



WILDWOOD

June 18, 2019

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

Re: Concerns Regarding Caulks Creek Erosion Issues (Wards Two, Three, Four, Five, Seven, and Eight)

Council Members:

INTRODUCTION >>> The Planning and Parks Committee is aware a task force has been formed to address issues and rising concerns among property owners and City officials about the relative conditions of the City's nine (9) major watersheds. This task force will have a large amount of information and data to collect, then analyze, and, thereafter, use in making determined recommendations regarding runoff, erosion, and property damage, those effecting both public and private sites. Additionally, and fortunately, many of the City's watersheds are not as threatened as others, with several of them in relatively good health. However, Caulks Creek is not such a case. This watershed remains the most damaged in the City and, now lately, creating issues for private property owners. This recent spate of issues within the watershed were not necessarily expected to the degree such appears to be occurring and was the prompter for the formation of this new task force. This circumstance defines the upcoming process, aside from the eight (8) other watersheds located in the City.

IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY LOCATIONS >>> With the need for a more vigorous process for future solutions at certain locations within the Caulks Creek Watershed, the Committee wanted to identify them and believes they are priorities at this time. These priorities are locations where the erosion along its banks is threatening private properties and causing concerns about future impacts. These locations are as follows:

1. The Shiva Court Area, where armoring work is planned by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) plan for such is attached to this memorandum.
2. The Birch Forest Drive/Branchwood Drive Areas, north of the Villages at Bright Leaf development.
3. *The Evergreen Forest Drive Area, in the Evergreen Subdivision*¹.
4. The Idle Rock Farm Road Area, near Strecker Road and the municipal boundary of the City of Ellisville.
5. The Strecker Road Area, near the Strecker Forest Site.
6. *The Timber Ridge Subdivision Area, near Strecker Road*².
7. The Anniversary Park Area, where Caulks Creek has several turns to it and abuts the Elegant Child Campus.
8. The Wildwood Meadows Estates Subdivision, east of Strecker Road, which has been investigated by the Department of Planning in January of this year.

¹ Added by Committee at its June 18, 2019 meeting.

² Added by Committee at its June 18, 2019 meeting.

9. The Quaethem Road Area, which is located immediately north of the Wildwood Meadows Estates Subdivision.
10. The areas within the creek channel proper, where the City has replaced bridges and other infrastructure to determine their current statuses, now after twenty (20) years in place, in some instances.

The Planning and Parks Committee acknowledges these priority locations will likely be considered by the task force, but also believes there will be others that will be determined later within the watershed. These locations, in the Committee's opinion, need a greater level of study than a large citizen task force might be able to provide, while maintaining a reasonable time schedule. Additionally, no other watershed has the amount of development that exists today as Caulks Creek, which logically makes its consideration of greater urgency. This consideration needs to begin with the documentation of the extent of problems or issues in these identified areas and collecting information from nearby property owners to gauge the speed of erosion and other considerations therein, along with the uniqueness of the locations in terms of history.

COMMITTEE'S REQUEST >>> Given the conversations that have occurred over the last few months, the Department of Planning has scheduled a field visit of these areas for June 26, 2019, with Dr. David Hammer. The Committee's direction, unless changed by City Council, is to still proceed with this field investigation, without the benefit of the task force meeting first. The field investigation would also allow the Committee, Department of Planning, and Dr. Hammer to begin developing a pictorial record of these areas for use by the task force at a future meeting. Given the need for information, regardless of the entity utilizing it, the Committee would like to proceed.

Secondly, the Committee would also note an inventory of existing stormwater management facilities within the Caulks Creek Watershed would be beneficial, since it is its contention that many of them were constructed at a deficient standard and still do not provide the needed level of management of runoff, as required in this fragile environment. These old facilities, if not addressed, will always make decisions regarding downstream problems somewhat temporary in nature. The Committee would prefer to engage a consultant to identify the network of stormwater improvements within this watershed from its headwater location, until it exits the City in the vicinity of Strecker and Kehrs Mill Road. Committee endorsement of this direction is sought.

Finally, the conditions in Caulks Creek Watershed are complex and the dynamics of water movement are very different than in any other of the waterways that are located in Wildwood. The Committee is supportive of scheduling a presentation to the Erosion Task Force and others with Dr. Hammer to provide an explanation of the research that was conducted within this watershed for over seven (7) years and what the future holds, i.e. are there fiscally reasonable solutions to the problems that plague this waterway? If not, what might the future hold for all parties? The Committee believes this presentation would provide a great introduction to the watershed, while also being able to draw distinctions between a healthy watershed and, similarly, any that are not. This presentation would be recorded and then posted on the City's website for anyone to review.

SUMMARY STATEMENT >>> Accordingly, the Committee is presenting its direction on this matter, all in advance of the task force's first meeting, given the expediency that is needed in some of these areas, and seeking the City Council's endorsement.

CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If any of the City Council Members should have questions or comments in this regard at tonight's Works Session, they can be addressed by the Department of Planning and Parks at the discretion of the Mayor. Thank you for your consideration of this information and direction on the same.

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.

