CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Resolution No. 2026-003 A RESOLUTION honoring the life, service, and legacy of Dr. Mark Matlock by naming the trailhead at Grand Falls the **"Dr. Mark Matlock Trailhead,"** ensuring that his commitment to healing, conservation, and community will be remembered and celebrated for generations to come.

MEETING DATE
February 2nd, 2026

REVIEWED BY:
Tony Robyn, Assistant City Manager; Peter Edwards, City Attorney; Nick Edwards, City Manager

SUMMARY:
This Resolution names the trailhead at Grand Falls the **"Dr. Mark Matlock Trailhead".**

BACKGROUND:
Dr. Mark Matlock was a fourth-generation native of the area, raised in Neosho, Missouri, and Pittsburg, Kansas, and graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1974; and after pursuing his education and medical training, Dr. Matlock returned to the region and became a devoted citizen of Joplin, Missouri, where he developed a deep commitment to preserving the natural legacy of the land and the city, particularly the Shoal Creek and Grand Falls areas that he lived near, cherished, and tirelessly advocated for.

Dr. Matlock was a strong and consistent supporter of outdoor education, the Nature Center at Wildcat Park, and efforts to protect natural resources and wildlife, believing that access to nature was essential to both personal well-being and community health.

Dr. Matlock's passion for preserving land and strengthening community was passed on to his family, who have continued to serve the region through medical care and civic involvement, including the sale of vital land to the City that made possible the creation of Grand Falls Park and Trail.

RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends this Resolution be approved.

ATTACHMENTS:
Resolution No. 2026-003
PCE:hn