



County Seeks Resident Feedback at Parks Plan Open House

For More Information Contact:

Betty Knight, Presiding Commissioner, 858.3335

Brian Nowotny, Director Parks and Recreation 858.3419

The Platte County Commission invites residents, business owners and anyone interested in the future of Platte County Parks to an open house that will provide an opportunity to review and comment on goals and action strategies developed as a part of the parks and recreation strategic planning process. Plans in draft form for future parks, trails, and community centers will be available for public comment.

The open house will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. March 3rd at the Platte County Community Center South, 8875 Clark Avenue in Parkville.

This open house is the second such event as part of the parks master planning process. At the first open house, citizen survey results were released and feedback from over 80 residents attending was received. Following that forum, the Citizen Planning Team, which is a committee of 12 citizens representing a variety of Platte County interests and geographic regions, and Commissioners used the information generated at that open house-- as well as feedback from the survey, focus groups and website comments--to refine the proposed ideas into a workable plan with six key principals. In total, more than 3,000 individuals have participated in the process and have sought information on the project.

The six key principals guiding the future of the park program are:

What we will accomplish as a County Parks Department

- *Protection of natural resources*
- *Superior community health and wellness opportunities*
- *Safe recreation places for our children to develop*

How we will provide these services:

- *Always staying citizen focused,*
- *With a commitment to sustainability,*
- *In collaboration with like-minded community partners*

"I really want to encourage the citizens to attend this meeting" noted Presiding Commissioner Betty Knight. "Parks are important to our quality of life, and many citizens have taken time to tell us how vital trails or the community centers are to them. Now is the time to set our goals for the next twenty years for these areas."

In addition to the key principles for the new parks plan, action steps have been developed to implement the plans. These, too, will be available for public review and comment.

This open house will be the final forum for public comments before the updated *Park System Master Plan* is formally considered by the County Commission. All Platte County citizens are encouraged to attend this event and offer comments regarding these issues.

Visit www.platteparks.com for more information on the planning effort or contact Brian Nowotny, Platte County Director of Parks and Recreation, at 816.858.3419.

###