

Recreation, Sports and Leisure

"Parks and recreational opportunities connect you with what is important."

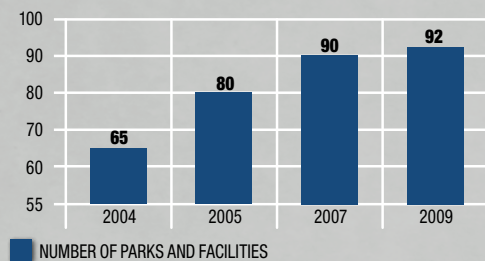
— Robert Horton

Executive Director, Urban Neighborhoods Alliance

BLUE RIBBONS (2004 – 2007)

- Partnerships
- Parks, Open Space and Greenways

SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY PARK BOARD
NUMBER OF PARKS/FACILITIES 2004-2009



- SPARC
- Ozarks Regional YMCA
- Boys & Girls Club
- Professional/Collegiate Teams
- Sports Museums
- Waterways
- Caves
- Discovery Center
- Dickerson Park Zoo
- Springfield-Greene County Library District

SPRINGFIELD-GREENE COUNTY LIBRARY ACTIVITY

Library Usage	Circulation	Attendance	Programs/Attendance
2004	2,990,000	1,583,213	2,390 / 68,350
2005	3,156,458	1,626,184	2,261 / 47,572
2006	3,232,679	1,632,927	1,979 / 47,043
2007	3,373,550	1,635,204	2,013 / 46,190
2008	3,626,792	1,678,868	4,640 / 52,473

CURRENT STATUS OF 2004 – 2007 RED FLAGS

Securing Green Space

The 2005 *Community Focus* report identified the race to secure green space and set aside parks for wildlife habitat and recreation. With continued urban sprawl, a comprehensive plan to secure natural areas and to preserve the environment for future parks, open space and greenways of Greene County is essential.



A strategic and evolving plan has been implemented to obtain new park land and property acquisitions through private donations, grants and a county-wide parks sales tax.

Success has resulted from the master plan which was implemented for the following park sites: Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park, Rex P. Kreider Park, Lake Springfield Park, Valley Water Mill, Dan Kinney Park and Lost Hill Park. However, identifying and acquiring available land and property throughout Greene County will be an ongoing test for the Springfield community.

The collaborative initiatives supported by the master plan also have contributed to executing the redevelopment of neighborhood parks such as Weaver, Silver Springs, Doling, and Lafayette. These parks are decades old and landlocked. By working with the neighborhoods, additional space needed to expand the boundaries of those parks has been obtained.



EMERGING ISSUES

◆ Economic Impact

Current economic conditions are forcing many agencies to operate their facilities and/or programs at or above capacity while the number of financial requests made to these agencies has increased. While there is a significant increase in use and request for financial aid, agencies are unfortunately faced with limited resources to match increased demand.



◆ Obesity

The alarming rate of obesity in children continues to rise and is evident in the fact that this generation is the first where life expectancy is less than the generation before. It is expected that this issue will continue to worsen without continued efforts to get more children out for exercise and play.



◆ Conservation

In conserving the environment and thus preserving quality of life in the Springfield-Greene County community, waterways are a continued focus. In collaboration with Springfield Public Works and the Greene County Commission, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board is working to establish and implement the best practices to upgrade park lakes, waterways and streams which impact the storm water areas throughout our region.

