INDY PARKS & RECREATION AWARDED $350,000 GRANT FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT IPS SITES

21\textsuperscript{st} CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER GRANT RENEWABLE FOR THREE MORE YEARS

INDIANAPOLIS – The City of Indianapolis announced today that Indy Parks & Recreation has been awarded a $350,000 21\textsuperscript{st} Century Community Learning Center grant for the after-school programs at eight Indianapolis Public School sites. The grant will begin in January 2009 and will continue through May 2013.

The sites are IPS 27, IPS 51, IPS 49, IPS 63, IPS 69, IPS 31, IPS 46 and IPS 82.

“The grant highlights the fact that Indy Parks has been a key supporter of after-school programs for a long time and will continue to do so,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “This gives us an opportunity to elevate what we do in the future.”

The federal grant is awarded through the Indiana Department of Education, which selected Indy Parks’ after-school Recreation Adventure Program for funding in its grant competition. The after-school program runs from the time school is let out until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Each site follows a daily schedule, and the curriculum is tailored to each specific site. Typical activities include snack and a health education message, tutoring and homework assistance, and recreation and leisure education clubs.

Indy Parks’ Office of School Outreach staff conducted due diligence to determine where needs were greatest in applying for the grant, said Indy Parks Director Stuart Lowry.

“We took all the knowledge of how we have served kids in the past and made it even better for the future,” Lowry said. “At a time when families are struggling to meet basic needs, this program provides a place for children to receive help with academic and social needs. And we are not going to stop with just these dollars -- this is the time

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when we need more support than ever for after-school programming, and whether it’s Indy Parks, non-profit organizations or others, this is the time for everyone to step up.”

The first-year grant is for the amount of $350,000, effective Jan. 1, 2009, to May 31, 2010. The grant will be evaluated for renewal at the end of each grant year. The grant schedule is as follows:

Year One: Jan. 1, 2009-May 10, 2010 $350,000
Year Two: June 1, 2010-May 30, 2011 $350,000
Year Three: June 1, 2011-May 30, 2012 $280,000
Year Four: June 1, 2012-May 30, 2013 $245,000

About 21st Century Community Learning Center Program
This program supports the creation of community learning centers and programs that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. Funded by No Child Left Behind – Title IV Part B, the program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

About Indy Parks’ After-School Recreation Adventure Program
Indy Parks’ Office of School Outreach programs and services are developmental in nature. The after-school program is keyed to seven core values to serve as an adjunct to education and lifelong learning. The seven values are youth development/services, safety and security, academic achievement, discipline/self control, quality programs/services, structure programs/services, and community partners. The program gives Indy Parks and IPS the ability to develop positive characteristics, encourage positive social engagement, and teach skills that will promote higher performance.

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