

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Warren Hutmacher, City Manager  
**Date:** August 8, 2012  
**Subject:** **Brook Run Trail – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

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1. The original Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant application for a Brook Run recreational trail has a different trail route, width and material choices then the final product being designed and constructed? How and why were changes made from the plan in the grant application through final design?

ANSWER: The trail planning and implementation for Brook Run has evolved over time. The grant application was submitted in 2010, well before the Parks Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan or Project Renaissance was conceived. Parks staff has shared with Council and made publicly available the different iterations of the trail route. Each change was made to either save money, save trees or steer away from floodplain areas.

2. Did the Council realize the City was only obligated to spend \$25,000 in order to receive the DNR grant of \$100,000? Why are we spending over \$400,000 to construct this segment of the trail?

ANSWER: Yes, the Council was fully aware of the budgeted expenditures for the project and was also aware of the 80/20-match component of the grant. The \$25,000 was a minimum contribution. Nothing prevented the City from supplementing the state grant with local funds. The funds to construct segment 1 were budgeted and appropriated for this purpose. The trail will serve as a recreational amenity for all of Dunwoody. The Council has chosen to fund the project as a top priority in the Parks Master Plan given the widespread support from the public to create opportunities for self guided

recreation such as walking, running and cycling on trails designated solely for that use.

3. Will the trail construction impact storm water runoff, erosion and other environmental issues?

ANSWER: A 12-foot wide concrete trail will have negligible environmental impact. Rainwater will be funneled away from neighboring property lines and engineering analysis shows that the impact of the construction of the trail will have no noticeable environmental impact on storm water runoff. With a large canopy of mature trees along the path and the minimal land disturbance of the trail, a negligible environmental impact is anticipated. The rerouting of the trail will actually decrease impervious surface by 20% and furthermore, the path will run more than 100 feet from the neighboring property lines.

4. Is a 12-foot impervious concrete trail necessary to meet recreational needs? Why wouldn't utilize permeable concrete?

ANSWER: The Parks Master Plan recommends a 12-foot trail through Brook Run Park. A 12-foot trail accommodates maximum use of the trail by allowing for 2 feet for pedestrians and 4 feet for cyclists in both directions. Concrete is a suitable material for trail construction in a forested area. It provides for a durable, long lasting and safe surface for pedestrians and cyclists. The City sought bids for an asphalt surface, but included an "add alternate" in the bid to assess pricing for a concrete product. The successful bidders pricing for concrete was lower than asphalt.

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Brook Run Trail is envisioned to connect to a 2<sup>nd</sup> phase in the park and eventually to the planned Project Renaissance development. The vast majority of future phases include a 12-foot concrete trail. It would be in the best interests of the City to construct

a cohesive trail network that is ready recognizable and has consistent standards for its end users.

5. How many trees will be lost during the construction of the trail?

ANSWER: Every effort will be made to preserve significant hardwood trees. The route of the Phase 1 trail has been modified to limit tree loss. The contractor is also required to identify and document trees that will have to be removed when the final design is complete. The City does not expect that the trail will significant negatively impact the tree canopy. In fact, the tree canopy is one of the positive attributes of the trail.

6. Can the city utilize pervious material for the construction of the trail?

ANSWER: Staff evaluated utilizing pervious materials for the trail and found that the costs exceeded the benefits of utilizing these materials. The environmental benefit was negligible and the costs would have nearly doubled for materials and installation. Also, pervious concrete is not appropriate for a wooded area because leaves, debris and other natural materials often clog the porous concrete, essentially evolving into an impervious surface over time.

7. Can you provide a timeline that details the evolution of the trail project?

November 2010 – Recreational Trails Program Grant Application was submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

March 2011 – Received preliminary notification that Phase I would be funded by DNR pending and environmental review.

March 2011- Transportation Plan approved by City Council.

June 2011 – Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan approved by City Council.

August 2011- Received word from DNR that Phase I had passed the environmental review process.

September 2011 – City Council approved acceptance of Phase I funding.

October 2011- Notice to Proceed was given by DNR to begin construction of Phase I.

March 2012- Project Renaissance IFP was issued.

March 2012 – RFP was issued for Design/Build of Phase I.

May 2012 – City Council Approved contract for Lewellan/Lose to design and build Phase I.