



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE (R.-KANS) DELIVERED AT THE LEGACY OF PARKS DEDICATION, OLATHE, KANSAS, AUGUST 13 1973:

Today's ceremony is the latest step forward in the Legacy of Parks Program the President initiated in 1971. As he stated, this program is designed to "help states and local governments to provide parks and recreational areas not just for today's Americans, but for tomorrow's as well".

I have been a long-time supporter of the Legacy of Parks Program. I recall in July of last year participating in one of the early Legacy of Parks conveyances in Topeka. Thirteen months later, that project has proven to be a clear success. The property is now being used by the children in the community for football and baseball activities and as a general-purpose playground.

So, I am hopeful that a year from now the 240 acres of land being conveyed today will be viewed by the citizens of Johnson County and the City of De Soto as an equally successful example of federal government planning and cooperation.

The President deserves broad recognition for achieving an outstanding measure of success with this program. Last Wednesday, he announced grants of 19 new properties. This brings to 345 the total number of parks and recreational areas conveyed to state and local governments for use by their citizens over the past three years. Altogether, these properties are valued at over \$155 million and cover some 57,000 acres.

This program is one of the best examples of good government at work. The Federal Property Council recommends to the President the highest and best use for surplus federal property. It works closely with the General Services Administration, the Department of the Interior and local citizens to make this land available and assist in developing parks for the people of this area.

As I have said, I support this program and will continue to support it. This program is a major step toward establishing a stronger national philosophy of reverence towards the use of our precious resources. We must treat these gifts of nature -- water, air, the forests, and especially the land -- with the care that they must have. And we must assure that they are being used for the American people's greatest benefit.