



MEMORANDUM

To: Recreation Advisory Board

From: Roderick Simmons, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Prepared by: Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Date: March 14, 2016

Subject: Beaucatcher Greenway

To provide information to the Recreation Advisory Board regarding the development of the Beaucatcher Greenway.

In February 2009, City Council approved the Beaucatcher Greenway identified as a priority greenway in the Parks, Recreation Cultural Arts, and Greenways Master Plan. In the same year, City Council adopted the Asheville Downtown Master Plan that supports the development of vista parks to provide permanent public views of the downtown via the Beaucatcher Greenway.

In September 2009, City Council accepted a grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to support acquisition of the Beaucatcher Overlook property to facilitate the development of the Beaucatcher Greenway.

In November 2009, City Council directed staff to proceed with a land exchange with the owners of Festiva to enhance and extend the Beaucatcher Greenway.

Funds in the amount of \$1,300,000 to support Beaucatcher Greenway construction drawings and construction were approved in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 capital improvement budget.

In November 2012, the City entered into a contract with Stewart Engineering to develop architectural and engineering construction documents for Beaucatcher Greenway.

In 2015, the City was awarded a \$975,000 grant from the Tourism Product Development Fund to support Beaucatcher Greenway construction.

Throughout the process, staff brought the Beaucatcher Greenway project before RAB for its review, endorsement and updates.

Recently property owners adjacent to the Beaucatcher Greenway expressed concerns about the greenway design. As a result, the city manager has directed the project go back to the required boards and commissions, and eventually to City Council to determine if this project will continue to go forward.

Staff will present an update on the Beaucatcher Greenway at the RAB meeting on March 14, 2016.

Attachment: 1) Beaucatcher Greenway Map