



# WILDWOOD®

April 16, 2019

The Honorable City Council  
City of Wildwood, Missouri  
16860 Main Street  
Wildwood, Missouri 63040

**Re: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for a New Rockwoods Reservation Natural Surface Trail Connection (Wards One and Six)**

Council Members:

## **Background >>>**

The Planning and Parks Committee had earlier been presented a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) in February 2019, where it was identified by its respective parts and briefly discussed. Part of this discussion also included potential trailhead locations and other considerations relating to connectivity of the City and State's network of trails. This discussion ended with the Committee agreeing to schedule a hike of the area and the trail corridor, which the members noted as being beneficial in better understanding the positives and negatives that may be associated with this proposal. Thereafter, the hike was arranged and Committee Members, City staff, and certain residents in the vicinity of this area toured the location(s).

The tour was held on April 3, 2019 and four (4) City Council Members, three (3) residents, and two (2) City staff attended and participated. The group met at Meadows of Wildwood Subdivision and walked across a property located between it and Rockwoods Reservation. From there, the group followed a trail south to Christy Road. The upper part of the trail corridor was not defined, but the quality of the woodlands allowed for easy access, while the southern portion of it was rocky and led to a small parking area that is situated by Christy Road and State Route 109. The character of the trail corridor is beautiful and wild, with much of it being located on the south facing slopes of the ridge, which exhibits rock outcroppings covered with ferns. Also, along the route, an old foundation exists and is complemented by the nearby sheer rock facings as well.

The access to this trail corridor was via a large property that is vacant at this time. The past use of this site has left remnants upon it, which were visible as the group walked through it. The character of the land area is mixed, with a large flat area to the west, but steeply sloping toward the east. The site has a mix of woods, grassy areas, and invasive types of plants.

The hike took about thirty (30) minutes, with several stops along the route, where explanations and questions were offered. The hike was moderate in terms of difficulty, but, again, was premised on no formal natural surface single-track trail being in place. Overall, the property and the trail offered a wonderful respite from the nearby traffic noise of State Route 109.

### **Next Steps >>>**

With the completion of the hike, the Planning and Parks Committee determined that several discussions now need to occur in terms of any future actions by it and, eventually, any City Council might plan in this regard. These discussions would focus on the following items:

1. The level of support among the Committee Members and City Council for this project;
2. The purchase of a site or sites to facilitate this trail corridor;
3. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC); and
4. The costs of this effort, if it were to move forward.

Immediately, the Planning and Parks Committee Members noted the discussion of Item #1 is needed to be completed first, which will dictate if the other remaining items should be researched, discussed, and considered thereafter. Again, the hike was intended to allow the Committee an opportunity to visit and view the locations first-hand and form their own opinions on the same.

After Item #1 is determined, the second part of this discussion would then need to focus on the development of a trailhead at somewhere near the northern boundary of Rockwoods Reservation. Without a trailhead location, the proposed trail would not have a logical start and/or finish point that is readily and easily accessible for users. Therefore, without a trailhead location, the proposed trail, and associated agreement with the State of Missouri, would not be needed. Regardless of this situation, each component can be considered, since without the trail, the trailhead is not needed, and without the trailhead, the viability of the trail is limited. Accordingly, both considerations are important in this regard.

### **Committee's Direction >>>**

The Committee's direction on this matter, starting with the concept of this trailhead and trail corridor through Rockwoods Reservation, was to contact surrounding property owners to determine interest in the installation of these facilities and associated parking alternatives in their respective vicinities. Additionally, as part of these discussions with the nearby property owners and others, the Committee requested the Department of Planning and Parks explore any reasonable options with them in this regard, which might offer a lower cost alternative than a typical trail and trailhead project. Thereafter, the Department of Planning and Parks was instructed to return this item to the Committee no earlier than the June meeting to provide an update to the members.

### **Other and Closing Statement >>>**

If any of the City Council Members should have any questions or comments regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. If any of the City Council Members should have questions or comments on this matter, the Department of Planning and Parks can address them at tonight's Works Session. Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to the City Council on this important matter.

### **Requested Action of City Council >>> None at this time.**



Respectfully submitted,  
**CITY OF WILDWOOD**

Debra Smith McCutchen, Chair\*  
Planning and Parks Committee

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Steve Cross, Co-Interim City Administrator  
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works  
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Gary Crews, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

\* The Department of Planning and Parks developed this report, in conjunction with the Planning and Parks Committee. Content reflects the Committee's consideration of this subject and not necessarily an individual's position or opinion.