

## AGENDA



Thursday, January 29, 2009

**Parks and Recreation  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 18**

---

**Subject:** Approve a resolution adopting the Lady Bird Lake Trail Enhancement Plan.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** Stuart Strong, Assistant Director, 974-6766

**Prior Council Action:** November 29, 2007, Council passed a resolution directing the City Manager to join in cooperation with the Trail Foundation for the development of a Lady Bird Lake Hike and Bike Trail Enhancement Plan. December 18, 2008 briefing to Council.

---

On November 29, 2007, Council passed a resolution directing the City Manager to develop, in concert with the Trail Foundation, a Lady Bird Lake Trail Enhancement Plan detailing needs for future trail projects, to refer the Plan for Parks Board review and to forward for City Council approval.

Work on the Trail Enhancement Plan occurred in two phases: an inventory of basic trail infrastructure improvements and a Trail Vision Plan.

In partnership with the Trail Foundation, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) prepared the Trail Enhancement Plan. PARD conducted a detailed field inventory of existing trail facilities and identified the renovations and supplemental improvements needed to meet the community's standards for a suitable trail experience. The trail inventory included an examination of the trail surface, trailhead access points, restrooms, drinking fountains, site furnishings, shelters, bridges, stairs and ramps, docks, retaining walls, observation points, trail signage and vegetation management. The inventory resulted in a list of remedial improvements needed to bring the trail up to the preferred standard.

It was estimated that the cost to renovate or supplement all of these trail facilities is \$25 million. Currently, this effort is not funded. The Plan recommends funding these improvements through future capital bond programs or Parkland Dedication fees.

The Trail Foundation, through a donation of professional services by the planning consultant RVi, prepared The Trail Vision Plan, which provides a set of community-based goals and principles for the future of the trail. The Trail Vision Plan was based on previous reports and user surveys and an April 2008 stakeholders' workshop. It proposes future, ideal trail improvements that would bring specific locations to a higher level of service. The Trail Foundation will assume responsibility for raising private funding to implement the Vision Plan elements.

The Trail Enhancement Plan, including the Vision Plan, was presented to the Parks and Recreation Board for comment on September 23, 2008 and to the Council in a briefing on December 18, 2008.

By approving this action, Council will adopt The Trail Enhancement Plan as a menu to guide future decisions in implementing trail improvements.