



Department Source: City Utilities - Sewer/Stormwater

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 21, 2017

Re: Public Hearing - El Chaparral Riparian Restoration Project

Executive Summary

A public hearing concerning the construction of the El Chaparral Riparian Restoration project. This project will include re-establishment of a riparian buffer on a City-owned tract. The estimate for this project is \$20,000 and payment shall come from the Stormwater Utility Fund.

Discussion

The El Chaparral Riparian Restoration project is a recommended project from the Hinkson Creek Collaborative Adaptive Management (CAM) process. Enhancing the riparian corridor at this location was an idea initiated by the CAM Riparian Subcommittee and presented and discussed by the CAM Action Team. If approved by Council to move forward, this project will be presented to the CAM Stakeholders.

The project proposes to restore the former neighborhood sewer treatment lagoon site, owned by the City and located along the south fork of the Grindstone, to a more natural riparian land cover. Riparian areas offer important benefits for the creek that they surround including habitat, water management, and flood management. This benefits the community as well.

The work will involve pipe installation, light excavation, planting native plants, and controlling invasive plants by spraying, cutting, and hand removal. The project will be carried out over the next two years because the tasks are dependent on the seasons of the year. The layout of the restoration will be coordinated with Columbia Parks and Recreation to avoid conflicts with a future trail. (See attached diagram.)

An Interested Parties meeting was held in the El Chaparral Neighborhood on May 31, 2017, to discuss the proposed project. Nine residents attended the meeting where staff explained the project and what people could expect to see as the work progresses. People were generally supportive of the project. One resident was concerned that the work might be undone later if the City decided on a different concept for the property. Staff explained that being located in the floodplain restricts the use of the property and coordination with Parks and Recreation staff allows the current plan to meet future goals of the site.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project cost, including construction, is estimated at \$20,000 and will be paid from the Stormwater Utility Fund and such other funds as may be lawfully obtained.

Long-Term Impact: Initial maintenance of the restored land is expected to cost approximately \$2000 per year. As the site becomes naturalized with the restored vegetation, this annual cost is expected to drop to zero.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

Date	Action
07/17/2017	(R91-17) Setting a public hearing for August 21, 2017.
05/31/2017	Interested Parties meeting held.

Suggested Council Action

Direct staff to proceed with final plans, specifications and construction of the El Chaparral Riparian Restoration project.