



WESTMINSTER

Staff Report

TO: The Mayor and Members of the City Council

DATE: August 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Briefing and Post-City Council Briefing Agenda for August 24, 2009

PREPARED BY: J. Brent McFall, City Manager

Please Note: Study Sessions and Post City Council briefings are open to the public, and individuals are welcome to attend and observe. However, these briefings are not intended to be interactive with the audience, as this time is set aside for City Council to receive information, make inquiries, and provide Staff with policy direction.

Looking ahead to Monday night's Briefing and Post-City Council meeting briefing, the following schedule has been prepared:

Dinner	6:00 P.M.
Council Briefing (<i>The public is welcome to attend.</i>)	6:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL MEETING	7:00 P.M.
POST BRIEFING (<i>The public is welcome to attend.</i>)	

PRESENTATIONS

1. City Council Community Service Project (Attachment)

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

1. Report from Mayor (5 minutes)
2. Reports from City Councillors (10 minutes)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None at this time

INFORMATION ONLY STAFF REPORTS – do not require City Council action

None at this time

Items may come up between now and Monday night. City Council will be apprised of any changes to the post-briefing schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Brent McFall
City Manager



WESTMINSTER

Staff Report

Post City Council Meeting
August 24, 2009



SUBJECT: City Council Community Service Project

PREPARED BY: James Mabry, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
Barbara Opie, Budget & Special Projects Manager

Recommended City Council Action:

Change the venue and community service project currently scheduled for September 12 as a Graffiti Paint Out to a trail extension, renovation and open space clean up at McKay Lake.

Summary Statement

The purpose of this Staff Report is to ask City Council for direction and to provide an update on the status of the Graffiti Paint Out as part of City Council's on going efforts to broaden community interaction. Due to the success of the anti-graffiti program in eliminating graffiti on public property, Staff does not recommend conducting a Graffiti Paint Out community service project as originally planned for September 12. Staff has identified alternatives for community service projects that could be held on September 12 and is recommending the change noted above.

Expenditure Required: Estimated at \$1,100

Source of Funds: General Fund - Central Charges Community Outreach Budget

Policy Issues

- Does Council wish to change the community service project currently planned as a Graffiti Paint Out and instead complete a trail spur and clean up project at McKay Lake open space as recommended by Staff?

Alternatives

- Council could choose to continue the graffiti paint out on City owned properties on an “as needed basis” from year to year. Staff recommends, evaluating the anti-graffiti awareness need each year and the need for a community service project to help address an area in need.
- For 2009, Council could choose to repaint the Little Dry Creek canal area despite the area having minimal if any graffiti currently. This project could even out the existing paint that has covered graffiti in the area from last summer. Staff does not recommend this option as there are many other community service projects possible throughout the City that will provide greater impact.
- Council could choose an alternative community service project. Staff has identified a few options that are included within the Background section of this Staff Report.

Background Information

In 2008, the theme of the City Council Community Outreach program was identified as a dynamic program that will encompass a variety of events and activities designed to broaden and encourage diversity in Westminster residents participating in the community. Under this theme, the Graffiti Paint Out scheduled for Saturday, September 12 was identified as a City Council community service project designed to facilitate Council interaction with Westminster residents.

In October 2008, the City Council Graffiti Paint Out was a success in that City Council members, along with 37 volunteers, painted over approximately 8,000 square feet of graffiti along Little Dry Creek canal in south Westminster. The success of this event was confirmed by Gary Pedigo, Neighborhood Services Specialist in the Police Department. In the year following the Council Graffiti Paint Out, Neighborhood Service staff has needed to remove only approximately 2 square feet of graffiti from the Little Dry Creek canal area since the conclusion of the 2008 event. The Guard Against Graffiti program has tracked a reduction of graffiti needing to be removed from City properties from 21,007 square feet of graffiti removed in July 2008 to 7,664 square feet of graffiti removed in July 2009.

The success of the 2008 Graffiti Paint Out and the overall success of the City’s anti-graffiti program has challenged Staff to locate sufficient and significant graffiti to be removed from City property for the September 2009 event. As such, Staff is requesting direction from City Council as it relates to their planned community service project for September 12. The best location to conduct graffiti removal (access, visibility, public property, etc) is along the Little Dry Creek canal area where City Council painted out graffiti in 2008. It should be noted that minimal graffiti currently exists at this location and Staff has no indication that there will be any graffiti on September 12 for Council to paint out. City Council could repaint the Little Dry Creek canal area, making the paint more uniform along the canal but the likelihood of having significant graffiti to remove is minimal. Based on this assessment, Staff does not recommend conducting the Graffiti Paint Out as originally planned but rather identify another community service project that will still engage and give back to the community on September 12.

A number of potential projects have been identified. Staff is recommending the trail completion and clean up of McKay Lake Open Space as Council’s community service project for September 12.

The McKay Lake Open Space project entails completing a trail spur from the current trail to 144th Avenue connecting the trail to the newly installed parking lot, renovating the existing trail from 144th Avenue to McKay Lake, and the removal of trash, debris and fence line. This project would originate at the soon to be opened parking lot located on the south side of 144th Avenue approximately one block west of Pecos Street. The McKay Lake project has the added advantage of conducting a Council community service project in the northern neighborhoods of Westminster. (See attached map.)

Council and participating Westminster residents would use rakes to spread crusher fine material to complete a 600 foot soft trail spur originating at the 144th Avenue parking lot connecting to the existing trail from McKay Lake fishing pier to 144th Avenue. In addition, the existing trail from 144th Avenue to the fishing pier is in need of additional crusher fine material. Along with the trail spur completion and existing trail renovation, there is trash, debris, and an old fence line on the western side of the lake that can be removed as part of the clean up. Staff feels there is substantial work in the area for Council’s community service project and anticipated community participants. Staff would invite residents from the community to participate, including the Open Space Volunteers.

Other alternatives to the McKay Lake open space project that Staff has identified include the following possibilities:

- Conduct a celebration on the completion of the Big Dry Creek trail system in the City of Westminster that now has no at-grade crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists with the completion of the 98th Avenue/Old Wadsworth Boulevard and the Quail Creek drainage projects; the event would conclude with a trash and debris clean up community service project along the Big Dry Creek trail.
- Invite the community to a self-guided bicycle tour of the Big Dry Creek trail system beginning at 98th Avenue and Old Wadsworth up to Lucas Elementary School to promote the completion of the Big Dry Creek trail system; a celebration at the 98th Avenue and Old Wadsworth underpass could be part of this event (obviously, this would not be a community service project but rather an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the City’s impressive trail system).
- Conduct a clean up project at the Schoenberg Farm; this project would involve heavy clean up in the barn, loft, silo and grounds areas including the removal of old equipment, lumber, animal waste (pigeon primarily), and barn farm equipment; while Staff believes this may be an exciting project, it will be a difficult one involving heavy lifting that may be better left to professionals.
- Conduct a clean up project (trash removal) along one of the main corridors throughout the City, which may include any of the following:
 - 112th Avenue & Westminster Boulevard near Benton Street
 - 72nd Avenue & Sheridan Boulevard (east side brick wall)
 - 136th Avenue & Huron Street (southeast corner)
 - Huron Street from 128th Avenue to 136th Avenue (Big Dry Creek)
 - 94th Avenue & Independence Drive (undeveloped City park)
 - 98th Way (open space path in the Westbrook development)
 - 76th Avenue & Osceola Street (Little Dry Creek spillway)
- Conduct a clean up project with the “Honor the Land” open space special event planned for November 7 (Big Dry Creek); this would involve cancelling the currently scheduled September 12 community service event and postponing it until November.

If City Council concurs with Staff's recommendation to change the event to the McKay Lake open space clean up, Staff asks that all participants in this event bring work gloves if they have them, wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and long sleeve shirts and generally clothes that can get dirty. Additional tools and safety gear for this event will be provided by Open Space Staff.

As was done with the community service project in 2008, the event would kick off with an overview of the City's efforts, in this case as it relates to open space and trail extensions. Participants would then learn about the different components of the project for the day and then break down into smaller groups as appropriate to complete the project(s). At the conclusion of the event, lunch would be provided as a thank you and opportunity for additional informal exchanges with City Council with volunteers.

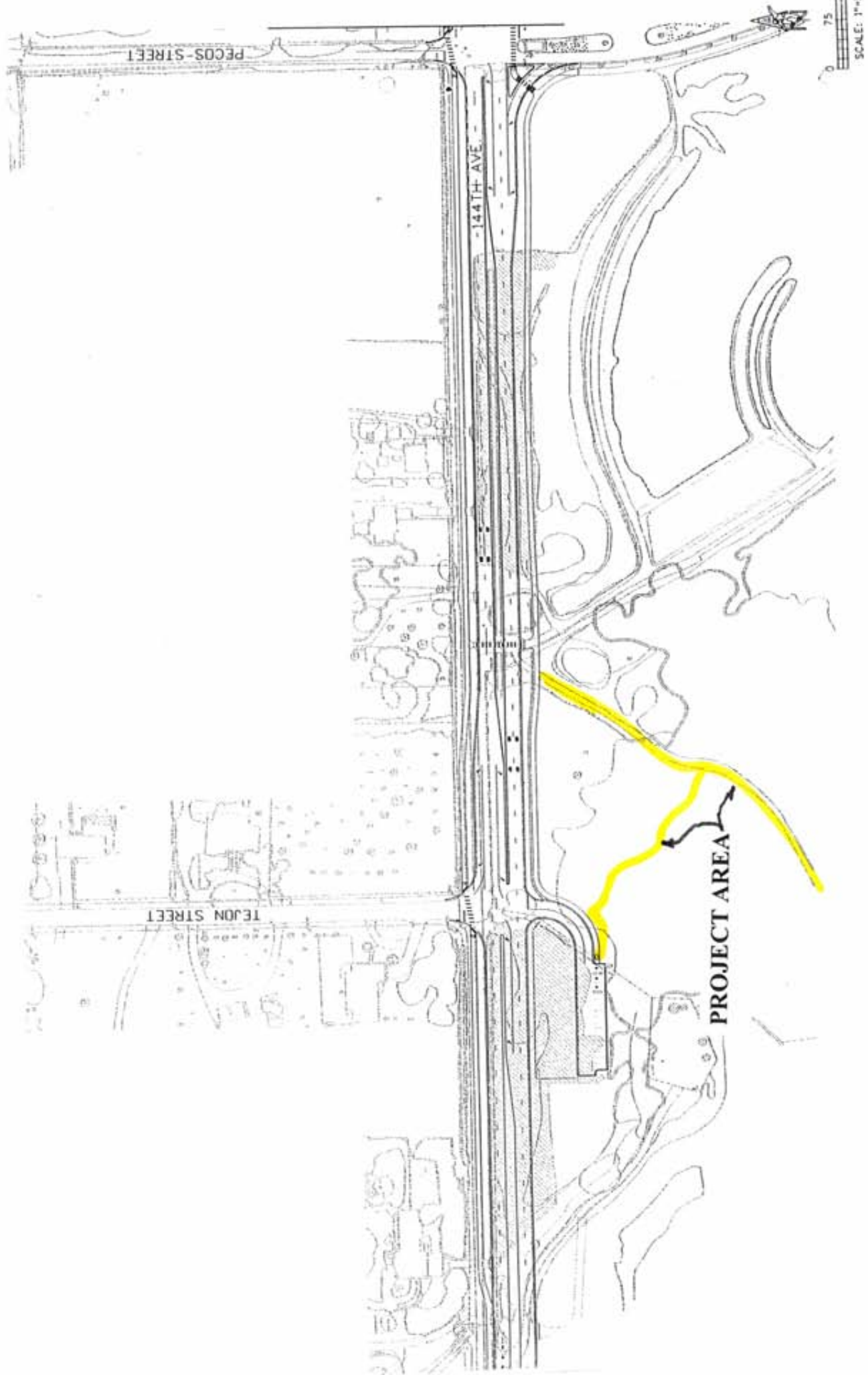
Staff will promote the City Council community service project by contacting all 2008 participants. Staff will also encourage new participants for the 2009 event, including outreach to the Open Space Volunteers and other community members. The Council Community Outreach event will be advertised through the City of Westminster website, Channel 8, Weekly Edition, and at City facilities.

Staff will be in attendance at Monday's post City Council meeting to discuss these options.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Brent McFall
City Manager

Attachment



MCKAY LAKE