

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: May 5, 2009

TITLE: Progress Report on the Bolin Creek Greenway and Morgan Creek Greenway Projects

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO _ X _
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Greenway planning timeline C. Public workshop flyers	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Adena Messinger, Transportation Planner - 918-7329 Randy Dodd, Environmental Planner – 918-7326 Brendan Moore, CRPD Facilities Administrator 918-7392

PURPOSE

This agenda item serves to update the Board of Aldermen on the planning work that is underway for both the Bolin Creek Greenway and Morgan Creek Greenway projects.

INFORMATION

In 2003 the citizens of Carrboro approved a bond referendum that included funds to be allocated to the planning and construction of two greenways: one in the Bolin Creek corridor and one in the Morgan Creek corridor. That same year the Town sought, and was granted, funds from the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization to help fund the planning and construction of the greenways.

In June 2007 the Board established the Greenways Commission to guide the planning of the greenways. The Greenways Commission began meeting in January 2008 and has since been advancing the greenways projects. The consulting firm Greenways Incorporated is preparing the conceptual plan for the Bolin Creek greenway; and the consulting firm Coulter, Jewell, and Thames is preparing the conceptual plan for the Morgan Creek greenway.

Attachment B shows a timeline of the planning work that has been accomplished, as well as upcoming milestones for the projects. Included among the next steps are two public input workshops. A workshop for the Bolin Creek greenway will be held on May 20th at the Homestead community Center, from 4:30 – 7:30 PM. Since the scope of work for the Bolin Creek greenway includes a conceptual plan for a greenway along Jones Creek (from the lake Hogan Farms trail to the future trail that will lead to Morris Grove Elementary), alignments for this section will be on display as well.

A workshop for the Morgan Creek greenway will be held on June 15th at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School, from 4:30 – 7:00 PM. Each project will have another public workshop later this year, in the fall. Attachment C include a flyers for each worksop.

Examples of the recent work completed by the consultants can be found on the Greenways Commission website:

<http://www.townofcarrboro.org/AdvBoards/Greenways/default.htm>.

These include the Bolin Creek Existing Conditions Report:

<http://www.townofcarrboro.org/AdvBoards/Greenways/PDF/BCG-ExConditionsRpt.pdf>

and the Morgan Creek Existing Conditions Report:

<http://www.townofcarrboro.org/AdvBoards/Greenways/PDF/MorganCreekExistingConditions0409.pdf>

On a related note, Orange County is moving forward at an accelerated schedule to install a greenway trail from Morris Grove Elementary School to the southern boundary of the Twin Creeks Park property. They are seeking stimulus funds via the MPO for this greenway.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACTS

The planning for both greenway projects is being funded through the Town's sidewalk and greenway bond as well as through the Metropolitan Planning Organization's STP-DA funding resource. The total planning budget for both projects is \$125,000; of which \$25,000 is funded through the bond and \$100,000 is funded through the STP-DA funds.

In addition to planning funds, the Town has identified construction funds in the amount of \$1.6 million. The specific project amounts and funding sources are identified in the table below. Note that it is likely that the construction estimates below do not reflect the full construction costs. At the conclusion of the conceptual planning phase, the Town will have updated cost estimates that are based on the preferred alignments.

Project Name	Construction Estimate	STP-DA	Town Share (20%) - bond funds	Town Share (20%) - unfunded
Bolin Creek Greenway	\$737,500	\$590,000	\$147,500	
Morgan Creek Greenway	\$600,000	\$480,000	\$120,000	
Jones Creek Greenway	\$268,375	\$214,700 (FY11)		\$53,657
Total	\$1,605,875	\$1,284,700	\$267,500	\$53,657

Three staff members serve as liaisons to the Greenways Commission and work closely with the consultants on both projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board receive the update on the current greenway planning projects.