



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jun. 18, 2025

Ribbon cutting for Silver Springs Park pavilion renovation

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – A ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Silver Springs Park Pavilion and Amphitheatre will take place on Friday, June 20 at 1:00 p.m. at the pavilion.

The Neighborhood Coalition worked with Greene County and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board to implement improvements to the pavilion, including the addition of amphitheater seating, A/V equipment, restroom renovations and an updated warming kitchen. Greene County approved a \$1.5 million grant of American Rescue Plan Act funding through their Community Impact Program to pay for the improvements.

Wes Pratt, one of the members of the Neighborhood Coalition stated, “This park has been such an important part of the north side of Springfield for over 100 years and has a very important history.”

Silver Springs Park was established in 1918 on land known as the old Fairbanks pasture, and later named for a spring on site, flowing into Jordan Creek. During segregation, Silver Springs was the city’s only public park designated for Black residents and accompanying sports leagues, including semi-pro baseball. The WPA built fieldstone retaining walls and the first Silver Springs Pool, and lined the creek channel with rock in the 1930s. Silver Springs Park is the site of the annual Park Day Reunion, celebrated with a parade, a beauty pageant, concerts and a barbeque picnic on the first weekend in August. Silver Springs is home to Timmons Hall and is part of the Springfield-Greene County African-American Heritage Trail. Silver Springs Park has a playground, picnic pavilion, swimming pool, ball field, basketball courts and tennis courts. The Jordan Creek Greenway also connects the park to Smith Park and Jordan Valley Park.

“Silver Springs Park is more than a green space, it’s a cornerstone of our community’s heritage and resilience,” said Bob Dixon, Presiding Commissioner of Greene County. “Thanks to the collaboration between local leaders, the Neighborhood Coalition, and Greene County’s investment of ARPA funds, we are honoring the past by building a vibrant future. This renovation ensures that future generations will have a wonderful community park that tells the story on enduring legacy.”

There will be a short program commemorating the occasion with greetings from local officials and residents with a community reception to follow.

Construction began in October of 2024 and will conclude in June of 2025.

The architect for the renovation is Oke-Thomas and Associates and general contractor Nesbitt Construction.

The public is invited to the ribbon cutting.

The Park is located at 1100 N. Hampton Ave Springfield, MO.

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Greene County is the State of Missouri’s fourth most populous county, serving approximately 295,000 people. Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

For additional information, contact John Oke-Thomas and Associates by phone at 417-863-6262.

For Park Board inquiries, contact Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-224-5510.