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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 30, 2025

**SUBJECT: City of Neosho Announces Tree Removal at Big Spring Park Due to Safety Concerns**

Neosho, MO — 10/30/2025 — The City of Neosho will be removing a large, aging tree in Big Spring Park that has long been a familiar sight to visitors and a favorite home to the park’s beloved ducks.

After recent assessments, it was determined that the tree poses a significant safety hazard due to advanced decay. Over time, the tree has become hollow and reached the end of its natural life, making it unstable and unsafe for the public. Out of an abundance of caution for park visitors and the surrounding area, the City will proceed with a partial removal of the tree.

“We know how special this tree and the ducks that call it home are to our community,” said Kenny Balls, Parks & Recreation Director. “This decision was not made lightly. Our goal is to ensure public safety while preserving as much of the natural habitat as possible.”

To honor the importance of this tree to the park’s duck population, the Parks & Recreation Department will leave a portion of the trunk in place to continue serving as a shelter and nesting space with a few modifications. This will allow the ducks to continue nesting in a safe, familiar space.

Big Spring Park is one of Neosho’s most cherished spaces, and the City remains committed to preserving its natural beauty and wildlife for generations to come.

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