



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Ralph Clark, Interim City Manager

Date: March 11, 2021

Re: Consideration – Authorization to Submit TDA Application for Fenwick-Hollowell Wetland Trail Project

BACKGROUND:

The Fenwick-Hollowell boardwalk trail and kayak/canoe launch are located on the Pasquotank River behind the College of the Albemarle (COA) campus and Sentara Medical Center. The trail has a one-mile loop, with 3,440 ft. of timber boardwalk, mostly seven feet wide, through 12 acres of natural wetlands along the Pasquotank River. Users can access the boardwalk trail at four locations behind COA and Sentara Medical Center.

ANALYSIS:

Over the last few years, several damaged portions of the boardwalk trail have been completely replaced. The only remaining portion of the trail that needs to be replaced is from the Trailhead leading down to the canal, which is approximately 450 ft. The goal is to secure funding in time for the contractor to begin replacement of the remainder of the trail in early May 2022. After completion of the project, 3,440 ft. of trail will have been replaced. At this time, there are six entities contributing to the rehabilitation of the trail walk; Pasquotank County, COA, Green Saves Green, ACT Trust, Morning Rotary Club, and Community Individual Donations. The project will enhance Elizabeth City as a travel destination because it will attract hikers, bird watchers, and outdoor enthusiasts from surrounding areas. As a result of the pandemic, outdoor activities have become an attraction for many, thus promoting projects such as this.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize City staff to submit an application to the Tourism Development Authority in the amount of \$15,000 to support the Fenwick-Hollowell Wetland Trail Project.

Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Tourism Expenditure Restricted Funds Application

Local Government Name	City of Elizabeth City
Contact Person and Title	Mr. Ralph Clark
E-Mail address	www.eliabethcitync.gov
Phone Number	252-338-3981
Project Name	Fenwick-Hollowell Wetland Trail Project
Project Address	P.O.39 Elizabeth City, NC 27909
Website	Elizabethcitync.gov
Cost of Project	\$65,000
Tourism Funding Requested	\$15,000

1. Provide a detailed description of Project. Include goals and outline intended results.

The Fenwick-Hollowell boardwalk trail and kayak/canoe launch are located on the Pasquotank River behind the College of the Albemarle (COA) campus and Sentara Medical Center in Elizabeth City. The trail has a one-mile loop, with 3,440 ft. of timber boardwalk, mostly 7 feet wide, through 12 acres of natural wetlands and along the Pasquotank River. Users may access the boardwalk trail at four locations behind COA and Sentara Hospital. Common trees and shrubs are identified with signage for public education.

Over the last few years we have been able to completely replace damaged areas of the trail. The only remaining portion of the trail that needs to be replaced is from the Trailhead leading down to the canal. This is approximately 450 feet. Our goal is to secure funding in time for contractor to start replacement in early May 2022. When the work is completed the entire 3,440 feet will be have been renovated.

2. What is the anticipated Project timeline, including start and finish dates?

We are anticipating to have a funding component complete by the end of February 28, 2022. The contractor will be ready to start the project by May 15. If weather cooperates the completion of the trail should occur by late June or early July.

3. Provide an outline of the scope of work and anticipated costs, including budget.

The project will have two costs: labor and materials. We are estimating a cost of \$111 per square foot. Weather may be a factor and could affect the timeliness of the project. I have included a budget and funding breakout on page 3.

4. Describe information about proposed firm or partnership contract for the project.

The contract for renovation and replacement for the trail will be awarded to Ivan Sawyer. His company, Sawyers Residential and Marine Construction, Inc. is located in Grimesland NC. This is the same company that has done the work on the trail for the four previous stages of renovation.

5. Does the Project have the potential to attract new overnight visitors? Explain.

Our plan is to market the trail through coordination with the Pasquotank Paddle Trail, Albemarle Paddle Trails and the NC Trails Program. The trail may have appeal to hikers in the surrounding Albemarle eight county area. Marketing efforts should result in hikers from out of town staying overnight in our hotels.

6. Does this project have the ability to attract visitors on a continuing basis? Explain

The YMCA often uses the boardwalk for nature walks for summer camps and after school programs. The YMCA serves over 1000 children in the summer and approximately 50 children a week after school. Many children participate in nature walks, which are critical to exposing them to diverse flora and fauna in the Albemarle region. The YMCA attracts approximately 700 unique visits a day and twelve thousand a month.

The Kayak/canoe platform in the middle section of the boardwalk provides access to the 21-mile Pasquotank River Paddle Trail, which is in the Albemarle Paddle Trail System. The three overnight camping platforms on Goat Island in the middle of the river are just over a mile north of the COA platform.

Many residents use the trail for walking, bird-watching and quiet enjoyment of nature in the Fenwick-Hollowell Wetlands area and along the scenic Pasquotank River. The trail is an official NC Birding Trail.

7. Describe how this Project will increase the economic impact to the region.

The College of the Albemarle has taken several acres adjacent to the trail and converted it to green space. The College would like to dedicate this land for further development in an effort to compliment the trail project. COA has appointed a committee to brainstorm this endeavor. The committee will be made up of community members and they will begin to meet every other month starting in February. If funding can be found we may have an opportunity to enhance the economic impact of the region in the near future.

8. How will this project enhance Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County as a travel destination?

The project will enhance Elizabeth City as a travel destination because this will attract hikers, bird watchers and outdoor enthusiasts. It will also be very appealing because the Covid pandemic has resulted in visitors seeking more outdoors activities.

Rotary Corps of Elizabeth City

Charter Members:

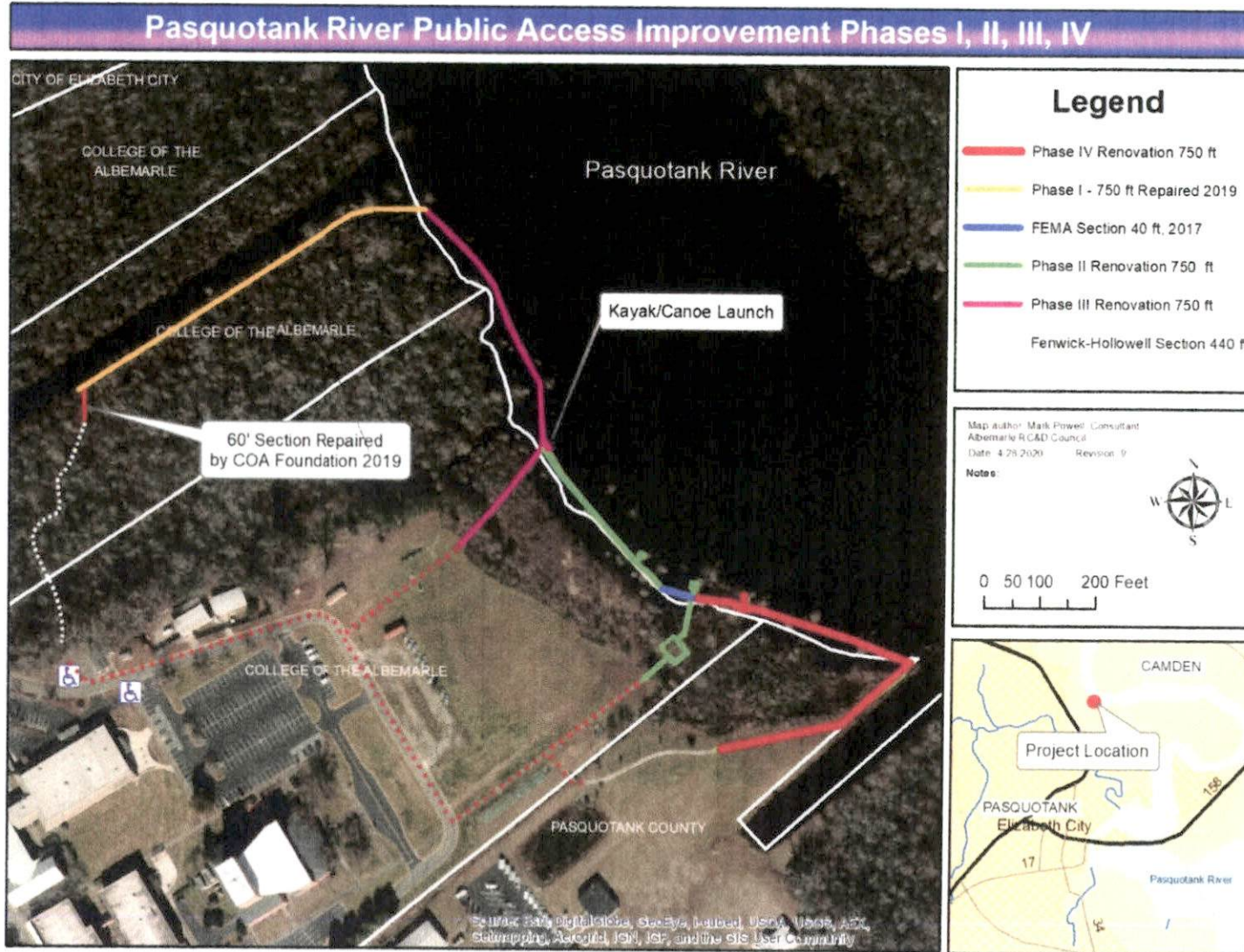
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 Patricia Sterritt

Pasquotank County	\$15,000	Approved
City of Elizabeth City	\$15,000	Pending Board Approval
College of the Albemarle	\$10,000	Approved
Green saves Green	\$5000	Approved
ACT Trust	\$5000	Pending approval of the grant
Morning Rotary Club	\$1000	Approved

Community Individual Donations	\$13000	Committed

Elizabeth City Foundation	\$10,000	Pending
Sentara Hospital		Pending

Figure 3. Site Plan



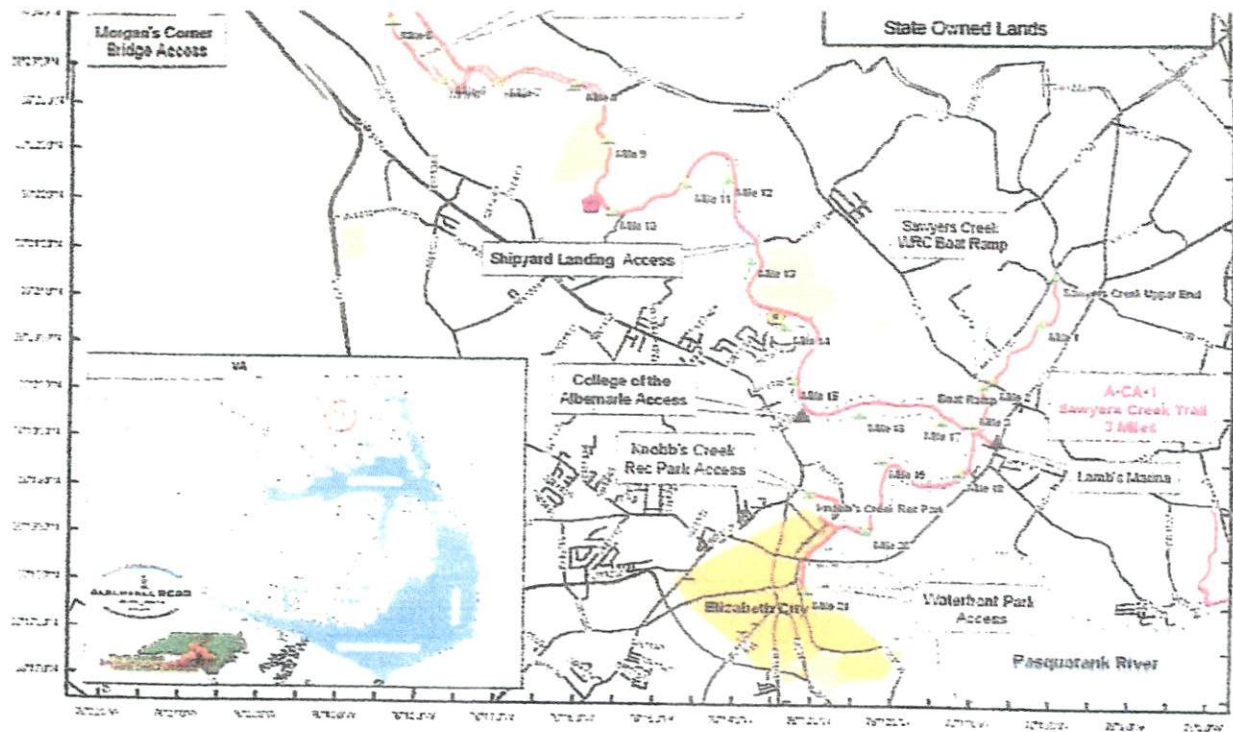


Figure 7. Camping Platforms on Goat Island

