



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 5, 2024

Re: Missouri Department of Conservation Trail License Agreement

## Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council approval of legislation allowing the City Manager to sign a trail license agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The trail license agreement will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to complete the design and construction of the Gans Creek Recreation Area (GCRA) natural surface trail through the MDC leased portion of the property. In addition to the design and construction of the trail, the city will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the natural surface trail within the MDC leased portion of GCRA. The agreement will have an initial period of 30 years and will automatically renew for two additional 15-year extensions unless one of the parties wants to terminate the agreement. Staff anticipates the completion of the design portion of the GCRA trail within the next 60 days and will provide MDC staff with final design documents for review and approval before proceeding with construction of the trail.

## Discussion

On Jan. 20, 2009, the City of Columbia and Missouri Department of Conservation entered into a lease and memorandum of understanding related to the Waters Moss Memorial Wildlife Area and Gans Creek Recreation Area. As part of the lease agreement and MOU, MDC was granted a long-term lease of 18.5 acres of Gans Creek Recreation Area. This location is now home to the Missouri Department of Conservation Central Regional Office. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to manage park property on both sides of the MDC leased acreage.

On Dec. 18, 2023, City Council approved the Gans Creek Recreation Area capital improvement project that includes the construction of a natural surface trail throughout the park. In order to utilize the northeast portion of the park property, park staff worked with MDC staff to create a trail license agreement to cross the MDC leased property. The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council approval of legislation authorizing the City Manager to sign the trail license agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC).

The trail license agreement allows the Parks and Recreation Department to design, construct and maintain the natural surface trail through the MDC leased portion of Gans Creek Recreation Area. The department will be responsible for all costs associated with the trail from design to long-term maintenance. Once design of the trail is completed, park staff will submit plans to MDC staff for their review and approval before proceeding with construction.



The trail license agreement shall commence on the effective date and continue for an initial period of 30 years. The agreement will automatically renew for two additional 15-year extensions. The agreement may be terminated by either party at the expiration of the initial term or any renewal term by either party giving to the other party notice at least 60 days in advance of their intention not to renew this agreement.

Staff has selected the contractor for the design/build capital improvement project and is anticipating the completion of the design portion of the GCRA trail within the next 60 days. At the completion of the design portion of the project, staff will return to City Council to provide an update on the project and request approval of any additional legislation.

### Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None  
Long-Term Impact: None

### Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Legislative History

Date	Action
12/18/23	B304-23: Authorizing construction of a playground, two (2) shelters, and natural surface hiking and biking trail in the Gans Creek Recreation Area; calling for bids for a portion of the project through the Purchasing Division; providing for the design and construction of the proposed trail improvement using a design/build contract; amending the FY 2024 Annual Budget by appropriating donated funds. <a href="#">B304-23</a>
01/20/09	Ordinance #020177: Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease and memorandum of understanding with the Missouri Department of Conservation relating to the lease of property in the Gans Creek Recreation Area and the H.J. Waters and C.B. Moss Memorial Wildlife Area. <a href="#">B16-09A</a>

### Suggested Council Action

Approve the Council legislation authorizing the City Manager to execute the trail license agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation.