

MEMORANDUM

TO: Toby Futrell, City Manager

FROM: Greg Canally, Budget Officer

DATE: January 10, 2008

SUBJECT: Easements for Extending the Country Club Creek Hike & Bike Trail

Item # 50 on the January 10, 2008 Council Agenda is to approve a resolution directing the City Manager to work with the Southeast Austin Trails and Greenways Alliance (SETGA) to secure the needed easements for extending the Country Club Creek Hike & Bike Trail from Elmont Street to Oltorf Street and then identify alternative routes to connect the Hike and Bike Trail to Mabel Davis Park, and report back to City Council in 90 days.

Staff from the Public Works Department and the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) will be available to work on this effort. PARD estimates this will require 2 FTEs – 1 senior planner and 1 project manager – working approximately 40 hours total. Public Works will maintain this effort using existing staff within the department, specifically the Real Estate division. No interruptions of current projects are expected for either department. But, it should be noted that staff is presently working on Onion Creek and the Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP) easements with the anticipation of completing this effort by June 2008.

Additionally, there could be a possible fiscal impact from this item depending on the scope of the completed Country Club Creek Hike & Bike Trail plan. If easements along the projected path are not donated to the City, the City would be required to purchase those land parcels upon, reaching an agreement with the property owner(s) and / or revise the Trail plan. When the plan is completed, a cost estimate will be determined and the details reported back to Council.