



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH LOCAL SERVICE GROUPS; TO PROVIDE FREE ACCESS TO PARK AMENITIES**

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District is pleased to announce a new partnership for services with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois (BGCCIL) and the Springfield Urban League!

The Park Board and District Staff have been working for some time now to develop a recreation amenity based “Passport to Park FUN” designated to local service organizations. These passes are intended to provide FREE access to Park District amenities to visit the Henson Robinson Zoo, a public swimming, and public ice-skating sessions at the Nelson Center Ice Rink.

We plan to issue multiple cards to each service organization. The Boys and Girls Club and Urban League would then steward the cards and they could be “checked out” like a book at the local library to provide additional services to the families they serve. The cards are barcoded and preloaded to allow a day visit for a family to gain general admission to the listed facilities, along with free admission to designated Annual Park District events\*.

“The goal of this program is to not only to encourage healthy outdoor recreation but to provide access to additional community members who might not be aware of some of our services or have the means to add extracurricular recreational activities to their already stretched budgets. The Park District wants to break down barriers, educate citizens about our wonderful recreational opportunities and ensure that we are making a concerted effort to improve the lives of all our residents!” – **states Leslie Sgro, Park Board President**

**Tiffany Mathis, Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Central Illinois**, “views these *Passports to Park FUN* cards as another resource to provide to their members and an effort to raise awareness of great family activities that may go unnoticed. During this trying time, more than ever, families need fun outings that they can do together, and the *Park FUN* cards will provide just that!”

The District, Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois and the Springfield Urban League all have a common goal in serving youth and families. The **Passports to Park FUN** program is an example of our agencies stretching our collective resources in creative and innovative ways. “We are stronger and better at it together!” – **agree Leslie Sgro, Tiffany Mathis and Larry Hemingway, Springfield Urban League**

The District is truly excited about the expansion of our services and is looking for further means through sponsorships to additionally fund these organizations to also provide free programming to their constituents. The Park District will continue to investigate other service areas in Springfield that could assist in being a conduit for change, collaboration and advancing our **mission provide accessible and memorable recreational opportunities that enrich the community and improve the quality of life for generations as well as conserve our natural resources.**

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For more info on any other Park District news related items, visit [www.springfieldparks.org](http://www.springfieldparks.org)

\*Event admission is subject to confirmation that event has indeed been scheduled for the season.



PASSPORTS CANNOT BE RENEWED, RESERVED OR PLACED ON HOLD  
This day pass allows a family of up to 6 - only two adults + children  
general admission during regular public hours to the following:

ACTIVITIES	EVENTS
Henson Robinson Zoo	Jacks-o-Lantern Spectacular
Veterans Outdoor Pool	Zoo's Gymballie
Nelson Ctr Public Ice Skating	Holiday Zoo Lights

Please return this pass to:  
Springfield Urban League Inc.  
100 North Elmwood St, Springfield, IL 62703  
Phone: 217-389-3333