



**ROCKFORD  
PARK DISTRICT**



# NEWS RELEASE

From: Rockford Park District & City of Loves Park

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## **Rockford Park District Board Approves Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Loves Park For Sand Park Ground Water Remedy Plan**

**ROCKFORD, IL** – At the June 23, 2009 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Rockford Park District Board voted to approve entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Loves Park to close and cap approximately 39 private wells as part of a Ground Water Remedies Plan as required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Over the past several years, the City of Loves Park and the Rockford Park District have worked with the IEPA to finalize a solution to the Sand Park Superfund Site located on Riverside Blvd., north of the City Hall complex.

### **Background**

This location, which the Park District developed into Sand Park in 1972, had previously been used as a landfill for many years prior to the park's development. During the use as a landfill, legal dumping took place until the site was permanently closed just prior to the park's development. Over the years, the IEPA had numerous monitoring wells in place to keep watch over the possible movement of contaminants in the groundwater. As a precautionary measure, in 2001 the City of Loves Park closed a municipal well on the western edge of the park.

### **More-Permanent Solution**

The Park District Board approved the Intergovernmental Agreement, which is a more-permanent solution to the potential problem of contamination of remaining private wells within the City of Loves Park. In order to proceed with ground water remediation of the Superfund Site, the City of Loves Park must initiate a ground water protection ordinance that would necessitate closing approximately 39 private wells within the City. Closing of the wells will involve connection to the municipal water supply and permanent capping of these private wells. As part of the agreement, the Park District will be paying for all closures and connections to city water. The cost of this project is approximately \$400,000 and would be funded by Rockford Park District Capital Improvement funds and other potential responsible parties. Homeowners will not incur any cost with the closing of the well other than the monthly water bill once the residence is hooked up to the municipal water system. The project will begin as soon as possible and is expected to be completed by October 2009. The City of Loves Park will be the contract-monitoring agency to ensure the job is done properly.

"Shallow wells have been a concern for many years because they can be easily contaminated by ground water influence. Completion of this project will allow the City of Loves Park to eliminate the possibility of future contamination. This intergovernmental agreement provides a proper long-term solution to the Sand Park issue ensuring that residents' potable water supply meets the highest standards of quality and safety," said Park District Executive Director Tim Dimke.

For more information, please contact Tim Dimke at 815-987-8880 or [timdimke@rockfordparkdistrict.org](mailto:timdimke@rockfordparkdistrict.org) or Mayor Darryl Lindberg at 815-654-5030 / Ex 150 or [MayorLindberg@loves-park.il.us](mailto:MayorLindberg@loves-park.il.us).

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