



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 8, 2020

Re: Perche Creek Trail Phase I: MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road

## Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council approval of an ordinance authorizing the phase I construction of the Perche Creek Trail from the MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road. As part of the project, staff is also requesting Council permission for the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Crockett Engineering Consultants for engineering services for the design of the trail. The 1.2 mile concrete trail project was identified in the 2015 Park Sales Tax ballot and includes a budget of \$1,200,000. The phase I portion of the Perche Creek Trail will intersect with the MKT Trail at the 3.0 mile marker and proceed north through City of Columbia property to Hunt Road. The trail will utilize abandoned portions of Hunt Road and Coats Lane until intersecting with Gillespie Bridge Road. The design and construction of the trail is scheduled to begin fall 2020, with an anticipated completion date of late fall 2021. The project will be bid through the City's Purchasing division and include a combination of contract and force account labor. Contract labor will be used for the design and construction of the bridge over the Perche Creek, site grading and concrete installation. Park staff will complete necessary landscaping and miscellaneous improvements such as signs, bike racks, etc.

## Discussion

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of an ordinance authorizing the construction of the Perche Creek Trail: MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road and authorization for the City Manager to execute an agreement with Crockett Engineering Consultants for the design of the trail project. The project will include the construction of a 1.2 mile 10' wide concrete trail from the MKT Trail at the 3.0 mile marker to Gillespie Bridge Road. The trail construction project will include one bridge, approximately 200 feet in length, across the Perche Creek.

The construction of the Perche Creek Trail was included in the 2013 Trails Plan, as part of the *2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*. The proposed phase I portion of the trail project from the MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road is identified as a primary trail project for the Department due to the high level of recreational and commuter connectivity and the importance of the trail related to the completion of the 30-mile trail loop throughout Columbia. The development of the trail was included in the list of projects for the 2015 Park Sales Tax renewal after the Department was notified that the County would work with the Department to route the trail on abandoned sections of Hunt Road and Coats Lane.



## **Public Input for the Project:**

Park staff held an interested parties meeting at Jay Dix Station on July 9, 2020. Park staff met with citizens to discuss the proposed plans for the trail project and gain feedback about the construction of the trail. Staff also provided the public with an opportunity to provide additional comments about the project via an online survey at [como.gov](http://como.gov) from July 1, 2020 to July 20, 2020. Comments provided to the Parks and Recreation Department are attached and can be viewed at:

<https://www.como.gov/parksandrec/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2020/07/Perche-Creek-Phase-i-Combined-Online-and-IP-Meeting-Comments.pdf>

After the initial interested parties meeting on July 9, park staff also met with two City Commissions to review the project and gain feedback from each group.

Park staff met with the members of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission, and the project was reviewed by the Commission at their July 15, 2020 meeting. The Bike and Ped Commission voted to send a letter of support for this project as part of the P&R Department's application for a Recreational Trails Program Grant.

Park staff introduced the proposed improvements to the Parks & Recreation Commission at their July 16, 2020 meeting. After discussion of the project, the commissioners voted to endorse the proposed trail project as presented.

After considering all citizen and Commissioner comments, staff believes that the proposed plans for the project represent a consensus of trail users, park users and Commissioners.

## **Trail Design:**

Crockett Engineering Consultants will be hired to design the trail from the MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road. The phase I portion of the Perche Creek Trail is 1.2 miles in length and includes a bridge over the Perche Creek. The bridge will be approximately 200 feet in length and staff will bid the bridge as a design/build project after Crockett completes all necessary design and engineering work. Crockett Engineering Consultants will complete the evaluation and design criteria for the bridge crossing over the Perche Creek Trail, trail design from the MKT Trail to the south side of Gillespie Bridge Road, complete necessary easement preparation and provide construction staking of the trail route. The total cost of the contract with Crockett Engineering Consultants is \$81,000.

## **Trail Construction:**

The construction of the 1.2 mile Perche Creek Trail from the MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road will include a 10-foot wide concrete trail, one bridge over the Perche Creek and a small trailhead for pedestrians and bicyclists on the south side of Gillespie Bridge Road. The trail will begin at an intersection with the MKT Trail near the 3.0 mile marker and immediately cross the Perche Creek Trail via a clear span bridge, estimated to be 200 feet in length. The trail will then proceed north on City of Columbia property managed by Stormwater Utilities for approximately 0.9 miles. Parks and Recreation staff has met with Stormwater Utilities staff to



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

discuss the trail construction project and will design the trail project so that it will tie into the proposed Sewer Utilities mitigation bank construction project proposed for the property. At the north end of the City property, the trail will turn east onto an abandoned section of Hunt Road and then turn back to the north onto an abandoned section of Coats Lane. The total distance of the trail constructed on abandoned sections of Hunt Road and Coats Lane is approximately 0.3 miles. Park staff has discussed the use of the abandoned section of Coats Lane for the trail with Boone County staff, and City Legal staff is currently working with the County to acquire formal permission to use this small portion of Coats Lane for the trail. At the end of trail on the south side of the Gillespie Bridge Road, staff will construct a small trailhead for trail users. The trailhead will include seating, bike repair station and trash and recycling containers.

Park staff has also met with members of the Mid-Missouri Radio Control Association (MMRCA) to discuss their use of the City-owned property and how the trail can be routed to reduce the impact to their area used for flying remote-controlled airplanes. Staff will work with Crockett Engineering staff and Sewer Utilities staff to position the trail on City property outside of the leased area and with minimal impact in the designated fly zone.

After the design of the trail by Crockett Engineering Consultants, park staff will work with the City's Purchasing Department to bid necessary portions of the project. The entire project will be constructed using a combination of contract labor and force account labor. Park staff is proposing to use existing term and supply contractors for the grading and concrete construction of the 10' wide concrete trail. Portions of the project that will be bid out through the Purchasing Department will include the design/build of the Perche Creek bridge. Park staff will be responsible for all necessary tree removal, turf establishment after construction and new tree plantings necessary for the project.

## **Chapel Hill Connector – Perche Creek Trail:**

As part of the 2015 Park Sales Tax, a project was also listed for the construction of the Chapel Hill Connector. This connector would have created a concrete trail from the end of the sidewalk on Chapel Hill Road to the Perche Creek Trail at Gillespie Bridge Road. Due to Covid-19 budget cuts for FY2020 and FY2021, this project was removed from the Park Sales Tax ballot list of projects. Following the completion of the Perche Creek Trail, staff will look at alternative funding sources including but not limited to grant funding, future Park Sales Tax ballot issue, use of remaining funds from the phase I construction of the Perche Creek Trail or pending actual sales tax revenue, restoring the project as originally proposed.

## **Funding and Timeline for Construction:**

The design and construction of the trail is scheduled to begin fall 2020, with an anticipated completion date of late fall 2021. Funding for the construction of the trail is provided by the 2015 Parks Sales Tax. The total cost of the project is \$1,200,000 with funding available in FY2018 (\$180,000), FY2020 (\$520,000) and FY2021 (\$500,000). Park staff has also applied for a \$250,000 Recreation Trails Program Grant through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for additional funding for the trail project. Park staff has had a pre-award site visit with Missouri State Parks staff regarding the grant application. If the Department is awarded



the grant, park staff will return to Council to finalize the grant agreement and appropriate the funding.

## Fiscal Impact

**Short-Term Impact:** The total cost of the improvement project is \$1,200,000 and is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax. Funding is available in FY2018 (\$180,000), FY2020 (\$520,000) and FY2021 (\$500,000).

**Long-Term Impact:** Staff estimates annual maintenance costs associated with the trail to be between \$2,500 and \$3,500. Maintenance expenses include mowing, trail cleanup and snow removal.

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

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

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|------|--------|
| N/A  | N/A    |

## Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the construction of the Perche Creek Trail: MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road and authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Crockett Engineering Consultants for the design of the trail.