

Possible Trail on City Property at East McCarty Street

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Overview

On January 6, 2019, two members of the Osage Regional Trail Association and the Jefferson City Trail Users hiked over the city's property behind the new Fire Station on East McCarty St. The purpose of the hike was to see if a sustainable trail could be constructed on the part of the 15 acre tract not being used for the fire station. The conclusion was that a short trail, approximately .5-.75 miles, could be constructed if certain assistance is available.

Terrain and Trail Route

The terrain is a limiting factor on this property. Part of the area has steep slopes that do not permit a trail to be constructed without a retaining wall. Even then, the trail could easily be subject to erosion. Another portion of the property is low lying and boggy. However, an upper portion would be suitable for a well-drained trail loop that would not require a lot of maintenance to prevent erosion.

This loop could start and finish at the fire station and/or near the Scholastic parking area on Robinson Road. It would follow a topographic contour line with some variation in a semi-circle to the south, west, and north. When the northern property boundary is reached above the stormwater impoundment, the trail would turn and loop back to the starting point at a lower elevation. It would follow the same directions in reverse using lower contour lines with some variations. See attached map.

Facilities Needed

Parking spaces with some signage or a kiosk would be needed. In addition, due to erosion in a couple gullies, 2-3 treated-lumber bridges less than 20' will be needed. There is also a location where a couple benches could be installed for those wanting to enjoy a nice view.

Optional features could make the trail even more interesting. Some fitness stations or play features, such as slack lines, could increase the number of people using the trail.

Other Considerations

Volunteer assistance would be needed to construct and maintain the trail. The Osage Region Trail Association can lay out the trail, and the Jefferson City Trail Users can contribute volunteers to perform basic trail construction, but additional volunteers would be needed for 2 or 3 half-day work sessions. About 150 total hours are likely to be needed to build this trail.

In addition, Parks and Recreation would need to provide the materials and construction for the bridges.

Another issue is parking. Parking for the trail would need to be determined. At present, trail users will no doubt want to park in Scholastic's parking lot on Robinson Road.

Liability for trail use and parking lot use will also need to be covered by an appropriate organization.

Finally, there is also some neighborhood use of the property already taking place. A kids' fort and some slack lines are in place. Outreach to the neighbors may be needed.

Next Steps

Parks and Recreation, the Fire Department, and Scholastic may want to meet to discuss whether this is a desirable project that they want to pursue.

A nice view where benches could be installed.



One gully on the proposed trail. At a lower elevation, it is deeper.



A kids' fort presently located on the property.

