



City Administrator's Report

November 16, 2023

OK Trail Phase I Grant Award

We are excited to announce that we have received word that the OK Railroad Trail Phase I has been selected as a recipient of the 2023 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks. This grant represents a crucial step in funding the OK Railroad Trail Phase I.

Among the 30 applications submitted, only seven projects, including ours, received approval from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for grant assistance. This acknowledgment underscores the importance and alignment of our proposed project with the program's goals. A total grant of \$184,600 has been awarded to the City for the project, with a city share of \$103,500.

The OK Railroad Trail Phase I Project aims to transform the existing asphalt millings into a 2,230-ft long, 10-ft wide multi-use trail accessible for walking, biking, and running. The upgrade to an all-weather concrete trail ensures compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), promoting inclusivity and accessibility for all community members.

The new trail will include amenities such as benches, a water bottle filling station, a pedestrian counter, interpretive signs detailing the historical significance of "the OK Railroad" Route, as well as thoughtfully planned landscaping and two butterfly gardens. These enhancements align with the community's vision outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Transportation Master Plan.

"The OK railroad" Trail Phase I



The completion of Phase I will seamlessly connect three neighborhoods—Diamond Crest, Clay Creek Townhomes, and Lake Meadows—to a local elementary school,

fostering easier access and safer routes for residents. Additionally, it ensures ADA accessibility to Diamond Crest Park amenities, effectively serving as a trailhead with designated ADA parking.

While Phase I sets the foundation, the City is committed to further extending The OK Railroad Trail through Phase II and Phase III, connecting additional areas and creating new trails where none currently exist. This aligns with the Parks & Recreation Plan and the Comprehensive plan and will be funded through the Parks & Stormwater Sales Tax over the next 5-10 years.

Location of the trail is outlined on the map below.



Streetscape Phase III Funding Update

Staff had previously provided information to the Board of Aldermen regarding bids for this project, which came in significantly over budget. As discussed, staff has been in ongoing conversations with MoDOT and MARC regarding grant funds for this project in an effort to find a reduced scope to complete at least a portion of the project.

At the Active Transportation Programming Committee (ATPC) meeting at MARC on November 8, Public Works Director, Chuck Soules presented this project. The request to the ATPC was to reduce the scope to include the improvements on the south end of the bridge and include the bridge improvements as an add alternate to the bid. This approach would have kept the project within budget. During the meeting, it was discussed that the ATPC had a program balance of \$11 million. Several projects are being prepared to be bid and they may also incur additional costs. Upon review of the

project, potential scope changes and increased costs, the committee saw the benefit of the improvements and completion of the entire project.

The ATPC committee is recommending that Smithville receive an additional \$1 million to complete the project. This brings the total award for this project to \$1,488,000.

There is a required match of 20%, which is \$300,000. We have \$312,000 budgeted for this project.

The utility work cannot be included in the project funded with federal dollars. Staff is reviewing options to reduce the cost of those improvements.

This increase in funding has to go through a TIP amendment and public review and comment period. It is expected the public review will begin in December. Action to approve the amendment by both TTPC and the MARC Board of Directors will occur in January 2024.

The Board will need to approve a new City/State agreement and Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement. This will come to the Board later this year.

Staff will be reviewing the plans to ensure that we will receive bids within this new budget so we will probably have a minor amendment to the design contract with HDR.

We will most likely need to resubmit to MoDOT for a final review before the project is re-bid. That re-bid is anticipated in the spring of 2024.

MARC Road Maintenance Funding

MARC received approximately \$8 million in ARPA funds to be distributed to local municipalities for road maintenance. Based on Smithville's population, the City share was originally calculated at \$58,068. We identified mill and overlay work on Woods Street from Winner to Commercial and Winner Avenue from Meadow south to the end of the street. The City recently replaced the water main and also did some sewer line work. Based on the project we identified and the estimated cost, the City's match for this work is approximately \$8,000.

MARC coordinated the bidding work for the entire metro in order to manage the project as well as costs. The project was bid in October, with better than anticipated bid costs. As a result of lower total costs, the City will not have to provide a match for this mill and overlay project.

Contracts are being approved by MoDOT and staff expect to have details about a spring construction schedule for this project in the next several weeks.

Parent & Me Painting

The Smithville Parks and Recreation Department hosted a Parent & Me Painting event on November 8 at the Smithville Senior Center. The event was a huge success. The event was recommended for children aged 5-12 and their parents, or younger children

with help from their parents. The registration was sold out weeks before the event with a total of 40 participants.

During the event, children worked with their parents to create four different types of painting projects, including finger painting, canvas painting, splatter painting, and watercolor painting. The registration fee of \$15 for each parent-child couple included dinner, which was pizza and drinks, all the supplies required to complete the four projects, and a step-by-step guide allowing everyone to work at their own pace and skill level. The artists got to take home their supplies, such as an apron, watercolor paints, and brushes, to continue art at home.

The Smithville Parks and Recreation staff received numerous comments and thank yous from the participants. Staff is looking forward to hosting a similar event in early 2024.





City Hall Schedule

City Hall will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24.

City Hall will also be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursday, December 14 for the City Employee Holiday Luncheon.