



Agenda Report 2014-08-11-05

Date: July 31, 2014

To: John Kovash, Mayor
Members, West Linn City Council

From: Lance Calvert, Public Works Director

Through: Kirsten Wyatt, Assistant City Manager *KW*

Subject: Ballot measure to approve pedestrian and bike improvements along Skyline Drive

Purpose

The Bolton Reservoir project design includes a sidewalk and paved bike lane along Skyline Drive. These future improvements would require the use of the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park, which is approximately 2,700 feet long.

Question(s) for Council:

Should the Council place a ballot measure on the November election to allow citizens to consider whether the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park should be used to provide pedestrian and bike access along Skyline Drive?

Public Hearing Required:

None required.

Background & Discussion:

The outreach for the Bolton Reservoir Project and the “West Linn Moves” social media campaign for the Transportation System Plan have resulted in several public requests for better pedestrian access along Skyline Drive and around Wilderness Park so that residents and youth in the area can travel to and from West Linn High School. Similarly, the public involvement process for the 2013 West Linn Trails Plan revealed that citizens find safe routes to local schools to be lacking, making it difficult for all but the closest neighbors to walk or bike safely. These requests are not surprising because the 2008 City of West Linn Transportation System Plan (“TSP”) found that there is limited pedestrian connectivity with significant gaps in the sidewalk network that results in residential areas not being consistently connected to commercial centers, bus routes, schools, or other pedestrian destinations. The TSP identifies sidewalks and bike lanes along the portion of Skyline Drive that forms the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park as a priority.

Constructing bike and pedestrian improvements along Skyline Drive poses some challenges because additional space is necessary to accommodate the needed improvements. Skyline Drive is bounded by residential properties on the north side of the street and Wilderness Park on the south side of the street. The City will need to utilize the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park to properly grade the area and construct pedestrian and bike facilities. To comply with Chapter XI, Section 46, of the West Linn City Charter there must be a public vote to determine if Wilderness Park land should be used to construct pedestrian and bike facilities. The pedestrian and bike improvements have not been designed; so, the exact location of the impact to the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park has yet to be determined.

Budget Impact:

None. Future cost of improvements has yet to be determined.

Council Options:

1. Pass a resolution authorizing a ballot measure to consider utilizing the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park for pedestrian and bike access.
2. Do not pass a resolution authorizing a ballot measure to consider utilizing the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park for pedestrian and bike access.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Council move to approve Resolution 2014-11 authorizing the ballot measure.

Potential Motion:

Council: *Move to approve Resolution 2014-11, "A Resolution to Submit a Measure to Voters to Authorize Pedestrian and Bike Access in the Northern Perimeter of Wilderness Park Connecting West Linn High School to Residential Areas."*

Attachments:

1. Resolution 2014-11
2. Map

RESOLUTION NO. 2014 – 11

A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A MEASURE TO VOTERS TO AUTHORIZE PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE ACCESS IN THE NORTHERN PERIMETER OF WILDERNESS PARK CONNECTING WEST LINN HIGH SCHOOL TO RESIDENTIAL AREAS

WHEREAS, Wilderness Park is a city-owned park located south of Skyline Drive and northwest of West Linn High School;

WHEREAS, the 2008 City of West Linn Transportation System Plan (“TSP”) found that there is limited pedestrian connectivity with significant gaps in the sidewalk network that results in residential areas not being consistently connected to commercial centers, bus routes, schools, or other pedestrian destinations (TSP 5-1);

WHEREAS, the 2013 West Linn Trails Plan (“WLTP”) public involvement process revealed that citizens find safe routes to local schools to be lacking, making it difficult for all but the closest neighbors to walk or bike safely (WLTP 15);

WHEREAS, there is a current need for designated bike and pedestrian routes in key bicycle and pedestrian corridors that connect to parks, schools, and retail centers to accommodate the many trips that occur on local streets (TSP 5-6; 5-7; 6-7; 6-1 – 6-2; Figure 5-1; Figure 6-2);

WHEREAS, the TSP identifies sidewalks and bike lanes along the portion of Skyline Drive that forms the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park as a priority (TSP Table 5-2; Table 6-2);

WHEREAS, the proposed sidewalk and bike access in the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park along Skyline Drive would require use of park property; and

WHEREAS, the West Linn City Charter requires a vote to approve a nonauthorized use of City owned park property, which includes any facilities that are not directly necessary for the park’s use;

WHEREAS, the Bolton Reservoir project is occurring directly across the street from Wilderness Park, which may provide an opportunity for the City to efficiently provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity by coordinating project timing.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF WEST LINN RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. An election is hereby called in and for the City of West Linn, Clackamas County, Oregon, for the purpose of submitting the following question to the legal voters of the City: Shall the City use the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park to provide pedestrian and bike access to the high school?

SECTION 2. Tuesday, November 4, 2014, is designated as the date for holding the election for the purpose of voting on the measure. The precinct for the election shall be all of the territory within the corporate limits of the City of West Linn, and the election will be conducted by the Clackamas County Elections Department by mail.

SECTION 3. The City Elections Officer is directed to publish notice of receipt of the ballot title in the West Linn Tidings or The Oregonian in compliance with ORS 250.275(5).

SECTION 4. The City Elections Officer shall file the ballot title with the county clerk as required by ORS 254.095 and include the proposed measure in the statement of city measures to be voted on.

SECTION 5. City staff is directed to prepare an Explanatory Statement for the measure and submit it for inclusion in the voters' pamphlet as provided in ORS 251.345.

SECTION 6. The ballot title to appear on the ballots shall be:

CAPTION

Northern perimeter of Wilderness Park for pedestrian and bike access

QUESTION

Shall the City use the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park to provide pedestrian and bike access to the high school?

SUMMARY

If approved, this measure would allow the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park along Skyline Drive to be used for pedestrian and bike access, such as a sidewalk and bike lane. Pedestrian and bike access is proposed in this area to provide connectivity between West Linn High School and residential areas north of Wilderness Park. The Bolton Reservoir project may result in public projects that could include pedestrian and bike facilities if this measure is approved.

The 2008 City of West Linn Transportation System Plan "TSP" identified a need for designated bike and pedestrian routes in key corridors that connect parks, schools, and retail. The TSP included bicycle and pedestrian facilities along Skyline Drive as priorities. The City is putting this measure on the ballot because Section 46 of the West Linn City Charter requires any use of park property for "nonauthorized use" of City owned park land to be approved by West Linn voters. If this measure passes, pedestrian and bike facilities would be allowed in the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park.

SECTION 7. If a majority of eligible voters vote “yes” on the measure, the City can consider including pedestrian and bike access in the northern perimeter of Wilderness Park. The TSP anticipates additional connections in this area.

This resolution was PASSED and ADOPTED this 11th day of August, 2014, and takes effect upon passage.

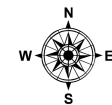
JOHN KOVASH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

KATHY MOLLUSKY, CITY RECORDER

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY



Scale 1:4,800 - 1 in = 400 ft
Scale is based on 8-1/2 x 11 paper size



Map created by: MCOFFIE
Date Created: 23-Jul-14 10:46 AM

WEST LINN GIS

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