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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Bike to Work Week Trophy Winners**

Ozark Greenways is celebrating its most successful Bike to Work Week since the event began in 1997. The annual challenge to "leave your car behind," held May 14-18, 2012, included more than 1,500 participants this year, representing 200 businesses and schools, who collectively saved more than 10,000 driving miles and demonstrated the importance of bicycle infrastructure for public health, safety, traffic congestion, environment and quality of life.

Businesses and schools with the most participation during Bike to Work Week receive a traveling trophy to display for a year. These are Springfield area residents who chose to get to work or school at least one day that week by biking, talking the bus, walking, carpooling, telecommuting or a combination. The following 2012 winners had the most employee or student participation:

- **School:** Rountree Elementary, with 160 participants
- **Small business:** Butler Rosenbury & Partners, 16 participants (100 percent of employees)
- **Medium business:** KY3, with 15 participants
- **Large businesses:** CoxHealth, with 91 participants
- **Most Increased Participation:** City of Springfield, with 53 participants, double the number from 2011.

Ozark Greenways has been promoting Springfield's growing greenway trail connections and on-street bike route system and for 21 years, and a tipping point has been reached. More people are getting around town by bike than ever before, fueling efforts to make Springfield more bike-friendly.

This spring, the City of Springfield doubled the city's on-street bike route markings and signage and continued expansion of the popular "Link" corridor, connecting Doling Park to Cox South. In 2010, Springfield received the bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community designation by the League of American Bicyclists, a designation which applies until 2014. The National Park Service has also designated three of the area's greenway trails as National Recreation Trails: Galloway Creek Greenway, South Creek Greenway and Frisco Highline Trail.

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