



Friends of HENDERSON PARK

October 29, 2019

Commissioner Nancy Jester, DeKalb County (via email to Jeff Long and by mail to jklong@dekalbcountyga.gov)
1300 Commerce Dr.
Decatur, GA 30030

Dear Commissioner Jester,

The Friends of Henderson Park mission statement is to engage the community to promote, improve and maintain the park. In 2017 the Friends group applied for a Park Pride grant to begin the trail project. In 2018, as you are aware, thanks to the Park Pride grant and your match from the DeKalb County Park Bond allocations the trail system was evaluated and the white trail was reworked. With the expert advice from Mike Ritter, Trail Design Specialist, the trail system was realigned into the topography of the park. The white trail project construction included two bridges, two stairs and one boardwalk and was dedicated on Earth Day 2018.

Over the last few weekends we hosted a volunteer workday to plant along the white trail where it still needs to be closed south of Lake Erin. The park master plan and recommendations from Mike Ritter include adding a dock located on the south side of Lake Erin across from the new dock. This future dock will be approximately 16 ft. by 20 ft. long. The construction of the project along with materials and decking will match the dock at the playgrounds. The overall estimate from JOC Construction is \$50,000. The addition of the dock will complete the white trail project.

The Friends group is also turning its attention to the red trail the next few years. The City of Tucker received a grant from Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to begin this portion of the trail project. The DNR grant will provide support for the first bridge at the junction of the white and red trail. (Note map) The City of Tucker also received a donation of land at the south of the park which partially is flood plain along with a sought-after waterfall to visit. Originally this property was privately held and thus the trail map does not include this new acreage. The new trail will be added to the current red trail in this section of the park next year. An additional trail bridge will be added to connect to this area from the east side of the red trail. The new bridge will be located in an area on the red trail that is home to old tree canopy and native plants. The bridge will be built over a section of the stream that is eroding and will be 60 feet across and 6 feet wide with handrails and posts. The bridge will be built by JOC Construction the scope of work and drawings are included with this letter.

If, Commissioner Jester, you are so moved to allocate funds to these trail projects, the items that still need funds include:

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|---------------------------|----------|
| 1. Lake Erin Dock (south) | \$50,000 |
| 2. Bridge | \$30,760 |

We appreciate you considering our request to allocate more parks bond allocations to support the trail project in Henderson Park. We enjoyed having you with us to dedicate the new dock at Lake Erin. It is always a pleasure to visit with you and thank you for all you do as a Commissioner for DeKalb County.

For the Greener Good,

Cara Schroeder, Shawn Stone, Lisa Shinew, Vicki Warren, Friends of Henderson Park and Carlton Robertson, City of Tucker Parks and Recreation Director & Jason Collins, Parks Operation Manager, City of Tucker

Enclosures: Henderson Road trail map, JOC Construction Renderings/Budget Estimates from City of Tucker Parks & Rec. Department

cc: COT Mayor Frank Auman, City Council Anne Lerner and Michelle Penkava