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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026 | MCDONOUGHVOICE.COM K1

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Macomb received a \$45,500 Illinois grant to install an accessible kayak launch and replace aging docks at Spring Lake Park. PROVIDED BY CITY OF MACOMB

Grant to fund upgrades for Macomb’s Spring Lake Park

Nida Tazeen
Galesburg Register-Mail
USA TODAY NETWORK

The City of Macomb has received a \$45,500 Illinois Department of Natural Resources grant to improve boating and water recreation access at Spring Lake Park.

The funding was awarded through the Boat Access Area Development Grant Program, according to a community announcement. The state program provides financial assistance to local governments for projects that develop or improve public boat and canoe access facilities across Illinois.

The project at Spring Lake Park includes two upgrades: a new accessible

kayak launch and replacement of the park’s aging tommy dock system.

City officials said the kayak launch is designed to make it easier and safer for people of different ages and abilities to get into and out of kayaks and canoes. The effort also includes installation of 12 new docks to replace existing structures, creating safer and more reliable space for public boat docking and fishing.

“We are extremely happy to work with the city to improve the facility and add new accessibility”, said Spring Lake Management President Ryan Hansen. “These are projects I’ve wanted to get done for years the IDNR grant made this possible” he added.

The accessible kayak launch has al-

ready been installed. Work to replace the tommy docks is underway.

Grand opening planned

A grand opening ceremony is scheduled for spring 2027 after the projects are completed. The event will celebrate the new amenities and mark the start of the spring recreation season at Spring Lake Park.

This story was produced by reporter Nida Tazeen, NTazeen@usatoday-co.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct .

Nova Singers to feature music from South Africa in concerts

Nida Tazeen
Galesburg Register-Mail
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nova Singers will open its 41st season with a program celebrating South African music during performances in Galesburg and Davenport in October.

The concerts are scheduled for Oct. 10 at First Lutheran Church in Galesburg and Oct. 11 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, according to a community announcement. Internationally known conductor, educator, composer and choral clinician Michael Barrett of the University of Pretoria in South Africa will lead the second half of the program.

The ensemble, directed by Laura Lane, will begin with an a cappella selection that includes works by Claudio Monteverdi, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel and John Rutter. Barrett will then conduct a program featuring traditional and contemporary South African music, including selections composed by Barrett and emerging South African composers.

Lane said the ensemble has embraced the rhythms, harmonies and contemporary works featured in the South African repertoire.

“But I am absolutely thrilled that Michael Barrett will be here to lead Nova Singers in the second half!” Lane said. “The Singers and I are loving the traditional songs with their South African rhythms and harmonies, as well as the gorgeous and deeply moving contemporary songs. But I know that, when he arrives, Michael Barrett will bring his knowledge and his extraordinary charisma to electrify all of us during these performances, and I can’t wait!”

Public workshop planned in Galesburg

Nova Singers and the Galesburg Public Library Foundation are also partnering to present a free community workshop, “Singing and Dancing the

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Cases for measles continue rise beyond 30-year high

Mary Walrath-Holdridge
USA TODAY

Measles infections surpassed 1,000 reported cases in one state as the United States continues to hurdle past a 30-year case high.

Pennsylvania, the current center of the nation’s largest outbreak, reported 1,004 total cases on Oct. 5, a remarkable uptick from just 106 total cases last year. A handful of other states are also contending with clusters of 100 or more infections.

Plummeting vaccination rates and the resulting resurgence in cases have put the United States at risk of losing its

measles elimination status.

Defined by the World Health Organization as freedom from the continuous spread of a disease for at least a year, elimination status has been called a “historic public health achievement” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – but the WHO is set to review the status for the United States in November after 2025’s Texas outbreak that killed three.

As of Oct. 1, the CDC reported 3,887 confirmed measles cases in 45 states plus Washington, DC.

The actual number is likely higher, as only cases confirmed by doctors and reported to the CDC are counted. This

means people who get sick but don’t see a doctor for a diagnosis are not included. Plus, the CDC’s counts tend to lag behind states because its figures are only updated weekly after certain reporting parameters are met.

As of Oct. 5, Pennsylvania has the largest measles outbreak, with infections surpassing 1,004, according to state health data.

The state has also reported five “measles-associated” deaths; however, the CDC count still only reflects two after a terse back-and-forth between Secretary of Health and Human Services

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Measles cases are on the rise in the United States, threatening the country’s measles elimination status. IRINA STARIKOVA/GETTY IMAGES

