

**Piloting Missouri’s Open Space Plan Initiative through Columbia**

1     **WHEREAS**, seventy three percent of Missourians live in urban areas;

2     **AND WHEREAS**, trees in urban areas provide a connection between citizens and nature;

3     **AND WHEREAS**, trees in urban areas provide social benefits such as strengthen community

4     bonds and reduce crime rates;

5     **AND WHEREAS**, trees in urban areas provide ecosystem benefits such as reducing soil erosion,

6     mitigating flooding, and providing critical wildlife habitat;

7     **AND WHEREAS**, trees in urban areas help provide climatic control, help reduce energy consumption,

8     and reduce noise pollution;

9     **AND WHEREAS**, trees in urban areas increase property values, provide an increase in commercial

10    benefits, as well as aesthetic value;

11    **AND WHEREAS**, trees in urban areas provide positive psychological benefits such as higher self

12    esteem, increased self discipline, and provides an overall stronger bond with nature which increases

13    quality of life in urban areas;

14    **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled

15    at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 26th day of February, 2012 support Missouri

16    Department of Conservation, Boone County, City of Columbia, Greenbelt Land Trust and elected

17    officials in developing an Open Space Plan for the city of Columbia. This plan should follow the

18    success of Nashville, Tennessee’s Open Space Plan with the objectives of inventorying, evaluating and

19    developing an implemental plan to conserve and enhance the natural areas and resources of Columbia.

20    Once this plan is successfully implemented in Columbia this Open Space Plan should also be adapted to

21    other urban areas in Missouri.