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New Trails and Greenway Connections Underway throughout Platte County

NEWS
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Fall in Platte County is bringing a lot more than cooler weather and beautiful colors in our parks. Since September seven new walking and biking trail projects have been under development through multiple agencies working collaboratively to implement the Northland Trails Vision Plan and the MetroGreen plan in Platte County. “The level of cooperation to build new trails in our county is unprecedented” commented Presiding Commissioner Jason Brown. “Partnerships between the state our county and our cities are bringing some long awaited projects to reality by working together without duplicating services”.

Trail projects already completed this fall include the third phase of the Line Creek Trail and two trails inside Platte County parks. The Line Creek Trail, a new half mile section from 68th Street to Frank Vaydik Park along Line Creek was funded by the City of Kansas City. “The third phase of the Line Creek Trail is nearing completion. This is a small part of a much larger successful trail system that will eventually link the Northland to the rest of the City and the metropolitan area. This continues a wonderful partnership of building trails with Platte County, Kansas City and Riverside for the benefit of all Platte County residents," said Kansas City Councilman Ed Ford. Councilman Russ Johnson added further "This new phase is one of the best stretches of trail we have in Kansas City. The connection to the Line Creek Community Center adds additional parking so that residents from all over the city can access and enjoy this beautiful and scenic trail."

The recently completed Barry-Platte Park trail, located off of Old Stagecoach Road north of Barry Road, is an extension of the park trail to a full .75 mile loop funded by the Platte County Parks and Recreation sales tax. The Platte Ridge Park trail improvement included paving upgrades to the .33 mile loop also funded by the Platte County Parks and Recreation sales tax in the park just north of Platte City.



Trail projects now under construction and scheduled for completion this winter include an extension of the Prairie Creek Greenway trail and a new path along Northwood Road. The Prairie Creek Greenway project is a new half mile section connecting the trail from the Timber Park neighborhood into Platte City and the R-3 School District main campus. “This is an important project for the Platte City area” commented Second District County Commissioner Jim Plunkett. “The new trail sections will connect several neighborhoods and provide a safe route



for kids walking or riding their bike to school”. The Northwood Road Trail is a new half mile section from 9 Hwy north to 52nd Street connecting Park Hill South High School with neighborhoods along Northwood Road funded by the City of Riverside. “The City is very excited to open the Northwood Road trail that will connect 9 Highway to 52nd street. This trail, which is being installed as part of a road improvement project, will improve the safety for pedestrians who utilize that corridor and provide a key link between the schools in that area” noted Riverside Mayor Kathy Rose.

In addition, two new extensions to the Southern Platte Pass trail on 64th Street/45 Hwy are underway. An extension of the trail west from 9 Hwy in Parkville to K Hwy is being funded by the Missouri Department of Transportation and done in conjunction with the road widening project. Final completion is expected in 2013. “MoDOT really deserves a lot of credit for upgrading this heavily used route on 45 Hwy and including the walking and biking path in the project,” noted First District Commissioner Kathy Dusenbery. “They listened to what the people in southern Platte County wanted and I know the new trail will be heavily used.” Further, Randy Johnson, Project Manager for the Missouri Department of Transportation noted “The Missouri Department of Transportation believes in providing various transportation options and is proud to be a partner in the continuation of another 3.3 miles of the Southern Platte Pass Trail along Highway 45.”

On the eastern end of the Southern Platte Pass trail a third of a mile extension from Chatham Avenue east under I-29 to Roanridge Road will be under construction after the first of the year. This project is co-sponsored and funded by Platte County and the Missouri Department of Transportation. Final completion is expected in summer 2012.

“We’d like to thank the voters for supporting the ½ cent County parks sales tax that made many of these new trails and partnerships a reality” noted Commissioner Dusenbery, “without the support of the citizens we would not have these amenities that help make Platte County a special place to live.”

For maps and more information on parks and trails projects in Platte County visit the County Parks website at www.platteparks.com or become a friend on Facebook and keep up with all of the new developments.