



For Immediate Release

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**TINLEY PARK-PARK DISTRICT RECEIVES \$18 MILLION ADDITIONAL STATE
FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP**
*State of Illinois Grants Additional Funding to Cover Full Clean-Up Cost of Former Mental
Health Center Site*

TINLEY PARK, ILL. – The Board of Commissioners of the Tinley Park-Park District today announced the State of Illinois has awarded the Park District an additional \$18 million in grant funding to complete the environmental cleanup on all 280 acres of the former Tinley Park Mental Health Center site.

“Our experts overseeing this project have worked closely with our state partners to secure enough funding to ensure we can clean up all 280 acres of land and finally restore this site for our community,” said Lisa O’Donovan, Park Board President. “The cleanup will continue to move diligently and thoroughly to get this eyesore cleaned up after more than a decade.”

“We have pledged to clean up the site without asking our residents to foot the bill, and we are grateful to the state for providing the grant funding to complete it,” said Park Board Vice President Bernie O’Boyle.

“We thank Governor Pritzker, Senate President Harmon, Speaker Welch, and all of our local legislators for working together to ensure the site is remediated and restored for Tinley Park residents,” the Board of Commissioners said. “After more than a decade, we are thrilled to lead this project for our community.”

Many factors contributed to the increase in funding needed to complete the cleanup in full compliance with environmental regulations, including that cost estimates were prepared during the 2013-2014 timeframe, well in advance of clean-up work beginning on the site.

Once the cleanup project began, the Park District’s team of experts was also finally able to access all areas of the site, including many areas that have not been accessed for years due to overgrown vegetation and unsafe building conditions. The team has been able to better assess the work needed and found the cleanup to be more extensive than initial estimates, in order to complete the abatement and demolition work consistent with what our environmental laws require.

Other factors include inflation and rising construction costs, the continued degradation of the abandoned buildings on site, as well as the need for extensive abatement and additional work to address storm water build up in basements, tunnels and throughout the site.



Crews at the site continue conducting environmental abatement in all buildings on site and following that work, demolishing the abated structures. The Park District has also had the land cleared and overgrowth cut back, erected security fencing, safely removed old and unused underground storage tanks, and stormwater and dewatering occurred. The cleanup process will continue until all buildings are abated and nearly all structures are demolished.

The project is being independently overseen by multiple layers of government, including the county, state and federal levels, through site visits, permitting, and routine documentation and reporting review.

Once complete, the site will need the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's stamp of approval to be redeveloped. The Park District will engage with the Tinley Park community to discuss ideas and feedback to redevelop the land.

For more information on the cleanup as well as photos and video on its progress, visit the Park District's [website](#).