

# **COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE**

**Compiled by the Interpreters' Coalition of  
Springfield-Greene County**

**Information to assist in utilizing the varied resources of our  
community toward field education,  
Virtual resources and hands-on learning experiences**

**2025-2026**

**(Updated February 2025)**

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# COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

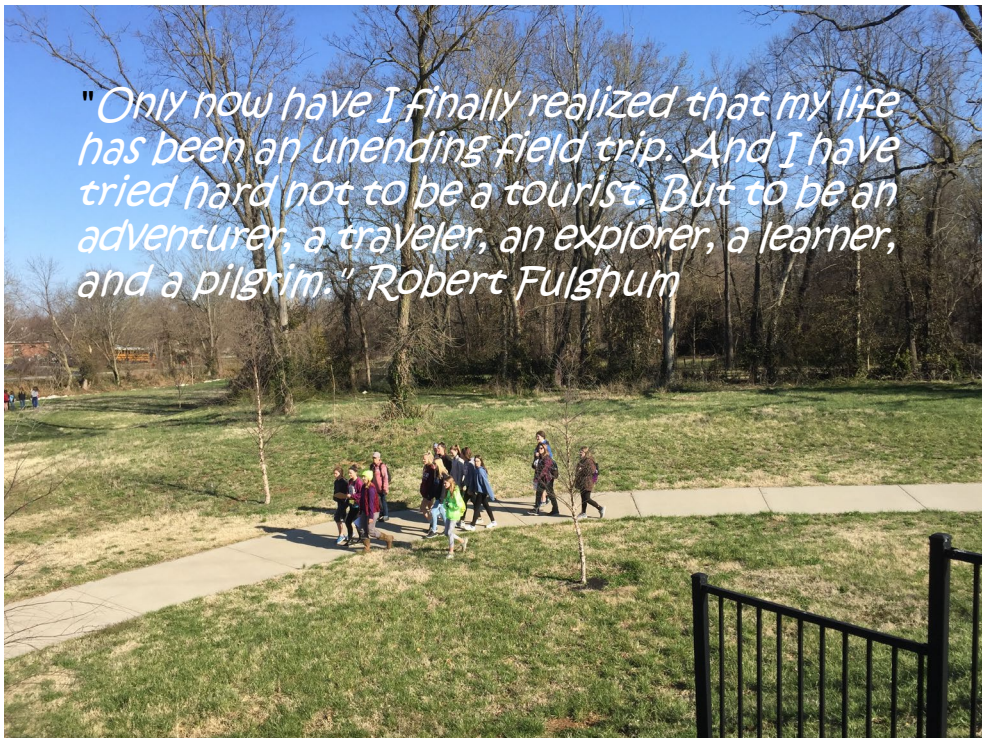
## 2025-2026

**Compiled by the Interpreters' Coalition of Springfield-Greene County**

### **About the Interpreters' Coalition**

The goal of the Interpreters' Coalition is to provide learners of all ages with access to unique and varied environments that can help expand horizons, encounter new experiences, and enhance access to personal learning adventures. "The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing." (Albert Einstein)

The resources listed in this guide are intended to provide guidance in locating the wealth of interactive, hands-on field experiences available throughout the Springfield-Greene County region. The Coalition exists to help enrich the educational opportunities of learners of all ages, and currently consists of a wide variety of sources, ranging from non-profit organizations to governmental agencies. This group of informal educators represents cross-curricular interests and expertise including science and the environment, history and social studies, communication and technology, and the arts.



## Tips and Planning Guide

Before heading out to a location, the following tips are recommended:

1. Call ahead! While every effort has been made to provide current information, it's always a good idea to double check before heading out. **While every effort is made to present current information, pricing and hours of operation are subject to change.**
2. To maximize effectiveness of learning, visit the site ahead of time. Familiarize yourself with features of the destination such as location of restrooms, entrance/exit, overall layout etc. Use this pre-trip visit to develop curriculum connections and establish learning goals for students.
3. If scheduling a group, be aware of group pricing, group guidelines, and group scheduling. Also be aware of any cancellation policies.
4. Timing is everything! Spring/summer, Fridays and early morning hours tend to be busiest. To avoid crowds, consider scheduling your learning adventure in fall or winter, mid-week, and after noon.
5. Plan your lunch with the environment in mind! If it's possible to avoid fast food, consider other options. If packing a lunch, consider packing a low waste lunch. Ways to pack a low waste lunch include:
  - Pack in a reuseable lunch box.
  - Pack sandwiches, chips and additional snack items in reuseable containers.
  - Pack a beverage in either a reuseable thermos, or purchase beverages in aluminum cans. Aluminum is easier to recycle than single serve plastic bottles.
  - If utensils are needed for lunch, plan ahead and pack a set of silverware instead of single serve plastic utensils.
  - Don't forget the napkin! Pack a reuseable cloth napkin instead of a single use paper napkin.
6. Many of the locations listed in the guide have parks nearby—make part of the pre-adventure plan a scan of park options, then plan a trip route to maximize travel time.
7. Don't forget to let site staff know if you've learned something new! Write a letter or tag the site in a social media post!



**City of Springfield  
Department of Environmental Services  
Solid Waste Management Division  
Household Chemical Collection Center**

**Mission:** The mission of the City of Springfield's Solid Waste Management Division is to provide an Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Springfield and Greene County that is environmentally sound and economically feasible which represents a long-term solution to preserve the natural resources of the region for present and future generations.

**Location:** 1226 West Nichols (just east of Kansas on Nichols), Springfield

**Contact Information:** Laurie Davis, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Services  
417-864-2007 (office) or 417-300-3981 (cell)  
[laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/hccc](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/hccc)

**Availability:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., by reservation

**Programs:** Tours of the Household Chemical Collection Center are available. Activities include familiarizing students with the variety of household chemicals collected, safety procedures utilized for safe disposal etc., and relating the activities of the Center to water quality protection efforts and minimizing environmental impact.

**Age/Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade-adult

**Group Size:** Tours of the City of Springfield's Household Chemical Collection Center are available for groups up to 30.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Because of potential liability concerns, we request an adult/student ratio of one adult per 10 students.

**Fees:** There is no charge for the tours.

**Notes:** We will be happy to assist in creating a "customized" tour for your group. Some other related City owned/operated facilities include: the Lone Pine Avenue and Franklin Avenue Recycling Centers, the Springfield Noble Hill Sanitary Landfill, The Yardwaste Recycling Center or Wastewater Treatment Plants. Tours centered around a theme of waste reduction/ recycling or water quality are especially well-suited for these facilities.

**Lunch Provisions:** Several parks are within a short drive of the facility.



**City of Springfield  
Department of Environmental Services  
Solid Waste Management Division  
Noble Hill Sanitary Landfill**

**Mission:** The mission of the City of Springfield's Solid Waste Management Division is to provide an Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Springfield and Greene County that is environmentally sound and economically feasible which represents a long-term solution to preserve the natural resources of the region for present and future generations.

**Location:** 9 miles north of I-44 on Hwy 13, then left onto Farm Road 34.

**Contact Information:** Laurie Davis, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Services  
417-864-2007 (office) or 417-300-3981 (cell)  
[laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/landfill](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/landfill)

**Availability:** Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., by reservation

**Programs:** Presentation takes place on site at the landfill, with emphasis on design features of the landfill, components that provide protection to air, water, and land, and discussion related to human impact on the environment.

**Age/Grade Level:** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade-adult

**Group Size:** Tours of the City of Springfield's Noble Hill Sanitary Landfill are available for groups up to 30.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Because of potential liability concerns, heavy equipment, etc., we request an adult/student ratio of one adult per 10 students (younger students may require more adult supervision).

**Fees:** There is no charge for the tours.

**Notes:** We will be happy to assist in creating a “customized” tour for your group. Some other related City owned/operated facilities include: the Household Chemical Collection Center, the Lone Pine or Franklin Recycling Centers, The Yardwaste Recycling Center or Wastewater Treatment Plants. Tours centered around a theme of waste reduction/recycling or water quality are especially well-suited for these facilities.

**Lunch Provisions:** Several parks are within a short drive .



**City of Springfield  
Department of Environmental Services  
Solid Waste Management Division  
Franklin Recycling Center**

**Mission:** The mission of the City of Springfield's Solid Waste Management Division is to provide an Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Springfield and Greene County that is environmentally sound and economically feasible which represents a long-term solution to preserve the natural resources of the region for present and future generations.

**Location:** Franklin Avenue-713 North Franklin Avenue, Springfield, 65802

**Contact Information:** Laurie Davis, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Services  
417-864-2007 (office) or 417-300-3981 (cell)  
[laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling)

**Availability:** Tuesday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., by reservation

**Programs:** Tours of the City of Springfield's Franklin Avenue Recycling Center are available for groups. Activities include exploring the variety of materials collected, strategies for recycling right, and learning about types of products that can be made from various recycled materials.

**Age/Grade Level:** Kindergarten through High School

**Group Size:** Tours of the City of Springfield's Recycling Centers are available for groups of up to 30.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Because of potential liability concerns, heavy equipment, etc., we request an adult/student ratio of one adult per 10 students (younger students may require more adult supervision).

**Fees:** There is no charge for the tours.

**Note:** We will be happy to assist in creating a "customized" tour for your group. Some other related City owned/operated facilities include: the Household Chemical Collection Center, the Springfield Noble Hill Sanitary Landfill, The Yardwaste Recycling Center or Wastewater Treatment Plants. Tours centered around a theme of waste reduction/recycling or water quality are especially well-suited for these facilities.

**Lunch Provisions:** Several parks are within a short drive of the location.



**City of Springfield  
Department of Environmental Services  
Solid Waste Management Division  
Outreach Presentations**

**Mission:** The mission of the City of Springfield's Department of Environmental Services Sustainability Division is to support and encourage environmental practices in Springfield and Greene County that are environmentally sound and economically feasible which represents a long-term solution to preserve the natural resources of the region for present and future generations.

**Location:** Environmental Resource Center, 290 E. Central, Springfield, MO 65802

**Contact Information:** Laurie Davis, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Services  
417-864-2007 (office) or 417-300-3981 (cell)  
[laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/eseducation](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/eseducation)

**Availability:** Varies depending on type of request/staff availability.

**Programs:** The Solid Waste Division of the City of Springfield's Department of Environmental Services Education Outreach team is available to provide a variety of resources. Presentations can be scheduled that target a variety of topics including Air Quality, Water Quality, Landfill Features, Recycling Right, Composting, Food Waste and Sustainability. Programs range in length from 30 minutes to an hour and can be customized depending on needs of participants.

**Age/Grade Level:** Pre-k to adult

**Group Size:** Varies—we can work to accommodate groups of varying sizes..

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Minimum 1 classroom instructor required for in-class presentations for K- 12 audiences.

**Fees:** There is no charge for use of resources or presentations.

**Lunch Provisions:** N/A



**City of Springfield  
Department of Environmental Services  
Clean Water Services Division  
Wastewater Treatment Plants/  
Sewer System**

**Mission:** The City is committed to maintaining an efficient sanitary sewer system to assure the most effective level of wastewater collection and treatment for the protection of our community's health and environment.

**Contact Information:** Laurie Davis, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Services  
417-864-2007 (office) or 417-300-3981(cell)  
[laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/wastewater](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/wastewater)

**Availability:** Monday through Friday 8:00am--3:00 pm by reservation

**Programs:** Tours of the Northwest and Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plants are available. An on-site presentation about sewer system can be scheduled separately.

**Age/Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above.

**Group Size:** Any size group can be accommodated. They will be broken into groups of 20-25 and a minimum of one adult is required per 20-25 students. We do not have extra personnel available, other than the tour guide, to accompany the students.

**Fees:** None

**Northwest Wastewater Treatment Plant**

**Location:** 4801 N. State Highway 13—3.5 miles north of I-44 on west side of State Hwy. 13

**Lunch Provisions:** Nearest restaurant: Kansas at Kearney, approximately 5 miles from the site.

**Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant**

**Location:** 3301 S. FF Highway

**Lunch Provisions:** Nearest restaurant: Kansas at Battlefield, approximately 5 miles from the site.



**City of Springfield  
Department of Environmental Services  
Water Quality Division**

**Mission:** The Water Quality Division works to protect and improve water quality and the environment for a healthy, vibrant community.

**Location:** Variable depending on desired program. Locations include urban streams such as Fassnight creek, South Creek, Jordan Creek, Wilson's Creek, etc. or visiting specific stormwater demonstration projects within Springfield: bioswales and rain gardens, pervious parking lots, detention basins, etc.

**Contact Information:** Clarissa Hatley, Education Outreach Specialist  
290 E. Central Street, Springfield, MO 65802  
Phone: (417) 864-2005 office; (417) 840-2341(cell)  
[chatley@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:chatley@springfieldmo.gov)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/stormwater)

**Availability:** Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., by reservation

**Programs:** : Biological water quality monitoring - macroinvertebrate sampling of an urban stream (Fassnight; South Creek; Jordan Creek); Chemical water quality monitoring (Wilson's Creek, FassnightCreek) Stream clean-up (Fassnight Creek); Stormwater infrastructure tour (Fassnight Creek). Riparian zone project tour (Wilson's creek). Stormwater demonstration projects tour (City government compound, Campbell street scape bioswales). Urban stream restoration projects (South Creek, Jordan Creek). Combination of one or more programs is possible. Lessons and activities provide students with an understanding of the relationship between stormwater runoff in urban areas and personal/local actions to prevent storm water pollution.

**Age/Grade Level:** 5th grade through adult

**Group Size:** Programs can accommodate groups of up to 30.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Because of potential liability concerns, stream monitoring equipment and litter cleanup, etc., we request an adult/student ratio of one adult per 15 students (younger students may require more adult supervision).

**Fees:** None

**Lunch Provisions:** : Locations are occasionally at or near a city park where picnic tables are available. Please ask for details or recommendations depending on the desired program location.



**City of Springfield  
Department of Environmental Services  
Solid Waste Management Division  
Yardwaste Recycling Center**

**Mission:** The mission of the City of Springfield's Solid Waste Management Division is to provide an Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Springfield and Greene County that is environmentally sound and economically feasible which represents a long-term solution to preserve the natural resources of the region for present and future generations.

**Location:** Near the Southwest Waste Water Treatment Plant: go west on Sunshine (Hwy. 60), turn left(south) onto Farm Road I15, turn left (east) onto Farm Road I64 and follow the signs to the Center.

**Contact Information:** Laurie Davis, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Services  
417-864-2007 (office) or 417-300-3981(cell)  
[laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:laurie.davis@springfieldmo.gov)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling)

**Availability:** Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., by reservation

**Programs:** Tours of the Yardwaste Recycling Center are available. Activities include familiarizing participants with the concept of decomposition and waste reduction.

**Age/Grade Level:** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to adult.

**Group Size:** Tours of the City of Springfield's Yardwaste Recycling Center are available for groups of up to 30.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Because of potential liability concerns, we request an adult/student ratio of one adult per 10 students (younger students may require additional adult supervision).

**Fees:** There is no charge for the tours.

**Notes:** We will be happy to work assist in creating a “customized” tour for your group. Some other related City owned/operated facilities include: the Lone Pine Avenue and Franklin Avenue Recycling Centers, the Springfield Noble Hill Sanitary Landfill, The Household Chemical Collection Center or Wastewater Treatment Plants. Tours centered around a theme of waste reduction/recycling or water quality are especially well-suited for these facilities.

**Lunch Provisions:** Several parks are within a short drive .



## City Utilities - Fulbright Water Treatment Plant City Utilities - Blackman Water Treatment Plant

**Mission:** City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, is a publicly-owned utility governed by the Board of Public Utilities. City Utilities is responsible for the generation, transmission and distribution of electric power; the acquisition, transportation, and distribution of natural gas; the acquisition, treatment and distribution of water; the operation of SpringNet broadband; and the operation of the public transportation system for the City of Springfield and the surrounding area. City Utilities and its employees recognize the critical role of education in the community and strive to provide students and teachers with opportunities to enrich and advance their learning experiences. With approximately 1,000 people of diverse backgrounds, interests and skills, CU's employees take pride in answering the call when community needs must be met. That is why we are proud to provide the following information to help you, the educator, in making the connections between the classroom, community, environment and business.

**Location:** Fulbright Plant is located at 3920 N. Farmer Rd. Blackman Plant is located at 2601 S. Blackman Rd.

**Contact Information:** Kelli Quinn, 417-831-8881, e-mail [kelli.quinn@cityutilities.net](mailto:kelli.quinn@cityutilities.net)

**Availability:** Tours are available March through November; on Tuesday through Thursday, if tour guides are available. The last tour time of the day is 3:00 p.m. The tour will take approximately 45 to 60 minutes.

**Programs:** Curriculum connections: Physical Science, source and treatment of drinking water, effects of science and technology, impact science has on careers. We do not have adequate staff to do classroom presentations. All tours are subject to tour guide availability. Because the security of CU's water treatment facilities is top priority, safety guidelines will be given at the beginning of the tour and must be followed. Reservations need to be made at least a week in advance.

**Age/Grade Level:** Students taking these tours must be sixth grade level or higher.

**Group Size:** Maximum group of 30 people (will be divided into two groups of 15 for touring)

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Age 18 or under, must have one parent or teacher per 10 students.

**Fees:** There is no charge for the tour.

**Lunch Provisions:** Fulbright Plant is located near the Zoo and all the restaurants on West Kearney.



## City Utilities – John Twitty Energy Center (JTEC)

**Mission:** City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, is a publicly-owned utility governed by the Board of Public Utilities. City Utilities is responsible for the generation, transmission and distribution of electric power; the acquisition, transportation, and distribution of natural gas; the acquisition, treatment and distribution of water; the operation of SpringNet broadband; and the operation of the public transportation system for the City of Springfield and the surrounding area. City Utilities and its employees recognize the critical role of education in the community and strive to provide students and teachers with opportunities to enrich and advance their learning experiences. With approximately 1,000 people of diverse backgrounds, interests and skills, CU's employees take pride in answering the call when community needs must be met. That is why we are proud to provide the following information to help you, the educator, in making the connections between the classroom, community, environment and business.

**Location:** JTEC is located at the intersection of Farm Roads 115 and 164 in Greene County Missouri. JTEC is comprised of four generating units with a combined capacity of 600 Megawatts of power. A map of the site can be faxed on request.

**Contact Information:** Matt Kastner, 417-874-8072 or 417-863-9000.  
[Matt.Kastner@cityutilities.net](mailto:Matt.Kastner@cityutilities.net)

**Availability:** 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday thru Friday. (Best to schedule 1-2 weeks ahead).

**Programs:** Curriculum connections: Physical Science, sources of energy, effects of science and technology, impact science has on careers. Staffing is not available to provide "In school" presentations. We offer General (45 minutes to 1 hour) and In Depth (1 ½ hours) tours. They include an overview of how electrical power is generated using coal and natural gas. The balance of time is spent in small groups touring our station.

**Age/Grade Level:** Must be at least 10 years old.

**Group Size:** 5 to 50 people

**Student/Adult Ratio:** At least one adult per 10 attendees is required. A list of all people attending is required upon arrival from the tour leader.

**Fees:** No Fee

**Lunch Provisions:** Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is 4 miles, Springfield City limits is 3 ½ miles, Republic is 5 miles. Springfield Park Board's Ewing and Nathanael Greene parks are both approximately 5 miles from the Station.

## City Utilities – CU Solar Farm

**Mission:** City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, is a publicly-owned utility governed by the Board of Public Utilities. City Utilities is responsible for the generation, transmission and distribution of electric power; the acquisition, transportation, and distribution of natural gas; the acquisition, treatment and distribution of water; the operation of SpringNet broadband; and the operation of the public transportation system for the City of Springfield and the surrounding area. City Utilities and its employees recognize the critical role of education in the community and strive to provide students and teachers with opportunities to enrich and advance their learning experiences. With approximately 1,000 people of diverse backgrounds, interests and skills, CU's employees take pride in answering the call when community needs must be met. That is why we are proud to provide the following information to help you, the educator, in making the connections between the classroom, community, environment and business.

**Location:** Northwest corner of Farm Road 209 and Farm Road 112. The 4.95 MW Solar Farm is the largest in the state of Missouri, hosting nearly 22,000 solar panels.

**Contact Information:** Hallie Simniok 417-831-8662, [hallie.simniok@cityutilities.net](mailto:hallie.simniok@cityutilities.net)

**Availability:** 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Best to schedule 2-3 weeks ahead.

**Programs:** Curriculum connections: Physical Science, effects of science and technology, renewable sources of energy.

**Age/Grade Level:** Third grade level and higher.

**Group Size:** 1 – 100 Outdoors.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Age 18 or under, must have one parent or teacher per 10 students.

**Fees:** No Fee

**Lunch Provisions:** Located approximately 4 miles east of Hwy 65 and Kearney St.

## City Utilities - Speakers Bureau

**Mission:** City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, is a publicly-owned utility governed by the Board of Public Utilities. City Utilities is responsible for the generation, transmission and distribution of electric power; the acquisition, transportation, and distribution of natural gas; the acquisition, treatment and distribution of water; the operation of SpringNet broadband; and the operation of the public transportation system for the City of Springfield and the surrounding area. City Utilities and its employees recognize the critical role of education in the community and strive to provide students and teachers with opportunities to enrich and advance their learning experiences. With approximately 1,000 people of diverse backgrounds, interests and skills, CU's employees take pride in answering the call when community needs must be met. That is why we are proud to provide the following information to help you, the educator, in making the connections between the classroom, community, environment and business.

**Contact Information:** Call our Speakers Bureau at 417-831-8433 during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at least two weeks in advance.

**Programs:** CU employees are available to speak to Kindergarten through twelfth grade classrooms, and collegiate level classes, on a variety of subjects. Tell us your topic of interest, the size and age of the audience, date, time and location. Possible topics:

- Careers in the Utility Industry
- Customer Service Issues
- Economic Development
- Electric Generation
- Electric Transmission and Distribution
- Electric or Natural Gas Safety
- Energy & Water Efficiency
- Environmental Issues
- Financial/Budget Topics
- Industry Changes – How they Affect City Utilities and the Community
- Infrared Thermography
- Long Range/Strategic Planning
- Marketing and Communications
- Missouri Sunshine Law
- Natural Gas Distribution
- Natural Gas Measurement and Issues
- Public Transportation
- Reliability of the U.S. Electric System
- Renewable Energy
- Risk Management and Insurance
- Sustainability
- Telecommunication Services
- Tree Management
- Utility Security
- Water Quality
- Water Supply and Treatment

If your area of interest is not specifically named, please ask about it and we will do our best to accommodate you.

## Dickerson Park Zoo

**Mission:** Dickerson Park Zoo connects people with animals to create curiosity, encourage discovery and inspire conservation action.

**Location:** 1401 W. Norton Road, Springfield (Located northeast of the intersection of I-44 and Kansas Expressway/MO Hwy 13; take Exit 77 on I-44.)

**Contact Information:** Rhonda Wise, Conservation Education Director

[rwise@dickersonparkzoo.org](mailto:rwise@dickersonparkzoo.org)

Phone: (417) 833-1570 Fax: (417)833-4459

Website: [www.dickersonparkzoo.org](http://www.dickersonparkzoo.org)

Mailing address: 3043 N. Fort Ave., Springfield, MO 65803

**Availability:** 9 am to 5 pm, April-October; 9 am to 4 pm, November-March weather permitting

**Programs:** A number of on-site, outreach and virtual conservation education programs are available for a nominal fee. Programs typically range from 20-45 minutes. Live animals and biofacts are included for an up-close and hands-on experience. Child care facilities and Pre-K Animal Encounter programs are scheduled from September through May. Summer camps are also available for children PreK through Middle School. The zoo collaborates with other agencies/educational resources to provide specialized conservation education programs. Customized programs can be arranged with sufficient lead time.

**Age/Grade Level:** Programs are scheduled for groups of all ages. Programs align with the Next Generation Science Standards for public and home school age students.

**Group Size:** Groups of any size can be accommodated. Larger groups may be divided.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** One adult supervisor for each 10 children is requested.

**Fees:** Adults and Teenagers...\$19      Children 3-12 \$14  
Seniors (60 and older)...\$14 Age 2 and younger Free

Groups with 15 or more paying adult or child admission receive discounted admission of \$9 for adults and teenagers and \$7 for children ages 3-12. In order to qualify for the group admission rate, everyone must enter as a group and pay in one single transaction. Children on free or reduced lunch program in Greene County schools receive free admission when attending with their school/class.

**Notes:** Groups are encouraged to contact the Dickerson Park Zoo Conservation Education Department when planning a field trip. Frequently asked questions, information to expedite your admission and scavenger hunts can be accessed on our website, [www.dickersonparkzoo.org](http://www.dickersonparkzoo.org). Mini-classes can be scheduled to enhance the learning experience for your group. Call the Education Department (417)833-1570 for pricing and scheduling information. Please schedule at least two weeks in advance but may require more notice during March-July.

**Food and Drinks:** : Groups can bring sack lunches and eat in the playground park *outside* of the zoo. Outside food and drink are not allowed on grounds. A covered pavilion with picnic tables is located in the playground park; for a nominal fee, the pavilion can be reserved by calling the zoo office at (417)833-1570.

- LUNCHES OR COOLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE ZOO.
- You may exit for lunch and return the same day.
- You can purchase pre-ordered lunches from our café with at least a two week advance notice. Email: [questservices@dickersonparkzoo.org](mailto:guestservices@dickersonparkzoo.org) for more information.

The zoo's Bush Country Café offers hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, chicken strips, soft drinks, snacks and ice cream.

Bush Country Café hours:

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April - October

10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily in March

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekends only November - February

**Outback Corral** – is open when an attendant is present. Animal feed is available for purchase during these designated feeding times. Petting zoo feed machines accept tokens for feed purchases. A change machine is available to exchange paper money for tokens.

**Giraffe Deck** – is open when an attendant is present. Feed can be purchased for giraffes during designated feeding times. Cash or credit card are accepted at the attendant's station on the deck; feed is \$4. The attendant will also accept four tokens for feed purchases.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March- October

Closed for the season from November through February

**The Titus Express Miniature Train** – Tickets are \$3 per person or 2 tokens. Children younger than 2 ride free. Cash or credit card are accepted at the attendant's station to purchase ride tickets. Guests may also use two tokens per person to ride the train.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March- October Closed for the season from November through February

**Strollers and Wheelchairs** –Single strollers (\$8) and double strollers (\$10) are available at the admission gate. The zoo also rents electric convenience vehicles ("electric wheelchairs") for \$30 and manual wheelchairs (\$10) are available upon request. A driver's license is required as a deposit.



## Discovery Center of Springfield

Discovery Center

**Mission:** To inspire curiosity and a life-long love of learning through memorable and engaging hands-on experiences in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. The Discovery Center of Springfield is an interactive, hands-on science center that inspires a life-long love of learning and an appreciation for the world and our place in it. Our vision is to deliver a world-class experience through cutting edge science.

**Location:** 438 St. Louis Street, Springfield, Missouri, 65806

**Book your Field Trip Online:**

<https://www.discoverycenter.org/programs/field-trips/>

**Questions? Contact:** Alex Weldon-Bartelt, Community Engagement Manager,  
[fieldtrips@discoverycenter.org](mailto:fieldtrips@discoverycenter.org)

**Programs:** Outreach, Distance Learning, Summer Camps, Girl Scout/Boy Scout programs, Discovery School, Science Sprouts Discovery School, Field Trip programs, and other learning opportunities that are available on a variety of topics.

**Age/Grade Level:** All ages are encouraged to visit the Discovery Center, interact with our exhibits, and participate in special events.

**Group Size:** Pre-registration is needed; a minimum of 12 paying guests is required for the group discount.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Chaperones are required on a 1 to 5 ratio of adults to children.

**Fees:**

- Group rate-\$8.00 per person, students and adult chaperones.
- Programs-starting at \$3 per student.

**Notes:** For best choice of field trip date/time and program options, reservations should be made early. April through July tend to be very busy!

**Lunch:** Lunch rooms can be booked with your field trip starting at \$30.



**Mission:**

Lead the world in creating safety and fun in and around the water.

**Location:**

5225 S Campbell Ave, Springfield, MO 65810

**Contact Information:**

Shawntel Robertson, Aquatics Experience Lead

[Shawntel.robertson@diventures.com](mailto:Shawntel.robertson@diventures.com)

[Diventures.com](http://Diventures.com)

417.883.5151

**Availability:**

Upon request, year-round. Classes can be held on site or off.

**Water Safety Education:**

Fatal drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional injury death behind motor vehicle crashes for children ages 1–14. (CDC) At Diventures we are committed to reducing that number, not only through swim lessons, but also through water safety education. We've partnered with the American Red Cross to provide a free interactive presentation designed for kids, kindergarten through sixth grade, to teach the importance of water safety.

**Age/Grade Level:**

All ages

**Group Size:**

1 to 300

**Fees:**

Free

Additional specialized programs available. Group size and fees vary per program. Topics include:

- Try Scuba - Every Sunday, or by request (Ages 10+)
- Open Water Diver – Weekly, or by request (Ages 12+)
- Snorkeling – By request
- Explorers – Quarterly / Monthly (Ages 8-12)

For specific information on these programs and more, visit the website at

<https://www.diventures.com/locations/springfield/>

## Fantastic Caverns

**Mission:** Fantastic Caverns works daily to protect the cave while also providing visitors a glimpse of the subterranean Ozarks. Visiting the cave introduces students to the unique geology, biology and best management practices of Karst topography. The hope is that students will gain an appreciation of caves, and a realization that caves are important natural features that are sensitive to changes in the environment and water quality.

**Location:** 4872 North Farm Road 125, Springfield, MO 65803

**Contact Information:** Phone: (417) 833-2010 (Reservations), Fax: (417) 833-2042 (Cave Business Office), Website: [CaveScience.org](http://CaveScience.org)

**Availability:** Open daily 8:00 AM till dusk except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas.

**Programs:** The 55-minute all-riding cave excursion.

Departures for the 55-minute ride-through cave experience can be scheduled on the hour (9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., or 1 p.m.).

The 55-minute all-riding cave excursion is available 362 days a year.

The 90-minute cave experience; Living in Cave Country.

Departures for the 90-minute cave experience are only available at 10 a.m. or 12 p.m..

The 90-minute cave experience is only available during the months of November, December, January, and February.

The 90-minute cave experience includes the 55-minute all-riding cave experience plus 30 minutes of activities at Fantastic Caverns' Underground Classroom.

**Age/Grade Level:** All ages and grade levels

**Group Size:** Minimum of 20 passengers. Maximum of 50 passengers. Larger groups should plan multiple departures.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** At least one teacher/adult per tram.

**Fees:** General Admission Adult: \$34.00

General Admission Child: \$17.00

Adult Group Rate\*: \$24.00

Child Group Rate\*: \$7.00

Ages 13 & up qualify for adult rates.

Ages 12 & under qualify for child rates.

Ages 5 & under are free when accompanied by their parent.

\* Group rates are extended to parties of 20 or more paid admissions. All group-rate tickets must be purchased collectively - the total payment must be in one lump sum. **Reservations are required.**

**Notes:** Ride-through expeditions at Fantastic Caverns are conducted by experienced guides operating Jeep-drawn trams. Trams are accessible to wheelchairs no larger than 28 inches wide and 45 inches high. Passengers should be able to bend forward or duck briefly at a few places inside the cave to ensure clearance with the cave ceiling. Fantastic Caverns has a gift shop, offering a variety of rocks, minerals and souvenirs. There is also a small trail on property that leads to the Little Sac River.

**Lunch:** Groups are welcome to bring sack lunches and eat on the cave grounds. Groups are encouraged to bring picnic blankets for use outside or within the visitor center when the weather is not agreeable. Ritter Springs, a Springfield-Greene County park, is a mile from Fantastic Caverns and offers additional bathroom and picnic facilities, trails and a playground. Several restaurants are located within five miles.

## Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri Legacy Trails Subdivision



**Mission:** The vision of Habitat for Humanity of Springfield is to eliminate substandard housing in Greene County, Missouri. Legacy Trails Phase 1 has 24 homes and Phase 2 started in 2012 and as of 2020 has 15 homes. The community is the region's first residential Low Impact Development (LID). LID is an ecologically friendly approach to site development and storm water management that aims to mitigate development impacts to land, water, and air. There is also a house on site certified at the Platinum level in the LEED for Homes system; the house was designed and built by students and faculty at the Drury School of Architecture.

**Location:** 3805 N. Farm Road 143, Springfield, MO 65803, at the junction with West Volunteer Way. (Located north of the intersection of I-44 and Kansas Expressway/MO Hwy 13; take Exit 77 on I-44.) The site is one mile north of Norton Road: turn north from Norton Road onto Kansas Avenue (just a few car lengths east of Kansas Expressway), which becomes FR 143 outside the Springfield city limit.

**Contact Information:** Nancy Williams, Program Director  
[nancywilliams@habitatspringfieldmo.org](mailto:nancywilliams@habitatspringfieldmo.org)  
Phone: 417-829-4001, ext. 105; Fax: 417-829-4003. Website: <http://www.habitatspringfieldmo.org>

**Availability:** Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., by reservation, weather permitting

**Programs:** On-site walking tours of Legacy Trails to view LID landscape design practices in the development's first phase. Roadside swales and bioretention areas planted with native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees allow easy access and up-close viewing of indigenous plant material. Students will learn about low impact development and ways they too can reduce storm water runoff, improve water quality, and increase wildlife habitat in their own yards and neighborhoods. They will also learn the need for maintaining the vegetation for a plan to succeed.

**Age/Grade Level:** All ages and grade levels.

**Group Size:** Any size with appropriate supervision.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Teacher's discretion.

**Fees:** None, although donations to Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri are welcome.

**Notes:** Students age 14 and older may serve as Landscape Volunteers with parent's permission and supervision. For insurance reasons, only those 16 years and older may volunteer at a Construction Site or Habitat ReStore. Only those volunteers 18 years and older may use power tools and participate in activities considered hazardous.

**Lunch Provisions:** Many fast food and casual dining options are conveniently located close-by on North Kansas Expressway (including McAlister's Deli, Panera Bread, Braum's, IHOP, Jimmy John's, McDonald's, Golden Corral, Ci-Ci's Pizza).

## Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri The ReStore



**Mission:** The primary purpose of the Habitat for Humanity ReStore is to raise funds to support Habitat Springfield's vision to eliminate substandard housing in Greene County, Missouri.

**Location:** 2410 South Scenic Avenue, Springfield, MO 65807. Just south of the entrance to Nathanael Greene Park, and across the street from the entrance to Horton Smith Golf Course.

**Contact Information:** Nancy Williams, Program Director [nancywilliams@habitatspringfieldmo.org](mailto:nancywilliams@habitatspringfieldmo.org)  
Phone: 417-829-4001, ext. 105; Fax:417-829-4003.  
Website: <http://www.habitatspringfieldmo.org>

**Availability:** Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., by reservation, weather permitting

**Programs:** On-site tours of the Habitat ReStore, which sells new and used building supplies, appliances, and furniture to the public to raise funds for Habitat home building in Greene County. The low cost of materials also facilitates low-cost home repairs and improvement within Springfield low-income population. The store also facilitates the reuse and recycling of materials, thus lessening the amount of usable materials that are discarded. Tour includes an overview of Habitat's mission and history.

**Age/Grade Level:** All ages and grade levels.

**Group Size:** Any size with appropriate supervision.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Teacher's discretion.

**Fees:** None, although donations to Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri are welcome.

**Notes:** For insurance reasons, only those 16 years and older can volunteer at the ReStore or the Habitat Construction Site. Only those volunteers 18 years and older may use power tools and participate in activities considered hazardous. Students age 14 and older may serve as Habitat Landscape Volunteers with parent's permission and supervision.

**Lunch Provisions:** Fast food and casual dining options are conveniently located nearby on Battlefield and Sunshine (including McAlister's Deli, Domino's Pizza, Subway, Quiznos Subs, KFC, Pizza Hut, Burger King, Hardees, McDonalds)..



## History Museum on the Square

### **Mission:**

The History Museum on the Square is committed to building and preserving an extensive collection of historical documents and artifacts, as we share stories of the crossroads to engage, educate, and inspire our diverse audience. We strengthen our community's future by learning about our past and our culture.

### **Location:**

154 Park Central Square, Springfield, MO 65806

### **Contact Information:**

Whitney Mosley, Education Manager, [whitney@historymuseumonthesquare.org](mailto:whitney@historymuseumonthesquare.org)  
417-831-1976 Ext. 1006

Jill Hodge, Civics Education Coordinator, [jill@historymuseumonthesquare.org](mailto:jill@historymuseumonthesquare.org)  
417-831-1976 Ext. 1004

**Website:** [www.historymuseumonthesquare.org/education/](http://www.historymuseumonthesquare.org/education/)

### **Hours of Operation:**

Wednesday- Saturday 10:00 am- 5:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00-5:00 pm

**Availability:** Groups may request visits and programs outside of general operating hours/days.

### **Programs:**

Step back in time! **History Museum on the Square's Trips, Trunks and Talks** offer a huge variety of educational opportunities for students of all ages. The museum's seven interactive galleries feature the Native American experience, Pioneers, the Civil War, the Wild West, Transportation, Route 66, and more. Can't make it to the museum? Have our presenters come to you or rent a trunk complete with educator's guide and meaningful items to explore. In addition to self-guided field trips, **Meet Missouri** programming spotlights some of our area's most notable figures and includes a museum scavenger hunt and interactive program!

- **Museum Field Trips:** <https://historymuseumonthesquare.org/field-trips/>
- **Exploration Traveling Trunks and Exhibits:** <https://historymuseumonthesquare.org/trunks/>  
<https://historymuseumonthesquare.org/education/displays/>
- **Education Programs:** : [https://historymuseumonthesquare.org/ed\\_programs/](https://historymuseumonthesquare.org/ed_programs/)
- **Civics on the Square Programs:** <https://historymuseumonthesquare.org/civiconthesquare/>
- **Scout Badge Programs:** : <https://historymuseumonthesquare.org/scoutprograms/>
- **Sensory Friendly Saturdays:** Second Saturday of every month.

**Age/Grade Level:** All school ages and grade levels

**Group Size:** Minimum of 10 for group visits.

**Student/Adult Ratio-**One adult chaperone per 5-10 children is **required**; however, more adults, especially with young children, are recommended.

**Fees:**

- **Museum Visit** <https://historymuseumonthesquare.org/tickets-and-pricing/>
  - **Field Trips:** \$8.00/student and \$8.00/chaperone
  - **Adult Group Visit:** \$13/person
  - **Sensory Friendly Saturdays:** Regular museum admission prices
  - **+ \$5/person for Additional Programs, Presentations, and Guided Tours**
- **Exploration Traveling Trunks:** Free with Great Southern Bank Sponsorship! (Typically 3 day rental is \$60.00 + \$20/additional day)
- **Educational Presentations:** \$150 (+ \$50/additional same-day presentation)



# James River Basin Partnership



**Mission:** Working to protect and improve the water quality of the springs, streams, rivers, and lakes in the James River Watershed.

**Location:** Outreach only

## Contact Information

Brooke Widmar  
Education Outreach Coordinator  
[BrookeWidmar@JamesRiverBasin.com](mailto:BrookeWidmar@JamesRiverBasin.com)  
417-380-9625  
2754 S. Campbell Ave  
Springfield, MO 65807

[www.jamesriverbasin.com/](http://www.jamesriverbasin.com/) [www.facebook.com/jamesriverbasin](https://www.facebook.com/jamesriverbasin)

**Availability:** By Appointment

**Programs:** Water Conservation, Pollution, What is a Watershed, Soil Health, Leave No Trace, Aquatic Ecology, Karst Landscapes, Ozarks Rivers: history & culture, Springs of the Ozarks, History of Jordan Creek

**Age/Grade Level:** All levels

**Group Size:** 5-30+

**Student/Adult Ratio:** 1 adult per 30 students

**Fees:** There are no costs associated with outreach programs.

**Notes:** We are willing to repeat the same program all day to small groups at the given location. We can tie our presentation in with curriculum or testing. Most presentations are customized to the audience or needs of the teacher. We will gladly participate with other groups or tour stops.



# Johnny Morris Conservation Attractions Dogwood Canyon Nature Park

**Mission:** Conserve. Protect. Educate.

**Location:** 2038 W. State Hwy 86 Lampe, MO 65681

**Contact Information:** 417-225-1162 or [edu@wondersofwildlife.org](mailto:edu@wondersofwildlife.org)

## **Availability:**

Jan-Feb (9:00a-4pm, closed Tue-Wed)

March -April (9:00am-5pm)

May- Oct (9:00am-5pm on Weekdays, 9:00am-6pm on Weekends)

November (9:00am-5pm)

December (9:00am-4pm, Closed Christmas Day)

## **Programs and Fees:**

### *Field Trip Pricing*

- Park Admission - \$5-\$10 per student and chaperone at a 1:8 ratio.  
\$10-\$15 per additional chaperone.

### *Field Trip Experiences: (Park Admission required)*

- Classroom EdVenture:

\$3 per student/chaperone. Food Chains and Ecosystems, Animal Adaptations.

- Forest Ecosystem EdVenture:

\$5 per student/chaperone. Food chains and forest investigation

- Stream Ecosystem EdVenture:

\$5 per student/chaperone. Macroinvertebrate survey, stream quality, collecting stream samples.

**Age/Grade Level:** Working closely with teachers and administrators, our educators have designed a wide range of classes and programs that meet national, state and local curriculum standards in K-12.

**Group Size:** All groups can be accommodated. (Minimum 10 for Field Trip pricing)

## **Lunch Provisions:**

Box Lunches are available, or sack lunches can be brought and eaten on the park grounds.

## Johnny Morris Conservation Attractions Ozark Heritage Preserve

**Mission:** To celebrate and experience the beauty and natural history of the Ozarks

**Location:** 150 Top of the Rock Rd, Ridgedale, MO 65739

**Contact Information:** 417-225-1162 or [edu@wondersofwildlife.org](mailto:edu@wondersofwildlife.org)

### **Availability:**

Daily 10am- 4pm (closed during inclement weather)

### **Programs and Fees:**

#### *Field Trip Pricing*

- Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail
  - \$15 per student and chaperone at a 1:8 ratio. \$20-28 per additional chaperone.
- Ancient Ozark's Natural History Museum
  - \$5 per student and chaperone at a 1:8 ration, \$8-\$10 per additional chaperone
- Combo both experiences
  - \$18 per student and chaperone at a 1:8 ratio. \$25-\$35 per additional chaperone.

#### *Field Trip Experiences:*

- Historical Classroom EdVenture: Civil War
  - \$5 per student/chaperone.

Museum Guided Education Tour: (plus Museum entrance fee)

- \$5 per student/chaperone at a 1:8 ratio. \$10 per additional chaperone

Guided Nature Walk EdVenture:

- \$15 per student and chaperone at a 1:8 ratio. \$20-28 per additional chaperone

**Age/Grade Level:** Working closely with teachers and administrators, our educators have designed a wide range of classes and programs that meet national, state and local curriculum standards in 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> .

**Group Size:** All groups can be accommodated. (Minimum 10 for Field Trip pricing)

### **Lunch Provisions:**

Sack lunches can be brought and eaten on the park grounds.

# Johnny Morris Conservation Attractions

## Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium

**Mission:** Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium celebrates people who hunt, fish, and act as stewards of the land and water.

### Location:

- **Aquarium location:** 500 W. Sunshine Street, Springfield, MO (At the corner of Sunshine and Campbell)
- **John A and Genny Morris Conservation Education Center:** 600 W Sunshine Street, Springfield Mo (Just west of Bass Pro)

**Contact Information:** Phone: 417-225-1162 or [edu@wondersofwildlife.org](mailto:edu@wondersofwildlife.org)

**Website:** <http://www.wondersofwildlife.org/education/>

### Availability:

**Monday-Thursday** 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Friday & Sunday** 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Saturday** 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

### Programs and Fees:

#### *Self-guided field trip*

- Wildlife Galleries and Aquarium -Students and chaperones up to chaperone ratio\$12.00 - \$18.00.

#### *Field Trip Experience add-ons:*

- Live Animal Programs
  - Students/Chaperones: \$3.00 - \$5.00
  - Topics include Animal Introductions, Life Cycles, Food Chains, Ecosystems, Adaptations, Classification, and Lewis & Clark
- Lab programs
  - Students/Chaperones \$10-15 plus cost of specimens
  - Topics include dissection of a rat, frog, squid, shark, sea star or owl pellet.
- Behind the Scenes Tour
  - Student and chaperones up to chaperone ratio \$10-\$15 plus aquarium admission.

#### *Outreach Programs:*

- Classroom program 60 minutes
  - \$150.00, additional programs on same day \$100
- Classroom program 30-minute program
  - \$125.00, additional programs on same day \$75
- Auditorium program
  - \$250 (larger groups), additional programs on the same day \$150 (max of 4 programs per day)

Locations farther than 25 miles from Springfield will be assessed a travel charge.

#### Virtual Programs:

- Check out our prerecorded virtual programs or book one for your classroom:  
<https://wondersofwildlife.org/virtual-edventures/>

**Age/Grade Level:** Working closely with teachers and administrators, our educators have designed a wide range of classes and programs that meet national, state and local curriculum standards in K-12.

**Group Size:** All groups can be accommodated, from large flocks to small herds.  
(Minimum 10 for group pricing)

**Lunch Provisions:**

Box Lunches are available, or sack lunches can be brought and eaten outside on the green space.

## Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA)



**Mission:** *MEEA's mission is to help educators connect every Missouri learner to the natural world and equip them to care, understand, and act for the environment.* (Visit our website at [meeea.org](http://meeea.org))

**Location:** Missouri Statewide; 2 remote offices (Kirkwood and Salem)

**Contact Information:** Jamin Bray, Co-Director, [bray@meeea.org](mailto:bray@meeea.org), 573-729-0465

**Availability:** Year round, services must be scheduled in advance

**Programs:** Professional Development (PD) for educators or organizations, both formal and nonformal (for example, *Mock Trial: Invasive Species* workshop, see [meeea.org/educator-resources/ee-top-five-lists](http://meeea.org/educator-resources/ee-top-five-lists)); Tabling events for any community; Online courses ([eecourses@meeea.org](mailto:eecourses@meeea.org)); Annual Conference with multiple presenters and programs to advance Environmental Education ([meeea.org/professional-development/annual-conference](http://meeea.org/professional-development/annual-conference))

**Age/Grade Level:** Adults for PD, anyone for relevant events (for example, Career or Science Fairs, College Club presentations)

**Group Size:** any

**Student/Adult Ratio:** N/A

**Fees:** Varies, and depends on if our services are grant funded, but all of our workshop fees are "pay-what-you-can"; Online courses are \$75 for members (with a group discount for Organizational Members) and \$100 for non-members.

**Lunch Provisions:** for all day PD workshops only

## Missouri Department of Conservation

**Mission:** To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state; to facilitate and provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources.

**Location:** 2630 North Mayfair Ave, Springfield 65803

**Contact Information:** Lyle Whittaker, Conservation Educator- [Lyle.Whittaker@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Lyle.Whittaker@mdc.mo.gov), 417-895-68801 ext. 1644

**Availability:** Call to set up workshops for daytime, evenings, or weekends

**Programs:** A variety of resources are available! Tailor-made conservation-related workshops are conducted to meet the school's or community's needs. The main programs include:

- Discover Nature Schools: <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/teacher-portal/discover-nature-schools>, Register to access resources.
- MO Archery in the Schools: <http://www.naspbai.org/ClassSearch.aspx?country=US&state=MO>,
- Discover Nature Fishing: <https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/get-started-fishing/discover-nature-fishing>,
- Hunter Education, and other outdoor related topics.
- Discovery/Conservation Trunks-Engaging activities with hands-on resources included. Available for free loan of 1-2 weeks. Topics-Aquatic/wetland ecosystems, owls, monarchs, bats, forest ecology, Lewis and Clark, mammals, caves, insects, black bear

**Age/Grade Level:** K-Adult

**Group Size:** Minimum of 10 for an educator workshop. Will do some guest speaker programs if school is associated with the Discover Nature Schools program.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** One educator per class of students

**Most MDC materials are free.**





## Missouri Department of Conservation Springfield Conservation Nature Center

**Mission:** To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state; to facilitate and provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources.

**Location:** 4601 S. Nature Center Way, Springfield, 65804. Located in southeast Springfield near the intersection of US-65 and US-60 and no more than a 25-minute drive from any place in town.

**Contact Info:** Phone: 417/888-4237, Fax: 417/888-4241, Email: [Rudy.Martinez@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Rudy.Martinez@mdc.mo.gov) or [SprfdNatureCenter@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:SprfdNatureCenter@mdc.mo.gov).

**Availability:** Guided programs are available Tuesday-Friday, 9am-5pm, year round. Programs must be scheduled a minimum of two weeks in advance and registration for the next calendar year begins on September 1. General public programs and special events are offered during evenings and on weekends. Visit [mdc.mo.gov/SouthwestEvents](http://mdc.mo.gov/SouthwestEvents) for a listing of public programs and sign up online at [mdc.mo.gov/govdelivery](http://mdc.mo.gov/govdelivery) for email/text updates.

**School and Group Programs:** Programs typically include an indoor presentation combined with a guided trail hike. Groups will also be allotted time to tour through the exhibit area on their own.

Virtual programs are also available. All standard programs are designed to fulfill selected Missouri Learning Standards for grades K-12. The nature center features 79 acres of forests, fields, and wetlands and 3 miles of hiking trails along with a building facility featuring hands-on exhibits, classrooms, an auditorium, and a gift shop.

**Age/Grade Level:** Programs are available for all ages and grade levels.

**Group Size:** While groups of no more than two classrooms are preferred, larger groups are accepted based on availability of staff and resources.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** One adult chaperone per ten children is **required**; however, more adults, especially with young children, are recommended.

**Fees:** No fees are charged. Bus transportation funding may be available for schools enrolled in the Discover Nature Schools curriculum. Check the website at [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov) for details. Bus parking is provided.

**Notes:** You can connect to the nature center through text messaging by texting "MDC Springfield" to 468311 to receive 4-6 texts monthly about programs and events.

**Lunch Provisions:** Food is not allowed in the building; however, a covered pavilion with a drinking fountain, soda machine, and restrooms is available for sack lunches. Groups may also picnic at nearby Living Memorial Park or visit nearby fast food facilities.

# Missouri Institute of Natural Science

**Mission:** To interpret Missouri's natural history within a regional and global context in a manner that is relevant, useful, educational and entertaining to all patrons.

**Location:** 2327 W Farm Road 190, Springfield, MO 65810 (on the way to Rivercut Golf Course)

**Contact Information:**

Cheyanna Ireland  
[info@monatsci.org](mailto:info@monatsci.org)  
417-883-0594

**Availability:**

Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm  
Large groups should call ahead.  
Field trips and birthday parties must be scheduled in advance for a fee.

**Programs:**

Field Trips: Guided tour of the museum, lecture, nature walk, fossil hunt  
Birthday Parties: Guided tour of the museum, fossil hunt, special gift for birthday kid  
Dino Camp (summer program)  
**(FOR FIELD TRIPS AND BIRTHDAYS, PLEASE VISIT <https://www.monatsci.org/group-events> FOR MORE INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES)**

**Age/Grade Level:** all ages welcome to the museum  
Field trips and Dino Camp open to school-age children

**Group Size:** Call for details.

**Fees:**

General admission: Free  
Field trips: Contact for price  
Birthday Parties: 150 for up to 15 children, additional fee for more

**Notes:** The museum is home to Henry, the world's largest Triceratops fossil. There is also an extensive collection of other dinosaur bones, gems and minerals, and ice-age fossils. New exhibits are in the works, including anchor, the nodosaur, set to be completed in 2024.

**Lunch Provisions:** Several restaurants are located nearby, in the area of Republic Road and Kansas Expressway.



## Missouri Master Naturalist



**Mission:** The Missouri Master Naturalist Program is a training/service program co-sponsored by the University of Missouri Extension and Missouri Department of Conservation. Master Naturalists complete 40 hours of classroom/field initial training and then complete 40 hours of community service and eight hours of advanced training each year to remain certified in the program.

The Springfield Plateau Missouri Master Naturalist chapter has 85 active members

**Contact Information:** Kelly McGowan, University of Missouri Extension  
2400 S. Scenic Avenue Springfield, MO 65807  
Phone: 417-881-8909  
Fax: 417-881-8058

Missouri Department of Conservation  
2630 North Mayfair  
Springfield, MO 65803  
Phone: 417-895-6880  
Fax: 417-895-6910

Statewide Web page: [www.monaturalist.org](http://www.monaturalist.org)

Springfield Plateau Chapter Web page: [www.SpringfieldPlateau.MissouriMasterNaturalist.org](http://www.SpringfieldPlateau.MissouriMasterNaturalist.org)

**Availability:** Master Naturalists are available as volunteers for a variety of environmental/conservation service and educational projects.

**Programs:** Knowledgeable volunteers for hands-on projects such as trail building, bird counts, stream monitoring/testing, native/threatened plant counts/rescues. Trained presenters for educational presentations and outdoor workshops on nature-related topics are available for all ages on a number of topics including but not limited to invasive plants; native plants; animal characteristics: beaks, coats, etc.

**Age/Grade Level:** Educational/hands-on assistance is available to all age/grade levels, youth and adult, including seniors.

**Group Size:** Any size

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Varies per specific activity

**Fees:** Generally, none, although there may be requests for expense reimbursement, depending on the specific activity

## Missouri Natural Resources Conservation Service



## Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Mission:** Helping people help the land.

**Location:** 688 S State Hwy B, Springfield, MO 65802

**Contact Information:** Lindsey Anderson, Soil Scientist, [lindsey.anderson@usda.gov](mailto:lindsey.anderson@usda.gov)  
417-831-5246 ext. 7391

**Availability:** By appointment

**Programs:** Educational outreach involving soil and water conservation. Can be tailor-made to meet the requester's needs. Currently work with Envirothon and Future Farmers of America groups but can work with any group interested in soil science, soil health, or other agriculture/conservation-related topic(s).

**Age/Grade Level:** All levels

**Group Size:** Any size up to 30ish

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Supervision provided by the requester (teachers and/or parents)

**Fees:** Free, no charge



## Nathan & Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site

**Mission:** Nathan & Olive Boone Homestead State Historic Site preserves the last home and grave of Nathan Boone. Though best known as the youngest son of Daniel Boone, Nathan Boone played a key role in the exploration and settlement of Missouri and the American West. The historic site interprets Boone's life, the lives of those around him, and the story of frontier America.

**Location:** 1.5 miles north of Ash Grove, Missouri on Highway V (7850 N. State Hwy. V, Ash Grove MO, 65604)

**Contact:** Phone: 417-751-3266

<https://mostateparks.com/park/nathan-and-olive-boone-homestead-state-historic-site>

### **Availability:**

- *Off season hours:* November through March, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- *On Season hours:* April through October, Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- *Tours available:*  
Friday & Saturday at 11am, 1pm, 3pm, Sundays at 1pm, 3pm

**Programs:** The historic site offers a guided tour, lasting approximately 1 hour.

A virtual tour is available both on and off-site, please contact the historic site for details.  
Other programs possible upon request

**Age/Grade Level:** The historic site tour can be tailored for all ages and grade levels.

**Group Size:** A minimum of 15 people is required for the group tour rate. Maximum group size for a single program is 60 people.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** 1 adult per every 10 students is encouraged.

**Fees:** For pre-registered groups of 15 or more, rates are as follows:

Adults (18 and older): \$3.50

Youth (Ages 6-17): \$2.25

Child (Ages 5 and under):

Free

**Notes:** Group tours must be confirmed at least two weeks in advance to qualify for the group rate.

**Lunch:** Picnic tables, grill, and covered shelter are available on-site, shelter seats 50 people.

**OzarksEnvironmentNews.com**  
**The Environmental Bulletin Board for the Ozarks Region**

**Mission:** The mission of OzarksEnvironmentNews.com is to facilitate communication and to celebrate efforts and accomplishments among the environmental community of the Southwest Missouri Ozarks and to provide useful information to those who live in or visit the region.

**Contact Information:** Barbara J. Lucks, ISSP –SEA, Editor

Phone/Fax: 417-883-7984

E-mail: [bjlucks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjlucks@sbcglobal.net)

To report news: [Info@ozarksenvironmentnews.com](mailto:Info@ozarksenvironmentnews.com)

Web page: <https://www.ozarksenvironmentnews.com/>

**Availability:** On-line resource –available at any time

**Information includes:** Breaking News, Friend and Fund Raising, Grants and Funding Opportunities, Legislation, Government Agencies, Events, Awards, Volunteer/Job Opportunities, Biking/Trails/ Greenways, Native Trees/Plants, Prairies, Water Quality, Air Quality/Energy Conservation, Recycling/Composting, Critters: Birds, Snakes, Pollinators, Fish, Insects, Educational Resources

**Age/Grade Level:** All ages

**Group Size:** N/A

**Student/Adult Ratio:** N/A

**Fees:** Free!

## Roaring River State Park

**Mission:** The mission of the Roaring River State Park's interpretative program is to interpret for all participants, using a variety of innovative methods, the overall theme that water is the force that created and continues to modify the geology, biology, and anthropology of Roaring River Valley. Facilitate enjoyable and safe recreational learning experience that will inspire positive behavior toward natural and cultural resources.

**Location:**

12716 FR 2239  
Cassville, MO 65625  
7 miles southeast of Cassville, MO on Highway 112

**Contact Information:** Anna Skalicky [anna.skalicky@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:anna.skalicky@dnr.mo.gov)  
Phone: 417-847-3742

**Availability: Nature Center hours**

March 1 through the Tuesday before Memorial Day  
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday; Closed Monday -Thursday

Wednesday before Memorial Day through the Sunday after  
LaborDay 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily

Monday after Labor Day through Oct. 31  
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday; Closed Monday-Thursday

**Programs:**

Hatchery Tour  
Nature Center  
Deer Leap Hike  
Lichens and Symbiosis  
Owl adaptations  
Other programs on request

**Age/Grade Level:** The tours and programs can be tailored for all ages and grade levels.

**Group Size:** Maximum group size for a single program is 50 people.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Teacher's discretion.

**Fees:** None

**Notes:** Please call at least one month in advance to book your group.

**Lunch Provisions:** Picnic tables and two covered shelters are available on-site.

## Springfield Art Museum

**Mission:** Founded in 1928, the Springfield Art Museum is Springfield, Missouri's oldest cultural institution and has been a department of the City of Springfield since 1946. *The Springfield Art Museum is committed to fostering creativity, inspiring wonder, and cultivating a deeper understanding of the human experience through meaningful engagement with art.* While the main facility undergoes a three-year renovation, the Museum's administrative offices and educational classrooms have moved to "The Art Study Club," located in the historic Wilhoit Building, which was home to the museum from 1929-1937. Select exhibitions and programs will continue off-site in collaboration with community partners, ensuring that art remains accessible to all. For more information, visit [www.sgfmuseum.org](http://www.sgfmuseum.org).

**Location: Closed for Renovations through 2027:** 1111 East Brookside Drive, Springfield (Located west of National Avenue between Brookside Drive and Bennett Street on the east side of Phelps Grove Park.) Select sculptures remain on view on or near the grounds.

The Art Study Club: 431 S. Jefferson, Suite 108, Springfield MO 65806. Administrative and educational headquarters during the renovation.

### Contact Information:

Joshua Best, Museum Educator

Email: [jbest@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:jbest@springfieldmo.gov)

Telephone: (417) 874-2859

Lori Gipson, Museum Educator

Email: [lori.gipson@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:lori.gipson@springfieldmo.gov)

Telephone: (417) 874-2835

Website: [www.sgfmuseum.org](http://www.sgfmuseum.org)

**Availability:** Please visit the museum's website ([www.sgfmuseum.org](http://www.sgfmuseum.org)) for our current programs and opportunities. The main Museum facility is closed through 2027 for renovations, but educational opportunities are scheduled at The Art Study Club and throughout the community.

**Programs:** A variety of free and paid programs for ages 3 through adult are currently scheduled, including art classes, summer art camps, open studios, collection connection workshops, in-school presentations, Slow Viewings, and Take-Home Project Bags. To coordinate a specific program, please reach out directly to a Museum Educator, or visit <https://www.sgfmuseum.org/101/Learn>

**Age/Grade Level:** Preschool through adults

**Group Size:** 10 max per group at The Art Study Club classroom.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** 10:1

**Fees:** Select classes and workshops are tuition based

**Notes:** The Springfield Art Museum is closed for renovations through 2027. Select educational opportunities are available, with pre-registration required, or contact a Museum Educator to find a program that fits your needs.

**Lunch:** Meals not provided. The Art Study Club is located downtown, so there are many food options available.

## Springfield-Greene County Library District

**Mission:** Building a stronger community by enabling lifelong learning and enrichment

**Location:** 5 branches in Springfield and 5 branches in the county.

**Contact Information:** Tours and programs are available by calling each individual branch:

- The Library Center: 882-0714
- The Library Station: 865-1340
- Ash Grove Branch: 751-2933
- Schweitzer Brentwood Branch: 883-1974
- Fair Grove Branch: 759-2637
- Midtown Carnegie Branch: 862-0135
- Park Central Branch: 831-1342
- Republic Branch: 732-7284
- Strafford Branch: 736-9233
- Willard Branch: 742-4258
- Web: [thelibrary.org](http://thelibrary.org)

**Availability:** As scheduled at each facility.

**Programs:** Will provide building tours, assistance and guidance regarding use of Library resources, develop youth programs and story times.

**Age/Grade Level:** All ages.

**Group Size:** Will work with visiting group.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Library tour guides are available at each branch. We prefer that a teacher/ other adult accompany each tour group. Youth services staff at each branch will work with educators to develop appropriate tours, programs and resource education.

**Fees:** No cost

### **Lunch Provisions:**

- The Library Center—many fast food restaurants are located within one mile (on south Campbell). The closest park is Nathanael Greene on south Scenic.
- The Library Station—Many fast food restaurants are located within one mile on west Kearney. Panera Bread is located in Library Station. Must make prior arrangements for large group.
- Other branches—limited fast food available. Ash Grove, Fair Grove, Republic, Strafford and Willard have nice city parks within a few blocks.

## Springfield-Greene County Park Board Botanical Center and Gardens

**Mission:** The Botanical Center has been established for enhancing people's lives through plant demonstrations and education. The Gardens at the Botanical Center are a resource for leisure, teaching, and public service missions of University of Missouri Extension's Greene County office, Friends of the Garden, Springfield Sister Cities Association and other park partners.

**Location:** Nathanael Greene/ Close Memorial Park; 2400 S. Scenic Ave, Springfield, MO 65807

**Contact Information:** Ambur Gossen- [ambur.gossen@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:ambur.gossen@springfieldmo.gov) (417-891-1515)

**Availability:** By appointment; Gatherings of 30 or more people are required to have a permit to visit the park. Permits can be made with no charge. Registering is valuable to your group experience in case of an emergency, to prevent double booking and connect you to more resources.

### **Guided Programs:**

*Directions: Download group request form:* <http://www.parkboard.org> search for Springfield BotanicalGardens, Education.

**Guided Garden Tours:** A guide can lead you through the different gardens, botanical collections and attractions. Fee: \$25/group up to 12, add \$2/student over 12.

**Native Butterfly House:** mid-May-September – Discover the lifecycle of the butterfly from egg to larvae to pupae to adult. Learn the basic needs of wildlife & special relationship of butterflies and host plants.

Key terms: mimicry, camouflage, metamorphosis. Group size greater than 10 require a reservation. Fee: \$2/student.

**SEEDS and Scavenger Hunt!:** Learn more about how plants reproduce and scatter their seeds by wind, water and wildlife. After a 30 min program, students are invited to hunt for seeds around the gardens and share their observations. (best scheduled for late summer-early winter)

**Plant Parts and People:** Learn more about plant parts for photosynthesis, food production, and nutrition storage. Learn about the plants we eat and use to make everything from medicine and baseball bats. See live plants in growing environments: cotton, pine trees, herbs, vegetables and more.

**Plant Superpowers:** Learn about plant adaptations for surviving in special environments and extreme climate conditions, and defense against disease and pests. Visit the succulent and rain gardens on the south side of the Botanical Center.

### **Gray-Campbell Farmstead:**

<https://www.graycampbellfarmstead.org/index.html> and  
<https://www.parkboard.org/277/GrayCampbell-Farmstead>

Hands on early Missouri History lesson, especially for 5th grade! Includes planting, harvesting, cooking and food preservation, early tools and story time. Course offered 6 weeks in fall and

spring. Guided programs for other groups are available by appointment. Contact Debbie Hammer at [gcfarmstead@gmail.com](mailto:gcfarmstead@gmail.com). Look for QR codes posted around the historic attractions for a virtual tour available on a smart phone. Also see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBTyVhMvqvE>

**Springfield Sister Cities Association**-Various programs available to introduce students to Springfield's sister cities, located in Isesaki, Japan and Tlaquepaque, Mexico. For more information, contact Lisa Bakerink, Executive Director at [lbakerink@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:lbakerink@springfieldmo.gov)/417-864-1191. Website- <https://peacethroughpeople.org/>

### **Self-Guided Programs:**

**Virtual Garden Tours:** For more information, QR codes are posted and many garden entries or can be visited virtually here <https://www.parkboard.org/571/Tour-the-Gardens-Online>

**Play Trail!:** Discover nature by play! Designed to engage rigorous exercise for the body and mind; 5 playgrounds can be found from the butterfly house around Lake Drummond. See plants and nature and follow the activities found at each play pod. Group size: 12 or less. Activity stations include: the butterfly, leaves, trees, pond life and mushrooms. Walking trail approximately 1 mile.

### **Online Resources**

**Tree ID:** <https://springfieldmo.treekeepersoftware.com/>

**The Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden:** Adult group rate: \$5; Students age 3-12: \$3

### **Special Activities:**

Volunteer work projects including invasive plant removal, tree and flower planting and garden maintenance can be arranged with the Botanical Center. Katie Keith. [kkeith@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:kkeith@springfieldmo.gov) or 417-891-1515

### **Advanced Topics:**

Advanced topics and PowerPoint presentation in person or virtually are available: Popular topics include: pollinators, soils, LEED building design, stormwater management or specialized plants can be arranged with the Botanical Center. Katie Keith. [kkeith@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:kkeith@springfieldmo.gov) or 417-891-1515

**Age/ Grade Level:** All ages!

**Group Size:** 25/ guided programs; larger groups will be divided and rotate through different activities. Combined groups, especially home school should be within 2 grades levels.

**Fees:** Vary per venue and activity

**Lunch:** Picnic tables and pavilions are located throughout the park. Refreshments available in the Botanical Boutique and Marketplace

# Springfield-Greene County Park Board Outdoor Initiatives

## Outdoor Education Programs & Adventure Trips for Kids and Adults

### Home of Giboney Cave Underground Classroom

**Mission:** The Springfield – Greene County Park Board is committed to provide the highest quality of leisure opportunities, to offer programs for relaxation as well as stimulation, and to encourage personal and community enrichment for the citizens of Springfield, Missouri.

**Location:** The Outdoor Initiatives Office is in Lost Hills Park, 4705 N Farm Rd 151, Springfield, MO.

#### Contact Information:

- Justin Smith, Community Recreation Supervisor (417) 833-8647;  
[jusmith@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:jusmith@springfieldmo.gov)

**Availability:** Year-round in general depending upon specific activity.

#### Programs:

- Adventure Teen Camps- Outdoor Trailblazers Camp, Adventure Days Camp, and Rock-Climbing Adventure Week
- Adult Adventure Experiences- Guided Outdoor rock climbing, backpacking trips, multi-day kayak/canoe trips, day trips, and much more!
- Canoeing & Kayaking- Intro to paddling classes & guided floats on Lake Springfield, and out of town guided experiences.
- Caving- Education, Science & Exploring - Beginner and intermediate tours for groups, schools, and the general public.
- Outdoor Cooking- Historical dutch oven and backpack cooking.
- Outdoor education programs- Topics can include Bats of Missouri, fire-starting, The 10 essentials, how to use a map and compass, and much more.
- LNT ("Leave No Trace).
- Outdoor hazards & safety.
- Teambuilding Programs – Mobile teambuilding programs for kids and adults. We can come to you!

**Age/Grade Level/ Group Size:** Programs are available for all ages. Maximum group size varies depending on program

**Student/Adult Ratio:** One adult supervisor for every 10 students.

**Fees:** Fees range from \$4 to \$15/participant depending upon specific program; IE: Cave tours range from \$5 to \$20/participant; Current programs and pricing listed at [Parkboard.org/outdoor](http://Parkboard.org/outdoor).



## **Springfield-Greene County Park Board**

### **Rutledge-Wilson Farm Community Park**

**Mission:** The Springfield-Greene County Park Board is committed to provide the highest quality of leisure opportunities, to offer programs for relaxation as well as stimulation, and to encourage personal and community enrichment for the citizens of Springfield and Greene County, Missouri

**Location:** Rutledge-Wilson Farm Community Park is located at 3825 West Farm Road 146, Springfield, MO 65802

#### **Contact Information:**

- For general farm or event information, please call the main line at Rutledge-Wilson Farm- (417) 837-5949
- To schedule a field trip or register for any of the farm's education programs; please contact Sara Anderson- 417-874-2920, [sara.anderson@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:sara.anderson@springfieldmo.gov)
- [www.parkboard.org](http://www.parkboard.org)-Click on Rutledge-Wilson Farm under parks

**Availability:** Rutledge-Wilson Farm is open to the public August 1 - April 30 Tuesdays-Sundays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m and everyday May 1 - August 31 from 9a.m. - 5p.m.

**Programs:**

◦ School Programs	◦ Home-school groups
◦ Scout Groups	◦ Pre-school groups
◦ Summer Camps	

**Age/Grade Level:** The programs at Rutledge-Wilson Farm are grade specific and designed for children pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The park, however, is available for adults and kids of all ages to enjoy as well.

**Group Size:** There is no limit to group size. Large groups may need to be split into smaller groups if they are attending an educational program.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Field trip supervision must be provided by the school (with teachers and parents.) Student/Adult ratio will be determined by the school.

**Fees:** General park admission is free. There is a charge of \$1.50-\$3.50 per student for educational programs. Please contact the farm for other program prices.

**Lunch:** There are picnic tables available for group use on a first-come basis.

## Springfield-Greene County Park Board Special Parks and Facilities

**Mission:** The Springfield-Greene County Park Board is committed to provide the highest quality of leisure opportunities, to offer programs for relaxation as well as stimulation, and to encourage personal and community enrichment for the citizens of Springfield and Greene County.

**Location:**

**Lake Springfield Park, 2312 E. Lake Springfield Park Road, Springfield MO 65804**

The 158-acre park is currently open every day, sunrise to sunset. There is pavilion/picnic area with playground equipment available (first- come basis). The area has both open, grassy spaces and wooded areas (home to a variety of wildlife and birds) and borders the north shore of Lake Springfield. A special use area, The Northwoods Pavilion, can be reserved for group activities (contact 891-1550). The property has a 4,000-square-foot Boathouse and Marina with a 1,450-square-foot deck area overlooking the lake. The building also has a community meeting room, a warming kitchen, retail shop with canoe and kayak rentals and public restrooms. The community meeting room features an expanse of glass with views across the deck to the lake. The park ties into the James River Linear Park Trail, has a greenway trail and hiking trail throughout the property.

**Valley Water Mill Park & Equestrian Center, 4007 N. Farm Rd. 171, Springfield, MO 65803**

**Facility:** Features a classroom area in the “brick farm house”, an eight stall instructional barn, indoor and outdoor riding arenas, Kiddie Hay Corral and Miniature Horse Petting Pen.

**Directions:** From I-44 and Glenstone, Go North on Glenstone ½ mile, Turn Right on Valley Water Mill. At the dead end, turn left onto Fm Rd 171. Stay to the left around pond dam and turn left into entrance. Do not use Mapquest or TomTom! Those computer programs will send you 5 miles north!

**Contact Information:** Contact Lynn VandenBerg, Equestrian Center Coordinator at (417) 833-3291.

**Availability:** Valley Water Mill is open to the public year-round Tuesdays-Sundays from 9am until 5pm and after hours by appointment.

**Programs:** School Programs, Scout Programs, Summer Camps, Home-School Groups, Pre School Groups.

**Age/Grade Level:** The programs at Valley Water Mill are grade specific and designed for children K through 12th grade. Horses are available for hands on demonstrations.

**Group Size/Student Ratio:** There is no limit to group size. Large groups may be split into smaller groups if they are attending educational programs. Field trip supervision must be provided by the school(with teachers and parents.) Student /Adult ratio will be determined by school regulations.

**Fees:** General Park Admission is free. Educational programs range from \$2 to \$10 per child depending on the scope of the activities. Many equestrian programs can be tailored to current curriculum. All students leave with informational handouts.

## University of Missouri Extension

**Mission:** The primary purpose of the University of Missouri Extension is to serve Missouri by extending the research-based knowledge and problem-solving resources of the University of Missouri System to people throughout the state. The Greene County Extension Council is the publicly elected governing body that helps MU Extension identify and address local issues. Educational publications (guide sheets) and programs are available in the following subject areas: Horticulture, agriculture, gardening, 4-H youth development, nutrition, human development, urban programming, community development, civic engagement, home design and more.

**Location:** 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, MO 65807; offices are in the Botanical Center in Nathanael Greene Park.

**Contact Information:** telephone 417-881-8909; email [GreeneCo@missouri.edu](mailto:GreeneCo@missouri.edu); or visit our website <http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/>.

**Availability:** The Greene County MU Extension office is open 8:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Programming is scheduled as requested.

**Programs:** Extension specialists in southwest Missouri are available to present programs on topics related to agricultural profitability and viability; gardening and home food preservation, human development and individual strengths; business, community and economic development; enhancing health and nutrition; environmental quality and stewardship and youth development. Additional information is found at <http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/services.aspx>

Specific programs include:

Horticulture: The horticulture program provides educational opportunities for home horticulture and commercial horticulture interests in the SW region.

Master Gardening: The Master Gardener program provides in-depth horticultural training to individuals who then volunteer their time applying what they have learned to help others in their community to learn about gardening and environmental education.

4-H: 4-H is a volunteer-led organization that reaches youth ages 8-18. 4-H members decide for themselves which of more than 50 projects they want to learn more about. Projects use hands-on learning experiences to teach subject matter and life-skills such as cooperation, problem solving, and decision making. A pre-4-H program called Clover Kids is offered for children 5-7 years of age.

**Age/Grade Level:** Programs are available for people of all ages.

**Group Size:** Programs are available on an individual basis and for groups of all sizes

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Specific to individual programs.

**Fees:** Specific to individual programs.

**Notes:** Other services at the Greene County MU Extension office include soil testing, plant insect and disease diagnosis, the Master Gardener hotline for assistance with gardening questions, and publications on a wide range of topics.

## Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

**Mission:** The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 whose mission is to sustain and improve the water supplies of Springfield and Greene County through education and effective management of the region's watersheds. The Watershed Center is the home to over two miles of hiking trails, fishing at Valley Water Mill Lake, and the LEED Gold certified C.W. Titus Education Facility. We are happy to offer field trips, tours, and other educational programs right on the banks of one of Springfield's drinking water sources.

**Location:** 2400 East Valley Water Mill Road, Springfield, MO 65803

**Contact Information:** Jeff Birchler – Watershed Center Coordinator.  
Email: [jeff@watershedcommittee.org](mailto:jeff@watershedcommittee.org) Phone: 417-866-1127 Fax: 417-866-1918

**Availability:** Jeff Birchler will be happy to schedule and organize a field trip for your school or organization. 10 business days advance notice and planning is required. Our programs can be customized to fit your learning goals and class size so we can be sure to meet the needs of your group.

**Programs:** Stream Team activities, Watershed Scavenger Hunt, Interpretive Hikes, Watershed stations, Green Building Demonstrations and many more. You can find all of our program descriptions on our website, [www.watershedcommittee.org](http://www.watershedcommittee.org), under Watershed Center Education.

**Age/Grade Level:** Any age

**Group Size:** Group sizes can range from as few as five students, to as many as one-hundred.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** Prefer at least one adult per ten children

**Fees:** There is no charge for most Watershed Center educational programs. Please contact the Watershed Center for additional information.

**Lunch Provisions:** Outdoor areas, including a covered pavilion, are available for picnic lunches that the group is responsible for providing.



## White River Group Sierra Club

**Mission:** Our mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. The WRG advocates for renewable energy sources in Springfield, adopting the latest energy efficiency codes in residential and commercial construction, monitoring of air and water quality in the city and surrounding areas, efforts that will eliminate inequity for people of color experiencing harms from environmental damage and pollution of various types, and monitoring the State's management of our natural resources.

**Location:** Join us on social media at either Meetup or Facebook under White River Group Sierra Club  
Website: <https://www.sierraclub.org>

### Contact Information:

Louise Wienckowski, Co-chair, [louisewienckowski@gmail.com](mailto:louisewienckowski@gmail.com)

Pam Shaver, Co-chair, [pjshaver999@gmail.com](mailto:pjshaver999@gmail.com)

Kane Sheek, Springfield Community Organizer, [kane.sheek@sierraclub.org](mailto:kane.sheek@sierraclub.org)

Marisa Frazier, Missouri Conservation Program, [marisa.frazier@sierraclub.org](mailto:marisa.frazier@sierraclub.org)

**Mailing Address:** 634 S. National Ave. Apt. 601, Springfield, MO 65804

**Programs:** Currently masks are required for all indoor events. Masks are optional for outdoor events.

- **Public Education and Forums on Environmental Issues:** A variety of virtual events are currently available. Visit the website for current opportunities. To schedule a guest speaker contact one of the organization representatives listed above.
- **Outings Programs:** Regularly scheduled outdoor events are available. Visit the website for current and upcoming events. Preregistration required.
- **Community cleanup events:** Our group is committed to cleaning up trash along a stretch of South Creek in Springfield. These events not only contribute to a cleaner environment, but also set an example for the public of a more responsible attitude toward disposing of waste. Visit the website for upcoming cleanup events.

**Age Range:** Most of our events are appropriate for any age range.

**Group Size:** Our events can accommodate a group of twenty to thirty people.

**Fees:** There are no fees required for our events unless an outside vendor associated with an event requires them.

## Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

**Mission:** The purpose of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is to commemorate the Battle of Wilson's Creek, preserve the associated battlefield, and interpret the battle within the context of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West.

**Location:** 6424 W. Farm Road 182, Republic. The site is located ten miles southwest of Springfield, between the cities of Battlefield and Republic.

**Contact Information:** You can reach the education office by phone at 417-732-2662 or by email at [wicr\\_education@nps.gov](mailto:wicr_education@nps.gov).

The battlefield is open seven days a week (weather permitting) closing only for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day. The Visitor Center opens daily at 9 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m., and the tour road is open sunrise to sunset. The Visitor Center contains a thirty-minute film, a bookstore and an exhibit area displaying museum artifacts and a fiber optic map. A Civil War research library is open by appointment.

**Availability:** Educational programs are available Monday through Friday beginning at 10:00 a.m. during the months of March-October depending upon volunteer and staff availability. Advanced reservations are required for all groups and can be made by visiting <https://www.nps.gov/wicr/learn/education/planafielddtrip.htm>. A variety of other interpretive programs and special events are offered throughout the year. Events are posted on the park website calendar <https://www.nps.gov/wicr/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>.

**Programs:** Educational programs at the battlefield may include a self-guided tour of the new Civil War exhibits, a self-guided battlefield walk, a tour of the historic Ray House, a Civil War medical program and a common soldier talk.

**Age/grade level:** All age groups are welcome, but our guided programs are most aligned with Missouri learning standards for 3rd grade and above.

**Group Size:** We require a minimum group size of 12 students and schedule a maximum of 150 students per school per day. Groups of more than 150 students are welcome to schedule multiple day field trips based on park availability.

**Student/Adult Ratio:** A student to adult chaperone ratio of 1:10 is required for all groups.

**Reservations and Fees:** To make a reservation, visit <https://www.nps.gov/wicr/learn/education/planafielddtrip.htm>. For specific questions about scheduling call (417) 732 – 2662 ext. 233. There are no fees for educational programming, and there are no entrance fees for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Bus parking is provided.

**Lunch Provisions:** A picnic area with a covered pavilion located near the visitor center is available for sack lunches. Picnicking is prohibited on the Ray House lawn and the Visitor Center lawn

## Additional Resources

1. Planning for success—5 Tips for Successful Class Field Trips  
<https://www.neamb.com/work-life/5-tips-for-successful-class-field-trips>
2. A virtual tour of City of Springfield’s City Hall-<https://www.springfieldmo.gov/27/Government>
3. Planning Virtual Field Trips: What You Need to Know-  
<https://www.mobilepermissions.com/2020/02/planning-virtual-field-trips-what-you-need-to-know/>
4. Post trip ideas-<https://fieldtripdirectory.com/post-trip-activities/>
5. Effective Use of Field Trips-<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf%5CWC%5CWC05400.pdf>