



Johnson County Commission

William H. Gabel
Presiding Commissioner

John L. Marr
Commissioner, Eastern District

Charles Kavanaugh
Commissioner, Western District

Diane Thompson
County Clerk

June 28, 2017

The Honorable Eric Greitens, Governor
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ms. Carol Comer, Director
MO Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mr. Ben Ellis, Director
MO State Parks
P.O. Box 176
1101 Riverside Dr.
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Greitens, Directors Comer and Ellis:

On behalf on the Johnson County Spirit Trails Coalition comprised of seven municipalities, the University of Central MO, and Whiteman AFB, we want to express our ongoing support of the Rock Island Trail across mid-Missouri. The first phase of the Spirit Trail between Warrensburg, Knob Noster State Park is underway heading on to Whiteman AFB's front door. The coalition has expended its county-wide comprehensive trail network plan to include three access points along the Rock Island 47 miles trail. Those access points are south of Kingsville, Holden and the Trail Head at Chilhowee.

Like the Katy Trails the Rock Island 144 mile Trail offers all Missourians (and out-of-state and country tourists) a tremendous opportunity to enjoy the beautiful outdoor recreational amenities we have in MO. The small communities along the trail route stand to benefit from the economic development opportunities such an asset offers.

While our major cities such Warrensburg lies some 12 miles north, these access points envisioned by the Coalition are less than 3-5 miles away. Our active plan for a county-wide trail network expands the immediate recreational opportunities locally as well as providing an attraction for the students, citizenry and military members.

All the Best...as together we create economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life of Missourians!

William H. Gabel
Johnson County Presiding Commissioner and Spirit Trails Coalition Chairman