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MAYOR BALLARD UNVEILS NEW SPRAY PARK AT WES MONTGOMERY PARK

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today was joined by faith-based leaders, community partners, neighborhood residents and Robert Montgomery, son of Wes Montgomery, for the ribbon-cutting ceremony unveiling the new spray park at Wes Montgomery Park on the City’s Eastside. Under Mayor Ballard’s direction, the City of Indianapolis invested more than $680,000 into Wes Montgomery Park, located at 3400 N. Hawthorne Lane, for the spray park and accompanying upgrades, part of a $30 million investment made over the past two years across Indy Parks’ long-neglected aquatic facilities.

“No longer are children swimming above corroded pipes and using restrooms with raw sewage backing up in the infrastructure at Wes Montgomery Park,” said Mayor Ballard. “Our children deserve better, and not only have we delivered amenities that contribute to their quality of life, but this park now pays tribute to and respects its namesake.”

The Wes Montgomery Spray Park is designed in the shape of a guitar to honor renowned American jazz guitarist Wes Montgomery. The water-enhanced playground features brightly colored shaped instruments and musical notes that spout water to the delight of those looking to get wet during the warm summer months. Recordings of Wes Montgomery’s music play when the water features are activated. Wes Montgomery’s son Robert consulted with Indy Parks’ planners for the concept and design of the park.

“The spray park is a wonderful move for the community and allows all ages to enjoy it – and the fact that it is ADA-accessible means no one is left out,” said Robert Montgomery. “This is a great tribute to my family and the people in this community. My father would be honored to have this spray park in his park. It will bring joy to the families in the neighborhood for generations to come.”

The pool formerly located at Wes Montgomery Park leaked more than 45,000 gallons of water daily during the summer months. The new spray park is free and open to the public from dawn to dusk and does not require lifeguards, which contributes to having a more sustainable facility. More than one mile of piping was installed to create Wes Montgomery Spray Park, making it one of the biggest spray parks in Marion County. Restroom renovation began in January and will be completed early this summer.

“Under my watch, our City’s aquatic facilities never again will be allowed to return to the horrid conditions in which my administration found them,” Mayor Ballard said. “This summer, neighborhoods across Marion County will enjoy public aquatic facilities that do not leak millions of gallons of chlorinated water into the surrounding park grounds.”

Indy Parks will start a new Summer Supervised Playground Program at Wes Montgomery Park that provides free, structured activities and programs to youth ages 6-12. In addition, a new Boundless Playground is being installed at the park through a generous contribution from CVS Caremark in partnership with the Indianapolis Parks Foundation.

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