



WILDWOOD

September 19, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning and Parks Committee Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Schedule a Ribbon Cutting Event for the New Pedestrian Bridge and Trail Segments (Ward Eight)**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor
Thomas Lee, City Administrator
John A. Young, City Attorney
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner
Kristin Naeger, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Stacy Chanski, Recreation Specialist

BACKGROUND >>> After several delays and changes in design, construction on the long-awaited pedestrian bridge commenced in January 2023. The City of Wildwood is always seeking to improve its trail network and complete these improvements as cost effectively as possible. With the development of two (2) residential subdivisions on each side of a small drainage area, i.e., the Enclaves at Cherry Hills and the Manors at the Meadows of Cherry Hills, the City requested the developers of those residential areas provide trail segments and certain funding to construct a pedestrian bridge to link all of these components together. This project was designed to bring major benefits to the area, where over four hundred (400) homes are within a short walking distance of this new trail segments and pedestrian bridge.

After planning, design, and engineering, some delays were experienced with the project, and construction, it was completed by late spring 2023. This new set of trails and bridge will link hundreds of residences together, and creates an alternative for walkers, runners, bikers, and others to the use of Manchester Road. This bridge not only increases connectivity, but also turned out to be a beautiful addition to the surrounding area. It has been very well received by the surrounding residents and the City has heard nothing but positive feedback since its opening.

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS >>> The Department believes that the final product of this long-awaited project has contributed greatly to the surrounding aesthetics and become another hidden gem in the City of Wildwood. The completion of this asset would be an excellent opportunity to organize a small ribbon-cutting celebration and invite surrounding residents and elected and appointed officials that have not yet had the opportunity to see the completed project. The Department would like to schedule this ribbon cutting in October, on a weekday evening, to celebrate the foresight of City Council in supporting projects of this nature, which benefits so many residents. If this is something the Committee supports, the Department will proceed with arranging the details.

CONTACT INFORMATION >>> If any of the Committee Members should have questions or comments before tonight's meeting, please feel free to contact any of the Department of Planning with them at (636) 458-0440. A presentation is planned on this matter at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your review and input on this information.