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Habitat Omaha Breaks Ground to Revitalize Five-Acre North Omaha Park on Former Wintergreen Site

Rep. Don Bacon Earmarks \$1.1 Million Congressional Community Grant for Myott Park

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OMAHA, Nebraska –Rep. Don Bacon (R-Neb.) and Omaha Parks and Recreation Director Matt Kalcevich helped break ground today to launch the revitalization and expansion of Myott Park in Habitat for Humanity of Omaha's new 85-home, \$25 million Bluestem Prairie affordable housing development located on the site of the former Wintergreen Apartments near 52nd Street and Sorensen Parkway.

Myott Park will feature a barrier-free design, new playground equipment, picnic pavilions, an amphitheater, basketball, pickleball and multi-sport courts, and new walking and bicycle trails. Funding for the park's revamp comes from a \$1.1 million congressional community grant secured by Bacon with an additional gift from Habitat Omaha donor Stephanie Wernig. Habitat Omaha will oversee the project, and the City of Omaha Parks and Recreation will provide continuing maintenance and support after completion.

"We want to thank Congressman Bacon, the city and our donors for partnering with Habitat Omaha for this beautiful addition to the Bluestem Prairie development," Brewer said. "Just like having a safe, affordable place to live, nature and greenspace provide positive outcomes for our physical and mental health and well-being. Myott Park will add to the 'humanity' of these homes and connect them to other neighborhoods and the community."

Editor's Note: Downloadable images of Myott Park renderings and event photos are available <u>here</u>.

"Transformational communities need vibrant green spaces and parks to allow residents to interact with nature and each other," Stothert said. "This project is a strong example of how public-private partnerships work. This once-vacant surrounding area is now springing to life, and this park will be a focal point that energizes this community." "Access to affordable housing is a critical issue, and the work of Habitat for Humanity gives people hope, dignity, and stability," said Bacon. "I am pleased that we were able to secure \$1.1 million in funding for the Myott Park project in North Omaha that will be a centerpiece for transforming a vacant lot into affordable housing. This project will change lives and empower a new generation of homeowners within a framework of education and support to ensure the residents' long-term success."

The five-acre park is expected to be completed in Fall 2024.

About Habitat Omaha

Founded in 1984, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha builds and renovates homes, repairs existing houses, takes down blighted structures and advocates for better laws and systems. Habitat also works with individuals and families to acquire the access, skills and financial education to become successful homeowners. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit <u>www.habitatomaha.org</u>.

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