



Find your **FUN**, find your **smile** at springfieldparks.org

GENERAL OFFICE

Bunn Park
2500 South Eleventh St.
Springfield, IL 62703

springfieldparks.org

phone: (217) 544-1751

fax: (217) 544-1811

ADMINISTRATION

Derek Harms, CPRP
Executive Director

Elliott McKinley
Director of Parks &
Planning

Lynn Saputo
Director of Recreation &
Marketing

Stephen H. Flesch
Director of Finance
& Administration

TRUSTEES

Leslie A. Sgro
President

Grant Hammer
Tina Jannazzo
Robin Schmidt
Don Evans
C.J. Metcalf
Sierra Senor-Moore

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 9, 2018

Contact:

Derek Harms (217) 544-1751 X1000

Susan Helm (217) 502-3992

Springfield Park District partners with local volunteers to plant pollinator garden in Washington Park.

The Springfield Park District has been working with a group of local volunteers to reestablish a 3,000 square foot native plant area in Washington Park. When complete, the garden will focus on supporting pollinators. The Garden will be located at the North end of the lower lagoon near the bridge and boardwalk. The garden was originally started ten years ago, but invasive species have since taken over.

Volunteers Susan Helm and Franci Cobern have spearheaded this project. Volunteer and project organizer, Susan Helm “We began this project last fall by gathering and organizing volunteers and soliciting donations. Countless volunteers have donated their time to remove plant material, especially invasive plant species, and plan for the new garden. We've consulted with local experts from the Friends of Sangamon Valley and a local Landscape Architect firm on the selection of plant species and aesthetic layout of the new garden.”

Springfield Park District Executive Director, Derek Harms “We would like to extend a warm thank you to all of the volunteers who have dedicated their time, resources, and expertise to make this wonderful improvement. As a steward of public green space, we play an important role in the conservation effort to address the recent decline in pollinators. Not only will this project beautify the area, but it is designed to provide additional food resources (nectar and pollen) to our resident pollinators for years to come.”

Nearly 1,000 native plants have been purchased through grants and donated funds and will be arriving on site today. Approximately 15 to 20 community volunteers have been working at the site over the last few weeks, removing stumps, prepping the soil, adding anti-bunny fencing and mulching prior to the arrival of the plants. Volunteers will begin planting tomorrow at 8:00 am (weather dependent) and continue for at least two hours each day - Thursday through Saturday.