

January 5, 2016
Smart Growth America Complete Streets Technical Assistance Workshop
12 Month Report
Hot Springs, Arkansas
Jean Wallace, Parks & Trails Director

Since the Hot Springs City Board of Directors' unanimous adoption of our Complete Streets Policy in February, 2015, approximately \$240,000 has been spent on bicycle and pedestrian accommodations as street repair and repaving have occurred. Part of the CS funds were leveraged with Stormwater and CDBG funds to implement the first phase of a 3 year phased project to completely re-invent a 5 block blighted entry corridor into Hot Springs. Landscaped medians, reduced and narrowed vehicle lanes, raingardens, sidewalks, bike lanes and intersection bump outs are currently being installed. On-street parking is proposed to be removed since there is already plenty of off-street parking available. Our City Engineer is heading up this project and the City Manager and Board of Directors have been briefed and are supportive. The EPA Region 6 District held their annual Stormwater conference in Hot Springs last October and one of the raingardens contained in the above mentioned project was designed by one of the conference speakers and built by conference attendees. Bonus!!

We have purchased all of the Best Practice manuals referenced in our policy and they are housed in the departments in charge of policy implementation: Engineering, Public Works, Planning & Development, and Parks & Trails. The P&D department is currently compiling all CS measurable outcome statistics from 2015 and will have that report ready soon for presentation to the City Board.

Another area under construction with similar Complete Street elements is our northern gateway into Hot Springs. This project, once again, is a compilation of several departments and pots of money that are each building their respective elements. This project is very unique because it is on a state highway and required another level of approval and permitting.

In December, Hot Springs was recognized by the Arkansas Coalition of Obesity Prevention as a "Thriving Community" through their Growing Healthy Communities program. This award is their highest achievement award and was based on our successful Walkability, Community Gardens, Nutrition Education and Farmers Market activities in 2015.

Also in December, we were awarded three federal TAP grants with total project value of approximately \$1.2 million dollars. These grants will build multi-use trail in three areas of town. One will extend our Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, one will connect a major hospital campus to our Greenway and one (Safe Routes to School program) will provide new sidewalks and bike lanes to connect our middle and intermediate public schools to surrounding neighborhoods.

All in all, a good year! We couldn't have done it without you....thanks again!