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## League of Conservation Voters Opposes Proposal Slashing Funds to Preserve Parks

The IL League of Conservation Voters (ILLCV) along with several other environmental protection groups took a firm stand today denouncing proposed cuts in state funding to protect parks in our community. The group is calling on the Governor and state legislature to thwart efforts to slash funds preserving parks in nearly every community in the state.

“A vote to cut funding for our parks is a vote against a safe place for our children to play and explore,” says Amanda Espitia, the IL LCV’s Executive Director. “This is not just an environmental issue, it’s an economic one as well. Overcrowding and lack of open space is proven to reduce property values and strain infrastructure, which ultimately leads to higher taxes. With the real estate market cooling, homeowners can not afford a plan which will depreciate the value of their home, increase their taxes and rob their children of a safe place to play.”

The current proposal on the table will cut \$20 million from the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Fund (OSLAD) and \$5 million from the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF).

“The recent park district referendum in Glen Ellyn shows that open space is a very important issue to the residents here,” said Mike Braun, resident of neighboring Wheaton and CEO of 123 Exteriors. “People move here because they want a quality of life that enables them to get away from all the congestion and overcrowding elsewhere. Once we stop protecting our parks and allowing more congestion, we will definitely see not only a decline in the quality of life but also a decline in property values.”

This is the third time in as many years the Governor and the legislature have attempted to cut funding for OSLAD and NAAF. However, due to grassroots efforts, the previous two attempts have been thwarted.

“The environmental and conservation communities are unified in their stand against these cuts,” said Jonathan Goldman, executive director of the Illinois Environmental Council (IEC). The IEC is the umbrella organization to which most of the states environmental organizations belong.

The IL League of Conservation Voters is asking everyone concerned about the issue to contact the Governor, their State Representative and State Senator to stop these cuts from being implemented.

If you want information on how to contact your state elected officials or want to get involved in the group, email [info@lcvillinois.org](mailto:info@lcvillinois.org), call 312-731-6108, or visit the website at [www.lcvillinois.org](http://www.lcvillinois.org).