

Memorandum



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To: Mike Geisel, City Administrator
From: Tom McCarthy *TM*
Director of Parks, Recreation & Arts
Date: 7/23/2019
Re: Monarch Levee Trailhead

As requested by the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee of Council, I have looked at adding a trailhead at the north end of the parking lot at the Prestige Outlet Mall for the Monarch Levee Trail.

There are a few things that we need to take into consideration when we discuss a new trailhead for the north side of the Monarch Levee Trail.

The City of Wildwood just completed their trailhead at the west end of the Monarch Levee Trail and Centaur Road. They held the grand opening on June 15th. The trailhead is really nice with 30 plus parking spaces, shaded picnic tables, bike racks, restroom facilities and great landscaping. Pictures for your review are below. I also spoke with Great Rivers Greenway and have attached layout recommendations for trails. GRG recommends trailheads every four miles, which we have for the Monarch Levee Trail on the north side of the valley. A map is attached for your review. The red dots show where we currently have trailheads on the north side of the valley on the trail. Current trail locations are adjacent to Top Golf, at the western end of the Chesterfield valley Athletic Complex and now at the Centaur/Monarch Levee Trail end. Several other things that we would need to keep in mind are that another new trailhead would add four to eight hours of additional work for a Park Maintenance employee, the budgetary cost would be in the range of \$250,000-\$650,000 depending what we put in, and we would have to get approval from the outlet mall, Levee District and the Corps of Engineers for the project.

My recommendation is that we should not put a trailhead in at the outlet mall. If the committee is still inclined to explore the option I would like to recommend that we wait at least two years to see how the Wildwood Trailhead is used. We have the needed trail heads based on GRG's layout standards for the north side of the Monarch Valley Trail. We don't have the funds for this or the staff at this time. If we were going to put in an additional trailhead anywhere, the preferred location from a user's point of view, would be over on the south side of the trail closer to where the Riparian Trail will come close to intersecting with the Monarch Levee Trail in the Old Town Chesterfield area.

With your approval I would like to move this forward to the next Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council meeting and then on the full Council and mayor if you are in favor.

FYI: City Council previously abandoned plans to construct a trail head at the MDC entrance to Howell Island.





LAYOUT STANDARDS

OVERVIEW **TRAIL DESIGN GUIDELINES** ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GUIDELINES PRE-CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION

The regular placement of nodes, furnishings and other trail elements are critical to the user experience and enjoyment of the greenways.

The table below describes the purpose of these elements and gives a recommended spacing that should be considered during the design of each segment of greenway. These spacing should be considered minimum standards and are based on input from greenway users.

TRAIL ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	PLACEMENT
GATEWAYS	Wayfinding and branding of the greenway experience	At entrances to parks At major intersections At major trailheads
MAJOR TRAILHEAD	Access point to greenway system Full-service stop along the trail Additional amenities Parking (Greater than 20 vehicles) Area to rest	Approximately every 4 miles
MINOR TRAILHEAD	Access point to greenway Parking (Less than 20 vehicles) Area to rest	Approximately every 2 miles
BENCH	Pause/rest along the route	Approximately 6 per mile (every 800')

