February 22, 2010

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

**Parks' Leon Henderson to Retire After 37 Years**

Long-time Park Operations Supervisor Leon Henderson will retire in March after 37 years of service with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Henderson has provided a systematic approach in developing numerous standard operating procedures, best maintenance practices, and contributed years of general expertise with the direction of maintenance and operations of 102 Springfield-Greene County park sites.

Since his start with the Park Board in 1973, Henderson has been involved with the development of 40 parks. He also assisted in developing divisions of construction, turf management, and landscape/forestry within the department, along with guiding the maintenance practices at the Park Board's Dickerson Park Zoo. His exemplary service also includes leadership and direction to a crew of nearly 100 full-and-part-time maintenance, turf, and construction employees.

“Leon has been in a leadership role with our department for decades,” said Parks Superintendent of Operations Miles Park. “He is the backbone of our maintenance division, providing guidance and support to Park employees and offering up his years of experience to those in other departments and agencies when called upon. He’s a standout individual who we all have a tremendous amount of respect for.”

Henderson is credited for his commitment to sustainable practices, such as LEED certification, energy conservation, and water quality management, which have helped to save department funds, capital, staff hours, and environmental resources. He also recently played a critical role in
the city-county cleanup after the ice storms of 2007 and 2008 in southwest Missouri. Henderson received the Missouri Park and Recreation Association’s 2009 Citation Award for Support Staff.

For more information, contact: Bob Nelson, Public Information Administrator, 417-874-2176.