

# Referendum 2016 Update



Aerial photos by TSS Photography

The Bloomingdale Park District continues to actively plan the capital projects identified by the community as needing repair and/or improvement based upon the successful referendum in November 2016.

Updates on the projects and associated work schedules are as follows:

## **Springfield Park Ballfield Complex**

A ribbon cutting and dedication were held on Bloomingdale Baseball & Softball Association's Opening Day at the Springfield Park Ballfield Complex May 6.

The fields, which were re-engineered to help prevent widespread flooding of fields and nearby paths, performed exceptionally well in that regard under heavy rains at various points this past summer.

In addition to the fields, other improvements to the ballfield complex included:

- New batting cages
- Plaza area with donor pavers
- New concrete walkways
- Entrance gate
- Updated lighting
- New fencing and backstops
- Shaded dugouts with windscreens
- New basketball court and standards adjacent to complex



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## Springfield Park Wetlands

Restoring the shorelines of the wetlands to address non-native, invasive species and improve stormwater management continues to progress according to plan.

- o The project includes the chemical and mechanical removal of invasive, non-native species such as cat tails, phragmites, etc., followed by the establishment of native wetlands and upland species.
- o These processes will be repeated for two to three years until the wetlands are properly restored and the ongoing stewardship begins.



## Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation awards two grants to benefit Wetlands

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation approved two separate grants this past May for the Bloomingdale Park Foundation potentially totaling \$32,500 to benefit the Springfield Park Wetlands.

“The Bloomingdale Park Foundation is excited to be able to help the Park District secure these funds for such an important natural area in Bloomingdale,” said Rick Tayfel, president of the Parks Foundation. “Wetlands are delicate places and managing them is a big job. These grants help the Park District keep Springfield Park Wetlands in balance by promoting native species and controlling non-native, invasive populations.”

One grant for up to \$27,000 is for stewardship of the wetlands. In addition to a direct appeal to individual donors and friends, there are a number of fundraisers (Sunrise Shuffle 5K, Holiday Gift Wrap at Stratford Square Mall, Lou Malnati’s Pizza Voucher Sale, etc.) from which a portion of the resources can be applied to meet the \$7,000 fundraising challenge and be matched 3 to 1 by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.

The second grant is for up to \$5,500 for public amenities and events at the wetlands. The amenities include upgrades and/or replacement of visitor boardwalks and stationary and floating piers, as well as repair/replacement of the interpretive signage that surrounds the wetlands. The event to be conducted is the annual Make A Difference Day scheduled for October 2018.

“We thank the Bloomingdale Parks Foundation for its efforts in securing these grants to assist the Park District,” said BPD Executive Director Carrie Fullerton. “These are significant resources to help us continue the high level of stewardship of the Springfield Park Wetlands.”



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## Johnston Recreation Center

Renovating the Johnston Recreation Center to include committed space for active older adult programming, improved early childhood/preschool space, and enhanced security throughout began May 2018 with a targeted completion date of Fall 2019.

Visit [www.bloomingtondaleparks.org](http://www.bloomingtondaleparks.org) for the full list of enhancements as well as schematics of the renovation.

## The Oasis Water Park

Updating and/or improving some recreation features at The Oasis Water Park and creation of more deck shade and deck space to begin Fall of 2018 with a targeted completion date of Summer 2019.

## Programming Sites

Please be aware that while the Park District attempts to keep disruptions to a minimum, there may be times your favorite class or activity may be temporarily moved to an alternate location. Additionally, delays because of weather and/or other unforeseen circumstances could cause disruptions to the projected timelines.

We appreciate your patience and we urge all residents to visit our website and regularly follow us on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) to stay up-to-date on our progress. Again, we are grateful for your continued support.



\* Draft renderings are not final and are conceptual only.

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