

Project Updates

McKee Park Trail - RECENTLY COMPLETED: Ribbon Cutting for the new trail took place on September 30, 2010. Site furnishings, seeding, traffic control bollards, and tree trimming have made this ¾ mile asphalt streamway trail a popular addition to the greenway system and has seen a lot of usage in the first month it has been open.



Todd George Multi Use Trail - RECENTLY COMPLETED: This ½ mile multi-use trail segment, funded through ARRA connects two existing segments north and south and provide approximately 5 miles of uninterrupted trail along Todd George from Colbern Road to Happy Tails Dog Park, located north of Bailey Road.



Osage Trails Park - IN PROGRESS: Park crews are working on a new neighborhood park off Pryor Road approximately ½ mile south of MO-150. It will include a 2/3 mile asphalt trail loop that runs around the perimeter of the park as well as parking, playground, gazebo shelter, and approximately 13 acres of open practice field space.

Greenway Signage-Raintree Loop - IN PROGRESS: Park staff is working with Public Works on implementation of new greenway route identification signage with priority being the Raintree Lake area in order to establish the area as a bike loop. It will be the third lake bike loop in the Lee's Summit Greenway System that presently includes Longview Lake and the Lakewood subdivision. Work on sign installation on this route and several will continue through fall.

Submittal for TE Funds for Velie Park Bridge - IN PROGRESS: Park staff is assembling an application due mid-October for Transportation Enhancement Funds to construct a connection over the Little Blue River at Velie Park in north Lee's Summit to connect to the popular Little Blue Trace Trail. Presently, Jackson County and the City of Independence are extending the existing trail from the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence west to Lee's Summit Road. This project is scheduled to be completed this fall. The preliminary cost for the bridge and trail connector project at Velie Park is estimated at \$500,000.

Katy Trail Update - IN PROGRESS: The Rock Island Corridor Coalition made up of several community representatives continue to meet and review the status of the inactive Rock Island railroad corridor running through Lee's Summit. The committee is working with the railroad on acquisition and also identifying potential federal, state, and local funding sources to acquire and construct the trail. MDNR is currently extending the trail from Windsor, MO to Pleasant Hill and the City of Pleasant Hill is building 4 miles of trail with two trailheads north of their fairgrounds to the lake. For more information on the coalition efforts to extend the Katy metro, contact Mid America Regional Council at 816-474-4240.

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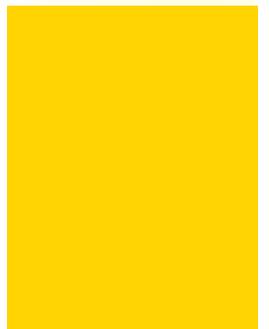
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Tales from the trail

Your connection
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A publication from LS Parks & Recreation
to keep you informed of the progress
in our greenway program.

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DID YOU KNOW...

...The trail improvements in McKee Park were constructed with low water crossings in order to have less environmental impact, provide best "nature experience" for trail users and was the most efficient use of public funds.

SPOTLIGHT on the Lowenstein Park Trail

Peace and tranquility close to a thriving/bustling retail area... really?! Well, yes. Lowenstein Park, just west of the Summit Woods Shopping Center, offers a diversity of environments, from quiet and reflective to the traditional playground atmosphere and much more.

The Children's Memorial Butterfly Garden, with the entrances graced by butterfly statues created by Kevin Nierman and a soothing waterfall, draws visitors in for quiet reflection. Engraved stones placed in memory of loved ones line the path. Some bearing names of people who had lived for decades and others only a day.



Quiet trails drift through wooded terrain with bridges crossing a small stream. The same trail pops out into the open and encourages a brisk walk or jog as it encircles a large open area, basketball court (small with one basket), playground and nicely enclosed comfort station (ok, it's a Port-a-potty).

Sunny spots trade intermittently with shade from a variety of trees – White Pines, Hedges (with fruit that faintly resemble brains), Bald Cypress, and Red Maples. As the park was developed, many trees were left intact which now provide exceptional areas of shade that provide a respite on sweltering hot days. Chipmunks, squirrels, bunnies and many other creatures abound around the 1.1 mile asphalt trail.

The Lowenstein Park Trail is designed to host joggers, walkers, strollers and bikers ... being mindful of the pedestrians, of course. As bikes and people share paths, it's helpful when the bikers let pedestrian know they are approaching. A



loud "on your left" (when planning to pass on the left) is a great way to let the pedestrians know a bike is approaching.

Lowenstein Park provides the community with an abundance of opportunity for fun, exercise and outdoor enjoyment.



Interview with Steve Arbo, Lee's Summit City Manager

A red Western Auto Flyer bike with a banana seat and fenders symbolized freedom to an 8-year old Steve Arbo, (now Lee's Summit's City Manager). Growing up in Oak Grove his bike allowed him adventures, opportunities to make personal choices, independence and fun!

Today, there are hindrances to experiencing that same freedom. Safety issues including, increase in traffic volume and, unfortunately, the awareness of "stranger danger" looms heavily on parents whose children want to take off on biking adventures. As Lee's Summit progresses through its Greenway Master Plan, the goal is to bridge safety with a well-designed trail system.

For Steve, riding provides a combination of fitness and transportation, and not just to the grocery store and home, but rather from town to town. On the Natchez Trace, he and other biking pals, such as LSPR Administrator, Tom Lovell, rode from Jackson, Mississippi, south to New Orleans in two days. He has also ridden the entire Katy Trail in two and a half days and has enjoyed numerous MS150 events in the past.



Swimming and other fitness endeavors have edged out biking for now. However, when possible he still fits in a ride, including the eight mile trek to work. During those treasured moments on the bike, he's transported back to the 3rd grade, where he experienced freedom and a growing independent spirit.

Although Steve has a definite passion for providing safe biking alternatives to the community, as City Manager, he lives in the tension of what decisions are best for the community as a whole; balancing those needs with desire for trails and shared roads (roads with bike lanes). Many other important projects vie for the limited funds available.

A project in the hopper is the purchase of the Rock Island Corridor, an inactive Union Pacific Railroad bed. Development of this corridor from Pleasant Hill to Truman Sports Complex would complete the link of the Katy Trail across the entire state. Steve sits on the regional committee and says the positive impact for Lee's Summit could be felt for 50-70 years. In addition to increasing the property values along the trail, the opportunity for a commuter rail alongside the pedestrian/bike trail is a possibility. A more immediate benefit would be the alleviation of the need to work around inactive bridges, like the bridge hugging single-lane Chipman road heading toward Longview. With much work still to be done, a coalition of Pleasant Hill, Greenwood, Lee's Summit, Raytown and Kansas City, as well as Jackson County and MARC representatives are hopeful to see the project come to fruition.

A challenge facing the implementation of the greenway plan includes the cost of building and maintaining the trails. In addition, showing the practicality of trails as a mode of transportation is much more difficult than touting the value of trails for recreation and exercise. "The city is doing the best job possible to create connectivity to serve transportation purposes," Steve said. "As we make our transition to thinking about walking and bicycling as a legitimate forms of transportation, we will already have a great system in place to support this concept."

With the current focus on the trails system, Steve hopes the day will come when a young person could experience the same opportunities for freedom and personal choices he was so fortunate to experience.

Special thanks to volunteer writer/photographer Beth Settle, who collected information and photos included in this publication.



Sculpture at Lowenstein Park. If you have a picture or story to share regarding LS trails, email to greenway@cityofls.net



FREE Park & Trails map available. Park and trail maps are available at Lee's Summit City Hall 220 SE Green Street or request a mailed copy by phone at 969.1500