

Rock Quarry Road Stakeholder Advisory Group

Final Report

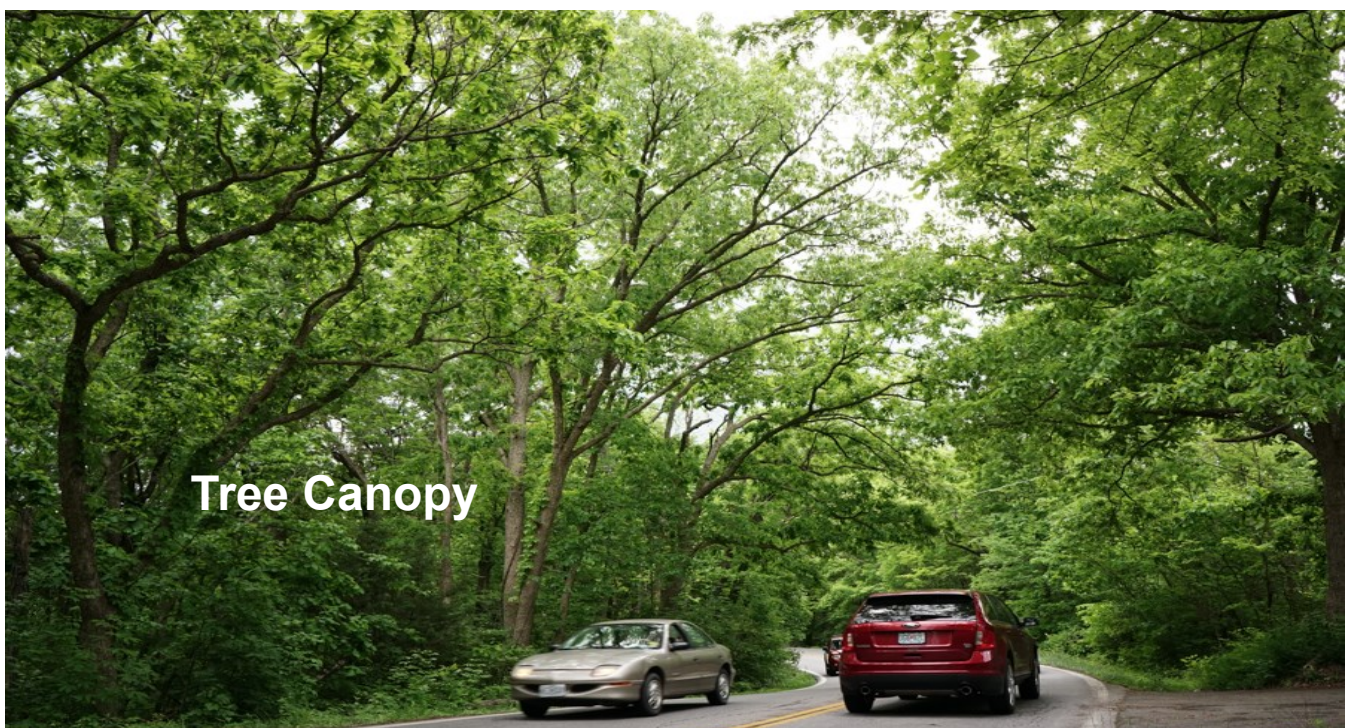
January 2017

Executive Summary

On April 6, 1998, the Columbia City Council passed an ordinance designating a scenic roadway area overlay district from Stadium Boulevard along Rock Quarry Road and running to the Columbia corporate limits pursuant to Section 29-21.2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, Missouri. Pursuant to Section 29-21.2(f), the Columbia City Council appointed a stakeholder advisory group of twelve members to work with the Columbia Planning and Zoning Commission to determine values and preferences regarding scenic preservation and roadway design within and along the Scenic Corridor.

The Scenic Rock Quarry Road Stakeholder Advisory Group hereby presents its report to the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Columbia, Missouri. The recommendations presented herein are intended to preserve and maintain the officially designated Rock Quarry Road Scenic Corridor. The report's goals, objectives, policies and recommendations should guide future land use, transportation planning, design, and other decisions affecting the scenic roadway area overlay district. The recommendations do not preclude consideration of new ideas and alternatives, provided they conform to presented guidelines, existing ordinances, and best practices. These recommendations assume that different design options will be applied as appropriate to the distinctive segments of the road.

Scenic experience



Tree Canopy

The report consists of an Introduction and six sections.

- ⇒ **Introduction.** Identifies the unique assets of the Rock Quarry Road Scenic Corridor and its value to the Columbia community as a whole
- ⇒ **Section I.** Scenic characteristics to be preserved along the Rock Quarry Road corridor
- ⇒ **Section II.** Scenic road designation action items
- ⇒ **Section III.** Design parameters for the preservation and maintenance of Rock Quarry Road
- ⇒ **Section IV.** Considerations for a pedway along Rock Quarry Road
- ⇒ **Section V.** Maintenance and development of the existing vegetative buffer and canopy features along the Rock Quarry Road Scenic Corridor
- ⇒ **Section VI.** Enforcement of the scenic road corridor overlay zoning along Rock Quarry Road



Columbine on the limestone cliffs



Scenic experience for all road users

Introduction – Rock Quarry Road Assets

- Provides a unique, aesthetic, and scenic driving experience
- Contains distinctive regional geography, topography, history, wildlife, and foliage
- Traces local history, including early African American settlement
- Connects local nature areas: Capen Park, Grindstone Nature Area, Hinkson Valley Nature Area at the north end and Rock Bridge Memorial State Park at the south end
- Gives pleasure to all who use Rock Quarry Road, either as a north-south through-route or as a scenic driving experience

A healthy ecology

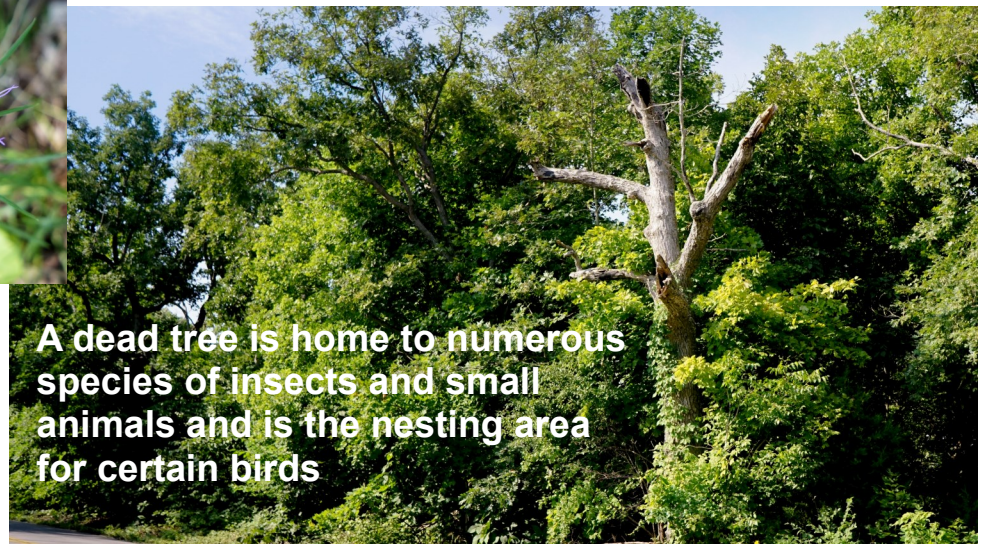


Partridge pea is one of many wildflower species along the road



I. Scenic Characteristics – The Rock Quarry Road Scenic Corridor will preserve:

1. Existing hilly topography and curvilinear road line
2. Overhanging tree canopy
3. Vegetative buffer creating opacity, emphasizing the use of Missouri native plant species
4. Existing boulders, rock formations, and rock outcroppings
5. Existing wildflower stands and glades
6. Scenic views
7. Diverse and healthy ecology
8. Species and features typical of similar regional ecosystems, such as woodland, native flower and glade communities



A dead tree is home to numerous species of insects and small animals and is the nesting area for certain birds

II. Scenic Road Designation – Action Items

1. Classify Rock Quarry Road as a neighborhood collector
2. Recommend that a scenic road category be adopted by CATSO; and recommend that CATSO give Rock Quarry Road official scenic designation
3. Label Rock Quarry Road as a scenic road on official maps of Columbia, Missouri
4. Include on Scenic Rock Quarry Road designation signs a reference to the Ordinance, *Section 29-21.2*
5. Action items to commence upon adoption of this report



Vegetative buffers create opaque visual barriers, either by letting nature take its course or through landscaping



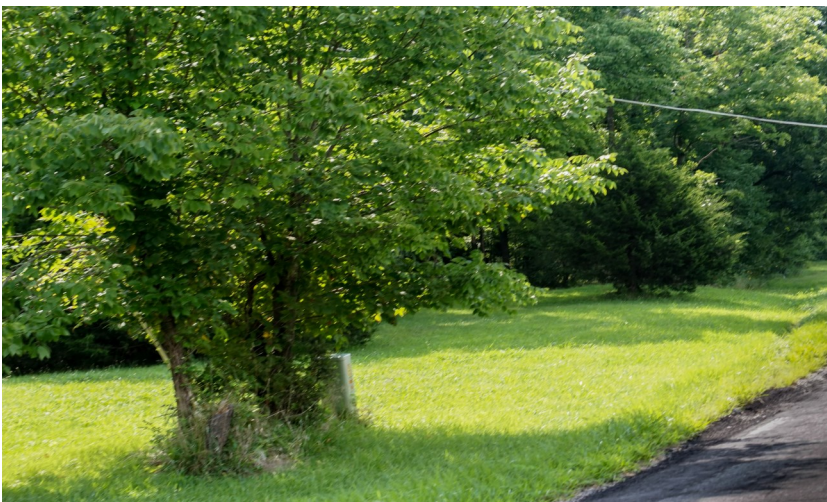
III. Road Design Parameters

1. Preserve and maintain Scenic Characteristics (enumerated in Section I)
2. Limit roadway to two driving lanes of approximately 10 – 12 feet each, as the present roadbed allows
3. Storm water management must provide good drainage

Road Design Parameters continued...

4. Eliminate any abrupt drop-off at the edge of the pavement
5. Use wood and/or powder-coated brown guardrails for all replacement and future guardrails
6. Limit traffic speed to 30 miles per hour
7. Add Rock Quarry Road to the list of prohibited roads for use by through-trucks as per Ordinance 14-179
8. Consolidate all road signs and strategically locate signs indicating “Scenic Rock Quarry Road”
9. Maintain road and pedway surfaces to promote safe passage while maintaining characteristics enumerated in Section I
10. Refer to the *Scenic Corridor Criteria Report* and to the *Feasibility Report on Pedestrian Improvements* (Crockett Engineering Consultants)
11. Consider additional design features, including but not limited to:
 - Traffic calming devices
 - Differentiated surfaces between road and pedway
12. Continue to consider innovative design options and explore solutions used by other cities, provided they are consistent with the recommendations herein

Design options change section by section, depending on the distinctive characteristics at each point along the road.



Few problems along this east side portion of the road versus the steep drop off closer to Stadium Blvd.



Rough edges with steep drop-offs

Some culverts are not kept open for good drainage.



IV. Considerations for Potential Pedway

Provided it conforms to the parameters of this report and incorporates the following design details, a pedway is recommended. (See also the *Scenic Corridor Criteria Report* and the *Feasibility Report on Pedestrian Improvements*.)

1. A pedestrian and bicycle lane is to be no more than 8 feet
2. Preferred placement is on the eastern/northeastern side of the existing roadway, extending the full length of the Scenic Road Corridor
3. Pedway may be constructed in segments
4. Pedway may cross the road, where safe, to maintain criteria listed under Scenic Characteristics (enumerated in Section I) (See also *Scenic Corridor Criteria Report* and *Feasibility Report on Pedestrian Improvements*.)
5. Alignment of pedway is next to the road, follows the curvilinear line of existing road, and conforms to the existing elevations of the existing road
6. Pedway may deviate from roadway, with landowner consent, in certain sections where it is not feasible to be located alongside of roadway (See *Scenic Corridor Criteria Report* and *Feasibility Report on Pedestrian Improvements*)
7. Other options based on best practices should be considered (See III 12 above)

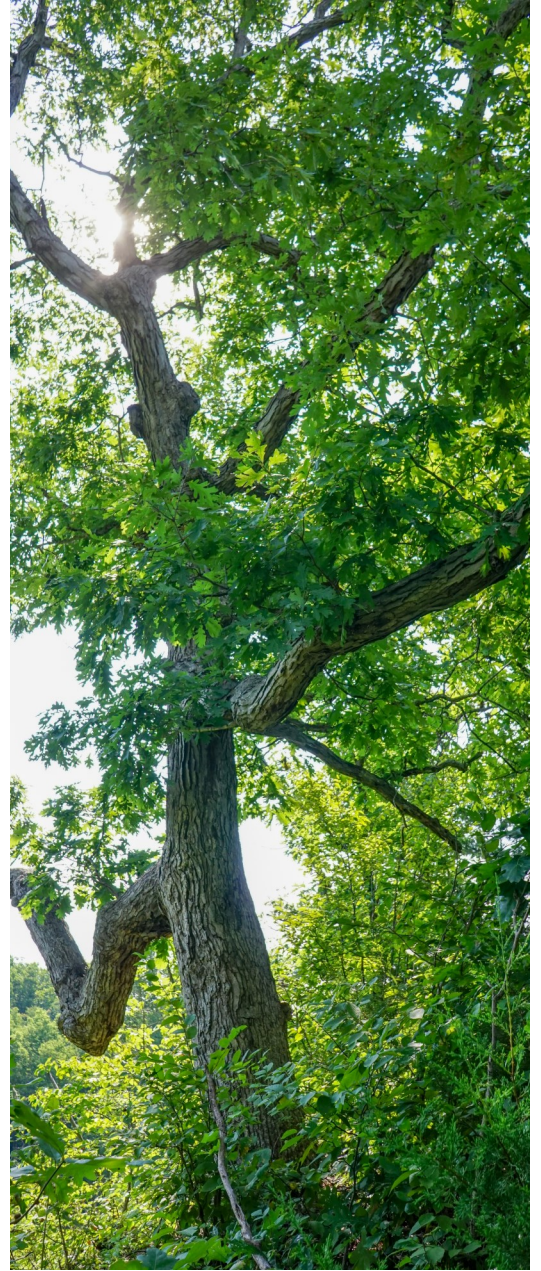


Continue to explore new and innovative options for a pedway

Important species. An oak-hickory forest is typical of this region and ecosystem

V. Maintaining Vegetative Buffer and Canopy features

1. Preserve and maintain the Scenic Characteristics (enumerated in Section I) during any current or future planning processes and routine maintenance
2. Maintain characteristics identified in overlay zoning in compliance with the Rock Quarry Road Scenic Road Ordinance and the Rock Quarry Road Special Area Plan;
2. Use an authorized ecological inventory (see VI. 4a below) to serve as a baseline of species and features under conservation;
3. Develop and implement a plan for continual planting of new and additional native trees and shrubs in order to:
 - a. Maintain and enhance existing canopy;
 - b. Preserve opaque vegetative buffer;
 - c. Replace vegetative loss created by natural events and/or necessary pruning and trimming
4. Coordinate with other volunteer groups or staff services for removal of invasive species
5. Promote maintenance practices that recognize and conserve the sensitive ecology and watersheds within and along the scenic road corridor
6. Allocate funding for the implementation of the recommendations in this report.



Volunteer naturalists and community volunteer work groups can be used in efforts to clear invasive species such as this teasel



VI. Enforcement

1. Adhere to existing and future ordinances, development agreements, and plans
 - a. Strictly enforce and adhere to the Rock Quarry Road Scenic Road Ordinance, the Rock Quarry Road Special Area Plan, and agreements and development plans. (See links below);
 - b. Adhere to the roadbed and pedway parameters, speed limits, and weight limits set forth above when considering and/or authorizing future developments within the Rock Quarry Road Scenic Corridor;
 - c. Require that the Rock Quarry Road Scenic Road Ordinance apply to all land adjacent to either side of Rock Quarry Road at the time such land is annexed into the Columbia city limits.

Enforce development agreements

← The agreement for this corner (nearly 10 years ago) stipulated an opaque vegetative buffer here within 5 years.



Mature trees taken down

Guidelines about cutting are needed, along with information and enforcement measures to protect scenic characteristics



A thick and diverse vegetative cover recently characterized the beginning of the scenic roadway at Stadium and Rock Quarry Road

Enforcement continued

2. Develop enforcement policies and regulations

- a. Establish oversight measures, enforcement procedures, and penalties to preserve the scenic characteristics of Rock Quarry Road
- b. Include notification of the provisions of the Scenic Road Ordinance, this report, and the Special Area Plan to individuals, potential buyers, developers, any public or private entity whose plans and actions affect the status of the scenic road as part of the City of Columbia development procedures
- c. Develop a detailed plan to integrate and coordinate GIS applications for management of vegetation along the scenic corridor
- d. Apply enforcement provisions to plans and actions of any individuals, potential buyers, any public or private entity, and city or county government affecting the road corridor
- e. Establish penalties, corrections, and restorative actions for infringements when needed
- f. Update scenic overlay and ordinance to include enforcement provisions

Enforcement continued

3. Coordinate with City and County

- a. Include Scenic Rock Quarry Road Stakeholders Committee recommendations as a component in the Consolidated Plan being formed by the city
- b. Recognize any portions of Rock Quarry Road located outside the Columbia city limits that have been or will be designated as a Character Preservation Overlay District pursuant to Section 23 of the Boone County Zoning Regulations, Boone County, Missouri
- c. Recognize and support efforts by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park and the county to preserve the scenic characteristics of the county section of the road
- d. Support the provisions and goals of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park's conceptual plan at the southern terminus of Rock Quarry Road which are compatible with the Rock Quarry Road Scenic Corridor

4. Baseline inventory

- a. Conduct an ecological inventory to be used as a baseline reference to be incorporated with the Scenic Characteristics enumerated in Section I

5. Meetings of Rock Quarry Road Stakeholder Group will be held semi-annually and as needed

From Capen Park to Rock Bridge Memorial Park

Coordinating with city, county and existing efforts by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park creates a corridor for the entire roadway



Respectfully submitted:

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