





Looking south at the Spring Lake Park Project nearing completion.

## Spring Lake Park Project

The Spring Lake Park Project began construction in May 2014. Now nearly complete, Spring Lake Pond is a beautiful amenity that improves water quality and brings additional recreation options to the community.

Spring Lake Park is located in South Omaha just west of 13th Street and just south of Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.

Spring Lake Park was originally established in the 1870s as an urban park with a lake. The lake was drained in the 1930s, and the park became a dumping ground instead of a place for families to gather for Sunday afternoon picnics.

The newly-renovated park includes a broad range of innovative green elements that expand the park's wildlife habitat diversity, increase recreational opportunities, and allow residents in the neighborhood to reclaim the park. Natural springs once again fill the lake. Native grass, wildflower, and tree plantings provide food and habitat for wildlife and birds. Residents can walk the winding trails and fish with friends and family. In addition to enhancing the beauty of the park, the Spring Lake pond also saved the city approximately \$5 million dollars by reducing the need for the construction of new piping systems downstream of the detention ponds.

*(Continued on page 8.)*



Fishing access pads under construction.



Original design rendering.



Maintenance access and walking trail around the lake.

The project plan was honored with a Merit Award in Planning & Analysis in the Central States American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Awards Program in Saint Louis on March 22, 2013. The Central States area includes six ASLA chapters that span eight states.

This project was completed through partnership with the Nebraska Environmental Trust; Omaha Parks, Recreation and Public Property; Keep Omaha Beautiful; Spring Lake Neighborhood Association; and the Spring Lake Park Habitat Restoration and Preservation Team.

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Additional information on this project can be found in the **Appendix**.