

June 13, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Doling Lake and Waterway improvements dedication Friday, June 14

The City of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board will dedicate the new Doling Lake and Waterway Improvements on Flag Day, Friday, June 14, 10:30 a.m. at Doling Park 301 E. Talmage. The lakeside dedication will include Presentation of the Colors by the VFW Post 693, project highlights, Doling Park history and a ribbon cutting, followed by a stroll around the lake and 1913-era refreshments at the Doling History Museum.

The project including dredging of sediment from the lake, repair and stabilization of eroded lake banks, installation of a 1,214-foot paved walking trail around the lake, repair and upgrade of the lake spillway and stabilization of the stream channel, installation of a wetland and rain garden, improved pedestrian access to Giboney Cave and beautification of the area.

The improvements successfully improved access and water quality at Doling Lake, which was badly eroded and had been full of sediment and algae before the project took place.

Construction began in 2011 and was completed in late 2012. The dedication was scheduled later to allow monitoring of lake levels and to give water plants and grass time to grow.

Carson-Mitchell, Inc., was the general contractor with engineering design by Olsson Associates.

The \$1.6 million project was funded by the voter-approved county-wide 2006 Parks Sales Tax, which sunset June 30, 2012; as well as \$20,000 from the Springfield-Greene County Urban Watershed Stewardship Project (Big Urbie) EPA Section 319 Water Quality grant. The City is one of several partners on the Big Urbie grant with Watershed Committee of the Ozarks to implement stormwater practices that protect water quality. More info at www.bigurbie.org.

Doling Lake and Waterway is the fourth of six cooperative projects between Springfield Public Works and the Park Board designed to improve water quality and access to Lakes, Streams and Waterways in public parks. Waterway improvements at Sequiota Park, Fassnight Park and Dickerson Park Zoo are complete. Improvements are also planned for Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park and the Ward Branch Greenway.

Doling Park is one of the Park Board's ten historic parks highlighted this year during the Park Board's 100th anniversary. Doling Park has been a popular picnic, caving and swimming destination for generations of Springfieldians since James Marshall Doling purchased Giboney Cave and the surrounding 40 acres in 1883. In the early 1900s, private investors added an amusement park with a roller skating rink, dance hall, bandstand, ball fields, penny arcade, boat rentals and Shoot-the-Chutes, a multi-story outdoor slide which people rode with flat-bottomed boats into Doling Lake. The Park Board purchased Doling Park in 1929, and though the

amusement park was dismantled, the skating rink continued to operate through the 1960s. Today Doling Park is home to Doling Family Center, Northview Center and the Doling History Museum, dedicated to the park's colorful past.

For more information on Doling Lake and Waterway improvements, call Todd Wagner, Public Works Principal Stormwater Engineer at 417-864-1901; or Miles Park, Assistant Parks Director, at 417-864-1326.

For media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.