# BRIARCLIFF GREENWAY TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS FACT SHEET



# A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This trail project will connect the Briarcliff Greenway Trail System at NW  $40^{th}$  Street to NW  $37^{th}$  Street. The concrete trail will have turf on both sides and will be located along the west side of the drainage swale that divides the park.

# B. PROJECT TIMELINE

Conservancy Plan

February 2020 to December 2020

Survey and Design: February and March 2020

Bidding: April 2020

Construction: May to August 2020

#### C. PROJECT GOALS

1. Provide a durable low maintenance pedestrian connection to the greenway.

- 2. Provide opportunities for outdoor exercise and access to the natural habitat of this linear park.
- 3. Protect natural elements and provide educational opportunities along the trail.
- 4. Develop a conservation plan for the park that will promote a thriving ecosystem.
- Create an active corridor that will encourage a positive environment and use.

#### D. CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATE

- 1. The KCMO Parks and Recreation Department has an agreement with Kansas City Native Plant Initiative to develop a Conservation Plan. The four items below will begin in spring of 2020.
  - a. Convene a Professional Conservation Work Group to assess the park and provide recommendations for controlling invasive plants.
  - b. Create educational signage for the existing trail north of W. 40<sup>th</sup> St.
  - c. Produce a Conservation Plan.
  - d. Identify resources for controlling invasive plants.

#### E. TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE

- 1. The KCMO Parks and Recreation Department has an agreement with Taliaferro and Browne, Inc. for survey and trail design.
- Surveying Crews will be recording contours, collecting site analysis information for trail design, locating property corners for trail setback and preparing documents for construction.
- 3. Trail Design will consider forest impact and preservation, trail alignment, site lines and trail slopes.
- 4. The main construction access will come from NW 37<sup>th</sup> Street. Traffic Control and street cleaning requirements will be followed daily. The construction start date will be posted once the project bid is approved. Construction signs will be posted before construction.

# F. Funding

### 1. Funding

- FY 2018 \$225,000
- FY 2019 \$250,000
- FY 2020 \$250,000

# G. <u>List of Concerns Discussed at Public Meeting and how they will be addressed with new trail</u> design.

- 1. <u>Motorized Vehicles:</u> ATV and Motorcycles will not be allowed on the trail. Trail will have concrete split rail fencing and gates at both ends to restrict motorized vehicle access. The trail will be signed for no motorized vehicles.
- 2. <u>Waterworks Park:</u> The trail will end at NW 37<sup>th</sup> St. and not connect to Waterworks Park.
- 3. <u>Trail Safety:</u> KCMO Parks will reach out to Briarcliff Elementary to coordinate a "walking school bus" and "safe routes to schools" programs.
- 4. <u>Fire:</u> By removing understory plants, the trail corridor will provide a fire break and access route for fire fighting personnel.
- 5. Trash: KCMO Parks staff will pick up litter on scheduled intervals.
- 6. <u>Excessive Trail width:</u> The trail will be paved concrete 7' wide.
- 7. <u>Trail next to houses:</u> The trail alignment will try to keep away from houses
- 8. <u>Homeless Camps:</u> KCMO Park Rangers have controlled homeless issues in other parks properties. Trail signage would indicate the hours of use being the normal park hours of 5a.m. to 12 a.m.
- 9. <u>Trail System:</u> This is a stand-alone trail that is not intended to connect to the KCMO Trails Network via a trail.
- 10. <u>Loss of Nature:</u> Careful planning will be used to minimize damage to the existing habitat. KCMO Parks has Environmental Managers on staff and a native plant expert has been hired to develop a conservation plan for the park.

#### H. Items not being addressed with trail

- 1. <u>Crime:</u> Studies have found trails to have a reduction in crime. A study on the 606 Trail in Chicago showed a reduction after the trail opened of all types of crime (violent, property, and disorderly) when examined. It was published in the Journal of Environmental and Behavior online February 10, 2017.
- 2. <u>Non-paved trail:</u> Non-paved trails are more difficult and costly to maintain than paved trails.

- 3. <u>Preserving understory plants</u>: Invasive plants will be removed adjacent to the new trail and throughout the park as determined necessary by the conservancy plan.
- 4. <u>Parking will not be part of the project</u>: People could park at the school during non-school hours.
- 5. <u>Sidewalks along N. Main</u>: Public Works looked at the design and cost of providing sidewalks along N. Main street and determined this approach would require numerous right-of-way acquisitions and excessive funding.
- 6. <u>Trail users would have access to private backyards</u>: The trail design will keep the trail as far away as possible from property lines. It is possible in the winter months that trail users could be visible from private property.