



## Village of Lake in the Hills Press Release

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Today, Governor Pritzker announced award of a \$277,700 grant to the Village of Lake in the Hills for expansion of Turtle Island Park. Lake in the Hills was one of 89 agencies state-wide awarded part of the \$29 million Open Space and Land Acquisition grants providing funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and / or development of land for public parks and open space. Lake in the Hills was the only McHenry County agency to receive a grant under this year's program.

"This is a great opportunity to add another quality venue to our park inventory. Woods Creek Lake is a centerpiece for the Village and this will further enhance the outdoor experience for those who use our lake.," said Megan Croy Assistant Director for Parks and Recreation. "The ability to do this work now and at a lower total cost to the Village's residents is a big win for everyone."

The Turtle Island Park expansion has three goals: 1) improve a quality fishing venue, 2) demonstrate examples of green infrastructure, and 3) create a great family gathering site. Located on Woods Creek Lake, the park is already a destination for anglers. The planned improvements will enhance access for anglers, including adding a handicapped accessible fishing pier to allow everyone the pleasure of the sport. It will also improve parking for visitors. The shoreline and island will demonstrate multiple techniques for erosion control. Also, a picnic shelter will give the opportunity to relax and to show off green roof construction and allow for use of rain barrels to demonstrate to park patrons different green infrastructure techniques. Finally, a butterfly garden and other native plantings will show the beauty of hardy native plants. The natural serenity of this site overlooking the lake makes it a great gathering place.

The grant will reimburse 50 percent of the cost of the project. The remainder of the funds are programmed for future years from the Village's Capital Improvement Fund.

Turtle Island Park has been a part of the Village's park system for many years. It was originally named Indian Trail Boat Launch before becoming Turtle Island Park in 1998. In 2006, the Village purchased the adjacent lot with the intent to rent the home until conditions were right for expanding the park. The home was demolished in 2017 and the Village staff in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board developed the master plan to improve and expand the park.

**For Immediate Release**