

RESOLUTION CR-42-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO
ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the City currently owns approximately 193 acres of undeveloped park land along the Scioto River known as Talbott Park; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District currently owns approximately 70 acres that abuts Talbott Park; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Franklin County voters approved a 0.75 mill property tax levy that would help fund the development of a new Metro Park in the Grove City area that would encompass the property currently owned by Metro Parks and Talbott Park; and

WHEREAS, the City and Metro Parks desire to work together to establish a new Metro Park pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVE CITY, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding as set forth in Exhibit A.

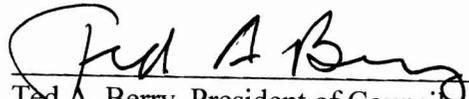
SECTION 2. This resolution shall take effect at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

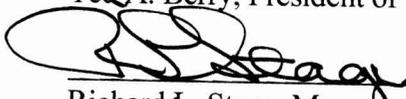
Passed: 07-19-10

Effective: 07-19-10

Attest:

I certify that this
resolution is correct as to form.


Ted A. Berry, President of Council


Richard L. Stage, Mayor


Tami K. Kelly, MMC, Clerk of Council

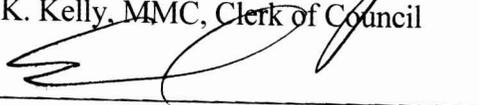

Stephen J. Smith, Director of Law

Exhibit A
CP-42-10
DRAFT

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This memorandum represents an expression of the intent of Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District ("Metro Parks") and Grove City to work cooperatively to establish a new park (the "Metro Park") serving south central Franklin County in and adjacent to Grove City. Grove City and Metro Parks (together the "Parties") shall proceed in good faith to establish the new Metro Park generally in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

This MOU outlines the park concept, location, acquisition, development and operating requirements for the Metro Park. This memorandum contains assumptions and contingencies which must be addressed through cooperation with existing landowners and local government jurisdictions in the project area.

1. Park Location

The proposed park shall be located along the Scioto River in Grove City and in Jackson Township of Franklin County. The general location is along the west side of the Scioto River north of State Route 665. See attached proposed park area map (Exhibit A). The park may be expanded in the future to include other nearby properties.

2. Grove City's Contributions

Grove City shall donate in fee simple Parcel 1 as identified on Exhibit A to Metro Parks to become part of the new Metro Park within 60 days of the date this MOU is approved by the Grove City city council. Grove City shall donate in fee simple Parcel 2 to Metro Parks if it is able to acquire the property. Parcel 2 will be donated to Metro Parks within sixty days of the date that it is acquired by Grove City.

Grove City shall work to connect bicycle and/or multi-use trails within its jurisdiction to the new Metro Park so that residents and visitors can travel to and from the Metro Park on these trails.

3. Metro Parks' Contributions

Metro Parks shall establish, construct, maintain and operate the new Metro Park. Metro Parks shall be responsible for the cost of additional land acquisition for any land to be acquired in addition to Parcels 1 and 2. Negotiations will occur between prospective sellers and Metro Parks. Title to all property acquired for the park shall be held by Metro Parks as the sole owner.

4. Park Concept

The proposed park shall be designed for passive recreation, (i.e. picnicking, walking, hiking) in an environment that promotes conservation and biodiversity in accordance with Metro Parks mission. Because some of the land in the designated area has been utilized for farming, it is anticipated that a reforestation/habitat restoration improvement program will be undertaken to enhance the natural resource base. Developed facilities may include parking lots, restrooms, play equipment, a combination of developed, accessible, and primitive trails, a nature education facility, a maintenance facility, and a ranger station/park office. The end result would be a "traditional Metro Park", much like Sharon Woods Metro Park or a smaller version of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park.

5. Project Cost and Funding

Metro Parks expects to fund the acquisition, development and on-going operations of the park through its existing sources of revenue, including the Metro Parks' property tax levy. Metro Parks may seek grants, appropriations or other funding to facilitate acquisition, habitat restoration or development of the Metro Park.

Obligations of Grove City and Metro Parks are subject to the availability of funds.

6. Support Services and Taxes

Metro Parks shall seek service commitments for water, sewer, utility and transportation infrastructure and for police, fire, emergency services from the appropriate local agencies. Grove City shall support Metro Parks efforts to service the Metro Park with public utilities.

Metro Parks shall apply for an exemption from county real estate taxes for land converted to park land for public use.

7. Park Design, Development and Visitor services

Metro Parks shall be responsible for determining the manner in which the park is designed, developed and maintained. Metro Parks shall be responsible for determining the quantity, quality, and nature of services to be offered to the public who visit this park. Staffing of the park shall be based on efficiency and public need and dedicated staff may not be assigned until public facilities have been developed and opened to the public.

Metro Parks shall form an advisory committee to gather input on the planning and design of the Metro Park. Grove City shall appoint one or two members to serve on the advisory committee. Metro Parks shall also seek representatives for the advisory committee from Jackson Township, from nearby residents, and from other interested parties.

Metro Parks shall select the name of the park, which traditionally reflects the natural features of the area.

Signage will be established within the park that recognizes the collaborative efforts Grove City and Metro Parks toward the creation of the park.

8. Park Completion/Opening for Public Use

A multi-year schedule may be prepared by Metro Parks as part of the planning for the park. Metro Parks will attempt to acquire land and to develop and open the Metro Park for public use within three years of the date this MOU is signed.

Metro Parks allocates development staff and funds for a given time period among all its parks and programs. This project shall be given a high priority by Metro Parks, but not to the exclusion of other high priority projects defined by Metro Parks.

9. Authorization and Commitment

By signing below, we agree to support and participate in the establishment of this new Metro Park as generally outlined above. The person signing below for each of the Parties has been duly authorized to sign this MOU by the respective governing body.

Signed and dated the _____ day of _____, 2010

City of Grove City, Ohio

Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

John R. O'Meara
Executive Director
Date: _____

Approved as to form:

Stephen Smith, Jr., Law Director