May 11, 2012

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

**Fassnight Waterway/Stormwater Improvements Dedication**

The City of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board invite the public to help celebrate the completion of the Fassnight Park Waterway/Stormwater Improvement Project at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, May 15, 10:30 a.m. at Fassnight Park.

The event takes place at the Main Street bridge over Fassnight Creek, just east of Fassnight Pool. Parking is available at Fassnight Pool. The Parkview High School Choir will sing the National Anthem at the ceremony.

The $5 million improvement provides a stable and safe channel for Fassnight Creek, improving water quality and reducing flooding while maintaining the historic nature of the 1920s-era park. The project included replacement of bridges over Fassnight Creek at Campbell, Main and Grant Avenues as well as restoration of deteriorating retaining walls. These walls were also raised to help address periodic street flooding. A section of the new Fassnight Creek Greenway Trail was also installed along the creek bank, spanning from Bennett Street from the east to just west of Grant, with paved pedestrian and bicycle underpasses at Campbell and Grant.

Project funding was provided by $3.1 million from the Lakes, Stream and Waterways portion of the 2006 County-wide Parks Sales Tax, a $1.7 million Stormwater Infrastructure Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a $200,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant for trails.

Tuesday’s dedication also includes the unveiling of a new educational stormwater mural in the Campbell Avenue underpass. The mural was created by Ozarks Technical Community College Fine Arts student Karesse Wilkey, commissioned by the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and funded through their "Big Urbie" Stormwater Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Preservation of trees in Fassnight Park has remained a priority through the project. Portions of the greenway trail were raised to protect tree roots. Trees which necessary to remove during construction will be replanted two-to-one, following the City of Springfield’s Urban Tree Protection Policy.

Hartman & Company, Inc. served as General Contractor with engineering and landscape architecture services provided by Mathews & Associates (now Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.) Patti Banks Associates and natural stream specialists, Intuition & Logic.

For more information, contact: Todd Wagner, City of Springfield Stormwater Engineer, 417-864-1901; Barbara Lucks, Interim Sustainability Officer, 417-864-2005; or Jenny Fillmer
Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.