



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 3, 2017

Re: Agreement with Greenbelt Land Trust - Open Space/Green Infrastructure Plan

## Executive Summary

The Parks & Recreation Department is requesting Council approval for the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT) for the continued implementation of the open space/green infrastructure plan known as "Our Natural Legacy: A Plan for Columbia and Boone County" (ONL). Greenbelt Land Trust will continue identifying and prioritizing land parcels for conservation purposes in harmony with the goals of the ONL, identify possible funding sources for land acquisition, and complete subjective criteria scoring for land parcels offered to the City for purchase or donation, or a combination of the two. As part of the agreement, GLT will also be responsible for identifying land owners along the proposed route of the Perche Creek Trail and initiate discussions with property owners concerning the proposed trail route and acquisition of trail easements for construction of the trail. The City agrees to pay up to \$40,000 to GLT for the outlined work with staggered payments scheduled upon the completion of the various tasks. Funding for the work to be completed by GLT will come from the 2010 Park Sales Tax. The agreement will begin April 17, 2017 and conclude on April 30, 2018.

## Discussion

In 2014, the City of Columbia partnered with Greenbelt Land Trust, Missouri Department of Conservation and Boone County to complete the "Our Natural Legacy: A Plan for Columbia and Boone County." The plan includes a comprehensive natural resource inventory, identifies ways to connect people to nature, discusses health benefits of green infrastructure, creates a vision on how to support rural/urban farming, and identifies notable historic, cultural, and scenic resources. Over the past three years, a partnership with the Greenbelt Land Trust was initiated in order to inventory natural resources and wildlife on existing City-owned properties and evaluate other sites within the City limits that may be good candidates for purchase and protection of land and wildlife habitat. The third and final year was completed in calendar year 2016, with over 20 potential sites identified as candidates for preservation.

Columbia Parks and Recreation would like to continue the partnership with Greenbelt Land Trust and is requesting Council approval for the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT) for the continued implementation of the open space/green infrastructure plan known as "Our Natural Legacy: A Plan for Columbia and Boone County" (ONL). The City agrees to pay up to \$40,000 to GLT for the outlined work, with staggered payments scheduled upon the completion of the various tasks. Funding for the work to be completed by GLT will come from the 2010 Park Sales Tax.



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Per the terms of the agreement, Greenbelt Land Trust agrees to carry out the following initiatives associated with the ONL plan:

1. Coordinate all activities associated with implementation of the land conservation initiatives identified in ONL, including maintaining paid staff and/or contracts required to meet the deliverables as identified in this contract.
2. Continue to review and revise as necessary the Public Land Acquisition Scoring Matrix as approved by the Land Conservation Implementation Committee (LandCIC).
3. Continue to use the matrix to prioritize properties offered to the City by willing sellers as requested by Columbia Parks and Recreation staff, using a combination of the GIS model and subjective investigations.
4. Continue to serve as a point of contact for the owners of the parcels identified in the May 31, 2016 report and facilitate conservation of their properties as is possible.
5. By June 1, 2017, identify landowners of parcels along planned Perche Creek Trail, and draft and send as many letters as necessary to discuss the acquisition of trail easements by Columbia Parks and Recreation, as well as other conservation opportunities for the parcels.
6. By September 30, 2017, meet in person with as many of the Perche Creek Trail landowners as possible to discuss the planned trail and the acquisition of easements, as well as other conservation options.
7. In the event that a property is identified as suited to an acquisition grant program (such as the grant programs identified in the report dated February 29, 2016) City and GLT shall have a mutual option to designate GLT to manage the grant application process, including completion of the application, management of the reporting requirements, and the general administration of the grant.
8. Coordinate a meeting of the Land Conservation Implementation Committee (LandCIC) once during the contract period to discuss conservation actions and opportunities among LandCIC members. Minutes from the meeting and a final report documenting that all the MEASURABLE DELIVERABLES have been accomplished, including documentation of correspondence and contacts with owners of the Perche Creek Trail parcels, any parcels scored according to the Public Land Acquisition Scoring Matrix, and minutes from any additional meetings of the Land Conservation Implementation Committee by April 30, 2018.

The agreement will begin April 17, 2017 and April 30, 2018.



## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The City will provide up to \$40,000 of financial support towards the continued implementation of the "Our Natural Legacy: A Plan for Columbia and Boone County." This funding has been allocated from resources generated from the 2010 Park Sales Tax for the preservation and acquisition of land for natural areas and public open space.

Long-Term Impact: None

## Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

### Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Parks, Recreation & Greenways, Secondary Impact: Environment, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Social Equity, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

## Legislative History

Date	Action
10/15/2012	Ordinance #21479 - Authorizing a cooperative agreement with the Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri for development of an open space/green infrastructure plan. <a href="http://www.como.gov/ParksandRec/Council_Agenda_Items/documents/council_2012_10_01_greenbelt.pdf">http://www.como.gov/ParksandRec/Council_Agenda_Items/documents/council_2012_10_01_greenbelt.pdf</a>
04/21/2014	Ordinance #22033 – Authorizing a financial agreement with the MO Dept. of Natural Resources for the planning phase of the "Our Nature Legacy: A Plan for Columbia and Boone County" project. <a href="http://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=13304">http://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=13304</a>
12/01/2014	Ordinance #22295 – Authorizing a cooperative agreement with the Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri for the implementation phase of the "Our Natural Legacy: A Plan for Columbia and Boone County" open space/green infrastructure project. <a href="http://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=15942">http://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=15942</a>



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10/05/2015	Council Report – 2015 Our Natural Legacy Implementation Actions Report. <a href="http://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=19251">http://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=19251</a>
11/02/2015	Ordinance #22634 – Authorizing a cooperative agreement with the Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri for the FY 2016 implementation phase of the “Our Natural Legacy: A Plan for Columbia and Boone County” open space/green infrastructure project. <a href="http://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=19484">http://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=19484</a>

## Suggested Council Action

Approve the legislation authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement with the Greenbelt Land Trust.