

Resolution #8-R-23

Creating the Appleton Conservancy and associated trail amenities by dedicating to the public city-owned lands in Southpoint Commerce Park for Parkland, Trailhead, and Trail.

Submitted by: Common Council President & District 5 Alderperson, Katie Van Zeeland

Date: July 19, 2023

Referred To: Parks & Recreation Committee, City Plan Commission & Community & Economic Development Committee

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Appleton cites evidence of the importance of parks, open space, and leisure programming to the environmental, social, and economic health of communities; furthermore, sufficient parks and open spaces provide habitats for plants and animals, contribute to effective stormwater management, and offer additional environmental benefits, and notably, parks and open spaces enhance the value of nearby property and park facilities and programming enhance the quality of life while facilitating the social interaction of community residents, thereby making the city a more desirable place to live; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton seeks to provide equitable and inclusive recreational opportunities for all people, recognizing the role outdoor spaces play in the mental, physical, and environmental health of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the results of a needs assessment found that the southeast side of Appleton was deficient in park space and has remained so despite continued growth; and

WHEREAS, residents of District 5 do not have access to a community park within the recommended National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) range of a 1-2 mile radius; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan aims to acquire additional parkland and trails with a specific objective of developing these amenities in southeast Appleton, and the Trail Masterplan recommends a trail corridor from Coop Road, extending westward coterminous with the electric transmission line to Plank Road; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton is recognized as a Tree City, Bird City, Bee City, and Monarch City; and

WHEREAS the City of Appleton owns significant acreage in an area called Southpoint Commerce Park, and within that area, there exists a stand of woodland that includes species such as shagbark hickory, white oak, basswood, red maple, sugar maple, and even American beech, in addition to wetlands; and

WHEREAS, preserving precious natural areas aligns with our community's values and vision, and dedicating significant acreage to public use is a rare but significant opportunity; and

WHEREAS, adding this approximately 32-acre parcel to the City's existing 600 acres of parks and trails will provide not only recreational opportunities such as walking, hiking, biking, and other low-impact recreational opportunities but also preserve and protect critical natural habitat and wetlands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Appleton that the City of Appleton dedicates to the public for parkland, trailhead, and trail, the city-owned lands in Southpoint Commerce Park, as illustrated in Exhibits 1 and 2, with Lot 13 of proposed Southpoint Commerce Park Plat No. 4 to be named the Appleton Conservancy.

EXHIBIT 1: PARK, TRAIL, AND TRAILHEAD DEDICATION TO THE PUBLIC



