

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

IN THE MATTER OF APPLYING FOR)
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE)
RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM)
GRANT FUND FOR THE WILDERNESS)
PARK SOUTH BRIDGE IN LANCASTER)
COUNTY, NEBRASKA)

RESOLUTION NO. R-17-0059

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority conferred by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-819, Lancaster County, Nebraska, (“the County”) owns public grounds comprising Wilderness Park, located in the County;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 13-304 through 13-307, and predecessor statutes Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 15-751 and 15-752, 23-820 and 23-821, and Chapter 23 Article 22 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, the County and the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, (“the City) by agreement provide for maintenance and operation of Wilderness Park by the City;

WHEREAS, the Wilderness South Bridge, located approximately ½ mile north of Saltillo Road, collapsed in 2010. This bridge provided a critical link between the north and south portions of Wilderness Park. This bridge is shown for replacement in the Lincoln and Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan for 2040, and provides a link between the Jamaica North Trail and the future South Beltway Trail, as well as access to the Jamaica North Trail for neighborhoods, existing and future, in the Southwest Lincoln area; and

WHEREAS, the County and the City wish to apply for federal assistance from the Recreational Trails Program for the purpose of constructing the Wilderness Park South Bridge over Salt Creek channel north of Saltillo Road;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of

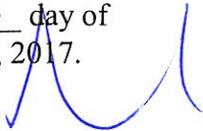
Lancaster County that:

1. Lancaster County, Nebraska, in conjunction with the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, is applying for federal assistance from the Recreational Trails Program for the purpose of constructing the Wilderness Park South Bridge over Salt Creek channel north of Saltillo Road;
2. The Mayor and Director of the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Lincoln are authorized to sign the application for federal assistance, and any other official project documents that are necessary to obtain such assistance, including any agreements, contracts, or other documents that are required by the State of Nebraska or the Federal Highway Administration, provided that any agreements and contracts containing a County commitment receive prior approval by the Lancaster County Attorney's Office;
3. Lancaster County will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, age, religion, disability, sex, or national origin in the use of any property or facility that is acquired or developed pursuant to the project proposal, and shall comply with the terms and intent of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and any of the regulations promulgated pursuant to such Act;
4. Lancaster County will comply with all rules and regulations of the Recreational Trails Program, applicable Executive Orders, and all state laws that govern the grant applicant during the performance of the project; and
5. Lancaster County will comply with the Federal accessibility and use standards where they can be reasonably applied.

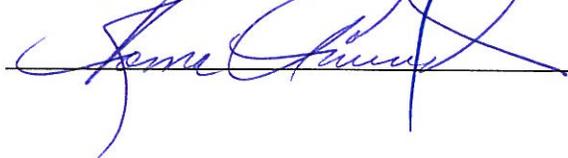
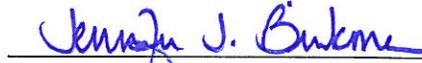
DATED this 15 day of August, 2017, at the County-City Building, Lincoln, Lancaster
County, Nebraska.

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF LANCASTER
COUNTY, NEBRASKA

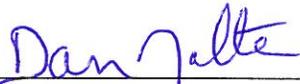
APPROVED AS TO FORM
this 15 day of
August, 2017.



Deputy County Attorney
for JOE KELLY
County Attorney



ATTEST:



Lancaster County Clerk
DAN NOLTE

(SEAL)



NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION FORM

(Revised June 2 010)

Applicant: City of Lincoln and County of Lancaster		Project Contact: Sara Hartzell	
Address: 3140 N Street, Suite 300		Zip Code: 68510	
E-Mail Address: shartzell@lincoln.ne.gov		Congressional District: 1	Cell:
Business Telephone: 402-441-8261		Federal ID No:	
Project Title: Wildemess Park South Bridge			
Project Description:			
i			
Construction of a new pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian bridge in the location of one that collapsed and was removed in 2010.			
Legal Description:			
i			
See Attachment 1			
Project Cost Data:			
1. Development: \$ 369,600	2. Acquisitions: \$ 0	3. Engineering	\$ 59,950
4. Total Cost: \$ 429,550			
5. Federal RTP Share (Maximum: 80% of the Total Project Cost):			\$ 250,000
6. Percent of Request: 58.2 %		Percent of Match: 41.8 %	
Local 20% Matching Share: (Entire amount must be available at application time-5% in cash)			
7. Cash: \$ 129,550	Source: City CIP and Settlements funds		
8. Taxes: \$	Source:		
9. Donations: \$ 50,000	Source: GPTN and Run for the Bridges		
10. Other: \$	Source:		
11. Other: \$	Source:		
12. Total: \$ 179,550			

NOTE: Grant application is on-line at:
<http://outdoornebraska.gov/rtp/>

Certification:

I hereby certify that the information contained on this application form and in the supplemental documents is, to the best of my knowledge, both true and accurate. I have also read the policies information that go along with the RTP application and understand the policies for the program.

Signature of Project Sponsor

Title

Date

RETURN THE ORIGINAL APPLICATION FORMS WITH THE SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS TO:

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
ATTN: KIRK NELSON
2200 N 33rd Street, P.O. Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

The penalty for knowingly and willfully providing inaccurate or insufficient information is automatic withdrawal of the project from consideration for Recreational Trails Program assistance. If you do not have match in hand at the time of application, you will be considered an ineligible applicant. If awarded and false information has been discovered by NGPC, the project will no longer remain eligible for funding and the project sponsor will be notified that the project has been cancelled.

**NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM**

GRANT APPLICATION SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Project Narrative: Wilderness Park South Bridge Replacement

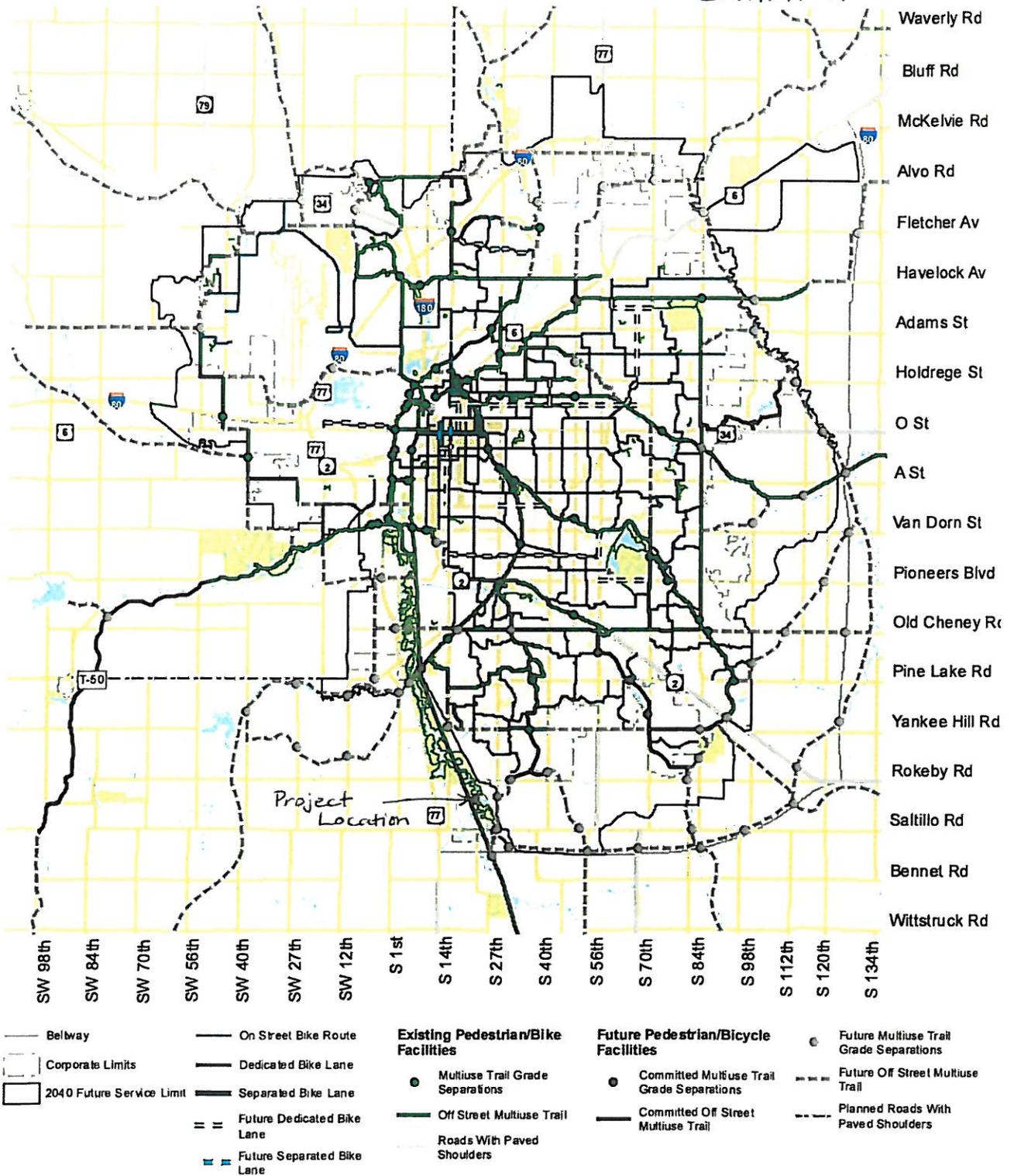
1. Narrative

- A. Purpose – This project is to replace a bridge that had collapsed and was removed in 2010. The bridge is needed to provide access for bicyclists, pedestrians and equestrians to the southern part of Wilderness Park. This bridge was originally funded with city funds and private donations. There were no federal funds in the project the first time it was constructed.
- B. Linkages – The bridge will provide a connection to the existing trails in the southern part of Wilderness Park going south as well as an existing trailhead that provides parking. Going north from the trailhead the bridge will provide a connection to the trails in the northern part of the park as well as the Jamaica North Trail that connects Lincoln on the north with Beatrice on the south. Eventually, the trail going south of the bridge will connect with a new trail along the future South Beltway. The future trails plan identifies trails going east of the bridge and connecting with future development east and north of Wilderness Park – Exhibit A. This bridge will provide an important future link for the southwest neighborhoods of Lincoln
- C. The bridge will be 120 feet in length and 10 feet wide, steel truss with wood decking. See Exhibit B. The trail connecting on both ends of the bridge is a natural surface. The approaches are maintained as 10 feet wide. Future trail connections may be limestone.
- D. Trail uses – The bridge will provide a connection for hikers and bicyclists, and could provide connections for equestrian users in the future. There are existing trails both north and south of the bridge site that cannot be accessed without the bridge in place. The trail is for non-motorized commuter and recreational use.
- E. The anticipated start date – It is anticipated this project will start once the program agreement is signed and authorization is given to proceed to hire for preliminary engineering. It is expected this project will be completed by December 2019.
- F. Special or unique characteristics – Wilderness Park is a 1,475 acre park that was acquired in the 1960's to store flood waters before water proceeds through the Salt Creek Levee system located along the western and northern part of Lincoln. It is a linear park no more than ½ mile in width at its widest location. The park provides opportunities for bird watching, hiking, jogging, equestrian, and bicycling as well as cross-country skiing in the winter. The terrain is relatively flat however there are several areas where the trail does have grade changes as it proceeds through the park. These grade changes are mostly from old oxbows or dry creek channels that feed into Salt Creek during periods of heavy rain. There are large stands of native trees typical with riparian corridors including ash, bur oak, and hickory as well as areas of native grasses and wildflowers, wetlands, Salt Creek along with several tributaries and open areas that were once old fields. Access to the park is provided at several locations throughout the park. Bicyclists usually access the park at the northern end and ride continuously through the park to where this bridge was once located.
- G. Describe any partnerships with others – The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County have a long standing agreement for Wilderness Park which names Lancaster County the landowner,

and the City of Lincoln as having primary development and maintenance responsibilities. Matching funds are being supplied through a settlement associated with the collapse of the original bridge, and held by the City of Lincoln. These settlement funds were designated specifically for replacement of this bridge. The Great Plains Trails Network and the Run for the Bridges organization are providing matching funds for the project as well. Both of these organizations receive donations and membership fees from a large number of private donors. GPTN has typically funded new projects around Lincoln and has recently provided financial support for projects that involve renovations. Run for the Bridges is an organization that holds a trail run each year, the proceeds of which are used specifically for bridge repair and replacement in Wilderness Park. If the project is approved, the City Parks and Recreation Department will act as primary contact for the project as identified in the Resolutions approved by City Council and County Board. See letters of commitment from the agencies and organizations – GPTN – Exhibit C, Run for the Bridges – Exhibit D, and City of Lincoln – Exhibit E.

- H. Controversy – We are not aware of any controversy or objections with this project. In this case, there has been a lot of public support to replace the original bridge at the location identified, and to make the other bridges in the park safe. Much public involvement has taken place including a community advisory group for activities in Wilderness Park, as well as fundraising and news media coverage. Please see attached articles on the bridge as well as the fundraising that has taken place. Exhibit F.
- I. Describe signage – Minimal signage will be needed since this is a bridge project which is a component of the trail. Signage recognizing the contributions of donors and RTP will be included.
- J. Maintenance Plan – See attached Exhibit G.
- K. Forced Labor will not be a part of this project.
- L. Describe what a user will see and experience – The bridge over Salt Creek provides a “bird’s eye” view of the creek channel below including fish, turtles, and frogs that inhabit the channel. It is possible to see great blue heron that nest nearby, kingfishers and other birds typical in creek and riparian corridors along with woodchucks, squirrels, beaver and muskrat. The approaches to the bridge on both ends go through trees giving an element of surprise once the bridge comes into view. See attached Exhibit H for photos of the bridge area.

EXHIBIT A



Map 12: Bicycle and Pedestrian Capital Plan





OLSSON ASSOCIATES
 1111 North M. Ave., Suite 111
 Lincoln, NE 68502
 TEL: 402.442.4111
 FAX: 402.441.1113
 www.olsonassociates.com

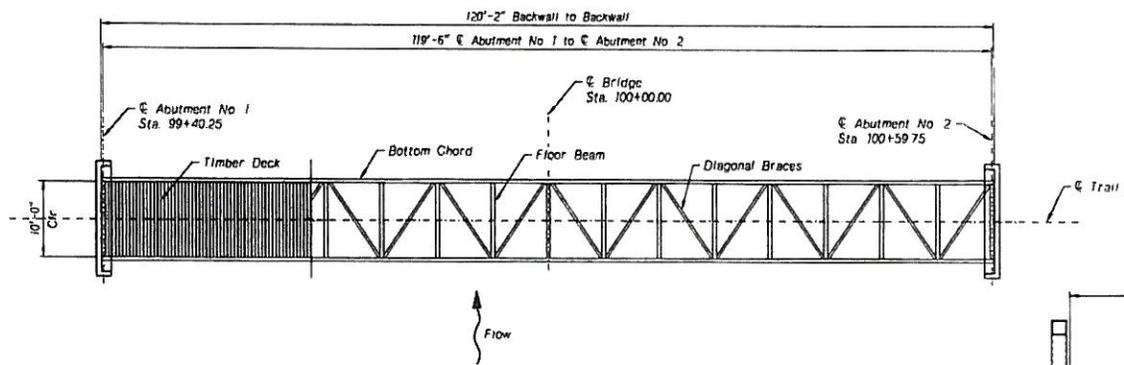


The information herein is of preliminary nature and is submitted for information only. It is not to be used for construction or other purposes without the written consent of the engineer. The engineer assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information herein. All rights reserved.

NO.	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION

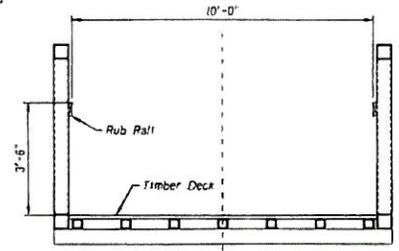
GENERAL PLAN & ELEVATION
 WILDERNESS PARK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE, SOUTH
 SINGLE SPAN PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
 LINCOLN, NE

Drawn by: J.C.
 Checked by: J.C.
 Approved by: J.C.
 Date: 10/14/14
 SHEET 2 of 2

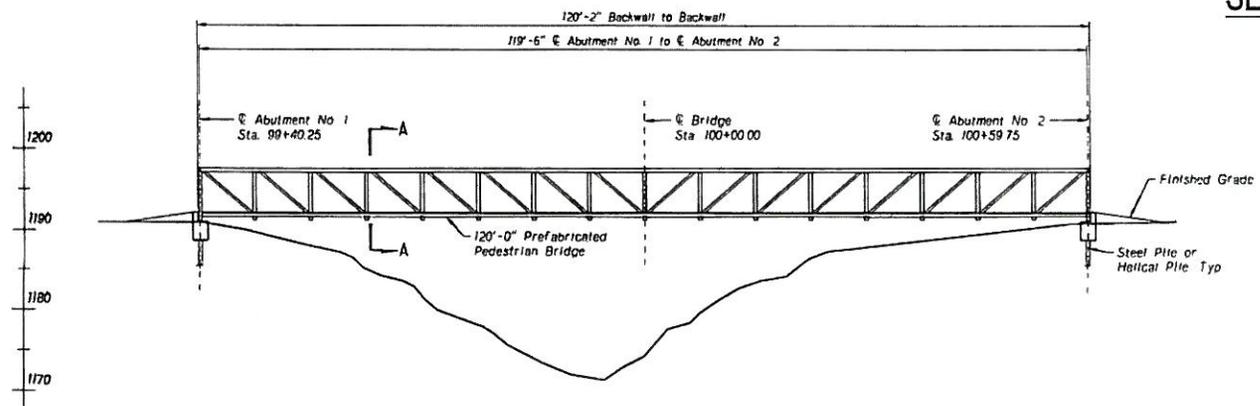


PLAN
 Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Note:
 No topographic survey has been performed to establish existing ground line and other features. The depiction shown is preliminary in nature and should be considered as an approximation and for information only.



SECTION A-A
 Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



ELEVATION
 Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

EXHIBIT B

**NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM**

GRANT APPLICATION SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Project Narrative: Wilderness Park South Bridge Replacement

1. Narrative

- A. Purpose – This project is to replace a bridge that had collapsed and was removed in 2010. The bridge is needed to provide access for bicyclists, pedestrians and possibly equestrians to the southern part of Wilderness Park. This bridge was originally funded with city funds and private donations. There were no federal funds in the project the first time it was constructed.
- B. Linkages – The bridge will provide a connection to the existing trails in the southern part of Wilderness Park going south as well as an existing trailhead that provides parking. Going north from the trailhead the bridge will provide a connection to the trails in the northern part of the park as well as the Jamaica North Trail that connects Lincoln on the north with Beatrice on the south. Eventually, the trail going south of the bridge will connect with a new trail along the future South Beltway. The future trails plan identifies trails going east of the bridge and connecting with future development east and north of Wilderness Park – Exhibit A. This bridge will provide an important future link for the southwest neighborhoods of Lincoln
- C. The bridge will be 120 feet in length and 10 feet wide, steel truss with wood decking. See Exhibit B. The trail connecting on both ends of the bridge is a natural surface. The approaches are maintained as 10 feet wide. Future trail connections may be limestone.
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- E. The anticipated start date – It is anticipated this project will start once the program agreement is signed and authorization is given to proceed to hire for preliminary engineering. It is expected this project will be completed by December 2019.
- F. Special or unique characteristics – Wilderness Park is a 1,475 acre park that was acquired in the 1960's to store flood waters before water proceeds through the Salt Creek Levee system located along the western and northern part of Lincoln. It is a linear park no more than ½ mile in width at its widest location. The park provides opportunities for bird watching, hiking, jogging, equestrian, and bicycling as well as cross-country skiing in the winter. The terrain is relatively flat however there are several areas where the trail does have grade changes as it proceeds through the park. These grade changes are mostly from old oxbows or dry creek channels that feed into Salt Creek during periods of heavy rain. There are large stands of native trees typical with riparian corridors including ash, bur oak, and hickory as well as areas of native grasses and wildflowers, wetlands, salt creek along with several tributaries and open areas that were once old fields. Access to the park is provided at several locations throughout the park. Bicyclists usually access the park at the northern end and ride continuously through the park to where this bridge was once located.
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and the City of Lincoln as having primary development and maintenance responsibilities. Matching funds are being supplied through a settlement associated with the collapse of the original bridge, and held by the City of Lincoln. These settlement funds were designated specifically for replacement of this bridge. The Great Plains Trails Network is providing matching funds for the project as is the Run for the Bridges organization. Both of these organizations receive donations and membership fees from a large number of private donors. If the project is approved, the City Parks and Recreation Department will act as primary contact for the project as identified in the Resolution approved by City Council. See letters of commitment from the agencies and organizations – GPTN – Exhibit C, Run for the Bridges – Exhibit D, and City of Lincoln – Exhibit E. GPTN has typically funded new projects around Lincoln and has recently provided financial support for projects that involve renovations. Run for the Bridges is an organization that holds a trail run each year, the proceeds of which are used specifically for bridge repair and replacement in Wilderness Park.

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- I. Describe signage – Minimal signage will be needed since this is a bridge project which is a component of the trail.
- J. Maintenance Plan – See attached Exhibit G.
- K. Forced Labor will not be a part of this project.
- L. Describe what a user will see and experience – The bridge over Salt Creek provides a “birds eye” view of the creek channel below including fish, turtles, and frogs that inhabit the channel. It is possible to see great blue heron that nest nearby, kingfishers and other birds typical in creek and riparian corridors along with woodchucks, squirrels, beaver and muskrat. The approaches to the bridge on both ends go through trees giving an element of surprise once the bridge comes into view. See attached Exhibit H for photos of the bridge area.

2. Site Plan – Please see Exhibit I

3. Itemized Cost Estimate – See Exhibit J

4. Plat Map – Please see Exhibit K

5. Floor Plan – Not applicable

6. Environmental Documentation – Please see Exhibit L

7. Ownership of Land – The County of Lancaster owns the land known as Wilderness Park. The City of Lincoln maintains the park based on an agreement signed August 4, 1966. We have attached copies of the deeds to the property – Exhibit M and the agreement between the City and County – Exhibit N.

8. Resolution – The County of Lancaster approved a resolution – Exhibit O - supporting the project and that funds will be provided to fund the project as well as manage the project. This resolution was approved on August X, 2017. The City of Lincoln also approved a resolution supporting the project and is agreeing to provide the funds and maintain the bridge for a minimum of 25 years. This resolution was approved on August X, 2017 - Exhibit P.
9. Land acquisition – Not applicable
10. Easements/Leases – Not applicable
11. Historical/Cultural Resources – The bridge location and surrounding areas do not have any known historical significance.
12. Local Comprehensive Planning – The bridge was identified in the 1999 Wilderness Park Subarea Plan which was originally adopted along with the 2025 Lincoln and Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, and each subsequent update of that plan, including the 2040 Lincoln and Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2016. Exhibit Q. This bridge connects the trails to the southern end of the Park, but it is also critical for the development of future trail linkages in southwest Lincoln, including links to the existing Jamaica North Trail, and the future South Beltway Trail. This bridge has been noted as a priority project in the Capital Improvements Program for the City of Lincoln for the past 4 cycles, and is included in the Transportation Improvement Program.
13. Wetlands – There will be no wetland impact.
14. Fish/Wildlife/Plants – We have reviewed the project site for threatened and endangered species and it appears there are none, however U.S. Fish and Wildlife will make that determination if the project is funded.
15. Right-of-Way Certificate – The trail is located within an existing park.
16. Trails dealing with Railroads – Not applicable
17. Support of the Community – There is considerable support for this project. We have attached letters from individuals as well as from the Mayor’s Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee – Exhibit R.

**MAINTENANCE PLAN
WILDERNESS PARK SOUTH BRIDGE
CITY OF LINCOLN
NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL**

This park has received ongoing maintenance including maintenance of the trail and bridge that was in place several years ago. Maintenance is performed by City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation staff. Maintenance for the trail will continue once the new bridge has been completed. The department has an Adopt-A-Trail program that allows individuals, families and organizations to adopt a trail that involves assisting with litter pick-up and monitoring the condition of trails that require additional maintenance. This section of trail is currently up for adoption.

The Department mows an 8 foot wide trail on both sides of the bridge leading up to it during the grass growing season, and maintains weeds as well as removes trees and branches crossing trails or causing obstructions. Litter pick-up and any repairs to the surface and replacement or repair of signage is ongoing. Efforts are made to extend the life of the trails and bridges when possible and replacement of existing trail surfaces and structures is done when all other options have expired.

The cost of the trail/bridge maintenance is part of the Parks and Recreation Department's annual budget and the funds to maintain this section and bridge are included in the existing budget. Because this is a bridge, the maintenance is mostly ongoing visual inspections with a formal inspection every four years. Total annual cost to maintain the bridge and inspection program is \$400.

The following is a list of activities the department does to maintain the Wilderness Park Trail and Bridge and all trails in Lincoln:

- Litter pick-up
- Snow removal (concrete trails only)
- Mowing, trimming and weed control
- Ongoing inspections for trail conditions and safety
- Surface repairs
- Signage repair and replacement when needed
- Painting the center line of the trail for safety (concrete trails only)
- Ongoing bridge inspections - visually every year with a formal inspection every four years.



Jamaica North Trail

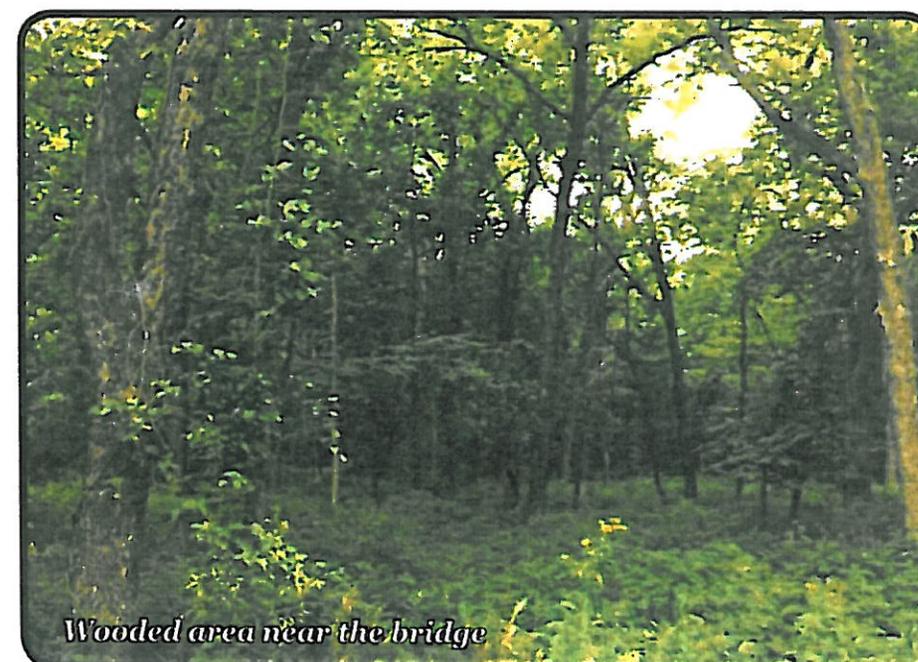


Interpretive Sign

SITES OF WILDERNESS PARK



Trail near the bridge



Wooded area near the bridge

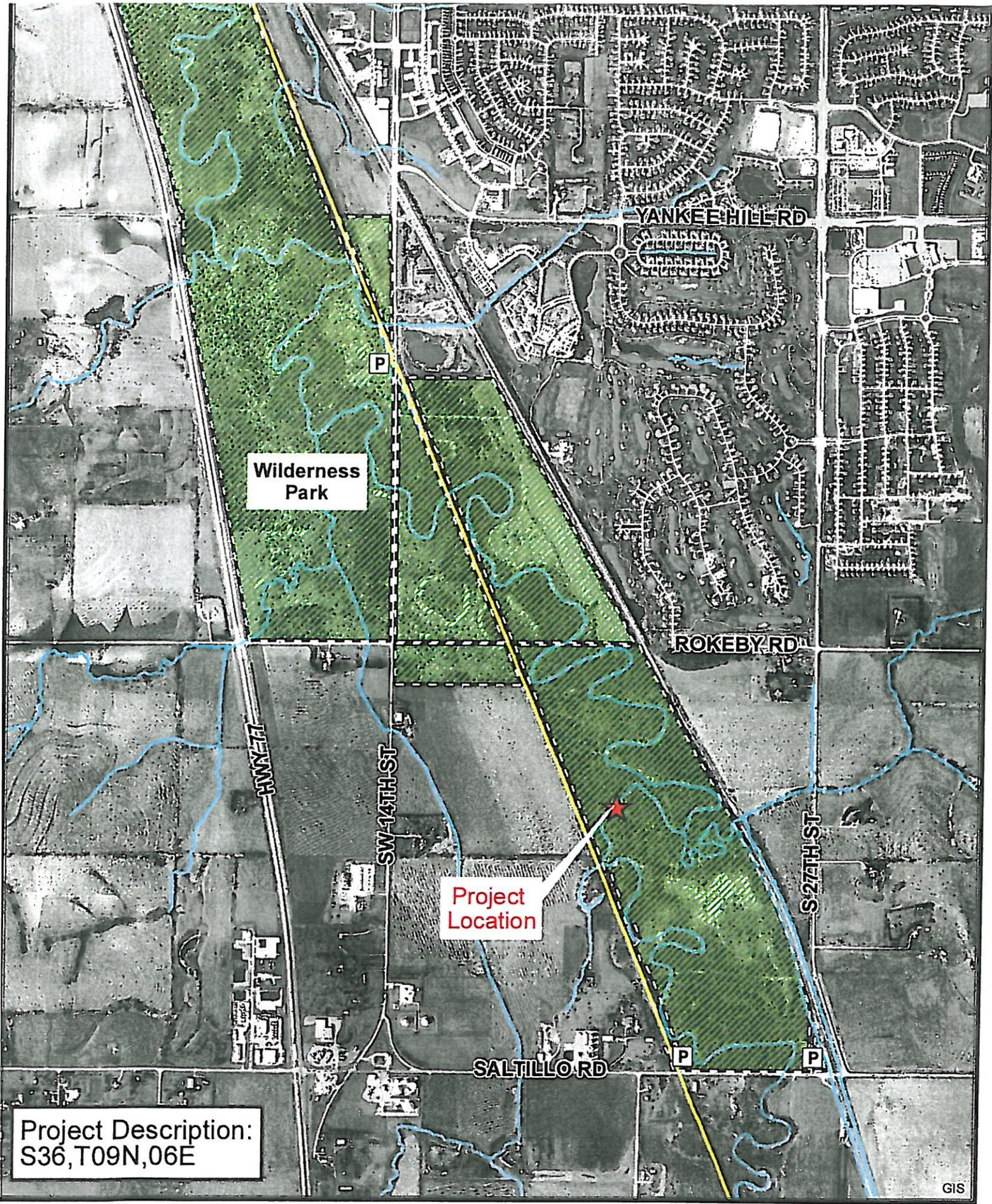


Exhibit I: Site Plan
Wilderness Park - South Bridge
 1 inch = 1,500 feet
 6/26/17

- Jamaica North
- Streams
- Park Boundary
- P Parking Areas

MAYOR'S PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2740 "A" STREET
LINCOLN, NE 68502

July 21, 2017

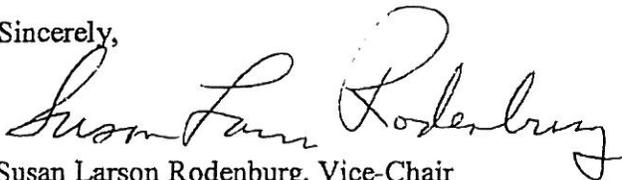
Sara Hartzell, Park Planner
Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department
3140 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Sara,

The Mayor's Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee, at its July 11, 2017 meeting took action endorsing the City of Lincoln's application to the Recreational Trails Program for the Wilderness Park South Bridge. There has always been a need for this bridge to provide access to the southern part of the park and when the bridge that had been there collapsed several years ago, it eliminated that key link. This project will provide that connection to the remaining part of the park as well as a connection to trails east and south of the park as shown in the Future Trails Map as Lincoln continues to grow in that direction.

The City appreciates the opportunity to apply for these funds. We encourage your support of the City of Lincoln's application.

Sincerely,



Susan Larson Rodenburg, Vice-Chair
for Jordan Messerer, Chair
Mayor's Pedestrian/Advisory Committee



**Great Plains
Trails Network**

July 31, 2017

Lincoln Parks & Recreation
Sara Hartzell, Park Planner II
3140 N Street, Ste 300
Lincoln, NE 68510

RE: Wilderness Park Bridge

Dear Ms. Hartzell:

The Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) is an enthusiastic supporter of the South Bridge in Wilderness Park (Lincoln, NE) project. We welcome the opportunity to express our support as the Parks & Recreation Department applies for an RTF grant.

The trail bridges permit enjoyment of the entire length of the park and are a very important part of the park's multi-trail use nature. The North Bridge has been completed and was dedicated over two years ago, but the South Bridge remains unfinished. The lack of a finished South Bridge results in a significant gap in the network. Not only will a completed South Bridge allow easier access to all parts of Wilderness Park, it will provide an important link to the Jamaica North Trail, the future South Beltway trail and the southern neighborhoods of Lincoln.

The GPTN Board has committed \$17,500 towards the construction of the South Bridge. We believe the completion of this bridge will provide a link needed to connect the park to the nationally-recognized trail system in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Now in its 28th year of existence, GPTN is a citizens volunteer group that advocates and supports a network of trails in and around Lincoln and Lancaster County. During its long existence, GPTN has raised millions for local governments to use as matching funds for the development of trails.

We are looking forward to the completion of this project to once again open up the eight miles of hiker/biker trails that have seen limited access since 2010.

Sincerely,

Dena Noe, President
Great Plains Trails Network

July 28th, 2017

1850 Dakota Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

Sara Hartzell
Lincoln Parks and Recreation
3140 "N" Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510

Sara Hartzell, and To the Recreational Trails Advisory Committee,

On behalf of those who raised matching funds through The Run for the Bridges, I write to you in support of the City of Lincoln's plan to replace the collapsed and removed bridge in the south end of Wilderness Park (WP). The Saltillo Bridge was located between Jamaica Trail and Saltillo Road and connects the trails to the north to provide that growing area of Lincoln a wild journey through nature without leaving the city.

With the Saltillo Bridge removed, the users of WP have suffered a lack of connectedness of these Wilderness Park trails. Due to the growth in southeast Lincoln, connecting the Saltillo area to the South 14th Street area of WP with the replacement of the Saltillo Bridge is crucial. The bridge will serve as a future connector between the Jamaica North Trail and the future South Beltway trail. Replacement of the Saltillo Bridge will regain about 5 miles of trail.

The Run for the Bridges trail run event, held annually for the past 6 years has raised money for the sole purpose to match grant funds for the repair and replacement of bridges in Wilderness Park and advocate for the park. On behalf of the Run for the Bridges runners and park enthusiasts, I commit \$32,000 to match the RTP grant project for the Saltillo - WP South Bridge Project.

Through your support of this project, you are keeping Lincoln moving and connected to nature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosina Paolini".

Rosina Paolini, Run for the Bridges Organizer