



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Bruce Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, AICP, Director

DATE: April 15, 2004

SUBJECT: Champaign County Greenways & Trails Plan

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to request Council consideration of an endorsement for the Greenways and Trails Plan. The Champaign County Greenways & Trails Plan was completed and was officially approved by the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) during February 2004. The Plan is a countywide document, created by the coordinated efforts of the Champaign County Regional Plan Commission (CCRPC) and its member agencies. It plans for future greenway and trails in the County and sets a policy framework for prompting them over the next 20 years. The City of Urbana was a contributing agency through funding and Steering Committee Membership.

Planning Process & Summary

Throughout the planning process the Steering Committee decided to take a comprehensive approach and include specific goals, objectives, and implementation activities for projects on a regional, local and neighborhood level. It was recommended that the Plan also prioritize future projects to encourage their completion. The entire planning process occurred from April of 2002 to October of 2003.

The public was included throughout the planning process via workshops, resident surveys, comment cards, and focus groups. Throughout this effort, each member agency updated their Greenway and facility inventories, created and processed a survey, renewed implementation goals, created new maps and identified and prioritized county greenways and trails for the next 20 years. The overall plan is divided into eight major categories: Introduction, Vision, Background, Planning Process, Existing Conditions, Issues and Forces, Goals and Objectives, and Implementation activities.

GT Plan Goals

The following goals are found in the plan and include objectives and activities that are the

means for achieving those goals:

Goal 1. All Champaign County residents will be provided with a system of bikeways, bicycle routes, pedestrian paths, trails, and other greenways that provides connections between residences, schools and workplaces, other travel modes, major activity centers, and recreational sites.

Goal 2. All Champaign county residents will be provided with a greenways and trails system that emphasizes safety and user-friendliness.

Goal 3. All residents will be provided with a greenways and trails system that emphasizes efficiency, mobility, and convenience.

Goal 4. The development and operation of greenways and trails will preserve and enhance the natural environment.

Goal 5. Planning and implementation of all greenways and trails system projects will be done in a coordinated manner emphasizing rational and cost-effective measures that promote the economic vitality of Champaign County and its residents.

Each set of goals, objectives and actions include a list of benchmarks that will help the County and the Greenways and Trails Committee measure the success of the Plan over time.

Relationship to Update of Urbana Comprehensive Plan

The Greenways and Trail Plan is a dynamic document will continue to change on a yearly basis based on the planning forces in each agency. The existing and proposed future trails identified in this Greenways and Trails Plan have been incorporated into the Draft Future Land Use Maps that are currently being reviewed by the public and the Steering Committee for the Urbana Comprehensive Plan Update. During the Comprehensive Plan Update, elements of the County Greenways and Trails Plan that pertain to the City of Urbana should be included in the future land use maps and also within the text of the Transportation section.

Recommendation for Endorsement

Staff will present the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan in a Study Session on May 10, 2004. This will be an opportunity for the City Council to learn about the plan and to forward any comments to the Regional Plan Commission if necessary. The goal of the study session is to seek a resolution of plan endorsement by the City Council. On April 22, 2004, the Urbana Plan Commission held a study session to discuss the plan and provided Staff with positive comments that the Plan was long overdue and that they were pleased that Urbana had many projects that were listed as high priorities within the plan.

The Draft Greenways & Trails Plan can be accessed and printed in Adobe .pdf format at <http://www.ccrpc.org/greenways/index.html>. Paper copies will also be provided to Council

Members if requested, please contact Michaela Oktay, Senior Planner if you wish to obtain a CD or hard copy of the Plan.

Attachments:

Draft Resolution

Greenways & Trails Plan Timeline (not in digital format)

Prioritized Projects (not in digital format)

Proposed Trail Map (not in digital format)

Resolution No. 2004-05-013R

Resolution of support of the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan.

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana is a member agency of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana participated in the drafting of the 1999 "Natureways, Bikeways and Trails Plan" and an update of that plan, the "Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan"; and

WHEREAS, the "Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan" was approved by the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Board in February of 2004; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana encourages interagency cooperation to facilitate a planning effort for a comprehensive Champaign County trail system; and

WHEREAS, the "Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan" will be an integral part of the Comprehensive Plan Update for the City as existing and proposed future trails will be incorporated into the Future Land Use Maps and goals of the county plan that pertain to the City of Urbana will be included in the text portion of the Transportation section; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana City Council desires to express its support for the "Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Urbana; support the "Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, shall be sent to the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission and the Champaign County Board.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of May, 2004

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of May, 2004

Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor