



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 15, 2016

Re: Easement Acquisition: Chapel Hill Connector to the County House Trail

## Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting Council authorization to acquire an easement in order to construct a 6' wide concrete trail connecting an existing sidewalk along the west bound lane of Chapel Hill Road to the County House Trail. The proposed 200' trail was requested by the developer of the Face Rock Court neighborhood and will connect the Face Rock development, as well as future residential and commercial development in the area, to the County House Trail. The proposed route crosses one property owned by Central Missouri Land, LLC and on-going negotiations indicate that the owners are willing to donate the easement for the trail. In a Council Report, staff will seek Council approval for an Administrative Public Improvement Project of \$10,000 in order to construct the trail. This project will be funded by 2010 Park Sales Tax Annual Trails funds. It is anticipated that construction will begin in early spring 2016 and will be completed by summer.

## Discussion

After completion of the Rock Court neighborhood located on the west side of the County House Trail, the Parks and Recreation Department was contacted by the developer of the neighborhood about a possible trail connection to the County House Trail. Park staff met with Greg Bartels to discuss the location of the proposed trail connector, necessary steps to acquire the easement for the trail, and the construction process and timeline. Park staff evaluated potential routes and determined that a 6' wide concrete trail could be constructed on the Bartels property to provide the desired trail access. The connecting trail will provide access to the Face Rock Court neighborhood and future residential and commercial development to the west of the County House Trail.

After analyzing the property for the potential trail connector, staff determined that the department would need to acquire a permanent trail easement to construct the 200' concrete trail on privately-owned property. The property owner, Greg Bartels, met with staff and has had email correspondence with park staff since January 2015. Mr. Bartels is very receptive to the proposed trail on his property and is willing to work with the department for a possible donation of the easement. Allstate Consultants has prepared the necessary easement paperwork for the property and park staff has completed proposed plans for the location of the connector trail.



In a separate Council Report, staff will seek Council authorization via the Administrative Public Improvement Project process to construct the trail using \$10,000 from the 2010 Park Sales Tax Annual Trails funds. Staff anticipates that the trail will be completed by summer 2016.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Park staff is in negotiation with the property owner and believes that there is a strong possibility that the property owner will donate the trail easement.

Long-Term Impact: Staff anticipates minimal annual maintenance costs due to the trail being constructed in concrete.

## Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

### Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Parks, Recreation & Greenways, Secondary Impact: Transportation, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Infrastructure

## Legislative History

Date	Action
05/18/2009	Ord #020279, Approve construction of County House Trail Phase I <a href="https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/Council_Agenda_Items/documents/b122-09_county-house-trail.pdf">https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/Council_Agenda_Items/documents/b122-09_county-house-trail.pdf</a>

## Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the acquisition of an easement required for the construction of the Chapel Hill Road connector to the County House Trail.