

Legislative Update



THE LATEST LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AFFECTING PARKS, RECREATION and CONSERVATION

January 29, 2014

#2-2014

TO: IAPD Members

**FROM: Peter Murphy, JD, CAE, IAPD President and CEO
Jason Anselment, IAPD Legal/Legislative Counsel**

SUBJECT: Governor Announces \$25 Million in PARC Grants

We hope you had a great IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference!

As those of you who attended last Friday's Annual Awards Luncheon already know, Governor Pat Quinn also joined us at that event. In addition to delivering many positive comments about IAPD member agencies and the importance of parks and recreation, the Governor also announced **exciting news - the release of \$25 Million in Park and Recreational Facility Construction (PARC) grants!**

The PARC grant program provides grants to park districts and other eligible local governments for bondable, bricks and mortar projects that include site preparation and improvements for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, reconstruction, improvements and expansion to existing facilities, and new construction. Projects involving land acquisition for construction of new or expansion of existing indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, and for open space and conservation purposes, are also eligible.

This is the second round of PARC grants. \$50 million in PARC grants were previously awarded in 2011. The maximum grant award for qualifying projects is \$2.5 million and will reimburse grant recipients up to 75% of approved project costs (up to 90% reimbursement will be available to local governments defined as disadvantaged).

The deadline for grant applications is **March 10, 2014**. [Download the grant application and program guidelines](#) by clicking on the link provided [here](#).

The PARC grant program does not replace the annual Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grant program (OSLAD). PARC projects must be "bondable" according to state guidelines, while OSLAD projects do not have this requirement. Eligible OSLAD projects include limited infrastructure costs by rule, and the PARC program is specifically designed to include support facilities and encourages infrastructure work.

For more information, details on program eligibility, and other program regulations, log on to <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/grants> or contact the IDNR Division of Grant Administration, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, phone 217/782-7481, or by e-mail grants@Illinois.gov.

NEXT MONDAY IS APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR MUSEUM GRANTS

The deadline for applying for the next round of Illinois Public Museum Grants is 5:00 PM CST **next Monday**, February 3, 2014. As we reported in our earlier [Legislative Update](#), this grant program provides funding assistance to improve museum facilities and develop new exhibits.

For detailed information on the application process, museum eligibility, matching fund requirements, and a copy of the application form, click on [this link](#) or visit IAPD's earlier [Legislative Update](#).

SPRING SESSION STARTS TODAY

Lawmakers return to the Capitol today to kick off the 2014 Spring Session. The Governor will deliver his annual State of the State address at Noon.

We also want to remind you that the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate have established their legislative calendars for the upcoming Spring Session.

The following important deadlines are included within the [House Calendar](#) and the [Senate Calendar](#):

Important dates for 2014 Spring Session

Friday, January 31, 2014 - Senate deadline for bill drafting requests to LRB

Friday, February 14, 2014 - House and Senate deadline for introduction of bills

Wednesday, February 19, 2014 - Governor's Budget Message

March 25 - March 26, 2014 - National Legislative Forum on Parks and Recreation, Washington D.C.

Friday, March 28, 2014 - House and Senate deadline for passing bills out of committee in chamber of origin

Friday, April 11, 2014 - House and Senate deadline for passing bills out of chamber of origin

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 - PARKS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Tuesday, April 30, 2014 - LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Friday, May 16, 2014 - House and Senate deadline for passing bills out of committee in opposite chamber

Friday, May 23, 2014 - House and Senate deadline for passing bills out of opposite chamber

Saturday, May 31, 2014 - Scheduled Adjournment Date

These calendars and deadlines and other important legislative information are always available to IAPD members under the Public Policy section of the [IAPD website](#). We encourage you to frequently visit the [website](#) for the latest legislative information from the Capitol. As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at 217/523-4554.

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