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Louisville Metro Adopts 21st Century Parks Master Plan

Guidelines to ensure future development complements parks

Louisville, Ky.— The Floyds Fork Greenway project is now formally included in the city of Louisville’s long-range vision for the community’s growth. On February 25, the Louisville Metro Council unanimously approved an ordinance adopting 21st Century Parks’ master plan for the new parks system into Cornerstone 2020, the document that guides current and future development across Metro Louisville.

The master plan for the Floyds Fork Greenway calls for the creation and management of a 4,000-acre public parks system along the Floyds Fork watershed in southern and eastern Jefferson County. Passage of the ordinance helps to ensure that future development includes and is compatible with the new parks system.

“Parks are city-shaping infrastructure,” said Dan Jones, president and CEO of 21st Century Parks. “This ordinance enables the city to look at what develops around the parks and organize the development from an urban planning and design standpoint.”

Among the guidelines 21st Century Parks urged city planners to incorporate into Cornerstone 2020 are:

- Orienting structures along park boundary roads with their front or side facades facing the parks.
- Ensuring pedestrian trails and other linkages between private developments and the parks system are compatible and well-maintained.
- Protecting scenic viewsheds and minimizing the impact of new development on ridgeline landscapes.
- Incorporating street trees on existing and new roads associated with the parks.

- Encouraging the preservation, repair and enhancement of natural ecological systems, wildlife habitats and historic and cultural resources.

Jones said it is rare for a private nonprofit group's project plans to be adopted into a city's land development code.

"This sends a big message that Louisville is a community that is serious about parks and about ensuring that parks and the surrounding development complement one another," he said.

About 21st Century Parks

Founded in Louisville in 2004, 21st Century Parks is the nonprofit corporation leading the creation and management of a new, 4,000-acre public parks system along the Floyds Fork watershed in eastern and southeastern Louisville. The new parks system is one of the largest and most ambitious metropolitan park projects in the nation.

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