

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.: D(1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

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

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Staff memo	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: RANDY DODD, 918-7326 BRENDAN MOORE, 918-7392 PATRICIA MCGUIRE, 918-7327

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.

On May 5, 2009, the Board of Aldermen received a report on the progress of the conceptual design processes, including the plans for public workshops in May and early June at which alternative trail alignments were to be presented. The Greenways Commission has since been working with the consultants to evaluate public input on the alternatives and other information towards the selection of a preferred alignment for the greenway in each corridor.

A staff memo is attached which includes details of progress to date and plans for completion of the conceptual plans. A workshop for the Bolin Creek greenway will be held on September 21st at the Century 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 October 19th. Recent work completed by the consultants can be found on the Greenways Commission website: <http://www.townofcarrboro.org/AdvBoards/Greenways/ResourceInfo.htm>.

In a related matter, 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. Additionally, staff have initiated a request for greenways trail funding for the MI Homes property.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT:

The planning budget for these greenways projects is \$145,000, of which \$100,000 is being provided through the Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Surface Transportation Project – Direct Allocation (DCHC MPO STP-DA) funds. The local fiscal impact is \$45,000, of which \$44,000 is funded through the sidewalk and greenway bond and \$1,000 through local revenue.

In addition to planning funds, the Town has planned for construction funds in the amount of \$1.6 million. The specific project amounts and funding sources are identified in the table below as reported in the current FY2009-2010 CIP (Carrboro’s Capital Improvement Program). Preliminary cost estimates are in preparation; initial evaluation reveals that these estimates, which include additional trail length and environmental restoration in certain areas, exceed the funds currently identified and /or allocated. At the conclusion of the conceptual planning phase, the Town will have updated cost estimates that are based on the final 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

The cost of the Jones Creek to Twin Creeks Park greenway connection has been estimated as approximately \$300,000. A 20 percent match (\$60,000) will be required in FY 2015 if approved as proposed by the TAC. No source for this funding has been identified.

Staff support is provided to the Greenways Commission in its work on these projects and directly in administration of the conceptual design processes for both greenways. Staff support is provided regularly by the Recreation and Parks Department and the Planning Department staff assigned to the Greenways Commission. Assistance from other staff is provided as it is needed.

RECOMMENDATION: Town staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen accept the attached staff memo and resolution.