



Timber Ridge Park Public Meeting

August 20, 2026, 6:00 PM

Timber Ridge Park

- The Skokie Park District and School District 65 have met, and the Park District has expressed interest in purchasing the school property.
- District 65 has not yet listed the property for sale and is expected to be several months before they are prepared to sell it.
- The District 65 board has instructed their staff to negotiate with the two governmental agencies interested in the property – the Skokie Park District and another agency.

Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant Program

- The Skokie Park District is applying for an acquisition grant that will fund the purchase of Dr. Bessie Rhodes School and surrounding property.
- The grant is funded through the Illinois Department of Natural Resource (IDNR).
- This is a matching grant of up to \$1,125,000
- Occasionally the IDNR shifts acquisition grants from OSLAD to a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant, also administered through IDNR, which involves federal funding and has a longer timeline to receive an award.

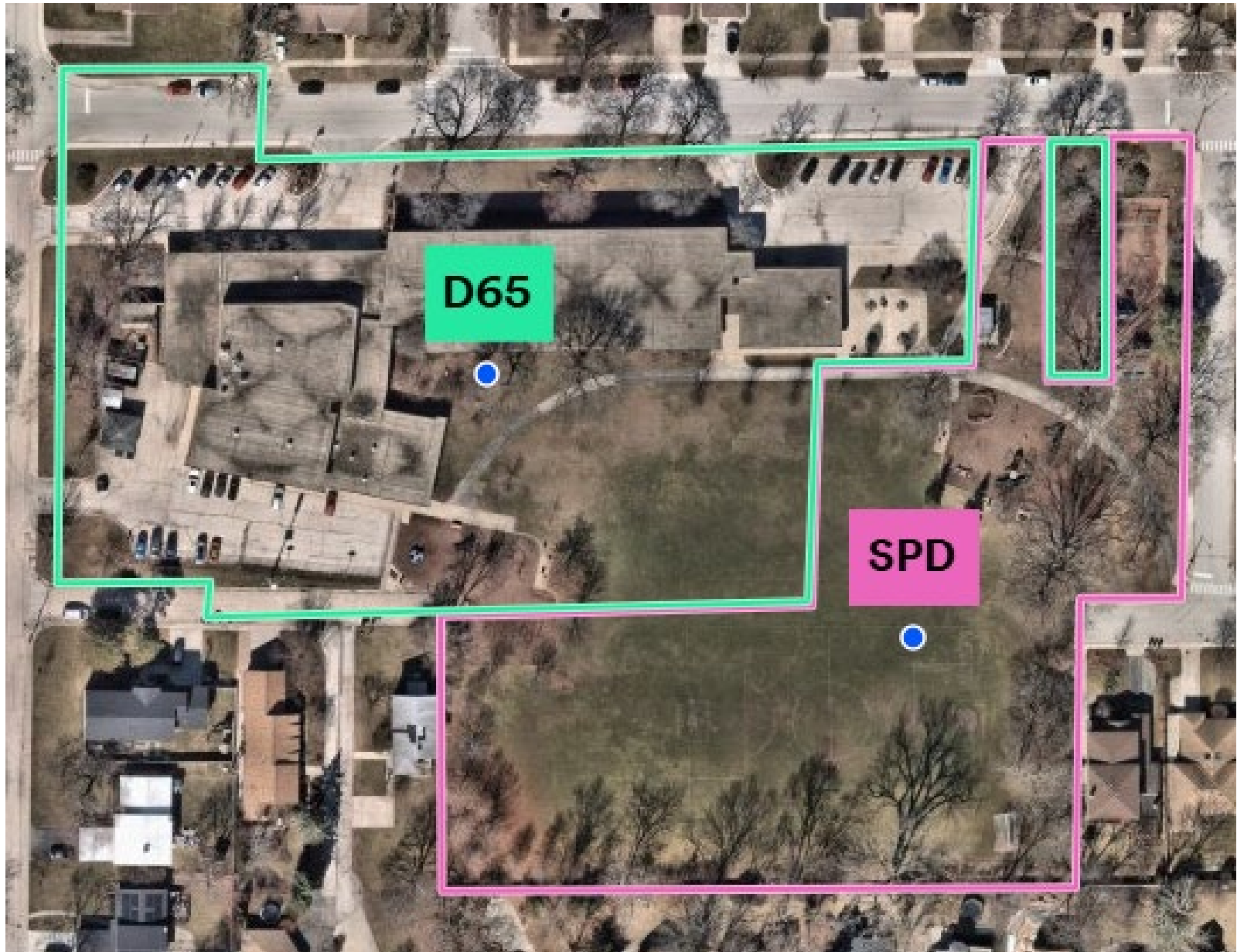


Key OSLAD Grant Application Requirements

- Post-acquisition preliminary development concept
- Public meeting to gather input from residents
- Letters of support

The grant application deadline is August 31, 2026.

Combined School and Park Boundaries



Timber Ridge Design Concept for Grant Application Purposes



Timber Ridge Concept Budget

DESCRIPTION	ITEM TOTAL
picnic shelter & restroom	\$ 880,000
playground	\$ 607,000
outdoor fitness	\$ 116,000
path	\$ 506,000
basketball court	\$ 203,000
reading garden	\$ 185,000
native area & landscaping	\$ 381,000
parking lot	\$ 276,000
building	\$ 3,866,000

A/E professional fees	\$ 702,000
CPA Fees (OSLAD ONLY)	\$ 2,500

PROJECT TOTAL \$ 7,724,500

*Does not include purchase price

If the Skokie Park District is awarded the grant

- The Park District would apply for an OSLAD development grant (\$600,000 matching grant) in the 2027 grant cycle with awards announced in the winter of 2028.
- The Park District would also seek funding from state legislators as part of the state's capital improvement budget.
- **The grant funding awarded (if any) will determine the project budget, which will dictate the final design.**
- Another Public Hearing would be held to receive input on the final park design.



If the Skokie Park District is not awarded the grant

- The Skokie Park District would still attempt to purchase the property.
- The scope of the project would likely be reduced and delayed.
- The Park District would also seek funding from state legislators as part of the state's capital improvement budget.
- The Park District would apply for an OSLAD development grant.



Questions/Comments

Letters of support can be sent to:

cg@skokieparks.org

Letters will be accepted until 5 pm
on Wednesday, August 26, 2026.