

March 29, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden Opens March 30

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board opens the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden for the season Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. inside Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic.

The 7.5-acre enclosed garden features traditional Japanese design and landscaping, teahouse, moon bridge, pagoda, meditation garden, koi lake, waterfall, ponds and canals. Now in its 28th year, trees and other landscaping in the garden are reaching maturity.

The garden was established in 1985 as the Springfield Sister Cities Association formalized Springfield's sister city relationship with Isesaki, Japan. The garden is developed and maintained by volunteers with Friends of the Garden- Japanese Garden Committee as well as parks staff.

Over the winter, volunteers Don and Nancy Schmidt led renovation efforts on the ponds and waterfall, spending hours clearing mud and debris from waterways inside the garden.

"We will put the lilies in when they start blooming in May, but the pond looks pretty nice without them," Don Schmidt said in a recent report to Friends of the Garden. "You are in for a treat when you next visit this garden."

Admission to the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden is free Saturday, April 6, during the Cherry Blossom Kite Festival, an annual event sponsored by the Springfield Sister Cities Association. The garden will be open 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Friends of the Garden volunteers will give guided tours.

Regular admission to Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden is \$3 for adults, free for children age 12 and younger. Hours are Thurs.- Mon., 9 a.m. to dusk or 7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact: Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 417-891-1515. For media inquiries, contact: Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.