



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH - GOVERNOR

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Gov. Blagojevich announces over \$26.4 million in park development grants for Northern Illinois

Dollars to help fund 73 new park projects in Northern Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today announced \$26.4 million in grants for dozens of projects at existing parks and development of new parks throughout Northern Illinois. The funds, made available through the Open Space Land Acquisition Development (OSLAD) Program, will be used for 73 projects in Northern Illinois including land acquisition, construction of new trails and playgrounds, and the creation of new recreational opportunities including athletic fields and fishing piers.

“Illinois is a beautiful state and enjoying the outdoors is a key to our quality of life. These grants we’re announcing today mean people in Northern Illinois will have even more opportunities for recreation and tourism in part because of the grants we are announcing today,” said Gov. Blagojevich. “Whether it’s setting aside land to ensure future park development, expanding existing parks or building trails and picnic shelters, these projects not only add to the quality of life in our communities, but can also spur more economic growth.”

“The health and safety of our children depends on their ability to run and play outdoors. The OSLAD program gives so many kids in so many communities the opportunity to enjoy expanded recreational opportunities,” Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Acting Director Sam Flood said.

“I’m proud to work with DNR to make certain that funding for park improvement projects throughout my district remains a priority. These improvements are an important investment in our communities, and they promote healthy lifestyles for our families and citizens of all ages,” said Sen. Majority Leader Debbie Halvorson (D-Chicago Heights)

“This is wonderful news. These three park districts are all land-locked and struggling to expand and renew our limited open spaces, and these grants will be a tremendous help,” said Sen. Don Harmon (D-Oak Park). “I applaud Governor Blagojevich and the Department of Natural Resources for making these grants available to our community.”

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“From playgrounds and ball fields to picnic areas and scenic overlooks, the projects made possible with the support of this program are good for citizens in the north central part of our state and throughout all of Illinois,” said Rep. Frank Mautino (D-Spring Valley).

“Because of the grant monies from the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, today is a great day for the people of Bolingbrook, Joliet and Romeoville. Specifically, Bolingbrook will get a new nature center; Joliet will see the redevelopment of a park in a historic neighborhood; and Romeoville will have new recreational trails. Needless to say, families and children will greatly benefit in the 43rd district from these grant dollars,” said Sen. Arthur “A.J.” Wilhelmi (D-Joliet).

“This is a great day for the residents of Brookside Glen and our entire area. I am very pleased that the Frankfort Square Park District was awarded these funds so they can offer our residents expanded opportunities for physical activity. I look forward to the completion of construction and the ribbon cutting for this wonderful project,” said Rep. Kevin McCarthy (D-Orland Park).

The \$32.9 million awarded throughout the state this year combined with the grantee’s minimum 50 percent share will result in more than \$65.8 million of local acquisition and development projects to improve and expand open space in Illinois.

Northern Region Projects

(A) - Land Acquisition Project

(D) - Park Development Project

(A) AMBOY, CITY OF (Lee County) \$187,300, to acquire approximately 24 acres on Wasson Street. Future development of Grommes Park includes a trail with fitness stations, sand volleyball courts, a shelter, horseshoe pits, and parking.

(D) ANTIOCH TOWNSHIP (Lake County) \$400,000, to develop 27 acres at the Tim Osmond Sports Complex on Depot Street in Antioch. Phase I development consists of two football fields, one softball/baseball field, an 18-hole disc golf course, a playground, shelter, and a parking area.

(D) ARLINGTON HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$400,000, to develop a new 6.7 acre site adjacent to Sunset Meadows Park on Wilke Road. Facilities include a playground, shelter/restroom/concession building, multi-use trail, two soccer fields, a bocce ball court, game tables, a practice putting green, and landscaping.

(D) BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT (Kane County) \$374,000, to develop the new 28.5 acre South Mill Creek Community Park on Main Street. Facilities include a shelter, basketball court, tennis courts, playground, multi-use trails, landscaping, and parking.

(D) BEECHER, VILLAGE OF (Will County) \$190,000, to redevelop nine-acre Fireman’s Park on Miller Street. New facilities include a multi-use trail with fitness stations, a shelter, a softball field, a restroom building, parking area, landscaping and seeding.

(D) BELVIDERE PARK DISTRICT (Boone County) \$368,000, to develop Phase II of Prairie Fields Sports Park, a 90-acre facility on Route 20. Facilities include a softball field, baseball field, batting cages, a shelter, a playground, and landscaping.

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(D) BLOOMINGDALE PARK DISTRICT (DuPage County) \$400,000, to provide new recreational amenities at 47-acre Springfield Park on Springfield Drive. Facilities include four soccer fields, a shelter, a 9-hole disc golf course, wetland interpretation signs, new pathways, horse shoe pits, bocce ball courts, and parking.

(D) BLUE ISLAND PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$189,500, to renovate Memorial Pool on Highland Avenue. Improvements include a new filter system, complete renovation of the bath house, and replacement of fixtures and furniture.

(A) BOLINGBROOK PARK DISTRICT (Will County) \$750,000, to acquire a 17.6 acre site adjacent to Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm on Boughton Road. The District plans to construct a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) nature/interpretive center at the site.

(D) BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$400,000, to redevelop 13-acre Emmerich Park on Lake Cook Road. Project components include two ball fields, a playground, paths, tennis courts, and parking.

(D) BURR RIDGE PARK DISTRICT (DuPage County) \$109,700, to redevelop 2.8 acre Citizen's Park on Madison Street. Facilities include a new playground, shelter, a skate park, and parking. In addition, improvements will be made to the existing ball field.

(D) BUTTERFIELD PARK DISTRICT (DuPage County) \$96,200, to redevelop 9.25 acre Kensington Park on Kensington Road near Lombard. Facilities include a shelter, walking path, parking, and landscaping.

(A) CAMPTON TOWNSHIP (Kane County) \$750,000, to acquire a 27 acre site on Route 38 and Beith Road northeast of Elburn. Future development includes interpretive/hiking trails, habitat restoration, and a parking area.

(D) CAROL STREAM PARK DISTRICT (DuPage County) \$314,000, to develop the new five acre Slepicka Homestead Park on Lies Road. Facilities include a shelter, trail with fitness stations, bocce and horseshoe courts, a fishing/wildlife observation platform, community garden area, and parking.

(D) CHICAGO, CITY OF (Cook County) \$575,000, to develop Beidler Campus Park on West Lake Street and Albany Avenue. Facilities include a new playground, hard surface play area, lighting and fencing.

(A) CHICAGO, CITY OF (Cook County) \$575,000, to acquire ½ acre at Albany and Bloomingdale Avenue in the Logan Square area. Future development includes a playground.

(D) CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$561,200, to develop Parsons Park on Belmont Avenue between Keating and Kilpatrick Avenues. Project components include a playground, bocce ball court, game tables, benches, an outdoor performance area, and fencing.

(D) CLYDE PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$259,000, to redevelop North Clyde Park at South 60th Court and 21st Street in Cicero. A new playground and three half basketball courts will be provided. The tennis courts, water spray area and restrooms will be renovated.

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(D) CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT (McHenry County) \$167,100, to expand the recreation facilities at Lippold Park on Route 176. New facilities include a skateboard park, batting cages, a shelter and outdoor fitness equipment. An existing multi-use trail will also be upgraded.

(A) DES PLAINES PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$750,000, to acquire 2.9 acres of open space adjacent to Lake Park on Lee Street and Howard Avenue. Future development includes four picnic shelters, multi-use path, installation of native prairie plants, and parking.

(D) DUNLEITH PARK DISTRICT (Jo Daviess County) \$400,000, to replace the pool at Dunleith Park off Dunn Street in East Dubuque. A new zero-depth entry pool with play features will be constructed, and the bathhouse will be renovated.

(A) DUPAGE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, \$750,000, to acquire 11.7 acres of open space adjacent to Fox Hollow Forest Preserve on Lemont Road in Darien. Future development includes hiking trails and preserve access.

(D) ELGIN, CITY OF (Kane County) \$311,400, to develop Casa Linda Park, an eight acre site on Willard Avenue. Facilities include two soccer fields, a skate park, picnic shelter, basketball court, an interior path system, parking and landscaping.

(D) EVANSTON, CITY OF (Cook County) \$200,000, to redevelop Perry Park on Havland Court. Amenities include new playground equipment, pathways, fencing, and landscaping.

(D) FOX VALLEY PARK DISTRICT (Kane County) \$349,200, to renovate 8.1 acre Green Field Park on Illinois Avenue in Aurora. Amenities include a new picnic shelter, restrooms, a playground, soccer field, two ball fields, and basketball courts.

(D) FRANKFORT PARK DISTRICT (Will County) \$322,000, to develop Lakeview South Park on Maddeline Lane in southeast Frankfort. Amenities include a playground, shelter, two fishing piers, installation of wetland plants, and a pathway with interpretive signs.

(D) FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT (Will County) \$400,000, to develop Brookside Glen Park off Brookside Glen Drive in Tinley Park. Amenities include a playground, picnic shelter, paved exercise trail with fitness stations, an accessible fishing/wildlife observation platform on the five acre park pond and installation of wetland plants.

(D) FRANKLIN PARK, PARK DISTRICT OF (Cook County) \$217,000, to develop Birch Park on Park Lane Avenue. Amenities include a playground, skatepark, an in-line skate pad, pathway, basketball, soccer/ballfield area, batting cage, a shelter and landscaping.

(D) FREEPORT PARK DISTRICT (Stephenson County) \$400,000, to add facilities to 36 acre Read Park on American Street. Development includes a lighted, 4-Plex baseball field facility, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, junior tackle/soccer fields, a playground, pathway and additional parking.

ADD 1/OSLAD Grants

(D) FREMONT TOWNSHIP (Lake County) \$400,000, to develop 28 acre Behm Park on Peterson Road near the Village of Round Lake Park. Facilities include lacrosse, baseball, softball, soccer and football fields, horseshoe and shuffleboard courts, a playground and parking.

(D) GLEN ELLYN PARK DISTRICT (DuPage County) \$400,000, to renovate and introduce new facilities at Village Green Park on Lambert Road. Facilities include three baseball fields, a basketball court, two tennis courts, skateboard area, shelters, pathways and a concession/washroom building.

(D) GLENDALE HEIGHTS, VILLAGE OF (DuPage County) \$400,000, for the Phase II redevelopment of Reskin Park between Fullerton and Winthrop Avenues. The project includes a reoriented baseball field, a t-ball field, picnic shelter, playground, fitness trail, installation of native plants and parking area.

(D) GLENVIEW PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$162,000, to renovate Crowley Park on Linneman Street. The project includes a new shelter, restrooms, playground, soccer field and a senior activity area with bocce ball and game tables.

(D) HALL TOWNSHIP (Bureau County) \$400,000, to develop a 60 acre site overlooking the Illinois River off Route 29 east of DePue. The site will provide nature-based education and recreation.

(D) HOMER GLEN, VILLAGE OF (Will County) \$374,500, for the initial development of Stonebridge Park on Stonebridge Drive. Facilities include a multi-use path with fitness stations, sand volleyball court, picnic shelter, half-court basketball circle, lighted tennis courts, a natural prairie area, playground, landscaping and parking.

(D) ITASCA PARK DISTRICT (Dupage County) \$329,700, to renovate Franzen Park on Catalpa Avenue. The project includes a softball field, basketball court, playground, tennis and soccer fields, a picnic shelter and landscaping.

(D) JOLIET PARK DISTRICT (Will County) \$400,000, to redevelop Ridgewood Park on Jackson Street. The project includes a playground, interpretive/walking trail, rock climbing wall, a pavilion, landscaping and parking.

(D) KANE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, \$400,000, to develop the 373 acre Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve on Russell Road west of Elgin. The project includes interpretive trails and signs, hiking and equestrian trails, picnic shelters, a fishing station, prairie and stream bank/wetland restoration, a 1.5 mile segment of the regional bike trail and parking.

(A) KANE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, \$750,000, to acquire a 160 acre parcel on Main Street west of Batavia. The site contains a rare ten acre fen. Future development includes an interpretive trail with signs, a shelter, fishing station and habitat restoration.

(D) LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, \$400,000, to develop Heron Creek Forest Preserve, a 146 acre site on Route 22 and Old McHenry Road near Long Grove. The project includes two picnic shelters, 2.3 miles of hiking/biking trails, restroom facilities, interpretive signs, a playground, habitat restoration and a parking area.

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(D) LAKE VILLA, VILLAGE OF (Lake County) \$299,200, to develop a portion of Lake Villa Mansion Park on Route 83. Facilities include football, soccer, field hockey, softball and baseball fields, a shelter, walking trail with fitness stations, basketball court, skateboard area and restrooms and parking.

(D) LAKE ZURICH, VILLAGE OF (Lake County) \$400,000, to introduce new facilities to Staples Park on Red Ridge Road. The project includes a playground, basketball court, tennis courts, walking path and additional parking.

(D) LEMONT PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$299,900, for the initial development of Covington Park on Covington Drive. Facilities include a sand volleyball court, three half-court basketball, a tennis court, multi-use trail, picnic shelter, playground, restrooms and parking.

(A) LENA COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT (Stephenson County) \$54,400, to acquire 20 acres adjacent to Dodds Park on Oak Street. Future development includes three baseball fields, two soccer fields, a playground, shelter, multi-use path and parking.

(D) LINDENHURST PARK DISTRICT (Lake County) \$321,100, to renovate John Janega Memorial Park on Hickory Drive. The project includes a new playground, pond development with fishing opportunities, interpretive trail with signs, bocce courts and habitat restoration.

(A) LINDENHURST PARK DISTRICT (Lake County) \$750,000, to acquire 18 acres on Grass Lake Road. Future development includes soccer fields, a shelter, wetland observation deck with interpretive signs, pathways and parking.

(D) LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT (Will County) \$400,000, for the initial development of Willow Walk Park on Cagwin Drive. The 12 acre site will be developed with a multipurpose ballfield/football field, three half-court basketball courts, sand volleyball, pathways, a playground, prairie restoration, educational signs, landscaping and parking.

(D) MEMORIAL PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$400,000, to add facilities to Stevenson Park on Washington Boulevard in Bellwood. The project includes a lighted sports core for baseball, football and soccer, restrooms, multi-use path with fitness stations, a shelter, spray park enhancements, landscaping and fencing.

(D) MOLINE, CITY OF (Rock Island County) \$209,300, to further develop Green Valley Community Park on 60th Street and 52nd Avenue. The project includes a fitness path throughout the 215 acre park, three soccer fields, a paintball facility, dog park and playground.

(D) MUNDELEIN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT (Lake County) \$400,000, to develop Diamond Lake Slough on Midlothian Road. Facilities include an interpretive/educational trail with interpretive nodes, three combination lacrosse/soccer/football fields, a nine hole disc golf course, restroom facilities, bocce and shuffleboard courts and parking.

(D) NAPERVILLE PARK DISTRICT (Will County) \$400,000, for Phase III development of Frontier Park on Book Road. The project includes a playground, shelter, soccer field, a nature overlook with interpretive signs and a skate park expansion.

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(D) NEW LENOX COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT (Will County) \$331,600, to develop Hibernia Park on Eagle Circle and Blarney Road. Facilities include a playground, splash pad, picnic shelters, sand volleyball court, a boat launch, fishing station and open play area.

(D) NORTHBROOK PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$245,500, to develop Greenview Park on Greenview Road with a playground, gazebo, multi-use path with fitness stations, half-court basketball and interpretive trail with signs.

(D) NORTHFIELD PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$400,000, to redevelop and add new facilities to Willow Park on Wagner Road. The project includes a multi-use trail with fitness stations, a shelter, tennis courts, baseball field, pond overlook with interpretive sign and native prairie.

(D) OAK PARK, PARK DISTRICT OF (Cook County) \$399,000, to redevelop Field Park on Division Street. Facilities include a new playground, a splash pad, pathway, shelter, bocce ball courts and landscaping.

(D) OSWEGOLAND PARK DISTRICT (Kendall County) \$400,000, to develop Phase II of Prairie Point Community Park on Plainfield Road. The project includes a picnic shelter with restrooms, baseball/softball lighting, a splash pad, pathways and landscaping.

(D) OTTAWA, CITY OF (LaSalle County) \$249,200, to develop Fox River Park off Hudson Street and the Fox River. The project includes a playground, water play equipment, a circular basketball court, gazebo, a pond, prairie demonstration area and two fishing piers along the river.

(D) PLATO TOWNSHIP (Kane County) \$53,100, to develop a multi-use trail and playground at Plato Park on Stonecrest Drive and Russell Road in Plato Center.

(D) ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT (Winnebago County), \$400,000, to add facilities to Elliot Park on Lyford Road. Development includes a playground, skate park, perimeter walking path, a basketball court, two baseball fields with bleachers, a football field, landscaping and parking.

(D) ROLLING MEADOWS PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$258,000, to redevelop Florey Park on Campbell Street. The project includes a playground, basketball court, tennis courts, soccer field, interpretive shelter and signs and parking area.

(D) ROSELLE PARK DISTRICT (DuPage County) \$400,000, to construct a new aquatic facility at Kemmerling Park. The facility will consist of a zero-depth pool area, lap pool, diving well and a renovated bathhouse.

(D) ROUND LAKE BEACH, VILLAGE OF (Lake County) \$162,700, to develop Civic Cultural Center Park on Hook Drive. The project includes walking trails, a shelter overlooking Hook Lake, a fishing station and the installation of native plants.

(D) ST. CHARLES PARK DISTRICT (Kane County) \$400,000, to enhance Mount St. Mary Park in downtown St. Charles. The project includes a playground, picnic shelter, fishing areas and canoe launch, tennis and basketball courts, a restroom and Fox River Trail enhancements.

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(D) STEGER, VILLAGE OF (Cook County) \$72,500, to renovate Hecht Park on Morgan Street. The project includes a walking path, pavilion, in-line skate park and a renovated ballfield, playground and restrooms.

(D) SUMMIT PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$312,000, to renovate 57 acre Summit Park on South Archer Avenue. The project includes a skate park, bocce ball and horse shoe pits, new ballfield fencing and backstops, a picnic shelter with restrooms, walking path, basketball courts and parking lot improvements.

(D) VETERANS PARK DISTRICT (Cook County) \$191,200, to renovate Gouin Pool on West Fullerton Avenue in Franklin Park.

(D) VILLA PARK, VILLAGE OF (DuPage County) \$249,700, to renovate Twin Lakes Park on Ardmore Avenue. The project includes a pavilion with restrooms, additional playground equipment, a fishing pier for each pond, landscaping and parking.

(D) WAUCONDA PARK DISTRICT (Lake County) \$267,800, to renovate Cook Park on Main Street. The project includes improved access to Bang's Lake, wetland restoration, a playground bocce/shuffleboard/horse shoe area and picnic shelters.

(D) WESTMONT PARK DISTRICT (DuPage County) \$190,000, to renovate Twin Lakes Park on 59th Street. The project includes a new picnic shelter with restrooms, renovated tennis and basketball courts, sand volleyball courts and landscaping.

(D) WILL COUNTY, FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF, \$400,000, to develop Hadley Valley Preserve on Route 6 and Gougar Road east of Joliet. The project includes a 2.5 mile loop trail, a shelter, latrine and parking area.

(A) WILL COUNTY, FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF, \$750,000, to acquire 30 acres adjoining O'Hara Woods Nature Preserve in the Village of Romeoville. Interpretive trails are planned for the site.

(D) YORK CENTER PARK DISTRICT (DuPage County) \$394,700, to develop a recently acquired six acre parcel adjacent to Knolls Park on South Meyers Road and 16th Street near Lombard. The project includes a trail with fitness stations, picnic shelter, interpretive signs, a fishing station, landscaping and parking.

(D) YORKVILLE, UNITED CITY OF (Kendall County) \$400,000, for the initial development of Prairie Meadows Park on McHugh Road. The project includes a playground, water spray features, a picnic shelter, ballfield and landscaping.

Quick facts about OSLAD

- The \$32.9 million being awarded this year is the largest award in OSLAD history. The program has been in existence since 1986.
- Prior to this year's grants, OSLAD had provided a total of \$246 million for approximately 1,298 local agency park projects.
- OSLAD grants are administered by the Department of Natural Resources and provide up

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to 50 percent reimbursement of eligible costs incurred by local agencies for approved recreational land acquisition and development projects.

- The program is funded by monies dedicated from a percentage of the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax.
- To qualify for a grant, an agency must show a need for its project and an ability to carry it through to completion. Other factors include the agency's record in maintaining its other facilities, the degree of local need and planning involved and a project's ability to address regional and statewide outdoor recreation priorities.
- All projects were reviewed by a subcommittee of the Natural Resources Advisory Board at a public hearing on September 11 & 12, 2006. Recommendations were reviewed by the full Advisory Board on September 25, 2006. The Advisory Board is a thirteen member panel which reviews and advises the IDNR on natural resource related issues.

A total of 101 projects are being funded statewide through the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development program facilitated through IDNR. They include 23 projects that will provide initial recreation development of park sites for their respective communities; ten projects will provide water based recreation by providing access to lakes, rivers or streams; 47 projects will provide new playground equipment; nine projects will include water play features known as "spraygrounds" and nine projects will receive funding assistance for in-line skating/roller hockey and/or skateboarding. Seventeen projects will provide funding for facilities that promote environmental and wetland studies (examples of these facilities include interpretive trails, wildlife observation stations, wetland enhancement and prairie restoration) and seven projects will either renovate existing or construct new pool facilities.