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**For Immediate Release:**

**SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY GARDENS BREAKS GROUND AT TOM WATKINS COMMUNITY FARM**

Springfield Community Gardens is celebrating the ground-breaking of Tom Watkins Community Farm--the first organic, educational community farm in Springfield. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, we will host a ground-breaking ceremony at 1909 N Park at 9am, October 24th in celebration of National Food Day.

As part of this educational garden space, SCG will launch its first *High-Yield Farmer Training Program* in early November. The project is funded by a \$10,000 grant from the MTS Foundation, written in partnership with Ozarks Food Harvest. Expert Farmer Dan Bigbee of Fassnight Creek Farms will lead the program, and volunteers from the Tom Watkins Neighborhood and volunteer interns from Springfield Community Gardens will prepare the ground. The University of Missouri Extension Services will also consult on the project.

Tom Watkins Community Farm will provide: access to healthy, locally produced food for families in the neighborhood; demonstrate small-scale, sustainable agricultural practices that protect our environment, reconnect people with the land; and provide an educational space for Springfield Community Gardens to lead workshops.

In celebration of the event and Food Day, Farmers Gastropub will be serving locally-sourced, "I Eat Real" specials after the event, so come celebrate with us!

For more information or to register as a farmer apprentice, contact Springfield Community Gardens at (417) 414-7129 or visit online at [springfieldcommunitygardens.org](http://springfieldcommunitygardens.org).