

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Village and School District Team Up for Community Recreation**

(MAHOMET, Illinois – October 27, 2021) The Village of Mahomet and the Mahomet-Seymour Community Unit School District #3 have completed an agreement that will provide Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation Department operated, public-use recreational facilities to the community and school district.

The project is the evolution of years long shared use of 13 Acres Park and aligns with ongoing Village capital planning. In the agreement, the Village will assume ownership of 13 Acres Park and Middletown Park. As part of the agreement the Village will provide a tennis facility that will meet both the needs of the community and will host IHSA competitions for the District. Local residents and recreational participants will also have access to the planned tennis facility. Additionally, the Village hopes to immediately begin long term planning for 13 Acres, evaluating the addition of pickleball and improvements to the existing ball diamonds.

The cooperation and is made possible by an Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Grant initiated by Senator Chapin Rose. “In keeping with my past practice of requiring ‘shared use’ projects that ‘kill two birds with a single stone,’ I appreciate the cooperative approach of the school district and village putting forward this joint use proposal that will meet each of their long-term needs in this area - without doubling up on local property taxpayer dollars. Saving property tax money, while providing greater opportunities for the kids and the community, is a definite positive!”, said Rose.

13 Acres Park has a long history of being home to both community and school district baseball, softball, football, soccer and cross-country activities, however very little improvements to the park have been made over the past 20 years. The change in ownership will allow the Village to begin to invest in the park over time. Although there are no immediate plans for improvements, the park can now be included in future planning efforts and provides long term stability for

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programming at the park and stabilization of green space in the heart of the community.

“This is a huge win for the community long term”, said Village President Sean Widener. “Whenever taxing bodies work together the community benefits. Acquiring both 13 Acres and Middletown Park allows us to begin to invest in those facilities to better meet the demand for recreation our community desires and further enhances our quality of life for all residents.”

As per a revised Intergovernmental Agreement, 13 Acres will continue to be utilized in the same way that provides benefit to both the village and district. Middletown Park has been preliminarily identified as the potential site for the Tennis facility. The Village hopes to begin design/engineering this fall with potential construction to occur as early as 2022.

“The school district and Village of Mahomet continue to collaborate and plan together for projects that benefit our community and taxpayers, and in this case, our student athletes at MSHS. The addition of tennis courts and pickleball courts to the repertoire of athletic and recreational facilities in our community only enhances the wonderful opportunities we have here in Mahomet. We're thankful for this opportunity to work together”, said Dr. Lindsey Hall, Superintendent of Schools for Mahomet-Seymour Schools.

Dan Waldinger, Mahomet Parks and Recreation Director echoed the remarks stating, “This agreement and transfer of property is a pivotal moment for our community in providing access to quality parks and recreation facilities and programs. Moreover, it provides stability for current and future recreational programming and allows for us to invest in the future of these spaces.”

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