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Reading is a walk in the park!

Children can exercise mind and body with a stroll through Delco's StoryWalk

Children in Delaware County can now exercise their brains **and** their bodies through an innovative StoryWalk path winding along a green hillside in Rose Tree Park, Upper Providence.

Delaware County Council was joined by members of Library Services and students from the Walden School to launch the newest StoryWalk tale, "The Bus for Us," an engaging children's story by Suzanne Bloom.

Children are invited to stroll along the 19 plexi-glass panel displays posted on a .25-mile circle located behind the Parks and Recreation office, and up the hill from the amphitheater. They can read each colorful page, then walk, skip or run to the next page. The stories will change quarterly.

This season, children will follow the story of Tess and Gus as they wait for their bus on the first day of school, eagerly awaiting "The Bus for Us."

"What a great way to enjoy the natural beauty of Delaware County AND the joy of reading," said Delaware County Councilman Dave White, Council's liaison to Library Services. "Our Department of Library Services and the 26 member libraries offer many, many engaging programs that encourage learning and literacy. We are really excited to add this StoryWalk to the list of activities for our families."

"The Bus for Us" is the perfect book to offer during fall when children are going to school. The colorful picture book features Tess and Gus waiting for the school bus. As a multitude of vehicles – from a fire engine to a front-end loader – pass them, Tess keeps asking, "Is this the bus for us, Gus?"

Suzanne Bloom is an author and illustrator from upstate New York who was inspired to write "The Bus for Us" while waiting for the bus with her two sons.

The StoryWalk installation is the creation of Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vt. Delaware County's StoryWalk panels were installed at Rose Tree Park with assistance from students at Williamson College of the Trades.

"I am proud we are able to provide this activity for children to help them lead healthy lifestyles full of exercise and reading," said Catherine Bittle, director of Delaware County Libraries (DCL.) "The StoryWalk is a free activity and it doesn't stop at the end of the trail. Families can go home and talk about the story, which is great for memory and comprehension. With this book, they can talk about other types of vehicles while they are in the car."

The Delaware County StoryWalk was installed earlier this year with the first book "Up, Down and Around."

Students from the Walden School in Upper Providence joined Councilman Dave White on a stroll through the StoryWalk.

StoryWalk is free and open during park hours. The StoryWalk is geared for children ages 1 to 7.

Delaware County Libraries is an agency of county government that supports 26 independent member libraries throughout the county. For information about StoryWalk call DCL at 610-891-8622 or visit the website at www.delcolibraries.org.