

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING POLICY STATEMENTS IN REGARDS TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TURKEY CREEK BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TRAIL FROM NORTHEAST JOHNSON COUNTY TO SOUTHWEST WYANDOTTE COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

Each local government that is a signatory to this Resolution of Support shall, if required by their planning regulations, adopt a separate resolution adopting and incorporating the Turkey Creek Corridor Concept Plan Report as a guideline for future planning decisions related to the development of the trail corridor and surrounding areas.

WHEREAS, the cities of Merriam, Overland Park, Mission, and Roeland Park and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas and the Johnson County Park and Recreation District recognize that parks and open space are an important part of any community's obligation to its citizens, as well as an attractive amenity to redevelopment efforts.

WHEREAS, the Mid America Regional Council (MARC) has been promoting the MetroGreen Greenway Trails initiative, a proposed interconnected system of public and private open spaces, greenways and trails designed to link several counties in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

WHEREAS, the Johnson County Park and Recreation District's Streamway Park System includes every major creek in the County and connects almost all of the existing and future parks via trails and linkages. A major goal of this initiative is to transform the local trail system into a regional trail system.

WHEREAS, The Unified Government Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Rosedale Master Plan, which incorporated a significant portion of the pedestrian/bicycle trail during its meeting on Aug. 25, 2005.

WHEREAS, The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, as part of the Upper Turkey Creek Basin planning study, is partnering with several stakeholders in the watershed to provide flood risk management solutions to the Turkey Creek stream corridor with a strong consideration for multipurpose objectives including ecosystem restoration, watershed planning, and recreation, such as bicycle/pedestrian trails. Interstate-35 is a significant commuting route that shares the Turkey Creek corridor, and bicycle commuters could benefit from the establishment of a continual, safe, flat, no-interruption trail that is compatible with the flood risk management solutions and acceptable to land owners.

WHEREAS, the MetroGreen Greenway Trails initiative designates Turkey Creek as a future trail corridor through the Cities of Merriam, Overland Park and Mission, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

WHEREAS, the Johnson County Park and Recreation District's Streamway Park System designates Turkey Creek as a component of the Streamway Park System through the cities of Merriam, Overland Park and Mission.

WHEREAS, the Turkey Creek Trail Corridor would provide synergy with the MetroGreen Greenway Trails initiative and the Johnson County Streamway Park System Plan.

WHEREAS, the Turkey Creek Coalition, representatives of local government, regional planning association, local property owners and other interest groups, have studied the Corridor and have prepared the "Turkey Creek Concept Plan Report", which seeks to define the Turkey Creek Corridor and guide future planning decisions related to the development of the corridor and surrounding areas.

WHEREAS, the city of Merriam and the Johnson County Park and Recreation District have already built a bicycle/pedestrian trail along a majority of this corridor.

WHEREAS, the city of Overland Park has developed preliminary engineering designs for an extension to this bicycle/pedestrian trail, and has included the project as part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2012.

WHEREAS, the city of Mission has identified Turkey Creek as a future trail corridor in the city's Comprehensive Plan, and has begun requiring right-of-way or easement dedications on properties abutting Turkey Creek.

WHEREAS, the city of Roeland Park has expressed an interest in connecting the city's Nall Park to the Turkey Creek Trail Corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE CITIES OF MERRIAM, OVERLAND PARK, MISSION AND ROELAND PARK, AND THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KANSAS AND THE JOHNSON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT THAT:

SECTION 1. The Turkey Creek Corridor Concept Plan Report is acknowledged by each community as a guideline for future planning decisions related to the development of the trail corridor and surrounding areas.

SECTION 2. Communities that have expressed interest in extending or connecting to the bicycle/pedestrian trail but have not yet incorporated this corridor into their Comprehensive Plan will consider including the Turkey Creek Corridor into their long-range land use and parks plans, including Comprehensive Plans, and will explore future options to establish connections to neighboring Cities.

SECTION 3. Communities that have adopted this Corridor as a future trail corridor will prepare preliminary cost estimates for the bicycle/pedestrian trail, will consider incorporating this project into their CIPs, and will explore future options to establish connections to neighboring communities.

SECTION 4. Communities that have developed preliminary engineering designs for a bicycle/pedestrian trail and have included them as part of their CIP will maintain the Turkey Creek trail as a high-priority project, will continue working towards construction, and will explore future options to establish connections to neighboring communities.

SECTION 5. Communities that have already developed facilities will be committed to continued maintenance of the existing trail, and will explore future options to establish connections to neighboring communities.

SECTION 6. Communities that are party to this agreement will mutually support one another in seeking state and federal funds to complete the Turkey Creek Trail Corridor.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT of WYANDOTTE
COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KS

Name, Mayor/CEO
Date: _____

JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Name, Board Chair
Date: _____

JOHNSON COUNTY PARK AND
RECREATION DISTRICT

Name, Board Chair
Date: _____

CITY OF OVERLAND PARK

Name, Mayor
Date: _____

CITY OF MERRIAM

Name, Mayor
Date: _____

CITY OF MISSION

Name, Mayor
Date: _____

CITY OF ROELAND PARK

Name, Mayor
Date: _____