

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Revised Plan for Field Park Developed**

July 17, 2007 (Oak Park, Ill.) - A revised Master Plan for Field Park Improvements was submitted for review yesterday by Park District of Oak Park Executive Director Gary Balling to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Grant Administration. The revised plan is a compromise that reflects the concerns voiced by residents at a recent Special Park Board Meeting while maintaining the original elements of the Park Master Plan approved by the Park Board in May of 2006. Over the weekend Balling met with park planners from landscape architecture firm Altamanu, Inc., as well as Park Board Commissioners individually to discuss a revised plan. Park Board President Mark Gartland spoke with representatives from youth sports affiliates to confirm that the revised sports field dimensions were still practical. Gartland also met with Senator Harmon (D-Oak Park) to discuss the revised plan.

Today the Park District received word that the IDNR has reviewed the revised plan and has no further questions at this time. Once the Park Board takes action, Balling will submit a letter to the IDNR stating the direction approved by the Board.

The Park Board will consider approval of the revised Master Plan for Field Park Improvements as part of the Regular Agenda of the July Park Board Meeting to be held tonight at 7:30pm at Mann School, (921 N. Kenilworth in Oak Park). The public is welcome to attend. The revisions reduce the number of trees removed to 6 trees. A total of 16 trees will be relocated. The revised plan reduces the size of the outfield of the northeast baseball field to 175 feet. The size of the multipurpose main soccer field will be reduced to 50 X 100 yards. The plan maintains the outfield of the southwest baseball diamond to be 225 feet allowing for a multi-purpose soccer field (35 X 50 yards) in the outfield.

Construction to complete improvements to Field Park was originally scheduled to begin on July 9. Once a plan is approved, construction will commence. Field Park and Center are currently closed. Field Park is scheduled to be closed through November 21. Field Center will reopen in early fall. The proposed revised plan is posted on the Park District website at [www.oakparkparks.com](http://www.oakparkparks.com) under Future Plans & Current Projects.

