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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Village of Cambria Awarded \$196,849.50 OSLAD Grant for Park Improvements

CAMBRIA, IL – January 14, 2026 – The Village of Cambria has been awarded a \$196,849.50 Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to support significant improvements to the James Mohan Memorial Park. Grant funding will allow the Village to reconstruct and resurface the walking path, resurface the basketball courts, convert the existing tennis court into three pickleball courts, and replace aging wood fencing throughout the park. These improvements will enhance accessibility, safety, and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.

Beginning in May 2025, the Village held a series of public meetings through the Park Committee and a newly formed Grant Committee to explore funding opportunities for the park. Through these discussions, the committees determined that pursuing an OSLAD grant was the most effective path forward. This initiative was driven by the Park & Grant Committee, whose members include Robin McFarlin, Suzette Coffey, Mike Ren, and Marshall Brown.

To ensure the project reflected the community's priorities, the Village hosted two public meetings at the park in late June and early July and conducted a community survey. In July, the Park Committee reviewed the survey results at a public meeting, which included more than 90 responses from residents. In August, the Village Board adopted the Park Committee's Community Outdoor Recreation Master Plan, which summarized the survey results and established a clear roadmap for park improvements. That same month, the Board formally authorized submission of an OSLAD grant application.

The application process reflected a true community effort, demonstrating that progress does not happen alone - it takes a village. Mayor Modglin provided required site maps, Village staff assembled deeds and compliance materials, local businesses and churches submitted letters of support, and residents contributed professional expertise to strengthen the final application. Through this community-led approach, the application was completed without incurring any consulting costs.

The OSLAD application was submitted in late September 2025, and the Village was notified this week that Cambria would receive the full amount requested - \$196,849.50. The Village of Cambria is grateful to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for its investment in the community and its support of local outdoor recreation.