

# Project Report

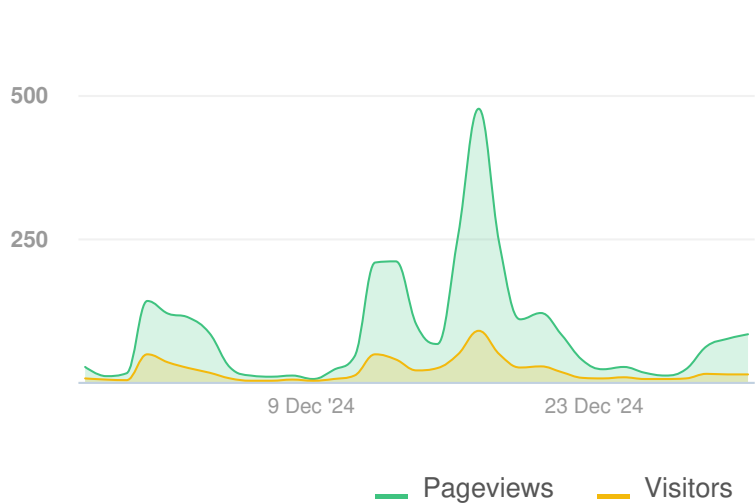
22 February 2022 - 29 December 2024

## City of Columbia, MO

### Gans Creek Recreation Area Master Plan Update



#### Visitors Summary

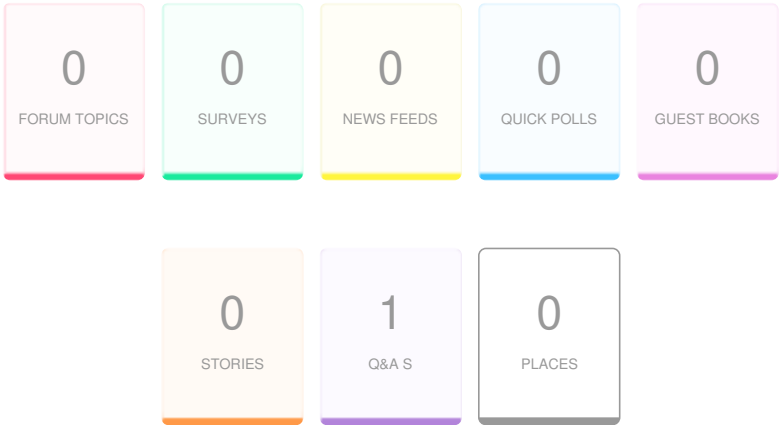


#### Highlights

|                   |     |                      |     |
|-------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| TOTAL VISITS      | 800 | MAX VISITORS PER DAY | 89  |
| NEW REGISTRATIONS | 33  |                      |     |
| ENGAGED VISITORS  | 64  | INFORMED VISITORS    | 322 |
|                   |     | AWARE VISITORS       | 493 |

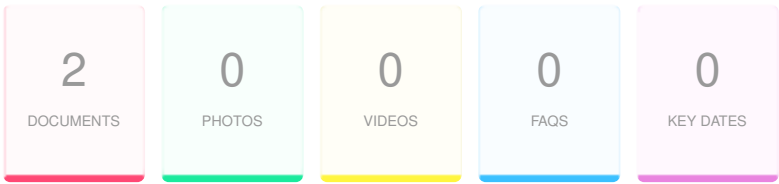
|                                 |              |                             |                               |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aware Participants              | 493          | Engaged Participants        | 64                            |
| Aware Actions Performed         | Participants | Engaged Actions Performed   | RegisteredUnverifiedAnonymous |
| Visited a Project or Tool Page  | 493          |                             |                               |
| Informed Participants           | 322          | Contributed on Forums       | 000                           |
| Informed Actions Performed      | Participants | Participated in Surveys     | 000                           |
| Viewed a video                  | 0            | Contributed to Newsfeeds    | 000                           |
| Viewed a photo                  | 0            | Participated in Quick Polls | 000                           |
| Downloaded a document           | 82           | Posted on Guestbooks        | 000                           |
| Visited the Key Dates page      | 0            | Contributed to Stories      | 000                           |
| Visited an FAQ list Page        | 0            | Asked Questions             | 100                           |
| Visited Instagram Page          | 0            | Placed Pins on Places       | 000                           |
| Visited Multiple Project Pages  | 252          | Contributed to Ideas        | 6400                          |
| Contributed to a tool (engaged) | 64           |                             |                               |

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



| Tool Type | Engagement Tool Name | Tool Status | Visitors | Contributors |            |           |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------|----------|--------------|------------|-----------|
|           |                      |             |          | Registered   | Unverified | Anonymous |
| Qanda     | Questions            | Archived    | 38       | 1            | 0          | 0         |
| Ideas     | Comments             | Archived    | 276      | 64           | 0          | 0         |

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



| Widget Type | Engagement Tool Name  | Visitors | Views/Downloads |
|-------------|---|----------|-----------------|
| Document    | Gans Creek Recreation Area Master Plan November 2024 Update.pdf   | 77       | 93              |
| Document    | Gans Creek Recreation Area Wildlife Buffer Plan November 2024.pdf | 33       | 38              |

## QANDA

### Questions

|             |                |                 |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Visitors 38 | Contributors 1 | CONTRIBUTIONS 1 |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|

No Responses

## IDEAS

### Comments

| Visitors       | 276 | Contributors | 64 | CONTRIBUTIONS | 154 |
|----------------|-----|--------------|----|---------------|-----|
| 30 November 24 |     |              |    |               |     |
| Jason.patrie   |     |              |    |               |     |
|                |     | VOTES        |    |               |     |
|                |     | 4            |    |               |     |
| 01 December 24 |     |              |    |               |     |
| jks            |     |              |    |               |     |
|                |     | VOTES        |    |               |     |
|                |     | 2            |    |               |     |
|                |     |              |    |               |     |

#### More opportunities for developing riders and youth

I support this expansion to our trail network as it will provide greater access to mtb riding for younger youth and developing riders. Currently there are limited opportunities for these groups to develop as the learning curve to ride the trail systems at Rhett's and Rockbridge is a steep one. I look forward to seeing the project completed and bringing youth out onto it.

#### The addition of a few more miles of trail will give more singletrack opportunities to beginners & help to fill the lack of green trails.

Columbia's singletrack trail system has been improving the past few years, however we are still lacking trails built with beginner/intermediate skill levels in mind. The addition of a few miles of trail that have been added to the Gans Recreation Area project will help to expand the amount of useable trail for first time/youth mountain bikers and other trail users looking for more mellow terrain. Offering trail users progression of difficulty is very important for people to be able to advance their skills in a natural way, so having a green level(beginner) trail and a blue level(intermediate) trail in the same park is very important. This allows the natural progression of someone to get comfortable enough on a green section of trail that they can build the confidence to then try out a slightly more challenging blue trail. Beginner level trails and planned progression are necessary to serve our outdoor community. I am in huge favor of the additional mileage added to this trail system. More options and more mileage for these types of trail will literally help our community grow.

## IDEAS

### Comments

|                                   |            |  |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--|
| 01 December 24<br>mountainbikesam | VOTES<br>1 | <p>I support this trail expansion. I'm glad the city is recognizing bicycle recreation more lately. Even better that it will be a NICA course!</p> <p>Mountain biking is a growing sport and getting the recognition of that from parks and rec has been refreshing. Yes, we have trails around Columbia but not very diverse ones when it comes to accounting for all skill levels. These trails will address that. With the NICA course as part of this expansion, we will be giving youth a place to be outside, exercising, making friends, gaining confidence all in a natural environment. I know people have spoken up about its impact on the park but I can assure you, as a mountain biker I am also a nature lover! I think it is important to preserve and maintain natural surroundings. I believe as the population expands in Columbia and worldwide, we are challenged to exist alongside nature and personally, I make it a point to volunteer in the maintenance and upkeep of our trails. This addresses things like erosion control, removal of invasive plant species and more. Please, build these trails!</p> |
| 01 December 24<br>meging3         | VOTES<br>1 | <p>Plan update looks great. Excited for the trail and mileage proposed.</p>  |
| 02 December 24<br>Lcsimonson      | VOTES<br>1 | <p>This is an amazing plan. I am so excited to see the city moving forward with this.</p> <p>This trail will be a great amenity and will help people experience nature and ultimately help protect this green space.</p>   |
| 02 December 24<br>buchheity       | VOTES<br>2 | <p>As a mountain biker, hiker and nature/wildlife viewer I'm excited to see the parks and rec move forward with this plan.</p> <p>There haven't been additional multiuse trails single track trails built in Columbia in over 20 years. These trails will be a great addition and opportunity for bikers, hikers, runners and nature/wildlife viewing. By having more miles of trails they may also assist in alleviating some of the overuse of existing trails in the Columbia, MO area (State Parks, Parks &amp; Rec, Conservation areas).</p>  |
| 02 December 24<br>Mike Burden     | VOTES<br>1 | <p>The updated plan looks great, and it will be an excellent avenue to get more folks of all ages and abilities out enjoying nature.</p>   |

## IDEAS

### Comments

|                                |            |   |
|--------------------------------|------------|---|
| 02 December 24<br>louise       | VOTES<br>0 | <p>The Herons will return to breed and raise their young at about the third week in February.</p> <p>If construction begins in January, it is important that any loud noise from chainsaws, etc. be finished by the 3rd week in February as the birds will be seeking out their mates and breeding. The young Herons will fledge in July. The primary cause of a heron rookery being abandoned is human encroachment. This is why a buffer zone is established. However, in this case, the buffer zone is very small and it is not known whether the Herons will be disturbed enough to leave. These Herons have been returning to this rookery breeding area long before GCRA was built. Hopefully, this trail will not result in displacing them. I thought the trail building was going to happen when the Herons are gone from the rookery from August to February. What happened to that plan?</p> |
| 03 December 24<br>jjohnson     | VOTES<br>1 | <p>Looks like a great project that all sorts of folks will enjoy using.</p>   |
| 03 December 24<br>Jp19         | VOTES<br>0 | <p>Sounds like a great project and excited for new trails!</p> <p>Please make sure the project respects the proposed wildlife corridor. I strongly support this project but it needs to make sure this wildlife corridor is protected and observed.</p>   |
| 03 December 24<br>ppornelu     | VOTES<br>1 | <p>Looks great. More trails for running and biking at a great venue. Excellent cooperation and communication with stakeholders.</p>   |
| 05 December 24<br>andyschuette | VOTES<br>2 | <p>Excited to see the area with great trails built! More facilities to get people out in nature is always a good thing.</p> <p>Thanks to Parks &amp; Recreation for building new trails and being transparent about the whole process. This park will be a gem for all sorts of use cases (hikers, bikers, trail runners, dog walkers, bird watchers, and more!) when these trails are complete!</p>  |
| 08 December 24<br>Tfolsom52    | VOTES<br>3 | <p>There is a heron rookery that will be impacted by this trail. The trail should be rerouted to minimize its impact.</p>   |

## IDEAS

### Comments

|                              |       |  |
|------------------------------|-------|--|
| 10 December 24<br>nsmith     |       | <p><b>Our community needs a beginner friendly multi-use trail system. This updated plan looks great.</b></p> <p>Trails are proven to help people of all ages incorporate exercise into their daily routines by connecting them to nature. These trails will be professionally designed and will meet the need for more beginner-friendly trails here in Columbia. These trails will get more people of all ages outside and out in nature!</p>                                     |
|                              | VOTES |  |
|                              | 1     |  |
| 10 December 24<br>aearlywine |       | <p><b>Many thanks to COMO Parks &amp; Rec for bringing this to life, growing singletrack for beginners and adding better space to GET OUTSIDE!</b></p> <p>It is so exciting to see our parks dept recognizing the growing number of natural surface trail users-- whether it be for sport or for leisure and natural connection--and developing our local trail systems to accommodate increasing general use and our expanding youth (and entry-level) mountain biking scene!</p> |
|                              | VOTES |  |
|                              | 1     |  |



## IDEAS

### Comments

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 11 December 24 |   |
| Camparan       |   |
|                | VOTES<br>3  |
|                | <p>The buffer must be increased to protect the heron rookery. Currently the trail seems to be closer than 200 ft from one of the nesting trees</p> <p>I am opposed to the sections of the trail near the Heron rookery. In addition to opposing the sections too close to the heron rookery these same sections are also steep and close to the stream buffer and are likely to promote sediment erosion into the stream with heavy bike and foot traffic. Sediment pollution is very damaging to the aquatic life in the stream. I would like to see the trail section on the hill eliminated or moved further away from the herons and stream buffer. It appears there are not 200 feet between the trail and the nesting tree at the edge of the rookery. My preference would be to have more than 200 feet from the trail to the rookery and recommend 600 feet as is used in other states such as Washington and Vermont. We must learn to co-exist with wildlife. We have already destroyed much of their habitat with human development. I very much enjoy observing the herons when I am outdoors in the greenspaces of Columbia. We can have outdoor trails and still protect the rookery. If we don't make ongoing decisions to protect their habitat, then herons will also end up on the threatened species list some day. Here is a summary of some relevant research "Disturbances to the nesting colony (i.e., human visits, road building, logging activity) can cause abandonment especially in the early season before eggs are laid (Vos et al. 1985). Habitat manipulation directly impacts the species by alteration of suitable structure around the rookery. Outright removal of woodlots for highway construction, home building, and other developments (such as shopping malls and golf courses) have eliminated suitable nesting habitat. To protect nesting colonies from human disturbance, most studies reviewed by Butler (1992) recommend a buffer of 300 m in which no activity occurs during the season of 15 February to 31 July. Many of the authors of these studies made recommendations in the absence of data (Quinn and Milner 2004). However, work in Canada (Vos et al. 1985) recommended a 300 meter no activity buffer to minimize disturbances to nesting great blue herons (Quinn and Milner 2004). This distance is based on their experimental work, with 200 meters being their greatest flushing distance plus an additional 50 meters as a safeguard. Hoover and Willis (1987) recommend that important foraging areas within 4 km (2.5 mi.) be protected from development if possible." References: Vos, D.K., D.A. Ryder, and W.D. Graul. 1985. Response of breeding Great Blue Herons to human disturbances in northcentral Colorado. Colonial Waterbirds 8: 13-22. Butler, R.W. 1992. A review of the biology and conservation of the great blue heron (Ardea herodias) in British Columbia. Can. Wildl. Serv. Tech. Rep. No. 154, Delta, B.C. Quinn, T., and R. Milner. 2004. Great blue heron (Ardea herodias). In E. M. Larsen, J. M. Azerrad, and N. Nordstrom, editors. Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, Volume IV: Birds [Online]. Available <a href="http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/gbheron.htm">http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/gbheron.htm</a> Hoover, R.L. and Willis, editors. 1987. Managing forested land for wildlife. Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver, Colorado. USA. quote from <a href="https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/zoology/Great_Blue_Heron_Rookery.pdf">https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/zoology/Great_Blue_Heron_Rookery.pdf</a></p> |
| 11 December 24 |   |
| asprochi       |   |
|                | VOTES<br>3  |
|                | <p>I am not against the trail as an idea, but it has to be moved further away from the heron rookery so it does not affect the nesting site.</p> <p>The trail plans as they are designed now are too close and will disturb the birds. It's really important to minimize the impact.</p>  |

## IDEAS

### Comments

|                |       |  |
|----------------|-------|--|
| 11 December 24 |       |  |
| Fletch         |       |  |
|                | VOTES |  |
|                | 3     |  |
|                |       | <p>Please build the trail so it does not negatively impact the Herron Rookery</p> <p>I am opposed to the sections of the trail near the Heron rookery. In addition to opposing the sections too close to the heron rookery these same sections are also steep and close to the stream buffer and are likely to promote sediment erosion into the stream with heavy bike and foot traffic. Sediment pollution is very damaging to the aquatic life in the stream. I would like to see the trail section on the hill eliminated or moved further away from the herons and stream buffer. It appears there are not 200 feet between the trail and the nesting tree at the edge of the rookery. My preference would be to have more than 200 feet from the trail to the rookery and recommend 600 feet as is used in other states such as Washington and Vermont. We must learn to coexist with wildlife. We have already destroyed much of their habitat with human development. I very much enjoy observing the herons when I am outdoors in the greenspaces of Columbia. We can have outdoor trails and still protect the rookery. If we don't make ongoing decisions to protect their habitat, then herons will also end up on the threatened species list some day. Here is a summary of some relevant research: "Disturbances to the nesting colony (i.e., human visits, road building, logging activity) can cause abandonment especially in the early season before eggs are laid (Vos et al. 1985). Habitat manipulation directly impacts the species by alteration of suitable structure around the heronry. Outright removal of woodlots for highway construction, home building, and other developments (such as shopping malls and golf courses) have eliminated suitable nesting habitat. To protect nesting colonies from human disturbance, most studies reviewed by Butler (1992) recommend a buffer of 300 m in which no activity occurs during the season of 15 February to 31 July. Many of the authors of these studies made recommendations in the absence of data (Quinn and Milner 2004). However, work in Canada (Vos et al. 1985) recommended a 300 meter no activity buffer to minimize disturbances to nesting great blue herons (Quinn and Milner 2004). This distance is based on their experimental work, with 200 meters being their greatest flushing distance plus an additional 50 meters as a safeguard. Hoover and Willis (1987) recommend that important foraging areas within 4 km (2.5 mi.) be protected from development if possible." References: Vos, D.K., D.A. Ryder, and W.D. Gaul. 1985. Response of breeding Great Blue Herons to human disturbances in north central Colorado. Colonial Waterbirds 8: 13-22. Butler, R.W. 1992. A review of the biology and conservation of the great blue heron (Ardea herodias) in British Columbia. Can. Wildl. Serv. Tech. Rep. No. 154, Delta, B.C. Quinn, T., and R. Milner. 2004. Great blue heron (Ardea herodias). In E. M. Larsen, J. M. Azerrad, and N. Nordstrom, editors. Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, Volume IV: Birds [Online]. Available <a href="http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/gbheron.htm">http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/gbheron.htm</a> Hoover, R.L. and Willis, editors. 1987. Managing forested land for wildlife. Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver, Colorado. USA. quote from <a href="https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/zoology/Great_Blue_Heron_Rookery.pdf">https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/zoology/Great_Blue_Heron_Rookery.pdf</a></p> |
| 11 December 24 |       |  |
| AMLong         |       |  |
|                | VOTES |  |
|                | 2     |  |
|                |       | <p>Co-existing with Nature means Careful Planning to buffer human activity, curiosity, and stupidity to protect Singular Natural Phenomena.</p> <p>A Great Blue Heron is a majestic thing to behold. Humans love to get as close as they can and ogle the natural wonders. To allow this normal human behavior to wreck the peace of a unique place where herons attempt to raise their young is atrociously irresponsible. It behooves Columbia leadership to prioritize the gems of our cultural heritage with great care, attention, and intention. This is something irreplaceable. A bike trail can be made in a thousand different configurations. Please adapt the human impact to honor the priceless part of our Missouri landscape: its singular, beautiful, Life. Additionally, please consult MDC to plan best practices of not disturbing the activity of these creatures with construction. No trail is worth the loss of such a profound cornerstone species.</p>   |

## IDEAS

### Comments

|                         |            |  |
|-------------------------|------------|--|
| 11 December 24<br>shirl |            | The trail needs to be rerouted to prevent negatively impacting the heron rookery.  |
|                         | VOTES<br>2 |  |
| 11 December 24<br>JimC  |            | I love mountain biking, but not at the expense of wildlife.  |
|                         | VOTES<br>3 |  |
|                         |            | <p>I am opposed to the sections of the trail near the Heron rookery. In addition to opposing the sections too close to the heron rookery these same sections are also steep and close to the stream buffer and are likely to promote sediment erosion into the stream with heavy bike and foot traffic. Sediment pollution is very damaging to the aquatic life in the stream. I would like to see the trail section on the hill eliminated or moved further away from the herons and stream buffer. It appears there are not 200 feet between the trail and the nesting tree at the edge of the rookery. My preference would be to have more than 200 feet from the trail to the rookery and recommend 600 feet as is used in other states such as Washington and Vermont. We must learn to coexist with wildlife. We have already destroyed much of their habitat with human development. I very much enjoy observing the herons when I am outdoors in the greenspaces of Columbia. We can have outdoor trails and still protect the rookery. If we don't make ongoing decisions to protect their habitat, then herons will also end up on the threatened species list some day. Here is a summary of some relevant research: "Disturbances to the nesting colony (i.e., human visits, road building, logging activity) can cause abandonment especially in the early season before eggs are laid (Vos et al. 1985). Habitat manipulation directly impacts the species by alteration of suitable structure around the rookery. Outright removal of woodlots for highway construction, home building, and other developments (such as shopping malls and golf courses) have eliminated suitable nesting habitat. To protect nesting colonies from human disturbance, most studies reviewed by Butler (1992) recommend a buffer of 300 m in which no activity occurs during the season of 15 February to 31 July. Many of the authors of these studies made recommendations in the absence of data (Quinn and Milner 2004). However, work in Canada (Vos et al. 1985) recommended a 300 meter no activity buffer to minimize disturbances to nesting great blue herons (Quinn and Milner 2004). This distance is based on their experimental work, with 200 meters being their greatest flushing distance plus an additional 50 meters as a safeguard. Hoover and Willis (1987) recommend that important foraging areas within 4 km (2.5 mi.) be protected from development if possible." References: Vos, D.K., D.A. Ryder, and W.D. Gaul. 1985. Response of breeding Great Blue Herons to human disturbances in north central Colorado. Colonial Waterbirds 8: 13-22. Butler, R.W. 1992. A review of the biology and conservation of the great blue heron (Ardea herodias) in British Columbia. Can. Wildl. Serv. Tech. Rep. No. 154, Delta, B.C. Quinn, T., and R. Milner. 2004. Great blue heron (Ardea herodias). In E. M. Larsen, J. M. Azerrad, and N. Nordstrom, editors. Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species, Volume IV: Birds [Online]. Available <a href="http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/gbheron.htm">http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/gbheron.htm</a> Hoover, R.L. and Willis, editors. 1987. Managing forested land for wildlife. Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver, Colorado. USA. quote from <a href="https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/zoology/Great_Blue_Heron_Rookery.pdf">https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/abstracts/zoology/Great_Blue_Heron_Rookery.pdf</a></p> |

## IDEAS

## Comments

|                |           |            |   |
|----------------|-----------|------------|---|
| 11 December 24 | Keith     | VOTES<br>1 | Please give the Herons all the space possible and move the trail. 300 ft may not be enough space.<br><br>It would be a shame not to give them enough space, and put all that money into the project, just to find out it did not do the trick. Make the Herons the first priority. Do not skim p on the Herons needs. If you make enough room, perhaps there will be more someda y and you will need more space. Plan for that. I saw a post with lots of research on thei r needs and what other cities have done. That seems like a good post to follow. Otherw ise it is a nice project. |
| 12 December 24 | Church    | VOTES<br>2 | I care that the blue heron rookery maintains its safe habitat. You have a safe habitat in which to live. Ple ase consider its value.<br><br>Mountain biking is a sport. It is not a primary survival need. Therefore please locate mo untain biking trails where they will not threaten the primary survival habitat of the blue h eron rookery. Thank you.   |
| 12 December 24 | LoriJ     | VOTES<br>2 | Please protect the Great Blue Heron Rookery.<br><br>Thank you for adding a new trail to the Gans Creek area, but we need to protect the ro okery. I believe we can have outdoor trails and still protect their habitat. I'm also concer ned the trail area will erode (look at areas in Rock Bridge State Park) and have a negat ive effect on the creek, which as you know, will then effect the wild area within Rock Bri dge State Park.   |
| 12 December 24 | dsimonson | VOTES<br>2 | Excited about this trail that achieves a goal of both g etting more people outside to appreciate nature as well as be active!<br><br>This plan fills the void of beginner friendly mountain bike trails in Columbia and will not only provide an opportunity for less experienced riders/residents to access and appreci ate this wonderful outdoor space, but will also appeal to potential visitors to our commu nity.  |
| 12 December 24 | ShayO     | VOTES<br>1 | This plan will destroy the Herron rookery. The trail n eeds to be at least 600 feet from it, not the currently proposed 200 feet.<br><br>This plan will destroy the Herron rookery. The trail needs to be at least 600 feet from it, not the currently proposed 200 feet.   |
| 12 December 24 | ekelly    | VOTES<br>4 | A great plan for new trails!<br><br>The City has done more than its due diligence in consulting experts on the best placem ent for this new trail system. I'm looking forward to running, hiking, and riding bikes with my family on these new trails!  |

## IDEAS

### Comments

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <div>12 December 24</div> <div>DavidPV</div> <div>VOTES 1</div>   | <div>Looking forward to ride these trails!</div> <div>Thanks to Parks and Recreations and everyone who has made this project possible, and worked out every aspect and detail. This trail system will get more people outdoors, active, and in contact with nature. It's a good thing for our community.</div>  |
| <div>12 December 24</div> <div>diamonddd</div> <div>VOTES 2</div> | <div>Let's try to protect the rookery and have a mountain bike trail, too. The current trail location will likely destroy the rookery.</div> <div>I have seen the Great Blue Herons on nests at this rookery, and they are awe-inspiring to view. They are large, about 4 feet in height, with a 6-foot wingspan. They have long legs and long bills. They look like living dinosaurs. Their mating ritual is spectacular, they are monogamous during the breeding season, and they live around 15 years. They are cooperative in nesting. One member of a pair will bring a stick to the nest, and the other will take it and place it in just the right place. I feel like if folks really knew this rookery was present, they would indeed want to protect it. The development at Gans park and really urbanization within a several mile radius threatens the integrity of the rookery. I am not sure the rookery will survive, but it would be good to give them a chance. I am not against mountain bike trail development, but to me this is a poor place to establish a new trail. The southern leg of trail development is most problematic for this rookery. I would favor moving that leg of the trail farther from the rookery or eliminating it.</div> |
| <div>13 December 24</div> <div>Chi Doe</div> <div>VOTES 1</div>   | <div>Hérons are easily spooked, fast movement &amp; noise from perfectly visible trail is unthinkable. Bikers want responsible trail - move trail.</div> <div>The trail directly across from the rookery is essentially at eye level, with nothing to block visibility and LESS than the minimum 200 feet from the nearest nests. Cutting across hillside of loose and thin soil on a slope that is a natural babbling water filtration feature, and poses permanent damage is reckless. It is not right to risk our local rookery, it is not fair to risk erosion and sediment in the stream. I wonder if persons involved in approving this have actually stood on the hillside where that trail is to cut through and peered into the nests. I will take you.</div>  |
| <div>15 December 24</div> <div>lemonlulu</div> <div>VOTES 1</div> | <div>The 200' "wildlife buffer" is not enough</div> <div>This proposed bike trail will be a disaster for the Great Blue Heron rookery (along with all the other wildlife in the area who keep losing habitat). These are wary, sharp-eyed birds who will be spooked by people on bikes racing past, likely causing them to abandon their nests. Additionally, the bike trails are next to, and crossing, Gans Creek, and my first thought was that people riding mountain bikes on those trails will not be able to resist riding INTO and THROUGH the creek, causing damage by disturbing the streambed, causing erosion, displacing aquatic organisms, and altering water quality. Adding bike trails in natural areas when wildlife just keeps getting squeezed out from new construction and new roads is purely for human recreation, with no concern for its negative impact on wildlife. There's simply no way that these new trails won't have a negative effect on area wildlife.</div>  |

## IDEAS

### Comments

|  |              |       |   |
|--|--------------|-------|---|
| 15 December 24   | Scunning     |       |   |
|  |              | VOTES | 3 |
| <p>This trail will allow new riders to develop MTB skills. Riders new to the sport can learn to ride here.</p> <p>Beginner trail is very much needed in this area. It's also going to be great for the high school mountain bike league to have a place where riders can practice and compete.</p>   |              |       |   |
| 15 December 24   | jmorga11     |       |   |
|  |              | VOTES | 3 |
| <p>I think a long green mtb trail would be great. The Audubon society reviewed this and found it fine:<br/><a href="http://bit.ly/4ghCI9b">http://bit.ly/4ghCI9b</a></p> <p>Great Blue Herons are of Least Concern and the population is increasing. I'll trust the Audubon Society and hope the rookery isn't impacted. At the same time, it isn't a danger to the species.</p>   |              |       |   |
| 16 December 24   | DrGoodman    |       |   |
|  |              | VOTES | 0 |
| <p>Wild spaces are more important than ever. Change the section too close to the rookery. Too disruptive to the ecosystem.</p>   |              |       |   |
| 16 December 24   | Lembkee      |       |   |
|  |              | VOTES | 2 |
| <p>The developers have gone above and beyond to make sure that vulnerable wildlife is protected. This trail can be used by many!</p> <p>The plan has been drafted specifically to avoid the heron rookery using input from several experts in the field, including consults with MDC and Columbia Audubon Society, and construction will be done in a way that stays even farther from the rookery while it is active (Feb-Aug). The trail will help mountain bikers, hikers, trail runners, and yes, even birdwatchers use the land sustainably and with minimal impact, and provides Columbia with a much needed green (beginner) level trail. The trailbuilder is from Missouri and has several great trail systems that they have built in the region. The overall goal to host a (annual?) MICL event there will be a fantastic way to bring a great crowd to Columbia to share our trails and community with the rest of the state in a way that's different from Rhett's Run or Rock Bridge events.</p> |              |       |   |
| 16 December 24   | Jeremygilion |       |   |
|  |              | VOTES | 3 |
| <p>Great to see new trails</p> <p>Excited to see some additional mountain bike trails in the area. I appreciate the planning and work that has gone into this.</p>   |              |       |   |
| 16 December 24   | Nile W       |       |   |
|  |              | VOTES | 4 |
| <p>I love to see more trails being added to COMO. The plan looks great!</p>  |              |       |   |

## IDEAS

### Comments

|  |       |   |
|--|-------|---|
| 16 December 24<br>BWatkinsiii  |       |   |
|  | VOTES | 1 |
| <p>Please build this trail: There are a LOT of Blue Heron in this area and they will adapt</p> <p>It seems like the birding society Of Columbia Missouri has found its way to this project and many are retired so they are going to turn out in numbers when the reality is the blue heron is doing fine and this would benefit so many local citizens now and future generations to come. We need this trail to augment that area as there are not enough trails in that state park. Please build this trail!!!!</p>   |       |   |
| 16 December 24<br>andyman_68   |       |   |
|  | VOTES | 3 |
| <p>Trail has my full support</p> <p>I am writing to express my full support for the Gans Creek Recreation Area project, which includes the design and construction of a 10.5-mile natural surface hiking and biking trail throughout the park. This exciting project, which has already received City Council approval for the design/build process, promises to be a fantastic addition to our community, offering opportunities for outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. As we look ahead to the start of construction in January 2025, it is crucial that the park's master plan is updated to reflect the newly designed trail network, which will include a 4.5-mile green (beginner) level trail, a 4.5-mile blue (intermediate) level trail, and a 1.5-mile connector trail linking the two loops. These thoughtful designs ensure that the trail system will accommodate a variety of users, from beginners to more experienced outdoor enthusiasts. One of the most exciting aspects of this project is its commitment to maintaining the natural beauty of the area while promoting sustainable use. The proposed wildlife buffer along the south side of the park demonstrates a strong commitment to preserving the park's diverse ecosystem, ensuring that wildlife habitats are protected while providing a scenic and enjoyable experience for visitors. Additionally, the project aligns with our community's growing demand for outdoor spaces that promote health, wellness, and environmental education. Trails like the one proposed for Gans Creek Recreation Area provide not only physical benefits but also a sense of connection to nature, which is increasingly important in today's fast-paced world. The addition of this trail system will encourage more people to explore the park, enhancing local tourism and supporting businesses in the area. With the planning process already complete and construction set to begin in January 2025, I am confident that the Gans Creek Recreation Area project will be a positive, long-term asset to Columbia. I urge the City Council to continue to support the project, including the proposed update to the park master plan to incorporate the new trail system. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to enhancing the quality of life in our community. I look forward to seeing this exciting project come to fruition.</p> |       |   |
| 16 December 24<br>ryan2541   |       |   |
|  | VOTES | 2 |
| <p>I support this trail, and the buffer proposed by the Audubon Society has been incorporated: <a href="http://bit.ly/4ghCl9b">http://bit.ly/4ghCl9b</a></p> <p>The addition of new trails will be a great addition for the area. Any issue with the great blue heron rookery has been addressed by incorporating the recommendations of the Columbia Audubon Society, as shown in the link above. It is important we coexist with nature, and this plan allows for that. And, notably, great blue herons are not endangered or even threatened.</p>   |       |   |

## IDEAS

### Comments

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| 16 December 24<br>Mc          |            | Full support! The design addresses concerns of state wildlife professionals about herons. I trust the professionals.   |
|                               | VOTES<br>1 |  |
| 16 December 24<br>awechu      |            | I support the proposed trails.<br><br>This multi use trail system will be beneficial to all and has taken into consideration the Blue Heron. Thank you to everyone working together to bring these outdoor opportunities to the community.   |
|                               | VOTES<br>1 |  |
| 16 December 24<br>Lelande     |            | I support this project as it is presented.<br><br>This is a great use for this area that will help preserve the area, create reason to improve the habitat, and help share nature with more beginner bikers, runners, and hikers. The project has been evaluated by professionals from MDC, US Fish and Wildlife, and Parks and Rec. |
|                               | VOTES<br>1 |  |
| 17 December 24<br>m.timothy   |            | I fully support the new trail as proposed<br><br>This is a much needed trail for new and younger mountain bikers in Columbia that supports multiple uses. The plan to me is a balance of conservation and outdoor use that will foster a community that respects and values the environment.   |
|                               | VOTES<br>1 |  |
| 17 December 24<br>sph         |            | I support the project as proposed.   |
|                               | VOTES<br>1 |  |
| 17 December 24<br>Jgarci      |            | I fully support the trail project as planned.  |
|                               | VOTES<br>1 |  |
| 17 December 24<br>sarahelaine |            | I fully support the trail project as planned.<br><br>This trail system will provide us with a beginner friendly trail. I was happy to see that wildlife experts were consulted to set parameters on trail placement.   |
|                               | VOTES<br>1 |  |



## IDEAS

### Comments

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| 17 December 24 |       |  |
| Kurt S         |       |  |
|                | VOTES |  |
|                | 1     |  |
|                |       | Exactly What Our Community Needs   |
|                |       | Building a new mountain bike trail would significantly enhance our community's outdoor recreational offerings, providing an exciting opportunity for enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels to engage with nature. This trail could serve as a safe and designated space for beginner mountain bikers, promoting physical health and well-being while attracting visitors from surrounding areas. Additionally, the project could By investing in this trail, we not only foster a sense of community but also encourage environmental stewardship and appreciation for our beautiful natural surroundings. Encouraging outdoor play can help kids develop a lifelong appreciation for nature and the joy of being active.   |
| 17 December 24 |       |  |
| amypowpow      |       |  |
|                | VOTES |  |
|                | 1     |  |
|                |       | fully support this trail project as planned  |
|                |       | this trail system will bring so much to our community. i fully support the trail system as planned and appreciate that professionals have taken into account protecting the surrounding wildlife. i'm very excited for existing and new trail users to have this space to enjoy the outdoors!  |
| 18 December 24 |       |  |
| bonnefemme21   |       |  |
|                | VOTES |  |
|                | 1     |  |
|                |       | proposal to change wildlife buffer and secure protection to Gans Creek   |
|                |       | I propose that the wildlife buffer be centered off the edge of the nesting colony, not Gans Creek. The Columbia Audubon Society claims that the US Fish and Wildlife "designated a buffer zone for the herons that extends 200 feet with Gans Creek as the center line". I am not one to act like I know better than the scientists that specialize in these matters but I am curious about the rationale to use Gans Creek as the centerline for a buffer zone. Would it not make more sense to extend the buffer from the actual nests? The following publication recommends 984 foot year-round buffers from the nests. "Azerrad, J. M. 2012. Management recommendations for Washington's priority species: Great Blue Heron. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington. " 2nd Point that I'd like the City to consider; Gans Creek is listed as an Outstanding State Resource Water starting at the western boundary of the Gans Creek Recreation Area and continues as such for three miles through Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. I would love to see a permanent 100-200 foot vegetated buffer centered on Gans Creek through the city's property in order to maintain protection to the water body. Hiking and biking trails, especially when built appropriately, will not harm the creek significantly but will increase access for the public to enjoy. |
| 18 December 24 |       |  |
| sbutler20      |       |  |
|                | VOTES |  |
|                | 1     |  |
|                |       | Fully support development of the Gans Creek trails system  |
|                |       | Out of town clients and relatives always heap praise on the trails systems here in Columbia, and this would only add to that draw.   |
| 18 December 24 |       |  |
| batsports      |       |  |
|                | VOTES |  |
|                | 1     |  |
|                |       | The GCRA Masterplan update is well thought out with significant input from experts representing conservation & wildlife agencies.  |
|                |       | If needed, the Herron rookery can be protected through management regulations and policies.  |

## IDEAS

### Comments

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| 18 December 24 | MissouriNature | VOTES<br>0 | <p>I fully support the development of this trail. I have had several opportunities to relocate over the years and trails have kept me in COMO</p> <p>All of the trails are being done to a very high standard of design in regards to erosion prevention, user experience and upkeep. What is not to like with this....there are always those who resist any change and are not happy regardless...please let us not plan to those voices. The vast majority of those who live in Columbia absolutely love the trail system and consider it a tremendous asset to the region. This trail only adds to that.</p>  |
| 19 December 24 | LandisB        | VOTES<br>0 | <p>Fully supported!! Columbia is unique in its parks, whether it be disc golfing, biking, mtb, climbing, and much more.</p> <p>This gives people opportunities to explore the great outdoors, especially for students at mizzou who may live in big cities etc. Missouri is a really unique state, but many people dismiss it. Let others experience Missouri's beauty for themselves.</p>   |
| 19 December 24 | Huston S       | VOTES<br>0 | <p>I fully support the Gans Creek trail project</p> <p>The development of beginner and intermediate-level mountain bike trails offers a safe and supportive environment for riders to build and refine their skills. I am particularly pleased that experts from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were consulted during the trail planning process. This collaboration ensures that the trails allow individuals to enjoy and connect with nature while minimizing ecological impact. Furthermore, the proposal has the potential to foster a stronger sense of community and environmental stewardship among users.</p> |
| 19 December 24 | Lucas          | VOTES<br>1 | <p>I have asked if the master plan hike/bike path will negatively impact the nesting, safety and privacy of the Great Blue Heron's rookery.</p>  |
| 20 December 24 | kyost          | VOTES<br>0 | <p>I fully support the trail as proposed. This will be a great benefit to the community and care and consideration has gone into this proposal.</p>  |
| 20 December 24 | pgilzow        | VOTES<br>0 | <p>I fully support the Gans Creek trail project</p> <p>We need more intermediate mountain bike trails in Columbia, as well as more beginner accessible trails.</p>   |

## IDEAS

### Comments

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|---|---|
| <div>28 December 24</div> <div>krw71815</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>0</div>       | <h4>Support to heron rookery</h4> <p>This is a great proposal but it has been done without consideration to critical wildlife habitats in the area. There should be at least 600 feet between the paths and the rookery. This is an industry standard in other states. What's the point of creating a "natural space" for the residents of damage, destroy and offend the nature?</p>   |
| <div>28 December 24</div> <div>Jwalker87</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>0</div>      | <h4>More consideration needs to be given to wildlife impacts</h4> <p>I am not in support of any trail that has a significant negative impact on wildlife, such as jeopardizing a nearby Heron rookery. This trail plan needs to ensure there is sufficient space (600 feet is considered an acceptable standard throughout the country) to keep the rookery undisturbed.</p>  |
| <div>29 December 24</div> <div>CarolineCBrock</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>0</div> | <h4>consider larger buffer and erosion concerns especially for a recreational trail rather than commuter trail</h4> <p>Please consider the recommendations for a larger buffer for wildlife; as recommended by research, the Sierra Club and other groups are using -300 ft between the trail and the wildlife- other states like Vermont are using 600 ft between the trail and the wildlife- Plus, this looks like a trail mainly used for recreation not regular than functional bike commuting to work/ shop- let's be careful about where we locate recreational trails or we will destroy what we are trying to enjoy -Thanks for considering -Columbia Resident Caroline Brock</p> |