




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Kimberly A. McNeeley, M. Ed., CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

DATE: March 7, 2023

SUBJECT: **Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail Infrastructure Project Adjacent to Rainey Street**

This memo provides an update on the Parks and Recreation Department's (PARC) Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail infrastructure project adjacent to Rainey Street. This project's intention is to have positive safety outcomes for park visitors. The project consists of two stages; 1) an immediate temporary infrastructure installation followed by, 2) permanent infrastructure improvements. Both efforts are in cooperation with other City Departments and the Department's non-profit partner The Trail Conservancy (TTC).

Immediate Temporary Infrastructure Installation

PARC is installing temporary solar lighting in 4 locations along the Trail between the Rainey Street trailhead and the trail-side boat launch adjacent to I-35 on East Ave. Installation is anticipated by Friday, March 10, 2023. Coordination with contractors and other city Departments is needed to establish a digging plan, pour concrete foundations and install poles and lighting. The selected lighting is compliant with dark sky guidelines and wildlife friendly.

While solar lighting is an effective immediate response, a thick tree canopy limits opportunities for solar lighting; therefore, concurrent with the temporary solar lighting plan, PARC will install a split rail fence barrier between the Trail and the lake's shoreline. The successful installation of split rail fence is dependent upon contractor availability, supply availability, and site preparation coordination. Should the split rail fence be unattainable, PARC will install an alternative barrier as a short-term remedy.

PARC consulted the Watershed Protection Department, the Public Works Department and TTC to ensure flood resilience and environmental code compliance. Installation of a barrier is expected to be completed by Friday, March 10, 2023.

PARD will also install directional and informational safety signage in key locations in and around the Rainey Street trailhead and along the trail. Signage will be installed on or before March 10, 2023; locations will be evaluated as needed to integrate into the permanent infrastructure plan.

Permanent Future Infrastructure

TTC plans to launch a Rainey Street Trailhead Project at the corner of Rainey Street and Cummings. The project will include signage, a kiosk, improved lighting and other site improvements. A description of the project can be found at <https://thetrailconservancy.org/projects/rainey-street-trailhead/>.

PARD is leading a project management team to develop a permanent, future infrastructure plan for the Rainey Street trailhead area. The plan will prioritize amenity reliability by considering and recommending hard-wired lighting options, cameras installation, fencing options, signage and safety beacon installation. Multiple departments have already met to discuss research and planning. A project plan for the trail space between the future Rainey Street Trailhead and the I-35 overpass, inclusive of timeline and budget estimates, is anticipated in June 2023.

If there are any challenges that delay either schedule, PARD will provide an immediate update. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 512-974-6722 or Kimberly.mcneeley@austintexas.gov

cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager
 Jodi Jay, M.B.A., CPRP, Assistant Director
 Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, LEED Fellow, Assistant Director
 Lucas Massie, M.Ed., CPRP, Assistant Director
 Suzanne Piper, DBA, Chief Administrative Officer