

# APPENDIX 7

## Five Year Action Plan

# **Champaign Park District**

## **Trails Master Plan**

**5 Year Action Plan**

**Completed by**  
**Trails Cross Department Team**  
**March 2017**

## **PROCESS**

This Champaign Park District Trails Master Plan was created in partnership with the Regional Planning Commission and made recommendations for a proposed trail system for the Champaign Park District and its partners to implement in Champaign. The recommendations were based upon the previous steps of the planning process, which include public outreach activities and research and analysis of the Champaign parks and trails. All possible alternatives for the trail system were presented throughout these processes and have gone through consultation and updating. The recommendations presented were aligned with the overall goals and objectives of this plan. Besides public consultation, these results are a collaboration between CUUATS staff and Champaign Park District staff, as well as direction from the Champaign Park District Trails Master Plan (CPD TMP) steering committee.

As part of the process in developing the new 2016-2019 Champaign Park District Strategic Plan, the Park District staff created Cross Department Teams to work on the various goals within the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. One of the goals included is the implementation action plan of the new Trails Master Plan created by the Regional Planning Commission.

The Trails Cross Department Team taking direction from the Board of Commissioners developed the following five year action plan from the recommendations within the CPD Trails Master Plan. The committee worked hard at developing a plan that would be feasible but also allow the Park Board the flexibility of adding or removing projects. The plan focuses on projects that can be completed within a five year time frame.

### **The Trails Cross Department Team includes the following Staff:**

Bailey Walden, Operations

Joe DeLuce, Administration

Melissa Place, Accounting

Nate Massey, Operations

Neil Sudduth, Operations

Phil Dodd, Operations

Shannon Meissner, Recreation

Tim Schuldt, Operations

Christopher Wendt, Aquatics

Wendy Zindars, Risk Management

## Trails Master Plan: 5 Year Action Plan

**Trail Rehabilitation** The Greenbelt Bikeway trail under Interstate 72 between Heritage and Kaufman Parks should be rehabilitated. This 0.2 mile trail closure breaks up a 2 mile linear trail connecting three community parks in west Champaign. This was the most requested improvement at both public workshops for this plan. CPD will have to coordinate with IDOT and the Canadian National Railroad to rehabilitate this section of closed trail.

- Engineering Firm evaluating the possible solutions and estimated cost, determine the appropriate solution and develop a plan of action, determine the priority for this projects versus other capital projects and determine possible grant opportunities as possible funding source for this project.
- Estimated Project Cost: **\$500,000**      **Alternate Bridge addition \$300,000**

**Flashing Lights** It is recommended that flashing lights for motorists be installed at the following trail crossings. The City of Champaign could be a possible partner on this project.

- Mattis Avenue at the Roby/Simon Trail, just south of Kirby Avenue, Springfield Avenue (IL 10) at the Greenbelt Bikeway in Kaufman Park, Bradley Avenue at the crossing between Dodds and Heritage Parks on the Greenbelt Bikeway Trail.
- Estimated Project Cost: **\$50,000**

**Trail Crossing Improvements** It is recommended that the City of Champaign install Trail Crossing Signs to increase motorist visibility of trail users at the following intersections:

- Broadmoor Drive at Simon Trail, Mattis Avenue at Roby/Simon Trail, Crescent Drive at Roby Trail and Kenwood Road at O'Malley's Alley Trail.
- Estimated Project Cost: **\$10,000**

**Trail Bridge Replacement** The Roby Trail Bridge over the Phinney Branch needs to be replaced. The width does not meet the minimum recommended 8' trail width. The bridge approaches accumulate mud easily. The bridge has no railings. When the Phinney Branch water levels rise, water floods the bridge.

- Estimated Project Cost: **\$200,000**

### Trail Widening and Repairs to Existing Trails and Paths

The following existing CPD trails need to be widened to a preferred recommended 8' width or need repairs to the concrete. Widening shared-use paths will properly facilitate bi-directional and multi-modal traffic. The committee is recommending the priority for these improvements include:

- Roby Trail, Simon Trail, and Turnberry Ridge Trail.
- Estimated Project Cost: **These cost estimates come from the Implementation Table on page 127 of the CPD Trails Plan:**
- **Roby Trail: \$294,003**

- Simon Trail: \$126,081
- Turnberry Ridge Trail: \$301,442
- Total Estimated Cost: \$721,526**

**Support Amenities** Provide support amenities for trails: benches, lighting, mile markers, trail signs, waste receptacles, and water fountains.

- Estimated Project Cost:
  - Bench: \$700 each
  - Lighting: \$3,600 each
  - Mile Markers: \$161 each
  - Trail Signs: \$161 each
  - Waste Receptacles: \$350 each
  - Water Fountains: \$2,685 each (source: [GlobalIndustrial.com](http://GlobalIndustrial.com) – pedestal mounted outdoor drinking fountain w/ pet fountain)
- Estimated Project Cost: \$10-20,000 per year for the next 5 years

**Proposed Loop Trails** As part of the CPD Strategic Plan Vision 2020, the goal to develop trails included a directive to add loop trails inside parks. Loop trails will provide a wider variety of options for people to tour Champaign parks, thereby exercising and experiencing the natural beauty of the parks while using the trails.

- Estimated Project Cost: \$1,150,000 for the four loop trails listed below.

**New loop trails are recommended in the following parks:**

**Zahnd Park** Length: 0.85 miles, Existing Section: 0 miles, Proposed Section: 0.85 miles, Description: Shared-use trails are proposed around the baseball fields and detention basin on the east side of the park. Connections are proposed to the Stephens Family YMCA and Fields South Drive. Recommendation: Shared-Use Trails (Long-Term) Connecting Facilities: Windsor Road Bike Lanes (Proposed), Staley Road Bike Lanes (Proposed), Zahnd- YMCA Paths (Proposed), Curtis Road Interchange Bike/Pedestrian Bridge (Proposed) Other nearby Destinations: Stephens Family YMCA, Windsor West Apartments.

- Estimated Project Cost: \$300,000

**Champaign Bark District** Length: 0.31 miles, Existing Section: 0 miles, Proposed Section: 0.31 miles of gravel or crushed rock trail, Description: A dog walking path is proposed around the perimeter of the enclosed large dog section of the Champaign Bark District dog park. This path will be for the exclusive use of pedestrians with dogs. Recommendation: Dog Walking Path (Long-Term), Connecting Facilities: Windsor Road Bike Lanes (Proposed).

- Estimated Project Cost: \$200,000

**Noel Park** Length: 0.52 miles, Existing Section: 0 miles, Proposed Section: 0.52 miles, Description: A shared-use trail is proposed around the perimeter of the park for neighborhood residents to use for exercise. Recommendation: Shared-Use Trail (Long-Term), Other nearby Destinations: Windsor Galleria, Devonshire South subdivision.

- Estimated Project Cost: **\$250,000**

**Spalding Park** Length: 0.83 miles, Existing Section: 0 miles, Proposed Section: 0.83 miles, Description: Shared-use trails are proposed around the park upon the renovation of this park. The Spalding- Mini Park 8 Connector Trail across the Norfolk Southern Railroad to connect Spalding Park to Mini Park 8 is also recommended. Recommendation: Shared-Use Trails (Long-Term), Connecting Facilities: Harris Avenue Bike Route (Proposed), Elm Street Bike Route (Proposed), Rail-Trails (Proposed), Other nearby Destinations: Franklin Middle School, Judah Christian School, Mini Park 8, Stratton Elementary School.

- Estimated Project Cost: **\$400,000**

**Proposed Linear Trails** As part of the CPD Strategic Plan Vision 2020, the goal to develop trails included a directive to develop connecting trails in greenway corridors to connect as many parks as possible. Both intrapark and interpark linear trails offer the same health, nature, and recreational benefits of loop trails.

**Dodds Park** Length: 1.93 miles, Existing Section: 1.32 miles, Proposed Sections: 0.61 miles, Description: Shared-use trails are proposed in the Dodds Park Soccer Complex on the south side of the park to create more accessible pathways for the complex. It is recommended to extend the Greenbelt Bikeway north along the Copper Slough and east along the Norfolk Southern Railroad to connect to the Garden Hills RR ROW. Recommendations: Shared-Use Trails (Long-Term), Connecting Facilities: Greenbelt Bikeway (Existing), Dodds Park Path (Existing), Parkland Way Bike Route (Proposed), Garden Hills Rail-Trail (Proposed), Other nearby destinations: Parkland College.

- Estimated Project Cost: **\$300,000**

**Bike Parking Recommendations** Bike parking spaces should be installed in all Champaign community parks, neighborhood parks, and CPD facilities where they do not already exist. These park classifications and facilities have the longest length of stay and have the most features that attract visitors. Those visitors should have a safe place to secure a bicycle, for those already arriving by bike, and to attract others to do so. Bike parking should follow the accepted standards. Existing CPD bike parking that does not meet these standards for acceptable types and proximity to the main entrance of CPD facilities should be replaced. Bike parking spaces should be installed in the following locations:

**Community Parks:** Eisner Park and Heritage Park

**Neighborhood Parks:** Garden Hills Park, Millage Park, Morrissey Park, Mullikin Park, Noel Park, Powell Park, and Toalson Park

**CPD Facilities:** Kaufman Park Boathouse

## Miscellaneous Improvements

**Bresnan Meeting Center:** Implement the plan to improve the accessibility to the entrance to the Bresnan Meeting Center from the parking lot.

**Trail Grants:** Apply for various trail grants as they become available to assist with accomplishing the five year trails master plan.

**Education Recommendations:** Education and awareness of bicyclists, motorists and pedestrians is vital to increasing bicycling and walking while improving safety and encouraging trail use. It is important to educate not only the bicyclists and pedestrians but motorists as well, so that each group will be aware of their legal rights and responsibilities, safety precautions they can take, and be cognizant of other users.

**Map Updates and Distribution:** Continue updating and distributing maps with existing bicycle and trail facilities as the network continues to grow, including but not limited to: Champaign County Greenways and Trails Map, and the Champaign-Urbana Bike Guide & Map. Produce an online map or mobile application with existing trails. Work with existing online map sources (e.g. Google) to ensure accuracy of existing trails. Potential Partners: CCB, Ride Illinois, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), Champaign Park District, City of Champaign, mobile app developers, and Google.

**Availability of Materials in Other Languages:** Make bicycle education, encouragement, and enforcement materials available on municipal agency websites in at least 1 language besides English. Potential Partners: Champaign Park District, City of Champaign, Champaign Unit #4 School District, CUMTD, CCRPC, CCB.

**Public Participation:** Continue to provide at least one opportunity per new trail or bikeway project for citizens to express concerns over trail or bicycling issues and public reaction to new treatments. Potential Partners: Champaign Park District Board; City of Champaign.

**Bicycle Safety Town:** Identify an approximately 5 acre location in Champaign- Urbana to install a permanent bicycle safety town, with a closed course designed to allow children to learn and practice how to safely and legally bicycle on streets. Potential Partners: Champaign Park District, Champaign Unit #4 School District, Urbana Park District, City of Champaign, City of Urbana, and CUMTD.

**Encouragement Recommendations:** Promotion programs are also important to promote and encourage the use of trails and on-street connection facilities. Encouraging people to bike or walk more improves air quality by reducing the number of cars, and improves health among residents. Encouragement recommendations include:

**Trail & Bike Route Signage:** Install standardized trail signage along off-road bikeways and trails, and standardized bike route signage along on-road bikeways only, using local and nationally accepted design standards including the Champaign County Greenways & Trails Design Guidelines. All signs should include destination, distance and/or time: Potential Partners: Champaign Park District, City of Champaign, University of Illinois, and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD).

**National Trails Day:** Work with neighborhood groups and school communities to celebrate National Trails Day in various areas of Champaign on the first Saturday in June, including a fun run and/or bike ride along trails within and between parks. Potential Partners: Champaign Park District, neighborhood groups, schools.

**Public-Private Partnerships:** Engage local businesses in trail maintenance (e.g. adopt-a-trail, adopt-a-mile, trail cleanup days) and/or trail encouragement events (e.g. fun runs, bike rides, trail dedications), especially businesses adjacent to trails (e.g. Jimmy John's, Amdocs, Intel, Fox Development). Potential Partners: Champaign Park District, businesses (e.g. Jimmy John's, Amdocs, Intel, Fox Development), Champaign Center Partnership.

**Public Art:** Install public art along trails throughout Champaign, especially in community and neighborhood parks and along long trails. Potential Partners: Champaign Park District, Public Art League.

**Enforcement Recommendations:** Enforcement tactics are necessary to create a safe environment for bicycling and walking when using the trail and road system. These recommendations aim to compel public obedience to exercise trail etiquette, follow rules of the road, and to reduce common car-bike and car-pedestrian collision types at trail crossings and road crossings near parks. Recommendations are ranked by public priority.

**Trail Safety & Security:** Create partnership between the Champaign Park District and the Champaign Police Department to promote safety and security of existing and proposed trail facilities. Potential Partners: Champaign Park District, and the Champaign Police Department.

**Off-Campus Light the Night Event:** Pursue opportunities such as the National Night Out celebration to install free bike lights in the fall in other areas of Champaign, especially low-income neighborhoods, coupled with an education component, to keep bicyclists compliant with bike light and riding laws. Potential Partners: Champaign Park District, City of Champaign, CCB, The Bike Project (TBP), and neighborhood groups.

**Evaluation Recommendations:** Various qualities of the trail and bikeway system should be assessed regularly for success and improvement. This section proposes some evaluation procedures:

**Trail Counts:** Conduct counts before and after trails and bikeways are installed. Potential Partners: Champaign Park District, CCRPC, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the City of Champaign.

**Annual Performance Measure Assessment:** Identify a lead Champaign Park District staff member(s) to assess the progress of this plan's goals and objectives using this plan's performance measures, as projects occur and/or each year after January 1st. Submit a report to the



Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners, post it to the Champaign Park District website, and incorporate information into the press release about completed and current trail construction projects.

### **Champaign Park District Trails Master Plan High Priority Recommendations**

- 1. Rehabilitate Greenbelt Bikeway crossing under I-72 Coordination**
- 2. Flashing Lights: It is recommended that flashing lights for motorists be installed at the following trail crossing: Springfield Avenue (IL 10) at the Greenbelt Bikeway in Kaufman Park**
- 3. Spalding Park Shared-use trails are proposed around the park upon the renovation of this park.**
- 4. Provide support amenities for trails: benches, lighting, mile markers, trail signs, waste receptacles, and water fountains.**