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Media Release

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FRANKLIN PARK WINS \$985,000 ILLINOIS GRANT Green Infrastructure Award to Fund Storm-water Management

Franklin Park, IL – Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Police Chief Michael Witz announced that the Village’s new Police Station has been awarded a grant for \$985,000 by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), to provide storm-water management improvements at the facility and to help reduce pollution flowing into the Des Plaines River.

“We are thrilled the new Franklin Park Police Station will receive close to a million dollars in grant funding from IEPA,” stated Mayor Pedersen. “This will allow us to incorporate state-of-the-art storm-water management practices including utilizing green infrastructure to capture, filter, infiltrate and detain storm-water runoff. This new facility will be an example of sustainable living and design and will help us demonstrate our environmental commitment. ”

“We are working hard to make the new police station a highly functional work environment for our police officers and for visitors,” stated Police Chief Michael Witz. “Thanks to this grant, we can incorporate new storm-water management improvements and pollution prevention practices as we construct the facility. The benefits of this grant will be not only be felt in our community, but throughout the region.”

Funding for this project provided, in part, by the Governor of Illinois and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through the Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program. The grant will fund

the use of permeable pavers and porous pavement in the parking lot which will limit runoff and therefore reduce sewer overflows. The grant also provides for a cistern, bio-swales and wetland detention basins, designed to improve water quality and reduce peak flows from the site. This reduces combined sewer overflows to the Des Plaines River. The project includes the use of native vegetation and engineered soil, which will act as a bio-filter to absorb toxic pollution from wet or dry deposition before it enters waterways.

The cistern will capture and store rooftop runoff to be reused later to water landscaped areas. The bio-swales will capture storm-water runoff along the railroad tracks to filter the runoff before it enters the wetland detention basins. The bio-swales also filter and absorb storm-water as it flows through native vegetation and remove pollutants including heavy metals and oil/grease. The native vegetation slows the flow of storm-water and allows for infiltration, recharging groundwater and reducing detention needs. Storm-water runoff exceeding the capacity of the bio-swales will be routed to wetland detention basins. During larger storm events, the constructed wetland basins will provide storage for storm-water runoff, allowing suspended solids to settle while also utilizing the native vegetation and soil to remove pollutants.

The project will also help to reduce the heat island effect by reducing impervious surfaces, like parking areas. A wildlife habitat will be created with the native vegetation in the bio-swales and constructed wetland basins. The proposed vegetation will include a combination of native grasses, sedges, and wildflowers which will provide a food source for local wildlife.

“Through the construction of our new police station, we have embraced the opportunity to improve storm-water quality, reduce pollution and promote green infrastructure to the region,” concluded Mayor Pedersen. “This Station will be a model of sustainability and will help us to demonstrate our environmental stewardship to the region.”

The Police Station will be the location for Village Board Meetings, court room appearances, and police business. The site will feature a public recreation area with a walking path around the constructed wetland basins. The Police Station is expected to be completed by summer of 2013.

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