RESOLUTION NO. 2026-003

A RESOLUTION honoring **Dr. Mark Matlock** for his lifelong commitment to outdoor education, environmental stewardship, and community service, and for his role in creating a premier park legacy by naming the trailhead at Grand Falls the **"Dr. Mark Matlock Trailhead."**

WHEREAS, 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.

WHEREAS, 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.

WHEREAS, Dr. Matlock graduated as valedictorian from Oklahoma State University in 1978, earning numerous honors, including the Coburn Award and Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in Microbiology, and subsequently graduated as valedictorian from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in 1982, receiving Alpha Omega Alpha honors and the Merck Manual Award for Excellence in Medicine. Dr. Matlock began his medical career at the Hutchinson Clinic in Hutchinson, Kansas, before returning in 1993 to his beloved Missouri and the city of Joplin, where he devoted more than 22 years to caring for his patients and building lasting relationships within the community.

WHEREAS, Dr. Matlock was known not only for his medical excellence, but for the friendships he built, the curiosity and respect he showed toward others, and his dedication to living a meaningful life grounded in family, service, and exploration of the natural world.

WHEREAS, 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;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, as follows:

Section 1. That the Joplin City Council at its February 2nd, 2026, meeting, hereby honors 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.

Section 2. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval.

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI this the 2nd day of February 2026, by a vote of

_____ Keenan T. Cortez, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Holly Nagy, City Clerk