

Project Report

22 February 2022 - 19 November 2023

City of Columbia, MO Gans Creek Recreation Area



Visitors Summary

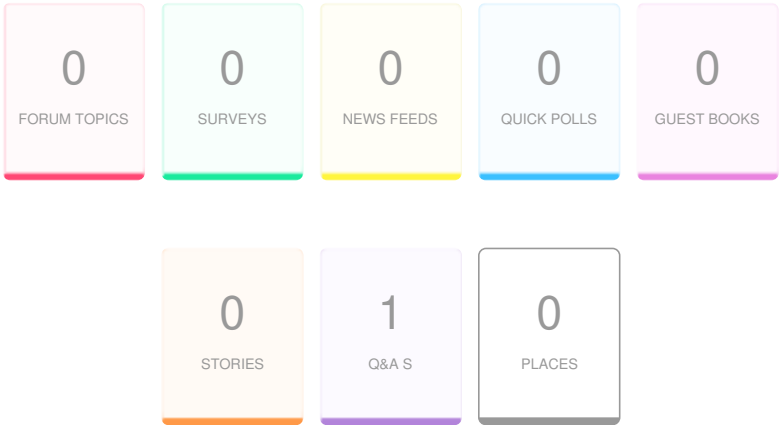


Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	
588	77	
NEW REGISTRATIONS		
29		
ENGAGED VISITORS	INFORMED VISITORS	AWARE VISITORS
56	254	440

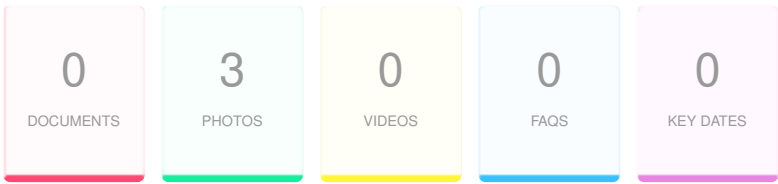
Aware Participants		440		Engaged Participants		56					
Aware Actions Performed		Participants		Engaged Actions Performed		Registered		Unverified		Anonymous	
Visited a Project or Tool Page		440									
Informed Participants		254		Contributed on Forums		0		0		0	
Informed Actions Performed		Participants		Participated in Surveys		0		0		0	
Viewed a video		0		Contributed to Newsfeeds		0		0		0	
Viewed a photo		100		Participated in Quick Polls		0		0		0	
Downloaded a document		0		Posted on Guestbooks		0		0		0	
Visited the Key Dates page		9		Contributed to Stories		0		0		0	
Visited an FAQ list Page		0		Asked Questions		0		0		0	
Visited Instagram Page		0		Placed Pins on Places		0		0		0	
Visited Multiple Project Pages		191		Contributed to Ideas		56		0		0	
Contributed to a tool (engaged)		56									

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
				Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Qanda	Questions	Published	32	0	0	0
Ideas	Ideas	Archived	174	56	0	0

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Photo	Gans Creek Recreation Area proposed improvements overview	86	96
Photo	Gans Creek Recreation Area proposed improvements	43	46
Photo	Gans Creek Recreation Area round about view	34	35
Photo	deleted photo from	5	5
Key Dates	Key Date	9	9

IDEAS

Ideas

Visitors 174		Contributors 56	CONTRIBUTIONS 198
17 August 23 djschatz	VOTES 1	Southside disc golf course (similar to Albert-Oakland)	
18 August 23 Campanan	VOTES 3	Protect the Heron Rookery from big events, put in a buffer and use dark sky lighting that is in the warm red color spectrum.	
		Give the Gans Creek heron rookery a 200 foot buffer and avoid construction during the breeding season. Avoid large events - like mountain bike races - during the breeding season which is roughly March - August. Use responsible outdoor lighting following Dark Sky International recommendations, including protecting wildlife by using LED lights that are a warmer red color (not over 3000K) instead of blue. There is also concern about constructing the planned creek crossing instead of using an alternative route.	
22 August 23 ekelly	VOTES 5	More mountain bike trails	
		I support building a mountain bike trail at Gans. To start, it would attract economic activity with visitors and competing athletes (NICA and other races). Secondly, providing access to entry-level outdoor activities fosters upcoming generations of environmental advocates. Please support the growing sport of mountain biking, provide more hiking opportunities, and help Columbians get outside!	
22 August 23 Lcsimonson	VOTES 6	A new trail that supports beginner hiking and biking for Columbia will be fantastic!	

IDEAS

Ideas

22 August 23 meging3	VOTES 5	I'm super excited about the beginner MTB trails in our community. Our kids are on the local MTB team and this trail will be a draw to CoMO.
22 August 23 KG	VOTES 5	Yes to a hiking and biking trail!! Columbia will benefit so much from a trail that brings in our community members for time in nature. It will also bring in business from neighboring communities and states.
22 August 23 TFlaherty	VOTES 5	I think beginners' biking trails is a super idea. More trails=healthier/happier/safer kids!!
23 August 23 bethanyhaid	VOTES 5	I think a beginner trail is wise! Rhett's Run and Rock Bridge are too intimidating for me, so I have only used gravel trails or paved ones.
23 August 23 bethanyhaid	VOTES 3	I hope the bike trail will also be a safe, fun place for a hike with kids under 10. Ability to use the trail for non biking would be great
23 August 23 bethanyhaid	VOTES 0	I hope the trail will have clear markers. Rhett's Run and Capen Park trails are a little tricky to follow.
23 August 23 Joshturner	VOTES 5	This is such a great opportunity for recreation tourism in Columbia and a much needed beginner trail for all to access. Huge for our youth.

IDEAS

Ideas

23 August 23 BFro	VOTES 5	Yes! - This is a great opportunity to build community and improve public health (www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/physactivity.htm).
23 August 23 musick427	VOTES 4	Yes to more biking in nature! It would be great to take my kids on a fun "adventure" ride that they could handle! So happy to live in a community that encourages outdoor play for kids and adults!
23 August 23 MichaelaMorgan	VOTES 5	Thank you for considering adding a trail with novice mountain bikers and hikers in mind. This is a fantastic addition to our community.
23 August 23 Midmoab	VOTES 6	More outdoor opportunities build community around nature and healthy lifestyles. This will be a great option for hikers, bikers, runners! Why wait?
23 August 23 m.timothy	VOTES 5	A beginner mountain bike trail would be a great addition to CoMo. My son is just learning to ride and he would love it. I can't wait!
23 August 23 mountainbikesam	VOTES 4	More trails, more better. Utilize professional help for trail design/build. Bi-directional trail if possible. YES! Looking forward to it.

IDEAS

Ideas

<div>24 August 23</div> <div>Chi Doe</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>1</div>	<p>Bike trails near sensitive areas are never a good idea. Bike rutting causes severe erosion -The banks of Gans are already failing.</p> <p>This shows the Nationally protected Gans Creek area - NE corner adjoining the red area. Just one of many examples of erosion on a tiny ephemeral feeder creek caused by disturbed land runoff - this from from the recreation area even without any bike trails. We don't want what has happened in the hills outside of Mexico City - they can't even hike the trails which have become deep chasms due to mountain bikes. The bikers have made new trails parallel to originals and these too are in massive state of erosion. Soil, earth and natural areas simply cannot mix with off-road bikes unless you are willing to destroy the area. Why do we persist ignoring the inevitable? People ten years from now will ask, "What the H were they thinking?"</p>
<div>24 August 23</div> <div>Bert</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>4</div>	<p>My son rides MTB with the youth NICA program. One difficulty we had when getting him started in CoMO was lack of beginner friendly trail.</p> <p>We need more Green Trail</p>
<div>24 August 23</div> <div>DavidPV</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>2</div>	<p>This will be a great addition to CoMO's trail system. A much-needed one because we don't have any beginner MTB trails.</p>
<div>24 August 23</div> <div>Hiker_Biker</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>2</div>	<p>I support the trail only if wildlife and ecosystem integrity is given utmost consideration and responsible stewardship is enforced.</p>
<div>24 August 23</div> <div>RobinRotman</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>2</div>	<p>Recreational tourism -- at the expense of the environment</p> <p>As designed, the trail lacks sufficient protection for Gans Creek and the surrounding ecosystem. I support the concept of a child-friendly mountain bike trail for Columbia residents to use. I do not support the concept of a trail that is designed for hosting large competitions and tourism purposes at the expense of our local flora and fauna. I am particularly concerned about the creek crossing and the additional four miles of trail that are being advocated for south of the creek. There is no reason to have a creek crossing when existing roadways can be used.</p>

IDEAS

Ideas

<div>24 August 23</div> <div>diamonddd</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>1</div>	<div>The bike race track is incompatible with conservation of Gans Creek, which is mandated in the City's own plan.</div>
<div>24 August 23</div> <div>BrandonCMoore</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>2</div>	<div>We need more kids on bikes on trails</div> <div>Youth recreation does not get better than this: active, outdoors, confidence-building, habitat maintaining and community building. Gotta support the all-around win.</div>
<div>24 August 23</div> <div>robersonkw</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>1</div>	<div>I support this project, with the exception of the South Bike Trail.</div>
<div>24 August 23</div> <div>robersonkw</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>0</div>	<div>No to South Bike Track</div> <div>I support this plan with the exception of the South Bike track. It crosses Gans Creek and is mostly in the area of the Park that has been designated as a creek buffer and natural area. Gans is a Missouri Outstanding Waterway and was protected by the city with this buffer in both Masterplans. We must not support sports-tourism at the cost of our limited and sensitive natural areas. This seems at odds with where the majority of our citizens are concerning protecting sensitive areas.</div>
<div>24 August 23</div> <div>ubgigi</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>3</div>	<div>Having a family friendly place in Columbia to connect with people and be active outdoors is important for our community.</div>
<div>24 August 23</div> <div>MOstkdog</div> <div>VOTES</div> <div>3</div>	<div>Our son rides for the COMO Raptors and my husband and I have become enthusiastic bike riders again!</div> <div>We are in full support of all the improvements planned for the Gans Creek Recreation Area, especially the trails planned for beginners, the NICA course and the additional miles of trail on the south side of the creek! Mountain biking is a relatively low impact activity and people who mountain bike are very appreciative of the trails and supportive of our public lands. Not to mention advocates for wildlife! This will be a great addition to all that Columbia offers, not to mention a positive economic benefit for our community.</div>

IDEAS

Ideas

24 August 23 Mike Burden		I am so excited about this project. This will provide a beautiful mountain bike/hiking trail that is accessible to all levels of riders.
	VOTES 4	
		I coach our local youth mountain bike team, the CoMo Raptors. This resource will be fantastic for all our riders, but I'm especially excited for our riders who are new to the sport to learn on a fun, beautiful trail where they can build their skills and confidence. Our team volunteers with Comota, our local trails organization, each month. The student athletes appreciation for our local resources grows with each experience, and it builds their engagement with nature generally. This trail at this location will allow us to host races within our state league, and potentially a regional championship. I look forward to seeing this project develop!
24 August 23 JTPT		This is a much needed trail project for Columbia's youth and beginner mountain bike riders. We travel to ride/race and need a local option.
	VOTES 2	
24 August 23 Jminor		Columbia would benefit greatly from more beginner friendly MTB trails, a great way to get more youth involved in the sport!
	VOTES 3	
24 August 23 bigmuddygirl		Protect Gans Creek and Keep Mountain Bike Trails North of this Outstanding Water Way
	VOTES 1	
		Gans Creek is a designated "Missouri Outstanding Waterway" and I'd like to thank those who thoughtfully designed the original Gans Creek Rec Area Masterplan, and who already made clear that protections should be in place for a creek buffer and natural preservation area of this amazing resource. I support the recommended improvements to the rec area, with the exception of the 3-mile mountain bike trail South of the creek. The impact of bikes crossing the creek over and over again, and the need for double trails/bike loop for this area is too much. I would support a more minimal hiking trail only in that area so that people can still enjoy this sublime piece of nature, as well as the herons that reside there - this incredible rookery 100% deserves additional consideration with events or development of this area, especially during their active breeding season. I also support your efforts to keep light and noise pollution to a minimum near this important wild area. There are lots of trails there already that are super enjoyable for our community, please consider leaving the creek buffer a nature preserve. I believe it has ecological importance, that are too quickly disappearing.
24 August 23 buchheity		Columbia needs a beginner friendly mountain bike trail for all ages (kids through adults). A wonderful way to enjoy nature & the outdoors.
	VOTES 3	
		https://www.thecommunityguide.org/news/cpstf-recommends-park-trail-and-greenway-infrastructure-interventions-increase-physical-activity.html

IDEAS

Ideas

24 August 23		
SSchnarr		
	VOTES	1
	<p>I love the idea of accessible MTB trails. And I love them at Gans Creek Recreational Area. I don't think they should cross Gans Creek here.</p> <p>I love the idea of accessible MTB trails. And I love them at Gans Creek Recreational Area. I don't think they should cross Gans Creek. I think we should keep the north trail but not include the south trail. This isn't just any creek. This is one of a few State Outstanding Water Resources. It flows into specially protected Gans Creek Wild Area, part of Rock Bridge State Park. That fact was reflected in the Southeast Regional Park Master Plan by creating a special Creek Buffer and Natural Preservation Area – a unique vision for a unique area and opportunity. https://www.como.gov/webapps/cipweb/downloadfile.php?id=2941 . We all know that Master Plans need to be alive and flexible. But I think that a lot of thought went into that special designation in the approved Master Plan. I don't think there's any way that a MTB trail crossing is compatible with best protection for this outstanding creek area. We know that COMOTA and Columbia Parks are going to be careful planners and builders and stewards of the park. They've shown that over and over. But this creek shouldn't have a competitive bike crossing. Just downstream is the currently occupied heron rookery - an indication of a very special and quiet area. We all want people to access the creek for sure. I think a pedestrian trail is the best use for the park south of the creek, possibly accessible from Gans Creek Rd. That more closely matches the vision of the original Master Plan around this special area. I do also appreciate that the peninsula where the rookery currently is does not have development. That is a good choice.</p>	
06 September 23		
Mizzou1985		
	VOTES	0
	<p>There shouldn't be a bike trail south of Gans Creek which is an Outstanding State Resource Water. Keep original stream protection buffer.</p> <p>P&R turned away horses in the original master plan because they wanted to protect Gans Creek. Why would P&R now allow bikes to run through the creek? I have nothing against the proposed trail north of the creek and like the idea of burn areas.</p>	
07 September 23		
Ejusher		
	VOTES	2
	<p>Mtb trails and bridge over the creek are needed</p> <p>Beginner mtb trails are a great opportunity to attract tourism for high school races, and a great place for beginners to hone their skills before taking on the more advanced trails in the area. The trails on the south side of the bridge are a needed addition to the crowded rock bridge trails, and will be great for bikers, runners, and hikers.</p>	
07 September 23		
Juliabey15		
	VOTES	2
	<p>I'd love to see more new trails in Columbia! A beginner mountain bike trail would be a great addition to the community</p>	
10 September 23		
DavidR		
	VOTES	3
	<p>Great opportunity for biking</p> <p>So excited to see another access point for the residents of Columbia to experience our best resource in Missouri, nature. A green bike trail would be a fantastic addition to the area and I hope more trails will be on the way. Super excited to teach my daughter how to mountain bike out there!!</p>	

IDEAS

Ideas

12 September 23 Guillermo H		
	VOTES	3
	<p>More access to the outdoors via purpose-built cycling and hiking trails to further enhance this recreational place.</p> <p>Creating a multi-purpose cycling and hiking trail is a fanatics addition to the Columbia Mo area. Columbia Mo has a fantastic opportunity to improve the accessibility of the outdoors to a larger group of users with a focus on green-level trails on the north end. This will allow more accessibility to the area and provide a place for everyone to practice and learn in an environment that is low stakes and immerse users into the local urban environment. Including the south trails in this project will be critical in providing the accessibility for progression for those who are seeking to expand on their skill sets or enjoy less traveled trails compared to the green loop trails. Construction of all trails at one time will limit the impacts on the local environment with one period of construction and will help keep the cost of the project down compared to two separate projects. Ensuring that the trail design is of one-way directional trail is the best way to limit any negative interactions between user groups. You don't play golf at each other, so why would you direct traffic right at each other? Stacking loops of increasing difficulty is a great way to enable progression and accessibility for all user groups in a manner that is safe and efficient. Allowing users the ability to increase or decrease the trail difficulty by taking a different loop ensures that users are able to choose what kind of experience they want to take on. The ability for progression opportunities on the side of the trail is a great way to make use of the terrain's natural topography which leads to a more engaging experience for those who are interested in it. It limits the impact on the natural community and allows for the full utilization of the terrain to engage a variety of skill levels and progression opportunities. The proposed recreation opportunities are of the silent sport variety which will limit any impact on the area. Hiking and cycling are low-impact sports especially compared to equestrian users who are in the "wildness area" adjacent to the project. There are several crossings downstream in that area that are longer in length and have steeper banks that lead to more erosion than anything currently proposed. The impact of silent sports is a fraction compared to the impact that occurs from equestrian users in a "protected wildness area" that has an "outstanding waterway" that crosses a variety of different places.</p>	
19 September 23 Jason.patrie		
	VOTES	2
	<p>Yes to the trail</p> <p>Please move forward with this trail construction.</p>	
19 September 23 Rockdoc		
	VOTES	3
	<p>Definitely a yes!!!</p> <p>A beginner level mountain bike course will be a fantastic addition to our Columbia parks. It will also support our local youth mountain bike team the Raptors gain confidence to tackle more technical trails.</p>	
20 September 23 BiggsA		
	VOTES	3
	<p>This project should move forward, as designed. Columbia has a well established outdoor/bicycle community. It would get used, for years.</p>	

IDEAS

Ideas

20 September 23 jks	VOTES 3	<p>I fully support this plan to build a multi-use trail in Gans Rec Area based on demand and the current lack of beginner level trails.</p> <p>Trail use in Columbia is on the rise. I feel that the community is getting out in nature more than ever since I've lived in Columbia. I think an additional trail will give people another option in the area to get outside. We are also lacking green (beginner) level trails for hiking/biking. This trail will provide more accessibility for beginners, kids, or those with disabilities. The ability to host NICA mountain bike races is a bonus as this trail would meet the criteria and could bring in tourism dollars.</p>
21 September 23 APeterson	VOTES 2	<p>yes to more trails!</p> <p>I fully support this Gans project to add more trails to our community, especially a beginner friendly mountain biking trail that the youth can ride. This trail will give hikers and the newer mountain biker a place to enjoyably recreate outdoors. It is a great opportunity to expand the trail system in Columbia. More and more kids are getting involved with mountain biking and we need this!</p>
21 September 23 TFitz	VOTES 1	<p>YES!!!</p> <p>LOVE to see more local beginners MTB trails being build. All three of my children enjoy riding, but get a little bored on the MKT/Katy trail and our MTB trails are usually a bit above their skill levels. These trails are just what we need! We love to walk/hike so... YES !!!</p>
21 September 23 brad.dickherber	VOTES 1	<p>Awesome!</p> <p>Easy trails will provide youth the love and skillset needed to become CoMOs future outdoor enthusiasts. Sometimes easy is what we're all looking for.</p>
21 September 23 kmouser22	VOTES 1	<p>In support of proposal at Gans Creek</p> <p>I am an avid user of the many city and state trails in and around the Columbia area. I am walking, running or biking on the trails probably 5+ days per week. I would highly support the shelter, playground and additional natural use trail around Gans that is being proposed. Anything to get more opportunities for people to get active. While we have the shorter Phillips Lake trail in that area, these additional trails would add a lot of value, enjoyment and recreation to folks living near that area.</p>
21 September 23 JilliJack	VOTES 1	<p>LOVE the idea of a trail; responsible stewardship first</p> <p>Love the idea of a mountain biking trail for beginners!! If streams are reasonably protected and stewardship of our natural resources made priority, I'm on board!</p>

IDEAS

Ideas

21 September 23 BigCatDude		Great area for multiple sports and activities
	VOTES 0	Would like to see MTB trails and hiking trails be integrated.
21 September 23 NTimmins		Beginner bike trail needed in our community!
	VOTES 1	As a mother to three young boys, I would love to see our community develop some beginner trails like other bike and family-friendly communities (nod to Bentonville, Arkansas) - bike trails are in high demand and giving beginners a space to safely gain confidence would be an amazing addition to our community!
21 September 23 Meghanferry		The Columbia area would really benefit from more mountain bike trails, especially beginner friendly trails. People need a place to learn.
	VOTES 1	More mountain bike trails!
27 September 23 BrianLBrown		N.I.C.A. age and skills appropriate Mountain Bike Course
	VOTES 1	This project incorporates a mountain bike racing trail with a skill level that is appropriate for our school aged youth who either participate in, or want to participate in the National Interscholastic Cycling Association teams and events. Mountain biking is a great way to exercise, have fun, and socialize with others, and it also provides an excellent alternative to traditional youth sports.
07 October 23 Samantha		I think this is such a good idea! Yes please!
	VOTES 1	
08 October 23 nsmith		Our community needs a beginner-friendly multi-use trail system.
	VOTES 0	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!
10 October 23 cgk		The burn areas would be a great place to seed native prairie and grassland species.
	VOTES 0	Native prairie

IDEAS

Ideas

11 October 23 ryan2541	Support I support the new bike trail. It's a sensible use of the natural area that many will enjoy.
VOTES 0	