

Work Session of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on January 3, 2023 at 6:00 PM, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Staff Discussion Items

A. 2023-001 Abernathy Greenway South Enhancements

Michael Perry, Recreation and Parks Director, reviewed Abernathy Greenway South Enhancements. The City developed first phase of the Abernathy Greenway, the 0.7 mile long linear park space and trail, in 2017. Work included a crushed stone trail, two small parking areas, landscaping, and site furnishings. Two wood bridges have been added since construction. Considerable and regular maintenance of the trail and adjacent landscaping is necessary due to high water volume from Abernathy Road and sheet flow from the west towards Johnson Ferry Road. Directed road runoff and creek overflow in the park are primary sources. Erosion and loss of plant material is systemic. The basin draining to the site is 33 acres in size.

Atkins Global, an on-call engineering firm, was awarded a contract to create a plan with associated cost estimates intended to remedy stormwater challenges at the site.

Overall Conceptual Master Plan Including Future Phases

ATKINS

- Drainage and Erosion Control
- Trail Stabilization and Additions
- Raingarden and water quality
- Streambank Restoration
- Pedestrian Crossings at Existing Crosswalks
- Parking Additions
- Additional Seating Areas
- Reconstruct and Enlarge Existing Pond
- Pavilions / Picnic Shelters
- Amphitheater
- Public Art locations
- Slope Stabilization
- Bridge / Boardwalk Replacement
- Pollinator Garden Areas
- Interpretive Educational Signage Opportunities
- Entry Gateway Identity

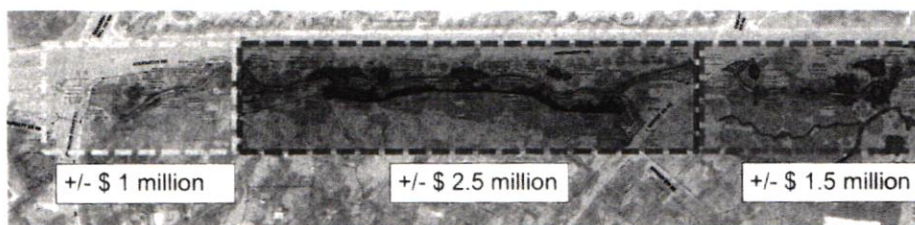


The project is comprised of three phases.

Master Plan - Southside

ATKINS

- Drainage and Erosion Control
- Trail Stabilization Additions and Revisions
- Raingarden and water quality
- Streambank Restoration
- Pedestrian Crossings at Existing Crosswalks
- Landscape Material Storage Area



The plan includes improved park functionality, water quality enhancements, and enhanced stormwater management elements. The concept provides for the trail and adjacent slopes to be stabilized throughout the space. The streambank is to be restored in areas where it has been compromised and rain gardens developed to slow stormwater runoff, increase water infiltration, reduce sediment, and improve overall water quality. Existing parking will be improved in its current location and pedestrian crossings will be improved for safety reasons. Overall, long-term conceptual master planning includes future phases to improve bridges and boardwalks, upgrading the existing detention pond, public art installation, small pavilions, the introduction of pollinator gardens, interpretive educational signage, and park gateway identity.

The initial construction estimate for Phase I (middle section) is \$2,500,000. Current budgeted funds are approximately \$2,000,000. Budget reductions totaling \$250,000 could be achieved with adjustments to landscape materials, hardscape structures and project contingencies. Future phases of construction could be considered in subsequent budget cycles.

Councilmember John Paulson stated Abernathy Road is a state highway. Are any of the stormwater structures the State's responsibility?

Recreation and Parks Director stated the structures seems to be working by removing water off the road. Staff will how to follow up with the consultant to see if anything is the State's responsibility.

Councilmember Paulson asked if there is a way to stage the project to put the most critical things first.

Recreation and Parks Director responded yes, that is how the project has been presented. The middle area is the most critical component.

Councilmember Paulson remarked that it looks like the trail is being rerouted so it is longer and not so steep.

Recreation and Parks Director said the topography plays a roll. Another factor is getting pedestrians up to the intersection. Considerations were how to get the water to the creek efficiently and not overload the creek beyond its capacity.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked if using a larger aggregate than crusher run would help with some of the washing.

Councilmember Paulson stated there are a couple of issues. There are ways to manage pathways using aggregate and structures to put in to hold the gravel in place. They are like honeycomb structures, or stabilizing mats. Making the gravel bigger does not always work, and larger gravel could be too large to walk on.

Recreation and Parks Director said there is a bit of a honeycomb system on Wright Road, but the entire area is not built that way. Once crusher run aggregate gets moisture on, it compacts really well. The water coming down does not just flow south. It sheet flows across the whole basin and the whole area may flood. Staff looked at different options - like paving or pavers, but those are more expensive.

Councilmember Andy Bauman remarked that this is a big project. It feels more like a stormwater/water quality project first, than a park pedestrian access project. I want to hear the engineer to address questions. Whether it is bioswales or other best management practices, then that would be my focus on

this project. Get those in, then come back later - see how time and water resolve and then come back later with pathways. There is an opportunity similar to what was done at Marsh Creek or Old Fourth Ward. This project could be used as another model in the city as to how to manage water flow. My focus would be on stormwater water control and quality, and come back with pedestrian facilities.

Mayor Paul asked if you break it up that way, what does it do to the total cost of project.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio asked what does it do to the continued deterioration. Water in Sandy Springs has been a constant strain. But putting this off could get deeper and more expensive.

Councilmember Bauman agreed. The Council should focus efforts on the long term fixed as it relates to managing of the water.

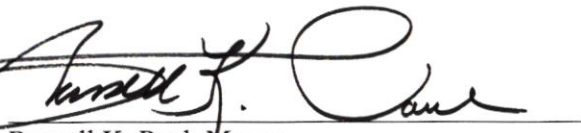
Mayor Paul said it would be helpful to hear from Atkins to discuss some value engineering. It would be helpful to hear the significance, and the impact of further staging. More information is needed to make the right decision.

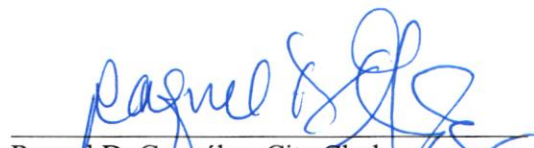
II. City Council Discussion Items

There were no City Council discussion items.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Approved: January 17, 2023



Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Raquel D. González, City Clerk