

CEMVS-PM-E

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

SUBJECT: Mark Twain Birth Site Trail - Supplement 1, Mark Twain Lake Master Plan, Design Memorandum No. 9, Salt River, Missouri

1. Reference:

- a. ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 3: Project Master Plans and Operational Master Plans, 15 August 2002
- b. EM 1110-1-400, Engineering and Design: Recreation Facility and Customer Services Standards, 1 November 2004
- c. Mark Twain Lake Master Plan, Design Memorandum No. 9, Salt River, Missouri, 2004

2. Purpose: This supplement proposes the establishment of a recreational/interpretive trail in two phases, the first phase being primarily on Corps of Engineers (Corps) property, the second phase involving a small portion of Corps lands, adjacent to the city of Florida, Missouri. The Monroe County Commission (Missouri) is the trail proponent. The trail would help develop appreciation for historical events that have occurred in the Florida area, as well as the Corps' Mark Twain Lake project. Trail development would also encourage an understanding of the Civil War events that occurred in Florida as well as provide a scenic, restful stop for visitors. No motorized or equestrian use of the trail would be permitted.

3. Project Background: Florida, Missouri, was founded in 1831, and is the oldest city in Monroe County. Located at the confluence of the Middle, North and South Forks of the Salt River, the city of Florida afforded opportunity for river shipment in the early pioneer settlements of northeast Missouri. In 1835, Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) was born in this community. In the 1860s, the population of Florida was approximately 300. An 1887 topographic map (Figure 1) shows Florida's platted streets and connecting roads. Due to regional economic changes, the population has declined to the point where there are just a few residents. Local features include the M.A. Violette House, Mark Twain State Park and the Mark Twain Birth Site Museum.

The Monroe County Commission holds legal jurisdiction over Florida, Missouri, since the city was placed in the county's receivership in the 1940s. Additionally, the Monroe County Commission has recently obtained a cost-share trail grant from the Federal Highway Administration through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to fund Phase I development of this trail. Phase II trail development is not currently funded.

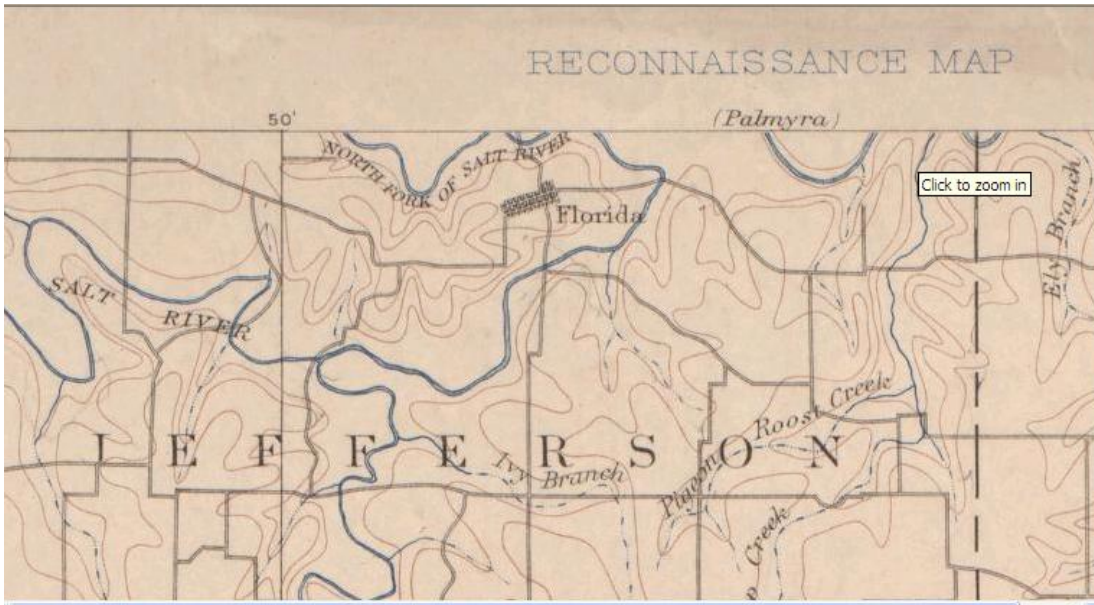


Figure 1 – 1887 Topographic Map showing Florida, Missouri

4. Project Description: The trail plan proposed in this supplement was originally designed to follow Florida’s platted streets, but was realigned once it was understood that trail development was more feasible if the trail followed the natural contours of the landscape. Phase I of the project includes development of a 15-foot wide bark mulch (or other approved surface) trail approximately 0.49 miles in length as shown on Plate 1. Phase II would be developed later and would be primarily located off Corps lands. A real estate easement for the trail footprint would be granted by the Corps to the Monroe County Commission for both Phase I and II development.

The trail would generally pass through wooded areas. As shown on Plate 1, a meditation area with seating would be developed on a 100-foot trail spur southeast of the Florida boundary. A spur trail on the north side of Florida would extend approximately 332 feet toward the lake where a bench would be provided. Another spur, 175 feet in length, would extend from the Corps’ boundary corner AP-11 to the south. The remains of an early Missouri Department of Conservation deer rearing area would be observable from this spur.

All of Phase I trail development, except a short length of trail, would be located outside the city boundary on Corps property. A portion of the trail would be constructed to meet universal accessibility standards. The trail surface, except in the accessible portions, will be bark mulch or other approved surfacing placed on the existing grade. Phase II of the trail would include an extension westward from the north spur, as indicated by the yellow dashed line on Plate 1, and would link Phase I to the Houston Street Cemetery Road trail development. The majority of Phase II would not be located on Corps property.

Phase I of the trail would be located on Corps property in the Pollard Cemetery cultural sensitive area (CS-2) as shown on Plate 2. The area includes three mounds and

the Pollard family cemetery which is located on one of the mounds. Several excellent views of the lake would be observable from the trail. Historical and cultural features are located in the project area, but will not be impacted by the trail.

The Corps will remove a gate in proximity to Corps boundary corner AP-11 (T54N, R8W, S3). The Monroe County Commission will coordinate with the Corps regarding road termination, signage and vehicle safety barrier placement at the north terminus of Monroe County Road #543.

5. Cost Estimate: Trail development costs would be the responsibility of the Monroe County Commission. Estimated trail cost for Phase I is \$33,000. The recreational trail grant from the MDNR would cover approximately half of the estimated trail costs (\$18,700). The Monroe County Commission would maintain the trail at no cost to the Corps and volunteers have been enlisted to assist in the development of the trail. Corps costs to remove one gate are estimated at approximately \$300. Phase II development costs are yet to be determined by the Monroe County Commission, but would be at no cost to the Corps.

6. Environmental Compliance: The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is the only listed species located in the project area. Indiana bats roost in trees greater than 9 inches in diameter with loose bark. Development of the trail may include removal of honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) from 6 to 12 inches dbh and elm (*Ulmus sp.*) from 6 to 10 inches dbh near the trail. Any tree removal would only proceed if it was determined that no impacts would occur to the Indiana bat.

A survey for cultural resources in the project area was conducted by Mark Twain Lake project staff along the trail route. No cultural items were found. The Missouri State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the proposed project. No Section 106 permit is required due to the absence of any impact to historical buildings. No permit for land disturbance would be required by the MDNR. No Section 404 regulatory issues were identified.

7. Public Involvement: According to the Monroe County Commission's project information, several local organizations including the Mexico, Perry, Monroe City, Moberly, and Paris chambers of commerce, as well as the Mark Twain Council of Government have endorsed this trail development. In addition, Missouri State Representative Rachel Bringer, and State Senator Wes Shoemyer, local churches, 4H clubs, and the Friends of Florida have endorsed the trail as well. An informational meeting hosted by the Monroe County Commission was held on 22 January 2007, for interested public, elected officials, and Corps personnel.

8. Conclusions: This trail would provide a recreational facility for the public to enjoy and appreciate the history of the Florida, Missouri, area. It is a worthwhile partnership that would provide an additional project recreational feature at minimal cost to the federal government.

9. Recommendations: The proposed trail development is in accordance with the Mark Twain Lake Master Plan and Corps regulations. Approval of this supplement is recommended.



Plate 1 – Trail route showing trailheads (blue) and Meditation Area (red)



Plate 2 – General Florida, Missouri area showing Pollard Cemetery Cultural Sensitive Area (CS-2).

CEMVS-DE (1105)

23 JUL 2007

FILE COPY

MEMORANDUM FOR CEMVS-PM-E

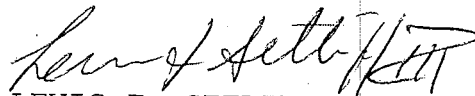
SUBJECT: Supplement No. 1, Design Memorandum No. 9, Mark Twain Lake Master Plan, Salt River, Missouri

Approve Supplement 1 to the Mark Twain Lake Master Plan.

Approve

LS

Disapprove



LEWIS F. SETLIFF III
COL, EN
Commanding