

Statewide Trail Linkage System

1 **WHEREAS**, Missouri has witnessed a resurgence of enthusiasm for the creation of trails;

2 **AND WHEREAS**, Missouri’s Katy Trail State Park has encouraged communities to develop trail

3 linkages, greenways and neighborhood greenbelts;

4 **AND WHEREAS**, Walking is the most popular activity among many segments of Missouri’s

5 population and consistently ranks high on the list of activities that Missourians—rural and

6 urban, young and old-engage in most often;

7 **AND WHEREAS**, Trail development contributes to conservation, promotes alternative

8 transportation, and connects communities to nature and each other;

9 **AND WHEREAS**, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, realizing the economic, recreational

10 and historic benefits of the Katy trail which parallels the Missouri River, endorses the continued

11 development of the trail from Kansas City region to St. Louis. This linear park has become one

12 of Missouri’s most popular and heaviest used state parks;

13 **AND WHEREAS**, The General Assembly is asked to support enabling legislation to allow first

14 class charter counties and contiguous counties in the Kansas City region to seek voter approval

15 of a Regional Parks and Trails district similar to enabling authority granted to St. Louis area

16 counties. The Kansas City metropolitan area has been working toward a regional greenway trail

17 system for over a decade, and interest and support for such a system continues to increase

18 among area residents, community leaders and local government officials. The greenway trail

19 system is part of a metropolitan-wide effort to preserve important natural areas along stream

20 and river corridors, and provide alternative transportation corridors and greater recreational

21 opportunities. Local communities are challenged in responding to growing interest among their

22 residents to provide additional parks and recreational opportunities, as land prices continue to

23 rise and local city and county budgets are strained to support daily operations. In 1999, the
24 Missouri General Assembly passed legislation (SB405) that allowed the St. Louis region to
25 establish a regional parks and recreation district. Today, St. Louis city, St. Louis County and St.
26 Charles County support a regional district that has resulted in regional and local parks and trails
27 investments with strong public support;

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at
29 the Lodge of the Four Season, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2011 supports the
30 full appropriation of funds necessary to develop, maintain and staff this project. The
31 Conservation Federation of Missouri strongly encourages the governor, state legislature and
32 DNR to proceed with any actions necessary to ensure the trail's completion, specifically a link
33 from Pleasant Hill into Kansas City and near Arrowhead Stadium and any remaining portions in
34 the St. Louis area. CFM is strongly opposed to any action that would threaten the integrity and
35 continued extension of the Katy Trail corridor.