



# City of Fayetteville, Arkansas

113 West Mountain Street  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
(479) 575-8323

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 2024-1713

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### **Lease and Agreement with Ozark Natural Science Center for the Lake Fayetteville Environmental Study Center**

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ONE-YEAR, NO COST LEASE AND OPERATIONS AGREEMENTS WITH THE OZARK NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER TO OPERATE IN THE LAKE FAYETTEVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY CENTER

**WHEREAS**, in 1973, the City of Fayetteville approved a resolution agreeing to reserve the eastern portion of Lake Fayetteville in its natural state and allow the Fayetteville and Springdale School Districts to jointly construct a nature study area on the property; and

**WHEREAS**, both school districts used the property and the study center until 2022/2023 at which time neither district had further need for the building and grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2023, the Ozark Natural Science Center (ONSC) contacted Parks, Natural Resources and Cultural Affairs to inquire about the use of the study center and staff has worked towards a lease agreement and operations agreement with City legal counsel and ONSC; and

**WHEREAS**, ONSC is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) located in Madison County and was formed in 1990 to offer residential field science education and began programming in 1992 working with public schools to offer immersion-based learning, host summer camps and other programs, hikes and open houses; and

**WHEREAS**, the lease follows the same lease area the school districts used including the building and is a no cost lease that requires ONSC to maintain the building and trails within the leased premises and offer nine free guided hikes, and host open houses for the public.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:**

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby authorizes Mayor Jordan to sign one-year, no cost lease and operations agreements with Ozark Natural Science Center to operate in the Lake Fayetteville Environmental Study Center, copies of which are attached to this Resolution.



**MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**TO:** Mayor Jordan and City Council  
**THRU:** Susan Norton, Chief of Staff  
**FROM:** Alison Jumper, Director of Parks, Natural Resources and Cultural Affairs  
**SUBJECT:** **Lease and Agreement with Ozark Natural Science Center for the Lake Fayetteville Environmental Study Center**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval of a one-year lease and agreement with the Ozark Natural Science Center to operate in the Lake Fayetteville Environmental Study Center.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Fayetteville approved a resolution in 1973 agreeing to reserve the eastern portion of Lake Fayetteville in its natural state and allow the Fayetteville and Springdale School Districts to jointly construct a nature study area on the property. The school districts used the property and the study center until 2022/2023 at which time both school districts no longer had a need for the building or grounds.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Ozark Natural Science Center (ONSC) contacted Parks, Natural Resources and Cultural Affairs in mid-July of 2023 to inquire about the use of the study center. Since that time staff has worked towards the attached lease and agreement with City legal counsel and ONSC.

ONSC is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) located in Madison County. The organization was formed in 1990 to offer residential field science education center and began programming in 1992. They work with public schools to offer immersion-based learning, host summer camps and other programs, hikes and open houses.

The lease area follows the same lease area the school district used including the building and is a no cost lease. The agreement requires ONSC to maintain the building and trails in the lease area and offer to public for free, nine guided hikes and host open houses. These benefits to the public are similar to those required by AppleSeeds and the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks who have no cost leases.

An amended lease with the Fayetteville Public Schools has also been submitted, omitting the Lake Fayetteville property from the lease.

**BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS:** SRF (#3), Combined Lease and Agreement - ONSC (#4)

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