

February 27, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

New Section of South Dry Sac Greenway to Open

The public is invited to join Ozark Greenways for the opening of a new section of the South Dry Sac Greenway at the David C. Murray Trailhead Saturday, March 2, 10 a.m. at 4800 N. Farm Road 141 (Old Highway 13). The ribbon-cutting ceremony kicks off the Ozark Greenways 22nd Annual Membership Meeting, 10 a.m.- noon, held on-site. The meeting includes a brief program and ribbon-cutting, social time, a question and answer session, and a free chili lunch at the trailhead. Attendees may also explore the new trail on foot or bike. No RSVP is necessary.

The David C. Murray Trailhead and a portion of the South Dry Creek Greenway are located on the historic Butterfield Overland Mail Stage route. From 1858-1861, this famous stagecoach carried mail, freight and passengers between St. Louis and San Francisco, passing through what's now Springfield's Park Central Square. Butterfield Overland Mail State route information will be included in a kiosk at the trailhead. Additional information may be added later, as the National Park Service studies the route for possible National Historic Trail designation. This would add to our area's wealth of national routes, including Route 66, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, the TransAmerica Trail and three greenways that are designated as National Recreation Trails.

The David C Murray Trailhead is named for an ancestor of the Murray and White families. The trail is located on their family homestead.

It's been 22 years since Ozark Greenways began preserving greenway trails for public use and enjoyment in the Springfield community. Today, anyone can visit a greenway trail and encounter a wide variety of people — all ages, all abilities, all social classes. It's typical to see entire families walking, biking or running together. Bicycle commuting has also gained popularity in the last couple of years, now that Springfield Public Works has tripled the city's number of bike lanes and "sharrows" in its growing on-street bike route network — including their new corridor concept, The Link. Thousands of people use Springfield's trails each week for fun, recreation, health, social connection and alternative transportation.

Public demand for greenway trails and on-street bike routes is at an all-time high, but funding is at an all-time low. Ozark Greenways holds an annual meeting to celebrate what we've accomplished as a community and reinforce the importance of membership and citizen involvement this momentum — now more than ever.

The event is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to use the trail, to bike to the event if possible and to bring friends.

Directions: From I-44, take Missouri Hwy 13 north two miles. Turn east (right) on Farm Road 94, then north (left) on Farm Road 141. Looks for signs.

For more information, contact:

Terry Whaley, Executive Director, (417) 864-2014, terry@ozarkgreenways.org

Lori Tack, Program Coordinator, 864-2015, lori@ozarkgreenways.org