**Park & Stormwater Sales Tax Fund**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Name:**  **The “OK” Railroad Trail (Diamond Crest Trail)** | **Department:**  **Parks & Recreation** |
| **Type of Project:**  **Rehabilitation** | **Contact**:  **Matt Denton** |
| **Total Project Cost:**  **$465,000** | |

**Description:**

The OK Railroad Trail Phase I will initiate a long-term community vision of providing better access to the City’s current trail amenities and will connect three neighborhoods to a local elementary school. This project will include a 2,230’ long and 10' wide multi-use trail for walking, biking, running, and wheeling. The all-weather concrete trail will provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility to the trail. The trail will have a 4' wide lime screen running trail, adjacent to the 10' wide concrete path. The trail would allow residents and visitors to safely access OK Railroad Park by walking, running, wheeling, or biking. Amenities included in this project would be two benches, a water bottle filling station, and a pedestrian counter.

This grant program would allow the City to begin the first phase of the OK Railroad Trail project. Phase I of the trail will connect the OK Railroad, Clay Creek Townhomes, and Lake Meadows neighborhoods. Phase I will have two Missouri State Park signs, one at the start of the trail and at the end of Phase I. The city anticipates that grading and mobilization will have to occur before construction of the trail. Phase I would be completed in the Summer of 2024, the City would contract engineering services and construction of the trail.

Phase II involves obtaining easements from the Lake Meadows HOA, and Phase III would connect the trail to Eagle Heights Elementary School, which would provide a safe route to school. Phase II and Phase III would be new construction as trails do not currently exist in those areas. The City has identified trail connectivity in its Comprehensive Plan, which allows the City to prioritize funding for new trail systems in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Parks & Stormwater Sales Tax would provide revenue to fund Phase II and Phase III of the OK Railroad Trail. It is anticipated that the entire project will be completed in the next five to ten years. The City would contract engineering services and construction for Phase II and Phase III.

The OK Railroad Trail would allow for greater access to these new amenities in the area. Residents would be able to visit the park without having to drive their vehicles, and the community would have an additional multi-use trail in the City. Additionally, this trail would provide ADA accessibility to the current and future OK Railroad Park amenities. OK Railroad Park would serve as a trailhead that provides ADA parking to the trail. Currently, there is not an accessible entrance to the trail in the area. These improvements will greatly improve access to the trail, allowing more residents and visitors to use the trail.

This project was submitted to receive a grant from MARC $184,000.

**Justification:**

Trails and recreation have been identified as a priority of the Governing Body and the community's vision for the future of Smithville, as highlighted in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The OK Railroad Trail is recognized in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and in the Transportation Master Plan.

**Impact on Operating Costs**

The improvements to OK Railroad Trail will decrease some of the ongoing cost required to maintain the current millings trail. It is expected that the number of visitors will increase therefore additional staffing expenses will be necessary. This is to ensure trash containers remain empty and safety inspections are completed more frequently. There will also be maintenance cost for snow removal and to replace concrete slaps as they crack.

**Planned Expenditures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **FY2026** | **Total** |
| **Construction** | **$465,000** | **$465,000** |
| **Total** | **$465,000** | **$465,000** |

**Funding Sources**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **FY2026** | **Total** |
| **Park & Stormwater Sales Tax** | **$281,000** | **$281,000** |
| **MARC Grant Reimbursement** | **($184,000)** | **($184,000)** |
| **Total Net Cost** | **$97,000** | **$97,000** |