

MCPB Item # 1

October 8, 2003

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Jeff Zyontz, Chief, Countywide Planning Division (301-495-4557) *J.Z.*

FROM: Lyn Coleman, Trail Planning Supervisor (301-650-4391) *Lyn*
John E. Hench, Supervisor, PPRA Unit (301/650-4364) *JEH*

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF PARK TRAILS WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES: FY04-06

Staff Recommendation:

Approval of Park Trail Work Program Priorities for FY 04-06 (Attachments 1 and 2)

Staff will present an overview of key recommendations in a power point presentation.

Staff Analysis:

Earlier this year, the Planning approved an amendment to the Countywide Park Trails Plan. That amendment directs that a Trails Work Program be developed to prioritize park trail projects in the following categories:

- Trail Planning
- Trail Implementation
- Trail Support (Signage, Access, Interpretation)

The attached Trails Work Program (Attachments 1 and 2) establishes short range (3 year) priorities. Attachment 1 highlights the key projects included in the work program. Attachment 2 presents more detail on the time line for various projects.

The recommended work program:

- Reflects the Planning Board's recommendation that one trail corridor plan be completed every year.
- Reflects the Countywide Park Trails Plan recommendation that a Trail Assessment Study be completed prior to recommending completion of a natural surface trail.
- Is consistent with the Capital Improvements Program for parks
- Includes the preparation of Trail Implementation Guidelines
- Addresses the Countywide Park Trail Plan's recommendation that a variety of trails be available in different geographic areas of the county.

Highlights of Trails Work Program Priorities: FY 2004-2006

TRAIL PLANNING

The Work Program includes:

- Preparation of one Trail Corridor Plan every year:
 - FY05: Northwest Branch
 - FY06: Upcounty Trail Corridor
 - FY07: Rock Creek Corridor

- Completion of Legacy Open Space Management Plans with significant trail elements:
 - Hoyles Mill
 - Red Door Store
 - Serpentine Barrens
 - River Road Shale Barrens

- Completion of park master plans with significant trail elements:
 - Blockhouse Point CP Master Plan

- Completion of Trail Assessment Studies for natural surface trails in the following areas:
 - Olney (a neighborhood trail requested by the community)
 - Fairland Recreational Park
 - South Germantown Recreational Park
 - Rock Creek
 - Watts Branch

- Completion of the following Facility Plans for hard surface trails:
 - Magruder Branch trail extension to Damascus Blvd.
 - Black Hill Trail, Black Hill Regional Park (*approved 9/03*)

TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION

The Work Program includes:

- Completion of the following natural surface trails:
 - Seneca Greenway trail in parkland
 - Phase 1 of Muddy Branch Trail
 - Phase 1 of Rachel Carson trail system
 - Bucklodge Forest
 - Hoyles Mill
 - Given availability of staff and funds, trails with favorable Trail Assessment Studies could be added to the work program

- Initiation of the following hard surface trails:
 - Matthew Henson
 - Black Hill trail in Black Hill Regional Park
 - Clarksburg Greenway Trail (staff will coordinate construction by developers)

TRAIL SUPPORT

The Work Program includes:

- Completion of all trail maps for the web site

- Preparation of signage plans for the following:
 - Rural Legacy Trail
 - "Heart Smart" Trail, Wheaton
 - Solar System theme, Clarksburg
 - Seneca Greenway Trail
 - Rock Creek Hiker Biker Trail
 - Sligo Creek Hiker Biker Trail

- Completion of Trail Implementation Guidelines

**PARK TRAIL WORK PROGRAM
FY 04-06 PRIORITIES**

X Initiate XX In Progress XXX Complete

Prepared by PPRA, 10/08

Category	Project	FY04	FY05	FY06	Comments
Trail Plans	Publish Amended Countywide Park Trails Plan	xxx			Revise 1998 Plan to reflect Planning Board amendments and re-publish
	Publish Amended Muddy Branch Stream Valley Corridor Plan	xxx			Approved by the PB in 2002, it has never been published in final
	Blockhouse Point CP Master Plan	xxx			Public Hearing late fall 03
	Hoyles Mill Management Plan	xxx			Planning Board review 11/03
	Red Door Store Management Plan	xxx			
	Northwest Branch Trail Corridor Plan	x	xxx		Kick off meeting 10/03
	Upcounty Trail Corridor: Germantown to Damascus		x	xxx	
	Rock Creek Corridor			x	
	Serpentine Barrens Management Plan		x	xxx	
	River Road Shale Barrens Management Plan		x	xxx	

Category	Project	FY04	FY05	FY06	Comments
Natural Surface Trail Assessment Studies	(These are "stand alone" studies; others will be done in context of park and trail master plans)				
	Oliney Neighborhood Trail	xxx			Community meeting scheduled 10/03
	Fairland Holly Trail North	xxx			Trail consistent with Fairland Park master Plan
	Trail connection from Seneca Creek State Park to Rubin Property via Little Seneca SVU1 (Model Airpark)	xxx			
	Connection from Shaeffer Farm Bike Trail in Seneca St. Park to South Germantown Trail system	xxx			
	Natural surface trail in South Germantown Rec Park		xxx		Proposed trail would link Schaeffer Farm Trail to Hoyles Mill CP trail
	Rock Creek: Lake Needwood to Percheron Trail		xxx		In CIP
	Watts Branch			xxx	In CIP for restoration
	Black Hill Trail FP: renovation of existing trail	xxx			Approved by PB in 03
	Black Hill Trail FP	xxx			Approved by PB 9/03; proposed for design/construction in FY06-07
Hard Surface Trail Facility Plans	Magruder Trail FP-extension into Damascus business center	x	xxx		In approved FY03-08 CIP

Category	Project	FY04	FY05	FY06	Comments
Trail Completions: Natural Surface	Seneca Greenway Trail, Phase 4	x	xxx		Bridges purchased for this section; will be installed in FY05
	Seneca Greenway Trail, Phase 5	xxx			FINISHED
	Phase 1 Muddy Branch Trails (Rte 28 to Quince Orchard Rd)	x	xxx		CIP funds allocated for bridges (Schedule assumes sole source purchase)
	Phase 1 Rachel Carson CP trail	xxx			
	Rachel Carson CP gravel parking and info kiosks		x	xxx	7500 sf parking lot and 2 kiosks
	Olney Community Trail	x	xxx		
	Rock Creek: Lake Needwood to Percheron Trail			x	
	Fairland: Holly Trail North	x	xxx		Any bridges that are needed to be asked of developers of golf course community; dependent on OBI assessment
	Muddy Branch Trail Phase 2 Quince Orchard to C&O Canal			x	To be finished in FY 07
	Bucklodge Forest CP	x	xxx		Parking lot needed
	Hoyles Mill CP		x	xxx	
	Woodstock Special Park	xxx			Mow trails shown in master plan

Category	Project	FY04	FY05	FY06	Comments
Trail Completions: Hard Surface	Matthew Henson		x	xx	
	Milestone Path	xx	xx	xx	(Awaiting completion by developers)
	Crystal Rock Connector: To Black Hill Trail	xxx			
	Clarksburg Greenway		xx	xx	Working with developers to design, locate, build trail
Trail Related Facilities	Black Hill Regional Park: Design/construct hard surface trail			x	
	Repave/renovation of Black Hill hard surface trail east side of lake			x	
	Rock Creek Trail Pedestrian Bridge over Viers Mill Road			x	
Trail Related Facilities	Construct Cabin John RP Trail Stairs	xxx			
	Design and construct trail bridge over Ten Mile Creek	xxx			
	Construct and install information kiosks, signs and gravel parking lots	xx	xx	xx	1. Seneca Greenway 2. Northwest Branch 3. Rural Legacy 4. Cabin John 5. Parking lot at Bucklodge Forest 6. Hoyles Mill (not in priority order)

Category	Project	FY04	FY05	FY06	Comments
Trail Maps	Continue preparation of maps for Trails web site	xx	xx	xx	
Trail Signage, Access and Interpretation Plans for natural surface trails	Review and update as needed Park Sign Manual section on signage for Natural Surface Trails	x	xxx		
	Rural Legacy Trail: Sandy Spring	xxx			
	"Heart Smart" Trail, Wheaton Reg'l Park		xxx		In partnership with County health dept
Trail Signage Plans	Solar System Theme for Clarksburg Greenway	xx	xxx		Being done in conjunction with design/construction of trail by developers
	Sligo Creek Trail	xxx			
	Rock Creek Trail		xxx		
Trail Implementation Guidelines	Compile trail construction guidelines for use by developers, volunteer groups, consultants	xx	xxx		