

**Columbia Parks and Recreation Department  
Perche Creek Trail: Phase I MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road  
Interested Parties Meeting Comments from July 9, 2020 and Online Survey  
Comments from July 1, 2020 through July 20, 2020**

**Columbia Parks and Recreation Disclaimer on Perche Creek Trail: Phase I MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road comments:**

*The following 82 comments were gathered during a public comment period, which ended July 20, 2020. These comments do not reflect the opinion of the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, nor is this entity responsible for the content or the factual accuracy of the comments. The responses have not been edited or otherwise altered, except to remove potentially offensive language. The public comments were provided in response to the following requests/questions:*

- 1. Please comment on what you like about the proposed potential improvement. Please be concise.**
  - 2. What would you change about the proposed potential improvements? Please be concise.**
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- 1) Please comment on what you like about the proposed potential improvement. Please be concise.**

**Interested Parties Meeting Responses:**

- Great plan. I live about 1.5 miles from Jay Dix so this will be a great addition to this area.
- Great plan. "Gitter" done!
- Will make bike riding safer for people who ride east on Gillespie bridge Rd. Will connect many people to the MKT Trail. Will be another scenic trail section to explore. Will be a safer access to MKT Trail.
- Columbia Parks and Rec is awesome. Thank for all the wonderful trails and parks you make possible.
- Love them! Can't wait for more. We can't build trails fast enough.
- It's a way to access west of Gillespie Bridge w/out facing the danger of the bridge crossing. Love that the ultimate goal is all around the city. Using land already owned by city.
- Love that you are using the abandoned road on the north end.
- This looks like a well-thought out plan for an important part of the citywide trail loop. I like that it is on city-owned land.
- I enjoy all of the well maintained concrete trails and all the wildlife and wildflowers. Nature just resets your soul or at least my soul.
- Safety – Perche Creek bridge is so precarious for bikers and a lot of bikes go thru there. Connection – connects a whole west area of Como to the trails. Opportunity – raise awareness of our sanitation system and the unsung heroes that keep our community healthy & clean.

### **Online Survey Responses:**

- LOOKS GOOD CAN'T WAIT
- I love the convenience and access it brings to the trail from Gillespie bridge
- Creating a 30 mile loop would help the trail running community
- This will add to the trail system around Columbia for outdoor activity
- Expanding the opportunities for all Columbia residents and visitors.
- I use city trails several times a week so more trails are always a plus for me.
- This will be a great connector trail to the MKT trail from the west side of Columbia. It will more than likely see a lot of bike traffic from the many subdivisions on the west side of Columbia. THANK YOU for this new trail!
- Nothing. It is not needed.
- Love that there will be a North/South alternative to Scott Blvd.
- I think it's great that the abandoned Coats Lane can be used! It will keep my family off the roads more when accessing the MKT.
- I like that the city is using previously abandoned road while extending the gravel loop around the city. Awesome!
- The expansion will be a beautiful addition to our trail system. The area along Perche Creek is filled with wildlife and other fun creatures. I am really excited to be moving closer to a loop trail completely around Columbia.
- I think this will be a good addition to our trail system, particularly if it can eventually become part of a longer trail through the Perche Creek valley and around Columbia. A 30 mile loop around town will be very popular with bicyclists and even some runners and walkers.
- Always in favor of more trails. Hopefully, this will connect to the Scotts Branch trail.
- I like unimproved outdoor space.
- I like nothing about it it should be aborted.
- I don't like ANYTHING about this plan to increase costs of maintenance. Seems like this City is looking to increase the horrible burden of property taxes on the poor and elderly. That's RACIST! It's shameful to spend this money unless your plan is to impoverish the community so we all need to ride bikes cause we can't afford cars.
- Very excited to have a new route, and see trails starting to connect around the city! I dream of the day when driving the car to get around town is optional. One of the main reasons we moved here was due to the pedestrian/bike accommodations.
- I love that it will connect the MKT to Gillespie bridge. Will be terrific!
- Finally starting to connect south to the north.
- It will be great to have a connection that will allow me to avoid Rte O and UU, which are extremely dangerous. I am looking forward to the 30 mile loop around the city.
- Love the 30 mile concept, I've been following it's progress, looking forward to completion!
- That it will complete one more section of the proposed 30 trail around the city.

- Seems like a good trail using public land and causing little disruption.
- Will add more connectivity to the trail system once extended North.
- I like that the proposed trail follows existing road right-of-way and on city sewer property. It will be a good connection.
- I am excited to see the beginnings of the loop around the city!
- It follows the creek for about 2/3 of the way and takes advantage of county and city-owned land, avoiding any issues of eminent domain.
- Moving forward with the trail around Columbia!
- Having more trails is nice.
- This is not the time to build additional trails. We have other priorities in the city that need to be addressed first.
- Fully support the plan for the trail and the plan to make it part of the loop around the city. Gordon Spainhower, Woodhollow Dr
- Love everything about it. If signed well, this connector will be great for tourism for cyclists coming off the Katy Trail. The new retail/restaurant area near Smith and Scott will provide food/beverages to hungry cyclists. Eventually there should be a trail route, or at least a bike route to hotels around the mall.
- Excited to see the initial stretch of the Perche Creek Trail built. There are many neighborhoods in the area that will benefit. Most excited to see the 30-mile loop coming closer to reality. I'm unaware of any other community that has such a unique and beautiful asset. It will make Columbia an even more attractive place to live, start a business, work and raise a family. COVID has made it clear that Columbia citizens love their trail network.

**2) What would you change about the proposed potential improvements? Please be concise.**

**Interested Parties Meeting Responses:**

- I can think of nothing to change
- None
- You might evaluate bank erosion rates at the south bridge location of the proposed trail and design the bridge accordingly.
- I ask that you respect the archaeological sites/resources in this area. For both the trail & areas that equipment will move on/disturb. I know you already know about getting an archaeological survey (w/ federal grants. Thank you!
- I'm concerned about the intersection with Gillespie Bridge Rd. It looks like it could be dangerous for everyone especially inexperienced cyclists.
- Nothing really. Some kind of signage, bathroom or some sort of structure at the intersection w/ the MKT would be ideal.
- I don't believe you could improve anything about the trails in Columbia. I had a positive experience in KC on the Line trail. I had called the KC parks & rec to find out about the trail. The lady that I spoke with offered a parks person to ride with me at any time that I would come up to KC. I think this would be a nice offer to folks that call and are interested in coming to Columbia to bike the many trails.

- The faster the better! Info plaques along the way about Como's excellent sanitation system!

### **Online Survey responses:**

- Crushed gravel trails or soft surface trails are better for injury prone runners.
- The grass field where the trail is proposed is the flyover area for the MMRCA Flying club. It would be best if the trail crossed at the corner where abandon Hunt rd turns to the west, cross the creek with a bridge and be on the east side of the creek and follow to MKT trail south west of the waste water treatment facility.
- Currently the Mid Missouri Radio Control Association (MMRCA) maintains a portion of the property, west of the proposed location, for flying Radio Control aircraft. In the interest of safety, the new route needs to be as close to the creek as possible to avoid RC aircraft flying over people. Once past the point where Perche creek bows to the west, fly over is no longer a concern. Currently club member fly to the west of the Perche Creek tree line. For details about flying patterns and areas, the MMRCA may be contacted via its officers: Mark Johnston - President [mjohnst3@gmail.com](mailto:mjohnst3@gmail.com) Steve Forrest - Vice President [sforrest64@icloud.com](mailto:sforrest64@icloud.com) Tom Devinentis - Treasurer [tmd@archonengineering.com](mailto:tmd@archonengineering.com)
- I wish it could go ahead and connect with the trail on Scott Blvd but love that we can get this done.
- Wish it could have hugged Hinkson/Perche Creek more than it does. It would be nice to connect it to Scott Branch trail in the future.
- Will there be parking at the Gillespie road for this trail?
- I would like to see safe access from West Gillespie Bridge Rd. to the new trail. Perhaps signage on West Gillespie Bridge Rd. warning on bike access ahead from the trail to the road. Addition of a bike lane from Scott Blvd. on Chapel Hill Rd., extending to the new trail access on West Gillespie Bridge Rd. Reduced speed signage on each side of the bridge over Perche Creek on West Gillespie Bridge Rd. This could very well turn into a much used connector trail since it has access to the MKT Trail, West Gillespie Bridge Rd. crossing Perche Creek could easily become a dangerous area for bikes unless motorists are made aware of the traffic to the new connector trail.
- Do not build it. We do not need more trails.
- I can't think of anything that should be changed.
- This project should include a designated pedestrian shoulder or separated sidewalk on gillespie bridge to provide safe access from neighborhoods to the east.
- Would you consider a 'suspension' bridge across the Perche Creek? The span is significant for a truss especially if avoiding a pier in the creek. A ped-suspension bridge would be fun and, I believe, inspire interest. I will send some examples to Mike Snyder. Mike, would you be interested in my senior design team developing alternative designs for the bridge during the upcoming fall semester? John Bowders - 882-8351 or [bowders@missouri.edu](mailto:bowders@missouri.edu) The abandoned Coats Lane was often flooded by high waters in Perche Creek. Will the trail be elevated through this section? Have your hydrologists assessed the impact of the upstream

development (underway on the north side of Gillespie Bridge road) on the water levels in Perche Creek? I can have a senior design team build a hydraulic model and evaluate various events and the impact on the trail.

- I have no changes based on the simple map shown online, other than to suggest attention be given to preventing flood damage to the trail given the Perche Creek's ability to flood in places along the stream.
- I would prefer the surface to be the same hard packed gravel as the rest of the MKT trail. Concrete is fine for bicycles but murder for runners. Will there be a connector up the hill on Gillespie Bridge road to connect with existing sidewalks?
- I would like the proposed trail removed from consideration. First these are loaded questions that fail to ask the pertinent questions similar to the false survey results the staff presented to council on the power lines. The city is in a budget crisis. If anything the parks tax should be rescinded and taxpayers allowed to spend their labor income on goods they need to survive. None of the park tax takes into consideration of maintenance. As we can see now the city is full of weeds and neglect using the excuse of pollen generators. Stop this nonsense and return the taxpayers labor income.
- No! No more spending money on new trails for the proceeded few while the city can't even keep curbside services running or adequately maintain city infrastructure. No!
- Who's going to maintain all this trail??? You can't even maintain what you have already. There's hardly any mowing of parks now! You can't hire due to freeze so we look like a City from a third world with weeds growing everywhere including the middle of the streets.
- I just wish the sidewalk that dead-ends on Chapel Hill could connect to the new route as part of Phase I. As it is, it looks like someone coming from Chapel Hill would need to carry their bike to the road, and then navigate traffic across the bridge to get to the trail.
- Nothing. Looks super!!
- Not showing is the elevation of trail to the flood zone. I know you understand how often that Perche floods. So maintenance needs to be planned. Route hopefully is best to keep the woody debris to a minimum. Per he Bridge needs to be high enough to accommodate all the debris.
- There is a sharp bend in the proposed trail. Can that be straightened out?
- Would prefer asphalt or chat surface similar to current trail.
- Perhaps run the trail closer to the creek, more picturesque, than in the middle of a field.
- Trail surface should be similar to existing MKT. Concrete will encourage cyclists to ride too fast. Already a problem.
- I am concerned about the north trailhead for people entering and exiting the trail at Gillespie Bridge Rd. That is a non-motorized-user-unfriendly section of road, especially if anyone on a bike or on foot would try to go up the hill there.
- Nothing. It is an excellent plan, assuming it will be gravel (not concrete) and have a minimal footprint with maximum tree preservation.
- Nothing!

- A trail seems unnecessary in this location given the nearby Scott Blvd. MKT access point. New trails should be prioritized in locations with few trails and poor pedestrian paths.
- Postpone it
- Nothing! I live off near W. Broadway and this will be a great way to get to the MKT. I'm disappointed that the connection to the Chapel Hill sidewalk was deleted. Why was this not included as one plan? Expedite the construction of the 30 mile trail loop around the City.
- I have no suggestions for changes. Looks good.

*The above record(s) is subject to Missouri's open records laws and may be provided to the public if requested and/or placed in public domain.*

Thank you for your participation.  
City of Columbia, MO  
Parks and Recreation