Upon entering Camp STAR Angelina you are met with the sound of laughter and a feeling of anticipation as each day brings on new experiences, adventure and stories. The spirit of camp is embodied by the campers and staff who create an atmosphere of fun, hope, inclusion and acceptance.

The grounds at Camp STAR Angelina provide an ideal location for a summer camp; a tree-lined winding road leads you into a world of nature, adventure and possibility. Scattered with pine trees, picnic tables, trails and green space, the grounds themselves have a therapeutic effect on the campers and staff. Campers are able to spend their summer days outside and around Forest Park, interacting with other campers, staff and nature. The possibilities of discovery are endless.

Camp programs and facilities are interconnected. Programs allow the campers the opportunity to try new things and to grow as individuals. Facilities are the spaces and structures that enhance program success and provide needed shelter from the natural elements.

“Camp Star Angelina has played a significant role in providing quality therapeutic recreational resources to all of our youth and young adults for over 50 years. It is with great pleasure we offer you the opportunity to share in the development of a three-phase master plan. Our concept is very simple—to provide quality recreational opportunities to everyone with no barriers. I have personally witnessed the joy this program brings to the children and families involved and look forward to joining with the Western Massachusetts Community in ensuring we deliver the best for our children.

I want to thank Tony Restivo, Laura Walsh and all the Camp STAR Angelina parents for their commitment. It is for their work and dedication we can celebrate this Master Plan and ensure it is implemented in its entirety. Please take the time to review our plans for a new camp and know any commitment of time, talent or funding will go a long way in the success of Camp STAR Angelina.”

Patrick Sullivan
Executive Director, PBRM

“Camp is hard to describe in words. It’s more about a feeling you get when you drive up to a cabin. It’s the beginning of summer and with that brings anticipation and fun. For the campers it’s the end of a school year and a time to see all of their friends and their counselors from last summer. They get to be themselves, laugh and play and not worry about homework, school bullies and being teased by others. Most of these campers are different people once they get off that bus. It’s as if they can just relax and enjoy life. It also gives these children and young adults a little bit of self-esteem and makes them a bit stronger. They feel better about themselves because of their successes at camp.

For the staff it’s a chance to be outside and make a difference in a child’s life. I truly believe that the staff care about the campers and look forward to seeing them each year, which is why we have staff that have worked here for years. Fall camp it’s even a chance to relive their camp experience.”

TJ Donahue
Camp STAR Angelina Seasonal Director

80% of Camp STAR Angelina campers have a specific need.
Currently the indoor space does not meet the needs of Camp STAR Angelina on rainy days; therefore the campers and staff move to a local high school when there is inclement weather. This limits the camp program on those days. While the grounds are beautiful, some areas and trails are still inaccessible to many of our campers. Lack of access prevents the campers from experiencing the full therapeutic benefits of the natural setting.

Camp STAR Angelina is in need of facility upgrades to enhance program potential for the campers. With the addition of programming space and buildings, as well as maintenance to the trails and grounds, we will be able to offer campers a modernized, universally designed, state-of-the-art facility that encourages success for all campers.

Universal Design is a proactive approach that seamlessly incorporates accessibility into the overall function and design, creating equal access for all.

Our Beginnings

1956: City of Springfield Therapeutic Recreation Programs begin
1960s: Summer Camp Programs operate in separate locations
   - Camp STAR – programs for youth with physical disabilities
   - Camp Angelina – programs for youth with developmental disabilities

1979: Parents and Friends of STAR, Inc. forms to support therapeutic summer programs
1990s: Camp programs merge into one location: Camp STAR Angelina at Angelina Park (5 Branch Parkway)
2000s: Camp STAR Angelina relocates to the Camp Seco Grounds in Forest Park and remains an inclusive program serving all youth, particularly those with physical disabilities, developmental delays, ADHD, emotional, behavioral and learning disabilities, hearing and visual impairments
2010: Camp STAR Angelina Capital Improvement Plan begins
   - Camp Seco renamed Camp STAR Angelina
   - Master Plan developed to create a similarly designed accessible camp
   - Fundraising begins for Capital Improvements
2011-2015: Fundraising efforts continue

We Need Your Support

Camp STAR Angelina provides inclusive recreational opportunities for all children and young adults, particularly those with physical disabilities, developmental delays, learning and emotional disabilities, medical concerns, and hearing and visual impairments.

Camp STAR Angelina serves all children and young adults, and the grounds should reflect this spirit of inclusion.

“I have been supervising Camp STAR Angelina for 31 years, and in that time I have seen the camp grow in numbers and stature. I have seen staff come in at 16-year-olds, stay with us through college, and then graduate with an degree in Special Education. Working with children and young adults with special needs has been a life-changing experience for them.

Camp is about sharing, and the memories are particularly heartwarming for me. I remember summer variety shows on the last evening of camp. You see excitement on the faces of the campers as they will be performing in front of their parents, their camp friends and staff. We all come away from the show with a sense of pride and joy. This is the essence of Camp STAR Angelina.”

Tony Restivo
Therapeutic Recreation Specialist

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Universal Design is a proactive approach that seamlessly incorporates accessibility into the overall function and design, creating equal access for all.
The Department of Parks, Buildings and Recreation Management (DPBRM), the Springfield Council for Cultural and Community Affairs (SCCCA) and Camp STAR Angelina have partnered together to implement a Master Plan for Capital improvements that will develop the facilities and increase programming for the hundreds of campers and families we serve each year.

The proposed improvements are necessarily ambitious and proactive in design. The future trend of program and design will no longer be to just meet the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but to look toward universal design and access for all. Parents, families and campers will be looking for programs that help teach children about differences, acceptance and respect for all people. The improvements at Camp STAR Angelina will put us ahead of the curve as we intentionally plan and design a facility that will be accessible to all people, regardless of age or ability. In doing so, we will be creating the first Universally Designed day camp and park in Western Massachusetts.

Camp STAR Angelina will follow Universal Design principles ensuring access for everyone. All elements of the camp/park will be barrier-free so youth of all abilities can be successful and enjoy the natural setting together.
What We Need To Rebuild

Detail of Master Site Plan

- Swimming Pool/Bathhouse/Changing Rooms
- Administrative Lodge
- Activity Center
- Amphitheater

Pool and Bathhouse - Phase 1
- The energy of camp, swimming is the most popular activity at camp and the new facility will make sure it is accessible to all campers with a changing room that meets the needs of campers ages 3 to 22 and a Pool with a sidewalk entrance that encourages independence and access.
- The Pool and Bathhouse are in a centralized location at camp to increase safety and security.
- The Pool offers enough programming space for swimming and water games.
- Phase 1 will be constructed in Spring of 2011, providing a safe, clean and aesthetically improved facility.

Pool and Bathhouse

- Location 30 feet away from Pool/BR, inaccessible rustic structure with no privacy or storage.
- Converted into bathehouse design.
- 10,500 sf.

Administrative Lodge - Phase 2
- The heart and home of Camp, the Lodge houses the camp and visitor offices, activity and conference room with entrances that are accessible to all people.
- The conference room is multi-functional and will offer the campers a space to be on rainy days without leaving camp. This room will hold up to 150 people and has an indoor/outdoor fireplace for the camp atmosphere.
- The Pool and Bathhouse are in a centralized location at camp to increase safety and security.
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Administrative Lodge

- Includes camp office, nurse's office, kitchen, conference room for 100, bathrooms and lobby.
- A year round building with activity and meeting space available for rental during non-camp hours.
- 1,000 sf.

Amphitheater - Phase 3
- The energy of camp, swimming is the most popular activity at camp and the new facility will make sure it is accessible to all campers with a changing room that meets the needs of campers ages 3 to 22 and a Pool with a sidewalk entrance that encourages independence and access.
- The Pool and Bathhouse are in a centralized location at camp to increase safety and security.
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Amphitheater

- Includes camp office, nurse's office, kitchen, conference room for 100, bathrooms and lobby.
- A year round building with activity and meeting space available for rental during non-camp hours.
- 1,000 sf.

Activity Center - Phase 3
- This Imagination Center is an energized building with a three-sided deck overlooking Porter Lake.
- Enhanced by natural lighting, the open floor plan encourages movement and a non-restrictive environment designed to stimulate the creativity of the campers.
- Campers’ creations will be showcased on the display wall, and an arching entrance leads to a bi-directional raincoat room for rainy day and imaginative games.
- The Activity Center accommodates up to 50 people year round, providing indoor and outdoor programming space with access to a climate-controlled environment.

Activity Center

- Includes camp office, nurse's office, kitchen, conference room for 100, bathrooms and lobby.
- A year round building with activity and meeting space available for rental during non-camp hours.
- 1,000 sf.

Detail of Site Plan

- Swimming Pool/Bathhouse/Changing Rooms
- Administrative Lodge
- Activity Center
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Imagine...

You are a 10-year-old with a developmental disability, a child with cancer who now uses a wheelchair, a young girl with ADHD or a boy with Asthma. Now, envision yourself as a parent or family member of this child.

Where do they play? Where do they make friends with other children who share similar experiences as well as those who do not? Where can they be included and accepted for being themselves, and not seen as just a person with a disability?

Everyone needs a place that is universal and accessible to play, grow and learn. This place is Camp STAR Angelina.

All donations to SCCCA/Camp STAR Angelina are tax deductible.

“Go out and be your best”
- Eunice Shriver

Your dedication to Camp STAR Angelina will be recognized on our Star Chart of Support in the Administration Lodge.

Bright STAR I $100
Bright STAR II $250
Shining STAR I $500*
Shining STAR II $750*
Shooting STAR $1,000*
Corporate Constellation $2,500*

*Shining and Shooting Stars as well as Corporate Constellations can be named in honor and/or memory of a special person.

The Springfield Council for Cultural and Community Affairs and Camp STAR Angelina are 501(c)3 organizations, all donations are tax deductible.

Please make donations payable to:
SCCCA/Camp STAR Angelina
200 Trafton Road
Springfield, MA 01108

For more information contact: Laura Walsh
Tel. (413) 866-5186  Fax (413) 787-6439
lwalsh@springfieldcityhall.com
Visit us at: www.springfieldcityhall.com/Park

Universal Commitment

The future of Camp STAR Angelina is bright as we redevelop the facilities and grounds to guarantee that the program is universal and accessible to all regardless of age, ability or specific need. As this vision becomes a reality, we will be opening the doors of recreation to all people in the Greater Springfield area. Your support and donation will ensure that we have a state-of-the-art accessible day camp and park.

The rebuilding of Camp STAR Angelina will take commitment and support from all areas of our community – from businesses and organizations to families and individuals, making us universal in all aspects.

Thank you for choosing to make a difference in the future of recreation for the City of Springfield. Together we are building a barrier-free camp and park that will enable campers to focus on independence, individuality, recreation and fun.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
Margaret Mead