



Report to Mayor and City Council

Date: April 2, 2012
From: William Nelson, Park and Recreation Director
Subject: Resolution in Support of the Rock River Water Trail

Background:

Several Convention and Visitors Bureau's have spearheaded a plan to develop a "Rock River Trail" similar to the Mississippi River Trail. The Rock River extends from the headwaters in Fond du Lac County in Wisconsin to Rock Island, Illinois. Along the river valley, there are a number of natural resource areas and historic sites that would entice tourism if promoted together.

The goal is to develop a "trail" that supports outdoor recreation, including fishing, boating, biking, hiking and other outdoor endeavors along the river valley. The Initiative also supports the smaller riverfront towns through economic development, increased tourism and overnight stays in the larger communities.

Recommendation:

Staff would recommend supporting the Rock River Trail Initiative through a resolution.

The Trail does not require financial support other than individual business marketing their services in any combined marketing tools that might develop as a result of the trail designation.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Authorizing City of Rock Island support for the Rock River Trail Initiative

WHEREAS, the Rock River is recognized as a major natural resource corridor with potential for recreation, scenic and historic trails; and

WHEREAS, America's Great Outdoors Initiative of 2010 is designed to reconnect Americans, especially children, to America's rivers and waterways and parks and landscapes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rock Island has an outstanding parks system and is engaged in development of corridor revitalization, riverwalks and development of diverse recreational opportunities along its rivers to serve the needs of residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rock Island has boat launch points, canoe/kayak landings, fishing sites and beautiful parks along the Rock River for recreational use and enjoyment by residents and visitors and is engaged in maintenance and upgrade of existing parks and recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rock Island encourages and supports efforts to enhance economic development along the riverfront, historic preservation and revitalization of river communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Rock River Trail Initiative is to establish and interpret a Rock River Water Trail along the 300-mile river course from the headwaters in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, to the Mississippi River at Rock Island, Illinois, and a separate Rock River Route on roads within the river corridor to provide access for all to the natural resources, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty and historic and cultural assets of the Rock River Valley; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Rock River Trail Initiative include promoting ecotourism and recreational opportunities throughout the river corridor, enhancing community recognition of the unique assets of the Rock River and supporting economic development and revitalization of river communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Rock Island, Illinois that it herein endorses and supports the Rock River Trail Initiative.

Adopted this day of _____

By: _____
Mayor Dennis E. Pauley

ATTEST: _____
Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk