

RESOLUTION NO. 528

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CO-APPLICATION WITH THE CITY OF HUBBARD, HUBBARD BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP, CITY OF AURORA, AND MARION COUNTY FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVERS AND TRAILS PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora Transportation System Plan (TSP) encourages intercity as well as intracity multimodal means of transportation and recognizes the need for technical assistance funding to achieve its goals, and the City is currently developing a Parks Master Plan that will include linear park planning with trails along Mill Creek and the Pudding River, and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Assistance program provides technical assistance to local communities to help accomplish specific recreation and conservation projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora learned HBED (Hubbard Business and Economic Development) would like to engage in RTCA (Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance) to do a master plan to provide a connected regional system for Aurora to Hubbard within the Mill Creek corridor and connect to the South with Woodburn; and.

WHEREAS, this project represent an opportunity to provide more specific direction as to how the City of Aurora's goals can be accomplished for non-motorized transportation outlined in the TSP and to provide places for recreation for our citizens.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, THAT:

The City of Aurora, by and through its City Council, recognizes and supports a co-application with itself, HBED, City of Hubbard, and Marion County to create a master plan for a non-motorized trail and pathway that would provide for a connected regional system within Marion County, and authorize the Mayor to sign the formal grant application for a technical staff assistance to the National Park Service, River, Trails and Conservation Program, and execute all documents in conjunction therewith.

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of June 2007.

CITY OF AURORA, OREGON

BY: _____
MAYOR

ATTEST:

BY: _____
RECORDER

The City Council denied this Resolution because it is not in the best interest of the City.

Hubbard's Mill Creek Trail Proposal

The City of Hubbard has experienced rapid growth in the past few years. New housing developments are bringing many families with young children to the city. According to the 2000 Census, more than 37 percent of the city's population is under the age of 20. This figure is higher in Hubbard than for Marion County as a whole. Currently, 41 more new homes are being constructed on 6 to 7,000 square foot lots creating a growing need for more open space and recreational facilities.

Currently, there are two parks that serve the 2500 residents of Hubbard. A one square block park is located in the core of town and provides a splash fountain, picnic area, play equipment and a basketball court. This is Rivenes Park.

Barendse Park, the second park, is located on the north end of town off 5th Street. This 7-acre park's facilities include; two baseball diamonds, a soccer field, tennis court, small skate park and a quarter-mile asphalt walking path.

We are proposing a recreational addition in the form of a trail located in the northwest portion of Hubbard. A trail, that in its first phase, would begin at Rivenes Park go west on D Street (aka Mineral Springs Road) to the Wolfer-Will Greenway then to the Mill Creek area, following the creek north to Baines Blvd. Following Baines east to 5th Street then going south on 5th to Barendse Park or continue to Rivenes Park, thus completing the walking loop. The area adjacent to Mill Creek is particularly scenic and serene and suitable for a walking/bike trail. The proposed trail would be a wonderful asset for the community, as well as, a draw and destination for visitors.

The Hubbard Transportation System Plan calls for a trail along Mill Creek from Hubbard to the North Marion School District campus. This provision was put into the TSP in 1999 because there is, currently, no safe way for children, who live in Hubbard, to walk or ride bikes to school. Mineral Springs Road to Boones Ferry Road is now the route to the school; both of these roads are two lanes with narrow shoulders, without sidewalks and vehicles traveling at speeds of 55 MPH and higher. The trail would encourage children to exercise by walking or riding bikes on a safe route directly to the school.

A year ago, representatives from Woodburn, Hubbard and Aurora attended an Oregon State Parks Trail Planning meeting in Portland. They addressed the need for a connective trail that would follow Mill Creek from Aurora south through Hubbard and connect with the 8-mile trail Woodburn is developing, through their city limits. This trail could easily be extended to connect to the bicycle trails in Champoeg Park.

On May 21 this year, 500 to 1500 bicyclists will be stopping in Hubbard and using the facilities at Barendse Park. In September, Cycle Oregon will have a one day layover at Champoeg Park, that day they have a 57-mile bike ride scheduled that will go right through Hubbard and out Whiskey Hill Road on their way to The Oregon Gardens. This proposed trail could be another driving force behind economic development, as these bike riders spend money for food and supplies as they go through an area.

What we are referring to as Phase One of the Mill Creek Trail encompasses an area that is partially in the City of Hubbard's UGB and partially in Marion County. We will be applying for a grant that would allow us to partner with the National Park Service on design and planning for the trail. In a recent meeting with a representative from NPS, it was suggested that we co-apply for their grant with Marion County, City of Hubbard, City of Aurora and HBED. Officials from Marion County strongly support this trail project and have agreed to become co-applicants.

The area, where we would like Phase One of the trail to begin, is adjacent to Mineral Springs Road and a few feet from where the actual "Mineral Springs" bubble from the ground. In there early 1900's a group of doctors from Portland bought the land and built a sanatorium to taut the health benefits of the springs. Trainloads of tourist would come to Hubbard to spend the weekend at Mineral Springs. In the 1960s the buildings on the property fell into disrepair and were removed.

The property, located at 18418 Mineral Springs Road, has since been acquired by a private party who is interested in restoring the area surrounding the springs and helping to develop the trail. He has contacted the Pudding River Watershed Council and has received a grant to do restoration work on Mill Creek where it crosses his property. We would be looking for similar grants to upgrade, as needed, the conditions on the creek as we proceed up and down stream.

In the Hubbard Comprehensive Plan it states: "Hubbard will pursue the establishment of a multi-use path along Mill Creek as specified in the City of Hubbard Transportation System Plan". It, also, states: "The city of Hubbard shall encourage the development of Mineral Springs property as a County or State Park". We are not proposing a park, rather an area for a trailhead. The trail is, also, included in Marion County's Transportation Plan and the City of Aurora's Parks Plan.

Hubbard Business and Economic Development (HBED) group, a non-profit group, is spearheading this project. We believe the Mill Creek trail would enhance the livability of Hubbard, encourage tourists to visit the town and be the type of amenity that attracts new business development. We feel there is enough interest in a trail that we would be able to accomplish much of the physical work with local volunteers. Grants and fundraisers would finance the project. We would, also, be organizing volunteers to maintain the trail.

We appreciate your time and sincerely hope you will partner with us to make Mill Creek Trail a reality. The following is a list of HBED officers and contacts:

Jan LaFollette, HBED Project Manager, 503-981-1844

Terri Gonzalez, HBED Chair, 503-981-9546

Tracey Berkey, Chair Mill Creek Trail Committee, 503-880-9552