

# 100 NEWS RELEASE

**From:** Rockford Park District – Executive Director's Office

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## Park District Dedicates Improvements at Elliot Park

ROCKFORD, IL – At a dedication event today, the Rockford Park District unveiled the many new improvements at Elliot Park, 1000 Mill Rd., Cherry Valley. An Illinois Department of Natural Resource's (IDNR) and Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant of \$400,000 was awarded for the expansion of recreation facilities at Elliot Park for the Flodin Boys & Girls Club and the surrounding neighborhood in Cherry Valley. The parking lots and ball fields were completed in 2007 and the playground was installed in 2008 by Kids Around the World. The skate park was completed in May as the final project part of an overall upgrade to Elliot Park, and has been constantly in use since its completion.

"In 2006, the District applied for and received an IDNR 50% matching grant, which helped provide the necessary funding to move this project forward. Our overall vision was to create an inspiring custom-designed skate park that would appeal to a wide range of skaters' skill levels. We are very pleased with how the park turned out and the high use it has already received. This will be a great addition to the recreation options and recreation opportunities and as a destination for the area," said Park District Board President Douglas Brooks.

### About the Project

Since 2000, daily attendance and memberships at Flodin Boys & Girls Club increased substantially, as well as participation in their baseball, basketball, and football programs. The Club asked the Park District staff to assist their organization with plans for expansion of recreational opportunities to meet the needs of their participants and Cherry Valley residents.

"Our long-term goal is to develop skate parks in all four quadrants of the city, as well as one in the downtown area that will create easy access for all youth. This initiative was designed to serve the growing demand for action-oriented recreational programming in our community. By collaborating with the Boys & Girls Club and the Village of Cherry Valley, we were able to build this project by leveraging a combination of funding sources, which is crucial to turning a dream and vision into a reality," said Park District Executive Director Tim Dimke.

### About the Skate Park

The local skating/biking community brought about the idea to explore another local venue which offered a unique, custom-designed park which would appeal to a broad range of participants. The design research was conducted by evaluating skate parks in Europe, Asia, China, Korea, and the United States bringing the best concept elements to Rockford.

The objective was to create a unique skating and biking experience that would have a long-lasting appeal as a recreation destination.

(more)



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## Other Park Improvements

- Playground – new playground added to south side of Flodin building; built by volunteers from Kids Around the World
- Baseball Diamonds
- Basketball Courts – added basketball courts at the north parking lot
- Parking Lot
  - upgraded lots on north end of Flodin site
  - added south parking lot
- Old Mill Road – worked with the Village of Cherry Valley to reconstruct Old Mill Road

## Park Maintenance

The Rockford Park District owns the land and will continue to provide general grounds maintenance (baseball fields not included), playground inspections and repairs, and insurance. This project does not add any additional maintenance responsibilities. The Boys & Girls Club will be responsible for future repair and replacement costs for all the new amenities except the playground and skate park.

## Funding Sources

- Project Cost - \$978,000
- Flodin Boys & Girls Club - \$370,000 (\$200,000 cash, \$170,000 in-kind services/cash)
- The Village of Cherry Valley - \$100,000
- IDNR/OSLAD Grant - \$400,000
- Rockford Park District - \$108,000 (2007 CIP Capital Addition Account)

## Upcoming Event

### August 2009 **Bearings & Bruises Skatepark Contest**

Park District will host Bearings & Bruises Skatepark Contest for bikers, bladers, and boarders on August 7 – August 9. Prizes and medals will be awarded to top finishers in beginner, intermediate, and advanced divisions for bike, blade, and board categories. This event is one of the Park District 's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events held throughout the year. Competition will be held at the Skatepark at Flodin Boys & Girls Club and Harlem Community Center. Complete schedule info is available at [www.bearingsandbruises.com](http://www.bearingsandbruises.com).

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