

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BOCA RATON'S NEWEST RECREATION COMPLEX BOASTS EIGHT NEW ATHLETIC FIELDS**

#### **Spanish River Athletic Complex To Break Ground In February**

**BOCA RATON, FL (February 3, 2011)** — The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District and The City of Boca Raton have joined forces and resources to build a new 55-plus acre community recreation complex scheduled to break ground in February, 2011. Key features to the site include eight athletic fields, a 20-acre recreational lake for small boating, and walking paths through out the site and underneath Spanish River Boulevard to the Spanish River Library and Community Center.

This highly anticipated addition to Boca Raton's recreational landscape is the latest project on the 200+ acre land parcel that was purchased by the City in 2000, and formerly occupied by IBM. Located on Spanish River Boulevard, west of I-95, previous improvements to the tract include the Mizner Bark Dog Park opened by the City and operated by the District as well as the City's Spanish River Library and Community Center, Fire Support and Training facility, the recently completed IRIS water storage facility, and the sale of 79 acres to Palm Beach County for the PondHawk Natural Area. The new recreation complex will address the growing community need of Boca Raton residents to have additional fields to provide quality athletic programs for adults and youth players and leagues.

The City approached the District some years ago with the concept that the City would have interest in providing the land and the District could provide the funding for an athletic field complex. Following two separate studies to document the community need for additional fields, the planning, design and budgeting began. The District used that time frame to accumulate sufficient reserves in order to fund development of the site and construction of the facilities without borrowing any money for the project.

Currently within the Boca Raton Beach and Park District exist several multi-use facilities maintained and operated by the District including Red Reef Park; Gumbo Limbo Nature Center; Red Reef Executive Golf Course; Sugar Sand Park; Patch Reef Park; and the Swim and Racquet Center, The new Spanish River Athletic Fields and Recreation Complex will feature eight fields; four rectangles and four diamonds, providing additional capacity for softball, baseball, soccer, football, lacrosse and rugby play as well as the other recreational amenities.

Boca Raton based Kaufman Lynn building contractors was the successful bidder to the District's Request for Proposals last Fall for the 10-month long project with an estimated budget of approximately \$10 million to construct the improvements for the District.

According to Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District Chairman Dennis Frisch, "This is an exciting opportunity for youth and adult sports. Because of Florida Atlantic University's growth, the fields we currently use will not be available in perpetuity, so we are planning for the future of our leagues to provide everyone a place to play the sports activities they enjoy."

Commissioner Bob Rollins added, "The additional eight fields will barely address the field space needs, as we are currently using field time to its utmost capacity.

What this new complex does is to further build community. At a time in our country when fitness programs are being cut in the schools, being given the chance to recreate and do away with the adjective of our youth being “unfit,” is a positive step. When people recreate together as a community, neighbors get to know one another and interface and watch their kids play. After all, we are a city within a park; our parks are what make our city great. It’s one of the key factors businesses and families look at when deciding where to live: housing, office space, education and places for families to recreate. “

For more information on the Spanish River Athletic Fields and Recreation Complex, contact Robert Langford, Executive Director, Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District at 561-417-4599 or Email: [Blangford@bocaratonbeachparkdistrict.org](mailto:Blangford@bocaratonbeachparkdistrict.org).

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