

Patrick Conner has joined the **Wildlife Habitat Foundation (WHF)** as an independent contractor. He is proposing that the city enter a **non-binding agreement** with WHF to develop a **Conservation Management Plan** for the Regional Park. Scott Dixon and the FCRP have reviewed this proposal and are in full agreement. Patrick Conner requests that the Park Board place an item on their next meeting agenda to support this and send a letter to both the Mayor and Council.

Key Points of the Proposal

- **Grant Support.** The plan would provide details needed for the city's TPWD Hiking Trail Grant. It would address issues like erosion in the park's hiking trails and picnic areas and along the Medina River. It would also help develop options for specific conservation practices, such as terraces or dense vegetated strips, to reduce runoff.
- **No cost to the city.** The plan would be developed at no cost to the City of Castroville, as WHF is funded by a grant from the USDA-NRCS.
- **Voluntary program.** There is no obligation for the city to implement any of the recommendations. The NRCS has no regulatory authority over the city and can only offer guidance.
- **Expertise.** WHF's independent contractors are former USDA-NRCS employees with expertise in conservation planning. All plans developed by WHF are reviewed and approved by the NRCS, giving them a professional level of credibility.
- **Engineering collaboration.** The plan would allow for collaboration with the city's engineer to develop vegetation plans for his designs. These combined plans would be reviewed by the NRCS to ensure they effectively prevent soil erosion.