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News Release

For Immediate Release

Ozark Greenways hosts Bike to Work Week May 12-16

Ozark Greenway's annual Bike to Work Week returns May 12-16, challenging residents to leave their car behind at least one day and commute by biking, walking, taking the bus, carpooling, telecommuting or any combination.

More than 1,500 participants took the challenge in 2014, contributing their own health and fitness as well as reducing pollution and traffic congestion and saving money.

"The goal of Bike to Work Week is to highlight Springfield's alternative transportation options and support future expansion," said Terry Whaley, Executive Director of Ozark Greenways. "Participation shows public support for alternative transportation, and that's vital to our planning and fundraising."

Participants must register through their business or school at ozarkgreenways.org. Registered participants receive a Panera Bread voucher for a free bagel or cookie and coffee. Free bus fare is offered by City Utilities of Springfield to participants traveling with their bike. Free showers are available to participants at the Ward Branch/Downtown YMCA, the Pat Jones YMCA, all area Cox Fitness Centers including the Meyer Center; and the Park Board's three Family Centers: Chesterfield, Doling and Dan Kinney.

Prizes and trophies are awarded to businesses and schools with the highest participation.

Alternative transportation resources continue to grow in the Springfield area, including 66 miles of Ozark Greenways trails, 62 miles of designated on-street Springfield bike routes and City Utilities buses equipped with front bike racks. The LINK, the Springfield's new 8-mile north-south biking and walking corridor, now connects Doling Park to Cox Medical Center South. Maps for biking, walking and bus routes are available at letsgosmart.org, ozarkgreenways.org/trails.html and cityutilities.net/transit/routes.htm

Other events related to Bike to Work Week include:

- **League of American Bicyclists bicycle commuting course**, April 28, 29 and 30, 6-9 p.m. at the City of Springfield Environmental Resource Center. Free registration. Info at www.ozarkgreenways.org/eventcalendar.html
- **Bike and Bus Commuting Basics**, Wed. May 7., 6-8 p.m. at the Midtown Carnegie Branch Library. Free registration. Info at www.ozarkgreenways.org/eventcalendar.html
- **Tour de Ozarks, the 2nd Annual Bicycles & Brews Festival**, Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., at downtown Springfield's Park Central Square, hosted by English Management. Coordinated bike rides, live music and information about bike routes and trails. Details at bicyclesbrews.com.

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