

Community Park Redevelopment

Location:

20261 S. Graceland Lane
Frankfort, Illinois
9 acre site

Open Space and Land Acquisition Grant

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
\$400,000 project, with \$199,000 in grant funding
Construction to begin: Spring, 2017

Community Park constructed in 1974, was the first park created by the Frankfort Square Park District, and has long been considered the “front door” to our community. Since this park’s inception, recreation demands, population, and demographics surrounding the site have changed dramatically.

The FSPD’s 2014 Comprehensive Plan identified park renovation as the top capital improvement priority. As part of that planning process and information received through public input, surveys, 2015 Park Board Workshop and feedback regarding resident satisfaction and changing needs, a plan to renovate and improve Community Park was created. The new park site will reflect a more passive, adult-oriented park, reflecting the needs of nearby residents.

Summary of Grant Application Process:

The FSPD initially submitted an OSLAD grant application in 2013, but due to insufficient funding that was available at the time, the project was denied. In 2014, the Park District reapplied for grant funding, and was approved for a grant award of \$199,000. Due to state budget cuts, OSLAD funding was suspended in March, 2015. Finally, in August, 2016, the IDNR updated the status, and in September, 2016, funding became available, beginning with an initial 50% distribution of the grant award.

Amenities: *[Click here for park rendering and images of improvements](#)*

- Community garden plots and ADA accessible raised planters
- Pickle ball court
- Looped bike/walking path connecting to regional bike trail system
- Green roof added to existing picnic shelter
- Pond outcropping & fish station
- Interpretive signs
- Shoreline improvements and native tree planting