

# Gurnee Park District



## Master Plan 2010



Promoting Fun • Preserving Nature

4374 Old Grand Avenue • Gurnee, Illinois 60031  
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# GURNEE PARK DISTRICT MASTER PLAN 2010

## BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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Victoria Paddock ..... Vice President  
James G. Goshorn ..... Secretary  
Donna Kolar ..... Commissioner  
Russell Johnson..... Commissioner

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Ashley Tewksbury ..... Landscape & Grounds team member  
Suzanne Gage ..... Administrative Assistant

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# **GURNEE PARK DISTRICT MASTER PLAN**

## **MISSION**

*Enriching people's lives by promoting fun and preserving nature.*

## **VISION**

*The vision of the Gurnee Park District is to:*

- *Provide the community with a sense of pride in their Park District*
- *Be the most effective, efficient and responsive government that the community will ever encounter.*

# **GURNEE PARK DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES BUILT ON TRUST AND COOPERATION**

## **Mutual Respect**

We shall strive towards working together as a team recognizing individual differences. We seek cooperation and consensus building between team members and customers. We value the opinions of others. We anticipate the needs of our customers.

## **Open and honest communication**

We strive for open, honest, direct communications with ongoing active listening between team members and customers, which will be clear, tactful and timely. Voice mail and e-mail messages are responded to within 24/48 hours. We value the information customers provide. Individual differences are accepted and all subjects are open for discussion.

## **Integrity**

We shall maintain the trust and respect for each other and our customers by being accountable, responsible and keeping commitments. We vow to do what we say we are going to do.

## **Motivated and positive**

We constantly strive to build our own and other team members' self-esteem by positive talk (between self and with others). Team members will be proactive in finding solutions to problems. We expect team members to be self-motivated and enthusiastic. We encourage team members to grow and change.

## **Recognition of Accomplishments**

Celebration reaffirms the worth and efforts of team members and accomplishments. Ongoing, timely and sincere "thank yous" are shared both verbally and in writing. Major accomplishments are recognized and rewarded. We make a difference and our collective efforts are appreciated.

## **Opportunity**

We will work in partnership to foster growth and development. Providing opportunities for learning and taking on new responsibilities will be of paramount importance.

## **Innovation/Creativity**

Team members continuously work to improve service and stay focused on strategic priorities and the Master Plan. Team members are encouraged to be persistent in selling new ideas, implementing creative approaches/programs and remaining flexible to the changing needs of the residents we serve.

## **Enjoy Work**

Have fun and take pride in accomplishments.

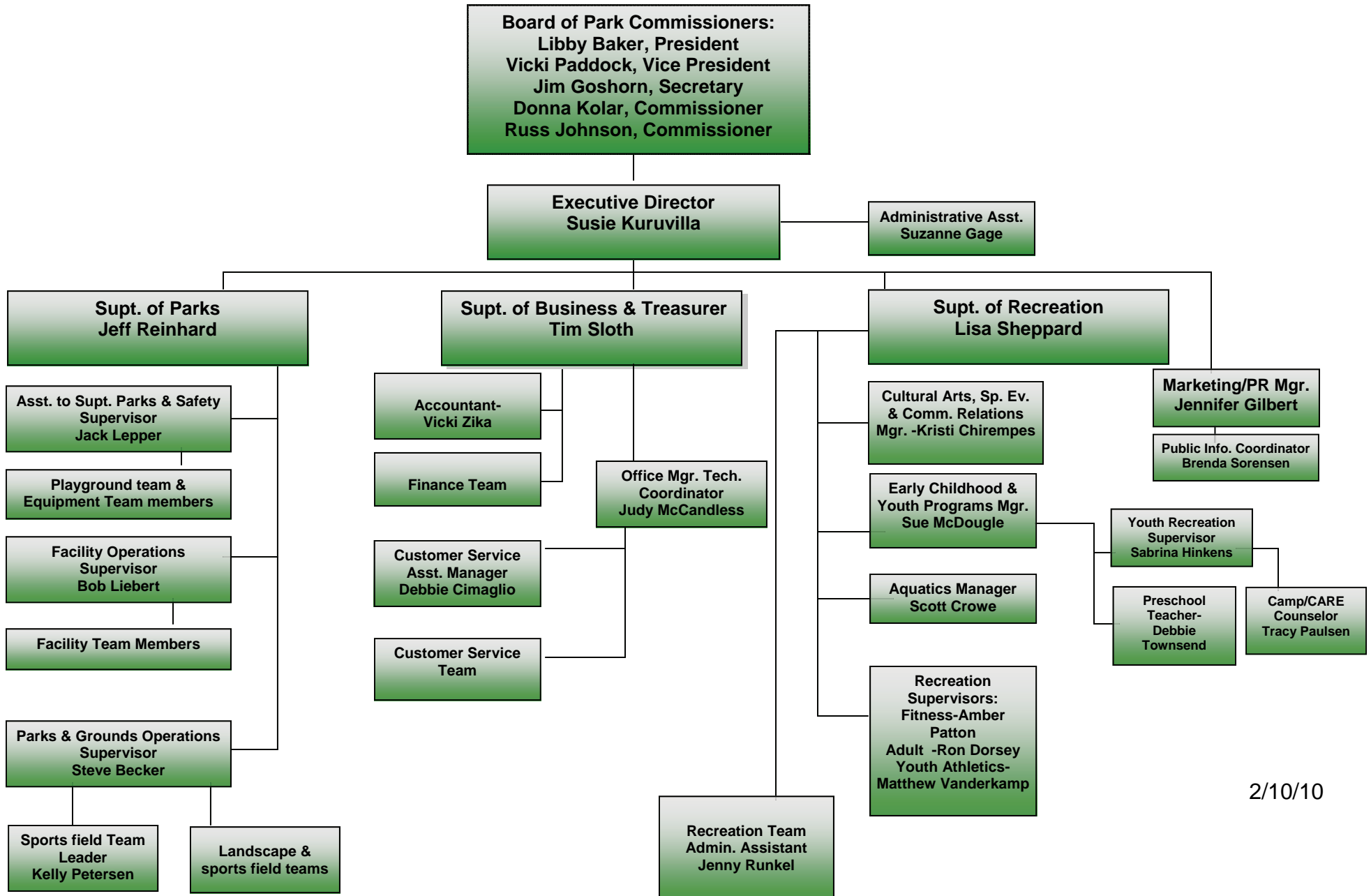
## **Learning Environment**

Fail, if necessary fix it fast, and move on.

## **Empowerment**

As a team, we believe that we are responsible for our success and let people do their jobs. We will continually foster a work environment built around trusting, accountability, follow-through, dignity, self-confidence, stretching, growing, esteem-building and sound decision making.

# GURNEE PARK DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FULL TIME POSITIONS



2/10/10

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gurnee Park District is located in Northeastern Lake County, approximately 45 miles northwest of the Chicago loop. The District serves all residents within the corporate limits of the Village of Gurnee, as well as residents of Continental Village and Hickory Hills in the City of Waukegan and Countryside and Quality Acres subdivisions in unincorporated Warren Township. It currently encompasses approximately 14.73 square miles. The District serves a population of about 34,170 residents and approximately an additional 30,000 non-residents, who reside in the surrounding unincorporated Warren Township. The District maintains 400 acres of parks, playgrounds and natural areas.

The Board of Commissioners initiated a process to update the District's current Master Plan in late 2009. A Committee was formed comprised of a cross-departmental team. The 2007 community-wide interest and attitude survey was used to assist the development of this plan. Public input was also sought through a public hearing held in March, 2010.

The goal of a Master Plan is to provide a functional plan for parks, recreation and open space that builds on existing facilities, assets and amenities, and addresses the need for park sites, and facilities to meet community needs. The previous Master Plan was developed in 1998. Many accomplishments were made as outlined in the former plan. Construction of a 1,500 bather load outdoor aquatic center, 41,000 SF Community Center, 5 new playgrounds, acquisition of over 200 acres of land etc. are a few examples.

This Master Plan identifies all parks and facilities owned and operated by the District and the need for future improvements and additions. Since Gurnee is mostly built out, and no major population increases are anticipated in the next 10 years, most of the Park Districts efforts will focus on maintaining a high "standard of excellence" with current infrastructure along with ensuring quality service to all residents through timely maintenance and improvements.

Following National open space standards, the District currently has met the open space requirements of 10 acres per 1,000 population. However, the District is lacking in the area of acreage for community parks. Several potential acquisitions are identified in this plan. The plan also consists of recommendations and implementation strategies aimed at helping the District meet the expectations of its constituency over the next ten years. This plan will be annually reviewed, and updated according to changes in circumstances and opportunities. This process permits the District to maintain its responsiveness to the residents' needs and is imperative to the District's future success.

## GURNEE PARK DISTRICT PROFILE

Date of Incorporation	September 7, 1968
Form of Government	Special District
2009 Estimated Population	34,170
Estimated Households	12,445
Area	14.73 Square Miles
Total Acres	400
Community Centers	2
Fitness Center	1
Aquatic Centers	1 (1,500 bather load)
Gymnasium	1
Outdoor skate parks	3
Water Spray ground	1
Tennis Courts	6 (additional 2 courts at township and 12 courts at high school)
Park sites	28
Playgrounds	24
Outdoor Basketball courts	23
Soccer fields	21
Outdoor Ice Rinks	4
Baseball/Softball Fields	16
Full-time Employees	39
Year-Round Part-time Employees	208
Seasonal Employees	137
2008 Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV)	\$1,380,574,263
2008 Tax Rate	.356
2009/2010 Budget	\$11,908,812



## HISTORY AND LOCATION

The Park District has a rich history, which goes back to the early 1800s.

Early settlers arrived in the area now known as Gurnee in 1835, following the Treaty of Prairie Du Chien with the Indians which provided for the settlement of northern Illinois. The settlers came to Illinois from the east to acquire inexpensive land and build homes. An article in an early *Chicago Tribune* states "An obscure hamlet, Wentworth remained such even after 1870 when the name of its post office was changed to O'Plaine." This was shortened from Aux Plaines, the early spelling of the Des Plaines River. In 1873, the first train went through on the newly-built Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. In 1874, the town was renamed Gurnee Station. It was later shortened to just Gurnee. The name Gurnee was said to have come from a Louis J. Gurnee who did the surveying for the railroad; however, other sources indicate Walter S. Gurnee, one of the first settlers in the Chicago area and one-time Mayor of Chicago, was the person whose name was given to the town.

On May 8, 1928, Gurnee became incorporated as a Village. In 1930, the population of Gurnee was 503. The Village experienced slow growth over a forty-year period. In 1970, the population was 2,735. The 1990 census records a population of 13,701. Early interest in parks and recreation originated with the Village when a Recreation tax was passed in 1941 and a Recreation Board was appointed.

In August 1953, the Village purchased the local gravel pit which became Gowe Park, from Mrs. Cora McCullough. A beach was added and the Village Recreation Board conducted a swimming program. The park was named for Verne Gowe, a coach and teacher at Warren High School, who organized many community recreation programs. This was one of the first parks in Gurnee. In 1956, the Lions Club and American Legion built a bathhouse at the beach.

On July 1, 1968, the Village entered into an agreement with the Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) and Gurnee Grade School District #56 to purchase the property now called Viking Park, from the Independent Order of Vikings Valhalla Association.

In 1968, a committee was appointed by the Village to consider the feasibility of creating a Park District. Members of this committee were Verne Gowe, Frank Potter, John Schellenger and Bob Jacobs. On September 7, 1968, voters approved the referendum establishing the Gurnee Park District.

In 1971, the Park District purchased approximately 29 acres of the Viking Park property from the Village with the assistance of Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds. Viking Park was developed in 1973 and 1974. Shortly thereafter, the dance hall that was originally built by the Independent Order of Vikings was restored; a new restroom and concession building was built, a lighted ballfield was constructed, the parking lot was expanded and a new playground was built in 1984 and 1985.

The 1990's saw the expansion of parks as the population of Gurnee soared and there was an influx of new residential, commercial and industrial development. Parks were developed at Providence Village (Kings), Westgate and Russell Road (O'Plaine Park) in 1991. Southridge Park was built in 1992. Pembroke Park (Betty Russell Park) began in 1991 and was completed over the course of several years. Ravinia Park was built in 1996, followed by University and Shaw Parks in 1997. In 1998, Vineyard Park in the Elysian Fields subdivision and Timberwoods

parks were constructed. In 2000 Providence Park was completed in the Providence Oaks neighborhood. Concord Oaks Park was turned over to the park district by the homeowners in 2001. Between the years of 1990 and 2000, the population of the Gurnee Park District went from 16,701 to 31,834, a 110% increase.

The District sought partnerships with the school districts and Warren Township in order to provide indoor and outdoor programming space for residents. This included gymnasiums for indoor athletics, fields for outdoor sports and camps, classrooms for preschool, dance and afterschool CARE, and the use of the high school indoor pool and Laremont School pool for swim lessons.

In the years since 2000, the park district has developed new facilities to serve the public. The Viking Park Community Center was expanded in 2001. It houses administration and finance offices, a dance room, meeting room and three preschool rooms. The 1500-bather capacity Hunt Club Park Aquatic Center was built in 2002. Funding for the aquatic center was a cooperative effort of the Village of Gurnee and Gurnee Park District. The 40,000 square foot Hunt Club Park Community Center was completed in 2006. This new community center includes a full gymnasium, preschool, dance studio, meeting rooms, family activity room, a rock climbing wall and fitness center.

During these same years, the park district acquired approximately 25 acres of woods in the Churchill Hunt neighborhood and 125 additional acres of wetlands in the Village Park area, all of which will be preserved as natural areas for future generations.

The Park District currently has 24 playgrounds, six outdoor tennis courts, 23 outdoor basketball courts, 21 soccer fields, 16 baseball or softball fields, six outdoor volleyball courts, three small skate parks, 14 picnic shelters, one fishing area, four outdoor ice rinks, a band shell, the dance hall, and the summer kitchen. Gowe Park was sold to the Warren Township High School District in 2008 and the beach was closed.

Throughout the growth and development of the Gurnee Park District, the board and staff have fostered an open relationship with residents through interest and attitude surveys, citizen advisory committees, volunteer work days, public hearings, feasibility studies and strategic plan advisory committees. A comprehensive park district website has made communication between the community and its park district even stronger.

New mission and vision statements were adopted with the most recent Strategic Plan in February 2008. The mission is "enriching people's lives by promoting fun and preserving nature". The vision of the Gurnee Park District is to provide the community with a sense of pride in their Park District and to be the most effective, efficient and responsive government that the community will ever encounter.

### Board of Park Commissioners

* Ruth Ann Bratzke	1968-1971
* Roger Wittenburg	1968-1970
* James P. McGill	1968-1973
* William E. Potter	1968
* Gerald Richardson	1968-1975
Jack Anderson	1970-1973
J. Richard Mota	1968-1974
John R. Shaw, Sr.	1971-1997
Gerald Keefe	1973-1976
Thomas Smolich	1973-1976
Christine Thompson	1974-1995
William Bouma	1975
Joseph A. Trierwiler	1976-1991
Joan O'Connor	1976-1979
William VanHulzen	1976-1981
James Strang	1979-1985
Roslyn Faulhaber	1981
Arthur Welton, Jr.	1981-1995
Michael J. Kolar	1985-1989
Jack Porter	1989-1991
Julie Werst	1991-1995
Gerald Jutila	1991-1993
Victoria Paddock	1993-present
Steven Kaplan	1995-1998
Donna Kolar	1995-present
Michael Hampson	1995-2001
Susanne Kolb	1997-2002
Jack Lepper	1998-1999
Russ Johnson	1999-present
Wendy Vieth	2001-2003
Libby Baker	2003-present
Charlie Williams	2002-2009
Jim Goshorn	2009-present

\* five original Park Commissioners

### Executive Directors

James Strang	1971-1973
Marilyn Stroud	1974-1977
Betty Russell	1977-1996
Charles Balling	1996-2006
Susie Kuruvilla	2006-present

# PARK DISTRICT ECONOMIC GROWTH HISTORY

Levy Year	Tax Rate	Bond Rate	Assessed* Valuation	Fiscal Year	Park** District Budget	Population	Tax extension
1969	0.191	0	19.9	1970	34.4	3,738.00	38,009.00
1970	0.257	0.065	20.6	1971	122.1	3,738.00	52,942.00
1971	0.258	0.061	24.6	1972	212.4	3,738.00	63,468.00
1972	0.244	0.054	26.0	1973	268.3	3,738.00	63,440.00
1973	0.310	0.122	30.7	1974	108.4	3,738.00	95,170.00
1974	0.434	0.237	29.3	1975	224.5	3,738.00	127,162.00
1975	0.442	0.225	35.2	1976	248.9	4,812.00	155,584.00
1976	0.375	0.162	49.2	1977	404.4	4,812.00	184,500.00
1977	0.343	0.13	64.2	1978	532.0	4,812.00	220,206.00
1978	0.337	0.128	80.4	1979	425.6	6,389.00	270,948.00
1979	0.321	0.09	86.0	1980	515.0	6,389.00	275,979.00
1980	0.292	0.074	101.2	1981	451.0	9,179.00	295,509.00
1981	0.280	0.061	119.2	1982	450.1	9,179.00	333,979.00
1982	0.413	0.193	121.6	1983	566.8	9,179.00	502,348.00
1983	0.421	0.208	123.9	1984	1,112.1	9,179.00	521,700.00
1984	0.439	0.217	139.8	1985	2,995.9	9,179.00	614,132.00
1985	0.504	0.247	143.1	1986	1,307.5	9,179.00	721,351.00
1986	0.553	0.278	140.6	1987	1,353.6	9,179.00	777,962.00
1987	0.523	0.265	155.0	1988	1,372.1	9,179.00	810,956.00
1988	0.509	0.243	175.9	1989	1,525.8	9,179.00	895,360.00
1989	0.579	0.301	214.7	1990	2,109.1	9,179.00	1,243,132.00
1990	0.654	0.398	261.2	1991	2,581.9	15,370.00	1,708,709.00
1991	0.525	0.278	315.6	1992	3,242.2	15,370.00	1,657,103.00
1992	0.335	0.091	378.6	1993	3,231.3	15,370.00	1,268,405.00
1993	0.338	0.098	426.7	1994	3,190.2	18,700.00	1,442,262.00
1994	0.320	0.084	487.3	1995	3,806.3	18,700.00	1,559,297.00
1995	0.318	0.076	536.2	1996	4,343.5	18,700.00	1,705,244.00
1996	0.272	0.028	587.6	1997	4,194.5	28,862.00	1,598,228.00
1997	0.317	0.065	634.9	1998	4,200.0	28,862.00	2,012,265.00
1998	0.309	0.058	701.7	1999	4,827.0	28,862.00	2,168,342.00
1999	0.307	0.054	761.0	2000	6,277.0	28,862.00	3,336,343.00
2000	0.310	0.050	815.7	2001	6,652.0	28,862.00	2,528,651.00
2001	0.314	0.047	873.1	2002	12,210.0	28,862.00	2,741,482.00
2002	0.307	0.043	946.5	2003	8,607.0	31,834.00	2,905,781.00
2003	0.370	0.088	1,001.6	2004	7,926.0	31,834.00	3,705,931.00
2004	0.374	0.083	1,054.7	2005	9,046.0	31,834.00	3,944,613.00
2005	0.365	0.077	1,145.7	2006	15,935.0	31,834.00	4,181,970.00
2006	0.358	0.071	1,242.9	2007	15,353.0	34,170.00	4,449,633.00
2007	0.350	0.066	1,343.5	2008	10,744.0	34,170.00	4,702,336.00
2008	0.356	0.064	1,380.6	2009	11,379.0	34,170.00	4,917,844.00
2009	NA	NA	NA	2010	11,896.0	34,170.00	NA

\* In Millions \$

\*\* In Thousands \$

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics for Gurnee village, Illinois  
Special Census of Gurnee village, Illinois: August 11, 2006**

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf>]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
<b>Total population.....</b>	<b>31,170</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			<b>Total population.....</b>	<b>31,170</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Male.....	15,069	48.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	2,902	9.3
Female.....	16,101	51.7	Mexican.....	1,726	5.5
Under 5 years.....	2,230	7.2	Puerto Rican.....	410	1.3
5 to 9 years.....	2,625	8.4	Cuban.....	38	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	2,729	8.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	728	2.3
15 to 19 years.....	2,368	7.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	28,268	90.7
20 to 24 years.....	1,633	5.2	White alone.....	22,234	71.3
25 to 34 years.....	3,630	11.6	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	5,782	18.5	<b>Total population.....</b>	<b>31,170</b>	<b>100.0</b>
45 to 54 years.....	5,174	16.6	In households.....	31,096	99.8
55 to 59 years.....	1,617	5.2	Householder.....	11,351	36.4
60 to 64 years.....	1,028	3.3	Spouse.....	6,796	21.8
65 to 74 years.....	1,210	3.9	Child.....	11,178	35.9
75 to 84 years.....	930	3.0	Own child under 18 years.....	8,781	28.2
85 years and over.....	214	0.7	Other relatives.....	981	3.1
Median age (years).....	35.7	(X)	Under 18 years.....	269	0.9
18 years and over.....	22,087	70.9	Nonrelatives.....	790	2.5
Male.....	10,432	33.5	Unmarried partner.....	426	1.4
Female.....	11,655	37.4	In group quarters.....	74	0.2
21 years and over.....	20,856	66.9	Institutionalized population.....	72	0.2
62 years and over.....	2,937	9.4	Noninstitutionalized population.....	2	-
65 years and over.....	2,354	7.6	<b>HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	936	3.0	<b>Total households.....</b>	<b>11,351</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Female.....	1,418	4.5	Family households (families).....	8,164	71.9
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	4,706	41.5
One race.....	30,342	97.3	Married-couple family.....	6,796	59.9
White.....	23,848	76.5	With own children under 18 years.....	3,871	34.1
Black or African American.....	1,965	6.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,039	9.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	50	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	678	6.0
Asian.....	3,241	10.4	Nonfamily households.....	3,187	28.1
Asian Indian.....	1,250	4.0	Householder living alone.....	2,701	23.8
Chinese.....	460	1.5	Householder 65 years and over.....	765	6.7
Filipino.....	933	3.0	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	4,877	43.0
Japanese.....	60	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,786	15.7
Korean.....	260	0.8	Average household size.....	2.74	(X)
Vietnamese.....	58	0.2	Average family size.....	3.32	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	220	0.7	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	43	0.1	<b>Total housing units.....</b>	<b>11,906</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Native Hawaiian.....	5	-	Occupied housing units.....	11,351	95.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	10	-	Vacant housing units.....	555	4.7
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.....	56	0.5
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	28	0.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.1	(X)
Some other race.....	1,195	3.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	6.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	828	2.7	<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<b>Race alone or in combination with one or more other races: <sup>3</sup></b>			<b>Occupied housing units.....</b>	<b>11,351</b>	<b>100.0</b>
White.....	24,561	78.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	8,834	77.8
Black or African American.....	2,199	7.1	Renter-occupied housing units.....	2,517	22.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	159	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.96	(X)
Asian.....	3,567	11.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.96	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	74	0.2			
Some other race.....	1,493	4.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The following six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Special Census.

# Gurnee Park District Boundary Map





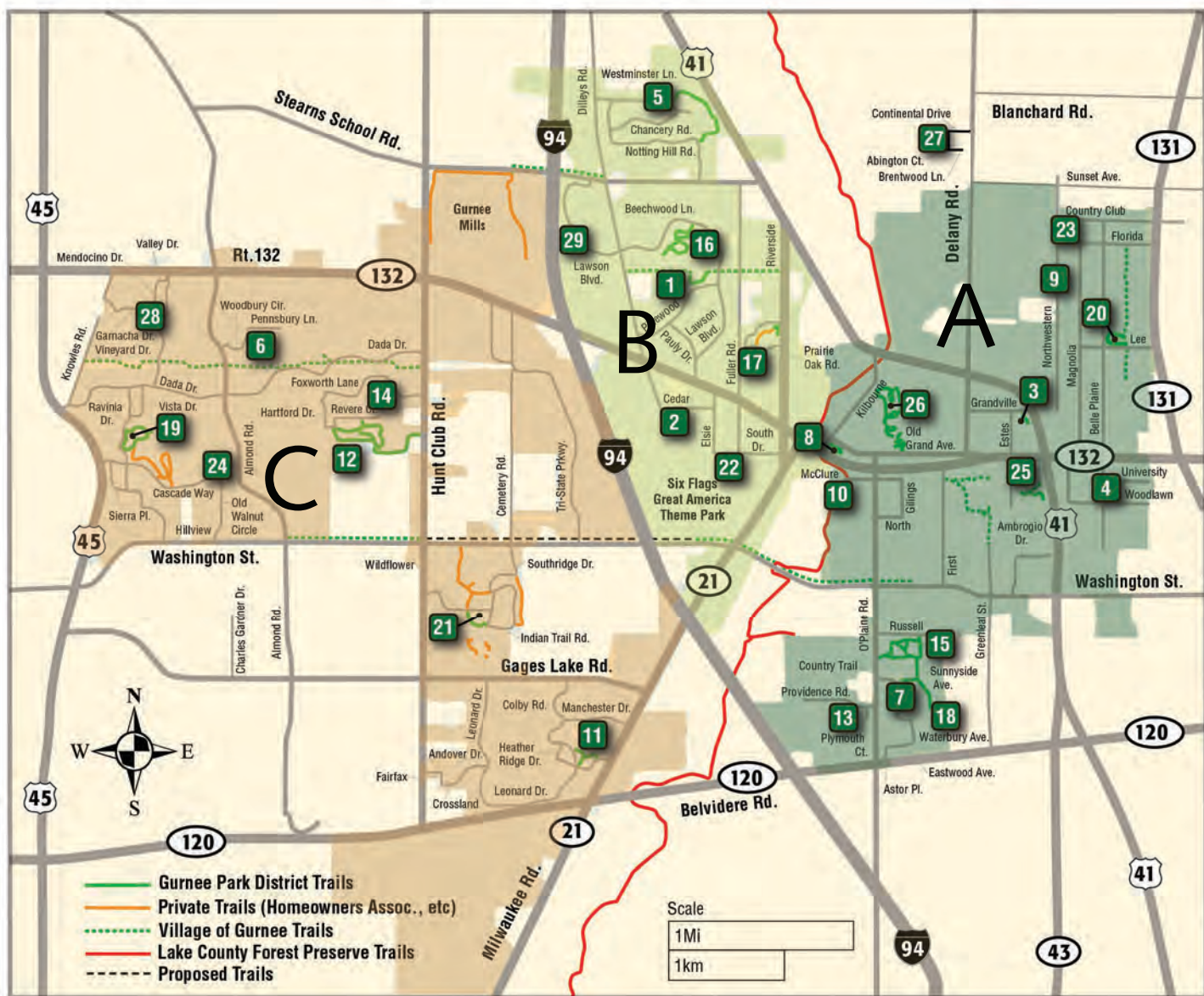


# Parks & Facilities

## Gurnee Park District Locations

Gurnee Park District Locations			Administration Office	Aquatic Center (Outdoor)	Baseball/Softball Fields	Basketball Courts	Beach	Concessions	Fishing	Ice Skating Rink	Picnic Shelter(s)	Playground Equip.	Registration Office	Restrooms	Skate Park	Soccer Fields	Spray Ground	Swimming Pool (Indoor)	Tennis Courts	Trail System	Volleyball	Wildlife Conservation	
Map	Park Name	Location	Acres																				
1	Betty Russell Community Park	5300 Pinewood Rd	18.9			•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•			•	•	•		
2	Cedar Park	Cedar Ave	1.0			•																	
3	Chittenden Park	Grandville Ave & Estes St	2.9			•					•												
4	Christine Thompson Park	Woodlawn Ave & Belle Plaine Ave	3.9			•	•			•	•								•				
5	Churchill Hunt Park	6000 Westminster Ln	29.4			•					•	♿			•					•			•
6	Concord Oaks Park	Woodbury Circle	1.3			•					•	•											
7	Country Trails Parkway	Sunnyside Rd	4.7																	•			
8	Esper Petersen Park*	Grand & Kilbourne Ave.	8.8							•	•												
9	Eugene J. Kennick Park Site	Northwestern & Clearview	1.6																				•
10	Gowe Memorial Park	4621 McClure Rd	0.5			•					•	•		•									
11	HeatherRidge Woods	Rt. 21 & HeatherRidge Entrance	2.0																				•
12	Hunt Club Park	900 N. Hunt Club Rd	45.0		•	•	•		•	•	•	♿		•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•
13	Kings Park	Providence Rd	5.8			•						♿				•							•
14	Maintenance Facility	35172 Hunt Club Rd	6.0																				
15	O'Plaine Community Park	O'Plaine Rd. & Russell Ave	16.5			•	•				•	♿		•						•			•
16	Pembrook Woods	Oakview Ln. & Parkside Ct.	15.1																	•			
17	Prairie Oaks Park	Shagbark Ct. & Deer Run	5.1									•											
18	Providence Park	Longmeadow Dr. & Waterbury Ave	1.6								•	•								•			
19	Ravinia Park	Ravinia Drive	10.0			•	•				•	♿				•						•	
20	Shaw Park	Belle Plaine & Lee Ave	5.2			•						♿											•
21	Southridge Park	Southridge Drive	6.1			•	•				•	•				•				•			
22	South Road Park	South Dr & Fuller Rd	2.3			•						•											
23	Spaulding School/Park*	3638 Florida Ave.	2.5									•											
24	Timberwoods Park	Old Walnut Circle & Cascade Way	5.9			•	•					•				•							
25	University Park*	University Ave & Estes St	8.4			•						♿				•				•			•
26	Viking Park	4374 Old Grand Ave	38.1	•		•	•		•	•	•	♿	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
27	Village Park/Nature Preserve	Continental Village	141.5																				•
28	Vineyard Park	Vineyard Dr	4.1			•						♿				•							
29	Westgate Park	Lawson Blvd & Hancock	5.7			•						♿				•							

# Gurnee Park District Planning Areas





# Existing Open Space Inventory

## By Classifications

Map #	Facility Name	Classifications					Total Acres	Planning Zone
		Neighborhood	Community	Linear	Special	Conservation		
*1	Betty Russell Park	5.0	13.9				18.9	B
*2	Cedar Park	1.0					1.0	B
*3	Chittenden Park	2.9					2.9	A
*4	Christine Thompson Park	3.9					3.9	A
*5	Churchill Hunt Park	4.35		1.0		24.1	29.4	B
*6	Concord Oaks Park	1.3					1.3	C
*7	Country Trails Parkway			4.7			4.7	A
*+8	Esper Petersen Park		8.77				8.8	A
*9	Eugene J. Kennick Park					1.6	1.6	A
*+10	Gowe Park	0.5					0.5	A
*11	Heather Ridge Woods					2.0	2.0	C
*12	Hunt Club Park	2.0	43.0				45.0	C
*13	Kings Park	4.8				1.0	5.8	A
	14 Maintenance Facility				6.0		6.0	C
*15	O'Plaine Community Park	2.0	12.9			1.6	16.5	A
*16	Pembrook Woods		14.7	0.5			15.1	B
*17	Prairie Oaks Park	3.3		1.8			5.1	B
*18	Providence Oaks Park	1.1		0.5			1.6	C
*19	Ravinia Park	10.0					10.0	C
*20	Shaw Park	2.76				2.5	5.2	A
*21	Southridge Park	6.1					6.1	C
*22	South Park	2.3					2.3	B
*+23	Spaulding School/Park	2.5					2.5	A
*24	Timberwoods Park	5.9					5.9	C
*+25	University Park	7.4				1.0	8.4	A
*26	Viking Park	2.0	34.1			2.0	38.1	A
*27	Village Park/Nature Preserve	2.5				138.98	141.5	A
*28	Vineyard Park	4.1					4.1	C
*29	Westgate Park	5.7					5.7	B
	SubTotal	83.4	127.4	8.5	6.0	174.7	399.9	

\* Indicates sites developed by Gurnee Park District

\*+ Indicates sites leased from other agency, developed by Gurnee Park District

# Existing Open Space Inventory

## By Amenities

Map #	Facility Name	Amenities							Trail Miles	Planning Zone
		Playgrounds	Basketball Courts	Picnic Shelters	Soccer Fields	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Tennis Courts		
*1	Betty Russell Park	1	1	2	4		2	2	0.25	B
*2	Cedar Park		1							B
*3	Chittenden Park	1	1							A
*4	Christine Thompson Park	1	1				1	2		A
*5	Churchill Hunt Park	1	1	1					0.5	B
*6	Concord Oaks Park	1	1	1						C
*7	Country Trails Parkway								0.5	A
*+8	Esper Petersen Park			1						A
*9	Eugene J. Kennick Park									A
*+10	Gowe Park	1	1	1						A
*11	Heather Ridge Woods									C
*12	Hunt Club Park	2	4	3	3		1		1.25	C
*13	Kings Park	1			1		1			A
14	Maintenance Facility									C
*15	O'Plaine Community Park	1	2	1		2			0.75	A
*16	Pembrook Woods								0.5	B
*17	Prairie Oaks Park	2								B
*18	Providence Oaks Park	1		1					0.67	C
*19	Ravinia Park	1	1	1	1		1			C
*20	Shaw Park	1					1			A
*21	Southridge Park	1	1	1	1		1		0.25	C
*22	South Park	1	1							B
*+23	Spaulding School/Park	1								A
*24	Timberwoods Park	1	1		1		1			C
*+25	University Park	1			1		1		0.25	A
*26	Viking Park	2	4	1	7		3	2	0.75	A
*27	Village Park/Nature Preserve									A
*28	Vineyard Park	1	1		1		1			C
*29	Westgate Park	1	1		1					B
	SubTotal	24	23.0	14.0	21.0	2.0	14.0	6.0	5.67	
	NRPA Standard									
							Village owned trail system	5.8		
							Forest Lake County Preserve DesPlaines Trail	3.3		
							Total Village Wide Trails	14.77		

\* Indicates sites developed by Gurnee Park District

\*+ Indicates sites leased from other agency, developed by Gurnee Park District

# GURNEE PARK DISTRICT PLANNING AREAS

The area population for Gurnee Park District Residents is 34,170 which includes 3,000 residents who reside in the city of Waukegan. Additional demographics related to the area include:

- Approximately 12,445 households
- Average age is 35.7
- 4,706 households with 1 or more children under the age of 18
- 2,354 residents aged 65 and older
- Average of 2.74 persons per household

According to National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the standard for community parks is 5-8 acres per 1,000 population and 2 acres per 1,000 Population for neighborhood parks. Gurnee Park District has adopted the standard of 4 acres for neighborhood parks, and 6 acres for community parks per 1,000.

Since Gurnee is well established with limited opportunities for future residential development, only minor increase in population is expected in the future.

### Open Space Analysis By Standard

Gurnee Park District Open Space Standards

- Neighborhood - 4.0 acres per 1,000 Population
- Community - 6.0 acres per 1,000 Population

	<b>Existing Acres</b>	<b>Required acres</b>	<b>Surplus/(Deficiency)</b>
Neighborhood	268.5	136.7	131.8
Community	131.4	205.0	(73.6)
Total	399.9	341.7	58.2

Overall, Gurnee Park District meets the NRPA standards for total open space acreage; however, a deficiency does exist when the acreage is further classified into neighborhood versus community. Currently, there is a 73.6 acre deficiency in community parks. The deficiencies have been addressed under each of the planning areas.

## **Planning Area A**

This planning area's boundaries are approximated east of State Hwy. 21, north of State Rte. 120 and west of State Hwy. 131. Planning area A was the first section of Gurnee to be developed. It consists of some of Gurnee's oldest businesses, historical landmarks like Mother Rudd Home and many long time residents. This area is well established with limited opportunities for future growth.

**Estimated Population:** 12,905

**Estimated Total Housing:** 4,700

### **Major Subdivisions/Developments:**

Fields of Gurnee	Wedgewood Creek
Crescent Meadows	Big Oaks
Gurnee Meadowwoods	Brookhaven
Woodview Apts.	Kensington
Osprey Lakes	Providence Village
Wedgewood Creek	Country Trails
Centennial Court	Providence Oaks

### **Municipal Areas:**

- Village Hall
- Warren Township H.S.
- Gurnee Police Department
- District 56 Schools
- Gurnee Fire Department Station #1

### **Major Business Areas:**

N/A

### **Park District Facilities/Sites:**

#### **Neighborhood Parks**

Chittenden Park	Shaw Park
Christine Thompson Park	Spaulding School/Park
Country Trails Parkway	University Park
Eugene J. Kennick Park	Village Park/Nature Preserve
Gowe Park	
Kings Park	

#### **Community Parks**

Esper Petersen Park	Viking Community Park
O'Plaine Community Park	

**Open Space Analysis By Standard:**

	<b>Existing Acres</b>	<b>Required acres</b>	<b>Surplus/(Deficiency)</b>
Neighborhood	181	51.62	129.38
Community	59.4	77.43	(18.03)
Total	240.4	129.1	111.4

The total acreage in Planning Area A is 240.4 acres, of which 181 are in neighborhood parks and 59.4 are in community parks. Even though the total acreage shows a surplus, there is a deficiency in the amount of land required for community parks.

**Acquisition Recommendations:**

- Explore the possibility of acquiring additional land adjacent to community parks in this planning area.
- Explore the possibility of acquiring large parcels of land that are strategically located in this planning area for possible preservation or development.

**Future Developments/Improvements:**

The following parks will be built, renovated or replaced:

<b>Park</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>
Village Park	2010/2011
Christine Thompson Park	2011/2012
Chittenden Park	2013/2014
Shaw Park	2015/2016
Providence Oaks	2019/2020
University Park	2015/2016
Viking Park	2018/2019

## **Planning Area B**

This planning area's boundaries are located between State Hwy. 21, Interstate Hwy. 94 and U.S. Highway 41 and State Rte. 120 to the south. Planning Area B is a mixed use zone with commercial and residential developments including single and multi-family dwellings.

**Estimated Population:** 7,430

**Estimated Total Housing:** 2,706

### **Major Subdivisions/Developments:**

Victorian Village	Spruce Point
Wood Lake Apartments	Steeple Point
Riverside Heights	The Estates of Churchill Hunt
Prairie Oaks	Ridgeway Estates
Pine Crest Estates	Pines
Boulders	Westgate
Pembrook	Quality Acres

### **Municipal Areas:**

N/A

### **Major Business Areas:**

Six Flags Great America  
Pembrook Club

### **Park District Facilities/Sites:**

#### **Neighborhood Parks**

Cedar Park	South Park
Churchill Hunt Park	Westgate Park
Prairie Oaks Park	

#### **Community Parks**

Betty Russell Park	Pembrook Woods
--------------------	----------------

### **Open Space Analysis By Standard**

	<b>Existing Acres</b>	<b>Required acres</b>	<b>Surplus/(Deficiency)</b>
Neighborhood	48.5	29.72	18.78
Community	29	44.58	(15.58)
Total	77.5	74.3	3.2

The total acreage in Planning Area B is 77.5 acres. Currently there are deficiencies in community park acreage.

#### **Acquisition Recommendations:**

- Since open space is not available near community parks in this planning area, explore the possibility of acquiring large parcel of land strategically located in this planning area for possible preservation or development.

#### **Future Developments/Improvements:**

The following parks will be built, renovated or replaced:

<b>Park</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>
Betty Russell Park	2010/2011
Prairie Oaks Park	2017/2018
Westgate Park	2019/2020

## **Planning Area C**

Planning Area C is located between Stearns School Road, Interstate Highway 94, Us Hwy. 45, and State Rte. 120 to the south. This is the most recent section of housing development and includes major retailers and Gurnee's auto dealerships.

**Estimated Population:** 13,835

**Estimated Total Housing:** 5,039

### **Major Subdivisions/Developments:**

Hickory Haven	Stonebrook
Cobble Creek	Aberdare Estates
HeatherRidge	Washington Park
Fairway Ridge	Timberwoods
Rolling Ridge	Kingsport
Southridge	Ravinia Woods
Winchester Estates	Bittersweet Woods
Orchard Valley Estates	Greystone
Woodside Park	Elysian Fields
Northlake Farms	Concord Oaks

### **Municipal Areas:**

District 50 Schools  
Gurnee Fire Department Station #2

### **Major Business Areas:**

Merit Club Golf Course  
Grand Tri-State Business Park  
Gurnee Mills  
Bittersweet Golf Course

### **Park District Facilities/Sites:**

#### **Neighborhood Parks**

Concord Oaks Park	Ravinia Park
Heather Ridge Woods	Southridge Park
Maintenance Facility	Timberwoods Park
Providence Oaks Park	Vineyard Park

#### **Community Parks**

Hunt Club Community Park



**Open Space Analysis By Standard**

	<b>Existing Acres</b>	<b>Required acres</b>	<b>Surplus/(Deficiency)</b>
Neighborhood	39.0	55.34	(16.34)
Community	43.0	83.01	(40.01)
Total	82.0	138.4	(56.4)

The total acreage in Planning Area C is 82 acres. Currently there are deficiencies in both neighborhood and community park acreage. It is important to note that Warren Township owns and operates a large community park site near this planning area, which serves many of the same residents the park district serves.

**Acquisition Recommendations:**

- Acquisition needs are 40.01 acres of community park property and an additional 16.34 acres of neighborhood property.
- Explore the possibility of adding land adjacent to community parks in this area
- Explore the possibility of acquiring large parcels of land that is strategically located in this zoning area for possible preservation or development.

**Future Developments/Improvements:**

The following parks will be built, renovated or replaced:

<b>Park</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>
Southridge Park	2010/2011
Vineyard Park	2012/2013
Ravinia Park	2013/2014
Hunt Club Park	2015/2016
Timberwoods Park	2015/2016

## Summary of Capital Improvements By Park Site

	2010 / 11	2011 / 12	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15	2015 / 16	2016 / 17	2017 / 18	2018 / 19	2019 / 20
Betty Russell Community Park	238,500	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-
Chittenden Park	-	-	-	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Christine Thompson	-	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Concord Oaks	-	50,000	-	3,700	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hunt Club Community Park	250,000	-	-	-	-	800,000	-	-	-	-
Kings Park	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-
O'Plaine Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Prairie Oaks Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	210,000	-	-
Providence Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,000
Ravinia Park	-	-	-	220,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shaw Park	-	-	-	-	-	130,000	-	-	-	-
Southridge Park	175,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Timberwoods Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	160,000	-	-	-
University Park	-	-	-	-	-	145,000	-	-	-	-
Viking Community Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	465,000	-
Vineyard Park	-	-	135,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Village Park	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westgate Park	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	125,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 963,500</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ 303,700</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,075,000</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>	<b>\$ 260,000</b>	<b>\$ 465,000</b>	<b>\$ 255,000</b>

Grand Total All Projects: **\$ 3,867,200**

Funding Sources for the above projects include:

- Capital Replacement / Development Fund
- Recreation for Handicapped Fund
- Paving and Lighting Fund
- Non Referendum Bonds

**NOTE:** As of April 30, 2010 the Gurnee Park District has \$2,450,000 in the Capital Replacement / Development Fund, \$85,000 in the Paving and Lighting Fund and \$335,000 in the Recreation for Handicapped Fund. The Park District also has \$230,000 dedicated towards capital improvements from non-referendum bonds each year. In addition, approximately \$150,000 is available annually in the Recreation for Handicapped fund towards accessibility improvements. The above projects will be included in the budget annually based on availability of funds. For detailed information see pages 24 - 64.

# Betty Russell Community Park

## History

Originally known as Pembroke Community Park; the name was changed in 1996 to Betty Russell Community Park in honor of the retiring Park District Director, who served the District for 25 years. The total acreage at the park is 18.9; 10 acres were acquired as a developer donation and 8.9 acres were purchased from Woodland School District in 1989. Development began in the summer/fall of 1991, when maintenance staff graded and seeded a part of the site getting it ready for a future playground. In September 1991 a citizens advisory committee was formed to help plan the park. After several meetings, the committee made recommendation for the various amenities of the park and by spring 1992, the playground equipment was ordered. After staff prepared the playground area with landscape timbers as an edge for the playground, the equipment was then installed utilizing neighborhood volunteers. This same group of volunteers eventually became the "Friends of the Gurnee Park District" organization. In 1993, a grant was received from the Illinois Department of Conservation to develop the remainder of the park. The \$194,000 grant funded 50% the development cost of tennis courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, ice skating rinks, sand volleyball, pathways, shade structures for the playground, landscaping, a warming shelter, and washrooms. The project was completed on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1994.

## Park Amenities

- Kompan 2-5 Tot Play Area
- Timberform 5-12 Climber
- Timberform Swing Set Areas
- Two Tennis Courts
- Two Softball Fields
- One half-court basketball
- Skate Park
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Four Soccer Fields
- Two Skating Rinks
- Warming Shelter Restroom Facility
- 50 Car Parking Lot

**18.9 Acres at 5300 Pinewood Rd.**



**Past Improvements**

“Pennies for Pembroke Community Park” and brick pathway sales were two of the many fundraisers initiated by the “Friends of the Gurnee Park District”. With the funds raised, the Kompan Steam Engine was purchased as an additional 2-5 yr. old tot piece for the playground. The entry to the playground was funded by the brick sales. In 1996 a Landscape Structures playground maze was installed. The basketball court and skate park area were constructed in 2003; the skate park idea came from three high school students who were asked not to skate on the playground equipment.



**Future Improvements**

In fiscal year 2010/11 the playground equipment is scheduled for replacement. The parking lot, circulation path, and asphalt around the building will also need to be replaced in the same year. The tennis court will need an asphalt overlay in 2014/15. These courts have been colored coated every seven years, but will require more work in 14/15 since they will be 20 years old by then.

**Cost of future Improvements**

	<b><u>Est. Cost</u></b>	<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Funding Source</u></b>
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities	\$160,000	2010/11	Non Referendum Bonds / Grant
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities	\$25,000	2010/11	Rec for Handicapped Fund
Handicap Playground Surfacing	\$50,000	2010/11	Rec for Handicapped Fund
Resurface Circulation Path	\$3,500	2010/11	Paving and Lighting Fund
Resurface Tennis Court	\$50,000	2014/15	Non Referendum Bonds

**Park Construction 1992**



Undeveloped



Playground Begins



Volunteer Project



Kids at Play

## Cedar Park

### History

Cedar Park is a small site that was donated by the Marriott Corporation right outside the gates of Six Flags Great America. This park was built immediately after its donation to the District in 1981. The park includes a small turf area and a ½ basketball court.

### Park Amenities

- ½ court basketball court
- Landscaping
- Site Amenities

### Past Improvements

The site originally had a full basketball court and one half of the court was removed at the request of the neighbors. This was completed in 2007. Several trees have been dedicated and also purchased by the Park District over the last 15 years to update the landscaping.

### Future Improvements

This park does not include a playground due to its close proximity to Six Flags and also because there are not many homes in the neighboring areas. The landscaping and basketball court will continue to be monitored for upgrading and/or replacement needs.

### **1 Acre on Cedar Ave.**





# Chittenden Park

## History

Chittenden Park was the Gurnee Park District's second neighborhood park. In 1977 the land was purchased for \$105,000 from Wyatt H. & Ruth C. Williams. It had formerly been operated as a farm by Mrs. William's family and was named in her parents' honor, because of their financial contribution towards the sale of the property. In 1977 the Park District received a Community Development Block grant and an OSLAD grant for this site from the State of Illinois. In 1979 the park was completed, which included a playground, basketball court, tennis court, landscaping, an asphalt pathway, and a four foot high fence that encircled the 2.9 acres to create a barrier on the one side that was exposed to Route 41, a major highway. In 1988, after a neighborhood survey, the tennis court was removed adding landscaping and a tot lot feature in its place.

## Park Amenities

- Miracle Playground 2-5 Handicap Accessible
- Miracle Playground 5-12 Handicap Accessible
- ½ Court Basketball
- Asphalt Pathway
- Landscaping

## Past Improvements

In 1996, the original playground that was built in the 1970's was removed and replaced with a Miracle Playground climber with slides, (see upper right). In 2007, the full basketball court was removed and replaced with a new ½ basketball court. In 2009, the large grove of trees along Rt. 41 was removed; these trees were mainly American Elms that had died. A berm was later constructed where the trees once stood to serve as a noise and visual block of Rt. 41. A board-on-board cedar fence was installed at the top of the berm. Additionally in 2009, the tot lot was rebuilt with another Miracle Playground climber (see bottom right), a spring toy, and a refurbished tube slide. The tube slide was recycled from the Gowe Beach location before Gowe was sold to the High School.

## **2.9 Acres at Grandville and Estes**



## Future Improvements

The berm needs to be seeded with natural vegetation allowing it to serve as a natural feature in the park. The 5-12 playground climber will be replaced in the 2013/14 fiscal year.

### Cost of Future Improvement

Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
 Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
 Handicap Playground Surfacing  
 Resurface Circulation Path

### Est. Cost

\$35,000  
 \$10,000  
 \$25,000  
 \$10,000

### Fiscal Year

2013/14  
 2013/14  
 2013/14  
 2013/14

### Funding Source

Non Referendum Bonds  
 Rec for Handicapped Fund  
 Rec for Handicapped Fund  
 Paving and Lighting Fund



# Christine Thompson Park

## History

This park was formerly known as Woodlawn Park and was purchased in May 1976. The Park District received this property through the condemnation process and a court ordered amount of \$37,500 was paid to acquire the land. In 1997, the park was constructed with two tennis courts, a playground, softball field, ice rink, and a sled hill. In 1993, the existing playground had to be removed since it no longer met the new safety standards and a citizens' advisory committee was formed to plan a new playground. In 1994 the new playground was installed with the help of volunteers. A final upgrade to the playground was completed in 2000, adding a section to the 5-12 Timberform playground. In 1999, the park was re-named in honor of Christine Thompson who served as a Park Board member for 21 years.

## Park Amenities

- Kompan 2-5 Tot Play Area
- Timberform 5-12 Climber
- Two Tennis Courts
- ½ Court Basketball
- Baseball/Softball Skinned Diamond
- Ice Rink
- Sled Hill
- Circulation Path

## Past Improvements

As mentioned in the history, the current playground was constructed in 1994 and an addition was added in 2000. Lights were added to the park in 1994. The tennis courts received an asphalt overlay and were colored coated in 1997, and again in 2008. In 2009 new trees were planted near the sled hill where older ones had died.

## **3.9 Acres on Woodlawn & Belle Plaine**





**Future Improvements**

The Kompan playground equipment that is part of our 2-5 playground will need to be replaced sooner than the larger 5-12 Timberform play unit. The 5-12 Timberform play unit was added in 2000. The tennis court surfacing looks very good now, but in 2017 the surface will be 20 years old (asphalt has 15 to 20 year replacement schedule) and will need to be revisited. When the playground is redone it will be necessary to make a handicap accessible area for play. The park identification sign will be replaced in the 2010/11 fiscal year. A historical sign is also being considered for the site.

**Cost of future Improvement**

<u>Cost of future Improvement</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities	\$50,000	2011/12	Non Referendum Bonds
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities	\$25,000	2011/12	Rec for Handicapped Fund
Handicapped Playground Surfacing	\$25,000	2011/12	Rec for Handicapped Fund
Resurface Circulation Path	\$10,000	2011/12	Paving and Lighting Fund



# Churchill Hunt Park

## History

Formerly known as the O'Connor farm property, the land was purchased by a developer for residential development in 2004. The park site was donated by the developer; 3.6 acres for an active park and 25.75 acres of adjacent woods and wetland to be preserved as open space. In 2005, the Park District received an OSLAD grant in the amount of \$263,216 from the IL Department of Natural Resources for the construction of Churchill Hunt Park. The park site features a playground with a beautiful block retaining edge, picnic shelter, basketball court, skate area, parking lot, landscaping, and a circulation path that meanders through the woods with boardwalks that go over the wetland and floodway areas. This park was dedicated on May 19, 2007 in honor of the late Illinois State Senator Adeline Geo-Karis, who was a strong supporter of public parks and recreation, specifically the Gurnee Park District, for many years.

## Park Amenities

- Playworld Systems 2-5 Playground
- Playworld Systems 5-12 Playground, Handicap Accessible
- Skate Park Area
- Picnic Shelter
- ½ Court Basketball
- Natural Trail through the Oak/Hickory Woodland

## Future Improvements

The playground will not need replacement until 2025. The trail system along with the woodland will require annual maintenance to improve the quality of the woods. Invasive plant material will continue to be removed annually along with planned woodland burns to maintain safety and ensure ecological balance.

## **29.4 Acres on Westminster**



# Concord Oaks

## History

This park was deeded to the park district in May 2001 by the Concord Oaks Homeowners Association. The Homeowners Association owned the site from July 1998 to May 2001. This three-acre site was originally built for the Concord Oaks neighborhood by the developer who built the homes.

## Park Amenities

- Handicap Accessible Playground Landscape Structures 2-5 and 5-12
- Full Court Basketball
- Small walking path
- Gazebo
- Landscaping

## Past Improvements

In 2003 the Homeowners Association contributed \$2,000 for the purchase of an asphalt overlay to the pathway and basketball court, while the Park District funded the remainder of the project and the color coating for the basketball court. In 2004 the Homeowners Association donated \$5,000 toward the purchase of new playground equipment, which cost \$48,000. The playground was installed during the winter months of 2005.

## Future Improvements

The park identification sign will be replaced in the 2011/12 fiscal year. Rubber entry to the playground for handicap accessibility will take place at this time as well. The playground will be considered for replacement in 2023/24 fiscal year. The basketball court will be re-color coated in 2013/14. The asphalt surfaces are in good condition and need to be resurfaced in the next ten years.

## 1.3 Acres on Woodbury Circle



## Cost of Improvement

Handicap Playground Surfacing  
Basketball court Color coating

## Est. Cost

\$50,000  
\$ 3,700

## Fiscal Year

2011/12  
2013/14

## Funding Source

Recreation for the Handicapped  
Paving and Lighting



## Country Trails Parkway

### History

This site was received as a developer donation in parcels from 1977 to 1988. This 4.4 acre Oak/Hickory woodland connects O'Plaine Park to the Country Trails and Providence Oaks subdivisions.

### Park Amenities

- 4.4 Acres of Oaks, Hickories, and other trees
- Asphalt Trail

### Past Improvements

The trail through the woods was reconstructed in the summer of 2009.

### Future Improvements

As with all of the District's natural woodlands, the invasive underbrush needs constant attention. Where feasible, unwanted vegetation is removed, while maintaining privacy of the neighboring homes. The pathway should not need an overlay for another 15 years.

### **4.7 Acres on Sunnyside Ave.**



# Esper Petersen Park & Mother Rudd House

## History

This park location was once home to the Rustic Manor restaurant, a landmark in Gurnee, which burned down in 1987. Since the land is considered to be on a floodplain, the restaurant owners felt the cost to rebuild was too much and decided to leave the parcel vacant. The land was later donated to the Village by the Esper Petersen Foundation. In 1998 the Park District and the Village entered into an agreement to turn this vacant parcel into the beautiful park that it is today.

The Mother Rudd house and barn date back to 1844. It was originally used as a public meeting hall and a tavern. During the Civil War, the tavern became a stopover on the Underground Railway system. Slaves were hidden in the barn on their travel to Canada and freedom. In 1984, the Village of Gurnee purchased the 3-acre site, created the Mother Rudd Foundation, and restored the house. Since 1991, the Warren Township Historical Society has used the house as a museum. Petersen Park and the Mother Rudd site are connected as one park since the section of Old Grand Ave. was vacated between the two sites. The Park District became involved in 2004 when Sears funded restorations in both the house and the barn's foundation. With the help of the Sears employee volunteers, a planting was created in the barn, as well as signs placed accordingly that explain the history of the Mother Rudd site. Mother Rudd is also the location of community garden plots; available to residents through the Gurnee Garden Club.

## Park Amenities

- Gazebo
- Circulation Path
- Ice Skating Rink
- Beautiful Landscaping
- Site of Farmers Market
- Garden Plots

**8.8 Acres on Grand and Kilbourne Ave.**





## Future Improvements

This park is mainly a passive park located near the Des Plaines River. There are no plans for any major developments to this site within the next ten years.



2004 Volunteer Reconstruction of Barn



Planting Under Construction



Completed Project

## **HeatherRidge Woods**

### **History**

The HeatherRidge Woods is mainly comprised of an Oak/Hickory woodland that is jointly owned by the Park District and the HeatherRidge Homeowners Association. In September of 1990, the Park District and the Village purchased the land from HeatherRidge Realty Co. in order to preserve open space in the neighborhood. The total acreage of the woods is 10.29 acres. In 1994, the Park District contributed \$4,000 towards a woods renovation project, which removed invasive buckthorn and will help keep the natural ecological balance.

**2.0 acres in HeatherRidge**

### **Park Amenities**

- Woodland
- Nature Trail

### **Future Improvements**

To maintain a natural environment of a woodland, the only requirement is to remove invasive plant material. There are no plans for any major developments to this area in the future.

## Hunt Club Community Park

### History

The land for this park was acquired in 1991 with the future growth in population on the west side of Gurnee in mind. One quarter of the land was received as part of a developer donation agreement while the rest was purchased from the same developer. The neighborhood portion of this park was constructed in 1998 and includes a playground, shelter, baseball and soccer fields, two half court basketball courts, and jogging path. The neighborhood park serves the subdivisions of Aberdare Estates, Stonebrook, Woodside Park, and Northlake Farms. Part of the construction of the neighborhood playground was supported through a grant received from the State of Illinois.

In 2001 the Hunt Club Park Aquatic Center, a 1500 bather load pool, was constructed. It opened to the public on Memorial Day weekend in 2002. The aquatic center is a zero depth edged pool that features 3 flume slides, 2 drop slides, water toy features, lap swim area, a tot pool area, a waterfall feature, sand volleyball court, a sand play area, turf sunning, a café, and ample shade amenities. This project was financially supported by the Village of Gurnee, Gurnee Park District and the State of Illinois.

The Hunt Club Park Community Center construction began in 2005 and the center opened to the public in October, 2006. The community center is a 41,000 sq ft facility that has 3 preschool rooms, a family activity room (used for before and after school care), a dance room, multi-purpose room, meeting room, full size gym, rock climbing wall, offices, and a fitness center on the second floor.

Also located at Hunt Club Park are the Parks Team maintenance buildings. Two acres and a 4,000 square foot maintenance building were purchased in the fall of 1996. The majority of the maintenance operations were moved from Viking Park to Hunt Club at that time. In 2004 another 4 acre parcel adjacent to the site was purchased, which has two houses and two storage maintenance buildings. The main house has been converted to offices, a lunchroom, and a meeting room for the park staff. The other house is used for day camp storage. The other storage barns are used by the landscape team.

**45 acres on Hunt Club Rd.**





## Grants received are as follows:

- \$200,000 OSLAD grant received in 1998 for neighborhood park features: baseball field, soccer field, jogging path, playground, 2-½ court basketball courts, shelter, interpretive trails site amenities and parking. Total project cost: \$471,547.00. The remainder of the cost came from developer donations.
- \$200,000 OSLAD grant received in 2000 for fishing stations, spray ground, bathroom facility and a trail between the park and Woodland School.
- \$100,000 line item grant from Senator Geo-Karis for Hunt Club Park Aquatic Center received May 2001.
- \$400,000 OSLAD grant received May 2001 to develop the family aquatic center.
- \$50,000 Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity grant received May 2007 for costs associated with the Community Center.

## Park Amenities

- Landscape Structures Accessible Playground 2-5 and 2-12
- Landscape Structures Accessible Playground 5-12
- Asphalt circulation path one mile long
- 10-acre woodland with nature path
- Four ½ court basketball courts-two locations
- Fishing stations around the three-acre lake
- Two regulation size soccer fields
- Softball field with backstops and a dugout
- Landscaping
- 1,500 Bather load Aquatic Center
- 41,000 SF Community Center
- Maintenance Facility



**Past Improvements**

When the community center was constructed, staff installed a playground near the community center that serves Day Camps, Preschool, and the Before and After School CARE programs. A 20' x 40' shelter was installed in 2007 for the day camps and weekend rentals. The picnic shelter that was next to the playground was replaced in 2008 with a metal hexagon structure. The identification signs were updated in 2009. At the Aquatic Center, based on customer requests, a large shade structure was installed in the spring of 2009.

**Future Improvements**

A restroom facility is needed near the sports fields and neighborhood playground and is in the plan to be constructed during the summer 2010. The neighborhood playground equipment is scheduled to be replaced during the fiscal year 2015/16. The preschool playground will not need replacement until after 2025. The pathway will need an overlay during the 2015/16 fiscal year. The parking lots will need an asphalt overlay in 2018/19 fiscal year.



**Cost of future Improvement**

<u>Cost of future Improvement</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Restroom Shelter	\$250,000	2010/11	Capital Replacement Fund
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities	\$100,000	2015/16	Non Referendum Bonds
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities	\$25,000	2015/16	Rec for Handicapped Fund
Handicap Playground Surfacing	\$75,000	2015/16	Rec for Handicapped Fund
Resurface Circulation Path	\$200,000	2015/16	Currently Unfunded
Resurface Parking Lots	\$400,000	2015/16	Currently Unfunded

# Kings Park

## History

Kings Park site was received as a developer donation in November 1988. The original park construction took place during the summer of 1991. At that time the park had a delineated wetland that was less than a ¼ acre that impacted the site of the playground. Following the proper permitting, in the summer of 1992 the Park District contracted to fill in the wetland. This park is located in the Providence Village subdivision and serves the residents in that neighborhood.

## Park Amenities

- Landscape Structures playground 2-5
- Landscape Structures playground 5-12
- Baseball/Softball Diamond
- Soccer Goals
- Natural landscaping around playground area, east and south property line serving as a shield between the playground and Rt. 120

## Past Improvements

During the summer of 2001 the playground equipment was replaced after receiving a line item grant from the State of Illinois. The original playground was built before the 1991 safety guidelines issued by Consumer Product Safety Commission and needed to be replaced.

## Future Improvements

The playground will not need replacement until the 2021/22 fiscal year. The park identification sign will be replaced in 2011. Although this playground is ADA accessible we will add a different accessible surface in 2017. This neighborhood offers many community events that require setups by the Park District's parks team. This park should have a picnic shelter constructed in the near future.

## 5.8 Acres on Providence Rd.



## Cost of future Improvement

<u>Cost of future Improvement</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
New 20 x 40 Picnic Shelter	\$20,000	2012/13	Non Referendum Bonds
Handicap Playground Surfacing	\$50,000	2017/18	Rec for Handicapped Fund



## O'Plaine Park

### History

O'Plaine Park, formerly known as Russell Community Park, was changed to O'Plaine Community Park on November 19, 1996 to avoid confusion with Betty Russell Community Park. The land was purchased in 1977 from Mr. & Mrs. Winfred G. Howard and an additional 1.52 acres was purchased for \$40,000 in 1989 from the same family. The purchase was financed over a period of 10 years and the total price was \$208,060. Construction started in July 1990 and the park was dedicated on October 27, 1991. The park has a community playground as well as a restroom/shelter facility, two ½ court basketball courts, and two Little League baseball fields.

### Park Amenities

- Kompan Handicap Accessible Playground 2-5
- Kompan Handicap Accessible Playground 5-12
- Landscape Structures Mobius climber 5-12
- Restroom/Shelter Facility
- Two 80 ft. Little League Baseball Fields
- Asphalt Circulation Path ½ mile in length
- 50-car parking lot
- Connects to Country Trails Woodland and Connection Path

### Past Improvements

An asphalt overlay was completed in 1999 on the entire circulation path. The playground that was installed in 1991 and was replaced in 2008 with an accessible CPSC-approved playground. The parking lot was overlaid and the sections of the circulation path were widened in 2009. The park identification sign was replaced in 2009.

## 16.5 Acres on O'Plaine & Russell



**Future Improvements**

The playground is new and will not need to be updated until 2028. The circulation path will need a complete reconstruction in 2019/20 fiscal year.

**Cost of future Improvement**

Resurface Circulation Path

**Est. Cost**  
\$50,000

**Fiscal Year**  
2019/20

**Funding Source**  
Unfunded





## Pembrook Woods

### History

Pembrook Woods was donated by the developer, Westfield Homes in 1986. The Oak/Hickory woodland is one of the natural landscapes that greeted the early settlers to Illinois. This woodland supports a rich variety of native plants and animals that have become rare due to suppression of prairie fire and the overgrowth by Eurasian weeds and brush. In 1991 Natural Path Forestry Consultants was hired to perform a tree study, as well as design the placement of the trail system that meanders through the 15.2 acres of woods. The Parks team, as well as volunteers, has been working to restore, protect, and preserve this natural area by removing the invasive plant material and dangerous trees, and also introducing fire to help the flora and fauna be restored to the original ecological balance.

### Park Amenities

- 15.2 Acres of Oaks, Hickories, and other native trees
- Natural wood chipped trail
- Bridge to connect the two sections of woods

### Past Improvements

In 1987 the woodland was overgrown with invasive plant materials, predominantly buckthorn. Starting in 1991 staff and volunteers began to clean up the site; this task is ongoing and requires mechanical and chemical removal of the unwanted plant material. The pathway is also an ongoing task since it is made up of a wood chipped material that needs to be replenished.

### Future Improvements

This delicate environment will be protected utilizing staff and volunteers by keeping the invasive plant material under control. Organized controlled burns will also be performed to further restore ecological balance.

### Cost of Improvement

The cost associated with this park is mainly labor cost.

### 15.2 Acres Oakview Ln. & Parkside Ct.



## **Prairie Oaks Park** (Shagbark Court Park & Silo Park)

### **History**

Prairie Oaks Park was acquired as a developer donation from 1978-1983. There are two playground locations at this park; one on the north, named Shagbark Court Park and one on the south, named Silo Park. The developer installed a walkway system connecting the two parks. In 1978 a playground was built by the developer; however two new playgrounds were built in 1986, because of safety concerns on the original playground. In 1999 the playgrounds were replaced again, because the old ones did not conform to the 1991 CPSC Safety Guidelines.

### **Park Amenities**

- One Miracle Playground 2-12 at Silo Park
- One Landscape Structures Playground 2-12 at Shagbark Court
- Connection Pathway

### **Past Improvements**

The original playgrounds were replaced in 1999. A neighborhood group petitioned to protect the Silo instead of removing it. The silo was bricked off to keep it in the park safely. The pathway has been overlaid, and many trees have been removed as well as planted on the site over the last 19 years.

### **Future Improvements**

The playground equipment at both park sites is scheduled to be replaced in fiscal year 2017/18. Handicap accessible surfacing will be added at that time. The pathway needs to be replaced during this time as well, as it has already been overlaid and will require removal of asphalt for its replacement. Landscaping at this park will be an ongoing concern, because the trees are very mature. Many of the trees are very large Willows, Chinese Elms, and Box Elders; these species of trees are known to become weak as they age. We have removed them in the past and will continue monitoring them for safety. The park identification signs will be replaced in the 2011/12 fiscal year.

### **5.1 Acres on Prairie Oaks Dr.**





**Cost of Improvement**

Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
Handicap Playground Surfacing  
Resurface Circulation Path

**Est. Cost**

\$80,000  
\$20,000  
\$60,000  
\$50,000

**Fiscal Year**

2017/18  
2017/18  
2017/18  
2017/18

**Funding Source**

Non Referendum Bonds  
Rec for Handicapped Fund  
Rec for Handicapped Fund  
Unfunded





# Providence Park

## History

This 2-acre site is located in the Providence Oaks subdivision and was donated to the Park District by the Providence Oaks Homeowners Association in June 1999. In the Summer of 2000, a playground was built for the neighborhood. In 2001 a gazebo was built by the Parks team; the housing contractor donated the materials for the structure. The entrance to the playground is a beautiful brick pathway leading to the gazebo; the bricks were funded by a brick donation program.

**1.6 Acres on Longmeadow Dr. and Waterbury Ave.**



## Park Amenities

- Miracle Playground 2-5
- Miracle Playground 5-12
- 20' Gazebo
- Brick Pathway
- Landscaping
- Linear stone pathway

## Past Improvements

There have been no major improvements or changes since the original park was constructed.

## Future Improvements

The playground is relatively new and will not need replacement until 2020. The handicap accessibility of the playground equipment needs to be evaluated in the near future. The gazebo is in good shape, but it will be monitored and we must evaluate the need for replacement at the time the playground is replaced around 2020. The park identification sign will be replaced in the 2011/12 fiscal year.



## Cost of Improvement

Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
Handicap Playground Surfacing

### Est. Cost

\$20,000  
\$60,000

### Fiscal Year

2019/20  
2019/20

### Funding Source

Rec for Handicapped Fund  
Rec for Handicapped Fund

# Ravinia Park

## History

Ravinia Park is a 10-acre site that serves the residents of Ravinia and Bittersweet Woods on the western boundary of Gurnee. The land as well as the cost to construct the playground was donated by the developer in January 1996 as part of the required developer donation.

## Park Amenities

- Playground 2-5, Kompan Adventure House
- Handicap Accessible Playground 5-12 Landscape Structures
- “Plus Ten” Kompan Equipment for teens
- Picnic Shelter
- Half Court Basketball
- Funnel Ball Court
- Regulation Soccer Field
- Baseball Backstop
- Sand Volleyball Court
- 2,500 Ft Circulation Path
- 10-Car Parking Lot

## Past Improvements

The handicap accessible playground was completed in the summer of 1996; it is a Kompan 2-5 Adventure House Climber and the Landscape Structures 5-12 modular unit. In 1998 there was “Plus Ten” equipment added to the playground to offer play equipment for the teens of the neighborhood. A 24 ft. square picnic shelter was added in 2000 and was later re-roofed in the winter months of 2009. The main entrance to the playground is a rubber tile used for handicap accessibility for playgrounds, the original rubber surface was replaced by staff in 2008.

**10 Acres on Ravinia Dr.**



**Future Improvements**

The park identification sign will be replaced in the 2010/11 fiscal year. The sign needs the new logo along with the new color scheme. The playground equipment is scheduled to be upgraded in the 2013/14 fiscal year. The Adventure House in the 2-5 area will need to be replaced before the Landscape Structures 5-12 unit, as the Adventure House from Kompan is a wood structure that needs constant painting and attention. The larger play unit is constructed out of aluminum and recycled plastic materials and does not need as much maintenance. The site amenities, including but not limited to, benches and picnic tables, will be upgraded as well when the playground is redone.



The asphalt surfaces will need an overlay in the 2013/14 fiscal year. The circulation path is about ½ mile long and the parking lot has spots available for up to 10 cars. The basketball court has been color coated a few times since it was originally constructed and will also need to be overlaid when the rest of the asphalt is resurfaced.

**Cost of Improvement**

Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
 Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
 Handicap Playground Surfacing  
 Resurface Parking Lot  
 Resurface Circulation Path

\$65,000  
 \$25,000  
 \$50,000  
 \$20,000  
 \$60,000

**Fiscal Year**

2013/14  
 2013/14  
 2013/14  
 2013/14  
 2013/14

**Funding Source**

Non Referendum Bonds  
 Rec for Handicapped Fund  
 Rec for Handicapped Fund  
 Non Referendum Bonds  
 Paving and Lighting Fund



# Shaw Park

## History

Shaw Park has 2.76 acres of land that was purchased from Jerry Mizialko in July 1989 to serve as the park on the east side of town. In March of 1996, the District received a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to fund 50% of the construction project and the park was completed in fall 1997. An additional 4.04 acres of park land was purchased between 2003 and 2005 adjacent to the original site. The park was originally to be called Belle Plaine Park and was named Shaw Park in 1994 in honor of John R. Shaw Sr. who served as a Commissioner on the Park Board for 26 years and was instrumental in acquiring this land.

## Park Amenities

- Landscape Structures Handicap Accessible Playground 2-5
- Landscape Structures Accessible Playground 5-12
- Bike Path
- Baseball/Softball Backstop
- Undeveloped Property

## Past Improvements

New handicap poured-in-place rubber was installed in summer 2008 at the entrance of the playground to replace the original worn out square tiles.

## Future Improvements

The remaining 3.1 acres are undeveloped. They are heavily wooded and overgrown with scrub trees, weeds and grasses. This property will be cleaned up and we will begin to enhance the overgrown area and make it a more desirable woodland with a small trail through it. The playground equipment is scheduled for replacement in fiscal year 2015/16. At that time we will also do an asphalt overlay in the parking lots. The park identification sign will be replaced in the 2011/12 fiscal year. A historical sign is also being considered for the site.

## 5.2 Acres on Belle Plaine & Lee Ave



Cost of future Improvement

Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
Handicap Playground Surfacing  
Resurface Parking Lot and pathway

Est. Cost

\$45,000  
\$25,000  
\$50,000  
\$10,000

Fiscal Year

2015/16  
2015/16  
2015/16  
2015/16

Funding Source

Non Referendum Bonds  
Rec for Handicapped Fund  
Rec for Handicapped Fund  
Paving and Lighting Fund





# Southridge Park

## History

Southridge Park serves the neighborhoods of Southridge and Rolling Ridge. The park was donated by the developer in spring 1991 as part of the required developer donation. In 1996 the District entered into an agreement with the developer of the Rolling Ridge development to acquire an additional one acre that was added to the south of the park parcel. The playground and park were constructed by a contractor during the spring/summer 1992. The landscaping was installed by the developer, as well as by a neighborhood volunteer project (trees shown on the upper right).

## Park Amenities

- Kompan Playground 5-12
- Kompan Playground 2-5
- Picnic Shelter
- 1/2 Court Basketball
- Five-car parking lot
- Baseball Backstop
- Connection Path Wildflower to Southridge Dr.
- Landscaping
- Open Fields

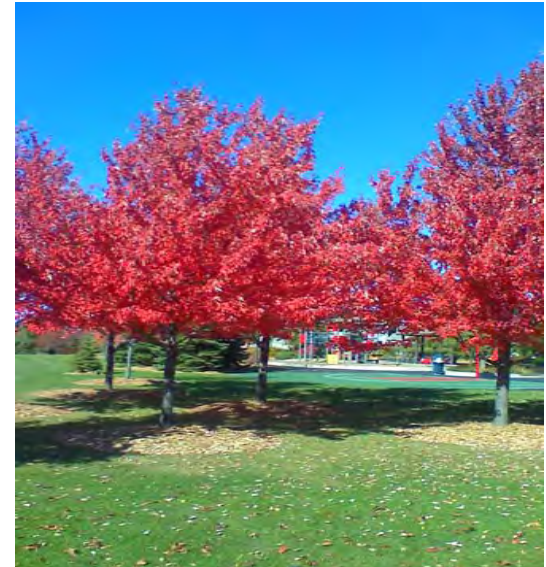
## Past Improvements

A picnic shelter was constructed by the Parks team in the spring of 1993. The shelter is located between the 2-5 and 5-12 playground areas. The original sets of swings were replaced in 2003 with metal Miracle Equipment units and they will not need to be replaced until after 2020. In 2004 an additional pathway was installed from the Southridge neighborhood to the Rolling Ridge neighborhood through the west portion of the park.

## Future Improvements

The replacement of the Kompan Playground equipment has been budgeted and will be replaced in spring 2010. The park identification sign will be replaced in the 2010/11 fiscal year. The asphalt surfaces will also be overlaid in Spring 2010.

## 6.1 Acres on Southridge Dr.



Cost of Improvement

Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
Handicap Playground Surfacing  
Resurface Circulation Path  
Resurface Parking Lot

Est. Cost

\$40,000  
\$25,000  
\$70,000  
\$20,000  
\$20,000

Fiscal Year

2010/11  
2010/11  
2010/11  
2010/11  
2010/11

Funding Source

Non Referendum Bonds  
Rec for Handicapped Fund  
Rec for Handicapped Fund  
Paving and Lighting Fund  
Paving and Lighting Fund



## South Park

### History

South Park is a small neighborhood park donated by the Marriott Corporation in 1981. The original playground was built in the early 1980's to serve the local neighborhood. The park originally had a full court basketball court and various landscaping. The large trees that border the north side of the park along South Road act as a sound and visual barrier from Six Flags to the homes that are on the north side of the street.

### Park Amenities

- Little Tykes Playground 2-12
- ½ court basketball
- Tennis Court bang board area
- Landscaping

### Past Improvements

In fall 2004 the original Miracle Timber Play Center was removed for safety reasons. The results of a neighborhood survey made it apparent that the neighborhood had matured and the residents wanted a playground mostly for visiting grandchildren. In the spring of 2005, a refurbished Little Tikes playground was constructed by the parks team. In that same year, half of the basketball court was also removed.

### Future Improvements

The park is in good condition. Benches will be installed in the spring of 2010, in response to a recent request. A new park identification sign will be installed during the 2012/13 fiscal year.

## **2.3 Acres on South and Fuller**





# Timberwoods Park

## History

Timberwoods Park was donated by Cambridge Homes as part of a developer donation agreement in the fall of 1997 and at that time was only three acres. Prior to transferring title, the developer graded and seeded the site, planted 40 trees, installed the asphalt surfaces, as well as the concrete for the playground area. The Park District constructed the playground in the winter and spring months of 1998. This park serves the Timberwoods and Kingsport Woods neighborhoods.

## Park Amenities

- Landscape Structures Playground 5-12
- Kompan Playground 2-5
- 1/2 Court Basketball
- 5-car parking lot
- Baseball Backstop
- Circulation Path
- Landscaping

## Past Improvements

In 2002 Cambridge Homes built phase II of the housing development and at that time the Park District received 2.91 acres of park land to the east of the original park site.

## Future Improvements

The playground equipment is scheduled to be replaced in the 2016/17 fiscal year. At that time the handicap accessibility requirements for this playground will be assessed. The park identification sign will be replaced in the 2011/12 fiscal year.

## 5.9 Acres on Cascade Way



## Cost of Improvement

<u>Cost of Improvement</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities	\$50,000	2016/17	Non Referendum Bonds
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities	\$25,000	2016/17	Rec for the Handicapped Fund
Handicap Playground Surfacing	\$50,000	2016/17	Rec for the Handicapped Fund
Resurface Circulation Path and Parking Lot	\$35,000	2016/17	Paving and Lighting Fund

# University Park

## History

In 1974 and 1975 the Village purchased 8.4 acres for a storm water detention facility. Later two other major storm water detention facilities were completed upstream so this property became available for recreational purposes. Though it is owned by the Village, the Village and Park District cooperated in developing the site as a neighborhood park. A neighborhood survey was conducted and a Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in March 1995 to discuss the future layout of the playground and other park amenities. In March 1996 the Park District received a grant from the Department of Natural Resources which funded 50% of the construction cost. It was extremely important to the neighbors surrounding the park that the natural elements present on the site be maintained. A natural wetland and creek were built by the Village and the Park District developed major mass plantings along the south and east property lines. The park construction was completed in fall 1997.

## **8.4 Acres on University Ave & Estes St.**



## Park Amenities

- Landscape Structures Handicap Accessible Playground 2-5
- Landscape Structures Accessible Playground 5-12
- Bike Path
- Bridge over creek
- Natural plantings and wetland
- Oak Grove
- Baseball/Softball Backstop
- Soccer Field
- Ice Rink
- Two Parking Lots

## Past Improvements

This park has been a favorite for the neighbors to dedicate trees and benches. New handicap poured-in-place rubber was installed in the summer of 2008. The park identification sign was replaced in 2008.





## Future Improvements

The playground equipment as well as an asphalt overlay of the parking lots are scheduled for replacement in fiscal year of 2015/16. This park the original rubber handicap accessible tiles replace with poured in place rubber in 2009. We will be updating and adding to this rubber surface in 2015/16 when we replace the playground.

### Cost of Improvement

Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
 Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
 Handicap Playground Surfacing  
 Resurface Parking Lots and playground path

### Est. Cost

\$45,000  
 \$30,000  
 \$50,000  
 \$20,000

### Fiscal Year

2015/16  
 2015/16  
 2015/16  
 2015/16

### Funding Source

Non Referendum Bonds  
 Rec for Handicapped Fund  
 Rec for Handicapped Fund  
 Paving and Lighting Fund



## Viking Community Park

### History

Viking Park, known as the Gurnee Park District's flagship park, was the first development project for the Park District after its formation in 1968. The Park District purchased 29 acres from the Village of Gurnee in 1972 with the assistance of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds. The land was originally acquired by the Village in 1968. The first phase of the park's development was in 1973 and 1974. Additional improvements including: restoration of the dance hall, new restrooms, concessions building, lighting for the ball fields, expanded parking, and new playground equipment were all added ten years later in 1984-85. The Park District purchased the 10.36 acre Viking Park Annex from the Johnson family in 1997. The Annex enabled the Park District to provide additional soccer and sports fields. The Annex was completed in 1999 with a \$200,000 legislative line item grant. In July 2000, five acres at the north end of the park were deeded to the Village for their public works facility which until then had been leased to them since 1973.

### Park Amenities

- Landscape Structures Accessible Playground 2-5
- Landscape Structures Accessible Playground 2-12 & 5-12
- Four ½ court basketball
- Skate Park
- Soccer Field Complex
- Two Tennis Courts
- 20' x 40 Picnic Shelter
- Shuffleboard Courts
- Badminton Court
- Three Softball Fields
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Brick & Lime Circulation Paths
- Two Restroom Facilities
- Band Shell
- Summer Kitchen Picnic & Dance Hall rental facilities
- Community Center
- Maintenance Facility

**38.1 Acres on Old Grand Ave.**



### Past Improvements

In 1998 a new playground was installed in an open area west of the Bungalow. This playground was built to replace the existing playground that was constructed in 1984. Also in 1998 a new brick circulation path was installed around the south portion of the park that includes the dance hall. The Annex was later developed in 1999 to add soccer fields and drainage to the sports field areas. In 2000 an addition was made to the community center that included recreation programming space, new meeting rooms, and administrative offices. In 2001, the original 1984 playground was removed and in 2003 a preschool/day camp 2-12 playground was constructed in the original playground spot. In 2007 the full court basketball court was replaced with four half courts and a skate park was built near these new courts. In 2009 a 20' x 40' shelter was installed with two shuffleboard courts, one multi use badminton court, a tether ball set, a brick seating wall, and grassed sitting area. This new area will be used for day camps and weekend rentals.



### Future Improvements

The main playground is scheduled to be replaced in the 2018/19 fiscal year. The preschool playground will not need to be replaced until 2023. The parking lot will need an asphalt overlay and/or reconstruction in 2018.



### Cost of Improvement

<u>Cost of Improvement</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities	\$100,000	2018/19	Non Referendum Bonds
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities	\$40,000	2018/19	Rec for Handicapped Fund
Handicap Playground Surfacing	\$75,000	2018/19	Rec for Handicapped Fund
New bricks for the Circulation Path	\$50,000	2018/19	Unfunded
Parking Lot reconstruction	\$200,000	2018/19	Unfunded



# Vineyard Park

## History

Vineyard Park serves the neighborhoods of Elysian Fields, Bittersweet and the west portion of Concord Homes. Two acres of this park were donated by the developer in July, 1997 and the remaining two acres were donated in November, 1999. The park was built in two phases; phase one consisted of constructing the playground, seeding the grass areas, and landscaping. The second phase of development occurred after receiving the additional 2 acres, and a soccer field, ½ basketball court, a baseball backstop, additional landscaping, and an asphalt path to connect the two neighborhood to the park were added at that time. Vineyard Park was built utilizing money from developer donations.

## Park Amenities

- Playground 2-5, Kompan Adventure ship.
- Playground 5-12 Kompan Climber
- Half Court Basketball
- Intermediate Soccer Field
- Baseball Backstop
- Connection Pathway
- Landscaping

## Past Improvements

The Kompan playground was completed in the spring of 1998. The 2-5 and 5-12 structures are Kompan Climbers. The west portion of the park was graded and seeded by the developer before the title was transferred over to the Park District. Once the turf came in properly, the soccer fields were developed for the in-house soccer program. The basketball court and asphalt connection pathway were installed in October, 2004. The baseball backstop was installed in the summer of 2007.

## 4.1 Acres on Vineyard Dr.





## Future Improvements

The park identification sign will be replaced in the 2010/11 fiscal year, because the sign logo needs updating along with the new color scheme. The playground equipment is the old style Kompan wood paneling and is on a 15-year replacement schedule. The swing posts are metal and they will be replaced in the 2018/19 fiscal year. The sand toy is a Kompan Ship that will be evaluated, as will the needs for handicap accessibility upgrades when the remainder of the playground is replaced.

## Cost of Improvement

Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
 Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
 Handicap Playground Surfacing  
 Resurface Circulation Path

## Est. Cost

\$50,000  
 \$25,000  
 \$50,000  
 \$10,000

## Fiscal Year

2012/13  
 2012/13  
 2012/13  
 2012/13

## Funding Source

Non Referendum Bonds  
 Rec for the Handicapped Fund  
 Rec for the Handicapped Fund  
 Paving and Lighting Fund



## Village Park

### History

In the late 1970's the Park District received a land donation of 10.4 acres from the developer of the Continental Village project. A master plan and engineering plans were completed for the construction of a neighborhood park. This initial plan included a playground, two tennis courts, multipurpose court that included basketball, and baseball backstop and field, a 20 car parking lot, and a natural creek meandering through the center of the park, but the project did not move forward due to lack of funding initially and access constraints in later years. Village Park is located on the west side of Delany Road off of Continental Drive and within the City of Waukegan. Additional development occurred around the site and the District lost a direct access route from existing public rights-of-way to the park site. The park site was also impacted by floodplain and drainage deficiencies. In a 1995 report, it was recommended that additional acreage be acquired and the design philosophy for the park change from active recreation to passive or very limited active recreation amenities. Throughout the years 2000-2009, the Park District focused on acquiring acreage that could provide suitable additional property for a playground in this area and also to preserve the natural areas by creating a preserve.

**141.5 Acres on Delany & Continental Dr.**

### **Additions to Village Park:**

1. May 2001 – 64 acres of wetlands were donated by the developer for Osprey Lakes III Apartments
2. October 2003 – purchased 27.56 acres (“Parikh” property) through an Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Community Affairs “Illinois First” grant for \$200,000
3. November 2005 – received 10 acres as well as a permanent access easement from Midlane Development (for “The Greens at Midlane”) that were de-annexed from Waukegan Park District.
4. February 2006 - 37760 and 37284 Shirley Drive, Gurnee – Park District purchased two lots (1.984 acres).
5. 1444 W. Brentwood Lane in Waukegan - 20 acres was deeded to the Park District on 8/20/09 by the Wetlands Mitigation of Illinois. The park district allowed wetland banking to occur on 7 acres of the Osprey Lakes property and 3.3 acres of the original Village Park





property. 10% of the profits were given to the park district and a reimbursed \$15,000 to assist in maintenance of the property/preservation.

6. In 2008, the Park District entered into a developer donation agreement with PEDCOR Investments, who are developing an apartment complex adjacent to the original 10-acre property. The agreement provides access to the park site from Continental Drive, which allows the construction of a playground in this area.

Park Amenities

- This 123.58 acres is a beautiful natural area.

Past Improvements

Lack of access limited any past improvements at this site.

Future Improvements

Working with Pedcor Investments, a new developer that will be constructing Village Park Apartments, we are finally able to construct a park site for this part of the District that we have not been able to serve. A playground and pathway system will be constructed in 2010.



Cost of Improvement

Playground Equipment and Site Amenities

Est. Cost

\$300,000

Fiscal Year

2010/11

Funding Source

Developer Donation Funds & Capital Devt/Replacement Fund

# Westgate Park

## History

Westgate Park was donated by a developer in the summer of 1990. This park serves the neighborhoods of Westgate Homes and the Townhomes of Westgate. The property borders Rt. 94 and has a berm and fence to keep the children from playing near the tollway. In the summer of 1991 the park and playground were constructed by an outside contractor. The landscaping and fencing were completed with the help of volunteers and the Parks team. Trees were donated to Westgate by the Mills Corporation, to aid in shielding the signage that is along the tollway.

## Park Amenities

- Game Time Playground 2-5
- Game Time Playground 5-12
- 1/2 Court Basketball
- Landscaping
- Open Fields

## Past Improvements

The original playground was built before the 1991 Consumer Product Safety Commission came out with their safety guidelines for playgrounds, thus the Landscape Structures playground was not up to code. During the summer of 2001, the playground equipment was replaced after receiving a line item grant from the State of Illinois. The 600 ft. of board on board fence was replaced during the summer of 2006, because many of the posts were rotten. The new fence was constructed with steel post construction with board on board fence and is expected to last longer than the original (more than 15 years).

## 5.7 Acres on Lawson Blvd





## Future Improvements

The asphalt path will need an overlay, as well as the basketball court, which includes re-color coating. Since the playground was installed in 2001 it will not need to be replaced until after 2019. At that time, the playground will need to be updated to a better handicap accessible design to keep up to date with guidelines. The park identification sign will be replaced in the 2011/12 fiscal year.

### Cost of Improvement

Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
Playground Equipment and Site Amenities  
Handicap Playground Surfacing  
Resurface Circulation Path

### Est. Cost

\$50,000  
\$25,000  
\$50,000  
\$20,000

### Fiscal Year

2019/20  
2019/20  
2019/20  
2012/13

### Funding Source

Non Referendum Bonds  
Rec for the Handicapped Fund  
Rec for the Handicapped Fund  
Paving and Lighting Fund

