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3 A resolution by Supervisor Johnson, Jr., to protect and preserve the natural beauty of  
4 Pleasant Valley Park and Kern Park, by recommending adoption of the following:

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6 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**  
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8 WHEREAS, Pleasant Valley Park is a 23-acre park located in Milwaukee County  
9 (the County) on the western bank of the Milwaukee River in the City of Milwaukee  
10 (the City); and  
11

12 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee River Corridor contains a fragile, natural habitat, and  
13 Pleasant Valley Park and Kern Park (located immediately to the North) have some of  
14 the densest wildlife habitat within the City; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, Pleasant Valley Park is home to over 100 native plant and tree  
17 species and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) has  
18 documented many sensitive plant communities in Pleasant Valley Park including, false  
19 Solomon's seal, nodding wild onion, white trout-lily, zigzag goldenrod, and more; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, sensitive plant communities consist of locally or regionally rare plant  
22 species, and often provide essential habitat to unique wildlife populations; and  
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24 WHEREAS, in September 2017, the DPRC provided an informational report in  
25 File No. 17-615 documenting existing concerns, including cutting of new unauthorized  
26 trails, unapproved vegetation management, erosion and trail widening, an issue with  
27 trail sustainability, unauthorized recreational activity, and user conflict; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the report outlined several ways to address existing concerns  
30 including, an improved boardwalk and trail restoration, additional signs and posted  
31 regulations, designating the trail as a hiking trail, creating a new trail to make a loop,  
32 and continued trail maintenance; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, at the September 2017, meeting, the DPRC reported that the  
35 proposal of a new trail was not well received by user groups, and that the DPRC and  
36 user groups both agreed that they did not want a paved multi-use trail in Pleasant Valley  
37 Park; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, although bicycling is not authorized in Pleasant Valley Park, the  
40 DPRC conducted a trail study and found that 13 to 20 percent of all park users were  
41 cyclists, a number that is similar to what one would expect to find on a trail designated  
42 specifically for mountain bikes; and  
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44 WHEREAS, mountain bikers and others have taken part in unauthorized tree  
45 cutting and trail cutting leading to multiple unauthorized trails, causing extensive  
46 damage to sensitive plants, erosion of sensitive terrain, and opening of sight lines that  
47 detract from the viewshed of the corridor; and

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49 WHEREAS, park users also report other damaging activities such as graffiti,  
50 fireworks, motorcycle riding, off leash dog walking, and campfires are occurring  
51 regularly in the park; and

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53 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances provides  
54 penalties for violations of park rules and regulations, including unauthorized bicycle use,  
55 walking dogs off leash, damaging park property including plants and trees, removal of  
56 plants or trees, unauthorized fires, and unauthorized motor vehicles in the parks; and

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58 WHEREAS, park users report that there has been little enforcement of park rules  
59 and regulations in Pleasant Valley Park, though residents have repeatedly requested  
60 enforcement; and

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62 WHEREAS, though the DPRC has posted several signs to deter misuse of  
63 Pleasant Valley Park, the signs have repeatedly been stolen; and

64  
65 WHEREAS, park users report that the current trail through Pleasant Valley Park  
66 is in an excellent location that allows users to enjoy both views of the Milwaukee River  
67 and the beauty of the forested bluff; and

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69 WHEREAS, though there has been concern of trail widening due to the main trail  
70 being located near a seepage, both the DPRC and park users have suggested that a  
71 boardwalk could address the trail widening concern; and

72  
73 WHEREAS, the 2010 Milwaukee River Greenway Masterplan, a project of the  
74 Milwaukee Environmental Consortium, in which the County is a key partner and  
75 stakeholder, states that “[m]any locations along the Greenway offer a sensory escape  
76 from the city. It is important to preserve outstanding river or trail views, overlooks, and  
77 areas of exceptional beauty. Any future corridor improvements or restoration efforts  
78 should include an assessment of the impact on the scenic beauty to ensure that visual  
79 attributes are not lost.”; and

80  
81 WHEREAS, Pleasant Valley Park and Kern Park are an integral part of the  
82 Milwaukee River Greenway and it is necessary to take additional steps to preserve their  
83 natural beauty and to enforce the proper use of the parks; and

84

85 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of  
86 May 15, 2018, recommended adoption of File No. 18-365 as amended (vote 5-0);  
87 now, therefore,  
88

89 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)  
90 declares that it shall be the policy of Milwaukee County that no new trails shall be  
91 created or built along the west side of the Milwaukee River from East Locust Street to  
92 East Vienna Street in Pleasant Valley Park and Kern Park, and there should only be a  
93 single main trail in these parks, as shown on the Milwaukee River Greenway map  
94 attached hereto; and  
95

96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture  
97 (DPRC) is authorized and directed to discourage all unauthorized use of Pleasant  
98 Valley Park and Kern Park through permanent signage and enforcement of current park  
99 rules and regulations; and  
100

101 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DPRC, with assistance from volunteer groups  
102 whenever possible, shall ~~explore the closure of~~ begin closing all unauthorized trails in  
103 Pleasant Valley Park and Kern Park to ensure that the ~~parks are able to return to their~~  
104 ~~natural state~~ forest floor is restored to its natural pre-trail condition; and  
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106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DPRC shall also explore the restoration of the  
107 main trail in Pleasant Valley Park, including the creation of a boardwalk, with assistance  
108 from volunteer groups whenever possible; and  
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110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DPRC shall review the current fine structure  
111 for activities in the parks, including those activities that damage natural areas such as  
112 biking in undesignated locations, off leash dog walking, trail cutting, plant and tree  
113 removal, theft of signs, and other activities, to determine deficiencies and  
114 appropriateness; and  
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116 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DPRC shall provide a written report to the  
117 County Board on its enforcement efforts, recommendations regarding trail closure and  
118 restoration, and a summary of its findings regarding park fines by the July 2018 cycle.  
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