



PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR BALLARD, COMMUNITY CELEBRATE OPENING OF BETHEL PARK AQUATIC CENTER

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard was joined by Indy Parks and Recreation, the Indianapolis Parks Foundation and the Bethel Park neighborhood today in celebrating the opening of the new \$2 million Bethel Park Aquatic Center on Indianapolis' Near-Southeastside.

“The City of Indianapolis made a commitment to this community to build a pool that will serve as a place for families to have fun and learn to swim, to enjoy physical activity, to interact and socialize with friends and neighbors, and to build memories,” said Mayor Ballard. “This pool is an amazing facility that will provide years of recreation and education for youth and adults.”

The new Bethel Park Aquatic Facility features a 25-yard, six-lane lap pool with a three-story speed slide, the only slide of its kind in Indianapolis. The facility also features two basketball goals and a zero-depth beach-entry interactive spray ground, new deck furniture, picnic tables and shade structures. The City's replacement of the Bethel Park pool involved installation of new “green” technologies including a filtration and pump system that will be more cost-effective to operate, use less water and save energy.

The former pool at the park was closed during the 2009 summer season due to a dilapidated infrastructure and irreparable leaks.

“The Bethel Park Aquatic Center is a great capital improvement for the City of Indianapolis and a fantastic asset for the Southeastside community,” said Susie Day, City-County Councilor and Chairwoman of the Parks and Recreation Committee. “Mayor Ballard and the Parks Department did more than fulfill their commitment – they exceeded expectations.”



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The Indianapolis Parks Foundation secured funding for this project through the generosity of Lilly Endowment Inc., which awarded a \$7.3 million grant for two aquatic projects, tennis court renovations and installation of restroom facilities.

“This pool will do more than provide just a place to swim in our neighborhood,” said Bethel Park Manager Derrick Miller. “It gives kids, families and community leaders a sense of pride and ownership – something to call their own. That is priceless.”

The Bethel Park Aquatic Facility will remain open through Labor Day, September 6, 2010. Hours are 1-7 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 1-6 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$2 for children under 18 and \$3 for adults.

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