



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Gill, Director of Parks & Recreation

DATE: April 30, 2019

SUBJECT: Terrill Park (CIP 59) Update

Recommendation:

Accept this report to authorize the City Manager to re-apply for a Land and Water Conservation Grant to reflect changes in the original grant application.

Background

In 2015, the City of Concord, working in partnership with the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (FMRGT), applied for a Land and Water Conservation Grant (LWCF) to begin construction of the elevated walkway that starts on the north end of Terrill Park. As part of this grant 50% of the project cost was going to come from the FMRGT committee while the other 50% from LWCF. No city funds were anticipated for the elevated walkway.



The City was notified in September 2015 we were successful with our application and received a \$100,000 LWCF grant. City engineering staff, working alongside consultant VHB and the FMRGT, finalized the design of the elevated walkway and placed the project out as a RFP last winter (2017/2018). Unfortunately the price of the project came in much higher than expected.

Last summer, during a City Council meeting, the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail gave an update on the project and asked if they could meet with city staff to re-look at the project with the goal of building the paved greenway trail in the park as indicated in the new Park Master Plan. Other improvements proposed would be improving the current parking lot and moving the dog park to reflect the new location within the park. They also indicated the City would need to apply for a grant extension to allow time to work out options. They presented a plan that would include the \$100,000 LWCF Grant, \$69,000 from the FMRGT and \$141,000 from the City of Concord for a total project cost of \$310,000.

The FMRGT presented to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee at their September 2018 meeting. The committee was in full support of the new plan that would build the paved greenway trail, parking and dog park. City Council discussed the recommendation from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee at their October 2018 meeting. As part of this review City Council asked that City Administration to come back with a report that answers their questions related to sand dust pathway vs paved and look at the expenses of the proposal.

The City Manager has since received a grant extension.

Discussion

The new approved Master Plan for Terrill Park shows a paved path along the Merrimack River that supports the long-term vision of a North-South paved route of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail. The benefits of a paved path as part of the larger Greenway Trail is that it allows better use of the trail (all inclusive) as it supports use by cyclists, residents using strollers, walkers and even people using skateboards. Research also shows user visits of a paved, multipurpose trail is higher compared to non-paved trails. A paved pathway also provides more stability and reliability of the trail surface when compared to other materials.

The projected cost to build the paved path at Terrill Park is \$140,000 while installing a stone dust path would be \$60,000. Although this is a significant cost difference, the paved path allows full access for all ages and abilities and the cost of this portion of the trail would be entirely covered by the FMRGT donation and LWCF grant. This trail would also become part of the larger Merrimack River Greenway Trail project that contemplates a paved surface throughout its route through Concord.

Updated Budget Information

September 2018 cost estimate

Paved greenway trail, improvements to parking lot, new dog park and related site work.

Total project cost of \$310,000

LWCF: \$100,000

MRGT: \$69,000

City: \$141,000

April 2019 cost estimate

Paved greenway trail, improvements to parking lot, new dog park and related site work.

Total project cost of \$347,760 (includes an 8% contingency of \$25,760)

LWCF Grant: \$100,000

MRGT: \$69,000

City: \$178,760 (contingency included here)

At the April 2019 Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee the committee reviewed the updated expenses and discussed the FMRGT request. The committee voted 8-0 to recommend paving this section of the greenway trail, include the new parking lot as well as moving the dog park in this phase. These improvements will allow more users to enjoy the park and will begin to reshape the condition and reputation of the park. Committee members highlighted this is another great public-private partnership where the city contributes around 50% of the cost and the community receives an overdue park improvement.

In the event the updated grant application is approved, City Administration will come back with a report and resolution requesting funding for the project.

New Approved Master Plan For Terrill Park



Terrill Park Illustrative Plan
Concord, NH
December, 2017

