

NEWS RELEASE: Sept. 9, 2011

**Commission statement on Jodie Adams' retirement announcement**

Springfield-Greene County Park Board Chair Jerry Clark has informed the Greene County Commission that Director of Parks Jodie Adams has announced her upcoming retirement.

The Commission praised Adams for her 37 years of service with the Park Board and noted her role in the expansion of Parks, in elevating the quality of services parks offer, and in bringing national attention and acclaim to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

The three Commissioners also issued the following statements:

“There is no doubt that the level of quality of our county’s parks today is due to Jodie’s unrelenting passion. Our community is maturing and coming of age, and our parks certainly reflect that. The County Commission is particularly appreciative of Jodie’s assistance in fostering the growth of parks in unincorporated Greene County and other municipalities. It really is a county-wide parks system, benefiting literally to the boundaries to Greene County and beyond.”

— Jim Viebrock, Presiding Commissioner.

“Jodie not only elevated our leisure and recreations opportunities to a Class One offering, but she has demonstrated the positive economic power of parks beyond anyone’s expectations. Her initiative to establish School Parks has been outstanding, and serves as both a model for other communities to follow and an excellent example of community collaboration. Jodie’s leadership in attracting Olympic training programs to Springfield and Greene County is another example of her forward thinking for this community. As a person, Jodie is probably best known for her energy, enthusiasm and dedication to community service.”

— Harold Bengsch, Associate Commissioner, District 1.

“Jodie has done an incredible amount of good for our community. The fact that Jodie was president of the National Recreation and Park Association gave her such a broad view of what our parks system could be, and that experience has benefited us all. She put Springfield-Greene County on the map for parks, nationwide. She’s one-of-a-kind and she’ll be very hard to replace.”

— Roseann Bentley, Associate Commissioner, District 2.

For more information, call the Greene County Commission at 417-868-4112, or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

###