



Redesigning  
Our Future!

CAMP  
**STAR**  
ANGELINA

200 Trafton Road  
Springfield, MA 01108  
[www.springfieldcityhall.com/Park](http://www.springfieldcityhall.com/Park)



## Bringing The Outside In...

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.

*"I am very excited about this opportunity to transform Camp STAR Angelina into an accessible facility that will allow all our residents, most importantly our children and young adults, to experience the benefits of Forest Park without impediments. This program has been a valued resource in our community for over 50 years, and I encourage all our residents, Springfield families and corporate citizens to take a new look at Camp STAR Angelina as we plan for the next generation of campers. Transforming these facilities will enhance our livable community and increase quality of life for our children by highlighting the natural environment in a way that has not yet occurred in the City of Springfield. Forest Park is the jewel of the city, and Camp STAR Angelina will become its shining star. We are the City of Firsts, and with the redesign of Camp STAR Angelina, we will have the first Universally Designed day camp and park in Western Massachusetts.*

*I would like to take a moment to thank Tony Restivo and the Parents and Friends of Camp STAR for their dedication to the Camp STAR Angelina program, and Laura Walsh for guiding the development of this exciting and universal master plan. Together we can make this happen."*

*Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor  
City of Springfield, Massachusetts*

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*"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. For some it's even a chance to relive their camp experience."*

*TJ Donahue  
Camp STAR Angelina Seasonal Director*



**Camp STAR Angelina serves campers ages 3 to 22.**



**80% of Camp STAR Angelina campers have a specific need.**



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# 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 (S .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, ADD/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 universally designed accessible camp
  - Fundraising begins for Capital Improvements
- 2011-2015:** Fundraising efforts continue

*"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 as 16-year-olds, stay with us through college, and then graduate with a 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





# We Need Your Support

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.*

 **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.**



Background Photo: Camp STAR Angelina – "Tree House"

# The Capital Improvement Plan

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.

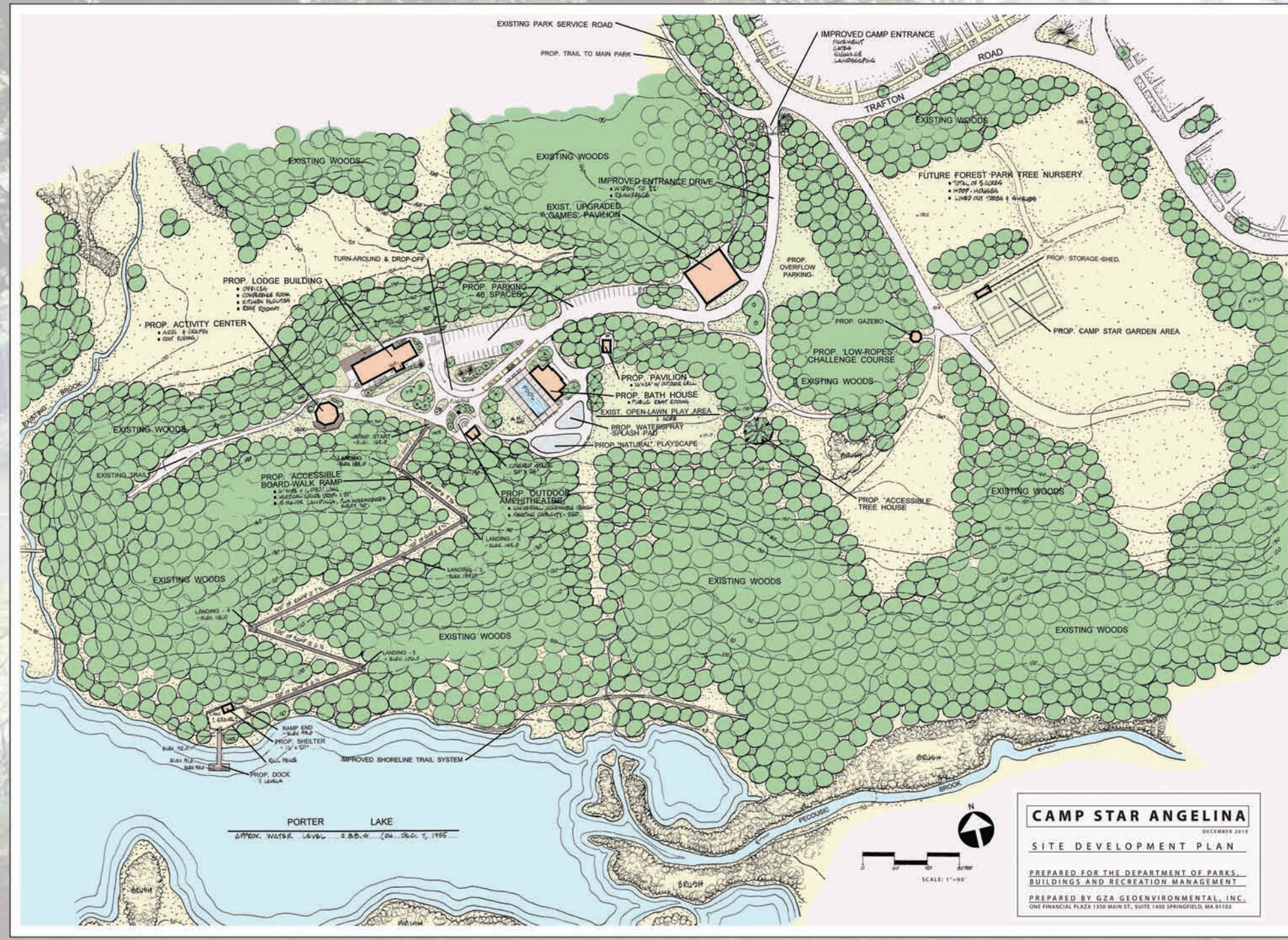
The proposed improvements are necessarily ambitious and proactive in design. The future trend of program and design will no longer be to just meet the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but to look toward universal design and access for all. Parents, families and campers 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.

Universal Design creates opportunities and access for people of all abilities.

Examples of Universal Design at Camp STAR Angelina include:

-  **Sloped Zero-Entry Pool** – ramped-entry shallow end is main entrance for pool
-  **Universal Amphitheater** – all levels and every seat are accessible
-  **Accessible Trail to Porter Lake** – woodland trail with gentle slope and scenic overlooks along the way to the lakeside dock
-  **Barrier-Free Buildings** – all entrances and areas are accessible

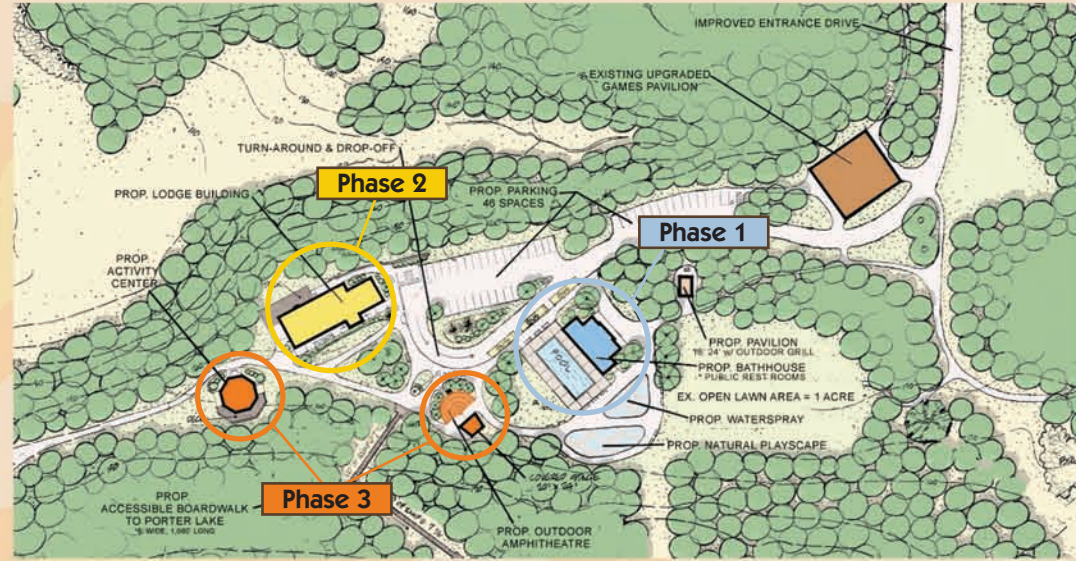


**CAMP STAR ANGELINA**  
 SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
 DECEMBER 2018  
 PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, BUILDINGS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT  
 PREPARED BY GZA GEOTECHNICAL, INC.  
 ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA 1330 MAIN ST., SUITE 1400 SPRINGFIELD, MA 01103

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Background Photo: Camp STAR Angelina – "Porter Lake"

# What We Need To Rebuild



## Detail of Master Site Plan

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

CAMP FEATURE	EXISTING CONDITIONS	PROPOSED RENOVATIONS	SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION	FUNDS NEEDED
<b>Phase 1</b>				
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	30'x60'; 6' deep. The most-used facility at camp, in need of constant repair due to broken skimmers and consistent vandalism. Entry to the pool has limited accessibility, pool filter is located in a separate building, and retaining wall needs immediate replacement.	Construct a new pool with a <i>sloped universal entry</i> , modernized filtration, increased programming space (30'x75', 8' deep) and attached bathhouse for improved security.	<b>Funding for the Pool and Bathhouse has been secured through grants from the following organizations:</b>  <b>MassMutual Financial Group,</b> <b>The City of Springfield,</b> <b>The Davis Foundation,</b> <b>The Parents and Friends of Camp STAR, Inc.</b>  <b>Phase 1 construction will begin Spring 2011</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>Bathhouse</b>	In a state of disrepair: inaccessible, rustic, not attached to Pool, limited storage space and non-working showers.	Attached to Pool and will include bathrooms, changing rooms/showers, water fountains, filter room, lifeguard and activity storage room. As the main camp bathroom it will be designed for year-round use. The changing room and pool will be for summer use only.		<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Changing Rooms</b>	Located 30' feet away from Pool/BR, inaccessible rustic structure with no privacy or storage.	Incorporated into Bathhouse design.		<b>\$100,000</b>
				<b>\$450,000</b>
<b>Phase 2</b>				
<b>Administration Lodge</b>	New Building	Includes camp office, nurse's office, kitchen, conference room for 150, bathrooms and lobby.	A year-round building with activity and meeting space available for rental during non-camp hours	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
				<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<b>Phase 3</b>				
<b>Activity Center</b>	New Building	Construction of a program area that will inspire creativity and imagination through its intentional open space design, rustic feel and emphasis on natural light. The deck can be used as an activity space or gathering area.	Year-round facility, can also be used as meeting room/small conference space; available for rental during non-camp hours	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>Amphitheater</b>	New Building	Outdoor entertainment facility with seating capacity of 250 people. Includes a stage, backstage prep/storage area and a fire ring. Will be equipped with state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems.	A three-season outdoor programming site also available for rental during non-camp hours	<b>\$350,000</b>
				<b>\$1,350,000</b>



### Pool and Bathhouse - Phase 1

- The energy of camp; swimming is the most popular activity at camp and this 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 walk-in entrance that encourages independence and success.
- 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 2011, providing a safe, clean and aesthetically improved facility.



### Administration Lodge - Phase 2

- The heart and home of Camp, the Lodge houses the camp and nurse's office, kitchen 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 and outdoor cooking.
- A wrap-around deck offers a scenic overlook to the wetland below, and the front porch is roomy enough for Adirondack rocking chairs with a great view of the rest of camp.



### Activity Center - Phase 3

- This Imagination Center is an octagonal 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 arched entrance leads to a benched window seat room for quieter play and imaginative games. The possibilities for discovery are endless.
- The Activity Center accommodates up to 50 people year round, providing indoor and outdoor programming space with access to a climate-controlled environment.

Total Amount  
Needed to Rebuild  
Camp STAR Angelina  
**\$3,300,000**



### Amphitheater - Phase 3

- Every camp needs a stage to ensure that the campers have a chance to take center stage and experience the benefits of the positive spotlight. Our amphitheater offers accessibility in all seats and on each level, accommodating up to 250 people.
- Perfect for the end-of-the-summer variety show! The campers will be able to put on performances in a state-of-the-art outdoor theater, while parents and families will be able to see them shine where they are most comfortable and successful – Camp STAR Angelina.

## 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

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Background Photo: Camp STAR Angelina - "Walking Path"



## 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

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

<b>Bright STAR I</b>	\$100
<b>Bright STAR II</b>	\$250
<b>Shining STAR I</b>	\$500*
<b>Shining STAR II</b>	\$750*
<b>Shooting STAR</b>	\$1,000*
<b>Corporate Constellation</b>	\$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**

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Visit us at: [www.springfieldcityhall.com/Park](http://www.springfieldcityhall.com/Park)