

Source: South County Times

Trailhead To Connect Olde Towne With Trail

Quarter-mile trailhead will cost \$183,059

by Megan Murphy

May 06, 2011

The city of Fenton is preparing to break ground at the site of a new trailhead that will connect Olde Towne with the Meramec Greenway Trail.

The proposed trailhead, which will stretch just over a quarter mile to meet the already existent five-mile Meramec Greenway Trail, comes with a total project cost of \$183,059. Fenton has received a grant of \$51,521 from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to defray the cost. Great Rivers Greenway has also contributed to the project.

Community Development Director Gary Crabtree cited preparation of the land as a major contributor to the cost of the project, which includes the removal of an existing parking lot. When completed, the trailhead will also have a bio-retention garden.

"The trailhead is in the same area where we hope to have a farmer's market in the future," said Alderwoman Lisa Horn. "This project will help make the area ready if we would someday get a grant for the farmer's market."

The new trailhead is expected to be finished next spring.

Fenton Creek Bridge Replacement

South Old Highway 141, near Gravois Bluffs, is currently closed while the bridge over Fenton Creek is replaced. Since the bridge's demolition on April 20, high river levels have impeded further work. Despite spring flooding, the city decided to move forward with the replacement because of the bridge's deteriorated condition.

"Fenton has always been proactive," said Alderman James Mauller in reference to the Fenton Creek Bridge. "When we see a problem like this one, we don't let it multiply."

The total expected cost for the project is \$1.2 million, a majority of which will be paid for through a federal grant. Since being awarded the contract, L. F. Krupp Construction has proposed changes to the project that will result in a savings of \$80,000.

Once the river recedes, construction is expected to take three to four months.