



**For Immediate Release**  
February 26, 2024

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**AFTER OVER A DECADE, TINLEY PARK-PARK DISTRICT TAKES OWNERSHIP  
OF VACANT MENTAL HEALTH CENTER SITE FOR REDEVELOPMENT**  
*Park District & Local Leaders Gather to Celebrate Progress, Detail Demolition & Other  
Environmental Clean-Up Efforts*

**TINLEY PARK, III.** – The Park District of Tinley Park today joined with local leaders and environmental experts to celebrate its ownership of the former Tinley Park Mental Health Center site for only \$1. The Park District closed on the property on Friday and has additionally received \$15 million in state funds to complete environmental clean-up work, which began last fall and in the coming months will include razing all buildings on the property to make way for redevelopment.

“Today marks an historic day for the Park District of Tinley Park and our community,” said Lisa O’Donovan, Park District Board Commissioner and Chair of the Remediate 280 Committee, which is overseeing clean-up of the site. “We are proud to be turning this blighted property into another reason to love Tinley parks.”

The Park District tendered \$1 to obtain the site, saving Tinley Park taxpayers over \$4.5 million to purchase the site, which was what the Village of Tinley Park previously offered for the land. The Park District has also secured \$15 million in state funds to pay for all 280 acres of the site to be cleaned up for redevelopment.

“We are incredibly excited to finally clean up this eyesore for Tinley Park,” said Ashley Rubino, Park District Board Commissioner and Co-Chair of the Remediate 280 Committee. “We are thrilled that we can finally envision a day when we can provide recreational and park space for our community.”

This fall, before even officially owning the site, the Park District began environmental clean-up work of the land. The Park District engaged Tetra Tech, which conducted an updated environmental assessment of the land to determine the extent of remediation needed. Find Tetra Tech’s phase 1 report on the Park District’s [website](#).

Additionally, Homer Landscaping dramatically cut back vegetation and overgrowth on the property to provide access to roads and buildings on the site and complete the clean-up process. This week, crews will be working to remove three underground storage tanks that remain on the property. The tank removal project is a safe process that will not affect residents.

Once the underground tanks are removed, clean-up work will move to removing asbestos and any other regulated materials in the vacant buildings on site and demolishing all buildings. That



work will be done with many precautions in place to ensure the safety of the surrounding community.

“Tinley Park families and residents can be excited about what the future holds now that the Park District of Tinley Park is working to redevelop this vacant site,” said Sen. Michael Hastings. “I am thrilled to have helped the Park District take ownership of the property and look forward to seeing this property cleaned up for the community.”

“This redevelopment project is years in the making, and I’m proud to have helped get the Park District of Tinley Park to this point,” said Rep. Robert “Bob” Rita. “For the purchase price of only \$1 and with \$15 million in clean up funding from the state, this property can become a recreational draw for the community and entire southland region.”

“After more than a decade, we can celebrate progress finally being made on this long-vacant site,” said Marie Ryan, Park District Board President.

“What a day for the Park District of Tinley Park!” said Donald Cuba, Park District Commissioner. “This is truly a momentous day for us and the many residents who have wanted to see this blighted property revitalized for our community.”

“As a longtime Tinley Park resident, I have waited many years to see this property turn into something more than overgrown and vacant,” said Bernie O’Boyle, Park District Commissioner. “We are working to get through the clean-up process and redevelop this into a place everyone can visit and enjoy.”

The clean-up process is being led by the Park District’s expert team of former Illinois EPA Director Renee Cipriano and leading environmental attorney Elizabeth S. Harvey, with the oversight of the IEPA. The experts are helping ensure the safety of environmental work done at the site as well as receive the IEPA’s stamp of approval to redevelop the site once the clean-up work is done.

The Park District has also hired Michael Maloney as project manager to lead all clean-up work on site. Maloney is a Tinley Park resident and former President of Local Union 597, the largest pipefitters union in Illinois, who worked for decades as a construction superintendent, managing large workforces on a variety of multimillion-dollar projects involving highly radioactive components in nuclear power stations across northern Illinois.

Once the property’s environmental clean-up is complete, the Park District will engage with the Tinley Park community to discuss ideas and feedback to redevelop the land. More information and updates about the Park District’s initial plans for the site can be found on its [website](#).