

CITY OF Warsaw

*Historic Old Steamboat
Town on the Osage River
And Lake of the Ozarks
Home of Harry S. Truman Dam*

August 28, 2017

Mr. Ben Ellis, Director
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ms. Carol Comer, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
1101 Riverside Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Directors Ellis and Comer,

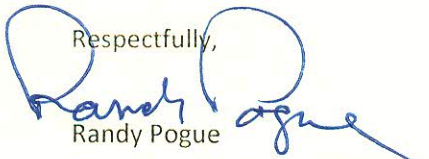
The completion of the Rock Island Trail will greatly enhance Missourians outdoor recreation opportunities and provide rural communities a tool for quality of life improvements through economic and community development. Furthermore, the completion of the Rock Island Trail will create the unique opportunity to develop spurs connecting to other tourist regions.

Warsaw continues to develop its local trail system connecting parks and on-street bicycle routes. Through its trail system, the City of Warsaw has strived to link three major parks, thereby, creating a linear park along the waterfront. Additionally, the city has high quality combination Mountain Bike and Hiking Trails. All total there is approximately 6 miles of general use high quality trails no less than 8' wide, most 10' wide along the shore line of the Lake of the Ozarks, and 23.4 miles of Mountain Bike/Hiking Trails along Truman Lake.

The process has started to see how we can connect our network of trails to the Rock Island and Katy to our north and Frisco Highline Trail to our south that connects to Springfield. With our success of creating partnerships, for example the US Corps of Engineers, a connection to the Rock Island Trail within our county from Warsaw is realistic and provides momentum of achieving Springfield's dream of connecting to the Rock Island through Warsaw. This will connect Missouri's lake regions and link two major tourists regions in the Branson/Springfield region to the KATY Trail region through Warsaw and the Rock Island.

In conclusion, the completion of the Rock Island, combined with other trail and outdoor experiences that our state offers, will solidify Missouri's status as a premiere outdoor destination and create the revenues that small rural areas like Warsaw rely on for improving our communities. The return far exceeds the investment and ultimately provides additional revenue for our state also. The City of Warsaw encourages you to support this effort and partner with all the trail communities to gain worldwide notoriety as the ultimate destination to come to in the United States.

Respectfully,


Randy Pogue
City Administrator and Planner