FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 20, 2012
Contact: Nancy Lee Gomer, Marketing Coordinator
Phone: 636.949.7535 or cell 636.795.1137

Historical Towne Park Opens in St. Charles County

St. Charles County, Missouri — The St. Charles County Parks Department is proud to announce the opening of its newest park development, Towne Park, situated off Highway 61, just north of Wentzville, MO. Rich in St. Charles 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, nearly three miles of 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. Park guest can experience history, nature and education 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 is the tenth St. Charles County Park opened to the public, since 2000.”

During the celebration, the St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann and Parks Director Bettie Yahn-Kramer addressed the crowd of nearly 250 attendees. The St. Charles County Sheriff’s Department Honor Guard opened the ceremony with a Presentation of Colors, and children from the Wentzville School District, who assisted with the development of the certified Nature Explore Classroom, were also in attendance. The Wentzville Chik-Fil-A and Dierbergs Wentzville Crossing sponsored the event by donating light refreshments to guests after the ceremony.

In addition, a historical performer from the Living History Company portrayed Ruth Boyd; the original owner of the homestead who settled the land in the early 1800s. Mrs. Boyd greeted guests as they toured the historical homestead on the park property. Another performer demonstrated the art of shawl weaving by using a period loom inside the home, and a third portrayed a farmhand.
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 extended into Saturday, May 12, when re-enactors from the Living History Company entertained park guests with shawl weaving, material dying, and cast iron restoration demonstrations. The reconstructed homestead is scheduled to be open once a month for tours and special events.

For more information about Towne Park, visit www.stccparks.org or contact the St. Charles County Parks Department at 636.949.7535.