



# WILDWOOD

July 22, 2019

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

**Re: Update on the City's Rural Internet Project**

Council Members:

The City, through its Department of Planning and Rural Internet Access Committee (RIAC), continue to work on several different initiatives relating to the extension of high-speed internet service to the underserved and non-served areas of Wildwood. Many of these initiatives have been presented to the City Council over the past years, via these regular updates from the Department, with the major current activities summarized below for the purposes of this report. These summaries are as follows:

⇒ **Committee Comments on Consultant's Preliminary Draft of the Internet Study**

The Department of Planning provided to the City Council the draft version of the consultant's report at its last meeting on July 8, 2019. The report provides eight (8) approaches to possible solutions to the high-speed internet problem that is experienced in the rural areas of this community. The Rural Internet Access Committee Members have provided comments on the report, which will be collated and provided to the consultant for consideration for inclusion within the report, before it is finalized. Along with these comments, others have reviewed the report as well and offered input on it. Certainly, if any City Council Member has thoughts or input, time remains for it to be included to the response to the consultant on this draft.

The consultant has also identified within the report its research on the availability of funding for high-speed internet that could be used for the expansion of the service network in Wildwood. This research identified a number of opportunities, including new federal programs that exist at this current time. However, none of them are available to the City, since it does not meet the necessary criteria to be considered 'rural.' The report provides a detailed analysis of this research.

⇒ **New Pole or Infrastructure Installations**

While waiting on comments on the consultant's report and the best approaches for future service, the City has continued to accept comments and suggestions from individual property owners and the two (2) wireless providers to determine future solutions to their current internet issues. These efforts have not led to any new connections. However, the information does identify areas of need for the consultant, who is now preparing the final report, along with the current service providers, to use in recommending/establishing future service approaches in these locations. Again, the Department has been somewhat on hold on any major initiative, until the findings of the consultant are published for the

community's review and comment. This hold has not lessened the problem for certain residents and they are seeking the City's assistance now, not later.

⇒ **Fiber Installation by Bays ET – Hawks Rest Subdivision**

Bays ET has just completed approximately five thousand (5,000) feet of boring through rock in the northern portion of this subdivision. Remaining installations are now in areas that are rock-free and, according to Bays ET, should move at a much faster pace. The provider hopes to complete the main conduit and fiber installations by the end of August. This completion date is now approximately four (4) months longer than originally planned and another sign of the issues of providing service in certain areas of Wildwood. However, the expansion of service can be done, it just needs committed providers to achieving the goal of providing reasonable and reliable high-speed internet service to all areas of the City.

⇒ **Previously Installed Poles – Orrville Road, by the Meridien Subdivision**

The Department will be re-initiating its efforts with Mercury Communications to address the required work on the Orrville Road internet pole, specifically its painting and lighting, per the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) request.

⇒ **Other Efforts – Meeting Results, Budget, etc.**

The Department also continues to assist individual subdivisions and residents with service requests with either Bays ET or Wisper ISP, along with providing information and guidance on extending Charter Communications (a.k.a. Spectrum) to underserved or unserved areas of Wildwood.

If any of the City Council members should have questions or comments in this regard, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for your continued support of this project and the efforts to address the needs of rural Wildwood residents.

Respectfully submitted,

**CITY OF WILDWOOD**



Joe Vujnich, Director

Department of Planning and Parks

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Steve Cross, Co-Interim City Administrator  
Rural Internet Access Committee Members  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Chris Bay, David Crabtree, and Nathan Stooke, Service Providers – Bays ET and Wisper ISP