

March 3, 2009

News Release

For Immediate Release

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board will hold a dedication ceremony at 4:15 p.m., Saturday, March 7, for improvements at the Killian Sports Complex, 2141 E. Pythian St.

Project highlights consist of new site utilities, irrigation to fields, painting, new scoreboards and a public admissions facility at the entrance to the complex.

The highlight of the improvements is the Killian Softball Stadium, which also has been completed at the site. Its features include home and visitor's locker rooms, public restrooms, coaches' room, training and ticket sales rooms, stadium chair-back and bleacher seating, press box, dugouts, backstop, bullpens, scoreboard, field lighting, fencing, asphalt and concrete walks.

The stadium and five other fields make up the six-field complex. The stadium features an upgrade to 1,080 infield seats, 523 of which are chair-back. The facility was designed to qualify for LEED certification incorporating energy efficient mechanical, electrical systems and water efficient plumbing fixtures. Other elements include use of local materials, use of wood components from sources practicing sustainable harvesting and recycling of construction waste.

Killian Stadium becomes the new home for the Missouri State University Softball team, with home games and practices played at the facility.

Activities during the Stadium's inaugural weekend will include the Division I All-Missouri Classic softball tournament on Friday, March 6 – Sunday, March 8, featuring Missouri State, Saint Louis, and Southeast Missouri State Universities and both the University of Missouri-Columbia and University of Missouri-Kansas City. MSU will participate during the Saturday dedication by featuring more than two dozen former collegiate alumni and a first pitch ceremony by university officials.

"We're continuing the more than 70-year legacy of softball in our community by maintaining and updating the Killian Sports Complex, a facility that has been a part of that rich tradition since 1994, when the Park Board acquired the property" said Parks Director Jodie Adams. "Not only have the grounds been used by local players for more than 25 years, but we also currently use them to host a number of

state and national tournaments. The improvements will continue and increase our likelihood of bringing in those types of games, adding to the quality of recreation and athletics in the community, and bringing a significant economic impact to the area.”

In 2008, the Park Board hosted three national tournaments, two of which were held at Killian Sports Complex. Of those, the ASA Girls’ Fast Pitch Northern National Softball Championships had a direct economic impact of more than \$1.1 million during the five-day tournament. In 2009, the facility will host the Missouri Amateur Softball Association (MASA) Adult Slow Pitch State Championships, the ASA Men’s 40 & Over Fast Pitch National, and ASA Women’s “C” West Slow Pitch National. Killian is also host to the Missouri State High School Athletic Association (MSHSAA) Softball State Championships in 2010 and 2011.

For more information, contact: Bob Belote, Assistant Director of Parks, (417) 864-1049; or Bob Nelson, Public Information Administrator, (417) 874-2176.