

August 9, 2018

Dear City Commissioners,

The Sustainability Advisory Board appreciates the briefing we recently received from Matthew Bond, City Stormwater Engineer, on the status of a potential Stream-Buffer Ordinance for Lawrence.

We support the idea. It's been near the top of our priorities for two years. We believe that a successful implementation would benefit the city in several ways, including better protection from floods, improved water quality, habitat conservation, more opportunities for recreational trails, and better property values.

We hope you vote to initiate this process, and we look forward to reviewing the ordinance as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Ritchie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a long, sweeping tail.

Adam Ritchie  
Sustainability Advisory Board Chairperson

August 17, 2018

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AUG 20 2018

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS



To: Mayor Stuart Boley,  
Commissioners Lisa Larsen, Jennifer Ananda,  
Matthew Herbert and Leslie Soden:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Jayhawk Audubon Society (JAS) and our more than 400 local members, we want to offer our support for the proposal to develop a Stream Buffer Ordinance within the city limits. At the JAS Board's June planning meeting, we decided to examine the goals of the Sustainability Advisory Committee to see how we might find a proposal that we could concentrate on in the coming year (August 2018 to June 2019). The Stream Buffer Ordinance proposal is one that we heartily endorse because we think it would provide multiple benefits to community members:

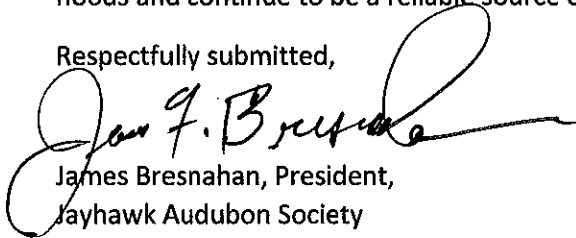
Naismith Valley Park, south of 24<sup>th</sup> Street, provides an outstanding example of how having buffers on both sides of a stream deliver water-quality protection, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat protection and enhancement, as well as flood prevention by keeping development away from an area subject to flooding (and likely more so in the future with all the impervious spaces that have been added recently on the KU campus in the upper reaches of the watershed).

- a) Water quality will be protected/enhanced by keeping land disturbances away from the stream, thereby eliminating erosion of soil into the streams. In this regard we would urge the City to use native plantings within the buffer areas as much as possible since they are more adapted to our climate and therefore are less prone to need extra care, water, fertilizers, etc.
- b) Providing added recreation for areas within the City other than "The Loop" would offer residents living along streams corridors valuable health benefits and make these areas more accessible without having to travel to the periphery of the city. We urge the City Commission to instruct City Planners to explore options for connecting city parks to an interior system of streamside trails.
- c) We especially like the fact that these vegetated buffer areas provide more wildlife habitat for birds, squirrels, rabbits, etc. Thus, these buffer areas offer a chance for residents to become more familiar with interesting wildlife species. Naismith Park is the site of an annual birding trip which JAS offers free to the public each spring. It is exciting how many different bird species that can be found in just a few hours of observation. (Great-horned Owl, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Mississippi Kite, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Robin, Cardinal, House Finch, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Mourning Dove, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Harris' Sparrow, and many others.)
- d) During the 1993 flood in Lawrence, although Naismith Creek experienced significant flooding (the water over-topped its banks and some folks canoed down the creek), no property abutting the park experienced damage from the floods. Keeping development well away from creeks and streams prevents flooded homes and saves taxpayer dollars.

There has been a lot of discussion in Lawrence about completing “The Loop” as a recreational corridor around the city. We support this concept; however, we also feel it’s important to provide other chances for recreation within other places in the city rather than limiting it to the periphery. Again, we think a system of connected, streamside corridors will provide the above-mentioned benefits to Lawrence citizens and we urge the Commission to proceed with recommending formation, adoption and implementation of such an ordinance.

Although we recognize that the City Commission does not have authority over matters outside the city limits, we urge you to reach out to the County Commissioners to pursue adopting a similar proposal for the remainder of the unincorporated areas of Douglas County. All the above-mentioned benefits (a through d) would accrue to a similar system of stream buffers in the county with one exceptional addition – protecting Clinton Lake from further sedimentation. By enacting similar strategies, it would greatly prevent loss of storage due to the accumulation of water-borne sediment, thereby delaying and possibly even preventing costly dredging (John Redmond Reservoir cost approximately \$20 million to dredge within the last couple of years and an additional \$5 million was suggested for watershed treatment practices to better manage erosion in the watershed). Providing buffers to streams in the Upper Wakarusa River watershed would also help to restore the capacity of Clinton Lake to prevent floods and continue to be a reliable source of drinking water for Lawrence.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Bresnahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

James Bresnahan, President,  
Jayhawk Audubon Society