



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Prussing and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** William R. Gray, Public Works Director  
Gale L. Jamison, Assistant City Engineer  
**DATE:** May 14, 2008  
**RE:** Boneyard Master Plan (Main Street to University Avenue Segment)

### Introduction

Late in 2006 it was determined that a master planning effort would be desirable and appropriate for the Downtown Urbana stretch of the Boneyard Creek. Staff solicited Statements of Qualifications and Proposals from consultants locally and nationally. In the spring of 2007 a contract with WENK Associates was executed for the preparation of a Master Planning document for the Boneyard Creek through downtown Urbana between Main Street and University Avenue. The scope of the planning effort addressed the following key issues:

- Create pedestrian connectivity between Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods and commercial developments.
- Enhance the physical appearance of the creek through improvements such as naturalization, landscaping, bank stabilization, and other amenities, while maintaining the creek's primary drainage function.
- Provide opportunities to add fencing, lighting, overlooks, and/or public art within the corridor.
- Facilitate adjacent property uses and create urban design standards for public and private development along the creek.
- Create an end product with a community-wide use.

Five broad goals shaped the Master Plan:

- Enhance the Local Community
- Create a Network of Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections
- Protect and Enhance Wildlife and Habitat
- Improve Flood Control and Water Quality
- Provide Spaces for Active and Passive Recreation

The public and adjacent property owners were involved in the master planning effort through a series of public forums and focused key stakeholders meetings. The consultant established 5 planning segments for the study reach based on the characteristics of the channel and adjacent development and potential development. They developed concepts which were presented to the public and stakeholders through public presentations and to key stakeholders and staff, individually and by group. The proposed plans for each segment explore near term solutions for improved beautification, access, safety and ecological conditions of the creek. The Master Plan also examines and develops concepts for future redevelopment scenarios with a 25-year vision, showing the link between a revitalized Boneyard Creek and the future relationships that might be created with new urban redevelopments. The comments and input received were considered and incorporated into the Master Plan as appropriate and the final draft of the Master Plan was presented to the public in an open house format and to the City Council on April 14, 2008 and to the Plan Commission on May 8, 2008. Electronic copies were provided to the Council and Plan Commission at those meetings. The document has also been and is currently available on the City Website, [www:/city.urbana.il.us/](http://www:/city.urbana.il.us/), under "What's New" .

The Master Plan is intended to transform the Boneyard Creek through the Downtown Urbana reach to a place for people and a destination for the local community with places for leisure and enjoyment. The plan creates a system of small parks and open spaces connected by a continuous linear trail. The Master Plan will provide a tool to be utilized with development and redevelopment as it occurs along the corridor. The Master Plan provides spaces for public art and public interaction. At the suggestion of Councilperson Roberts, the plan for Segment 1 just north of Main Street, will include recognition of the location of the first settlement home in the City of Urbana.

The Master Plan is intended to be a vision rather than a regulatory document. More detailed studies will be necessary to implement this plan, and those additional studies may lead to the City modifying this vision based on engineering and other technical aspects of the drainage way.

Upon approval of the Master Plan, the next course of action would be for staff to develop a consultant contract for the design development phase of the project. The consultant working with all interested stakeholders will prepare more detailed design elements and cost estimates for the plan segments. Those design elements would be used with focused project nodes or in conjunction with localized redevelopment plans.

Funding has been identified in the CIP and current and proposed budgets for preparation of the detailed design development plans.

### **Council Action**

It is recommended that the attached RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BONEYARD MASTER PLAN (Main Street to University Avenue Segment) be approved.

Staff is seeking, by motion, direction to proceed with entering into a design development contract with WENK & Associates.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-05-021R**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BONEYARD CREEK MASTER PLAN**

**(Main Street to University Avenue Segment)**

WHEREAS, the Boneyard Creek is the principal drainage way within the City of Urbana; and

WHEREAS, the Boneyard Creek Commission was created in 1976 with the goal of developing the Boneyard Creek as a multi-purpose community asset for watershed management, recreation and urban beautification; and

WHEREAS, to achieve this goal, the Commission in 1978 adopted a Boneyard Creek Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana's 2005 Comprehensive Plan includes a goal to "protect and beautify existing waterways" and an objective to "redevelop parts of Boneyard Creek to provide natural and public amenities"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana's 2005 Comprehensive Plan additionally includes a strategy to conduct a special study to create a "beautification design for the Boneyard Creek"; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana City Council's adopted common goals include a goal to create and implement a redevelopment plan for the Boneyard Creek, especially from Race Street to Vine Street; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana contracted with Wenk Associates, Inc. of Denver who, with support from the City and the Boneyard Creek Commission,

prepared a supplemental Boneyard Creek Master Plan for the segment extending between Main Street on the west and University Avenue on the east; and

WHEREAS, the supplemental Boneyard Creek Master Plan has been created with substantial public input, including from property owners, business owners, and residents in the area of Boneyard Creek.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the *Boneyard Creek Master Plan* for the Main Street to University Avenue segment, as attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, is hereby approved.

PASSED by the City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
2008.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2008.

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Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor