



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2010

Contact: Niel Laudati 541.726.3780

Cell 541.221-3686

~ MEDIA OPPORTUNITY ~

MEDIA ACCESS TO MILLRACE PROJECT WORK

Contractor to remove old structures in preparation for wetland/riparian habitat creation in Downtown Springfield

What: Springfield Millrace Restoration Project Structure Removal

When: Monday, August 23 from noon – 2 p.m.

Where: Mill Pond site, accessible on Fifth and South A Streets. Please use the parking area outlined in the attached map.

Visuals &

Interviews: Members of the media will be given special access to the project for interviews and footage. The contractor will be removing various structures in order to prepare for a new habitat creation. Staff will be available to answer questions and provide background. You can find out more about the MillRace Project here: <http://springfieldmillrace.org/>

Preparation: Wear sturdy shoes. Hard hats and vest will be provided. This is a construction zone, so please use caution.

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.