Source: M. Hood

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:

City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply:	
$0	City's current net FY cost.
$0	Amount of Funds Already appropriated
$0	Amount of budget amendment needed
$0 $0	Estimated 2 yr net costs: One-time Operating / On-going
Program Impact:	
N	New program/ agency (Y/N)
N	Duplicates/expands an existing program (Y/N)
N	Fiscal impact on any local political subdivision (Y/N)
Resources Required:	
N	Requires add'l FTE personnel? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional facilities? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional capital equipment? (Y/N)
Mandates:	
N	Federal or state mandated? (Y/N)
Vision Implementation Impact Enter Below All That Applies: Refer to Website:	
Y	Vision Impact? (Y/N)
12.4	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
12.4.1 12.4.2	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
	FY10/FY11 Implementation Task#

Agenda Item No. REP 69-11

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff
DATE: March 25, 2011
RE: Alternate Scott's Branch Trail Route Report, Council Tracker # 3296

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the March 21, 2011 meeting, Council requested a report from Parks & Recreation regarding an alternate route of the Scott's Branch Trail that avoided the use of sidewalks on Weaver, Bray and Dublin Streets. Park planning staff has looked at several options and are recommending an alternate route along the southern edges of Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary and the Columbia Audubon property and into Dublin Park as shown in Attachment A. Staff previously shared this alternative with representatives of the Columbia Audubon Society during the Bonnie View planning process, however they were opposed to any trail that allowed bicycles through their property. Council may want to refer this report to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission for consideration as part of their review of the Scott's Branch Trail project.

DISCUSSION:

At the March 21, 2011 meeting, Council requested a report from Parks & Recreation regarding an alternate proposed route for the Scott's Branch Trail that avoided the use of sidewalks on Weaver, Bray and Dublin Streets. In the 2002 Trails Master Plan, the original route of the Scott's Branch Trail followed the Scott's Branch Creek. In an initial planning meeting with the Columbia Audubon Society, they were opposed to a standard 10-ft wide concrete trail with a 3-ft gravel running path following the creek through their property. Park planners looked at other options including running the trail along the western edge of Bonnie View and through a portion of the Audubon property, but felt that the western route did not provide the desired connectivity to Fairview Elementary and adjacent neighborhoods. With an understanding that the Columbia Audubon Society was opposed to the standard trail design, park planners looked at an option that would provide the least impact to the Audubon property and proposed a trail route as shown in Attachment A. Staff investigated how the trail could be constructed to minimize concerns of the Audubon Society and prepared Attachment B for their consideration, but Audubon officially voted to oppose the Scott's Branch Trail through their property. Faced with this opposition, staff proposed the existing trail route that utilizes sidewalks along Weaver, Dublin and Bray Streets.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with this report. **Proposed Construction Estimates:** Should the Council determine that the alternative route be pursued, staff estimates construction costs for this section of trail to be approximately $120,000. As this section of the trail had been included in the initial cost projections prepared for the 2005 sales tax ballot issue, but had not been included in the trail plan recommended to the Council at the March 23 Council meeting, the $980,000 budget (funds already appropriated for the project) for the trail construction had included a large

contingency of 20-25%. This contingency should provide adequate funds to construct the alternative section of trail if the Council should decide to pursue that option. **Proposed Acquisition Estimates:** If the Audubon Society does not want to donate an easement, there are funds in the 2005 Park Sales Tax Greenbelt/Trails account for easement acquisition. The length of the trail through the Audubon property is estimated at 1,415 feet and based on a standard 30-ft easement; the total acreage required from Audubon is approximately one acre (0.97 ac). Based on similar easement acquisition costs, staff estimates that the acquisition value for one acre is approximately $15,000-$18,000 pending confirmation from an appraisal. Staff believes that is an acceptable amount and is interested in any options including a land trade that would provide trail connectivity through the Audubon property.

VISION IMPACT:

12.4 Goal: An extensive, safe network of trails will accommodate a variety of users ranging from recreational to non-motorized travelers. This network may include roadway & public transportation infrastructure to connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, & businesses.

2.4.1 Strategy: Coordinate efforts of different interest groups to develop & fund a multi-use trail network, using sidewalks where trails are not feasible.

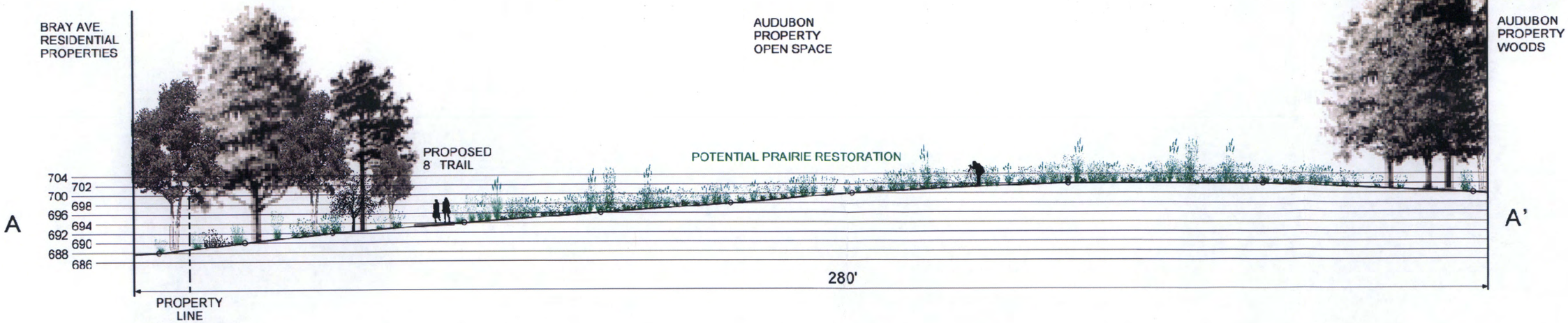
12.4.2 Strategy: Achieve trail connectivity in new & existing developments.

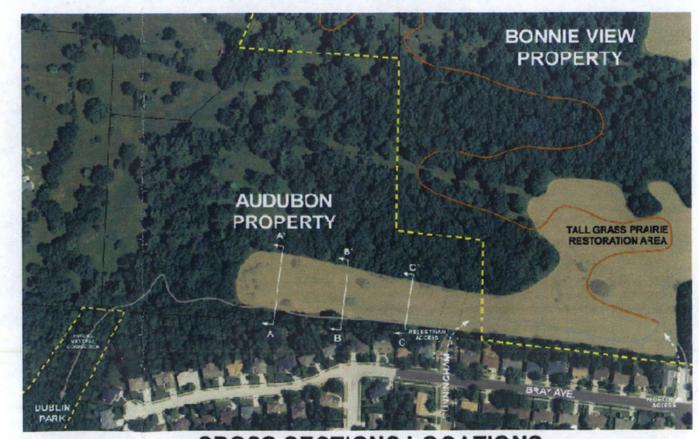
SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee has requested an opportunity to review the proposed Scott's Branch Trail project. It is recommended that the Council refer this report to the BPC for their consideration as part of their review of the Scott's Branch project. Should the Council desire other information or want to take additional action, provide staff with direction as to action needed.

Attachment A

Attachment B





CROSS SECTIONS LOCATIONS

BONNIE VIEW PARK - AUDUBON PROPERTY PROPOSED TRAIL CROSS SECTIONS

CITY OF COLUMBIA PARKS AND RECREATION 3-23-11