

April 16, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

Earth Day at Unique Park Locations

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board has a number of ways to celebrate Earth Day outdoors.

Earth Day at Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center
11 a.m.—2 p.m., Friday, April 22, 2400 S. Scenic Ave.

Bring a lunch or purchase one from the Botanical Boutique and Marketplace for Picnic for the Planet from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Recycling and vermicomposting (worms) stations will be provided to encourage a no-waste lunch. Also from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., children can make-and-take free creative critters made from recycled materials.

Visitors also can take a scenic stroll through the blooming gardens or take a riding tour in the new solar tram. The free solar tram will travel all around the 114-acre park from noon—2 p.m. and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Call the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center at 417-891-1515 for more information.

Earth Day Weekend River Clean-Up
1—4 p.m., Saturday, April 23 at James River Water Trail Southwood Access

Volunteers, ages 12 and older, will float along the James River Water Trail cleaning up trash along the way. In addition to the float, staff from the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center will participate to help identify wildflowers. Volunteers may bring their own canoe or borrow one; limited supply. All participants must register by April 19 for this free event.

Call the Park Board's Outdoor Initiatives staff at 417-833-8647 for more information.

Party for the Planet & Enrichment EGGstravaganza
10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Saturday, April 23 at Dickerson Park Zoo, 1401 W. Norton Rd.

Dickerson Park Zoo will have hands-on activities and programs for kids 12 and younger including coffee filter art and pinwheels, a Mad Science "Earth & Water" program, "Where Lions and Cheetahs Live" and strolling magic performed by The Fishin' Magicians. Catch the "Vulture Culture" programs at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., featuring "Suli" the turkey vulture.

Along the zoo tour, zookeepers will provide papier-mâché eggs stuffed with food treats for the animals to "hunt." A complete list of these activities will be provided to zoo guests at the admission gate.

Activities are free with paid zoo admission. Zoo admission is \$8 for adults and teens and \$5 for children 3-12 years of age. The Zoo's hours of operation are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Call the Zoo's information hotline at 417-864-1800 for more information or visit www.DickersonParkZoo.org.

More Earth Day Activities in the Ozarks

For a complete list of Earth Day activities occurring throughout the month of April in the Ozarks, visit www.OzarksEnvironment.com.

For more information, media contact: Katie Steinhoff, Botanical Center, 417-891-1511; Melvin Johnson, James River Clean-up, 417-833-8647; Melinda Arnold, Dickerson Park Zoo, 417-833-1570.