



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Thursday, August 28, 2008**

**Contacts:**

Betty Knight, Platte County Presiding Commissioner (816) 858.3335  
Jim Plunkett, Platte County Second District Commissioner (816) 858.3335  
Platte County Parks & Recreation: Brian Nowotny, Director (816) 858.3541

## **Platte County Parks Hosts Tour of Missouri Watch Event *Congressman Graves to Dedicate Local Greenway as “National Recreation Trail”***

The second annual Tour of Missouri bike race is fast approaching and Platte County residents will have multiple opportunities to enjoy this world class event. Race day is September 8<sup>th</sup> and Platte County Parks and Recreation is hosting a special watch event at the Prairie Creek Greenway. The Greenway traverses the race course as it travels south along N Hwy in central Platte County (see map). “I hope everyone can find their spot early” commented Platte County Second District Commissioner Jim Plunkett, “The race will be a spectacular thing to see, and our own bicycle trail at the Greenway is a perfect place to take in all the action.”

The focal point for the watch event in Platte County will be at the intersection of 136<sup>th</sup> Street and N Hwy with festivities beginning at 11:45. United States Congressman Sam Graves will be on hand to help dedicate the Prairie Creek Greenway as a *National Recreation Trail*, one of only a handful of trails in Missouri to receive such an honor from the Department of Interior.

After the dedication of the trail a BBQ cookout will be served until the racers arrive at approximately 2:00. The watch event location will also serve as a “Feed Zone” for the racers, offering a special opportunity to see the world class bikers refuel for the final leg of the race into Kansas City.

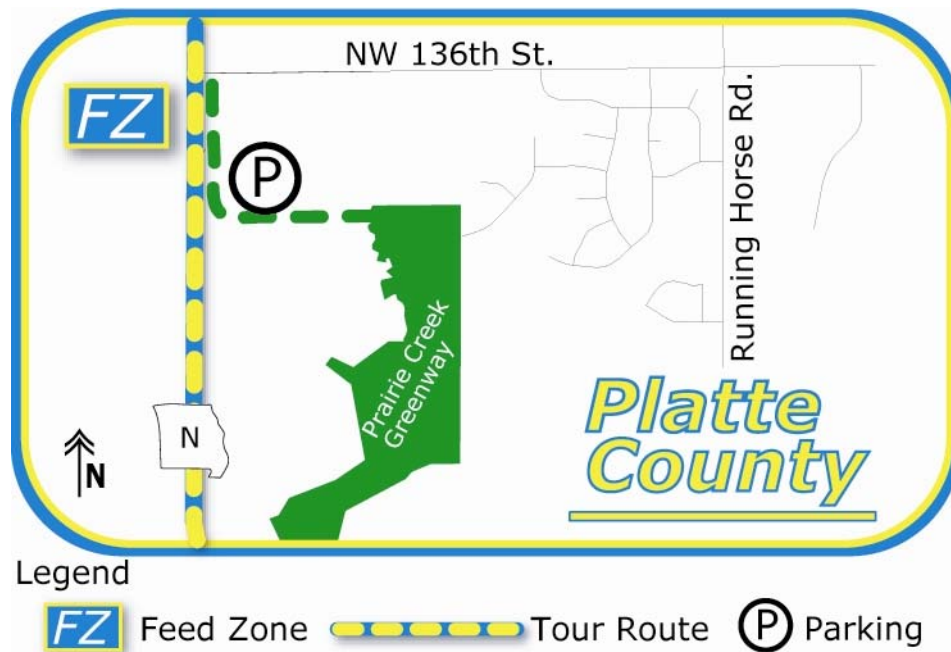
### *About National Recreation Trails*

The NRT designation is awarded by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The NRT program is authorized by the National Trails System Act of 1968. The current National Trails network includes more than 11,000 miles. Prairie Creek Greenway in Platte County was the only trail in Missouri to receive NRT designation in 2007.

*Features of an Award-Winning Trail*

Prairie Creek Greenway preserves over 120 acres of contiguous green space in the heart of Platte County through a connected 3.8 mile trail system. Another mile of trail has been constructed and will be connected to the system in the near future. Visitors will enjoy the peaceful, gentle trickle of water as it cascades over the natural rock waterfall, opportunities to view wildlife, beautiful bridges offering interaction and reflection upon Prairie Creek, and the majestic silhouettes of the towering bur oak trees. The County is also currently in the process of converting approximately 29 acres of the Greenway to restored prairie through a grant program administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. All of these wonders would have been difficult to receive without the help of private partnerships between the County, developers, and homes associations connected to the Greenway.

The Prairie Creek Greenway can be accessed on the east side of N hwy about a mile north of D Hwy. Maps are available by calling 858.3419 or online at [www.co.platte.mo.us/parks/parkfacilities](http://www.co.platte.mo.us/parks/parkfacilities).



**Above: Bridges and The North Trailhead at Prairie Creek Greenway.**

\*Digital photographs of Prairie Creek Greenway are available by contacting Noel Challis at (816) 858-1808.

###