

TO: Diane Stoddard, Interim City Manager  
FROM: Lisa Larsen, City Commissioner  
CC: Mark Hecker, Ernie Shaw, Mike Amyx, Matt Herbert, Leslie Soden, and Stuart Boley  
  
DATE: October 12, 2015  
RE: Burcham Park River Trail

On Friday, October 9, 2015, I met with Mark Hecker, Assistant Director, Ernie Shaw, Interim Director, and Rowen Green, Project Manager from the Parks and Recreation department, and Matt Bond, storm water engineer.

We walked the entire trail and discussed several points of interest:

- 1) The use of concrete for the entire length of the trail will now make the trail ADA compliant. This allows all Lawrence citizens easy access and use of the trail. Concrete is also easier to maintain.
- 2) The design is standard for projects of this type.
- 3) Trees were selectively removed and consisted of dead or mostly dead trees. I saw several large dead trees that were in the process of being removed from the pathway. Staff has historically had to remove a few large trees from this area every year due to aging or other natural events.
- 4) The Boy Scouts will be working with Parks and Recreation to replant 100's of trees and plants. Ground cover will also be planted to help stabilize the soil.
- 5) The trail parallels the river with the closest point being about 10-15 ft from the river.
- 6) Stabilizing material (rip rap) will be installed along the river bank. This barrier will intersect the river flow that is most directly flowing towards the bank. It is important that we preserve the river bank to mitigate the continued erosional effect of flowing water. The rip rap project will be maintained as and when needed. Money for the stabilization project was donated by The Friends of the Kaw group.
- 7) The department generally tries to couple trail funding with grant monies as they become available. For this project, the Sunflower grant money is available through December 2015. To access this money, the trail would need to be completed within this time frame.
- 8) There originally was not enough money to complete the entire trail with concrete; however, an opportunity to enhance the funding arose when another trail that was budgeted for this year had to be put on hold due to access issues. Parks and Recreation was able to use this money for the Burcham Trail.
- 9) The ability of Parks and Recreation to change the original design when the opportunity was made available will ultimately save about \$15,000-\$17,000. The savings are realized because the asphalt millings would have been removed at some point in the future and replaced with concrete.
- 10) The change order dollar amount is calculated on a not to exceed line item rate that was provided during the original bid phase. This is typical when bidding these types of projects.

The completion of this project will further Lawrence's goal to have a complete trail loop around the entire City. The information that I obtained during this meeting showed that Parks and Recreation put together a thoughtful design and implementation process, and they remain flexible enough to ensure cost savings can be incorporated throughout all phases of project. This is a good project for Lawrence and we should move forward to complete it as soon as possible.