

Lone Pine Greenspace and Trail Project FAQ

What is a NID? A Neighborhood Improvement District is intended to finance public acquisition of property and public improvements.

How was the Lone Pine Greenspace created? In 2003 the Lone Pine Greenspace Neighborhood Improvement District of Springfield, MO purchased this 16.42-acre property for “Greenspace” and “Greenspace like purposes.” Residents within this NID boundary assessed themselves \$80 a year for 20 years to purchase and maintain the property.

Who owns this land? The City of Springfield. The 16.42 acres was deeded over to the City of Springfield in December 2003.

What uses are stated in the NID Petition? The petition identified greenspace, low-impact recreation areas, trails, stormwater drainage and detention, rights of way, and easements as potential uses for the land. It also limited development to “no more than three acres for recreation facilities except for trails.”

What is meant by “greenspace”? This term is not defined in the NID Petition nor in any of the City ordinances. The Environmental Protection Agency defines greenspace as “Land that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation. Green space includes parks and community gardens.”

How were neighbors informed of this project? NID residents were officially informed on August 2, 2021 via first class mail. Ozark Greenways regrets the delay in notifying this stakeholder group and is providing an opportunity for comment on-line between August 16 to 22 and in-person on August 19.

Will NID funds be used for this project? No. This new project is privately funded by Ozarks Greenways with the support of the Hatch Foundation, a local family charity formed to support quality of life and quality of place initiatives in Springfield. The current partnership includes City of Springfield, landowner; Springfield-Greene County Park Board, land manager; Ozark Greenways (project coordinator); Watershed Committee of the Ozarks; Springfield Youth Cycling Club (SYCC); Missouri Off-Road Cyclists (MORC); SingleFlow Trailbuilders; stakeholder group comprised of residents of both Southern Hills and Brentwood neighborhoods; and the Hatch Foundation.

Does this project align with any existing community plans or initiatives? Yes. This project aligns with the 2019 Walkability Resolution, the Springfield-Greene County Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and early findings from the Forward SGF community comprehensive planning process.

Is there an educational component? Yes. Partners will develop one interpretive kiosk that will describe our region’s karst topography, urban streams, and the role of native plants. Ozark Greenways will develop one informational kiosk listing the rules of the trail, trail etiquette, and provide an overview of the space. The partners will continue to provide volunteer workdays to educate on environmental improvements and developing trail maintenance skills.

How do you access this space and where do you park? Access is via the Galloway Creek Greenway trail and, when it is completed later this summer, the new Brentwood Neighborhood Trail Connector. Public parking is available at the three trailheads, including Pershing School, Battlefield Towers, and Sequiota Park.

Are there plans for future public parking areas? Residents have brought to our attention shortages of parking. Additional parking options are being explored, and additional parking that is approved would then be slated for development as available funding allows.

Who constructed the existing bike trail(s)? Over the years many people have built trails in the wooded area of Lone Pine Greenspace. In 2019 a group of neighborhood youth increased their efforts and dubbed the site “Lone Pine Bike Park.” There are approximately two miles of existing trails.

What is included in the project plan? Trail work includes safety and functional improvements to the existing natural surface trails, and new natural surface trails that include skill features for bicyclists. The total of existing and new trails will not exceed 5 miles. Landscaping improvements include replacing invasive plants with native shrubs, grasses, flowers, and more trees. There will also be two new benches, two new interpretive kiosks, and new trail signage.

What is the projected project timeline? New trail construction is slated for Fall 2021 and may take up to six months, depending on weather and supply chain issues. Trail reconstruction will follow and may also take up to six months. Landscape improvements will occur over the entire project period, plus an additional year of ecological management for the new plantings, with routine maintenance to follow.

What is a natural surface trail? Sometimes referred to a “soft surface trail,” this type of trail uses materials such as stone and soil, in some instances mulch and short sections of wood boardwalk. The professional trail designers and partners will design-build these trails using knowledge of how water, drainage, and erosion act to build sustainable trails.

What is a “feature” for people on bicycles? Technical or skills features are purpose-built features along the trail that add a degree of difficulty and/or fun to a trail. Every trail feature will offer an optional way, referred to as an “alternate line,” that hikers, trail runners, and bicyclists may use.

How will the trails be maintained? The trails are/will be maintained by MORC, SYCC, and Ozark Greenways’ volunteers as organized by Ozark Greenways’ staff. Springfield-Greene County Parks will continue with mowing and general grounds upkeep.

Ozark Greenways’ Resource Page – <https://www.ozarkgreenways.org/explore/greenway-trails/lone-pine-trails/>

