

**RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION TO
HALT THE SALE OF WELDON WOODS AND PRESERVE IT FOR PUBLIC RECREATION**

WHEREAS, Weldon Woods, a wild forest adjacent to Katy Trail State Park and in St. Charles County, was transferred to the University of Missouri by the US Department of Energy after World War II as part of a 7,900 acre parcel to be utilized for research and education, and until now over 200 acres of natural green space with old growth forests and high bluffs along the Katy Trail State Park have been available for public enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the University is in the process of selling Weldon Woods to a local home builder for a large subdivision development; and

WHEREAS, the St. Charles County Council approved a development plan in June 2018 to build approximately three hundred homes on the acreage; and

WHEREAS, this development will destroy the wild character of the land along this part of Katy Trail State Park and disrupt the delicate fauna and flora of the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the University of Missouri System's mission statement includes advancing "the health, cultural, and social interests of the people of Missouri" [and] their Sustainability Office "seeks to ingrain sustainability principles of social equity, and environmental stewardship"; and

WHEREAS, the St. Charles County Council disregarded their own Planning and Zoning commission's recommendation to retain the land in agricultural zoning and instead rezoned the acreage to residential, allowing for this high-density development; and

WHEREAS, the University of Missouri and the Missouri State Parks are both entities funded by and beloved by taxpayers of Missouri, and the sale of Weldon Woods would devalue long-term investment in one state facility, Katy Trail State Park, to get a short-term gain for a different state entity; and

WHEREAS, state parks depend on local facilities, including the popular Busch Greenway Trail intersecting the Katy Trail at Weldon Woods, to help people access and enjoy state parks and they are just as important as the parks themselves; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Missouri Parks Association urges Dr. Mun Choi, President of the University of Missouri system, and St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann to stop the sale of Weldon Woods and retain the property for public recreation and ecosystem preservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Parks Association urges Missouri State Parks Director Ben Ellis and Department of Natural Resources Director Carol Comer to object to the encroachment of the proposed development on Katy Trail State Park that would result from the sale of Weldon Woods, to withhold support for the sale, and exert their influence on the University of Missouri President and Board of Curators to prevent the sale and development.

PASSED BY THE MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION THIS 30TH DAY OF APRIL 2019

Deborah Schnack, President
Missouri Parks Association

