

February 12, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Doling Aquatics Addition Grand Opening Feb. 23**

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board will celebrate the Grand Opening of the Doling Aquatics Addition Saturday, Feb. 23, at 10:30 a.m. at Doling Family Center, 310 E. Talmage, Springfield. The Grand Opening includes a ribbon-cutting ceremony, refreshments and free swimming from the ribbon-cutting moment until 7:30 p.m.

The 13,778-square-foot addition features three pools: a 25-meter three-lane lap pool; a zero depth entry recreation/therapeutic pool with a water slide, aqua arch sprays, pools and falls play feature, water umbrella, basketball goal, a whirlpool spa and changing rooms. Construction began in fall of 2011.

The Doling Aquatics Addition will offer swim classes and private swim lessons for all ages, as well as water aerobics, water yoga and other therapeutic classes. Some pool hours will be dedicated to classes, lap swimming and adults-only swimming.

The \$3.358 million project was funded through the 2006 County-Wide Parks Sales Tax. Architects were Hood-Rich Architecture, with mechanical and electrical engineering by Smith-Goth Engineers, Inc. General contractor was Dock Brothers Construction Company. It is an energy-efficient building, designed to meet LEED-Silver Certification.

The Doling Aquatics Addition is built on the site of the former Doling Pool, an outdoor pool dating to 1965. The aquatics addition adjoins the Doling Family Center, which opened in 2003.

Doling Park, which surrounds the facility, is one of the Park Board's ten historic parks highlighted this year during the Park Board's 100th anniversary. Doling has been part of the Parks system since 1929, and has been a popular destination for generations of Springfieldians who remember roller skating and picnicking in the park and swimming in Doling Lake. Before it became a public park, Doling was privately operated as an amusement park with a dance hall, bandstand, ball fields, penny arcade, boat rentals and Shoot-the-Chutes, a multi-story outdoor slide with flat-bottomed boats, which people rode down into Doling Lake. Doling has functioned as a park as far back as 1882, when the Doling family purchased the land.

The Park Board now includes eight pool locations: indoor aquatics centers at Doling and Chesterfield, outdoor pools (open seasonally) at Fassnight, Grant Beach, Meador, Silver Springs and Westport parks, and the McGee-McGregor wading pool at Phelps Grove Park. The Park Board's outdoor pool attendance set a new record of 98,331 in 2012, up 10.4 percent over 2011, despite unavailability of the former Doling Pool.

Members of Chesterfield and Doling Family Centers may use the Doling Aquatics Addition for no charge as part of their membership. Dan Kinney Family Center members pay \$2 entrance fee. Non-member daily rates are \$7/adults, \$5/senior and youth.

For more information, visit [parkboard.org/aquatics](http://parkboard.org/aquatics) or call the Doling Family Center at 417-837-5900. 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.