

July 24, 2008

Greenways Celebrates Opening of Community Trail System



Judge-Executive Duane Murner and Dr. Ashli Collins at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Members of Greenways for Oldham County and Oldham County government broke ground Sunday on a new trail system within the county's Wendell Moore Park in Buckner.

The project represents a collaborative effort among Greenways for Oldham County, Oldham County Parks and Recreation, Oldham County Road Department, Scott-Klausing Company, Garber-Chilton Engineering, local Eagle Scouts and Oldham County Stone, among others.

Currently, the trail partners are finalizing plans and have started the engineering phase of construction, to include the trail layout.

When construction is complete later this year, nearly 2.5 miles of crushed stone trails will be in place in Wendell Moore Park to provide an opportunity for walking, jogging and cycling.

This represents phase one of the Wendell Moore Park recreational trails project.

Phase two includes a connection to the northern Senior Center loop segment and will include the rehabilitation of a dilapidated existing trail in that section of the park.

Overall, project partners are planning 3.35 miles of trails in the park, which will eventually link to the Commerce Parkway segment of the Oldham County interurban trail system.

Greenways for Oldham County is providing the bulk of the funding for the project. The county's parks and recreation department and road department provides equipment and manpower to construct the trails.

Attendees at the groundbreaking include Sen. Ernie Harris, Congressman Geoff Davis' local representative Christina Poole, Magistrates Steve Greenwell and David Voegelé and Deputy Judge-Executive Paul Gish.

Nearly 70 people attended a picnic preceding the groundbreaking. Many attendees walked portions of the trails which are staked for construction, which will likely begin this month.

Several local businesses and organizations are providing support and/or in-kind services and product donations to make the trail possible.

Scott-Klausing and Company is providing project management and design services. Garber-Chilton Engineers & Land Surveyors is providing the engineering and surveying work. Oldham County Stone has provided crushed stone at a discount in support of the project.

Oldham Ahead is coordinating support from other businesses and organizations and welcome additional support and participation to address amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, landscaping and to add to the overall project.

An "Adopt-a-Bench" fundraising program will provide high-quality, low maintenance benches throughout the trail and park area. Proceeds will also go to construction costs and other park amenities. Contributions are tax deductible.

A pair of foot bridges need funding for future construction to achieve the final design of the trail network.

The southern loop section of the Wendell Moore Park trail network will include an existing rudimentary trail that will be upgraded and lengthened to provide a high-quality multi-use trail. The completed project will result in three measured, multi-use trail areas. These trails overlap at a common starting point.

The new trails will be constructed of crushed limestone, be 10-feet wide and available for walking, jogging, and bike riding.

The trails will also provide emergency vehicles access into this area of the park providing a cross country trail segment that will measure one mile in length.

The project will also link the new trails to the nearest parking area in the park and to the parking areas near the community pool and picnic areas.

For information, visit www.oldhamgreenways.org.