

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parks and Recreation Department honored by national trails organization

COLUMBIA, MO (June 6, 2005) -- The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department has been selected to receive a 2005 Annual Achievement Award by the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT). The award is part of the CRT's Recreational Trails Program.

Specifically, the Parks and Recreation Department is being honored for its development of the MKT trailhead at Flat Branch Park. The trailhead includes bicycle racks, benches, tables and seating, a drinking fountain, sidewalks, landscaping and historical plaques. Before the site was developed, it was the home of an abandoned warehouse and was situated on contaminated soil.

A citizens' committee, the MKT Trailhead Committee, worked with the city's Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments to develop the trailhead. Work on the trailhead was completed in 2001. It now serves as a focal point of Flat Branch Park, as well as providing access to downtown Columbia to users of the MKT Trail.

The MKT trailhead project is being honored as part of the awards program's construction and design category.

The CRT is a federation of national and regional trail-related organizations. Its members work together to build awareness and understanding of the Recreational Trails Program, which returns federal gasoline taxes paid by off-highway recreationists to the states for trail development and maintenance.