

Trail talk... just for kids



Safety Quiz for Kids!

1. Car accidents are the number one cause of childhood injuries, what's the second highest cause?
2. More than 70 percent of children ages 5 to 14 ride a bicycle regularly, what percentage wear a helmet?
 - a. 0-10 percent
 - b. 15-25 percent
 - c. 30-50 percent
 - d. more than 50 percent
3. T or F: Stop signs & traffic signals don't apply to bicyclists.
4. T or F: Bicyclist don't have to be too careful, drivers are looking out for them.

STAY ALERT AT ALL TIMES

Always wear a helmet

Be visible & predictable

Whether you ride a bike, scooter, or board - do the wise thing...wear a helmet and SAVE YOUR BRAIN!

Do YOUR part to protect YOU

For more info on bicycle safety visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov
Quiz information from www.safekids.org

- ANSWERS Safety Quiz for Kids**
1. Bicycle injuries. Nearly 690 children are injured daily due to bicycle related crashes, that's more than 250,000 each year.
 2. b. 15-25 percent. Dude, that's way too low! Helmets protect more than your head ... they protect your hopes, dreams and desires. Save your brain, wear a helmet!
 3. False! Many bicycle-related crashes resulting in injury or death are associated with the bicyclist's behavior, including running a stop sign or traffic light, riding the wrong way in traffic, turning left without checking for on-coming traffic.
 4. FALSE. Can you say "cell phone, GPS, iPod?" In 2005, almost 14,000 youth bicyclist injuries involved a motor vehicle. Drivers have way too many distractions these days. You are responsible for your safety!

**Lee's Summit
PARKS
& RECREATION**
"Every Age. Every Season"

Greenway News
Lee's Summit Parks & Recreation
220 SE Green Street
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
816.969.1500

Save Paper! Receive this newsletter via email.
Send your email address to: lspr@cityofls.net.
Put "GW News" in the subject line.

May 2011

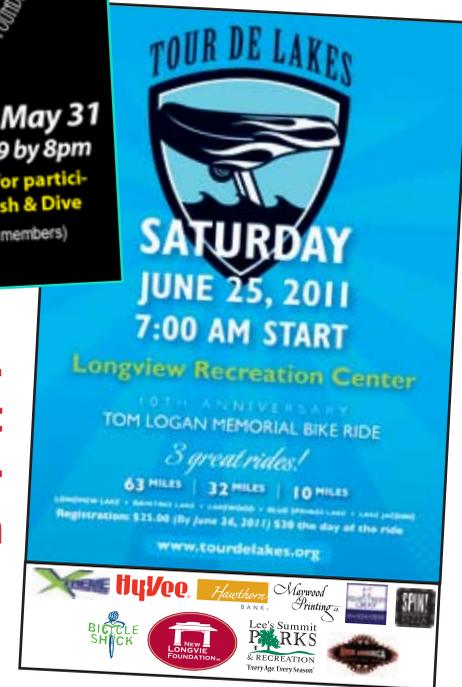
Vol. 2 No. 2

Tales from the trail

Your connection to Lee's Summit's
Trail & Greenway Development



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
AND REGISTER
TODAY!**



**WWW.
lsparks.net
- or -
active.com**

Lee's Summit
**PARKS
& RECREATION**
"Every Age. Every Season"

www.lsparks.net

DID YOU KNOW...

...The trail improvements in McKee Park were constructed with low water crossings which were designed for less environmental impact, provides best "nature experience" for trail users and is most efficient use of public funds.



The dedication was attended by LS Mayor, Park Board President, Councilmembers and Park Board Members along with students from Mrs. Crone's 4th Grade class whose created the winning park name.

ment park rides. There's arched monkey bars, twisty curvy things to walk/climb on, a climbing rock, a separate toddler area ... oh, to be a kid again!

For the kids (and adults) with energy to unleash, there is plenty of room to run and play in two extremely large open areas naturally separated with a tree-lined drainage creek. The space is ripe with potential for fun ... football, Frisbee, volleyball, croquet, flying kites, playing tag.

SPOTLIGHT on Osage Trails Park

As Lee's Summit continues to see growth in the southern part of the city, LSPR is right there providing amenities for the community. Osage Trails Park was dedicated on April 25, 2011.

At the entrance of the 19.5 acre park is a gazebo-style shelter for all sorts of celebrations and funky play equipment. Gone are the days of the three steel bars and metal merry-go-rounds.

At a glance it looks like mini amuse-



The line of mature trees dividing the park in half provides a natural barrier from the activities around the play area.

The figure eight shaped trail provides a 2/3 mile route or take the cut through for a shorter trek. The paved trail is bike and scooter friendly and the entire trail can be seen from the playground/shelter area.

Away from the activity at the play area, one can enjoy a tranquil moment at the "back" of the trail sitting on the bench, relaxing, taking in nature, reading, sketching or spread a blanket in the open field and rest. Currently, there's



Don't mistake this tree for a new species of the Missouri state tree, the flowering dogwood! These white flowering beauties are Spring Snow-drift Crabapple trees.

no development around the park, so it has an out-in-the-great-outdoors feel. Also, some mature trees have been kept and many new trees planted around the perimeter of the trail give the trail a natural, woody feel.

It would be amiss to not comment on the evolution of waste facilities ... for pets and humans. A "pet waste station" is located between the parking lot and play area that includes plastic bags to pick up pet waste and a designated container for disposal. One finds a semblance of privacy at the "comfort station" formerly known as port-a-potties. Tucked inside a green structure, the plastic relief station has come a long ways, with deodorizers, hand sanitizer and a mirror. However, one caveat regarding this evolution: READ the label on the dispenser ... this one is a toilet sanitizer, NOT hand sanitizer as we're used to seeing.



Read before use. This dispenser is toilet seat cleaner ... a great idea, but don't mistake it for hand sanitizer!

Osage Trails Park is a fine example of using parks to provide much more to a community than just a place for kids to play. The park is inviting for many uses. The call for our community to become healthier and enjoy the great outdoors is being answered by facilities like the Osage Trails Park.

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

Do YOUR part in protecting YOU

As the end of the school year nears, and the weather brings more people out doors, we thought it was time to do some bike safety refresher. For a fun kids quiz, turn to the back page.

- Always, always, always wear an approved bike helmet.
- Be visible and predictable
- Control your bike
- Watch for and avoid road hazards
- Avoid riding at night
- Stay alert at all times
- Look before turning
- Be aware of movement from parked cars, doors may open or cars may pull out
- Bicyclists do best when they are treated (and act like) drivers of vehicles
- Obey ALL traffic laws
- Go with traffic flow (you are traffic if you're on the street)
- Take a full traffic lane if needed
- Yield to traffic when appropriate
- Don't unnecessarily hold up traffic

Greenway Projects Update



New Greenway Sign Installation Complete

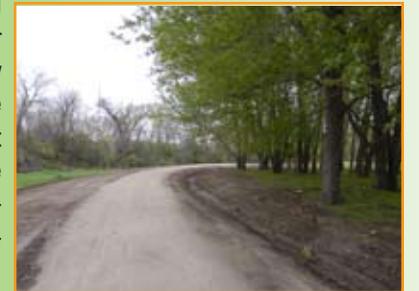
LSPR staff has recently completed new bicycle and trail identification/directional signage for over 24 miles of multi use trail and 21 miles of bicycle loop routes around Longview, Lakewood, and Raintree. The new signage is designed to create better awareness among trail users with route identification and improve awareness between motorists and bicyclists for on-road bicycle routes.

Little Blue Trace Trail Extension

The City of Independence and Jackson County Parks are in the process of completing a four mile extension of the popular Little Blue Trace Trail from the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence to Lee's Summit Road. The new trail will be dedicated in June.

Lee's Summit Park and Recreation is working with neighborhoods on the south side of the river on the Lee's Summit side to determine the feasibility of locating a neighborhood

connector trail and bridge over the river to connect into the new trail segment. A portion of the funding for this bridge project has been appropriated by the Federal Highway Administration Transportation Enhancement grant (SAFETE-LU).



Rock Island Coalition Meetings

Local officials from Lee's Summit and surrounding communities have been working with Union Pacific on the future use of the abandoned 17-mile Rock Island corridor running from the south end of the Lee's Summit to the Leeds Junction area near the Truman Sports Complex. It is anticipated that this corridor would be developed for alternative transportation that would include a bicycle/pedestrian trail and connect on the south end to the proposed Katy Trail which is presently under construction to Pleasant Hill.



www.lsparks.net