FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Historical Towne Park to be Dedicated in St. Charles County

St. Charles County, Missouri — The St. Charles County Parks Department will formally dedicate Towne Park, located at 100 Towne Park Dr., at the Farris Rd. Exit, off Highway 61, north of Wentzville, beginning at 11 a.m., Friday, May 11, during a ribbon cutting ceremony. Rich in St. Charles County history, the 109-acre park features a reconstructed 1800s historical homestead, formerly known as the “Pink Plantation”; the only Certified Nature Explore Classroom in St. Charles County; paved and natural surface trails; a large fishing pond; picnic areas, a forest-themed playground and a series of interlinked scenic rain gardens for the public to enjoy. Experience history, nature and education all coming together at Towne Park.

“The St. Charles County Parks Department continues to build a legacy by developing a popular, growing regional park system,” said Park Director Bettie Yahn-Kramer. “Towne Park will be the tenth St. Charles County Park opened to the public, since 2000.”

During the celebration, a performer from the Living History Company will portray Ruth Boyd; the original owner of the homestead who settled the land in the early 1800s. Other characters of that era will also be visiting with park guests. County Executive Steve Ehlmann and Parks Director Bettie Yahn-Kramer will be keynote speakers. The St. Charles County Sheriff’s Department Honor Guard will conduct the flag presentation at the beginning of the ceremony. Children from the Wentzville School District who helped with the development of the certified Nature Explore Classroom will also be in attendance. The Wentzville Chik-Fil-A and Dierbergs Wentzville Crossing are sponsoring the event by donating light refreshments. The park will be officially opened to the public at noon, Friday, May 11, for guests to tour the homestead and other park amenities.

Donated by the late Mrs. Betty Towne, the property was to be preserved and turned into a public park. For its efforts to restore the homestead, the Parks Department was recognized at the Missouri State Capital in Jefferson City by receiving the 2007 McReynolds Award from the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation.
The main focal points of the park are the restored homestead and the certified Nature Explore Classroom, a dynamic, nature-based play and learning space, which supports skill development in children by reconnecting them with the outdoors.

In addition to the ribbon cutting ceremony on May 11, the celebration of the new park will extend into Saturday, May 12, when Living History Company re-enactors and others will be performing from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Towne Park. Demonstrations include: shawl weaving, material dying, and cast iron restoration. All ages are welcome to watch the performances.

For more information about Towne Park, visit [www.stccparks.org](http://www.stccparks.org) or contact the St. Charles County Parks Department at 636.949.7535.

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