

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with white stars on a blue field and red and white stripes. The stars are arranged in a pattern that follows the top and bottom edges of the slide, framing the central text.

OSLAD Matching Grants Are Illinois' Best Investment

- Since its inception more than 35 years ago, the **Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) program has provided critical matching funds** to park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts, and other local agencies to acquire open space and to develop and improve outdoor recreational facilities.
- Communities statewide have benefited from OSLAD grants: **97 out of 102 Illinois counties** have a park and recreation agency that has received OSLAD funding.
- OSLAD grant rules require local agencies to match grants dollar-for-dollar (with exceptions for distressed communities), **which guarantees the State an immediate 100% return on its investment.**
- Historically, park districts and other local governments have matched every \$1.00 the **State has provided with \$1.75, meaning the State actually received a 175% return on its investment!**
- In addition to leveraging local matching funds, OSLAD grants **improve State and local economies and generate additional revenue** by putting Illinoisans to work through job creation and the purchase of building supplies and materials.
- OSLAD projects also help the State positively address budget issues such as healthcare costs. Thousands of programs offered by local park and recreation agencies at these **OSLAD-funded parks and facilities promote healthier lifestyles** through daily exercise.
- **Serving the needs of Illinois' working families**, open space and recreational facilities also provide crucial support to park districts in their delivery of after school and summer recreational programs.

**OSLAD projects are win-win partnerships
that more than pay for themselves.**

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Protect OSLAD, Oppose Fund Sweep

- OSLAD is funded by **dedicated, non-General Revenue Fund (non-GRF) dollars** through a portion of the Real Estate Transfer Tax. Of every dollar collected through this tax, \$.35 goes toward OSLAD, while \$.15 goes to IDNR's Natural Areas Acquisition Fund, and \$.50 goes into a fund for affordable housing.
- **The Governor's proposed budget would sweep all \$25 million in new revenues for OSLAD grants in FY2025 into the General Revenue Fund.**
- **Demand for OSLAD grants has never been higher.** In the past two grant cycles alone, more than 400 agencies submitted nearly \$200 million in grant requests. **At least 185 applications totaling \$82 million were not funded in just the past two years.**
- In fact, the land acquisition and capital needs of local park and recreation agencies were **\$3 billion** even before the pandemic. Since then, this overwhelming demand for recreational programming, facilities, and open space has only increased.
- While the Governor's proposed budget includes \$30 million for new grants, these are the OSLAD grant funds that were not awarded during the pandemic and are needed along with next year's new revenues to help meet the immense demand for matching grants.
- The **\$25 million** in new OSLAD revenues the Administration proposes to sweep could **fund an additional 40-50 projects** during the next grant cycle.

**Support a \$55 Million Appropriation for
New OSLAD Grants!**