



CITY OF RAPID CITY

Department of Parks and Recreation

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To: Public Works Committee & City Council
From: Alex DeSmidt, Landscape Designer
Re: State of the Rapid City Bike Path

BACKGROUND

The bike path is one of the most popular recreational facilities in Rapid City and it is overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Rapid City bike path is more formally known as the Leonard “Swanny” Swanson Memorial Bike Path after the Public Works Director Leonard Swanson who envisioned and worked to develop the greenway/bike path system following the 1972 flood.

Currently, the path stretches 8 miles through the entire Rapid City Greenway from Cleghorn Canyon Road to Cambell Street and consists of more than 422,400 square feet of concrete which varies in width from 8 to 12 feet wide. There are five (5) bridges, twelve (12) underpasses and eight (8) road crossings along the bike path.

The last traffic count, which only counted bicyclists, was conducted throughout May 2014 at Founders Park and it identified an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) count of 64 cyclists on the weekdays and 74 on the weekends.

The bike path (like a road) requires minor and major repairs to keep it in a useable condition.

Major Repairs:

These repairs include bridge, pavement, and stream bank restorations and typically require hired professional design consultants to complete design plans and the projects are then let out to bid. Costs for these repairs are typically significant and come from the Parks-CIP budget.

Minor Repairs:

These types of repairs typically consist of panel replacement, crack repair and minor bridge repairs which are completed by maintenance staff and through the use of contractors on a quote basis if the extent of work is under the bid limit. Costs for these projects are covered by the operating budget or from the same budget as major repairs.

IMPROVEMENTS

In 2012, \$21,967.50 worth of bike path repair was completed at Sioux Park behind Fitzgerald Stadium and in the Baken Park area next to McDonald's. J. Walz Concrete was contracted to remove and replace a total of 3,030 square feet of bike path at \$7.25 per square foot. The area that was repaired is 10-feet wide and approximately 300-feet in length.

In 2013, the Parks Department contributed \$7,500 with Public Works-Engineering Division to complete with the City-wide bridge inspection. In 2013, \$31,000 in improvements to the natural surface trail system within Founders Park and the Chuck Lien Family Park were completed to mitigate erosion, remove unsustainable alignments and create a connection between the Hanson-Larsen Memorial Park complex and the bike path.

In 2014, so far \$8,500 has been spent on approximately 2,000 square feet of minor bike path repairs at Canyon Lake & Sioux Park to repair damage from the October storm Atlas and the cleanup effort that followed. This work was completed by Parks Maintenance Staff.

A professional services contract for bike path restoration and creek bank stabilization is being secured to complete the necessary planning, design easements and permitting for 4 areas of major repairs at Cambell Street, Cliffside Park, Cleghorn Fish Hatchery and the Fairgrounds (see attached maps). The cost of these professional services is \$24,875 and will be paid for out of the Parks-CIP Bike Path Improvement line item which is currently \$49,425.24.