

**For Immediate Release
October 26, 2006**

Park District of Oak Park to Receive OSLAD Grant

The Park District of Oak Park was notified today by the Office of Governor Blagojevich that our community will receive a \$399,000 matching grant for the development of Field Park. This grant is part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space and Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant Program which provides matching dollars for outdoor recreation space projects throughout Illinois.

Improved park amenities at Field Park will include separate pre-school and school-age playgrounds, a splash pad, a pathway through the park connecting north and south, an intergenerational game area with a small park shelter, game tables, and bocce ball court, and significant improvements to the existing outdated soccer and baseball fields. New park landscaping and educational signage will also be added. Construction could start as early as summer 2007 but a final schedule is yet to be determined.

The Park District was eligible for this grant program due to the successful passing of the “Renew Our Parks” referendum by Oak Park voters in April 2005. The local matching funds of \$399,000.00 will be funded out of the Park District of Oak Parks Capital Improvement Fund. A site plan for Field Park was completed in May 2006 which is a requirement for an OSLAD grant application.

Park District President David Kindler said, “These funds will help the Park District meet recreation needs in the community and stretch available local tax dollars. Residents will get the benefit of a renovated park with more features completed more quickly thanks to the grant assistance. It’s been ten years since the park district has been in the position to qualify for grant dollars, but thanks to the referendum, master planning and community involvement, we managed to capitalize on the very first attempt.”

A brief press conference will be held at Field Park, 925 Woodbine, to officially announce the receipt of the IDNR grant. Senator Don Harmon, and Park Board President David Kindler will be joined by residents and their families who were involved in the park planning process on Friday, October 27 at 2:30pm.

For further information, please call Gary Balling at (708) 725-2020.

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