

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Still time to comment on the Riverfront Trail Project”

Norfolk citizens can still submit comments to officials concerning the proposed Riverfront Trail project.

Mark Dolechek, City of Norfolk Assistant Engineer, said the public comment period has been extended until July 6, 2015.



The project was awarded funding in January from the Recreational Trail Program administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The grant will fund about 79% of the project with the City and the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District sharing about 20% of the project costs or an estimated \$141,593. The 7 Cities Century Bike Ride Committee has also committed \$5,000 to the project. The total estimated project cost is \$707,966.

The proposed 10 feet wide concrete trail would begin generally near the intersection of 3rd Street and Elm Avenue. It would then follow alongside the North Fork of the Elkhorn River to 1st Street and through Johnson Park then follow along the river south to East Braasch Avenue and connect to the existing sidewalk along North Cottonwood Street.

The closure of Nebraska Avenue located between 1st Street and Oak Street is also being considered as part of this project. According to Dolechek, a segment of Nebraska Avenue extending about 160 feet west of its intersection with Oak Street would be left in place to provide access to a new gravel parking area where the existing park maintenance facility is currently located. The remainder of the street could then be closed. An existing gravel parking lot northeast of the intersection of 1st Street and Nebraska Avenue within Johnson Park would also be removed.

“The closure of Nebraska Avenue would allow for better connectivity of Johnson Park with the river area and improve pedestrian safety within the park. The City Park Maintenance Facility will be moving to a new location and the equipment used by the city will not need access to this area any longer and the buildings will be removed as

part of another project,” Dolechek said. The other alternate being considered is leaving Nebraska Avenue open to thru traffic and the trail would then run parallel with the street with the trail crossing Nebraska Avenue.

Comments on this project can be submitted in writing to JEO Consulting Group, Inc. at 803 West Norfolk Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701 or the City of Norfolk, 309 North 5th Street, Norfolk NE or can be emailed to jogden@jeo.com by July 6, 2015. For more information and/or to download a comment card go to www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/engineering/RiverfrontTrail.htm.

“The proposed trail will enhance our trail system and complete a vital pedestrian link to Johnson Park and allow for further development with future trails. We look forward to having the public’s input on the project,” Dolechek said.

Design for the Riverfront Trail Project began in May and will be completed this fall. The project will be bid this winter with construction in the summer of 2016.