



MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Development Commission

FROM: Gregory Montes, Senior Planner, PARD

DATE: October 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Southern Walnut Creek Hike & Bike Trail
C14-2011-0082 and NPA-2011-0016.01

The subject zoning and plan amendment applications have been submitted in order to facilitate development of connecting segments to the Southern Walnut Creek Hike and Bike Trail. These connections are a part of the overall master plan for the Walnut Creek Trail System. The trail system is designed as a 16 mile concrete trail from Balcones District Park in northwest Austin to Govalle Neighborhood Park in east Austin. The majority of funding for the project comes from U.S. Department of Transportation and is managed jointly by the City of Austin Public Works Department and the Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

This southern segment of the trail project consists of a 7.3 mile trail that will begin in Walnut Creek Park, which is located at Johnny Morris Road & Daffan Lane in northeast Austin and end in Govalle Neighborhood Park. The entire trail will be 10' wide with 2' shoulders and be constructed of concrete and composite decking. Bridges, culvert crossings and parking improvements are also proposed as part of this project. The proposed trail will cross under three existing roads: Loyola Lane, F.M. 969, Ed Bluestein and crosses at grade at Jain Lane. Access for local residents will also be provided via trailhead connections in adjacent neighborhoods. City staff has met with and received the support of many of the affected neighborhoods.

Recently, PARD staff received questions concerning the potential for housing development on parkland. PARD staff maintains that parkland is protected by state laws and City charter from projects that may sell, lease, convey or otherwise alienate said parkland from its intended purpose. It was recommended that the neighborhood work with the City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department in order to assist in finding more suitable locations for housing developments.

If you have further questions, or need further information, please contact Gregory Montes at: 974-9458 or at gregory.montes@austintexas.gov

cc: Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department
Chris Yanez, Principal Planner, Parks and Recreation Department