considered the possibility of a walkway going around the parking lot to the south, but such a route would have to cross both the parking lot entrance/exit drive as well as the drainage swale that is used to collect stormwater into the rain garden.

Access B & C: Staff has also received requests for an accessible way to connect users entering the park from the north to cross directly south to Broadway. Park users comment that having to walk or ride a bike down the

existing entry road to access Broadway is dangerous due to traffic. Staff is proposing that a new 6-foot walkway be constructed that starts at the Stephens Lake boardwalk, goes towards the playground, and then follows the old Stephens Park road to the perimeter trail on Broadway. Access B is approximately 580 feet long with an estimated construction cost of \$15,865. Access C is a 120-foot long walkway that connects Access B to the highly used Gordon Shelter. Estimated construction cost for Access C is \$3,665.

All of the proposed access connections are designed to meet the 2010 ADA Standards. Construction would begin later this summer with work being done by contract labor with park staff providing landscaping assistance.

This past winter, the Department's existing walkway improvement funds were used to install the ADA accessible walkway across the Stephens beach and into the swimming area of the lake. However, staff would recommend that the proposed projects, if approved by Council, be constructed utilizing funding provided by the current ADA Capital Project account. These funds are provided by the 2010 Park Sales Tax.

On May 17, 2012, staff submitted this proposal to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their review and recommendation. The P&R Commission voted unanimously to recommend to Council that all three access walkways be constructed (see attached memo).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

In FY-12, the department has budgeted \$157,240 for park improvements as required by the American with Disabilities Act. Staff is proposing to use \$25,318 of this funding for this project.

**VISION IMPACT:**

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

12 Vision Statement: A network of attractive and safe parks and recreational amenities are connected by trails and greenways that provide area residents with access to nature, recreation, and facilities for active play, both indoors and out.

**SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

**Unless directed otherwise, staff will proceed with the construction of the three ADA walkways as shown on Exhibit A.**

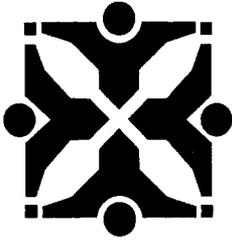
FISCAL and VISION NOTES:					
City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply		Program Impact		Mandates	
City's current net FY cost	\$25,318.00	New Program/ Agency?	No	Federal or State mandated?	No
Amount of funds already appropriated	\$157,240.00	Duplicates/Epands an existing program?	No	<b>Vision Implementation 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	\$25,318.00	Requires add'l FTE Personnel?	No	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	12
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 #	40

APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF  
EXISTING PUBLIC WORKS  
CROSS WALK IMPROVEMENTS

SPECIAL EVENT  
CROSSING

POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS  
TO STEPHENS LAKE PARK  
ACCESS POINTS 5-16-12





Source: Parks and Recreation *AM*

Agenda Item No:

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

Council Meeting Date: June 4, 2012

Re: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation regarding Stephens Lake Park walkways

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At the May 17 meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission, Commissioners heard a staff presentation and discussed three potential walkways to improve accessibility at Stephens Lake Park. The Commission voted to recommend approval of all three walkways.

**DISCUSSION:**

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Hood made a presentation to the Commission regarding three walkways that would improve accessibility at Stephens Lake Park. He shared a map of the park with all three proposed routes as well as estimated costs of each.

Following a discussion, Commissioner Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, that the Commission recommend to Council that all three walkway routes proceed as planned.

Voting in favor of the motion: Blevins, Davis, Pauls, Kloepfel, Hutton and Donaldson.

Absent: Devine.

Motion passed 6-0.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

In FY-12, the department has budgeted \$157,240 for park improvements as required by the American with Disabilities Act. Staff is proposing to use \$25,318 of this funding for this project.

**VISION IMPACT:**

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

12 Vision Statement: A network of attractive and safe parks and recreational amenities are connected by trails and greenways that provide area residents with access to nature, recreation, and facilities for active play, both indoors and out.

**SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

Accept the report of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:					
City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply		Program Impact		Mandates	
City's current net FY cost	\$25,318.00	New Program/ Agency?	No	Federal or State mandated?	No
Amount of funds already appropriated	\$157,240.00	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	\$25,318.00	Requires add'l FTE Personnel?	No	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	12
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 #	40