

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager    **DATE:** December 2, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Recommend that staff evaluate a possible partnership for mountain bike and hiking trails at Fossil Creek Park for possible consideration by City Council.  
**PRESENTER:** Vickie Loftice, Managing Director

### **SUMMARY:**

Staff will review a possible partnership with Fort Worth Mountain Bike Association for the development of mountain bike and hiking trails within Fossil Creek Park.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

Improvements to Fossil Creek Park was identified as a top three priority in the update to the *Park System Master Plan*. Given that the park is contained almost fully within the *floodway*, development is problematic. There is a small section of the park that is contained within the *floodplain* and in those areas, limited development is possible.

The 58.5 acre park contains beautiful natural areas and is split between Big Fossil Creek which is prone to flooding during rain events. On each side of the creek are mature hardwood trees, a mixture of grasslands, and riparian and water habitats. The park also contains three softball fields on the west side of the park with limited parking. On the far eastern side of the park is an open meadow where limited development can occur since it resides in the floodplain and not the floodway.

Because the majority of the park is contained within the floodway, FEMA regulations do not allow for significant improvements. With federal regulations in mind, staff has been evaluating different options for positive uses of the park absent of development.

One possible option is to create hike and mountain bike trails through an agreement with the Fort Worth Mountain Biking Association. FWMBA would develop and maintain the trails through their volunteer association. Opening the park up to this beautiful natural resource will attract positive uses for the park while helping to eliminate nefarious activities and homeless camps which occur regularly given its dense natural area and isolation.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend that staff evaluate a possible partnership for mountain bike and hiking trails at Fossil Creek Park for possible consideration by City Council.