

October 14, 2011

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Celebrate Zoo Waterway Improvements October 17**

The City of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board will host a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 17, at Dickerson Park Zoo, 3043 N. Fort Ave., for the completion of waterway improvements at the Zoo. This project is one in a series of six Lake, Stream and Waterway Improvement improvements in historic parks.

The event will be held near the Zoo's lake. Media and visitors can park in the visitor lots and enter the grounds at the gate just west of the visitor's center main entrance.

The \$732,000 project has improved lake water quality and aesthetics by stabilizing banks and re-vegetation, improving water runoff quality from animal exhibits and reducing flooding. The results will reduce bacteria flow into the Little Sac River. The overall scope of the project included:

- A new 38-foot pedestrian bridge to replace the existing deteriorating structure.
- Five extended-detention water quality basins to remove pollutants from animal exhibits and improve water quality runoff to Pea Ridge Creek downstream.
- Excavation for two rain gardens to improve water quality and act as an educational tool for Zoo visitors.
- Construction of a new island within the existing lake to reduce bank erosion and provide an updated exhibit space for lemurs.
- Various stormwater improvements consisting of berms, swales, and pipes to reduce flooding at several locations throughout the Zoo.

Funding for the project is provided by the 2006 County-wide Parks Sales Tax.

All six Lake, Stream and Waterway Improvement projects share a strong focus on sustainability and protection of the natural water environment. Two of the projects are nearing completion at Fassnacht and Sequiota Parks. Another is in progress at Doling Park. Two future projects will be located at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park and the Ward Branch Greenway.

The contractor is Herion Construction. The consulting engineer is Olsson/Scott Engineering. More information, including photos, can be found on the project website at: [www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater/zoo.html](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater/zoo.html).

For more information, contact: Todd Wagner, City of Springfield Stormwater Engineer, (417) 864-1901.