



Item No. 5A. Town of Atherton

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

FROM: STEVE TYLER – PARK SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: MARCH 2, 2016

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ITEM – ATHERTON CHANNEL IN PARK

DISCUSSION TOPIC

The Park and Recreation Committee to discuss the possibility of incorporating a portion of the Atherton Channel into the park as a feature.

BACKGROUND

At the February 3, 2016 Park and Recreation meeting, it was suggested that an item be placed on the agenda to discuss incorporating a portion of the Atherton Channel into the park as a feature. Staff informed the Committee that this was looked into in the recent past, and that the information would be brought back to the committee to aid in their discussion.

ANALYSIS

An application for a grant for this project was completed in 2006. The application was denied. A copy of the application, a staff report to City Council and a cost estimate are attached to this report for review by the committee prior to meeting discussion.

A summary of the project is as follows:

Concept – open up the park side of the Atherton channel by sloping the southern wall into the park from the N/W corner of the park (pedestrian bridge area) down to the park entrance. This side of the channel would have its concrete bottom removed and slope up gradually to just about 15' S of where the walking path sits today. The path would meander down into this section of the channel where natural plantings would be established to bring the riparian habitat back to the park. During rains, this section of the path would be closed off (for safety) to an alternative section which would run adjacent to the park bank. This concept could have played a part in addressing the following environmental issues previously/currently lacking in the Town:

- Add space to the park
- Add capacity to the Atherton Channel
- Serve to assist water to recharge the underground water table.

- Act as an ecological interpretive center for the trail users.
- Bring the riparian environment back into the park.

Following the rejection of the grant, it was decided to build the pedestrian bridge with 100% town funds. None of the other work in the application was ever performed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders – to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

Attachments:

Staff report 9/21/2005

2006 Grant application

Restoration cost estimate