



St. Charles County Government

Department of Parks and Recreation
Bettie Yahn-Kramer, Director

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St. Charles County Parks and Library District Partner to Promote Nature, Literacy and Exercise

St. Charles County, Missouri – A new park/library partnership allows families to “Dig into Reading” at St. Charles County’s Quail Ridge Park this summer! For the first time, the St. Charles County Parks Department and the St. Charles City-County Library District are offering readers of all ages a chance to participate in a **Picture Book Walk at Quail Ridge Park** (5501 Quail Ridge Parkway, Wentzville, MO 63385). Participants will walk around the park lake while reading acclaimed children’s author/illustrator Peter Brown’s book, *The Curious Garden*. The Picture Book Walk will open on Monday, June 3 at 3 p.m. with a special ribbon cutting and celebration, including a performance at 4p.m. by Wildheart, a Parent’s Choice and Emmy Award-winning group of conservation educators and entertainers. Additional children’s festivities, craft tables and light refreshments will also be available inside the Quail Ridge Lodge until 6 p.m. that day.

“The picture book walk promotes the love of reading with the enjoyment of the outdoors,” says Parks Director Bettie Yahn-Kramer. “It’s a free, festive, educational program that appeals to all ages.”

The picture book walk journey begins at the paved trail below the Quail Ridge Lodge and wraps around the picturesque lake. The nearly one-mile-long walk features 17 numbered signs which encompass all 32 colorful pages of Brown’s popular children’s book. The walk was designed for families with young children in mind, and is convenient for strollers and bicycles to easily maneuver around the lakeside path. This new outdoor experience will be in place at Quail Ridge Park from June 3 through August 31. Quail Ridge Park opens daily at 7 a.m. and closes a half hour after dusk.

(MORE)



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“We are so excited to offer families an extraordinary new reading experience as part of our Summer Reading Programs this year,” says St. Charles City-County Library District Children’s Librarian Amy Koester. “This unique program combines the outdoors, literacy and exercise together to really give you a different reading experience.”

The Curious Garden tells the story of a former industrial area in New York City and its transformation into a lush community garden – a story perfect for the outdoor setting of the lake trail. Brown has written and illustrated a number of other picture books, and his illustrations in 2012’s *Creepy Carrots* earned a Caldecott Honor. Brown has become a favorite among young readers in St. Charles County, according to the library district.

The St. Charles County Parks Department, St. Charles City-County Library District, St. Charles City-County Library Foundation, Take 20 and Read and Sam’s Club of Wentzville are proud sponsors of the 2013 Picture Book Walk at Quail Ridge Park.

For more information about the **Picture Book Walk at Quail Ridge Park**, visit www.stccparks.org or contact the St. Charles County Parks Department at (636) 949-7535. For more information on the Library District’s annual Summer Reading Program, visit www.youranswerplace.org or contact any branch of the St. Charles City-County Library District.

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