May 12, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

New Park & Trail Open - Lost Hill Park Natural Resource Area

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board will hold a dedication ceremony at 10:15 a.m., Friday, May 14 for the new Lost Hill Park Natural Resource Area and South Dry Sac Trailhead, 4705 N. Farm Road 151. A free, guided nature walk will begin at 11 a.m.

The 60-acre first-phase opening, located in unincorporated Greene County, features a 1.5-mile linear park trail to Truman Elementary; trailhead with parking; small playground; picnic tables, made from recycled plastic containers; restrooms; unique geological features; and other trails within the park. Future trail development between Lost Hill and Valley Water Mill Parks was identified in the Parks, Open Space and Greenways Master Plan. Easement acquisition and trail development is being led by Ozark Greenways, in partnership with the Park Board.

“The new park offers a unique geological addition to our city-county system with its caves, bluffs and other rock formations, and we’re excited for its uses as another outdoor classroom and environmental interpretation resource,” said Director of Parks Jodie Adams.

The Missouri Department of Conservation and City Utilities, with the help of a number of volunteers, coordinated the planting of approximately 4,500 tree seedlings along the South Dry Sac stream, which will help with the preservation of the park’s riparian corridor through stream bank stability, water quality improvements and keeping the water channel cooler for fish and other inhabitants. The trees also will add additional habitat for wildlife and add aesthetic value with spring blooms and fall colors to the Natural Resource Area.

The park was acquired in December 2004, as part of the 2001 voter-approved 1/4-cent city-county parks sales tax. The total park development cost is $498,195. Of that, $126,558 was acquired through a grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation for trailhead construction. The remaining 72 acres of the 132-acre property will open at a later date after development funds become available.

*Directions to site* (from Kearney Street and Kansas Expressway): Travel east on Kearney to Grant Ave. Travel north on Grant, past Ozark Empire Fairgrounds (Norton Road), past Hillcrest High School. Grant soon turns into Farm Road 151. Continue traveling north past Farm Road 96 to Park and Trailhead on left.

For more information, contact: Jodie Adams, Director of Parks, 417-864-1329; or Terry Whaley, Ozark Greenways, 417-864-2014.