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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Huntley Park District to Send \$18 Million Bond Request to Residents

Proposed plans would update playgrounds, purchase land for future use, improve accessibility, add program space and more.

Huntley, IL - The Huntley Park District announced it is requesting an \$18 million bond referendum to raise capital to improve, equip and maintain parks and facilities throughout the Huntley Park District. Projects will include renovating, updating and adding new amenities and **playgrounds** at numerous parks through the Park District including at the **Deicke Discovery Zone**; **purchasing land and developing open space**; increasing accessibility by **paving trails, updating and adding pedestrian bridges**, replacing pavement in parking areas and **replacing two elevators**; adding **pickleball courts, tennis courts, a basketball court, batting cages, and golf entertainment** ; updating **athletic fields**; updating equipment and amenities at the REC Center and Deicke Park Building; and updating and adding new equipment and amenities to the **Stingray Bay Aquatic Center**.

The referendum question will be on the **November 5, 2024**, general election ballot.

The Park District Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to put the referendum to a public vote. "In 2022 and 2023, Huntley Park District, as part of the Strategic Master Plan process, undertook a comprehensive survey of residents, held numerous public meetings, and engaged with stakeholders to gather feedback on our District's amenities and services," said Park District Board President Keith Wold. "These proposed projects are a direct result of that feedback, and it is important our residents make the final decision on whether to proceed."

The proposed projects will positively impact many areas throughout Huntley, and improve accessibility and enjoyment of Park District spaces, programs and facilities including:

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- **Deicke Park**
 - Update Deicke Discovery Zone and Cole playgrounds
 - Update basketball court
 - Pave trails and parking
 - Accessibility, Infrastructure and safety improvements
- **Tomaso Sports Park**
 - Update playground
 - Pave trails
 - Add a pedestrian bridge from parking lot to Field E, batting cages and artificial turf to athletic fields
 - Accessibility, infrastructure and safety improvements
- **Stingray Bay Family Aquatic Center:**
 - Add splash pad
 - Accessibility, infrastructure and safety improvements
- **REC Center:**
 - Update preschool playground and fitness equipment
 - Update Cosman Theater amenities
 - Add air conditioning to the gymnasium
 - Accessibility, infrastructure, and safety improvements
- **New Features and Facilities:**
 - Add pickleball courts, tennis courts and outdoor fitness equipment
 - Add golf entertainment
 - Add shade trees
- **Purchase new land and develop open space**
- **Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds:**
 - Accessibility, infrastructure and safety evaluated and addressed with each neighborhood park project.
 - Borhart Park (Covington Lakes), Ruth Park (Northbridge) and Tures Park (Heritage)
 - Update playground, basketball courts and other park amenities
 - Coach's Park (Cider Grove)
 - Add basketball court
 - Ol' Timers Park (Downtown)
 - Update playground and other park amenities
 - Parisek Park (Georgian Place)
 - Update playground and other park amenities
 - Pave trails
 - Talamore Neighborhood Park

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- Develop new playground and amenities with existing land
 - Dog Park in Regency Square Neighborhood
 - Add additional amenities to Dog Park scheduled to open in 2025
- **Pinecrest Golf Course**
 - Accessibility, Infrastructure, and safety improvements

Although the Huntley Park District maintains a long-standing conservative approach to fiscal management while undertaking improvements, available funds will not cover the total cost needed for these resident-identified projects. The District continues to apply for grants and other funds to leverage tax dollars, offset the cost of these projects and reduce the overall cost of the referendum. This year, the District secured over \$500,000 toward the renovation of Weiss Park, with construction to begin in 2025.

“While we make noticeable improvements across the Park District every year – such as the Kiley Park renovation and Cottontail Park renovation – to update the remaining current amenities and provide new amenities identified by residents will require more funds to provide the impact and the return on our taxpayers’ investment,” said Scott Crowe, Huntley Park District Executive Director. “In feedback received from residents, we’ve heard that they are willing to make an additional investment to protect the progress we’ve made and continue accessing quality outdoor spaces, quality facilities and new amenities.” Residents can expect an increase of about \$71 a year on an average home valued at \$299,000 (approximately \$6 a month).

Without funding from the proposed referendum, the District will have to delay updating existing (aging) parks and playgrounds, knowing it could face challenges securing parts for repairs. This may lead to closures or only minor updates. Additionally, new amenities such as paved trails, pickleball courts, tennis courts, a splash pad and athletic field updates would not be installed. Other challenges include losing the opportunity to acquire open space for future outdoor recreation or market-driven changes leading to increased fees for programs and facilities.

The Park District will hold a series of educational opportunities for residents to learn more about the proposed updates made possible if voters approve the referendum.

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Onsite Events to engage staff and learn more:

Saturday, August 24, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Village of Huntley - Farmer's Market

Saturday, September 14, 8 a.m. - Noon
Tomaso Sports Park Pavilion

Friday, September 27 - Sunday, September 29
Visit our Booth at Huntley Fall Fest during Festival Hours

Public Information Meeting:

Thursday, September 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Cosman Theater at Rec Center, 12015 Mill Street

Discover more about the referendum, including FAQs, budgets and an interactive map of projects on the website at www.HuntleyParks.org/PlanToPlay.

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ABOUT THE HUNTLEY PARK DISTRICT

The Huntley Park District operates and manages over 300 acres of land in 14 parks and offers over 1,000 recreational and seasonal programs annually. The District provides a full range of activities and services year-round. Major recreation programs include special events, athletics, aquatics, before- and after-school care, summer day camp, fitness, golf, performing arts, and preschool. For more information, visit our website at huntleyparks.org or call 847.669.3180.

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