

**Establish the Missouri Trails Alliance and Comprehensive Statewide Trails Plan**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Missouri has witnessed a resurgence of enthusiasm for the creation of trails;
- 2 **AND WHEREAS**, Missouri has a rich and diverse collection of some of the country's most significant
- 3 trails such as the Katy Trail, Ozark Trail, Mississippi River Trail, Lewis and Clark Trail, American
- 4 Discovery Trail, Trail of Tears, Pony Express Trail, Oregon Trail, Mormon Pioneer Trail, Santa Fe Trail
- 5 and Frisco Highline Trail;
- 6 **AND WHEREAS**, Missouri's major metropolitan areas have established trail and greenway
- 7 organizations such as Great Rivers Greenway in St. Louis, MetroGreen in Kansas City, Ozark
- 8 Greenways in Springfield, PedNet in Columbia;
- 9 **AND WHEREAS**, Missouri has an established network of supportive federal and state government
- 10 agencies such as the USDA-Mark Twain National Forest, NPS-Ozark National Scenic Riverways, US
- 11 Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Natural Resources,
- 12 Missouri Department of Conservation, as well as numerous county and local agencies that manage
- 13 thousands of miles of trails;
- 14 **AND WHEREAS**, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, realizing that Missouri's Ozark Trail was
- 15 recently designated as one of two projects in Missouri to be included in President Obama's America's
- 16 Great Outdoors Initiative, endorses the development of the Ozark Trail vision of a continuous trail from
- 17 the St. Louis metropolitan area to the Arkansas border linking to the Ozark Highlands Trail;
- 18 **AND WHEREAS**, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, realizing the economic, recreational and
- 19 historic benefits of the Katy trail which parallels the Missouri River, endorses the continued
- 20 development of the trail from the Kansas City region to St. Louis. This linear park has become one of
- 21 Missouri's most popular and heaviest used state parks;
- 22 **AND WHEREAS**, Missouri's Katy Trail State Park has encouraged communities to develop trail

23 linkages, greenways and neighborhood greenbelts;

24 **AND WHEREAS**, walking is the most popular activity among many segments of Missouri’s population  
25 and consistently ranks high on the list of activities that Missourians—rural and urban, young and old-  
26 engage in most often;

27 **AND WHEREAS**, walking, biking and other outdoor exercise promote physical and mental health;

28 **AND WHEREAS**, trail development contributes to conservation, promotes alternative transportation,  
29 and connects communities to nature and each other;

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at  
31 the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012 supports the full  
32 appropriation of general funds necessary to develop, maintain and staff this project. The Conservation  
33 Federation of Missouri strongly encourages the governor, state legislature, federal and state agencies to  
34 proceed with any actions necessary to ensure the establishment of a Missouri Trails Alliance and a  
35 Comprehensive Statewide Trails Plan for the purposes of overseeing, and promoting Missouri’s trails  
36 and for expanding Missouri’s trail system and for managing a statewide trail plan.