



PARKS AND RECREATION
Town of Chapel Hill
200 Plant Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
bwebster@townofchapelhill.org

phone (919) 968-2819 *cell* (919) 809-4721
fax (919) 932-2923
www.townofchapelhill.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Jim Orr, Director
From: Bill Webster, Planning and Development Manager
Date: July 24, 2018
Subject: Update on Progress to Complete the Bolin Creek Trail

We expect to begin work on the final section of the Bolin Creek Trail in early October 2018. If weather is reasonable work should be completed in early 2019. During construction the existing section of the Bolin Creek Trail from Bolinwood Drive to Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. will be closed to public use. We will direct pedestrian trail users to use sidewalks along Hillsborough Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Construction of the Bolin Creek Trail project was temporarily stopped in March 2016 due to the discovery of a coal ash deposit on the Police Department property. At the time of the stoppage the trail project was about 80% complete. Work completed included all of the trail from under the Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. culvert to Umstead Drive in Umstead Park. The missing portion includes a 550 foot gap in the trail from the eastern edge of the Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. culvert to the existing trail. Future work will also include reconstruction of approximately 900 linear feet of the existing trail, which we expect will be severely damaged by construction traffic and work related to processing of soils.

Work was stopped at a critical point in the construction process. We had previously obtained 401 and 404 nationwide permits to allow us to work in the Bolin Creek floodway. This work was necessary to allow us to extend the trail under Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. via NCDOT's culvert. We had completed a little over half of the in-stream work when the decision was made to halt construction. During the pause in construction both of these permits expired. We now have new permits in hand and can begin construction as soon as we obtain additional funding and we can re-mobilize the contractor.

We expect to request additional funds from the 2015 Greenways bond for the project at the Council's September 19, 2018 meeting. These funds would be used to offset costs related to the project stoppage including:

- Re-mobilization of the contractor and the sub-contractor that specializes in stream work. Both companies totally de-mobilized from the project in 2016.
- New processes required to handle soils partially contaminated from the coal ash deposit per recommendations from our environmental consultant and State regulators.

- Increased costs of materials. Construction costs have increased significantly since the time the project was stopped.

Our contractor's best estimate for returning to the site is October 1, 2018. We are working to establish a firm date, but this appears to be a good guess at this time. Once the project is completed in early 2019 users should be able to travel on the Bolin Creek Trail and Tanyard Branch Trail from Community Center Park to Caldwell Street without obstruction.