



News Release

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Ribbon cutting and inaugural walk set for Gage Park Fitness Loop Trail

WHAT: Ribbon cutting and inaugural walk for Gage Park Fitness Loop Trail

WHEN: 2 p.m. Oct. 9

WHERE: Starting at the corner of Westchester and Conservatory Drive in Gage Park (First street north of SW 10th on west side of park) where the first earth was moved for construction of the second half of the trail.

WHO: Speakers will include Shawnee County Commissioner Shelly Buhler, Shawnee County Parks + Recreation Director John Knight, City of Topeka Mayor Michelle De La Isla, Sunflower Foundation CEO Billie Hall, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Interim Secretary Linda Craghead and Kansas Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration Rick Backlund,

WHY: The two-mile Gage Park Fitness Loop has already drawn a lot of positive public comment as a much-welcomed addition to Gage Park. It brings to 58 the total miles of trails within Shawnee County Parks + Recreation. After the City of Topeka created the east and south sides of the trail while completing road projects on Gage Boulevard and SW 10th Street, the Sunflower Foundation provided a \$100,000 matching grant to make the West side of the trail possible and KDWPT provided a \$288,833 grant to make the north side of the trail possible. Shawnee County Parks + Recreation provided \$153,000 in additional funds to meet the overall project cost. With the additional cost associated with the engineering for the bridge over Westlake, completion of the second half of the trail cost \$541,840.

The Gage Park Fitness Loop Trail now serves surrounding neighborhoods, employees of nearby businesses and visitors to Gage Park.

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