



# PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Park District of Oak Park to Receive OSLAD Grant**

The Park District of Oak Park is proud to announce it was awarded an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) matching grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) on Friday, January 29, 2010 in the amount of \$400,000. The OSLAD Grant will be used for the development of Taylor Park located at Division and Ridgeland in Oak Park. The OSLAD Grant Program is a statewide IDNR program that provides matching dollars for outdoor recreation space projects.

Improvements to Taylor Park, the District's second largest park, will include: replacement/expansion of the existing playground with ADA accessible equipment for both two- to five-year-olds and five- to 12-year-olds; replacement of the tennis courts; installation of a open air shelter and new interior pathways; and the establishment of a wetland-bioswale area to resolve drainage problems within the park site. New park landscaping will also be added. Construction is tentatively slated to begin in spring 2011 with completion by late fall 2011.

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 amount of \$400,000.00 will be funded out of the Park District of Oak Park's Capital Improvement Fund. A site plan for Taylor Park was completed in July 2008 which is a requirement for an OSLAD grant application.

"Thanks to the referendum, the master planning process and a great level of community involvement, the Park District has surpassed the \$1 million mark in OSLAD grant funds in the past 4 years," noted Park District President Mark Gartland. "These funds continue to help the

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Park District meet recreation needs in the community and stretch available local tax dollars to give residents the benefit of renovated park facilities with more features.” Park renovation projects at Field Park, completed in 2008, and Longfellow Park, completed in 2009, were also supported by matching grants from the OSLAD program.

For further information regarding the Taylor Park Renovation Project, please call Gary Balling at (708) 725-2020.

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