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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Summer Pool Attendance, Food Donations Set Records**



For the third summer in a row, Springfield-Greene County Park Board pool attendance has set new records.

Official pool attendance during the 2012 season was 98,331 — a 10.4-percent increase over 2011, despite the fact that Doling Pool was closed this summer due to reconstruction.

Attendance increased at all six remaining outdoor pools, but nowhere so much as Westport Pool, where attendance more than doubled to 14,875 during the first season after major renovation of the pool.

Of course, unusually high temperatures in June and July contributed to the jump in attendance. Extended pool hours— more than ever before — and a new maintenance schedule staggered to allow swimming seven days a week also helped enhance attendance. This year admission to the Chesterfield Indoor Aquatics Center was also made available at outdoor pool prices.

But aquatics staff members attribute a four-year trend in rising attendance to pool renovations, now complete at Fassnight (2009), Silver Springs (2010), Grant Beach (2011) and Westport pools.

“Every pool we’ve renovated has seen attendance skyrocket the first season, and attendance continues to grow year after year,” said Marc Baker, Aquatics Coordinator for the Springfield-

Greene Park Board. “Westport doubled in one year, but overall, Grant Beach and Silver Springs have quadrupled since being renovated. They’re all very nice, clean pools with updated slides, splash toys and features for all ages.”

Pool renovations at Fassnacht, Silver Springs, Grant Beach and Westport were promised to voters and funded by the ¼-cent 2006 Parks Sales Tax. The same sales tax funded reconstruction of the former Doling Pool into the new Doling Indoor Aquatics Center, set to open January 2013.

The Park Board’s Splash-n-Sizzle discount admission continued to be very popular this summer, offering free admission with a canned food donation after 5:30 p.m. every day or all day during special events. Through Splash-n-Sizzle, Parks donated 13,754 pounds of food — more than six tons — to Ozarks Food Harvest this summer, 1,332 pounds more than last year.

For more information, contact: Marc Baker, Aquatics Coordinator, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, 417-891-1616; or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator, 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.

Image Resources:

- [girl on climbing wall at Westport Pool](#)
- [kids playing with water features at Westport Pool](#)