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DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

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September 11, 2012

Jan Ramseyer Fees
City Planner
City of Edmond
P.O. Box 2970
Edmond, OK 73083

Ms. Fees,

I want to thank you for consulting with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation staff and keeping our agency informed about developments with the Arcadia Lake Trail. We understand that you have taken comments on a proposed trail route and design, and based on a recent on-site meeting between staff from the ODWC and the City of Edmond, we believe the best route for the trail through U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's land licensed to our agency is to follow Midwest Blvd. and 33rd St., then follow the property boundary.

By paving this existing roadway and/or running the trail along the existing roadway, we would be better able to meet our goals and objectives for the area – those being to educate children about fish and wildlife conservation through hands-on, nature-based activities. Paving the roadway will make it easier for school buses to access sites like the Education Center and Kids Fishing Pond, and a Jersey-style barrier will safely allow bike and foot traffic on the same roadway. We hope to use traffic on the trail as an opportunity to share our agency's mission and wildlife message through informational kiosks and signage along the path. This route would also be the least disruptive to the area's wildlife habitat.

I would like to point out that our current rules would not allow use of the trail from Oct. 1 to Jan. 15. However, when the trail construction is completed we would be open to modifying those rules to allow for use of the trail on days that do not conflict with ongoing archery hunts. During times when there are archery hunts ongoing, we expect that the portion of the trail crossing our area would be closed.

Sincerely,

Richard Hatcher
Director