

Springfield-Greene County Park Board

National Gold Medal Award Recipient

A N N U A L R E P O R T

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PARKS FUN FACTS • Chesterfield and Doling Family Centers totaled 291,466 daily visits last year; Northview Center had 71,689 Accessible Recreation & Senior participants • Dickerson Park Zoo reached 309,252 through its gate and outreach programs • Approximately 280,000 seeds are planted for Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park's 10-acre corn maze each year • 70,687 people used the pavilions located in 19 parksites • Springfield Lasers World Team Tennis team clinches WTT Western Conference Championship, ending with a 2010 record of 10-4 • Awarded 750 youth scholarships for park programs • PARKS FUN FACTS



On the Cover: As southwest Missouri's latest destination attraction, the new Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center opened in fall 2010. The 12,700-square foot facility focuses on horticulture, preservation and sustainability, offering year-round programming and events. Built to Silver Level LEED specifications, the facility houses a number of offices for University of Missouri Extension, Friends of the Garden and Park Board Botanical Center staff. Learn more at www.BotanicalCenter.org.

Springfield-Greene County Park Board



Park Board Chair Jerry Clark

Parks are ageless. For two years short of a century, your present and past Boards of Directors have been dedicated to providing leisure opportunities of the highest quality. With a comprehensive plan to protect our historical masterpieces, preserve irreplaceable green space and develop a safe and eco-friendly system, park projects are guided by citizen input. Their vision has served a growing population well. We honor their commitment.

The parks and programs you enjoy today have also resulted from partnering with more than 200 organizations. That culture of true

Park Board:

Jerry Clark, Chair
Howard Garrett,
Vice Chair
Paula Glossip
Bob Horton
Andrea McKinney
Sidney Needem
John Price
Tim Shryack
Steven Williams

collaboration thrives internally as well, as a nationally recognized staff brings invaluable year-round activities and facilities to you. Our appreciation of this staff is unrivaled.

Parks are fun. They are healthy, educational and natural. They provide a venue for athletic sportsmanship with skills that follow into the workplace. They teach conservation and ecology in the field. They are creative and rich in adventure. The parks, trails, streams and waterways belong to you,

and we endlessly thank you for your continued support.

Enjoy your Parks – it makes every day a celebration!



Year In Review Highlights

- **Benchmark study** released to compare park acreage, staffing, budgeting and other related issues to 13 other park and recreation agencies of similar size in 2009. Results reveal **2.2 million** passed through gates and doors, with an estimated **4 million** more in passive park use. Through 20 athletic events studied, **\$4 million** estimated in economic impact. Park Board is behind other cities in number of parks, acreage and staff; and ahead of others with written policies for fees, programs and facilities.
- **Zoo Attendance** increases 8.2% from 2009 to 309,252 visitors through its gate and outreach programs.
- **Dickerson Park Zoo** says goodbye to long-term residents Ol' C.C., a 61-year old elephant, and Stretch, the second-oldest living male giraffe listed in the North American studbook.
- After 30 years, **4-H returns to Greene County** with the Springfield Aggies 4-H Club, which now meets at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Community Park.
- Recreation staff and volunteers provide a number of **free clinics and classes** to several thousand in softball, archery, tennis, soccer, hockey and fitness classes.
- Park Board partners with **Springfield Sister Cities Association** to help produce Cherry Blossom Kite Festival, ArtsFiesta!, Japanese Fall Festival, visits from artists and yearly performances from a mariachi band.
- Springfield varsity ice hockey team, Springfield Spirit, capture the **Mid-America High School Hockey League** four-state crown. This is a back-to-back championship for the team.
- Park Board partners with Grant Beach Neighborhood Association to open Hovey House, a new neighborhood community resource center, as part of the **Weaver School-Park development**.
- A number of significant sports-related events return to Park Board facilities, including six MSHSAA state championships, 35 district, state, regional, national and professional/international sports. The first **Paralympic Sport Club** is added for archery, along with being the newest Community Olympic Development Program sport. CODP reaches 12,075 students.
- **South Creek Greenway** added as third National Recreation Trail by National Park Service, a trail within the Park Board and Ozark Greenways system, with more than 100 miles of trail opportunities.
- Synthetic turf donated to **Lake Country Soccer Complex**, midwest's largest indoor/outdoor soccer facility.
- Springfield-based Missouri Army National Guard 1107th Aviation Group stationed in Kuwait take part in **2010 Turkey Trot**. With another record-breaking year, more than 7,100 runners and walkers continue to make the event the largest Thanksgiving Day run/walk in the state of Missouri.
- **NatureGrounds playgrounds** open at Hickory Hills Elementary (as their first School-Park site in nation) and Nathanael Greene/ Close Memorial Park.
- The Park Board is featured in "School-Park Partnerships: A Case Study of Excellence" and "Pathways for Play - Best Practice Guidelines," **two national reference publications**.

Director of Parks Jodie Adams

It was another busy year for the parks system in 2010. The lagging economy again proved to be one of the major contributing factors to the increase in many of our programs and facility usage.

We also moved forward with a number of county voter-approved projects, which grew and improved the existing infrastructure of facilities and expanded the county-wide parks system, all thanks to the 2001 and 2006 County-Wide Parks Sales Taxes.

Our staff and volunteer groups continue to have five key themes at the forefront of

their minds as we provide you quality parks and programming opportunities through Health, the Environment, Conservation, Transportation and Economic Development. These themes are the building blocks of what

"... Health, the Environment, Conservation, Transportation and Economic Development ... These themes are the building blocks ..."

we strive to create each day within the metropolitan parks system, along with the citizen-led Parks, Open Space and Greenways Master Plan acting as our road map for continued growth and improvements.

As we continue into the next generation of our parks system, we'll be preserving the past and creating the future with your help. Thank you for the continued support of your ever-growing park system.



2010 Completed Facility Openings

The Park Board completed a number of projects in 2010 related to facility expansion and renovation. Using county voter-approved 1/4-cent Parks sales tax revenues for Parks, Open Space and Greenway projects, the following projects are samples of what became a reality for the voters of Greene County.

A major addition of unique geological amenities came online with the opening of **Lost Hill Park Natural Resource Area**, in unincorporated Greene County, north of Springfield city limits. The 60-acre, first-phase opening features a 1.5-mile linear park trail to Truman Elementary, a trailhead with parking, restrooms, picnic tables and a small playground. The site offers an exciting opportunity for Parks staff to use its caves, bluffs and other rock formations for outdoor classroom and environmental interpretation efforts.

Historic Park improvements continued with renovations of **Silver Springs Park Pool**. The facility saw

a complete overhaul with new splash and spray features, a drop slide, zero-depth entry, shaded water bench, a division between the shallow and deep ends and a new filtration system. As one of Springfield's original "watering holes," the pool has brought a new pride and enthusiasm to the park's surrounding neighborhood.

Dan Kinney Park, Greene County's first park east of Hwy. 65, came online with the Phase I opening of the 18.3-acre location. Featuring the department's first modern universal design playground, the park will see a continuation of that same theme with the completion of a Miracle League Field, scheduled to open in 2011. The Park Board will break ground on the new Dan Kinney Family Center at the park in summer 2011. The facility will have similar amenities to those at both Chesterfield and Doling Family Centers, with a future phased development of a recreational aquatics facility.

After decades without horses, the Parks Department opened the **Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center** as the latest improvements to the 124-acre Valley Water Mill Park site, which sits on the boundary of north Springfield and unincorporated Greene County.

The facility, with its outdoor and indoor arenas, eight-stall horse barn, offices, meeting/party rooms and pastures, now provides an opportunity for educational equine classes and is the headquarters of the Sheriff's Mounted Posse of Greene County.



HEALTH • ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • ENVIRONMENT • CONSERVATION • TRANSPORTATION

City of Springfield

City of Springfield Mayor Jim O'Neal

Parks are among the most valuable assets that we as citizens can be proud to call our own. The idea of publicly-owned land that is preserved for the recreation, enrichment and health of all people is a powerful and venerable concept in American life *and* here in the Ozarks.

Yet today, parks are so much more than pleasant places. In our community, they have a key economic impact. As an example, the Park Board conservatively estimated that a three-week stretch of successful events in Parks

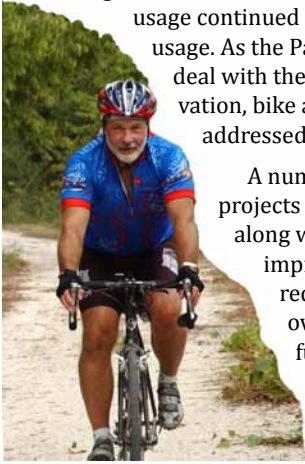
facilities during fall 2010 brought more than \$2 million into the local economy. That's just a three-week sample.

More and more, the impact of our nationally recognized system here in Springfield and Greene County is impossible to deny. For the past 25 years or so that I've been involved in public life, I've always said that a dynamic parks system is an economic development engine. This year, that idea has proven true more so than ever.



Impact of Parks / Future Planning & Projects

In 2010, Park Board tournaments and events demonstrated another year of significant economic impact and visitor spending for the area. Overall park usage continued to rise in almost every area, including general passive usage. As the Park Board moves into 2011 and beyond, initiatives to deal with the “red flags” in our community involving obesity, conservation, bike and pedestrian safety, stormwater and more are being addressed.



A number of **Lake, Stream and Waterway Improvement** projects continue in historic parks. Fassnacht and Sequiota Parks, along with Dickerson Park Zoo, all broke ground on waterway improvements in 2010, which will improve water runoff, reduce flooding, stabilize banks, improve aesthetics and overall improve the quality of our local watershed. Similar future projects are planned for Doling and Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Parks and the Ward Branch Greenway.

More than **100 miles of trail opportunities** exist in our metropolitan parks system. With the help of non-profit Ozark Greenways, which celebrates 20 years as an organization in 2011, improvements and extensions to Ward Branch, Wilson’s Creek and South Dry Sac linear park trails are underway.

2,755,793 County residents and visitors passed through our 102 park sites and facility gates and doors, with **several more million** passive park users enjoying the system – **517,958 more** (23% increase from 2009)

\$927,000 generated by 10 University Intercollegiate Athletics Contests



Trails/Linear Parks saw a **33% increase** in usage from 2009

School-Parks reaches **245,465** with programming.

\$6,750,000 was generated in visitor/tourism spending through just **35 Park athletic events** from several hundred in 2010

\$1,830,000 visitor/tourism spending generated from six state high school **MSHAA championships**

• ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • ENVIRONMENT • CONSERVATION • TRANSPORTATION

Greene County



Greene County Presiding Commissioner Jim Viebrock

I was born and raised in Greene County, and I feel a strong sense of pride for the area —especially for our parks and recreation opportunities.

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board’s award-winning facilities are a unique mix of playgrounds, green spaces, trails and athletic facilities. The parks system has something to offer for

everyone, from gardening to tennis to simple fresh air and exercise.

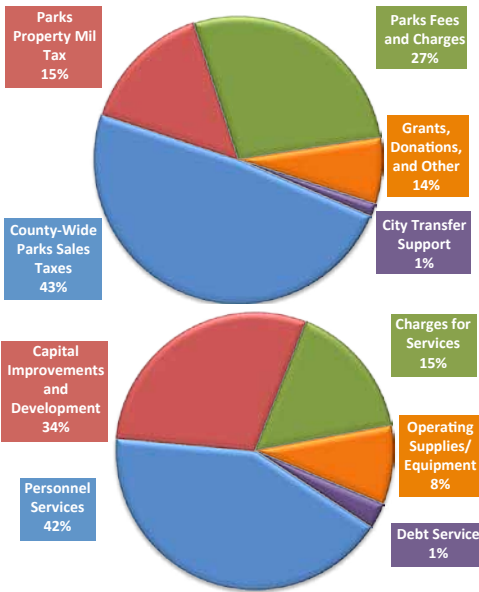
The caves at Sequiota Park, the pool and gym at Chesterfield Family Center, Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, Dickerson Park Zoo and the spring and lake at Doling Park all are regular stops for the Viebrock family.

I encourage all Greene County residents to spend time discovering your parks. After all, they are *your* parks.



Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011



Revenue Sources	2010-2011 Budget
County-Wide Parks Sales Taxes	\$ 14,888,000
Parks Property Mill Tax	5,103,307
Parks Fees and Charges	9,135,034
Grants, Donations, and Other	4,810,105
City Transfer Support	476,516
Total	\$ 34,412,962

Expenditure Types	2010-2011 Budget
Personnel Services	\$ 14,333,183
Capital Improvements and Development	11,613,600
Charges for Services	5,270,528
Operating Supplies/Equipment	2,849,445
Debt Service	339,541
Total Expenditures	\$ 34,406,297

2010 Awards & Recognition (partial list)

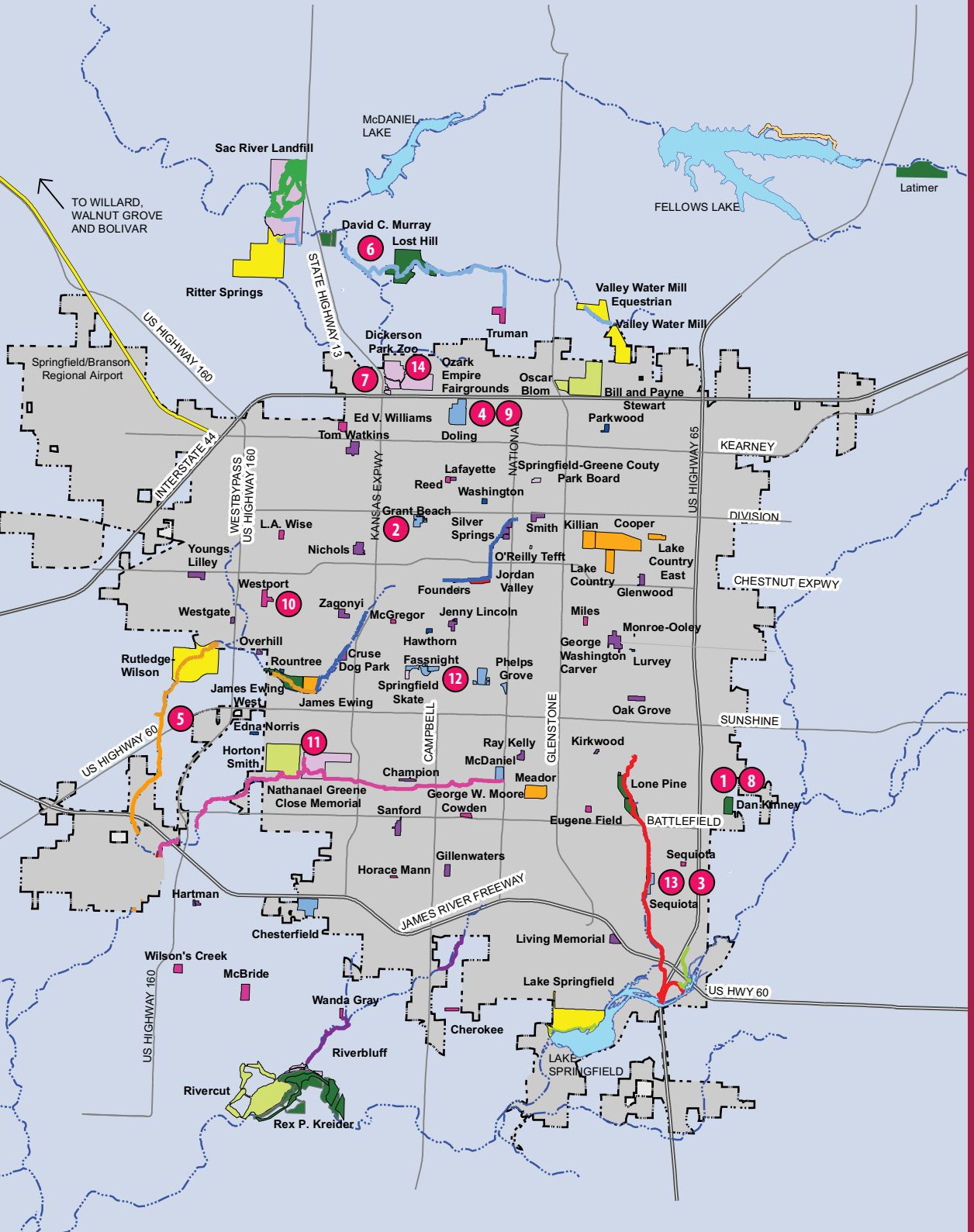
- Missouri State High School Activities Association awards Distinguished Service Award to Park Board
- Springfield-Greene County first in Missouri to receive MO Children in Nature Community recognition, connecting children with nature
- Industry recognition presented by PlayCore as a national demonstration site for the development of play
- Spotlight Award received from Springfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau for noteworthy contributions in advancing travel and tourism in the Springfield area – Cooper Tennis Complex
- Former Director of Parks Dan Kinney inducted into Missouri Park and Recreation Association Hall of Fame



National Gold Medal Award

Upcoming Projects in 2011

- 1 Dan Kinney Park Miracle League Field and park amenities in progress
- 2 Grant Beach Park Pool improvements completed
- 3 Galloway Linear Park Trail/Sequoiota Park Parking improvements in progress
- 4 Doling Park Lakes, Streams and Waterway improvements in progress
- 5 Wilson's Creek Linear Park Trail Phase II in progress
- 6 South Dry Sac Linear Park Trail Phase II in progress
- 7 Dickerson Park Zoo tortoise building in progress
- 8 Dan Kinney Park Family Center (Phase I of Park construction) in progress
- 9 Doling Park Aquatics Center in progress
- 10 Westport Park aquatic facility renovations in progress
- 11 Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park Lakes, Streams and Waterway improvements in progress
- 12 Fasnicht Park Lakes, Streams and Waterway improvements in progress
- 13 Sequiota Park Lakes, Streams and Waterway improvements in progress
- 14 Dickerson Park Zoo Lakes, Streams and Waterway improvements in progress



Park Facilities		Linear Park Trails	
■ Civic Park	■ Neighborhood Park	— Fellows Lake Nature Trail	— Sac River Mountain Bike Trail
■ Golf Course	■ School-Park	— Frisco Highline Linear Park Trail	— South Creek Linear Park Trail
■ Metropolitan Community Park	■ Special Use Facility	— Galloway Linear Park Trail	— South Dry Sac Linear Park Trail
■ Mini Park	■ Sports Complex	— James River Linear Park Trail	— Volunteer Nature Trail
■ Natural Resource Park	■ Urban Community Park	— Jordan Creek Linear Park Trail	— Ward Branch Linear Park Trail
		— Wilson's Creek Linear Park Trail	



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