

Originating Committee: Public/Private Lands Committee

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Intended Recipient: Missouri State Parks, Dawn Fredrickson

**Deny Saint Louis County Request to Repurpose 40 Acres
of Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park**

WHEREAS, St. Louis County Government is planning to give away 40 acres of prime county public parkland at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park to the Legacy Ice Foundation to become The St. Louis Ice Center, a very large and privately owned ice hockey training and practice facility, with a roughly 200,000 sq. ft. building and 1400 parking spaces, causing a massive influx of traffic into an already heavily trafficked park; and

WHEREAS, the 40 acres in question has always provided, and continues to provide, valuable green space that will be replaced with concrete, asphalt, and powerful lamps causing light pollution in a previously dark area; and

WHEREAS, when parkland is sold or given away, residents lose valuable, irreplaceable open spaces and natural resources in their community; and

WHEREAS, once natural parkland is disposed of, the chances of it ever being restored to its' natural and proper state are virtually nonexistent; and

WHEREAS, this urban park currently provides free and open outdoor recreational opportunities for residents of the area, valuable wetland habitat for wildlife with mature trees for bird, bat and owl habitat, and undeveloped space and bottomland soils for filtration of storm runoff; and

WHEREAS, the proposed enclosed ice rink will have only limited public access to fee based indoor recreational opportunities for area residents; and

WHEREAS, much of the this land was purchased with funds obtained from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and is therefore burdened with the stipulation that an environmental assessment and permitting be performed by the National Park Service to use this land for any purpose other than approved outdoor recreation, it is recommended that any such permit should be denied; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 12th day of March, 2017, asks the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to forward our request to the National Park Service and that they deny the permit

needed to allow this land to be taken from the county park and from the natural floodplain and to be developed into a massive ice hockey complex when ample private non-park properties abound in the immediate vicinity.