

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Join In The Fun Of A Picture Book Walk Celebration at Quail Ridge Park On June 2

St. Charles County, Missouri – Get outdoors, get active and read while visiting St. Charles County’s Quail Ridge Park near Wentzville this summer! The St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the second annual Picture Book Walk at Quail Ridge Park, 5501 Quail Ridge Parkway, Wentzville, MO 63385, from 3 – 5 p.m., on Monday, June 2, at the Quail Ridge Lodge. Beginning at 3 p.m., children of all ages and their families are invited to participate in guided readings around the lake of acclaimed children’s book, *Berlioz The Bear* by Jan Brett. After they walk and read the book, park guests will be able to go inside the Lodge to enjoy a variety of children’s festivities, craft tables and light refreshments. Children will be able to make a “tree cookie necklace” made out of cedar, create a musical instrument made out of a variety of craft supplies and get autographed photos of some St. Louis Lions soccer players. At 4 p.m., the St. Charles County Park Rangers will also give a presentation about animals that live in Missouri, using tanned animal skins the children can touch. This unique program is a partnership between the St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department, the St. Charles City-County Library District and the St. Charles City-County Library Foundation. It also celebrates the beginning of the Library District’s summer reading program.

“The picture book walk promotes the love of the outdoors and exercise with the enjoyment of reading,” says Parks Director Bettie Yahn-Kramer.

(MORE)

Picture Book Walk, p. 2

The nearly one mile picture book walk starts at the paved trail next to the Quail Ridge Lodge and wraps around the lake. It features 17 numbered signs, which encompass all 32 colorful pages of Brett's popular children's book. Designed for families with young children, the walk is convenient for strollers and bicycles to easily maneuver around the lakeside path. This new outdoor experience will be available at Quail Ridge Park from June 2 until the end of the year. Quail Ridge Park opens daily at 7 a.m. and closes a half hour after dusk.

"We are so excited to continue to offer families a new outdoor reading experience as part of our Summer Reading Programs," says St. Charles City-County Library District Children's Librarian Amy Koester.

Berlioz The Bear is a story about Berlioz the bear and his fellow musicians who are on their way to play for the town ball when their bandwagon becomes stuck in a hole in the road. Time is running out, and if a rooster, a cat, a billy goat, a plow horse, and an ox can't rescue the bandwagon, then who can?

The St. Charles County Parks Department, St. Charles City-County Library District, St. Charles City-County Library Foundation and Sam's Club of Wentzville are proud sponsors of the 2014 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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