

The City of Breese Presents

Breese Nature Amphitheater





Central to Our Small Town Community

- ▶ Northside Park is central to our small-town community, serving as an important gathering place for residents, families, youth, and community organizations.
- ▶ The park's existing stage, which served as a focal point for community events and outdoor programming, was recently condemned due to structural concerns, leaving the community without a safe and accessible outdoor performance and gathering space.
- ▶ The proposed project will build upon the park's existing role as a community destination by creating an inclusive, all-ability outdoor gathering and educational space while expanding conservation and environmental education opportunities throughout the broader park.

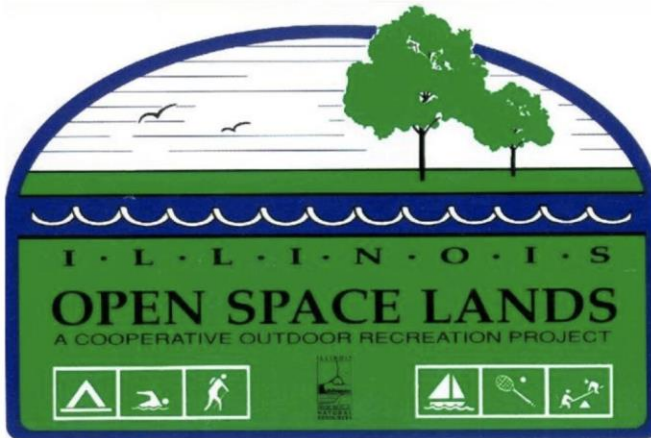


A Space that is
Central to Our
Small Town
Community

Scope



- ▶ **An All-Access Outdoor Amphitheater**
- ▶ All inclusive, ADA-compliant outdoor performance venue designed to provide equitable access and participation for individuals of all ages and abilities.
- ▶ Location for various Community programs
- ▶ Center Stage for Christmas Festivities
- ▶ Community theater productions
- ▶ Outdoor Recreation



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF NORTHSIDE PARK

- ▶ The City is pleased to announce that we will be applying for an **Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant** through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to support improvements at Northside Park.

Funding the FUN!

IDNR Open Space Land Acquisition
and Development (OSLAD)



Presenters



*Patrick Davis,
Office of Grants Management and
Accountability &
Andrew Jenkins,
Senior Conservation Grant Administrator
Illinois Department of Natural Resources*



*with
Michelle A. Kelly, PLA, CPSI
Principal Landscape Architect at Upland
Design Ltd*



THANK YOU TO OUR HOST
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS

OSLAD GRANT PROGRAM
Opens July 1 – 2026 and due August 31, 2026



Maximum acquisition grant
\$1,725,000

Maximum development grant
\$600,000

Funding assistance of 50% of approved
project costs (or 90% if defined as
"disadvantaged") for the acquisition and
development of lands for public parks &
open space.

Program funding is through a portion of
the State's Real Estate Transfer Tax

OSLAD provides a 50% advance payment
on the grants

If 50% payment is elected, then
extensions are not allowed if money is
not already spent or legally allocated.



Funding the Fun:

1. Get in the Competition
2. Score in Every Category
3. Avoid a Penalty

Grant Scoring = 100 points



* Source 2026 OSLAD Grant Manual
 ■ Statewide Outdoor Recreation Priorities and Project Need ■ Local Planning ■ Site Characteristics and Development plan ■ Project Special Considerations



60%
 Statewide
 Outdoor
 Recreation
 Priorities and
 Project Need

35% Address Major Outdoor
 Recreation and Conservation
 Priorities
 and
 25% Local Needs Assessment

35% Address Major Outdoor Recreation and Conservation

MANY SUBMISSION FAILED IN THIS AREA

1. Habitat enhancement or creation
2. Educational element
3. Green technology

1. Habitat enhancement or creation

Describe how the project protects, enhances, or expands wildlife habitat through acquisition and/or development

2. Educational Element

Describe how the project promotes conservation education

3. Green technology

Incorporate green elements beyond plants.



HABITAT ENHANCEMENT OR HABITAT CREATION

- Pollinator Garden
- Bat or Bird Boxes
- Native Prairie
- Native Woodland
- Enhance Existing Habitat
- Expand Existing Habitat



EDUCATIONAL ELEMENT

- Interpretive Signage
- Interpretive Trail
- Tie to Enhancement or Creation of Habitat



GREEN TECHNOLOGY

- Solar Panels
- Green Roof
- Permeable Paving
- Rain Garden
- Bio-Swale



Limited Recreational Components will be Scored Poorly

Incorporate Active and Passive Components

• Indicate if a Component is the First for your Community

• Define the Recreational Components

- Open lawn is not a component
- A grill is not a component
- A component is the sum of its parts



**RECREATIONAL COMPONENT:
AN AMENITY YOUR
COMMUNITY WILL COME TO
THE SITE TO ENGAGE WITH**

25% Site Characteristics and Development Plan

- Physical characteristics work for park site
- Site Accessibility: parking, pedestrian access, bicycle access
- Overall site plan: creative, sensitive to environment & diversity of opportunities





10% Local Planning

- ❑ Hold a series of public meetings
- ❑ Project is Identified in Your Comprehensive Plan (approved within 5 years)
- ❑ The level of public involvement and support for a project is a critical factor considered under this evaluation category

Connecting Recreation, Nature & Conservation

- ▶ **Added Conservation Element**
- ▶ Bio-Swales and Rain Garden for stormwater management
- ▶ Native plant beds for Conservation & Habitat, promoting pollinators
- ▶ Tree Planting Plan
- ▶ Educational Signage



Connecting Recreation, Nature & Conservation

- ▶ Restore a Vital Community Gathering Space
- ▶ Create Recreation for People of All Abilities
- ▶ Strengthen the Heart of Our Small Town Community
- ▶ Expand Conservation and Environmental Education
- ▶ Invest in a Lasting Community Resource



Community Events Annually Held at North-Side Park

- ▶ Easter Egg Hunts - Jr. Women's Club & Clinton County 4-H Club
- ▶ Clinton County Showcase Summer Series
- ▶ Buddy Walk - Community Link
- ▶ Fall Fest - Breese Optimist Club
- ▶ YMCA Summer Camp
- ▶ Vacation Bible School - Faith Baptist
- ▶ Breese Public Library Summer Reading Program
- ▶ Breese Christmas Parade - Breese Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Park Christmas Lighting - Breese Lighting Committee
- ▶ Plant Sale - St Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary
- ▶ Celebrate Life Community Wellness Event - Take Action Coalition of CC

Building Community

- ▶ Investing in the Heart of Our Community
- ▶ A place where everyone can gather.
- ▶ A place where everyone can belong.
- ▶ A place where nature, recreation, and community come together.

THANK YOU!

For helping us invest in the future of our community.



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