



Springfield Park District

www.springfieldparks.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT TO CUT THE RIBBON FOR THE WASHINGTON PARK BRIDGE PROJECT

[Springfield, IL] The Springfield Park District is excited to announce that we will cut the ribbon to the new bridges in Washington Park next Tuesday, September 26th at 5pm near the lower lagoon, south bridge which is adjacent to the Rose Garden Parking lot. The bridge opening celebration has been a long time coming throughout the multi-year planning of this construction project!

The old bridges were about 100 years old and the weight limit had declined somewhat during that time period. They were still safe for traffic, but were showing wear and needed to be replaced. The Washington Park Bridge project had to be completed in phases. Phase I began in June of 2013 with preliminary site and environmental engineering work with the firm of Knight Engineering. Additional contractors for Phase I included work by Martin Engineering as well as Professional Services Industries.

Phase II which began in the fall of 2014, was the design and public input phase. During this phase, the Park Board solicited input from the public and IHPA to help determine the final design elements of how the bridges would look and feel upon completion.

Otto Baum Construction Company was awarded a contract for \$1,356,146 to replace the two bridges, dredge the West Lagoon, and pave the walking path on the levee. Construction began with site preparation in July of 2016 and all work was completed by June of 2017.

The Park District solicited and received a federal grant through the Illinois Department of Transportation to cover 85% of construction costs. During the actual bridge construction phase, the District made every effort to ensure that visitors to Washington Park encountered as few inconveniences as possible.

The middle lagoon walkway was expanded and completed first to keep the flow of pedestrian and bicycle traffic moving throughout the entire construction process. “We appreciate the communities support and patience as we attended to this long-range planning project to ensure that the Park District continues to maintain our existing facilities, historic parks and structures.” – Leslie Sgro, Park Board President. It was important to the District to spend as much time necessary to complete the work on the structures which should last the community another 100 years in this historic park.

We encourage the community to join us Tuesday night, September 26th at 5pm to cut the ribbon and celebrate these amazing new structures in Washington Park!

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For more information on this event and others going on within the Springfield Park District, please visit our website at www.springfieldparks.org.

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