

Park & Recreation Commission Item

February 24, 2026



Item	Lake Ann Park Preserve Next Steps for Southern Trail Segment
Item No:	G.2
Agenda Section	<u>GENERAL BUSINESS</u>
Prepared By	Jerry Ruegemer, Park and Recreation Director

SUGGESTED ACTION

Park and Recreation Commission recommends to the Chanhassen City Council What Is The Preferred Next Steps For The Lake Ann Park Preserve Southern Trail Segment.

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The City of Chanhassen has had the vision to build and preserve the natural-area with a variety of bituminous and natural turf trails between Lake Ann and Lake Lucy. The Lake Ann Park Preserve Feasibility Study was developed in 2019 that envisioned a connected trail network while preserving the forest and wetlands in the Lake Ann Preserve.

DISCUSSION

The Park and Recreation Commission has tracked the project since its beginning and has witnessed the challenges and the small wins. The completion of the 3 boardwalks achieved a major goal of access into the preserve, and to date, many of our residents have enjoyed exploring the preserve.

The city has looked at many options to avoid the archaeological site (Site 21CRO188) in question. We explored 4+ realignment options but any change would trigger the city to start over with field testing to

discover if artifacts are present. The city presented the "Cap and Fill" concept to stay above grade, minimizing impact, but SHPO concluded there was too much disturbance in the identified artifact area and that the construction concept wasn't approved.

SHPO did conclude that the identified artifact sites near the Greenwood Shores parking lot and the site between Lake Ann and Lake Lucy lacked historical context which allowed the city to move forward with bidding and constructing the Greenwood Shores parking lot and the Northern segment of the trail that leads to Lake Lucy Lane. Below are the details related to the bids and approvals:

2026 Construction Details

- Greenwood Shores Parking Lot
- North trail segment from Greenwood Shores to Lake Lucy Ln
- Updated bid documents/Splitting Segments
- Advertised Bid Documents – January, 2026
- Bid Opening- January 27, 2026 (8 Qualified bids)
- Bids ranged from \$783,000 to \$1,090,000
- Award Bid – February 9, 2026, (City Council)
- Pre-con Meeting – February 12, 2026
- Clearing & Grubbing trees for trail alignment – February/March 2026
- Construction starts Spring/Summer 2026
- Significant completion by September 1

Moving forward what are the viable options for the Southern Trail segment.

- Continue exploring Phase III with The 106 Group to work towards SHPO approval (\$30K - \$635K Cost Estimate) (Not preferred, risk seems too high)
- Explore the option to pave “Up To” the archeological site (Site 21CRO188) Avoid subgrade disturbance with site.(This approach could be too problematic with access and maintenance)
- Explore new routes to avoid the identified artifact location. (Phase I & Phase II would be high probability \$75K-\$100K+ EST)
- Delay constructing the Southern trail segment. Future P&R Commission and City Council makes decision to move forward
- Leave the trail natural as it exists today. (City would not plow and maintain in Winter months)

RECOMMENDATION

Park and Recreation Commission recommends to the Chanhassen City Council What Is The Preferred Next Steps For The Lake Ann Park Preserve Southern Trail Segment.

ATTACHMENTS

[Lake Ann Preserve Project Expenses Update 2026-02-18](#)