Grindstone Creek Trail
Proposed Improvements Interested Parties Meeting
8/30/2012

Sixty-three comment sheets were collected.

Two questions were asked of the participants:

1) Please comment on what you like about the proposed trail alignment? Please be concise.
2) What would you change about the proposed trail alignment? Please be concise.

Question 1:

Proposed trail looks great!

I like the idea of trails in Columbia. I like the idea of connected trails (if everyone is 100% in agreement w/ the plan).

Not a thing! I don't understand how the City Parks & Rec can justify ceasing personal property when the City has property that could be used. We, the tax payer & residents in Bluff Pointe are vehemently opposed to this eminent domain.

Don't like. I would like it better if it was relocated to a different location, not on somebodies property and not in a flood zone.

I like the idea of connecting the trail. It would make the trail riding experience more enjoyable.

Review overall options carefully, as if you lived there!?

While we love the idea of a trail near our neighborhood, we are absolutely opposed to using eminent domain as the answer and infringing on the rights of property owners.

Creek walking. Staying near water keeps it interesting and more beautiful to walk next to.

The trail system is a good amenity for the city. People out and about makes for a better community.

Do not support it and don't see the need for it.

I like how its attempting to connect the town with a trail system. The yellow trail in figure 2 would be my choice to go on an adventure across town. It appears to have more access points that are not neighborhood invasive.

Nothing

I like the path along the creek bed. For my age being level is an issue so I can go further.

I like the location of the trail. As a student, its pretty close to campus and easily accessible.

I am not in favor of a trail at all thru this property if it abuts a person's personal property. If there must be a trail I'm most in favor of the green trail that actually goes up and around within the largest portion of land and hooks up with stadium and "get about" lanes.

I like the expansion and connection of the trail system extending across Columbia. I think it is very advantageous to bikers and runners who feel crowded on the other trails in the area.

I really appreciate the drive to create more trails in Columbia. Using a very scenic and ADA accessible route fits perfectly within the explained master plan. I really like the future plan to connect to the high school.

Violet is the trail I liked best. That proposed idea is much more needed and further away from traffic. I use the trails to run and that would make the run much more enjoyable.

I like that the trail would connect users to new areas that can/will be developed in the near future. I also like that the trail takes into account ADA requirements.

As a college student I do like the trail but can see how community members would not like it. They can sometimes provide a risk for people. If a community doesn't want something they have to right to let people hear their voice.

The ability to use existing bridges and natural paths. The proposed connection to the school also makes the trail a well used trail.

Nothing

Connecting primary trail on west Columbia (Perche Creek Trail) over Harmony Creek and back along Sunflower St/Rt. E area. We have no trail facilities on this side and riding your bike along Gibbs and ZZ is not exactly safe. – Bridge over Harmony Creek so that flooding doesn't prevent you from riding.

I am in favor of trails, but not this one. It is not good stewardship of the park's money. Do not destroy the creek! We have lived about it for 19 years and seen it flood several times.

I have been anxious for this trail extension for quite a while. I think it will be a great addition to east Columbia. I have been very excited to see the new trail.

I do not like it. It is an uneeded, unwanted trail that does not achieve most of the objectives proposed for the trail. It is an absurd amount of money for a trail that does not connect any neighborhoods or business's. there are much better alternate routes that do achieve the objectives for less money.

I like the orange proposed trail because of the level of elevation change. This will make it very accessible to everyone.

I like how it is connected to other existing trails as well as the connection of the new school.

Sounds like it would be easy to do.

I like the trail because they are out of the woods and the orange alignment doesn't effect that much and is going to grow the Hinkson Creek Trail more.

I don't want it!! It is not necessary and a waste of money. Why do you want to take a home owner's property and provide for a "maybe" user? Have you people ever seen this area after a rain storm? I think not. You have no idea how much debris floats down the creek.

It would be away from the main flow of traffic with the convenience of easy access. It is ADA accessible. It won't take away from the other time for construction in the city so other roads with continue to be fixed.

I think it is very sad to cross anyones property (a family live there) for the cities gain. Very sad shame on the City of Columbia.

I lke how much is connected and how far it reaches through this part of town, giving lots of people access to it.

This alignment minimizes impact on residences while opening up the developing east side of the city to thousands of people for decades to come.

I do not like the proposed alignment as it is predicated upon seizing private property through the possible use of eminent domain. This is an abuse of this method and an abuse of the people that will have their property seized. There is no public necessity to support this seizure. This should only be used for a clear need, i.e. a school, fire station, etc…

I favor trails but not this one – building in an alluvial flood plain will be expensive to maintain. This creek floods extensively at times.

Nothing

I really like the proposed tail alignment. I think that the trail would be a great addition to Columbia's many trails.

(1) The alignment along the creek requires multiple crossings which will damage the creek (2) A natural animal corridor will be impacted negatively (3) 2 neighborhoods will be affected by having cul de sacs turned into de facto trail heads

All

Connects to Maguire Blvd and eventually to new high school. Hopefully will be connections into East Pointe.

Nothing

I like the use of the existing level land. I like that it is along a creek and does not cut through property. I like that it is the most economic use of public funding.

I like the idea of adding another trail to Columbia. Specifically I like the orange route as it does not cut through the neighborhood.

I like the idea that they are trying to build a trail to Lemone.

I think the trail is a good idea for people in the community to get exercise. I do feel bad for the people who live in the neighborhood that will have this trail in their yards. If it makes sense to build then I would not be opposed to it.

Nothing

I do not like the proposed plan area. I am 62 years old; have been involved in City and County government for many years. My views are precise and those views are that never pursue property from private property owners when you can route otherwise.

Natural wooded areas and grasslands. It utilized unused areas. I like the trail.

It's starting point at the Grindstone Creek Area.

- The alternate route (Green) provides much more beautiful space for those who will use it. It provides more shade than actual proposed route.
- The alternate route (Green) will allow for more varied terrain for hikers/bikers to use without having to drive to further parks.
- The alternate (Green) uses the property that is already owned/controlled by the City!

I thought the proposed plan was great, and honestly couldn't get much better. My house is next to the Hinkson Creek Trail and have never once encountered problems, noise or otherwise. This plan looks like the trail visibly stays clear of residential areas for the most part and is hidden within forests located around it. I am all for new trails.

I am a fan of the Path due to the scenic views, yet still close enough to streets/businesses that gives a little sense of security.

I feel the route (trail) should go up Stadium. It would be less expensive and not bother the owner in East Pointe subdivision.

I like that Columbia is trying to add more trails. My only concern is the people's backyards that it will cut through. But overall I feel that the trails are a good idea.

Question 2:

Nothing

Keep trails on lands that desire the trails. Only build if 100% of the people along the trail are in support. Eminent domain is unacceptable for any non essential construction. Also trails need to go somewhere. No through peoples backyard. Se we feel like we are being watched while exercising on the trails.

Scrap this proposal all together and support the Clyde Wilson Trail where the residents want the trail.

Change "Imminent Domain" don't like that our neighbors have to sacrifice their property for ugly bridges and roads.

I like all of the ideas

Please don't take what my friends have worked and are still working for. Please don't invade their privacy. Protect our properties and its families. Please don't make a trail through their own back yard.

Advocate for the funds to be transferred to other desired trails that do not have current funding. Utilize tax-payer money appropriately for projects that the tax payers want and need. Do not build multiple bridges and a concrete road through a 100 year flood plain, wetland and wildlife corridor.

Avoid getting within 100 yards of homes. Switch sides of the creek.

30-00 35-00 $40-00 on yellow trail –figure 2- appears to border on go through a persons yard. The consultant said that 1% of the workers on Lemone Industrial commute by bicycle. That is 1% of 3000 = 30 – this trail is too expensive and destroys the privacy of a whole subdivision for 30 maybe bike riders?
- No population density @ beginning of end of trail – 1st Hollywood Theatre, now this?

The issue is taking away a major portion of a neighbors back yard. Non needed expense to build it. Allows access to private property. Will not connect with anything near town.

Don't do the orange trail to many lard long bridged will take away from the value of homeowners and the user values. The creek floods very wide in 2 of the 3 areas the bridge will have to be very large to say within ADA

The trail should be rerouted to stadium and go through Sheppard neighborhood north off Stadium

I love running on trails and being out in the wilderness, but don't like feeling like if something bad happened that no one would know about it. I would like more of an even combination of woods and neighborhoods us to feel more safe.

-Crossing the creek 5 times is very expensive. –The trail should not go thru personal property or obtained thru the domain process. –This trail is not wanted by our neighborhood.

Not change but I would vote for the path (green or yellow) that runs near the movie theater, rather than the orange path.

Although the trail leads into a subdivision, the overall big picture of the proposed trail overweighs my opinion of saving the property or the subdivision.

My only concern is when it passes under HWY 63. That is a very busy area and just concerned with noise, safety and trash from vehicles.

I think the proposed location could be improved. I think some land owners are upset about the trail idea. I think other areas might be more welcoming. Ease of access is important consideration too.

I would take it to places where more college students live. Maybe closer to "The Reserves" apartments and other places.

I think it would be helpful to have more access to the trail via the community.

I don't like the trail is so close to a few individuals' properties. I am also concerned and question the flooding in that area. Also not sure about the start/stop point locations. I would not approve of this trail. Columbia already has many trails. I would not want my tax money supporting this. I find it unnecessary.

Go thru Waters Moss

The purple proposal to also be primary proposal

I think a trail access and parking should go where Bluff Creek Blvd. Dead ends by Hollywood Theater. It would take advantage of the area, give people in neighborhood an access point without trespassing.

The proposed trail alignment has a lot of positive attributes, however, the one thing I would change is the possible connectivity to downtown and it negatively impacts the surrounding families. Also expenses for flooding maintenance.

Transfer funding to a wanted and useful trail – the Clyde Wilson east west trail. Do not abuse eminent domain and take private property for a recreational trail. Or use the alternate route through the city controlled property – a wonderful route with parking – great access in short – this proposed route is the wrong route.

It would be nice, as a runner, to have a small portion that had some elevation change but I realize that it would make it less accessible to all guests.

Try to avoid more of the backyard. Also, think of access for the neighborhood.

I am concerned about the trail going through private property. I see the use of eminent domain for a recreational trail as a misuse of the original intent of eminent domain by the founding fathers. I would also prefer a trail that makes realistic walking/biking to MU and the center of Columbia – current trails are not safe for this purpose.

Put it somewhere that it won't flood.

I really wouldn't change a lot about the proposed plan. The only thing that I would change is not so close the houses.

Forget the whole idea. Take the money and spend it more wisely.

NA

I am not sure what safety will be implemented, but since it stretches away from residential areas and into the woods. Hopefully some kind of safety protocols are in place, like emergency stations like on campus.

Spend the $1.7 million for this section of recreational trail on existing parks and not to complete this foolish plan.

Cost – you can build 1 mile of interstate for 1 million. 1.7 million is too much and wasteful.

I use the trails but there is more need for one more far from everywhere! – The cost for so many bridges for such a short trail. Bad use of tax payers money. – Don't believe the city should have the right to reduce property values. Studies presented are old and do not consider crime rate increases such as home invasions

I would love to have it along Stadium through the Waters-Moss, out of the flood plain and use existing infrastructure to solve existing transportation and safety issues. Then we could have something different!

I wouldn't change anything about the proposed trail alignment.

Go through Waters Moss Conservation area. It is cheaper, won't impact the creek, and having a section for the trail with some hills (still ADA compliant) will be more interesting for runners and cyclists.

None

Nothing

From what I have read, the trail would have no access from the Bluff Pointe neighborhood. There is no benefit for the neighborhood. I would also allow people to have access to homes that the trail would run behind.

Nothing

For the orange trail, I would like to see it extend further into the blue trail. I don't like the options that go through the neighborhood as it takes away from the nature feel.

Not run it through peoples' yards

If there is any way to make the trail not go through neighborhoods then it will maybe be more accepted. It will allow for people to get exercise without disturbing the neighborhood then I believe it will be beneficial.

I support the Clyde Wilson Trail which those residents themselves support. This present trail proposal is, in my opinion, a misuse of eminent domain to claim personal property.

My proposal would be to route the trail (taxpayers' money) through an area that would be applicable for all those involved. This could be done. Leave the private structure alone.

Against this due to the eminent domain of homeowners. This is not an essential project

- Money should be used for other projects.
- Should not be spending new money in this economy. Hold on to money, for maintenance, etc, for other projects

Could be longer possibly

Do <u>not</u> go through private land owners' property!

- Eminent domain is <u>not</u> appropriate to use for this trail!
- Stop putting the welfare of trees over the rights of current property owners!
- Use tax money where tax payers want it!
- Transfer these funds to other trails that neighborhoods want and do <u>not</u> force us to use our tax money for a trail that will actually take our property!

I would not really change much, maybe simply angle the trail to clear away from the residential areas since that seems to be the only concern from residents of the neighborhood.

I am not sure if the people who would be effected by this would be reimbursed or not but I truly believe its for the betterment of the community.

I feel the route (trail) should go up Stadium. It would be less expensive and not bother the owner in East Pointe subdivision.

I would try to make the trails go another direction rather than going through peoples' backyards. That could cause some unwanted traffic.

Other Comments:

Do not use eminent domain to take the private family's backyards for a recreational use.

On the second page of Allstate Consultants' Grindstone Trail Alignment Selection and Design Criteria draft proposal dated December 9, 2011 there is a quote from a May 17, 2010 IBM press release. "The City of Columbia and IBM will also work together to incorporate the new facility into Columbia's Sustainable City Program, which includes building bike paths to connect the facility with downtown Columbia". Also, on this page there are the results of a survey which states the two biggest challenges facing people who want to walk or bike in Columbia are "Safety Concerns" (45.8%) and "Takes too much time" (18.7%).

First of all, the question arises, since the Press Release stated that IBM and the city will be working together and includes building bike paths, will IBM be footing the bill for a portion of the trail or how will they be working with the city on this?

Secondly, riding a bike from Maguire Blvd. down the Grindstone Creek Gorge to central Columbia and "Takes too much time" are the same thing! Perhaps the City, Get About Columbia, and Parks and Rec. Dept. need to look at a larger picture. In a couple of years the Cross Creek Development will be in place. There will be student housing there, as well as, a large hotel. If a large promenade were constructed, protecting pedestrians and bicyclist from vehicular traffic, like those you see in Amsterdam, Holland, Munster, Germany, and Bogota, Colombia then there would be an increase in the number of people who walk or bike to school or work. Students could walk or bike from Cross Creek and the surrounding areas to school and out of town guest attending S.E.C. games could walk from the hotel to the stadiums. There will probably be some who will do this without the promenade. But, why not spend the money on infrastructure now, since the need will increase as Stadium Blvd. extends on further east. It would make it safer and easier to provide a more direct route to campus and downtown. It would also eliminate the need for a redundant trail through an ecologically fragile area.

One of the purpose and needs in the Allstate proposal is "The project must encourage non-motorized transportation through an efficient connection between residences and businesses along the Grindstone Creek corridor and central Columbia". Many of the businesses and residences along the Grindstone Creek corridor have been here for a long time and have paid taxes for a long time. Extending a trail along the Grindstone Creek will not increase their access to the trail because the creek basically runs through a gorge in this area making access limited. Allstate rejected alternate trail

routes through the conservation area because, in their opinion, the grade was too steep, yet the location of the proposed trail connection with Maguire Blvd. is the same slope. Commuters coming off the proposed trail and going to IBM would have an additional long and steep hill to traverse to their destination. This would probably be a challenge for a few hardy recreational bike riders, but for the regular commuter riding this route on a warm and humid day would be inconceivable.

A few questions to summarize;

- Are the businesses and residents along the Grindstone Creek corridor being asked to help fund a trail they will not have anymore direct access to than they presently have.
- And, are they being asked to give up private property to accommodate a "Johnny come lately" business (IBM) that receives tax abatements, when these residents and businesses have been paying taxes all along?
- Does a trail along the creek best meet the goals of Get About Columbia by providing direct pedestrian and biking routes from areas of commerce and residence to campus and the central city?
- Is putting a trail down through the ecologically fragile Grindstone Creek gorge (Hinkson watershed) the best use of taxpayer money considering it will cost almost $2,000,000.00 for a 1 mile stretch?
- What does it cost to build one mile of four lane highway?
- Will this trail become an Albatross around the necks of Parks Dept. management when it becomes a redundant trail because commuters opt for an easier and more direct route to their destinations, yet this high maintenance trail will still need repairs?

In conclusion, never again will I take one of Parks and Recs. little engineered with preconceived outcome surveys. Also, along with many of my neighbors and other city residents I have spoken with, in regard to this subject, will I ever vote for another tax benefiting the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department!