

A RESOLUTION

declaring the necessity for construction of the Scott's Branch Trail from Weaver Drive to Dublin Park or along Scott's Branch corridor through the western edge of the Audubon Society property and the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary; stating the nature of and the estimate of the cost of the improvement; providing for payment for the improvement; providing for compliance with the prevailing wage law; and setting a public hearing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council deems the construction of the Scott's Branch Trail from Weaver Drive to Dublin Park, necessary to the welfare and improvement of the City. Possible routes and the estimated costs for this portion of the trail include the following options:

Option 1: Under this option the trail would run along the Scott's Branch Creek corridor through the western edge of the Columbia Audubon Society property and the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary. The eight-foot concrete trail with two bridges along this route would cost an estimated \$410,000.00.

Option 2: Under this option the trail would run from Weaver Drive through the southern portion of Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary and the Columbia Audubon Society property to Dublin Park. Using switchbacks to achieve ADA requirements for an eight-foot concrete trail would cost an estimated \$141,600.00. Using an elevated boardwalk to achieve ADA requirements would cost an estimated \$265,360.00.

Option 3: Under this option the northern section of the trail would run from Weaver Drive across Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary and across the southeast corner of the Audubon Society property terminating at Cunningham Road. An eight-foot concrete surface on this portion of the trail would cost an estimated \$60,000.00; a gravel surface would cost an estimated \$20,000.00. The southern section of the trail would extend northward through Dublin Avenue Park to the boundary with the Audubon Society property. This section would consist of an eight-foot concrete trail and a low level boardwalk across a wet area of Dublin Avenue Park. Estimated cost for this section is \$91,000.00.

Option 4: Under this option existing streets and sidewalks would be used to link the two sections of the trail. Wayfaring signs could be installed at minimal cost.

Option 5: Under this option an eight-foot wide concrete pedway would be constructed along the east side of Cunningham Road from Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary to Chapel Hill Road and along the north side of Chapel Hill Road from Cunningham Road to Scott Boulevard. The estimated cost of this project is \$1,295,500.00.

SECTION 2. The nature and scope of the improvement shall consist of furnishing all labor, materials, transportation, insurance and all other items, accessories and incidentals thereto necessary for the complete construction of the improvements.

SECTION 3. Payment for this improvement shall be made from park sales tax funds and such other funds as may be lawfully appropriated.

SECTION 4. Any work done in connection with the construction of the improvement specified above shall be in compliance with the provisions of the prevailing wage laws of the State of Missouri.

SECTION 5. A public hearing in respect to this improvement will be held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall Building, 701 E. Broadway, Columbia, Missouri, at 7:00 p.m. on July 18, 2011. The City Clerk shall cause notice of this hearing to be published in a newspaper published in the City.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2011.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor

Source:

Mike Hood

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff
DATE: June 30, 2011
RE: Scott's Branch Trail: Weaver to Dublin Section

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	Estimated 2 yr net costs:
\$0	One-time
\$0	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 or if N, go no further)
Item #12.4	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
Item #	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
Task #40	FY10/FY11 Implementation Task#

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting direction on the final route of the Scott's Branch Trail. At the May 16, City Council meeting, the Council, at Councilperson Daryl Dudley's suggestion, amended the proposed ordinance to remove the section of the Scott's Branch Trail between Weaver Street and Dublin Park. All other portions of the Scott's Branch Trail were approved with the exception of this controversial route. Mr. Dudley requested more time to work with the neighbors, Columbia Audubon Society, and others on a compromise trail route that would be agreeable to all parties.

Planning for the Scott's Branch Trail started in 2002 with development of the 2002 Trails Master Plan. As planning for the trail has proceeded, a number of routing options for this trail have received public debate and discussion. Listed below are possible routes (see attached map) that Council may want to consider for this section of trail. A detailed description of each option is presented in discussion portion of this memo:

- 1. Original trail route as shown in the 2002 Trails Master Plan.**
- 2. Weaver to Dublin Park through Bonnie View and Audubon.**
- 3. Weaver to Cunningham through Bonnie View and a small portion of Audubon / Extension of Dublin Park Trail.**
- 4. Existing Streets/Sidewalk Route.**
- 5. Cunningham & Chapel Hill Pedway.**

Depending on the Council selected option, the dogs and bicycle management issues may also need to be revisited. Work on the Scott's Branch Trail projects is expected to begin during the 2011 construction season. A combination of contract and force account labor will be used. Funding in the amount of \$980,000 from the 2005 Park Sales Tax has been appropriated for the project.

DISCUSSION:

Since the start of the Scott's Branch trail planning process in 2002, several trail route options have been presented for consideration and debate. Listed below are possible options that the Council may wish to consider in determining an approved route for the section of the trail between Weaver and Dublin Park:

- 1. Original 2002 Trails Master Plan route.** The 2002 Trails Master Plan proposed that the Scott's Branch Trail be routed along the Scott's Branch Creek corridor through the western edge of the Columbia Audubon Society owned property and the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary. These greenbelt corridors are the natural drainage ways for storm water and, as such provide the logical locations for gravity flow sanitary sewers and storm water management structures. Historically, many trail routes follow creek and stream drainages, often taking advantage of the existing utility easements that are found in these natural corridors. When the draft 2010 Trails Master Plan was presented during a February 22, 2010 council work session, then Councilperson Jerry Wade suggested and Council approved the removal of the Scott's Branch Trail route from Rollins Road to Scott Boulevard. This route was replaced with a circle that noted that the final trail route would be determined at a future date. The 2010 Trails Master Plan was approved with this note. This route was proposed at a meeting with Audubon early in the most recent trail planning process, however it was withdrawn from consideration due to strong opposition. Should the Council wish to reconsider this route, the preliminary estimated cost is \$410,000 pending final engineering design of the two bridges this route would require. ***If the Council chooses this option, staff should be directed to prepare an ordinance to acquire the necessary easement from the Audubon Society and to prepare an ordinance calling for bids.***
- 2. Weaver to Dublin Park through the southern portions of Bonnie View and Audubon.** Park planners proposed this route as an alternative to the original 2002 Trails Master Plan route. This was staff's preferred option as it provided the desired recreational trail connectivity and minimized impact to the Scott's Branch Creek corridor and Audubon property users. The original construction concept was to use a 20-30 foot easement to construct an 8-ft concrete trail the entire length of this section of trail. Initial plans required a significant switchback to make the trail ADA compliant. After considerable discussion and further investigation of the site, an alternative proposal which would eliminate the switch back has been identified. Staff now believes that with the construction of an elevated boardwalk in Dublin Park, the trail could be constructed without the switchback. The elevated boardwalk would need to be designed to achieve an elevation gain of 10 to 11 feet in order to eliminate the need for trail switchbacks. Either of these two alternatives will require a permanent trail easement and possibly a temporary construction easement across the Audubon property. The length of the trail through the Audubon property is estimated at 1,415 feet and assuming the maximum 30-ft easement; the total acreage required from Audubon is approximately one acre (0.97 acre). If authorized to pursue this option, staff would work to minimize the width of easement required to

allow construction/maintenance of the trail. 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 also offered alternate ways to buffer or screen the trail from Audubon and neighbors including tree planting, natural berms, and fencing. After continued opposition by Audubon, this alternative was withdrawn by staff in January 2011. At the request of Council, this route was later re-visited and discussed at the March 21, 2011 council meeting. Estimated cost of this route including the elevated boardwalk in Dublin Park is \$265,360. The original alternative of using switchbacks to achieve accessibility requirements was estimated to cost \$141,600. ***If the Council chooses this option, staff should be directed to prepare an ordinance to acquire the necessary easement from the Audubon Society. The Council should also decide whether it prefers the switchback design or the elevated boardwalk design. Staff should also be directed to prepare a bid call ordinance.***

3. **Weaver to Cunningham through the southern portions of Bonnie View and a portion of Audubon / Extension of Dublin Park Trail.** This proposed option includes construction of a new section of trail that connects to the Rollins to Weaver trail section and veers west toward Audubon property. The new trail follows along the southern portion of the City's Bonnie View property, crosses the southeast corner of the Audubon property, and terminates at the Cunningham Street stub. There has been preliminary discussion by Audubon about constructing a small parking lot off of Cunningham. If this happens, staff anticipates that this portion of the Scott's Branch Trail would connect to the parking lot and onto Cunningham Street. To continue this section of trail with a concrete surface is estimated to cost \$60,000. During the most recent trail meetings, it was suggested that this section be built with a crushed rock surface. This alternative would require excavation to a depth of approximately 6 inches to allow for the final 9 inch thick gravel profile. Estimated cost to construct this section as a gravel trail is \$20,000. This trail route option also includes the paving of the existing gravel trail in Dublin Avenue Park and the extension of the trail northward to the park's boundary with the Audubon property. The proposed trail extension crosses a low, wet area of Dublin Park and is proposed to be constructed as a low level (non-elevated) boardwalk. Estimated cost for the Dublin Park section of trail including the concrete paving and the construction of the boardwalk is \$91,000. Total estimated cost for this alternative ranges from \$111,000 to \$151,000 depending on the surface selected for the Weaver to Cunningham section of trail. ***If the Council chooses this option, staff should be directed to prepare an ordinance to acquire the necessary easement from the Audubon Society and to prepare an ordinance calling for bids.***

4. **Existing Streets/Sidewalk Route.** No additional trails would be constructed in Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary, Dublin Avenue Park, or on the Audubon property. Trail users would select their own routes using the existing streets and sidewalks on Weaver, Bray, Dublin or Cunningham to make the connection between the sections of the Scott's Branch Trail located on the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary and the section constructed west of Dublin Avenue Park. The sidewalks will not be widened nor improved. Many residents were opposed to painting the streets with traditional bike sharrows, but if so directed by Council, staff could erect or paint trail wayfinding

signs to assist users in finding an appropriate route. There is no or very minimal cost for this option. ***If the Council chooses this option, staff should be directed, by motion, to install appropriate signage as part of the trail project.***

5. **Cunningham & Chapel Hill Pedway.** This option was identified by a number of participants in the public meetings and includes the proposed construction of an 8-foot wide pedway on east side of Cunningham and north side of Chapel Hill. The section of this project along Cunningham would include the removal of the existing 4-ft sidewalk and all trees between the sidewalk and road, reconstruction of ten driveway approaches, and the new construction of an 8 ft pedway with a 4 ft grass buffer. All work on this section should be able to be done within the existing right-of-way. Public Works staff has prepared a preliminary cost estimate of \$307,500 for the Cunningham Pedway project. The existing sidewalk on the north side of Chapel Hill is 4-ft wide, but there is a gap of approximately 550 feet between Glennbrook Court and Scott Boulevard. It is recommended that this sidewalk be replaced with an 8-ft pedway from Cunningham to Scott Boulevard. The Chapel Hill Pedway project will require major grading, approximately 1,500 linear feet of retaining wall and possible utility pole relocations. Acquisition of additional right-of-way is required from all 16 properties adjacent to the existing sidewalk and will require additional right-of-way for the western 550 feet of the pedway. Total cost of the Chapel Hill Pedway is estimated to be at least \$988,000 pending acquisition costs. Total Cunningham and Chapel Hill Pedway project estimate is \$1,295,500. No funding is currently available for these two pedways. If this option is determined to be the preferred solution, funding sources will have to be identified.

Depending on the Council selected option, it is possible that the dogs and bicycle management issues may need to be revisited. Staff will continue to enforce the prohibition of dogs west of the north-south section of the Scott's Branch Trail in Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary unless directed otherwise by Council. The bicycle management issue may need to be revisited depending on the trail route selected by Council.

Work is planned to begin on the Scott's Branch Trail during the 2011 construction season using a combination of contract and force account labor. Funding in the amount of \$980,000 has previously been appropriated for the trail project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

At the May 16, 2011 meeting, Council approved proceeding with the construction the Scott's Branch Trail project with the exception of the segment between Weaver Street and Dublin Park. Funding for the trail project in the amount of \$980,000 in Park Sales Tax funds has been appropriated for the project. If Council selects any of the trail options 1 through 4 above, staff anticipates that the already appropriated \$980,000 is sufficient. Funding sources for Option 5, the Cunningham and Chapel Hill Pedways, will have to be identified. The estimated annual maintenance cost for longest section of concrete trail is approximately \$1,000.00 per year. At this time, the Department is not requesting any permanent employees based on the addition of this trail, but as other trails are added or developed, the conversion of temporary salaries to permanent may be requested. If the department's operations budget does not increase, additional measures such as deferred

maintenance, reduced levels of care, or other cost saving measures may need to be implemented to meet ongoing maintenance needs of the park and trail system.

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 and public transportation infrastructure to connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.

Implementation Task #40: Fund and complete capital improvement program projects (parks).

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

1. Adopt the resolution setting the public hearing.
2. Following the public hearing, Council should choose one of the listed options or an alternative option.

