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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT TO HOST COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY AT THE NEW BABBLING BROOK & MEMORIAL FOR GRAISON'S PATH AT EDWIN WATTS SOUTHWIND PARK.

4965 S. 2nd St, Springfield
39.732143, -89.656914 (GPS to Babbling Brook)

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District is pleased to announce the completion of the Babbling Brook and Graison's Path at Southwind Park. The Babbling Brook project was part of Southwind Park's Master Plan. The project was funded by a generous donation from Jack Pfeiffer with the WNNS Cruise for Charity to the Springfield Parks Foundation back in 2012.

Springfield Park District General Maintenance worked from a concept design provided by RDg Design to install the Babbling Brook just north of the Treehouse in Southwind Park. The construction project has been on-going since 2014 and consists of an artificial stream set in a reservoir liner with a waterfall spillway created from natural rocks utilized from the grounds at Southwind Park. The border around the Babbling Brook is landscaped with bushes and native plantings and a sidewalk that has been installed which connects to the original walking path in the park.

The final feature within the Babbling Brook installation has significant meaning to the original donor, Mr. Jack Pfeiffer. A wooden foot-path with rails was installed over a portion of the brook to connect the two sections of sidewalk. This foot-path over the brook has been dedicated as Graison's Path – *in memory of Graison Matthew Pfeiffer and Trisomy Awareness.*

Graison was the son of Alysa Pfeiffer, granddaughter to Jack Pfeiffer. Alysa was 24.5 weeks pregnant when an amniocentesis was performed to look for any chromosomal abnormalities. It was then confirmed that her unborn child had Trisomy 13. There are fewer than 20,000 cases per year. Alysa was told there is a high probability that her son would pass in utero.

On October 3, 2015, at 37 weeks pregnant, Alysa gave birth to a beautiful baby boy named Graison who lived for 1 hour and 32 minutes, weighing 5lbs 12oz. Upon his passing, as part of a living memorial, Alysa and Jack Pfeiffer discussed the concept of the foot-path that was to be installed at the Babbling Brook to be dedicated in Graison's memory.

Jack Pfeiffer approached the Park Board about the final plans to begin installation of the Babbling Brook and his request to name the path after his great grandson Graison. The Board approved the Private Funding Construction Agreement with the Parks Foundation for the "Babbling Brook Water Feature" at Edwin Watts Southwind Park.

"Keeping true to the mission of Erin's Pavilion and Southwind Park to be a place of enjoyment and respite for persons with all abilities, but particularly those with disabilities, I thought the foot-path at the Babbling Brook would be a great place to reflect on Graison's memory because if he were here today, he would have been blind and deaf among other disabilities that Trisomy 13 can bring." – states Alysa Pfeiffer

The Springfield Park District is grateful for this generous donation and addition to Southwind Park. We revere the Babbling Brook as a beautiful place for the community to visit, reflect and take in the natural tranquility of the sounds from the ever-flowing stream.

We invite you, your families and constituents to come out and join us, Wednesday, October 3, at 12pm to celebrate the completion of the overall project as well as a memorial in honor of the 3rd anniversary since Graison's passing. *Plan to travel Graison's Path with us tomorrow as we gather at the Babbling Brook in Southwind Park.*

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For more information on this topic and any other Park District news related items, please visit our Website at www.springfieldparks.org

Trisomy Awareness:

Trisomy 13, also called Patau **syndrome**, is a chromosomal condition associated with severe intellectual disability and physical abnormalities in many parts of the body. ... Due to the presence of several life-threatening medical problems, many infants with **trisomy 13** die within their first days or weeks of life.

Source: <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/trisomy-13>

