



EXPLORER

Platte County Parks & Recreation

Spring/Summer 2008




Welcome to the spring/summer edition of our Parks and Recreation Newsletter, "Explorer". We have packed this edition with news about the latest happenings at our parks and included links for more information about the community centers and the Shiloh Springs Golf Club. Be sure and check out a new employee feature too on the people who work behind the scenes to make Platte County Parks special.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who took the time to participate in the recent update of our long range vision and goals plan, Platte Profile. The plan is now complete and available for your review on the Platte County website. With the input of over 4,000 residents a new vision for our parks and eight key goals to guide our recreation system was established.

The first key implementation step that we have already begun is an update to the Parks System Master Plan. Originally created in 1999, the plan has guided the growth of our parks system from one 18 acre park to the award winning program it is today. See page 2. for more information and be sure to log on to www.platteparks.com and let your voice be heard.


Betty Knight
Presiding Commissioner


Tom Pryor
1st District Commissioner


Jim Plunkett
2nd District Commissioner

'GRAND SLAM'

COUNTY DEDICATES NEW FIELD TO HONOR LONGTIME VOLUNTEER



The community celebration on May 17th, 2008 heralded the opening of Danley Field at Platte Ridge Park. Over the past several years, friends and family of Bryan J. Danley have been working to raise funds and find a partner to commemorate Bryan's life and legacy of coaching youth sports. Due to their efforts and the work of many others, Platte Ridge Park now hosts the Bryan J. Danley Championship Field complete with stadium seats, a spectator shade structure, an upgraded infield surface, and other amenities. Visitors to the field are reminded of Mr. Danley's legacy through a memorial sign and plaque. The plaque, posted on a rock moved from the original Danley property, symbolizes the lasting effect that Mr. Danley will have on countless lives.

Over the last few months, many other improvements have also been made to Platte Ridge Park including new asphalt roads and parking lots, improvements to the turf on all of the sports fields, and additional landscaping. We hope to see you at the park in the near future!

Master Plan Update

Less than 10 years ago, Platte County had very little opportunities for families to enjoy a day at the park, a walk on a trail or a nice long workout at a community center. In 1999, a group of citizens looked at every square inch of the county and saw a lot of potential.

Today the results of the first Parks Master Plan, complete in 2000, can be seen everyday in the jogger on Prairie Creek Greenway, the child on the water slide at the Community Center, the church group enjoying a picnic at the Platte Ridge Park shelter, the mom pushing a stroller on Southern Platte Pass or the baseball team winning a game at the Tiffany Hills Sports Complex.

Platte County Parks & Recreation is once again teaming with Bucher, Willis & Ratliff to plan the parks, trails, greenways and recreational opportunities for the next 5 to 20 years.

A Citizens Committee began to meet in May to design the framework for shaping the new Master Plan. The Platte County Parks Department needs resident input and participation to shape the plan for amenities of the future. Many opportunities will be available to speak out and give input in the form of public meetings, on-line and written surveys and focus groups.

All citizen input and perspectives will help the Citizens Committee and County officials identify the highest needs and priorities for the parks systems. Those priorities will be shaped into an implementation plan that will guide the Parks Department into the next decade.

To find out how you can help shape the County parks blueprint for the future, please visit www.platteparks.com

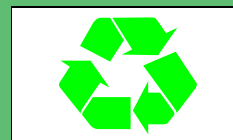


Greening the Parks



Platte County has officially started a recycling program to collect plastic bottles and aluminum cans at Platte Ridge Park and Barry Platte Park. These facilities are currently the only two county-operated parks where waste is collected. Recycling bins are located adjacent to trash receptacles where feasible to give people the choice to recycle. The next time you are at one of these facilities, watch for the blue bins and go green!

The County's mission to establish sustainable parks has and continues to be a driving force in park design and operation decisions. Some of the practices the County is implementing include more prairie plantings, rain gardens, less frequent mowing cycles in natural turf areas, and restoration of riparian areas. Planting decisions focus on installing the right trees in the right places and planting native trees wherever possible.





Platte County Parks Featured Employee

In this edition of the newsletter, Platte County Parks features one of our outstanding employees: Bill Nellums. Bill has dedicated much of his time to care for and watch over one of Platte County's oldest parks, Barry Platte Park. Bill has been working at Barry Platte for about 7 years and says that he has enjoyed being a part of something so great! Bill's responsibilities at Barry Platte are taking care of the ball diamonds, keeping the trees trimmed, making sure the walking path is clear of debris, and most importantly, keeping the park users safe and happy! "Every year more and more people come to the park," Bill said while talking about some of the changes that he has seen through the years. Some park patrons refer to the park as "Bill's Park" as he takes pride in his work and other people see that! Bill enjoys working for Platte County Parks because he loves being outdoors, and with flexible hours, he is able to visit with park users at different times of the day.

Bill moved to Kansas City in 1961 where he worked for Ford Motor Company until retirement in 1997. He lives close to the park, so he is able to keep his eye on it at all times. Bill and his wife, Nancy have 2 sons and 2 grandsons. Bill loves to play the guitar and he and Nancy travel around the country throughout the year.

Take a minute to say hi to Bill when you are visiting the park. He works hard to keep Barry Platte Park beautiful! Thanks Bill for a job well done!





Weston Park Board
2007 Park Lighting Project

The 2008 Outreach Grants were awarded in March. Platte County Parks is very excited about another year of great park projects throughout the County. Since 2001, the county's Outreach Grant Program has annually offered at least \$200,000 for parks and recreation projects. This program supports local organizations and provides for the improvement and development of recreational facilities throughout the county.

This year the county received 29 applications with funding requests totaling approximately \$545,000. After review by the County Park Board and the County Commissioners, \$208,596.60 was awarded for parks and recreation projects.

The following organizations received grants for park, recreational facility and program-related projects:

Project Sponsor:	Project:	Funding:
Camden Point Athletic Assoc.	Park Improvements & Modernization	\$2,604.00
City of Camden Point	Veteran's Memorial	\$7,942.00
City of Edgerton	General Park Improvements	\$3,442.00
City of Lake Waukomis	South Park Baseball Field Project	\$10,280.00
City of Northmoor	Northmoor City Park	\$45,328.60
City of Parkville	Frisbee Golf Course	\$1,762.00
City of Platte City	Settler's Crossing Park Improvements	\$15,000
City of Weatherby Lake	Tennis Court Resurface - Thomas Park	\$12,981.00
Friends of Amity Woods	Amity Woods Nature Trail - Phase 1	\$24,323.00
Friends of Platte County Parks	Interactive Recreation Information Website	\$1,026.00
Northland Symphony Orchestra	Free Concert	\$1,500.00
Philharmonia of Greater KC	Free Family Concert	\$1,500.00
Platte City Friends of the Arts	Community Band Season 2008	\$1,500.00
Platte County Board of Services	Special Olympics Equipment	\$600.00
Platte County R-3 School District	YMCA Playground Project	\$30,000.00
Platte County University Extension	Northland Ethnic Festival	\$1,250.00
So. Platte County Athletic Assn.	Baseball & Softball Pitching Machines	\$6,000.00
Union Chapel Elementary	Playground Improvements	\$6,000.00
Village of Ferrelview	Fern Brown Park Fence Improvements	\$6,089.00
Weston Park Board - City of	Tennis Court Renovation	\$30,000.00

Sharing the Scenery

Platte County Parks Sponsors Photo Contest

Platte County Parks & Recreation is sponsoring a photo contest through July 15th asking park patrons to submit their most scenic photos of the parks, trails and community centers. The top photos will be used by the Department to spread the word about the many great things to do in our beautiful parks, including a Platte County Parks & Recreation Calendar planned for 2009. For more information see the County Parks website at www.co.platte.mo.us/parks.



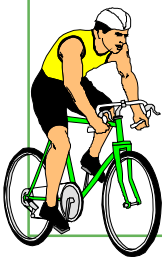
Want More Info?

Platte County Parks & Recreation
415 Third Street
Platte City, MO 64079
816.858.3419
www.co.platte.mo.us/parks

Community Centers
Shiloh Springs Golf Club
The Springs Aquatics
Friends of Platte County Parks
Parks Master Plan Update

Mark Your Calendars!!

The 2008 Tour of Missouri will be coming through Platte County on September 8th. Check out their website for maps of the route and other helpful information.
www.tourofmissouri.com



DEDICATED OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Platte County Commissioners

Betty Knight,
Presiding Commissioner

Tom Pryor,
1st District Commissioner

Jim Plunkett,
2nd District Commissioner

Platte County Park Board

Laurie Burgess,
Chairman

Bill Hillix,
Vice-Chairman

Neil Davidson,
Secretary

Dick Stephens
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