

# FLATS looks to start phase one

BY DAN ROMINE  
Staff Reporter

Construction will begin on the first phase of a four-mile trail from Thousand Hills State Park to a location in Kirksville that is yet to be determined.

The trail is a result of the efforts of Forest Lake Area Trail System. Founded during 2009, FLATS has worked to collect funds for and plan the construction of a four-mile biking and hiking trail.

"For the most economic impact and for the most use, you want somewhere central, so what we're really aiming for is downtown," FLATS coordinator Royce Kallerud said.

He said FLATS hopes to have multiple access points to the trail in Kirksville — one near The Square, and another access point on Osteopathy Street for out-of-town visitors' convenience.

The trail will cut the 8-mile drive to the park in half, according to the FLATS website. The website also stated the trail will be a paved, 10-foot wide multi-use trail that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The first phase of the trail will be 0.6 miles long and will connect the marina and the petroglyph site at the state park, according to the FLATS website.

Kallerud said the groundbreaking ceremony is expected to take place sometime this fall. FLATS is waiting on Missouri Department of Natural Resources to announce the groundbreaking date, likely at a pre-construction meeting that will occur sometime during the next few weeks.

He said the dates of construction and completion have not been decided.

The construction of the first stage of the trail will cost about \$170,000 and take several months, Kallerud said. He

estimated the cost of the entire trail will be more than \$1 million.

The trail largely is funded by DNR, but also it is supported by Northeast Regional Medical Center, various private donors and by an annual FLATS half-marathon. The second annual half-marathon will take place Oct. 21, Kallerud said.

The FLATS half-marathon is an event organized by race director Ivy Koger. Koger said he got the idea while trail-running at Thousand Hills State Park one winter and decided to pursue it. After he started planning the half-marathon he said he realized it would be a "perfect fit" for a fundraiser for the FLATS project.

Last year, the FLATS half-marathon was a great success, Koger said, with 75 participants and more than \$3,000 raised. He said every penny of the profits went toward FLATS, and he anticipates a larger success this year.

Koger said he plans to continue directing the half-marathon as long as there are willing participants, and during the years after FLATS is finished he plans to contribute the money from future competitions to maintaining the trails, building signs and trail markers, and possibly further single-track trail constructions.

Ted Frushour, an academic advisor at Truman State, ran the FLATS half-marathon last year and said he is an active supporter of the FLATS project.

"I'm all for it," Frushour said. "I think it's going to help the region a lot — help promote activities around Kirksville. It's good for business, good for the economy, good all around."

Koger said he's spoken with many private donors who support what the FLATS program has to offer, and has helped to move it along. He also said



various Truman organizations, most notably Phi Epsilon Kappa, have helped with different stages of the project as well as the half marathon.

"Once we start the building, I think there's going to be a lot more opportunity for student involvement," Koger said.

Koger said he hopes interest in the trail will increase after the groundbreaking.

"I think that what's going to really jump-start the project is building the first phase so people can see [it]," he said.

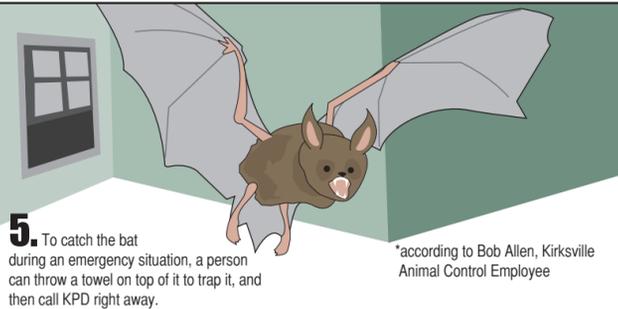
Koger and Kallerud said the benefits of the trail for the

Kirksville community will be numerous. They mentioned the tourism and businesses it could potentially attract, as well as the positive effects it would have for health and well-being.

Visit [www.kvflats.org](http://www.kvflats.org) for more information about the trail and the half-marathon.

## What to do when encountering a bat

1. Call Animal Control at (660)-785-6945 or Kirksville Police Station at (660)-665-5621.
2. Don't try to catch the bat.
3. If attempting to catch the bat, wear protective gear to avoid being bitten.
4. If a person is bitten, the bat has to be kept and tested for any diseases; and call KPD immediately.



5. To catch the bat during an emergency situation, a person can throw a towel on top of it to trap it, and then call KPD right away.

\*according to Bob Allen, Kirksville Animal Control Employee

## Bats cause concerns for residents on and off campus

BY JACCI GUTHRIE  
Staff Reporter

Landlords, students and residents are battling something aside from lease arrangements this fall.

Some Kirksville and Truman residents are finding bats maneuvering their way into their rooms on and off campus, a situation that Animal Control wants to make sure everyone knows how to handle, said Animal Control officer Bob Allen.

He said the first thing anyone should do after finding a bat in their home is call Animal Control at (660) 785-6945.

Many people's first instinct, Allen said, is to catch the bat, which is not safe. He said the bats can bite and might carry diseases that could be dangerous to humans.

If a person is bitten, Allen said to call Animal Control immediately and make sure to keep the bat so it can be tested for diseases.

Bats aren't just sneaking into off campus housing, Residence Life director John Gardner said.

"We do have bats in the residence halls and academic buildings from time to time," Gardner said.

He said Residence Life staff encourages students not to interact with or try to catch the bats, and call the ResLife office or Department of Public Safety immediately.

Since bats are a protected species, DPS director Tom Johnson said officers release the bats after they catch them in the buildings.

Tony Elliott, resource scientist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, said the reason bats make their way into buildings is because of the microclimate that the animals are able to take advantage of.

Bats, Elliott said, are a very "homey" animal, meaning they like to find a place that keeps them safe, provides them with insects — all Missouri bats eat only insects, he said — and is a comfortable temperature. He said that most people who find bats in their home, such as in their attics, don't



Bill Elliott, Missouri Department of Conservation/Submitted Photo

**A Big Brown Bat hibernates during the winter inside a cave in northeast Missouri. Big Brown Bats are one of many types of bats native to the Kirksville area, which is a problem for local residents who find the animals sneaking into their homes.**

know about it until a bat colony has already formed and established home-ground of their own. By then, he said, it's a struggle to get them out.

"The long-term solution is sealing-up places where animals are getting in and out of the house," he said. "Chasing the bats out of the house is temporary. They can fly and no matter how far they're released after they're caught, they could return to the location."

Elliott said the different bats which are native to this area, such as the Small Brown Bat, the Big Brown Bat and the Evening bat, have been known during the past for inhabiting some of the older buildings around the City that have cracks they can get through.

Kirksville landlord Bobby Postin, said there used to be a four-story, 100-year-old abandoned shoe factory in Kirksville about five years ago. He said when it was torn down there were rumored to be about 100,000 bats inside that had to flock to different locations.

It wasn't until after the building

was torn-down that Postin said his rental houses started having issues with bats.

He said whenever he gets a call from tenants he immediately investigates the issue.

Freshman Chloe Jaranowski lives off campus and said she has had one bat incident.

"We're not sure how long [the bat] was in the house before we discovered it, but we think it came from a crevice in our roof," Jaranowski said.

Jaranowski said instead of calling Animal Control or her landlord, she called some friends from the football team. After cornering it in a room, they caught the bat with a garbage bag and set it loose out the window, she said.

For anyone with a reoccurring bat problem, Elliot suggested checking out Bat Conservation International's website at [batcon.org](http://batcon.org) for information about how to seal cracks around homes that bats could be getting through.

*Additional reporting by Ashley Jost*

## SubjectsPlus receives new updates

Students can receive updated research assistance through library program

BY ROSE MCCRAY  
Staff Reporter

Pickler Memorial Library recently upgraded the SubjectsPlus directory on its website.

SubjectsPlus is a database for Truman State students to find online resources for different subjects. The directory has been available since 2009 and currently includes 96 different research guides, categorized as either subject, class or specialized.

The librarians reevaluated the directory and updated the research interface to make it more student-friendly, said Janet Romine, head of Public Service at the library.

"We made it easier to distinguish between subject guides and class guides," she said.

A subject guide is broad and is categorized by majors, such as biology or education.

Twenty-six of the guides are reserved for various classes, such as Caves and Cathedrals and Public Speaking. Each guide provides links to journals, encyclopedias, biographical information, book collections and articles. Some also are linked to statistics pages, video collections and government information.

Each guide offers a short description of the page content. Some guides will give students links that demonstrate how to properly cite the source.

"It just puts the resource available for a subject area right there in front of them," said Dan McGurk, a reference and electronic resources librarian at Pickler.

McGurk said he specializes in economics and political science and teaches a Truman Week class introducing the SubjectsPlus page to new students.

Most students do not ask the librarians for help with the database directory, McGurk said, but rather how to find information about a specific subject.

If students need more help, they can sign up with the Research Assistant Program and can receive a personal consultation with a librarian who specializes in a subject area.

"A lot of topics will cut across more than one subject area," McGurk said. "Some subjects will share statistical databases or have articles that intersect with other subjects, making it easier for students to find more resources."

The database is updated during the summer. New article databases are subscribed to during early August before the semester begins. Some databases and links must be deleted because they no longer are available.

Senior Alyssa Vannoy said she has used the directory about five times during her time at Truman.

"I thought it was helpful, it gave leeway sources into different classes and subjects," she said. She said for one class, she used the Modern Art guide and included two of the sources she found there for her paper. Vannoy would not use the links on the database as her only sources, but as leads into finding others, she said.

The SubjectsPlus directory can be found at <http://library.truman.edu/subsplus/subjects>.