



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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~ MEDIA EVENT ~

**MEDIA INVITED TO SEE WATER RETURN TO THE
SPRINGFIELD
MILLRACE RESTORATION PROJECT TOMORROW**

What: Springfield Millrace Restoration project hits a major milestone as water returns to the channel

When: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 **at Noon**

Where: Clearwater Park in Springfield (From Main Street, go south on South 42nd Street, following S. 42nd Street almost .8 mile to the roundabout at Jasper Road. Turn left onto Jasper Road for .3 mile. Turn right onto Clearwater Lane for approximately .5 mile. Jog slightly to the right as the road leaves Clearwater Lane and continue on the park entrance road to the parking area.)

Visuals &

Interviews: Staff will be on hand to provide information regarding the current and future project work on this environmentally vital waterway. Contact Rachael Chilton with questions.

Background: The importance of the Mill Race is both historic and contemporary. Elias Briggs, the founder of Springfield, hand dug the Mill Race in 1852 along a route that followed abandoned meanders and sloughs of the Willamette. The Mill Race powered Springfield's first gristmill and early timber and agriculture industries, giving shape to the present community. Georgia-Pacific Corporation donated a majority of the Mill Race system to the City of Springfield in 1985.

Today the Mill Race supports a host of municipal uses, including public water supply, irrigation, fire protection, and stormwater conveyance. It has high recreation potential, and its proximity to

downtown provides an opportunity to bring nature into the daily lives of many Springfield residents and visitors.