



# WILDWOOD

April 16, 2019

The Honorable City Council  
City of Wildwood, Missouri  
16860 Main Street  
Wildwood, Missouri 63040

**Re: Parking Improvements at the Al Foster Memorial Trailhead**

Council Members:

During 2018, the Planning and Parks Committee, City staff, and others held a number of discussions on the success of the trail system within the Meramec River Valley, as measured by the number of users on a day-to-day basis, along with what this growth means to the Glencoe Community of Wildwood and others. The core of this discussion led to several clear conclusions regarding the trail system, the river environment, and the opportunities and challenges associated with them. These conclusions can be summarized below:

1. The growth that has occurred, since the opening of the trail in 2003, has continued uninterrupted and will continue for the foreseeable future.
2. The floodplain area of the river creates issues for the City, when planning improvements to meet existing and anticipated demand for facilities to support the trail network now located there.
3. The steps taken by the City and others to provide adequate parking for most weekends during the Spring, Summer, and Fall have not eliminated certain problems that occur.
4. The need for additional parking spaces and areas at this major recreation node of the overall St. Louis Region remains needed.
5. The Planning and Parks Committee has been reviewing options for more parking spaces and areas over this last year. The outcome of this review was a bid process that would have completed an overflow lot that was removed from the original expansion of the trailhead area due to cost considerations with that overall project.

The results of this aforementioned bidding process for this overflow parking area was not favorable, almost exceeding one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) of cost in this regard. Thereafter, the Committee re-evaluated this design for the overflow parking area and decided to re-bid it, but in two (2) separate phases, with a variety of surfacing materials, that ranged from asphalt to rock. This approach would allow for parking area to be added, but at the least cost possible to the City and its residents. To achieve this end, the Committee allowed the Department of Planning and Parks to contact the park designer and request the plan sheets for this area be revised to reflect phasing of improvements and different materials, as add alternates. This contact was made and the Committee's direction provided to this firm.

In considering these on-going discussions in this regard, the Committee Members were advised the initial discussion with the consultant led to another conversation about a different approach being offered by the design firm. This different approach can be summarized as follows:

1. Eliminate the two (2) phased approach, given the short nature parking lot. The park designer and the Department believes the reduced size of the parking area will create an unsafe circulation pattern.
2. Provide, as the base bid, an aggregate parking lot, with concrete containment curbs around its perimeter, with wheel stops set within the pad. As part of this base bid, it would also include vertical curbs at entrances/exits of the lot.
3. Provide, as an Add Alternate #1, a design that includes vertical curbs at the entry/exit points, removes the concrete containment curbs around perimeter, while adding an asphalt surface for the entry/exit areas of lot.
4. Provide, as an Add Alternate #2, a design that includes an all concrete surface.

The park designer, along with the Committee, are hoping the aggregate (rock) surface, with containment curbs, will be significantly less expensive to construct, which would achieve the intended outcome of the previous planned phasing of this needed overflow parking area within the Glencoe Community, but enhance the circulation and safety of it for users.

Accordingly, the Planning and Parks Committee is seeking the input of the City Council on this new approach. It is important to note the Committee believed, and endorsed, this approach as acceptable. The Committee is now requesting the same support from City Council, which, if granted, would thereby allow the Department of Planning and Parks to begin the next steps in the process, which would be to advertised the project (and add alternates) to the contracting community for bid and potential construction in 2019. If the City Council does not concur with this approach, other options may exist and could be explored, thereby allowing the Planning and Parks Committee to present a different approach to the City Council at a future meeting, after its deliberations on the same are completed.

If any of the City Council Members should have questions or comments in this regard, or need additional information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. This item is on tonight's Work Session Agenda, as an Information item and can be discussed if any City Council members have questions or comments on the same. Thank you for your consideration of this information and direction on the same.

**Requested Action of City Council >>> Allow the recommended design and bidding process to proceed forward, as recommended by the Planning and Parks Committee.**

Respectfully submitted,  
**CITY OF WILDWOOD**

Debra Smith McCutchen, Chair\*  
Planning and Parks Committee

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Steve Cross, Co-Interim City Administrator  
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works  
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Gary Crews, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

- \* The Department of Planning and Parks developed this report, in conjunction with the Planning and Parks Committee. Content reflects the Committee's consideration of this subject and not necessarily an individual's position or opinion.