



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Park and Recreation Commission

**TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS** **DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2020**  
**FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**SUBJECT: TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

## **ISSUE:**

Receive an update on the Trails Master Plan and provide input.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive an update on the Trails Master Plan and provide input.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In 1996, the City's Trails Master Plan ("TMP") was adopted by City Council, and in 2003, minor updates were made to the original Trails Master Plan in the Park and Recreation Master Plan Update.

On February 4, 2020, an updated Park Master Plan was approved by City Council, which included recommendations to update the Trails Master Plan to ensure viability of trail implementation under current development conditions and policies, increase equitable access to trails and to ensure feasibility of proposed connectivity to City parks and the regional trail system.

On July 21, 2020, City Council authorized an agreement with Alta Planning + Design to perform consultant services to update the Trails Master Plan, as part of a package of interrelated alternative transportation plans. This planning project is called the PACT, which is an acronym for the Pedestrian Target Safeguarding Plan, the Active Transportation Plan, the Complete Streets Ordinance, and the Trails Master Plan.

## **DISCUSSION:**

In accordance with City's General Plan (Parks and Recreation Element, 2012), the City should develop a Trails Master Plan which will improve and create connections between park facilities and increase the safety of the bicycle, equestrian, and pedestrian trails system. The 2019 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Community Services Master Plan indicated that trails were the most requested amenity by stakeholders. Stakeholder interviews, public workshops,

and surveys conducted through the Park Master Plan placed trails in the highest tier of recreational amenity needed and identifies them as capable of delivering the “maximum community impact.”

Following the Park Master Plan approval, Staff immediately took action to hire a consultant to update and implement the Trails Master Plan in an effort to work towards the goal of providing more trails. The TMP would help provide the needed community input and priority regarding what type and where trails were needed to meet the goals of the general plan and Park Master Plan.

### Public Outreach

The TMP is being updated as part of the Riverside PACT project, an integrated Citywide holistic planning effort to create more opportunities for and encourage community use of on-street and off-street active transportation facilities and recreational trails. This effort was based upon a robust public engagement process. Public outreach efforts undertaken as part of the PACT process in all 7 Wards included 25 in-person presentations with community groups, surveying the public on preferences and priorities at existing events, a virtual community workshop, and an interactive online public input map that enabled residents to draw-in proposed trails, identify gaps, and prioritize trail projects.

### Design Guidelines

The updated TMP provides a more robust set of design guidelines and construction details to provide clear-cut development standards for trails, which are to be located in both urban and open-space contexts. It is recognized that in certain situations, due to physical constraints, it may not be feasible for the trails to be implemented according to the standards described in the Trails Master Plan. It is proposed that in such cases, variation from these standards may be allowed on a case-by-case basis subject to approval by the City’s Park and Recreation Commission, based upon staff review and recommendations. The Park and Recreation Commission may choose to delegate this responsibility to a Trails Technical Advisory Committee.

### Network Recommendations

The existing proposed trail routes remain largely unchanged in this update. Notable additions are the trails proposed in the greenbelt area and in the Northside Specific Plan area. The greenbelt area trails were added in response to community input, and will be street adjacent and minimally developed, much like the Victoria Avenue decomposed granite trails. The Northside Specific Plan area trails are being added as a result of community input during the specific plan development and will mainly be street adjacent urban type trails.

### Implementation Plan

The updated TMP ranks the primary trail corridors in terms of priority for implementation, based on: community input; connectivity to other trails and bikeways to provide a more complete network and to close gaps; connectivity to destinations such as schools, parks, and commercial centers; equity; environmental constraints; and acquisition needs. The highest priority trails for implementation are Main Street in the Northside, the Hole Lake area, Mitchell Avenue, Wood Road south of Van Buren Boulevard, Gage Canal, Victoria Avenue, and Buchanan Street. City staff will focus attention on seeking grants and other funding mechanisms for implementing these high priority trail segments but will continue to implement the other trail segments as

opportunities arise as part of private development projects or when appropriate funding becomes available.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

### **Attachments:**

1. Draft Trails Master Plan Update
2. PowerPoint Presentation