



# WILDWOOD

April 19, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

To: Planning and Parks Committee Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: **Update on Expansion Area of Greensfelder Park and Wildwood's Equestrian Community (Ward Six)**

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Steve Cross, City Administrator  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works  
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner

**BACKGROUND >>>** The Department had previously arranged for a group of Wildwood residents with equestrian interests to present a proposal to this Committee for use of Poërtner Park as a facility for their equine interests and related activities. The group had visited the park location with the Department of Planning and Parks, but were advised at that time that the Committee and City Council would have to review any proposal of this nature and make this type of decision. The first meeting between this group of residents and the Committee was intended to introduce the proposal to the members and allow them to ask questions or provide comments about it.

The Committee Members expressed their understanding of the desire of this group to have a dedicated facility for these purposes and understood the important role equestrian properties and these interests have in Wildwood, but also wanted to ensure the deed restrictions that were placed on the property, as part its bequest to the City, would accommodate it, before taking the next step. The Committee Members requested the City Administrator and Department contact the City Attorney and seek an opinion. This contact was made, an analysis was undertaken by the City Attorney, to a determination made that equine-related activities on the site, and any improvements in association with the same, would be contrary to the deed restrictions and risk the City forfeiting the property. The Committee was advised of this situation at its March 2022 meeting.

As part of this discussion at the March meeting, the Planning and Parks Committee inquired if another location in the City could be considered. The Department of Planning and Parks noted that, recently, St.

Louis County was a recipient of a 157 acre donation of land from a group of foundations and not-for-profit organizations, which abuts Greensfelder County Park and is served by Forby Road, all being located in the City of Wildwood. The Committee asked if this new area could offer opportunities for this equestrian group, similar to Gateway Off-Road Cyclists (GORC) and Bluff View Park. The Committee thought this property might present an option for consideration and were supportive of it.

**FOLLOW-UP TO THIS MATTER >>>** The Department of Planning and Parks contacted the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation and explored the planned use of this new 157 acre addition to Greensfelder Park and was advised that equestrian facilities are already planned for it. The new parking lot that is planned on Forby Road will be designed to accommodate trailers for equine, while two (2) new trail segments are to be constructed through the property to connect into the existing network of trails in the park, which are already used by equestrian purposes. Therefore, St. Louis County is anticipating the use of this area for these purposes. It is important to note that St. Louis County is not intending to restrict use of the new trails to one (1) type of user and will allow them to be open to all interests. Although the City could not itself find new opportunities for equestrian enthusiasts in Wildwood, an additional location is coming on-line shortly.

**CONTACT INFORMATION >>>** If any of the Committee Members have questions or comments regarding this update, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. A presentation on this matter is planned at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your review of this information.