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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT AND PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES AT COMER COX PARK IN THE TEEN EMPOWERMENT ZONE!

[**Springfield, IL**] –Springfield Park District and the City of Springfield have partnered together to create and implement a new program designed to provide meaningful employment opportunities and new programming initiatives for youth.

The goal of this project is to build a better community by providing on-the-job training, life skills, leadership development and educational opportunities for at-risk youth between the ages of 15-22 within Springfield. As a Summer Youth Program Recreation Associate, participants will gain real-world experience in a variety of career paths and job duties designed to help prepare young adults to enter the workforce. Candidates will be led by a dedicated, Summer Youth Work & Training Program Coordinator.

In addition, teen leaders in this program will train alongside the Program Coordinator to manage free Day-Camps for local children in the Comer Cox Park area and host planning committees to develop and implement free teen events in the evenings and weekends for their peers.

This youth training and recreational opportunity has been made possible by a generous grant from the City of Springfield through its Community Development Block Grant Funds. **Springfield Park District Board President, Leslie Sgro** *“Through this strong partnership with the City of Springfield, we can offer innovative and impactful programming while creating new first-time employment opportunities and meaningful on-the-job training programs for youth in our community.”*

“In order to build on the strength of our community, collaboration is key,” stated Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder. “The Springfield Park District is uniquely positioned with its facilities and programming to provide this training to teens and young adults in Springfield. I appreciate the assistance of Alderman Gregory and Alderman Williams in getting this initiative off the ground. We look forward to this new partnership and happy to see that this type of hands-on experience being available in our community.”

The program will kick off in early July at Comer Cox Park. Young adults interested in attending are encouraged to pre-register in advance by calling (217)753-2800 X 2003 or visit www.springfieldparks.org.

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For more info on any other Park District news related items, visit www.springfieldparks.org.

