



WOOD DALE
PARK DISTRICT

Active Places. Friendly Faces.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS 2017

Administration

- Planned a year-long celebration to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Park District.
- Completed and adopted a concept plan for the redevelopment of White Oaks Park.
- Completed and adopted a concept plan for a new facility/building at White Oaks Park.
- Developed and launched a new employee on-boarding video.
- Entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Wood Dale to support the use of Community Park for Prairie Fest for the third consecutive year.
- Director Ellmann and Commissioners attended the Wood Dale Charity Gala supporting several not-for-profit charitable organizations in the community.
- Negotiated a new cell tower lease bringing over \$30,000 in new revenue to the district.
- Director Ellmann made a presentation to Holy Ghost school students on careers in Parks & Recreation.
- Participated in the Community Memorial Day parade.
- Director Ellmann spoke on transitioning into a leadership role at the Athletic Business Conference.
- Secured \$7,500 in sponsorship funds to enhance agency special events.
- Produced and showcased a video in honor of our 50-year history.
- Approved the use of “The Beach” property for the launching of fireworks for the City of Wood Dale Annual Tree Lighting.
- Eight staff attended an on-site training for ACTIVENET, the District’s registration software.
- Adopted a Memorandum of Understanding between with the Wood Dale Park District & Bensenville Football and Cheerleading Program (BWFC).
- The Park District featured a 50th Anniversary themed float in Wood Dale’s Memorial Day Parade.

Finance

- Hired a new Director of Finance and Administration, Mitch Bowlin.
- Hired Katie Iraci as the new Accounting Coordinator.
- Successfully rolled out a new payroll system with more features and better support, realizing a cost savings from the previous system.
- Successfully completed an IMRF audit.
- Partnered with Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC), a municipal co-op, to competitively bid electric rate contracts.
- Retired the series 1999 Capital Appreciation Bonds in December, increasing capital funding potential by more than \$350,000.
- Held a Bond and Interest hearing on December 5, 2017 in anticipation of issuing new debt securities to fund Phase 1 of the White Oaks Master Plan Update.

Recreation

- Received the highest award given to a facility from Jeff Ellis Association, “2017 Gold International Aquatic Safety Award,” which is awarded to clients scoring in the top 30 percent of the audit criteria.
- Hired 33-year parks and recreation veteran, Janice Hincapie as the new Director of Recreation.
- Hired new Recreation Supervisor, Kelly Nagle.
- Promoted Brittany Lynam to full-time Recreation Supervisor.
- Promoted Kristina Sromek and Arturo Segura to the positions of Deputy Directors of Recreation Services.
- Worked collaboratively with the Itasca Park District in reaching new WIBA Basketball League participation numbers and being able to have playoffs for the girl’s divisions in March.
- Worked closely with Di Bella Dance Center to grow our dance program.
- Continued efforts to work with the Wood Dale Baseball Association, as well as Bandits Football in providing field space for games and practices at no charge.
- Offered a new option this year for summer day camps, allowing patrons to customize specific days that the camper desires to register for each week.
- Offered for 38 trips for seniors by the end of 2017. This included the first ever 7-day overnight trip to Washington D.C.
- Celebrated our 50th anniversary by giving away candy from the 60’s and giving away Big Wheel Bicycles at the Egg-cellent Egg Hunt.
- Held the Annual Scarewalk, which had one of the biggest years ever, scaring 812 people during this three-hour event.
- Brought back Santa Train this year and sold out in November.
- Updated 3 Preschool classrooms with new wall colors: Overt Green and Major Blue, flooring and new equipment.
- Installed Smart Televisions in both Preschool classrooms as part of the Preschool Renovation Plan.
- Offered a new class, Learning Ladders, as an extension and enhancement of our 4-year-old preschool program.
- Offered Extended School programs at 3-day, 4-day, and 5-day options.
- Made a profit of \$3,460 from their Preschool Fall Fundraiser. This money was used to purchase new equipment for the classrooms such as a water table, iPad, and an easel.
- Held successful events at The Beach, including Pool Pass Appreciation Day, Duck Races, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day, Two Dive In Movies, Swim and Save with Wood Dale Bank and Trust, and Flick and Float Night.
- Participated in National Night Out with the City of Wood Dale & Police Department. 450 Guests were in attendance at the pool.
- Purchased two new ellipticals this year for the Fitness Studio.
- Offered two new fitness classes to the park district – The Bike fight had over 15 participants!! And B-Fit Bootcamp was one of the hottest classes in the summer.
- Continued partnership with Wood Dale Junior High School to provide after school recreational opportunities to students.
- Met with members of the Wood Dale Water Rats Swim Team to discuss new ways to increase participation numbers and to provide additional practice time in the evening hours.
- Worked with the Wood Dale Baseball Association and the Parks Department to facilitate the End-of-Year Family Picnic in Franzen Park.
- Restructured the Recreation Department to allow for maximum efficiency.
- Received a \$1000 grant from the Illinois Association of Park District’s Power Play grant program for the purchase of supplies for the Extended School program.

- Increased the number of classes held at the Recreation Complex by DiBella Dance Studio.
- Worked with the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services to provide assistance for the Extended School program for a child in need.
- Assisted eight families through the District scholarship program to participate in extended school and recreation programming.

Marketing

- Promoted Marketing Coordinator, Wendy Bondi to Manager of Marketing & Public Relations.
- Continued and expanded the rebranding initiative.
- Executed a year-long marketing initiative focusing on the 50th Anniversary.
- Ordered T-Shirts, polos, lapel pins, and magnets featuring the 50th Anniversary logo.
- Designed and published an ad in the Wood Dale Chamber of Commerce Guide, highlighting the Anniversary Party.
- WBIG-AM featured an interview and 12 commercials focusing on the grand opening of the Beach Water Park in June.
- Designed two large scale banners paying homage to the 50th Anniversary.
- WBIG-AM Radio featured an interview and 4 radio commercials focusing on Scarewalk in October.
- The Daily Herald Newspaper featured a preview article and addition in *DuPage County in 60 Seconds* focusing on Scarewalk in October.
- The Daily Herald Newspaper featured a preview and follow-up article focusing on the public 50th Anniversary Party in November.
- Began the inaugural year of two donation drives including, *Help Pets In Need*, which benefits local animal nonprofit, Almost Home Foundation. In addition, *Spread the Warmth*, a cold weather apparel and toiletry donation drive, which benefits the Wood Dale chapter of DuPage Pads and includes the City of Wood Dale and Wood Dale Community United Methodist Church. Both donation drives have a purpose to give back to the community as well as facilitate awareness to these plights.
- Installed new bulletin boards throughout the Recreation Complex to display flyers and signage.
- Installed Reach Digital Monitor in the lobby of the Recreation Complex.
- Installed a brand new external digital message board in December for improved dissemination of messaging.

Technology

- Purchased, configured and installed new and fully integrated phone system throughout the district.
- Migrated e-mail from Google to Office 365 for the entire District – this is a much more secure system to prevent hacks and data breaches, along with providing an archiver for FOIA purposes.
- Shortened the domain name for the Park District to “wdparks.org.”
- Created a “technology inventory” including age for our equipment. This will help us budget for needs in future years to make sure that our technology systems remain functional and viable.
- Upgraded firewalls at Salt Creek Golf Club and the Recreation Complex.
- Because of cost savings during the Central Park Project, we were able to add 2 security cameras to Phase 1 of the project.
- Added two security cameras to Phase 1 of the Central Park project, due to cost savings during the project.

Parks Department

- Installed new Park Regulation signs.
- Installed an Air Curtain at Recreation Complex.
- Installed planters at the entrance of the Recreation Complex and planted annual flowers.
- Installed a concrete dumpster pad at Recreation Complex entrance.
- Repaired gutter cap in main pool and painted the pools at The Beach.
- Installed a Water Heater at Salt Creek Golf Club Clubhouse.
- Installed a Hand Dryer at Salt Creek Golf Club Clubhouse Restrooms.
- Replaced boards on 20 picnic tables.
- Engineered Wood chips added to the playgrounds.
- Installed new playground, portolet enclosure and garbage receptacles at the brand new Central Park.
- Held a Grand Reopening event at Central Park in October.
- Partnered with School District 7 to repave the parking lot by the Recreation Center.
- Installed 2 trees in Brookwood Park.
- Replaced slide at Georgetown Park.
- Assisted with Special events, Waffle 5K, Scarewalk and Festravaganza.
- Installed LED lights outside of Maintenance shop and inside tool room.
- Replaced exit signs and emergency lights in old section of Maintenance shop with LED lights.
- Promoted Garick Schiddell to Parks & Facilities Foreman.
- Hired Donna Sorce, Parks Administrative Assistant.
- Replaced swing set bearings at Calvary Park.
- Replaced steering wheel panels at Recreation Complex and Ashwood playgrounds.
- Garick Schiddell passed the Certified Pool Operations Test.

Risk Management

- A comprehensive year-long loss control review by the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) began in January and concluded in November. The extensive evaluation examines risk management policies, procedures and practices, safety training and loss history.
- Applied for a \$2,500 loss prevention grant from PDRMA for the purchase and installation of a portable solar speed sign. The sign will reside at the drive in front of the Recreation Complex, however it may be used for special events at other locations.
- In addition to new hire orientations and seasonal staff training, held safety trainings each month as part of the safety committee meeting and departmental meetings.
- Completed ergonomic assessments for all full-time and year round part-time employees office employees.
- Initiated a Job Task Coaching and Redirecting program for employees to self-monitor and coach each other in safe work practices.
- Earned a \$1,500 cash award for our risk management practices from our insurance provider (Park District Risk Management Agency).

- Rolled out PDRMA's "Core 6" safety program to staff.
- Completed PDRMA loss control review.

Salt Creek Golf Club

- Hired Mike Huber as the Director of Golf Course Operations, bringing more than 20 years of golf industry experience with him.
- Worked in partnership with TopGolf to have a new facility access drive built for entering Salt Creek Golf Course off Thorndale Road.
- Hosted a successful Fish Fry dining event series on Fridays during the Lenten season.
- Hosted a Disco Party with approximately 90 guests in Spring 2017.
- Hosted NEDSRA's "100 Hole Challenge" fundraising event.
- Hosted IJGA's (Illinois Junior Golf Association) tournament.
- The SHAMROCK 9, second annual event, was twice as large as the first year's event and the group is looking to expand this event in 2018.
- Held four BBQ Night events during the summer.
- The high school golf, 2nd Annual Ryder Cup event was successful. This event is organized and run by the Addison Trail High School Boys JV coach. The group was pleased and plans to continue this event in 2018 and also add a boys JV two-man scramble.
- Hosted the Salt Creek JV Invitational, 2nd Annual High School Golf Tournament.
- Hosted two Tailgate Golf Outing events. We incorporated the Toys for Tots Kickoff into the second event.
- Hosted the 21st Annual Turkey Trot, we incorporated the Food Drive kickoff for second year in a row.
- Hosted the 1-Club Challenge on Thanksgiving Day.
- Opened the golf course for play on Thanksgiving weekend for the first time that anyone can recall.
- Hosted Toys For Tots Day for the first time ever on the day before Breakfast with Santa in order to take advantage of nice weather and generate more donations.
- Hosted Breakfast with Santa event and all tickets sold out.
- Expanded upon Footgolf event business, including hosting 2nd annual Coach's Corner Charity Fundraiser and 4th Annual Haverford Golf Outing.
- Experimented with Grilling on the Patio on weekends to offer low cost dining option for golfers.
- We had ongoing efforts to build positive relationships with TopGolf, Schaumburg Boomers, area High Schools, Youth on Course, The First Tee Program and EWGA.
- Conducted a successful league season.
- Entered into an agreement with The First Tee of Greater Chicago to be a host site.
- Entered into an agreement with Youth on Course to offer affordable (\$5 Green Fee) golf to junior golfers.
- Awarded Daily Herald Readers' Best of the Best Award.
- Hired Brooke Brawner as the Food & Beverage Operations Manager.
- Completed first phase of Clubhouse renovations.

THESE ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS REFLECT THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OF THE COMMISSIONERS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE WOOD DALE PARK DISTRICT.



WOOD DALE
PARK DISTRICT

Active Places. Friendly Faces.

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Mission – “Serving the community with quality recreational experiences that provide a fun and healthy lifestyle.”

Vision – “Aspire to create positive memories and endless opportunities for the community.”

Values – Communication, Quality, Fun, Partnerships, Accountability, Team-Oriented