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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT TO CUT THE RIBBON ON NEWLY NAMED JOE RAMIREZ FIELD

Iles Park, Springfield, IL 62702 |
6th & Ash Streets | GPS 39.7799866, -89.6481368



[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District (SPD) is pleased to cut the ribbon on the newly named Joe Ramirez Field at Iles Park.

The improvements to the ball diamond are part of a larger \$1.2 Million redevelopment project at Iles Park that was partially funded through an OSLAD grant. Other improvements in Iles Park include new playground, skate park, accessible walking paths, and new parking lot.

Ramirez has been a north end youth sports legend for over 40 years. He attended Ridgley School and then St. James Trade School where he played football. He also played baseball in the city-sponsored Senior League from 1953-1960 and remained active in the Springfield Park District's slow-pitch softball leagues.

Ramirez also coached the Ridgley Ratz basketball and flag football teams, was an assistant basketball and basketball coach for St. James Trade School. He also coached basketball at St. Aloysius, coached basketball, and flag football at McClelland School, and coached flag football at St. Joseph's School.

He was the Khoury League and Springfield Flag Football League president, an umpire for the Springfield Park District's men's slow-pitch softball and t-ball baseball leagues as well as he coached in the Junior Football League, the Boys and Girls Clubs Football League and various men's and women's softball teams.

In 2005, Joe Ramirez was inducted to the Springfield Sports Hall of Fame. He was the third member of his family to be inducted. The Hall honors and highlights the city's finest athletes, historic high school teams and supporters who have helped make local sports programs a success. To be considered for this prestigious honor, a nominee must be a native of Springfield and have lived in the city a large portion of his/her life as well as have played high school sports in Springfield.

We are honored to cut the ribbon on the newly named Joe Ramirez Field on Saturday, October 16th at 10:30am. *"The naming of this ball diamond allows us the opportunity to honor a true Springfield legend that had a profound impact on youth and adult sports in our community."* – **states Leslie Sgro, President of the Springfield Park Board of Trustees**

Plan to join us on Saturday, October 16th at 10:30am to celebrate a Springfield Sports Hall of Famer and cut the ribbon to Joe Ramirez Field.

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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