

**For Immediate Release**  
January 23, 2025

Media Contact: [maura@boycepossley.com](mailto:maura@boycepossley.com)

**DEMOLITION OF FORMER TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER BEGINS**  
*Park District & Local Leaders Celebrate the Start of Demolition of Long-Vacant Site*

**TINLEY PARK, Ill.** – After over a decade of sitting vacant, the Park District of Tinley Park today joined with local leaders to mark the start of demolition of the former Tinley Park Mental Health Center site.

The Park District obtained the 280-acre property last February for only \$1 from the state of Illinois, and since then its expert team has been working diligently to clean up the vacant land using state funding. In the fall, crews began the abatement process, removing asbestos and other regulated wastes from buildings. As buildings are abated, they will be slated for demolition throughout the property.

“Our community has lived with this eyesore long enough, and I’m proud to be leading this effort to restore the vacant land for Tinley Park,” said Michael Maloney, Park District Project Manager.

“After more than a decade, we’re cleaning up the property for our community, and I am excited by the tremendous progress being made,” said Marie Ryan, Park District Board President.

“I am so proud to be cleaning up this blighted property and saving taxpayers millions of dollars while doing it,” said Lisa O’Donovan, Park District Board Commissioner and Chair of the Remediate 280 Committee, which is overseeing clean-up of the site.

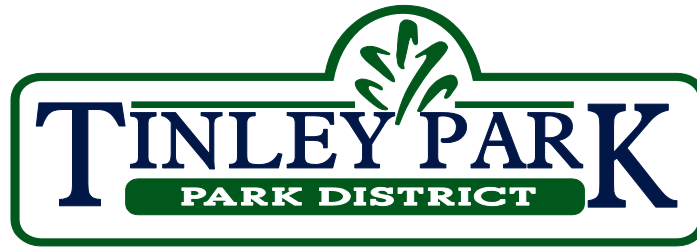
“We’re finally cleaning up this site for our community, and I’m excited to celebrate another new milestone of progress as we work to restore the land,” said Donald Cuba, Park District Commissioner.

“For too long, this site was nothing but a blight in our community, but we are committed to finally revitalizing the land for people and families to enjoy,” said Ashley Rubino, Park District Board Commissioner and Co-Chair of the Remediate 280 Committee.

“I am committed to restoring all 280 acres of land into another wonderful reason to live in and visit Tinley Park,” said Bernie O’Boyle, Park District Commissioner.

**Background**

The Park District tendered \$1 in February 2024 to obtain the site from the state of Illinois, 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 also secured \$15 million in state funds to pay for all 280 acres of the site to be cleaned up for redevelopment.



Before the Park District officially owned the site, it began environmental clean-up work by conducting an updated environmental assessment of the land to determine the extent of remediation needed.

Other work that the Park District has overseen at the site includes cutting back vegetation and overgrowth on the property to provide access to roads and buildings on the site, erecting security fencing around the perimeter of the site, safely removing underground storage tanks, and removing stormwater and dewatering of the property.

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

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 clean-up project can be found on the Park District's [website](#).