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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: March 19, 2012

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**SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT TO BEGIN DEVELOPMENT OF 20 ACRE PARCEL AT CENTENNIAL PARK.**

Springfield Park District will begin work (as soon as Tuesday, March 20) to develop a 20 acres parcel of land located in the Northwest corner of Centennial Park.

**Timeline**

This project is scheduled to begin Tuesday March 20. Park District staff anticipate full completion of all components by late Fall 2012.

**Project Components**

1. Small tot lot (playground)
2. Picnic Shelter
3. Looped recreation and connectors to existing paths
4. Fitness stations
5. Environmental nature display areas with wetlands, prairie, savanna and native tree plantings.

**Currently at Centennial Park**

Centennial Park, encompassing 190 acres was added to the park district in 1997. On the east side of the site, an entry road from Bunker Hill Road runs northerly and makes a loop, incorporating parking along its edge. To the west is a small lake, 4 acres in area. Beyond that is a sledding hill, 100 feet high. A playground, 2 picnic shelters, and outdoor picnic areas lie to the north and east of the driveway. Four ball fields are east of the loop road. On the east side of the park off Lenhart Road, an entrance and parking area serve a new large skateboard facility and several bocce ball courts. A maintenance building is located in the southwest corner of the park. These developed areas have had some trees planted, generally in rows to outline use areas.

**Geographical Location**

Centennial Park is located on Springfield's south west side at the intersection of Lenhart and Bunker Hill Roads. A new church complex is across the street to the east and a new residential development is on the north. The 20 acre portion under development is located at the end of Covered Wagon Trail in Centennial Park Place and immediately West of the new Sangamon Valley Bike Trail that bisects the Park. See map below for detailed location information.

**Funding**

The Springfield Park District has secured a \$400,000 Open Space and Land Acquisition and Development Grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that will fully fund this project.

**Benefit to the Community**

The primary purpose of this project is to allow this portion of Centennial Park to function as a walk-to neighborhood park for residents living in and around Centennial Park Place. The new park area will also serve as a formal entry point for the 80 acres of native wildlife habitat and prairie/meadow established in the Western part of the park.

For additional information, please visit our website [www.springfieldparks.org](http://www.springfieldparks.org) or contact Elliott McKinley at 544-1751 or [emckinley@springfieldparks.org](mailto:emckinley@springfieldparks.org).

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Springfield Park District  
**Centennial Park** Springfield, Illinois  
 Preliminary Site Plan - Phase One

**LAKOTA**  
 THE LAKOTA GROUP INC.  
**FUEHRMANN**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, INC.

1" = 120'  
 August 1, 2011