Agenda Item No. _____

Source: M. Hood

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:

City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply:	
$0	City's current net FY cost.
$10,000	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 or if N, go no further)
12,	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
12.1	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item#
	FY10/FY11 Implementation Task#

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff
DATE: July 19, 2011
RE: Stephens Lake Beach: Wheelchair Access
Council Tracker #3365

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the 6/20/2011 meeting, Councilmember Barbara Hoppe requested that staff evaluate what is needed to make swimming at Stephens Lake accessible to wheelchair-bound people. After evaluating several accessible related products, staff is recommending that a 6-ft wide concrete access walkway be constructed. This will allow wheelchair users to have access across the sand beach and into the water. Attachment "A" represents how the walkways will be constructed. Construction would start after the beach is closed for the season and completed in time for spring 2012 opening. It is estimated that the cost of the concrete is approximately $5,000 and can be funded out of $10,000 that is currently earmarked for park system concrete repairs.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Hoppe commented that when Stephens College owned Stephens Lake Park, there was a dock and stairs, so she was able to wheel a friend to the dock and help her friend down the stairs to enjoy the pool. She wondered if there were plans for a ramp that people with accessibility issues could use and asked staff to provide a report.

Staff contacted Gerald Morgan, the ADA consultant who is currently under contract with the City, for his comments on the beach lake access. According to Mr. Morgan and his understanding of the ADA Accessibility Guidelines, there really is no requirement for lake access detailed in the 1991 ADAAG or the new 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The new standards have requirements for amusement rides, recreational boating facilities, fishing piers and platforms, golf facilities, play areas, swimming pools, wading pools, spas and shooting facilities, but nothing for lake swimming access.

At Twin Lakes, Little Mates Cove is a paid entry facility that is staffed with life guards. Previous to the swimming lake being closed several years ago, staff provided an ADA mobile wheelchair that had large tires and was able to be pushed into the water.

However, Stephens Lake is a free facility with no staff available. Leaving this expensive wheel chair out for public use would likely result in misuse, damage or theft. Therefore, staff investigated other methods in order to cross the beach and access the water.

It quickly became apparent that there are multiple options available at various beach and lake swimming areas around the country (see Attachment B). Many of these solutions were very expensive, temporary, or so portable that they were subject to vandalism or theft.

Staff also contacted Debbie Newby, Park Superintendent of Finger Lakes State Park to find out what the Division of Missouri State Parks offers at its' unguarded swimming facilities. Supt. Newby stated that some State Parks have no access to the water and others, like Finger Lakes, have a concrete ramp without curbs or railings that run up close to the edge of the water.

Staff looked at products that were permanent, requiring little maintenance or staff time, and were cost efficient and are recommending that a 6-ft wide concrete ramp be constructed with two access points into the water. In addition to providing federal directed disability access, other benefits of this walkway include:

- Provide access for strollers across the beach and into the grass area. Works for wheeled coolers or play wagons as well.
- Six foot wide walkway provides adequate space for users pushing strollers, or carrying bags, coolers, floating devices, etc., to safely pass each other.
- Separate the sand from turf and clearly defines the beach area. Sand currently mixes in with the turf area, killing the grass.
- Alleviate complaints on how hot the sand gets. If needed, users can access grass area or lake without walking on the sand.
- Users won't have to exit beach area with sand covered feet. Beach goers often climb over shot fence and into the sprayground to wash sand off their feet, causing the sand to clog the sprayground pumps and nozzles.
- In speaking with some beach users, parents prefer the gentle, steady slope of the walkway as it enters water, especially for toddlers and younger children.

Staff anticipates starting this work after the beach closes September 30, 2011 and having it done in time for when the beach opens May 1, 2012. Construction of the ramps into the water will be similar to that of boat ramps in that the concrete will be poured on land and when dry, will be pushed into the water. The connecting concrete walkway will then be poured and tied into the ramps. Work will be done by park staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff estimates that the cost of the walkway, including concrete and rebar will be approximately $5,000. Work will be done by park force account labor. Funding will be provided by an already existing annual major park maintenance project titled "walkway repairs" which is designated to be used to repair damaged walkways and trails in the park system. This project is budgeted at $10,000 and staff feels that the remaining $5,000 is enough to repair all of the priority broken walkways. Maintenance is relatively non-existent as staff is currently spending maintenance time at the beach dragging the sand and picking up trash.

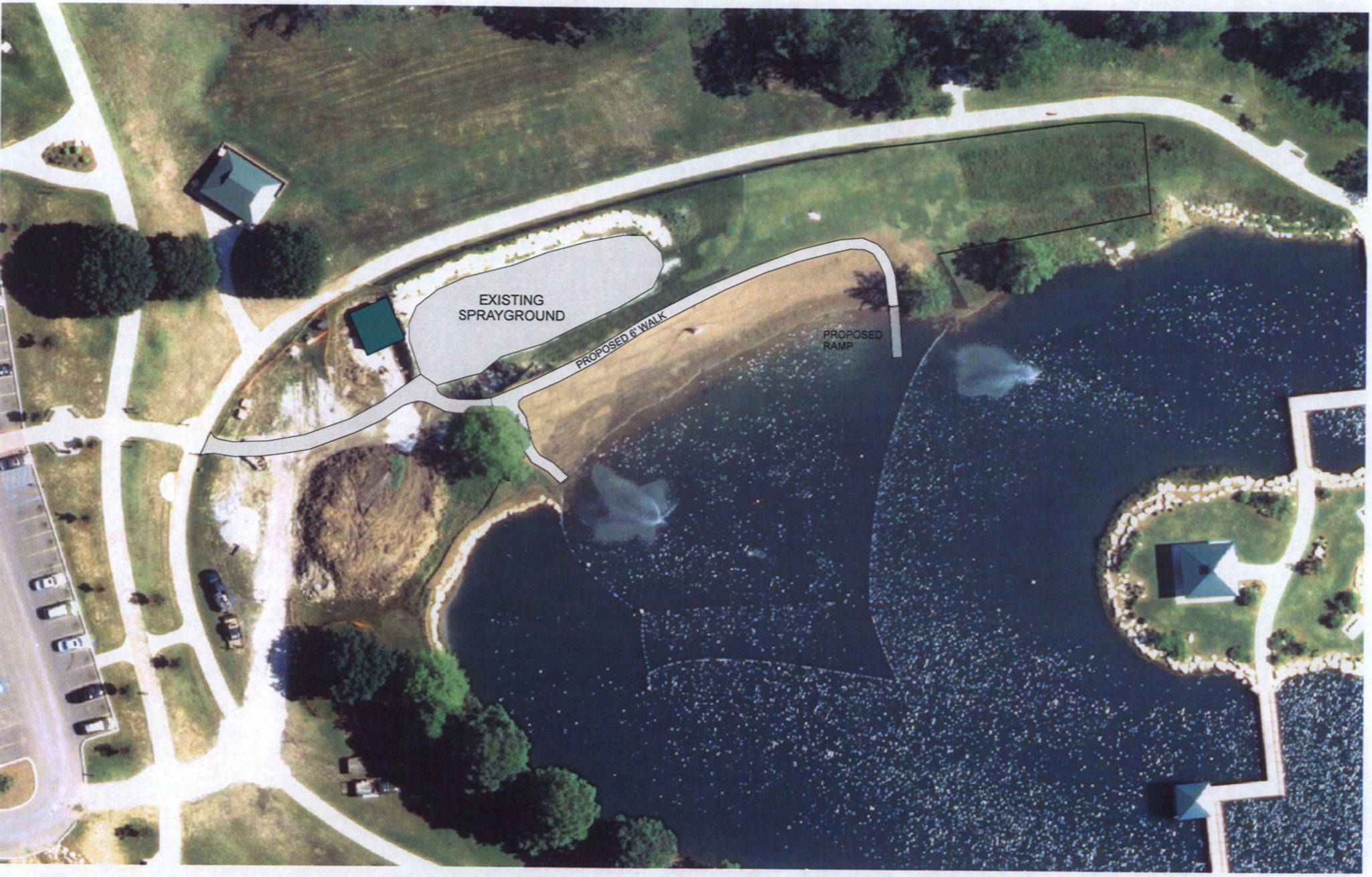
VISION IMPACT:

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.

12.1 Goal: A variety of attractive, well-maintained parks throughout Columbia-including neighborhood parks, regional parks, nature parks, and urban parks-will ensure all residents have access to a full range of outdoor and indoor recreational opportunities.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Staff will proceed with this improvement unless Council directs otherwise.



POTENTIAL ADA BEACH ACCESS FOR STEPHENS LAKE PARK

COLUMBIA PARKS AND RECREATION 7-15-11

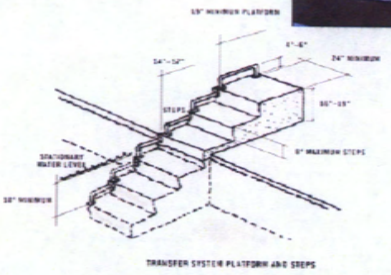
ATTACHMENT B

Mobi-Mat® RecPath is a portable and removable rollout access pathway that can be used for pedestrians, wheelchair users, strollers, bicycles, ATVs, motorcycles, and maintenance and emergency vehicles. Its barefoot friendly surface is ideal for beach applications providing a smooth and cool walking surface. Mobi-Mat® RecPath is lightweight and is extremely easy to install and retrieve. This environmentally friendly mat requires little or no maintenance. Its durable corrugated surface is ideal for any type of ground surface including sand, pebble, grass, snow, etc.

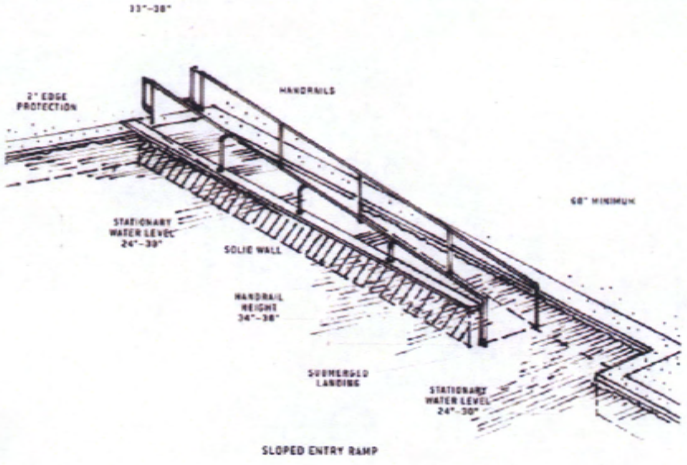
A.D.A. and stroller beach mats

Portafloor. Roll-out flooring system which can be used to provide a firm, dry support base for a wide range of activities on a variety of ground surfaces. Little or no ground preparation is required and the rugged, non-slip surface incorporates drainage and ventilation slots.

The Access Ramp provides quick and easy access for handicapped and ambulatory swimmers. Unit has wheels allowing for removal for competitive activities within the pool. Mounting hardware is included. 15' ramp length provides ease of entry and egress for patrons, 36" wide structural fiberglass t-bar slip-resistant surface, designed to support 400 lb. load, custom fabricated to each pool to ensure proper fit, great for secondary access.



http://www.access-board.gov/recreation/guides/images/pools/page-12.jpg



SLOPED ENTRY RAMP

Sloped entries must comply with ADAAG accessible route provisions (36 inch minimum width, maximum 1:12 or 8.33% slope), except that the surface does not need to be slip resistant. The slope may be designed as zero grade beach or ramp access. With either design, the maximum slope permitted is 1:12 (8.33%).

In most cases, it is not appropriate to submerge personal wheelchairs and mobility devices in water. Some have batteries, motors, and electrical systems that can be damaged or contaminate the pool. Facilities that use sloped entries are encouraged to provide an aquatic wheelchair designed for access into the water. Persons transfer to the aquatic wheelchair and access the water using it, leaving their personal mobility device on the deck. Operators and facility managers may need to consider storage options for personal mobility devices if deck space is limited.

Submerged Depth
Sloped entries must extend to a depth between 24 inches minimum and 30 inches maximum below the stationary water level. This depth is necessary for individuals using the sloped entry to become buoyant. Where the sloped entry has a running slope greater than 1:20 (5%), a landing at both the top and bottom of the ramp is required. At least one landing must be located between 24 and 30 inches below the stationary water level. Landings must be a minimum of 36 inches in width and 60 inches in length. The sloped entry may be a maximum of 30 feet at 1:12 (8.33%) slope before an intermediate landing is required. Adding a solid wall on the side closest to the water can enhance safety.

Handrails
Sloped entries must have handrails on both sides regardless of the slope. Handrail extensions are required at the top landing but not at the bottom. The clear width between handrails must be between 33 and 38 inches. The handrail height must be between 34 and 38 inches to the top of the gripping surface. This provision does not require the handrails to be below the stationary water level, which could be considered an underwater obstruction. No minimum width is required between handrails provided on sloped entries that serve wave action pools, leisure rivers, sand bottom pools, and other pools where people can enter only in one place. Handrails are required to comply with ADAAG provisions (diameter, non-rotating, and height).