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MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES FOUR NEW GARDEN AND PARK EXPANSION PROJECTS

Nearly \$9.5 million In Investments in Open and Green Spaces during the Emanuel Administration

Two new community gardens and a pair of park expansion projects would be supported through financial measures introduced to City Council by Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

"Parks and gardens, no matter how big or small, can make a world of difference to children, families and entire communities," said Mayor Emanuel. "Each of these projects will reinforce our values as Chicagoans, and improve the options for residents to experience the city away outside of their homes, schools and work places."

During the Mayor's time in office, the City has invested nearly \$9.5 million in Open Space Impact Fee funds to finance projects spanning 29 community areas, including gardens, school gardens, new parks, park expansions, and trails.

In addition, the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) has coordinated the sale and redevelopment of more than 102 acres of City-owned land for parks, gardens and other community managed open spaces throughout the city.

SRB Community Spirit Garden

SRB Community Spirit Garden in Jefferson Park would be developed on .13 acres of vacant, City-owned land at Higgins and Central avenues, which would be sold for \$1 to the NeighborSpace land trust and made available for community use. Planned improvements include entry gates, signage, a walking path, shed, benches and native plantings. The site would be managed by community residents and members of the nearby St. Robert Bellarmine parish.

Excel Academy of Englewood Garden

Chicago Public Schools' Excel Academy of Englewood, 7121 S. Morgan St., would receive \$128,000 in Open Space Impact Fees for the construction of a garden on the school campus. The fees would pay for design, asphalt removal, artwork, growing beds and benches. Planned in cooperation with Openlands conservation agency, the .07-acre garden would be maintained by students, staff and community residents. Open Space Impact Fees are used to create and enhance open spaces each of the City's 77 community areas.

Limas Playground Park

Limas Playground Park at 2410 S. Trumbull Ave. in South Lawndale would be expanded onto .08 acres of adjacent land through \$47,000 in Open Space Impact Fees. The funds would be used by the Chicago Park District to acquire the property from a private owner.

Beilfuss Park

Beilfuss Park at 1725 N. Springfield Ave. in Humboldt Park would be improved with fencing, trees and landscaping through \$38,000 in Open Space Impact Fees. The improvements would be part of a .28-acre expansion onto adjacent property being leased from the Chicago Department of Water Management. The balance of the \$65,000 project would be paid by the Chicago Park District.

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