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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 20, 2020

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SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT AWARDED \$400,000 OSLAD GRANT FOR ILES PARK REDEVELOPMENT

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District is excited to announce that we are the recipient of a \$400,000 Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as part of a \$29.7 million in OSLAD grants that Governor JB Pritzker announced today.

These OSLAD matching grant funds are providing 85 park and recreation agencies throughout the State the ability to acquire open space, develop existing parks or improve recreational facilities and the Springfield Park District would like to recognize the privilege of receiving one of the grants! “We are sincerely thankful for the confidence Governor Pritzker and IDNR have put in our park system. This partnership will allow us to renovate and bring exciting new recreational opportunities to Iles Park, the second oldest park in our system.” – **Leslie Sgro, Park Board President**

OSLAD funds, combined with \$400,000 in Park District Capital Improvement funds will assist in completing a long-awaited redevelopment within and around Iles Park as part of the District’s Comprehensive Master Plan.

Iles Park, 10.5 acres, is located in the central portion of Springfield at South 6th Street between Oak and Ash streets. The total development of \$800,000 will include the following upgrades and new amenities;

- Installation of new 8 ft. wide looped multi-use path network throughout the park
- Addition of an Art Walk
- New concrete Skate Park with adjacent 18’ square shelter
- Renovations to existing baseball infield, fencing, dugouts and new paved plaza
- New, large community sized playground with more modern features and a Great Lawn area
- New parking lot on east side of the park with 17 new spaces to service ball fields and new skate park
- Landscaping, bioswale and native tree installation
- Site furnishings; litter cans, recycle can, bike rack picnic tables and benches



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Iles Park is one of the oldest city parks having been acquired in 1903, and was named for Elijah Iles after his heirs donated his land. These renovations and implementation of expansion to the green-space and recreational opportunities will be a wonderful compliment to the most recently renovated Pickleball Courts at Iles. The improvements will enhance the experience of the patrons who walk, enjoy their lunch hours at Iles and most importantly, will have a profound impact on the families, children and neighborhood associations that surround this picturesque historic park near Springfield's southeast side.

Funding for this round of OSLAD grants was the direct result of Illinois Association of Park District's (IAPD) advocacy efforts during last year's budget negotiations. IAPD, headquartered in Springfield, has been serving park districts, forest preserves, conservation and recreation agencies since 1928. The Springfield Park District would like to thank IAPD and the General Assembly, specifically our local Senators and Representatives for making the OSLAD grant program a priority and realization for our District and the Springfield residents.

Strong partnerships such as this make it possible for the Springfield Park District to accomplish our mission to 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 information on this topic and any other Park District news related items, please visit our Website at www.springfieldparks.org

OSLAD Site Plan



Prepared for:
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Springfield, Illinois



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