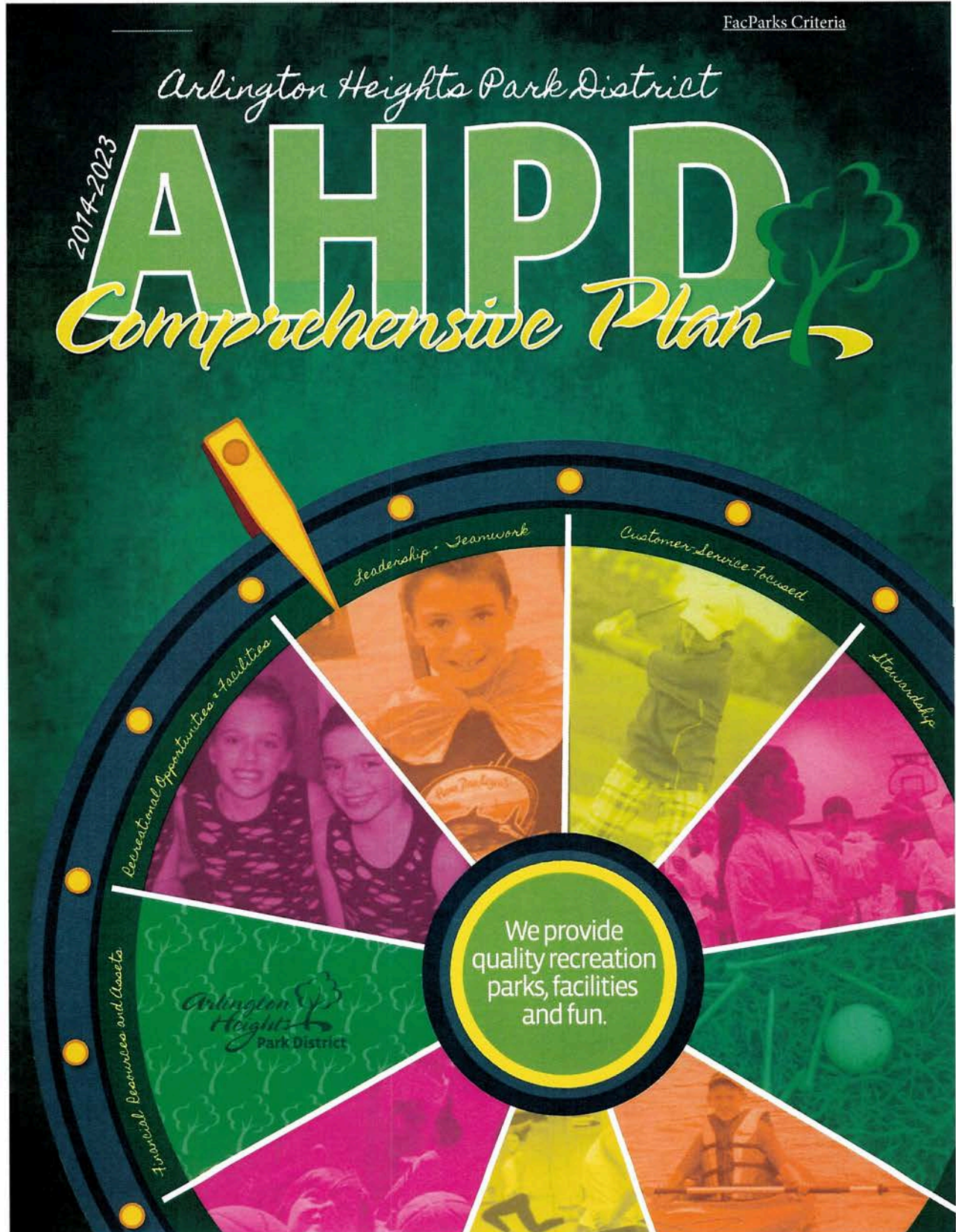


FacParks Criteria



Clippings from pages 117 - 135 AHPD Comprehensive Plan 2014-2020

3. What capital improvements would you and your family like to see in the next 3-5 years? Capital improvements include the construction of new facilities, remodeling or expansion of existing facilities, and the purchase, improvement and development of land.

Improvements to Recreation Park basketball courts and pool. Make outdoor basketball courts at Recreation park to similar to the Pioneer Park outdoor basketball courts.

I would like to see some changes made at the Recreation Park Pool. Maybe not the extent that was slated for the referendum, but the building needs an upgrade. I would also be interested in a dog park.

Indoor gym facility
Improvements/additions to Recreation park

More basketball options for open gym or keep it going. Make an outdoor basketball court at Recreation Park that is of the same level as Pioneer park.

Wheel chair access

Teardown Recreation Park's building, and put in one main building. More basketball, volleyball, and dance areas, which are then in the center of the village, and not at the far north end or in Prospect Heights for us citizens. Rec Park's building is useless, and far too out dated. Leave the satellite park buildings alone.

Recreation park needs an extensive renovation. It's not accessible by wheelchair or stroller.

Keeping Rec Park up to date. During our 19 years in AH, every other park district facility has been renovated/remodeled, except Rec. Rec Park is crucial to our community with Frontier Days and it'd be nice to see it updated to be used more throughout the year.

Remodeling of Rec Park, similar to how Pioneer was redone.

Remodeling of Rec Park, specifically the basketball court.

We would love to see Rec park get updated and made accessible to strollers, etc. We would love to see a splash pad or some sort of zero depth pool would be ideal!

Remodeling of Recreation Park pool and grounds. I would like to see some sort of volleyball and new basketball area as well.

Good playgrounds with fun equipment and nice places to sit with shade

REC PARK!!!! Loved the plans that were in place to have it updated! So sad it did not pass.

The Park District provides a full range of recreational activities, a public open space system, recreational facilities and special events for its citizens. Recreational facilities operated by the Park District include 58 parks, totaling 715.09 acres, with one indoor and five outdoor swimming pools, five community centers, a cultural arts center, historical museum, Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club, Heritage Tennis Club, Arlington Lakes Golf Club, Nickol Knoll Golf Club, Lake Arlington, Melas Park Sports Complex, and an assortment of softball diamonds, football and soccer fields, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

These essential community features enhance the social, physical, and psychological well-being of citizens by providing them with enjoyable activities and settings in which to spend their leisure time. The economic benefits of preserving open spaces and offering recreational opportunities include increase in the value of surrounding properties and enhanced quality of life in Arlington Heights.

The Park District uses the following classifications as guidelines to develop an equitable system of parks, recreation facilities and natural open space for the Park District. The classifications are based on previous guidelines from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) adopted by the Park District in 1982. The six classifications are Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, District Parks, Special Facilities, and Connector Parkways. These are summarized, along with the detailed description of each park classification; this section also presents the level of service standards for each park type and the justification for those standards.

These standards have been adopted by most cities across the United States and are designed to allow for an equitable distribution of park resources. These standards are easy to apply and have been tested in the courts. The minimum recommended standard for an urban area is 10 acres per 1000 residents. Applying this minimum to Park District would require a total of roughly 769 acres of developed park land. Park District presently has approximately 715 acres of developed park land, which indicates that the Park District has a deficit of approximately 50 acres of developed park land.

The Park District refines this standard of 10 acres per 1000 residents by dividing this acreage into:

Mini Parks

These parks are developed in denser multiple family neighborhoods as a way to provide immediate recreational opportunities in these areas that lack neighborhood parks. These are smaller sites, usually less than two acres, equipped with playground apparatus conducive to the recreational activity of young children. Mini parks have a service radius of a one-quarter to one-half mile.

Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park is generally anywhere from two to ten acres in size, serves a population within a one-half mile to one-mile radius, and is centrally located within the neighborhood it serves.

Neighborhood parks should be developed at a minimum of one acre per every 1000 residents. A neighborhood park is designed to serve a pedestrian population, and its facilities usually include playground apparatus, athletic field areas, and an area for passive recreation.

Arlington Heights Park District

“Survey of Residents”

Volume 1

prepared for the

Arlington Heights Park District

By

Ron Vine and Associates

November 2017



Ron Vine and Associates
Making Citizen Opinions Matter

Arlington Heights Park District Resident Survey Report

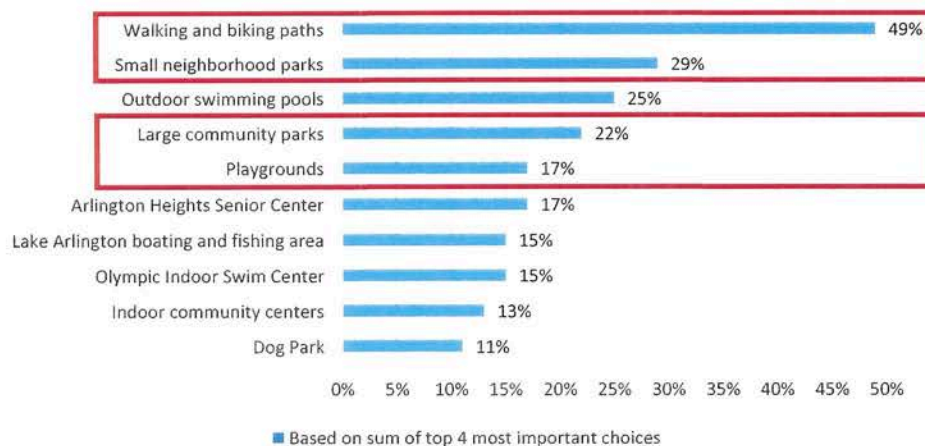
Section 3: Overview of Resident Survey Responses

Key Survey Findings

Finding #1: By a wide margin, walking and biking paths are the current parks, paths, and facilities that Arlington Heights Park District household respondents feel should receive the most attention from the Arlington Heights Park District over the next three (3) years. Neighborhood parks, outdoor swimming pools and large community parks were the next three highest rated parks, paths, or facilities to receive attention.

Respondents were provided a list of 27 different parks, facilities and services and asked to indicate the top 4 that should receive the most attention from the Arlington Heights Park District.

10 Parks, Paths, and Facilities that Should Receive the Most Attention Over the Next 3 Years

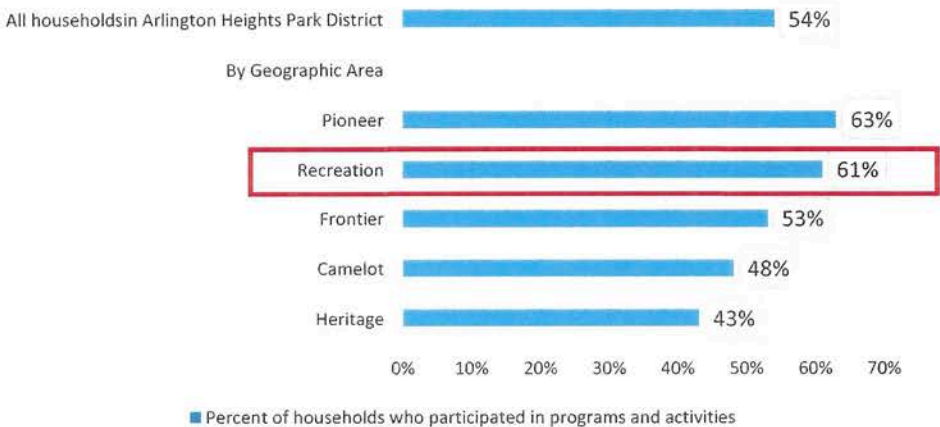


In every geographic area, walking and biking paths was the highest ranked parks, facility or service for emphasis and small neighborhood parks were among the top 3 highest ranked for emphasis

Arlington Heights Park District Resident Survey Report

Finding #3: Participation in programs and activities is high across all geographic areas with opportunities to increase frequency of participation. 54% of respondents for the entire Park District have participated in programs with participation in programs being at least 43% in all geographic areas. Most households who participated in programs and activities participated in 1-3 programs and activities during the past 12 months.

Over the Past 12 Months What Percent of Households
Participated in Programs and Activities of the Arlington
Heights Park District?

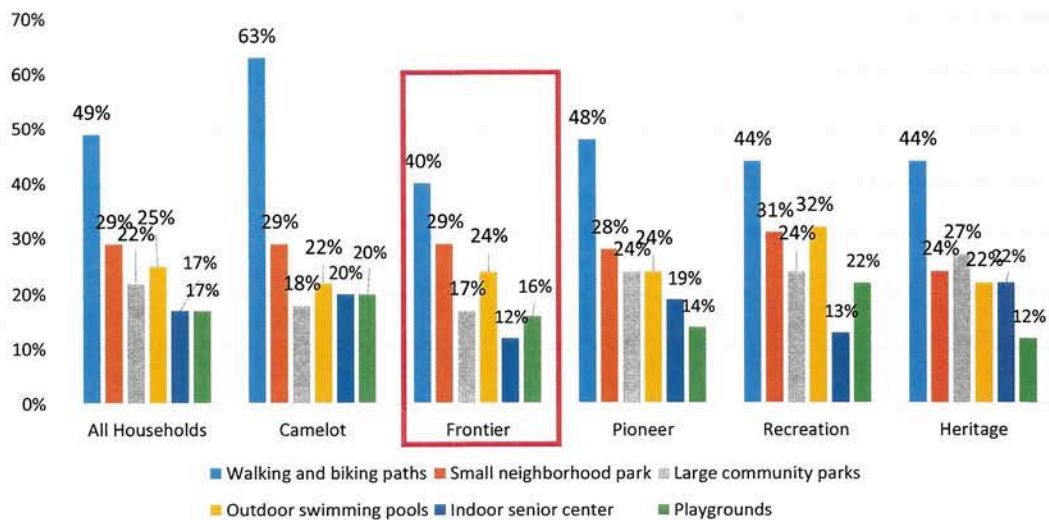


Arlington Heights Park District Resident Survey Report

Finding #10: In the entire Arlington Heights Park District and every geographic area, walking and biking paths were the first most important park or facility and small neighborhood parks were the second most important park or facility, with the exception of Recreation where neighborhood parks are third most important and outdoor swimming pools second most important.

From a list of twenty-seven different parks and facilities, household respondents were asked to indicate the four parks and facilities that were most important to them. The chart below shows the 5 parks and facilities that were selected by the highest percent of households based on households in the entire Park District. The chart also shows what percent of households in each of the geographic areas selected each of the parks and facilities in the sum of their top 4 choices.

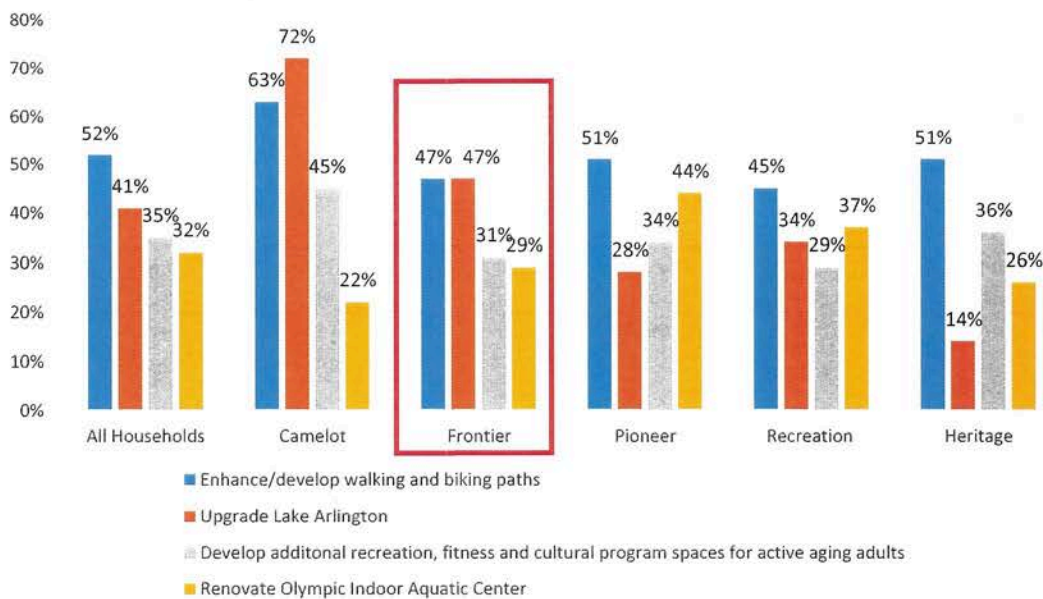
Sum of Top Four Parks and Facilities Overall and in Each Geographic Area



Arlington Heights Park District Resident Survey Report

Finding #12: Out of fifteen potential projects, respondent households were asked to indicate the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th most important projects for their household. As shown in the chart below, based on a sum of their top 4 choices, enhance/develop walking and biking paths (52%), upgrade Lake Arlington (41%), develop additional recreation, fitness and cultural program spaces for active aging adults (35%) and renovate Olympic Indoor Aquatic Center (32%) were the most important projects. Additionally, shown on the chart is the percentage of households in each geographic area who selected these projects as one of their Top 4 choices.

The Potential Projects that Are Most Important to Respondents in the Entire Arlington Heights Park District Based on a Sum of Respondents Top 4 Choices. Additionally Indicated Is the Importance of Each Project in the Geographic Areas

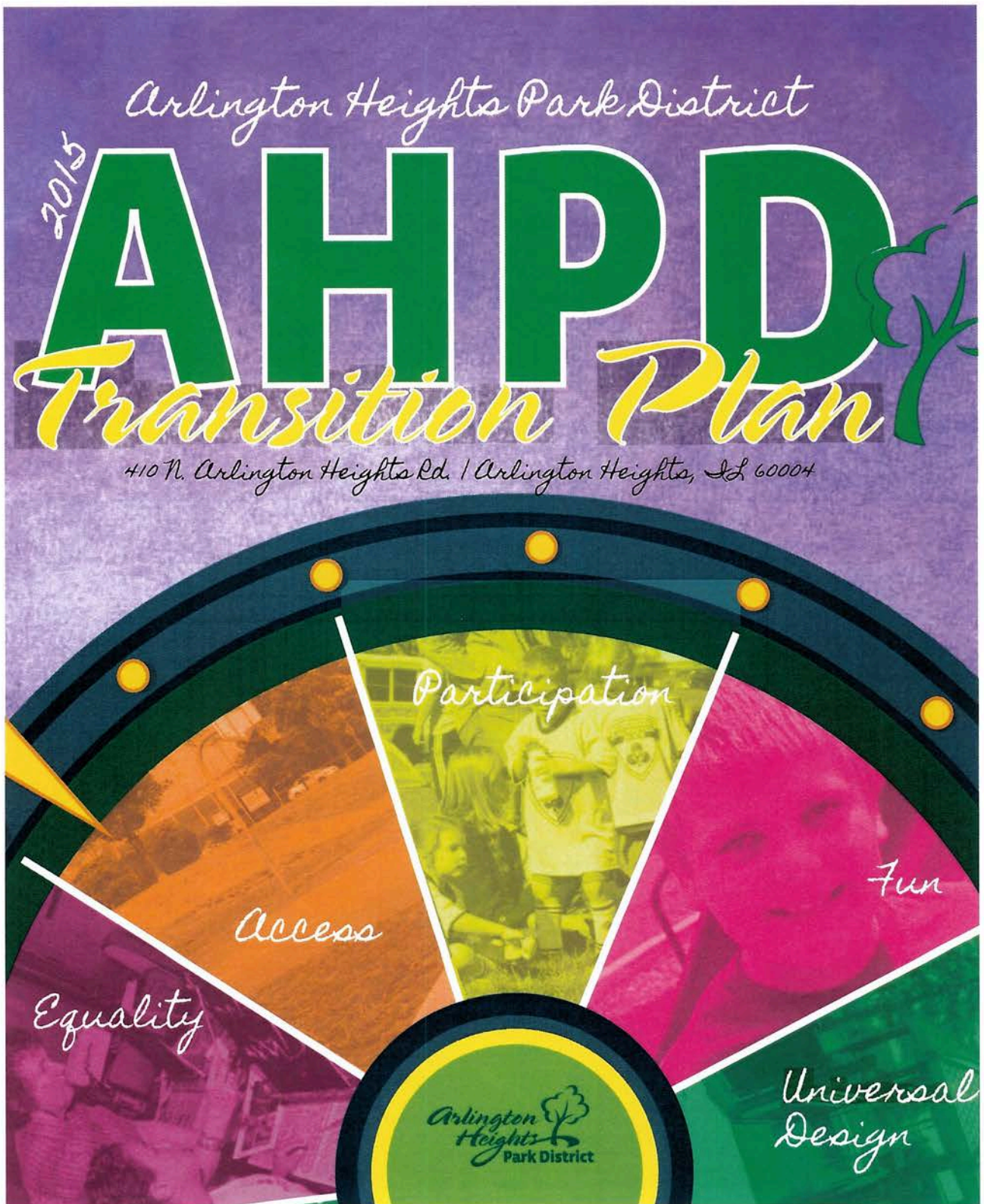


**Arlington Heights
Parks & Rec Final Results**

	OVERALL
Soccer and football fields	21%
Baseball and softball fields	21%
Outdoor tennis courts	28%
Outdoor basketball courts	21%
Outdoor artificial turf fields	10%
Small neighborhood parks	67%
Large community parks	61%
Playground equipment	44%
Picnic areas/shelters	27%
Skate park	11%
Dog park	22%
Walking and biking paths	79%
Outdoor swimming pools	53%
Garden plots	10%
Outdoor pickleball courts	7%
Golf courses	38%
Historical museum	26%
Senior center	38%
Indoor tennis courts	12%
Indoor fitness and exercise facilities	42%
Indoor swimming pools/leisure pool	42%
Indoor lap lanes for exercise swim	28%
Indoor warm water therapy pool	19%
Indoor basketball courts	20%
Indoor fields for sports training	11%
Indoor pickleball courts	6%
Indoor walking/jogging tracks	47%
TOTAL	813%
n =	1,062

Please indicate if you or any member of your household has a need for each of the parks and recreation facilities

21 Nov 17
Source: RRC Associates



ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park

Table of Contents

Recreation Park Transition Plan Items

ID	Park	Feature	Room	Barrier	Target Complete Date	Priority	Capital Project	Completed Date
1062	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Ball Diamond	Path has 3% or more cross slope around east side of ball field #1.	after 2016	G		
905	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Locker Room - Men's	Route to men's locker room from pool deck has up to 4% cross slope.	after 2016	C		
927	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Locker Room - Women's	Route to women's locker room from pool deck has up to 4% cross slope.	after 2016	C		
929	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Swimming Pool	Handrails are too high ranging from 39-53 inches above ground surface.	after 2016	C		
931	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Swimming Pool	Ramp has areas of running slope up to 9%.	after 2016	C		
933	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Swimming Pool	Landing at bottom of ramp has 6.8% slope.	after 2016	C		
936	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Swimming Pool	The pool deck has areas of 6% slope and various changes in level up to .5 inches.	after 2016	C		
938	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Wading Pool	The transition between the concrete and wood surfaces creates a .5 inch change in level.	after 2016	C		
1018	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Walk/Bike Path	Concrete has up to 4 inch gap.	2013/14	G		2011/2012
1019	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Walk/Bike Path	Southern half of sidewalk has cross slope ranging from 3% to 5%.	2013/14	G		2011/2012
1020	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Walk/Bike Path	North side of path near Miner Street has two areas of 1 inch changes in level.	2013/14	G		2011/2012
1021	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Walk/Bike Path	Curb ramp onto Miner Street has a 9.7% running slope, 21% flared sides and does not have a detectable warning complying with ADAAG 4.29.2.	2013/14	V		2011/2012
1051	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Walk/Bike Path	Drain grate has openings up to 2 inches wide.	2013/14	G		2013/14
882	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Walk/Bike Path	Two 1-inch changes in level near light post.	after 2016	G		
942	Recreation Park	Accessible Route - Exterior	Walk/Bike Path	Concrete is breaking causing a .5 inch gap and .5 inch change in level.	after 2016	G		



Classifieds

What are you looking for?

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THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS PARK DIS...



The Arlington Heights Park District is leading a planning initiative to improve Recreation Park and submit an application for funding assistance through an Illinois Department of Natural Resources OSLAD Grant. A community open house meeting will be held to review the Planning Project and Preliminary Design Concept on: Open House Meeting Wednesday, August 24, 2022, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM Recreation Park 500 E. Miner Street. All members of the public are invited to attend and are welcome to stop in anytime during the open house event to review the preliminary design concept, ask questions, and provide written comments. We look forward to hearing from you. Published in Daily Herald August 11, 2022 (4586857), posted 08/11/2022

Viewed 26 times

Posted: August 11, 2022

OPEN HOUSE MEETING

**POTENTIAL
GREENSPACE
IMPROVEMENTS**

**WEDNESDAY, AUG 24TH
5:30PM - 7:00PM
RECREATION PARK
500 E. MINER STREET**



410 N. Arlington Heights Rd.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
www.ahpd.org | 847.577.3000



Arlington Heights Park District

Published by Amy Seklecki · 20h ·

You're invited to the upcoming Open House Meeting: Recreation Park Outdoor Space Improvements on Wednesday, August 24 from 5:30-7PM. Attendees will have the opportunity to review preliminary design concept, ask questions or provide written comments. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/3psD1jq>

We look forward to hearing from you!



Hitchcock Design Group

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park

Programs

Events

All Special Events

Special Events (registration)

Board Meetings

Summer Concerts

Photo Galleries

Video Gallery

Frontier Days

month calendar

-- select category --

Tweet

Open House for Rec Park Greenspace Improvements

Export to Outlook

Wednesday, August 24, 2022
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Recreation Park
500 E. Knox St
Arlington Heights, IL 60014



The Arlington Heights Park District is leading a planning initiative to improve the greenspace around Recreation Park and submit an application for funding assistance through an Illinois Department of Natural Resources OSLAD Grant. A community open house meeting will be held to review the Planning Project and Preliminary Concept on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

All members of the public are invited to attend and are welcome to stop in anytime during the open house events to review the preliminary plans, ask questions, and provide written comments.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Recreation Park OSLAD Project
Public Comments from the Community Meeting 8-23-2022 and Additional
Comments from Contact Us

1. 8/24/2022 From: Christopher Salituro chrissalituro@gmail.com

Comment: Message: Hi, I cannot make the meeting tonight regarding Rec Park renovation. I was hoping pass along some thoughts.

First, I am SO GLAD that Rec is getting attention! It really needs it and it is in the heart of the town and attracts so many people for Frontier Days and swim meets and baseball. The park should reflect the modern loveliness that the rest of the village center has.

I am also glad that you are planning to keep the historic WPA building.

A few of the proposed ideas that I think deserve a second look:

(Ben Rea's replies in blue. This message was received via Contact us on 8/23/22)

Why eliminate a tennis court and replace with bags - everyone has their own bags and can play it anywhere.

Tennis is hard to find. Presently, the park district maintains 43 tennis courts in the community. That is about 5 over the minimum requirement set by the National Recreation and Park Association. The idea behind the lawn games (bags or something else) is to provide a recreation opportunity for all to utilize, as well as provide a recreational amenity that scores well on the grant application.

It is dumb to have a grand entrance from the SW corner - no one comes to the park from that direction. The access points from the southeast and southwest corners need to be created to provide a connection to the park's pathway. Most likely there will be a park sign and some enhance landscaping to welcome people into the park.

The playground is relatively new. Why change it? The playground was installed in 2011. The proposed playground is fully inclusive and will serve people of all abilities. Presently, the park district does not have a fully inclusive playground. Recreation Park is a great location, given the close proximity to the center of town. Would love a nature path/walking path around the perimeter landscaped with native flora. There are plans to introduce rain gardens throughout the space utilizing native plantings.

2. 8/24/2022 From: Elaine Schreck

Comment: My priority for Rec Park is to maintain and improve upon what we already have. And for it to continue being a neighborhood park! I would rather not see drastic changes, while I do agree and understand that some new elements are positive. I think having 3 tennis courts in approximately their current position is important. I also encourage the Park District NOT to remove any of the large trees in that area (left field of baseball diamond) in order to re- envision that use of space. I would greatly appreciate the PD's commitment to provide continuing to provide a large, free skate, ice skating rink in its historic location in winter time- in the past the pool has doubled as a warming house, and that would be fun to bring back and maybe add to/or renovate the existing structure, rather than tearing it completely down. Our neighborhood ice rink is cherished here at Rec! The pool is amazing as-is, but the baby pool leaves something to be desired. Great if that re-innovation could be part of Phase 1!

Please keep Frontier Days in our park! Also: preschool at Rec Park is a high priority! This is our neighborhood park and we would like its focus to still be on serving the neighbors.

3. 8/24/2022 From: Katie Roberts

Comment: What is the usage of exercise equipment? Seems like a waste of space and money. I've never seen them used at other parks. Why more tennis courts? I'm opposed to a parking lot on a residential street.

Recreation Park OSLAD Project
Public Comments from the Community Meeting 8-23-2022 and Additional
Comments from Contact Us

More than ¼ of the park is on NW Hwy. At a minimum, it should be placed across from the Makers Space, the travel agency or existing open space.

4. 8/24/2022 From: Unknown

Comment: Any plans for Pickle Ball?

5. 8/24/2022 From: Anne Young

Comment: 1. More parking 2. No sand boxes 3. Yes, ADA playground equipment 4. Yes, Berm activity.
5. Yes Rain garden 6. Yes, to fitness/challenge area 7. Pickleball courts? Add them.
8. Love this idea and the updates to the park! Can't wait for it!!

6. 8/24/2022 From: Claire Young

Comment: 1. Lets Do It! This plan looks GREAT! 2. I love the skate park 3. I love the obstacle course
4. Berm playground items seem very cool 5. I'd really like to see native plants and trees added to the park.
6. On the tennis courts, please be sure to include pickleball lines and nets (?). 7. Keeping trees is important to me
8. Circle parking in front of the building looks great 9. I think the parking lot is a nice idea especially since the grass lot is not currently used for anything other than Frontier Days parking 10. Re-doing the pool house is a top priority for me so I'd be willing to put off some Phase 1 proposed items in favor of that.

7. 8/24/2022 From: Kristina Heaton

Comment: Please include play equipment for older kids on the playground. Most of the playgrounds at the park in AH cater to younger kids and many of the elementary schools do too. We are very excited about the whole project and are very supportive of it moving forward. We live 1 block away and have zero concerns about the potential additional traffic or parking.

8. 8/24/2022 From: Kathy Ley

Comment: Parking near play park- should all be ADA spots. Make lot much smaller. A lot does not really fit the residential side of the park. If the main building becomes the Pool House, please, **please** don't lose the preschool. We need a local, park district option for neighbors. Shade options in the play park **please**.

9. 8/24/2022 From: Andrew K

Comment: Looks great. Updating playground to be safe and more inclusive is ideal for children to be a community. Maintain greenery and trees. Need additional trees for shade and beauty. More seats (Benches/gazebos). Utilize high quality cement for basketball and tennis courts to ensure longevity and quality of courts.

10. 8/24/2022 From: James Kim

Comment: Hitchcock recently had a project in Highland Park that had a swing-set that also rotated like a carousel. Kids love the p/p mounds with tunnels and climbers and slides. Love the skate park- has something for everyone. Hopefully you get that MWRD stormwater infrastructure grant.

Recreation Park OSLAD Project
Public Comments from the Community Meeting 8-23-2022 and Additional
Comments from Contact Us

11. 8/24/2022 From: Michael Roberts

Comment: I think the proposed plan reduces green space too much and increases traffic on Belmont. 1) the parking lot is empty. There is no reason for additional parking. 2) I think we need more green space, a skate park does not answer the need for community as a whole.

12. 8/24/2022 From: Anjali Bagai

Comment: 1) Will there be any plans to create more integration to the community with the park? (ie; additional sidewalks, bike paths?) Having more entry points to the park. 2) Will there be lighting for the new basketball courts?

13. 8/24/2022 From: Claire Young

Comment: It is extremely important to me that we have a new basketball court. I'm in my 30's and love to shoot around but the current set-up isn't very nice. We need a new court. My husband is incredibly excited for the skate park. Skateboarding is an exciting, growing, LEGITIMATE U.S. sport and we deeply support it. Both of these facilities are sometimes categorized as "Bringing the wrong crowd". That is a problematic scare tactic and we support adding these offerings. Do It! We will love it!

14. 8/24/2022 From: Unknown

Comment: Concerned about the decrease of open space- is it necessary to have an area specific to Bags game?? Please don't remove healthy mature trees such as the ones south of the current tennis courts. Still able to accommodate Frontier Days activities? Can't keep all 3 tennis courts? At least there should be a pickleball court (maybe in place of the Bags game).

15. 8/24/2022 From: Greg Summers

Comment: No need for parking on Belmont- only 4-5 cars park on side of road now. Place the parking in center of the site near the basketball court. Keep at least three tennis courts. Need more trees in the park. Pool needs renovation/splash pad. Park has limited seating now and it is in sun- not shade. Playground is shown at end of Wing St. w/o sidewalk connection to other side of Belmont. Place a fence to separate playground from street. No exercise equipment in the sun in the park- it won't get used. Keep gym in building- kids use it for recreation.

16. 8/24/2022 From: Kearin Hansen

Comment: I see you are re-doing the tennis courts. What happens when lessons are being given? Are patrons then kicked off the courts?

17. 8/24/2022 From: Jen Kim

Comment: We love the tri ride swing. Love the mound play, multi levels of play. Love pour and play mound with the different climbers and slides and tunnels.
Skate Park- make sure it is welcoming to beginner levels. What is allowed...bikes, razors, blades? How will all use the space? How will those not allowed be enforced?
Playground- like to see different manufactures ie; Landscape, Gametime, etc. use in space.
Love additional parking in circle drive. It would be great for preschool.

Recreation Park OSLAD Project
Public Comments from the Community Meeting 8-23-2022 and Additional
Comments from Contact Us

18. 8/24/2022 From: Unknown

Comment: Would love to see equipment for playground reminiscent of parkour/Ninja Warrior obstacles for older kids!

19. 8/24/2022 From: Laura Reed

Comment: Re-do walking path so that can be cleared of snow so to walk all year round.

20. 8/24/2022 From: Barb Ottolino

Comment: 1) I commend you on the playground inclusiveness for autistic and handicap people. 2) I am concerned about removal of large trees before young ones are established and well on their way. 3) These tennis courts are heavily used. Reducing their number in this location will be unpopular. 4) Hurray for the skate park! 5) High school teens need places to congregate. Please include them near the skate park. 6) I am very concerned about the amount of paving. There are 3 paved entry ways. This is not necessary. Please leave green space! Parking next to the ball field is a poor plan. I have lived next to the park since 1974 and NOBODY has ever used the parking lot. Foul balls break windows. Develop a small, centrally located lot at the corner of the present tennis courts/pool so people can easily reach the playground, pool, etc. 7) There are 80 parking spaces on the street by the pool/baseball field-Douglas Ave. There appears to be no shortage of parking spaces. However, people have to be willing to walk from the parking area to their activity area.

21. 8/24/2022 From: Erin Egan

Comment: Please don't put a parking lot on Belmont. Please keep tennis courts in current location.

22. 8/24/2022 From: Patricia Schroeder

Comment: If possible, I would like to see 3 tennis courts. The courts become very full in summer and as a family we enjoy playing. A second board to play individually and practice would be nice too. It is nice to be able to walk to park and not have to get in a car to find court space elsewhere. The kids love the tower. If a tower could be incorporated into the new playground it would be a great way to extend the age range of the playground. Burning Bush Trails in Mount Prospect (great example). Merry Go Round type equipment seems to be very popular with all ages too. Please keep as much green space as possible and trees as well. Eventually the walking path could be improved as well (widened).

23. 8/24/2022 From: Brian Forrest

Comment: As a neighbor of Belmont Ave., I respectfully ask that the park does not reconsider plans for a parking lot on Belmont and find another solution for ADA parking near the playground. I would be happy to work with the Board and staff on alternative ideas, and I know many Rec neighbors who would too. A great feature of the current park is parking and traffic are drawn to the interior of the park- away from quiet residential streets and neighbor house. I think we could work to reconfigure the current layout to accomplish this. I understand the needs of the whole community need to be considered. However, the proposed changes to the parking lot and tennis courts will have a disproportionate daily impact on neighbors which I believe merits additional consideration. I will provide further thoughts via emails to allow messy handwriting. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on plans.

Recreation Park OSLAD Project
Public Comments from the Community Meeting 8-23-2022 and Additional
Comments from Contact Us

24. 8/24/2022 From: Madalina Ivay & Stefanie Ivay

Comment: 1. Bathrooms 2. Water fountains 3. Stay fun 4. Berms and slopes 5. Hillside play with climbing 6. crawl tunnel & slide 7. Wave climbers 8. Roller slide 9. Zip Krooz 10. Turbo Twister 11. Boogie Board 12. Accessible roller table

25. 8/24/2022 From: Unknown

Comment: Is there any conversation about allowing personal electric scooters on the paths?

26. 8/24/2022 From: Sheila Cruz scruz@ahpd.org

Comment: We need play equipment for senior citizens too. Adult swings would be a start. Maybe put these swings away from the children's playground- maybe by the outdoor athletic area. Seniors and adults would be more willing to swing if they weren't interfering with the children's play. "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing". George Bernard Shaw (Joan Cruz & Diane Himes at Berbecker Park in AH)



27. 8/25/2022 From: Katie Bonk

Comment: Hi Tyler, Thank you for talking with me today at the park. Here are a few of my comments about the Rec Park Concept that I wanted to share with you.

1. Permeable paver parking lots - In our community in Wisconsin we repaved our roads in our subdivision with permeable pavers and it has been far more work than ever imagined. You need to sweep with equipment and refill a couple times a year. There is a lot of growth in between bricks.

I imagine you decided on permeable pavers so people wouldn't be upset with taking our greenspace for a parking lot but I don't think it's the right move.

2. Tennis Courts - The tennis courts at Rec at high times are always busy. I know someone mentioned that AH has more tennis courts on average than other areas but that doesn't help because Rec Park is a hot spot for tennis. My suggestion would be not only to have 3 courts but many even ADD a court or pickleball courts. I think if we look at trending sports pickleball is rising!

3. What is the reason to have a parking lot right next to the park in the middle of the neighborhood? It's dangerous for kids going to the park. If anything, there are far better spots for the parking lot like right on

Recreation Park OSLAD Project
Public Comments from the Community Meeting 8-23-2022 and Additional
Comments from Contact Us

Northwest HWY and Belmont or in front of what's labelled "T - Future space". Parking lots do not need to be in the middle of a neighborhood. We have far too many issues with cars on Belmont/Miner and Wing and Belmont. It's scary. We don't need another reason for cars to be closer to the park. **If you need accessibility, then add handicap parking signs right on Belmont in front of the park.**

4. A spot for a permanent Bag Toss Game seems very unusable. Where do people get the bags? Also not something I think kids/families are looking for when going to the park? It truly does seem like wasted space.

5. Adjacent to the bag toss game is the fitness equipment. Does anyone use this at Lake Arlington? Anytime I am there it's usually just a bunch of toddlers/little kids walking over there playing with the equipment. Doesn't seem like something people are actually using.

6. I don't know what the plans are for the play area but I know it's to be more inclusive, which is absolutely great! I also want to suggest that areas around us have ninja parks and splash pads. I know friends who travel to Glenview, Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg for these spots. It's something that AH doesn't offer. Just an idea :)

7. What about things like updating the lighting in the park to go on at dusk and shut off at dawn. Easy things like this... just some ideas! Thanks for taking the time to read through this email because I know it's a lot. I am glad you are getting input from neighbors. I just want to make sure this is a plan that makes sense for people who are using the park.

28. 8/26/2022 From: Tammy Petricca twee10@comcast.net

Comment: Rec Park is a very "neighborhood" park. Those of us who live close use it almost exclusively, over the other outstanding facilities in the AHPD. Thus, the features there are important to our community. Please consider the following requests that: The number of tennis courts remain at 3; The proposed parking lot off of Belmont be reduced or eliminated; A number of parking spaces in the horse-shoe driven and on the street be designated as handicapped only; Every effort be made to save the large trees. All other proposals seem prudent and provide for inclusive and improved conditions and features for both local and non-local users. We love our park! Thank you for keeping it the jewel of our neighborhood.

29. 8/27/2022 From: Robert Levin RLtabletennis1@gmail.com

Comment: Please repair the three tennis courts at Recreational park for the cracks are pretty bad. I am in Kim's group who pays for permits every year! The three courts are invaluable to us! Thanks for your consideration!

30. 8/27/2022 From: Kim Gilfillan kgilfil@cap.org

Comment: (message copied to many Gilfillan contacts and the AHPD)

Tennis – The following is a flyer that was distributed at tennis today.

In addition to the items mentioned, please keep in mind we spent almost \$1,500 in permits this summer. To date, no repairs have been made to the tennis courts at Rec Park or Heritage Park. The cracks were repaired on 1 tennis court at Pioneer Park.

I'd like to know where our money is going. Kim Gilfillan

Fellow tennis players,

Did you know, the Arlington Heights Park District's new "master plan" for Rec Park includes

eliminating a tennis court? Rec's tennis courts are widely used and there are often waits; this will get worse with only 2 tennis courts

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Would you like the current courts to be resurfaced to fix the many cracks? Rec's tennis courts were supposed to be resurfaced this year, but the AHPD board of commissioners chose to delay this work until the smaller courts could be rebuilt, which will be years away

If you would like Rec to keep 3 tennis courts instead of reducing to 2, we need your help. Please contact the park district to give your feedback and ask that Rec keep and improve the current 3 tennis courts. **Use this link to leave a comment:** <https://www.ahpd.org/capital-improvements/rec-pk-comments-for-osl原因-plans/>

Or email the AHPD Board and leadership:

cfullerton@ahpd.org – Executive Director

tgelinas@ahpd.org – Commissioner

[mleno@ahpd.org](mailto:mлено@ahpd.org) – Commissioner

rnesvacil@ahpd.org – Commissioner

[bowen@ahpd.org](mailto:bowlen@ahpd.org) - Commissioner

31. 8/28/2022 From: Paul F Petricca paulpetricca@torque-consulting.com

Comment: Two non-starters for the Rec Park neighbors in the Concept Plan. The parking lot proposed for Belmont Avenue and downsizing the tennis courts. I will submit a more detailed response to the Park Board Members. Please know that the Rec Park Neighbors will use all tools at our disposal to protest these features in the Concept Plan.

32. 8/28/2022 From: Paul Petricca paulpetricca@torque-consulting.com

Comment: Some of the new features in the latest Concept Plan for the redevelopment of Recreation Park are welcomed and long overdue. However, this plan has several components that will be very difficult for my fellow residents in the Rec Park Neighborhood to support and endorse. Based on conversations with the park district officials in attendance at the open house this past week and numerous conversations with other Recreation Park neighbors, here are my concerns and suggestions:

*** The additional parking lot on Belmont is unnecessary and potentially dangerous.** Currently, all of the parking for the amenities in the park are on non-residential streets. Building a parking lot on an already relatively busy Belmont Avenue will create safety concerns for residents in the immediate area and the majority of people who walk to the park. If Village officials are requiring these additional parking spaces (as stated by park district officials at the open house), Recreation Park neighbors will voice strong opposition at Village Board Meetings.

Neither the playground or the tennis courts are destination amenities. Other parks currently have equal or better playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball courts. Most people walk from the neighborhood to these park features. The few visitors who drive to the playground or to play tennis can continue to park on the street as they have done since the park was built.

The lack of parking has never been an issue in this area of the park. More importantly, **creating more pavement in the form of parking is not where the country is heading environmentally. Encouraging people to drive to a recreation facility adds to the carbon footprint of the park instead of reducing it.** This alone is a valid reason to eliminate this proposed parking lot. If ADA parking spaces are needed for the accessible playground, designated spots could be added on Belmont Avenue immediately adjacent to the

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playground. **(THIS PROPOSED PARKING LOT IS A NON-STARTER FOR THE NEIGHBORS. WE WILL USE EVERY OPTION AT OUR DISPOSAL TO PROTEST THIS FEATURE OF THE PLAN)**

*** Eliminating the parking lot on Belmont will allow the tennis facility to maintain three courts, not the scaled down version of two.** I play tennis regularly on these courts. It is often difficult to secure a court on evenings and weekends. I suggest leaving the courts where they are or relocating the three courts in the proposed parking area. If the tennis facility is re-oriented parallel to Belmont Avenue in the same footprint as the proposed parking lot, pickleball courts could be added where the two tennis courts are proposed. This would be well-received by the Rec Park neighbors. **(REDUCING THE NUMBER OF TENNIS COURTS IS A NON-STARTER FOR THE NEIGHBORS. WE WILL USE EVERY OPTION AT OUR DISPOSAL TO PROTEST THIS FEATURE OF THE PLAN)**

*** The skate park is another unnecessary new feature.** Skate parks are closing in the area due to decreased demand. The proposed size and configuration of this feature will not make it a destination amenity that will draw skaters from the greater Northwest Suburbs. Municipalities like Park Ridge have found these skate parks are targets for vandalism. Unless the Park District has current and valid studies showing the demand for this amenity from Rec Park neighbors, this feature should be eliminated.

*** The current parking adjacent to Lloyd Meyer Field has historically been the most underutilized area in the park.** Very few people park there when they visit the pool and smart parkers avoid this lot during baseball games. I played on the baseball field for many years and always questioned why this lot was built so close to a full-size baseball field. No netting plan would avoid balls landing in the current or proposed downsized lot. I agree the parking lot should be downsized, but the 50 spaces should be relocated to "Area T" on the Concept Plan.

The green space that is lost in "Area T" could be moved to the proposed downsized parking lot area. This would eliminate the safety and car damage issues from balls leaving the field of play. It would also provide more green space for baseball fans to set up their chairs and blankets. Children will also be able to play in this area when they are attending games. Other than the bleachers, there is currently very little green space for spectators. **(RECREATION PARK NEIGHBORS STRONGLY SUGGEST RELOCATING THE PROPOSED DOWNSIZED PARKING LOT)**

*** The pool house is architecturally and historically significant.** I would encourage the Park District to save this structure and renovate the common area, guard house, and locker rooms. This would allow for more creative and efficient use of a renovated field house building. **(RECREATION PARK NEIGHBORS WILL STRONGLY CHALLENGE THE DEMOLITION OF THIS LANDMARK STRUCTURE)**

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Concept Plan. I look forward to reviewing a revised plan. Thank you

33. 8/28/2022 From: John B. Swanson jbruceswanson@att.net

Comment: I heard there were/are plans in the works to reduce the number of tennis courts from the current amount of 3 down to 2 next year. I beg you not to do that! On the contrary, Rec Park's tennis courts are very popular and many days there are people waiting for a court. I feel it would be better to add a court instead of

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reducing it by one. With the acquisition of the houses along Belmont, there is plenty of room for an additional court. Recreation, the jewel of all parks, should be as nice or better than Pioneer Park's tennis courts. In addition, we pay for 2 permits for 2 courts on Saturday morning (and have gotten 2 courts for Thursday nights in the past too) and with the reduction in courts our group would probably be forced to have only 1 court which is not enough for our group of 30+ players. We implore you to reconsider the thought of reducing the tennis courts at Rec Park. It would do a lot more harm than good, besides I believe in karma. Our group will be reaching.

34. 8/28/2022 From: Steve Krause sfksocial@outlook.com

Comment: Hello, Please do not eliminate any tennis courts at Recreation Park. All of these courts get used and usually there are people waiting. There are plenty of Pickleball courts now available in AH. Please preserve these courts. Regards, Steve

35. 8/28/2022 Valerie Prorok valhood@hotmail.com

Comment: Message: Please consider putting in 4 tennis courts at Rec Park. There is a short list of good tennis courts available for permit in the evenings. Rec park has ample room for more courts like Pioneer park. Thank you!

36. 8/28/2022 Bruce Swanson jbruceswanson@att.net

Comment: I too sent a message to the park district but the link on the flyer worked for me. However; I will be contacting each person mentioned on the flyer individually as well, voicing my displeasure and distain of losing a court.

I have attached what I found on the AHPD site regarding Rec Park future OSLAD plans and it definitely shows only 2 tennis courts. Very upsetting!! Plus, if Frontier Days does indeed continue (which is in doubt) these new plans seem to show it takes away most of the areas used for the 5 day festival. So I'm guessing if Frontier Days does survive, they'll move it to a different park.

I hope each one of you reach out to the board members and voice your displeasure with the elimination of a court. It looks like to me there is plenty of room to make 4 courts just like Pioneer. There's no way we'll be able to get a permit for both courts for Saturdays I'm assuming. (If you look closely, they want to have an area for 3 bag games near the tennis court. Why?) Bruce

37. 8/29/2022 From: Mick Brown mickbrown98@gmail.com

Comment: Hello Carrie, Maryfran, Brian, Robert & Tim,

I am contacting you regarding the park district's plan for Recreation Park. While I may like many of the improvements planned, I am disappointed by the idea that there is consideration on the staff and the boards behalf to reduce the number of tennis courts at Rec Park from 3 down to 2. Rec Park is my neighborhood park and I play tennis there weekly. Please add a court so that wait times are reduced. The tennis courts at Recreation Park are very popular (even though they are in such bad shape) and many days/times folks are waiting for a court to open up. If the number of courts are reduced, then this (waiting) will only increase and cause more problems. Contrary to the reduction in courts, I believe it would better serve (no pun intended) the parks interest to increase the number of courts to 4 - similar to Pioneer Park. This would help eliminate waiting times and will increase the number of people able to play, not decrease them. Many of the problems related to the 2 courts would go away if courts were double to 4 instead of 2.

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Thank you for reconsidering the direction that is taken with our courts, Cordially,
- Mick Brown

38. 8/29/2022 From: Russell J Daugerdas rdaugerdas@yahoo.com

Comment: Dear Ms. Carrie Fullerton: I was recently informed that the Village of Arlington Heights is considering some major renovations of REC park. While I fully support updating our parks, I am not supportive of reducing the number of tennis courts, which is currently part of the plan. I live next to REC park (on Hickory Ave), and the current tennis courts are always full during prime time playing. Reducing the tennis courts from 3 to 2 will only make it all that more difficult to play. Therefore, I believe the village should invest in more, not less, tennis courts, and improve the lighting and annual maintenance of the courts. There's currently large cracks on the courts and the lightning is a but antiquated. Please reconsider the current design and add more tennis courts to REC park. Thank you

39. 8/29/2022 From: Sally Shewmon sallyshewmon@aol.com

Comment: Hello, I also play tennis weekly at rec Park and I agree totally with Bruce. Rather than remove a court, I am hoping we could increase the number of courts to at least four or at a minimum resurface the three that are currently there.
Thank you

40. 8/29/2022 From: Kim Gilfillan kgilfil@cap.org

Comment: Recreation Park needs 4 tennis courts. Our tennis group has been using the courts for over 25 years. We have 39 players, most live in Arlington Heights. In addition to the items mentioned, please keep in mind we spent almost \$1,500 in permits this summer. To date, no repairs have been made to the tennis courts at Rec Park or Heritage Park. The cracks were repaired on 1 tennis court at Pioneer Park. I'd like to know where our money is going. The cracks are terrible at Pioneer Park and Heritage Park. In fact, on July 9th, while playing tennis at Rec, I tripped on a crack, and hit my head. Developed a floater in my right eye, have gone to the Ophthalmologist twice, and now require laser surgery. The Rec park courts and Heritage park courts need to be repaired now. We need 3 -4 courts at Rec Park to accommodate tennis lessons and tennis court summer permits. Thank you

41. 8/29/2022 From: Michelle Strahan michellestrahan4@hotmail.com

Comment: I am writing to express my concerns over hearing there is a possibility to reduce the amount of tennis courts at Rec Park. I play there often and courts are often crowded as it is with people waiting. This community is a tennis playing community and it would be short sighted planning to REDUCE the ability for people to gather and be athletic in our community. Please consider an alternative plan. Thank you.

42. 8/29/2022 From: Patty Colabuono pcolabuono@comcast.net

Comment: I'm so happy that you're applying for a grant to improve Recreation Park. I'm concerned, though, about the plans for the tennis courts. Is it true that instead of resurfacing the existing courts, the plan is to remove them and build two new courts? I can't understand how that would be a good use of the grant money. While the courts desperately need to be repaired, the location of the courts is fine. There is no reason to move them to a different area. Rec Park is an amazing and popular park. I play tennis there regularly and there are often people waiting for a court to open up. Reducing the number of courts would only make that worse.

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Please use our tax dollars and/or the grant money wisely. Add new lights and resurface the courts to make them safe. Sometimes the simplest solution is the best.

43. 8/29/2022 From: Sj Oreill coupon.susan@aol.com

Comment: Please do not reduce courts at Rec! If anything, please add more! We use it weekly.

44. 8/29/2022 From: Lynne Kellner kellner3boys@att.net

Comment: As an active member of a tennis league, I support the resurfacing of rec park courts to include all 3 courts!! Please continue with all 3 courts to provide the opportunity to play tennis or pickles to as many residents as possible. Even 4 courts would be useful!!! Thank you!!!

45. 8/29/2022 From: Bruce Swanson ibruceswanson@att.net

Comment: Hello Carrie (Maryfran, Brian, Robert & Tim),

I am a long time Arlington Heights resident (30+ years), multiple year Frontier Days volunteer (we "met" very briefly at the 4th of July parade this year, I was a parade marshal in your vehicle group) and an avid recreational tennis player.

I am contacting you regarding the park district's master plan for Recreation Park. While I may like many of the improvements planned, I deplore and detest the idea that there is consideration on the boards behalf to reduce the number of tennis courts at Rec Park from 3 down to 2. Rec Park is my neighborhood park and I play tennis there weekly.

The tennis courts at Recreation Park are very popular (even though they are in such bad shape) and many days/times folks are waiting for a court to open up. If the number of courts are reduced, then this (waiting) will only increase and cause more problems. Contrary to the reduction in courts, I believe it would better serve (no pun intended) the parks interest to increase the number of courts to 4 - similar to Pioneer Park. This would help eliminate waiting times and will increase the number of people able to play, not decrease them. Many of the problems related to the 2 courts would go away if courts were double to 4 instead of 2.

Perhaps you don't realize but tennis is growing rapidly in popularity by double digit percentages yearly.

Millions and millions and millions of people play tennis around the world and sometimes it seems like all of them are at Rec Park on a beautiful Saturday morning or a wonderful week day evening waiting for a court, lol - just kidding but it does get very busy at Rec at times. Fewer courts would only cause more frustration and anger. Would hate to see somebody get hurt (or worse) arguing over a court or playing time because there are fewer courts. Arguing is already going on with 3 courts. Do you see that being eliminated if reduced to 2 courts?

According to the Tennis Creative website:

Is Tennis a Popular Sport?

Yes, without a doubt, **tennis is a very popular sport**. In fact, approximately [87 million people play tennis](#) around the world. That's 1.17% of the world's population that plays tennis. [Tennis is one of the most watched sports on tv](#) and is widely accepted as **one of the most popular individual/non-team sports in the world**.

In fact, when analysing **Google Trends Data for tennis compared to other sports at a global level**, tennis appears to be ahead of many sports in terms of its search interest. As expected, major team sports such as

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football (soccer) and basketball are more popular, though **tennis appears to attract more overall interest than other individual** sports such as boxing, swimming and cycling.

With such an avid following and recreational tennis being more and more popular year after year, doesn't it make more sense to increase the number of tennis courts instead of reducing them? Don't you want to attract players to the park instead of alienating them? The amount of tennis players is growing - that's a fact, not declining! If you reduce the courts to 2, then you're providing (encouraging) overcrowding conditions in an era of "social distancing" concerns for some people. I feel you are under estimating the popularity and usage of the tennis courts at Rec Park.

According to an article in Forbes online magazine:

Tennis Participation Bounced Even Higher In 2021, Up 27.9% Since 2019

According to google:

Data from the Physical Activity Council's recent participation report, which monitors activity in more than 100 sports and activities, showed **tennis participation rose 22 percent in 2020**, with 21.6 million Americans saying they played the sport at least once. Mar 11, 2021

According to the USTA (United States Tennis Association):

Tennis is the perfect social-distancing sport—and the numbers continue to prove it. Tennis participation in the U.S. increased by 22% in 2020, with 21.64 million people hitting the courts, according to recent data from the Physical Activity Council's Participation (PAC) report produced by Sports Marketing Surveys. The survey and report monitor more than 120 different sports and activities participated in by Americans.

Of the more than 21 million Americans saying they played tennis last year, 6.78 million were either new or returning/lapsed players. Nearly 3 million of those were first-time players, a 44% increase over new players in 2019. Additionally, the 3.82 million Americans who returned to the sport after time away was a 40% increase over the same measure in 2019.

An excerpt from a June 17, 2021 article from the National Recreation and Park Association (perhaps you're familiar with this magazine?): [A recent study reveals the sport attracted 3 million new players in 2020](#)

While the U.S. Open is a perennial showcase for the world's best tennis players, the 2020 event also had put the world's best physical distancing sport in the spotlight. As one of the first major sporting events held following nationwide coronavirus (COVID-19) stay-at-home orders, the 2020 U.S. Open showcased — on the world's largest tennis stage — that the sport could indeed be played safely.

"When we proved to the world that we could have over 13,000 [COVID-19] tests and 99.97 percent of them were negative... I think we demonstrated that if you do it properly, tennis is absolutely a safe sport to play," says Michael Dowse, chief executive officer and executive director of the United States

Tennis by the Numbers

At the recreation level, activity throughout the past year suggests that people have taken to the sport during the pandemic, and the numbers confirm it. Annual data shows significant growth in racquet sales and tennis participation across the United States. Tennis participation in the country increased by 22 percent in 2020, with 21.64 million people hitting the courts, according to data from the Physical Activity Council's

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(PAC) [Participation Report](#) produced by Sports Marketing Surveys. The survey and report monitor more than 120 different sports and activities participated in by U.S. residents (see charts below).

Of the more than 21 million Americans who say they played tennis last year, 6.78 million were either new or returning players.

"We are thrilled that so many new and existing players came back to the sport — especially in what was such a challenging year for so many people," says Dowse. "These new participation numbers are a testament to the hard work, passion and commitment of a united industry that worked together to ensure that tennis not only survived, but also thrived.

"Even though we continue to face challenges, it's evident that many people recognize tennis as the ideal social-distancing sport, which puts it in a great position to continue to grow and allow people to stay active and social in a healthy and safe manner."

Tennis' positive health impacts are well-documented. The report, [Health of Tennis Industry 2020](#) published in the July 2020 edition of the *Journal of Medicine and Science in Tennis*, shows that those who play the sport have better general, physical, social and mental health than the general population.

"We are excited to see these positive trends and such significant growth in our sport," says Craig Morris, USTA chief executive, community tennis. "We are energized to continue putting forward key industry partnerships and quality programming to ensure new and existing players of all ages and abilities have the best experience playing the sport for a lifetime."

The Sport's Impact on Recreation

Self-contained facilities have been among those that are reaping the benefits of the boom. The courts were resurfaced in 2019 with the help of a \$20,000 USTA facility assistance grant and have been the cornerstone of a vibrant community. Since reopening in July 2020, the park has seen its courts full from morning to dusk, booked on a first-come, first-served basis.

"The community was so ready to get the courts up and running again," says Mohammad El-Haj Ahmad, president of the Fort Greene Tennis Association (FGTA), which has a 10-person board of volunteers that guides decision making, funding and scheduling for the tennis center.

Pre-pandemic, a line of 20 to 30 people would be a good turnout for a sunny weekend day, he explains. Now, they see upwards of 50 on a regular basis, and as many as 70 on busy days. "It was incredible to see how it went from nothing to full in just a few hours."

The Querbes Tennis Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, celebrated a grand reopening in late February 2020 after major renovations, aided by USTA grants. After just two weeks of play, the center shut down due to COVID-19. But any concerns about revenue loss were quickly diminished once it opened again in May 2020. This single, 11-court tennis club saw roughly 250 new players by year's end, including some 150 kids. In both July and August, more than 2,000 players took to the courts in Louisiana's northwest corner.

"It has really been a perfect storm," Chris Dudley, tennis director at Querbes Tennis Center, says of the combination of the brand-new facility and tennis' boom as a physical-distancing sport.

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Statistics show tennis is growing in popularity and a reduction in courts at Rec Park seems counterproductive and counterintuitive to me. When roads become congested and/or over crowded, they get expanded not reduced. When schools get overcrowded, school districts want to expand - just like school district 25 here in AH.

We have over 30 players (and growing) of various skill levels in our tennis group and we pay for permits for 2 courts at Rec and Pioneer Parks (about \$1,500) during the summer months. Our season runs from St. Patrick's Day weekend through Thanksgiving weekend so we use both parks A LOT! With so many players in our group, we need more courts not fewer courts.

I feel there is more than enough room for 4 courts under the new master plan from looking at the artist's rendering (attached). For one, the proposed parking lot could be altered a little to accommodate a few less cars (say 18 stalls instead of 22) and I don't see the need for an area for the bag toss games. If bags are that popular, perhaps move or relocate the bag games to the "future development" area (T) and maybe install or include some volleyball courts there too like at Heritage Park. Throw in a few bocce balls courts as well and be the first on the block to offer bocce ball, lol. Food for thought, adding new features instead of reducing a very popular one.

I/we ask that you please reconsider the reduction of tennis courts and instead please increase the number to 4. The reduction to 2 will effect a hell of a lot more people then you think! Let's increase, not decrease this vital park asset. 4 courts will help make Rec Park the crowning jewel that it is. Besides, the park district does provide various levels of tennis instruction. Where are all of these new and existing players gonna play? If you're gonna teach them to play tennis - don't you need more facilities for them to play on instead of less? In addition, courts used for instruction (per park district rules) take away from the number of courts needed/wanted for recreational tennis.

We all pay plenty of park district taxes and I appreciate you taking time to read this email and seriously ponder a different decision. Even resurfacing or redoing the current 3 courts would be a far better alternative then the reduction of courts. Thank you for your time, P.S. Maryfran, I too am a St. James parishioner (and PADS volunteer at St. James) Bruce Swanson

TENNIS PARTICIPATION GROWTH IN 2020



46. 8/30/2022 From: Chris Nisbet cnisbet@ahpd.org

Comment: I'm not sure where I should share my thoughts on the plans for Rec Park: the plans show only 2 tennis courts. AHPD has 40+ outdoor courts, I would agree that AHPD should eliminate a few, but not at a rec center and especially not at Rec Park. When the courts were eliminated at the ARC, AHPD lost a huge combo camp. I would recommend using the USTA Tennis Assessment in making this decision. The rec centers have the busiest courts.

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47. 8/30/2022 From: Doreen Watkinson watk1@comcast.net

Comment: Please keep a solo practice board against the fence in the tennis courts!! Thank you!

48. 8/30/2022 From: Anna Manova nyagolova@gmail.com

Comment: It is very sad and disturbing that the new Rec Park project intends to eliminate one of the tennis courts to put additional parking lots, which nobody needs. The existing parking lot is big and underused. On the contrary, the tennis courts are always occupied weather permitting. My husband and I usually get to play only after 9pm. This is why I would like to know if you plan to keep the lights on the tennis court, which are such a great asset to the tennis court! Also, the big wall in Rec Park is used often and is a valuable part of the tennis court. I do hope you keep these assets.

If the courts are reduced to 2, too many people will never get to play.

I remain hopeful that the designers would be kind enough to take into considerations the actual needs of the patrons and only add improvements to the park without taking away and destroying a valuable, favorite, and well-used part of Rec Park – its 3 tennis courts with lights and a big wall that help players improve their strokes.

49. 8/30/2022 From: Christine Muhr chrismuhr@comcast.net

Comment: Message: Dear Arlington Height Park District Board Executive Director and Commissioners, I am an Arlington Heights resident who attended Arlington and Prospect High Schools. I have been a teacher in School District 25 for 24 years. My husband and I have raised our three children in Arlington Heights and love our village! My parents and our married siblings also live in Arlington Heights. I have many friends here, and one of my favorite things to do is to play tennis.

I am writing because I think it is important for there to be three or four tennis courts built at Recreation Park when it is remodeled instead of only two. I could hardly believe it when I found out that the current plan is for the building of only two tennis courts. There have been three courts at Recreation Park for as long as I can remember, and these courts are very popular. I started playing tennis with several Arlington Heights neighbors about 15 years ago, and we have been playing mixed doubles tennis at Recreation Park every week ever since. We meet and play whenever the weather is above 50 degrees and dry, generally from May through November. We have an annual tradition of playing every year on Thanksgiving morning as our last session before winter. Our group has grown in numbers from around 10 to over 40 people. Not all 40 people show up to the tennis courts on any given day, but we often have close to 20 people drop in and play. We almost always need all 3 courts, and we play for two hours. The leader of our group sends out emails at least weekly.

In recent years, the tennis courts at Recreation Park and Pioneer Park have become so popular that we as a group have put a reserve on the courts through Heritage tennis club. It is nearly impossible to get the courts to play on unless we do that. The courts at Pioneer are extremely popular, and they are used by people consistently during the evenings and weekends. One reason for this is because there are 4 courts. When a group of people shows up, they know they will probably have a chance of getting a court.

Recreation Park is centrally located in Arlington Heights, and I am sure that if four courts were built, they would be popular and well-used by Arlington Heights residents. I play with other tennis groups as well, and it is very important to have at least three tennis courts. By only building two tennis courts, groups like ours would no longer be able to play. Two courts are not enough for us.

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Please let me know if you would like to meet in person to further discuss my recommendations. I would be incredibly disappointed if a renovation to Recreation Park decreases existing tennis options for its faithful residents. We absolutely need three or more courts. Please stop by the courts to see for yourself how popular they are! Thank you! Kindly, Christine Muhr, Arlington Heights resident since 1982

50. 8/31/2022 From: Robert Kuhn kuhn_10@hotmail.com

Comment: Message: Recently I saw a flyer at Recreation Park about reducing the number of tennis courts from 3 to 2. I do not think that is a good idea, as there are plenty of times when all 3 courts are full and there are people waiting to use a court. The courts at Green Slopes Park were recently re-done and are in great shape, but that reduced the number of tennis courts from 3 to 2, in order to make room for 2 pickle ball courts. Even Pioneer Park has people waiting to use a court, and there are 4 courts there. If anything, the village should add more tennis courts, not take some away. Please at least do not reduce the number of courts in the village. Thank you.

51. 8/31/2022 From: Kim Gilfillan kgilfil@cap.org

Comment: All – Please plan for 4 tennis courts at Recreation Park. In the past, when parks have been redesigned, we have lost tennis courts. The courts with lights are essential. When Pioneer Park was redesigned, we went from 5 courts to 4. Frontier went from 3 courts to 2. We have lost tennis courts at Greenslopes, Volz, and Dryden. Do you know there are actually fights/challenges over the courts? When was the last time you were at Pioneer Park on a weeknight? Or Recreation Park on a Saturday morning? The courts are packed, and no one wants to give up their courts at the top of the hour. We have tennis court permits and often get into verbal conflicts to gain access to our courts. Plus, the tennis courts generate revenue for the park district through permits and lessons. Arlington Heights Park District needs more lit outdoor tennis courts, not less. Thank you

52. 8/31/2022 From: Katelyn Stack chicagows1221@gmail.com

Comment: My kids and I use the practice board in the tennis courts a lot. Please put a practice singles board in the new tennis courts.

53. 8/31/2022 From: Jay Carpenter carpenterj80@yahoo.com

Comment: We like using the individual practice board in the tennis courts. Please put a practice board in the new courts! Thank you.

54. 8/31/2022 From: Bradley Carpenter bradcarpenter65@yahoo.com

Comment: Our family likes using the solo practice board in the tennis courts. Please put a solo board in the new courts! Thank you.

55. 8/31/2022 From: Larry Weiss larry.weisavnet@yahoo.com

Comment: we'd like to see a practice board in the new tennis courts for single players to practice. thanks

56. 8/31/2022 From: Jennifer Licato jennlicato@yahoo.com

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Comment: Hello, I would appreciate the park district considering keeping the tennis courts in tact at Recreation Park. There is plenty of street parking in the area and I feel the tennis courts with lights are more valuable to our community. Thank you.

57. 9/1/2022 From: Vicki Vassallo vickivassallo@yahoo.com

Comment: Please keep a solo practice board in the new tennis courts. Thank you!!

58. 9/2/2022 From: Melanie Nagy mnagy48114@gmail.com

Comment: Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Generally favorable, the plan eliminates 1 tennis court. Has a use study been conducted of tennis court usage in AH that supports this reduction? How recent is it? The change to 2 courts eliminates the use of Rec Park for tennis group with > 4 players as it will be unlikely to find 2 open courts at Rec during popular playing hours. The shade trees and backstop will also be missed. It is ironic that providing more onsite parking will actually reduce the need for it. If AHPD proceeds with this plan, please consider updates to the permit process and accessibility for all players. Recommendations: (1) allow groups of >8 players permits for 3 courts, (2) give larger groups of players reservation or access priority at remaining parks with 3 or more courts, (3) conduct park district lessons at 2 court locations only, and (4) create online reservation & access systems separate from permits so players can see open courts prior to showing up.

59. 9/2/2022 Gustavo Narez gustavonarez@gmail.com

Comment: Hello, I saw that there are plans to remove one tennis court at Rec Park. I would just like to voice my opinion. As a tennis enthusiast, one of the reasons I decided to move here is because the tennis courts are just one block from my place. I always see people enjoying playing tennis at these courts, so they are well utilized to have fun and doing exercise. I've seen lessons for kids and adults as well, and many times all three courts are booked. If one court is removed I think people will be affected negatively. For myself, knowing that there are only 2 courts and they will always be busy, and as someone that often plays tennis, will consider moving to somewhere else where I can practice more easily the sport that I love. I know there are other considerations for this plan, but I just wanted to respectfully express my opinion. Thank you

60. 9/2/2022 Kaloian Dantchev kaloian@yahoo.com

Comment: Please, do not reduce the number of tennis courts, unless you convert them into pickleball courts

61. 9/2/2022 Anna Manova nyagolova@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Meyer: Thank you so much for your time, work, and sincere care for the AHPD patrons.

I recently heard about the OSLAD capital project for Rec Park in Arlington Heights, the changes concerning the tennis courts and I am really concerned about the corresponding consequences for the tennis players (kids and adults) in the neighborhood.

Reducing the number of tennis courts when all tennis players in the neighborhood expect them to be increased is very disturbing! There are specific times when it is impossible to get a chance to play tennis. My husband and I often get to play after 9pm and this is the reason I would like to ask you if you are planning to keep the lights on our courts. They significantly increase the playing time on the courts. Another great asset that our tennis courts have and cannot be found in the other nearby courts is the big practice wall. You cannot do much on a small one, ours is perfect and I do hope you plan to keep it.

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I was sure that there was some really good reason for the decision to eliminate a tennis court in Rec Park but when I reviewed the design, I saw that the existing tennis courts must be moved and reduced to two to make space for creating 22 additional parking stalls. This really surprised me as the existing parking lot with 50 parking stalls, next to the tennis court, is always empty. There are numerous parking stalls along N Douglas Ave (there are no houses in that part of the street) which people like to use and thus leave the parking lot empty. On the other hand, the tennis courts are well-used and there are too many cases where you can wait for hours on end and still not get a chance to play tennis. Also, in the summer, Heritage Tennis Club always uses one of the tennis courts for their evening group lessons.

If you reduce the number of the tennis courts in Rec Park, it will leave all tennis players in the neighborhood very disappointed as, in reality, the chances to play tennis in Rec Park will be reduced even more. When we have to wait too long, we used to go to Lions Park in Mt prospect, where the tennis courts are eight, but last Friday, we did not have a chance to play there as well. All eight courts were busy all the time.

My family, like many others that we know, started playing tennis during the pandemic when everything else was closed and the options to stay active and healthy were limited. Team sports that do not require close contact are not too many and the isolation during the pandemic, as we all know, was a big issue. Tennis saved our mental and physical health during the pandemic. As I learned later it is one of the sports that are best for cardiovascular health.

I do hope it is important for all people involved in that project that they take into consideration the actual needs of the patrons and when planning the improvements in Rec Park, make sure they do not take away and destroy assets that are immensely treasured, enjoyed and currently greatly appreciated by the patrons.

I remain hopeful that the design of the project would be revised and the open spaces usage in Rec Park would be optimized so that our most treasured assets that could not be found in the other nearby parks – three tennis courts with lights and a big practice wall - are kept and taken care of. Respectfully yours, Anna Manova

62. 9/3/2022 Patrick Schreck schreck2@gmail.com

Comment: My family is excited about the potential for Rec Park renovations. We live across the street from the playground, and are hopeful that the park will remain focused on serving the immediate neighborhood by continuing to offer AHPD programming in the main building, including the preschool. We also encourage the PD to retain three tennis courts, and look into alternate parking options rather than the proposal for a new lot where the current courts are. Designating accessible parking on Belmont might help provide the necessary handicap accessible spots for the new playground while also reducing the number of parked cars causing congestion on Belmont and often making it difficult to cross the street safely. We urge the PD to consider renovating while also RETAINING what we have, because we love Rec Park.

63. 9/3/2022 Bruce Swanson jbruceswanson@att.net

Comment: It was nice speaking with you Friday, appreciate the call and taking time out of your schedule to communicate and clarify some of the issues with the Rec Park renovations. You mentioned you'd try to sit down with Carrie next week and kinda try to come up with some sort of summation or recap of our conversation and then maybe post it on the park district website as general information as many people have voiced their concerns or questions too and/or send me some sort of recap that I can share with "my peeps".

As I told you, I really like all the proposed improvements to Rec Park but a reduction in tennis courts would be a severe blow. After speaking with you, I can tell the addition of a 4th court would probably be unrealistic if the park district is trying to reduce the overall number of tennis courts park district wide. However, I feel keeping 3 courts at a popular park is not only necessary but is the right thing to do with the high volume of use

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those/these courts get. Currently, we normally have at least one verbal confrontation or altercation a month at Rec.

This morning, Saturday, there were 18 of us at Rec Park playing tennis so we played on all 3 courts and still had 6 people waiting to rotate in. Let me explain something. With our group of about 35 players, not everybody shows up all the time but it's not unusual to have double digit players. We do not play matches or sets but rather play only 1 game at a time and rotate players in and out after each game, everyone gets to play that way. There have been many occasions where we have filled all 4 courts at Pioneer Park and still had several folks waiting to rotate in. Because of the amount of players we have, we pay a lot of money for permits for 2 courts at Pioneer and 2 courts Rec Parks so we are guaranteed courts to play on. Even with the 2 reserved courts at each park we still have many players waiting to rotate in.

If Rec Park reduces courts down to 2 then I'm afraid our group would no longer be able to play there, just wouldn't be enough room to accommodate our numbers/size. We would be displaced and forced to find courts elsewhere, either in AH or neighboring towns. That would be a shame after playing at Rec for many, many, many years. I look forward to your and Carrie's "summation". Thanks again for the phone conversation. Bruce

64. 9/4/2022 Navid Varjavandi varjavandi@gmail.com

Comment: It was concerning to read that there's some thought of reducing the tennis courts from 3 to 2. These courts are some of the most convenient and provide recurring opportunity for local residents that you can witness on many occasions day or night. I would offer any commissioner taking a ride past and see themselves. The only other courts are over a mile and a half away at green slopes and lacks the close in parking and lighting that Rec park offers. Please reconsider this plan, it's a well used facility and provides recreation while kids swim, play ball or any other activities. It would seem better to focus more funds on improving the field house and pool lockers which are in much more need of repair and remodeling.

65. 9/5/2022 Steve Letzig sletzig@yahoo.com

Comment: Removing tennis courts for a parking lot seems absurd! I would imagine the majority of visitors to Rec Park walk as it is a community park. Oftentimes when I go to play tennis I have to wait for a court. Reducing the number of courts for an unnecessary parking lot seems like a complete waste of taxpayer dollars. Every time I'm there I see a large empty parking lot between the ball field and the pool. Not sure who or what is driving this but clearly it is not in the best interest of the Rec Park community.

9/5/2022 Comment: (to Board of Commissioners) Steve Letzig

Message: In regards to the rec park tennis courts, reducing the number of courts and adding a parking lot seems like an absurd waste of taxpayer dollars. Every time I am at the park I stare at an empty parking lot between the ball field and the pool. I also have to wait for tennis courts quite often. I'm not sure who or what is driving this decision but it certainly does not seem to be in the best interest of the Rec Park community. Most people who visit the park walk!

66. 9/5/2022 Larisa Basa basa_larisa@yahoo.com

Comment: Please do not move this tennis court to make a parking lot. There is an empty parking lot right next to the pool. We love having the tennis courts next to the playground so that our younger children can use the playground while we play tennis. Please don't move the tennis courts.

67. 9/5/2022 Ben Mitchell benmitch@icloud.com

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Message: I think that removing a tennis court is a bad idea. They are constantly being used and there is almost always a wait. Removing a court would amplify this. Members of the prospect tennis team regularly meet to play one another at the tennis courts, Leaving one additional court open and with 2 this wouldn't be possible. Whenever I'm at the courts (almost daily) I see a parking that that is out of shape, but that could be used instead of a new one that removes a tennis court.

68. 9/6/2022 The following comments were shared between tennis players in a group chat. Both Carrie Fullerton and Ben Rea were copied on the conversations between players: Bruce Swanson, Kim Gilfillan, Carter Black, Sally Shewman, Patty Colabugno, and Robert Levin.

Comment:

On Mon, Sep 5, 2022 at 4:37 PM Kim Gilfillan (s) <kgilfil@cap.org> wrote:

Thanks for looking into this. I would think Arlington Heights would want to be above the standard, not just at average levels. They keep telling us what a great park district this is, and what a great village this is. Plus, in their number count are they looking into the number of lit courts, or locations with multiple courts? Yes, I agree they are being lazy, When has anyone come out to see how busy Rec park courts are on a Saturday morning, or how busy Pioneer Park is on a weeknight. Frankly, I am tired of throwing players off the courts that we have permits for. Kim Gilfillan

From: Carter Black <blackcarter2021@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 5, 2022 1:21 PM

To: Sally Shewmon <sallyshewmon@aol.com>

CC: Patty Colabuono <pcolabuono@comcast.net>; Robert Levin <rltabletennis1@gmail.com>; Bruce Swanson <jbruceswanson@att.net>; Ann McCollum <harryjoe@comcast.net>; Bob Kuhn <kuhn_10@hotmail.com>; Craig Cinotto <craig0417@gmail.com>; Christine Muhr <chrismuhr@comcast.net>; Chris Yacu <cyacu@inttb.com>; Dorothy Kula <dotich79@gmail.com>; Dejan Zivancevic <zivancevic@gmail.com>; Henry Eng <heng0@yahoo.com>; Jay Ilig <jay.ilg@att.net>; Jim Coogan <jimcoogan@aol.com>; Jeremy Brooks <jbrooks_il@hotmail.com>; Jon Adam <mrjonadam@gmail.com>; Johanri Gerber <johanri@gmail.com>; Josephine Price <jopuglia@hotmail.com>; Jill Daugerdas <jdaugerdas@yahoo.com>; Kim Gilfillan (s) <kgilfil@cap.org>; Lisa Lewis <lisa.lewis1919@icloud.com>; Lucy Radon <lucyradon@sbcglobal.net>; Lynne Kellner <kellner3boys@att.net>; Michelle Pilpauskas <mchprls@sbcglobal.net>; Michelle Strahan <michellestrahan4@hotmail.com>; Mick Brown <mickbrown98@gmail.com>; Melanie Nagy <mnagy48114@gmail.com>; Olivia Szwedo <olivia.szwedo@live.com>; Ed Walsh <ed@panzerinc.com>; Rick Esposito <rickesposito@comcast.net>; Russ Daugerdas <rdaugerdas@yahoo.com>; Steve Krause <sfsksocial@outlook.com>; Steve Mazzoni <steve@mazzonicpa.com>; Stanton Simon <ssimon52250@gmail.com>; Susan Ripka <sjoripka@aol.com>; Valerie Prorok <valerie.prorok@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Rec Park renovations/tennis courts

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I am going to research towns around us and courts per resident. I think relying on a standard is lazy. Let me see what I can find out. I play in Glenview at Cole park. It is better than any in AH and they just dug it up b/c it was not up to standards. Hmmm

On Sat, Sep 3, 2022 at 8:34 PM Sally Shewmon <sallyshewmon@aol.com> wrote:

I agree – thank you so much Bruce! You have done an awesome job! I appreciate all your time and effort with this!

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 3, 2022, at 8:23 PM, Patty Colabuono <pcolabuono@comcast.net> wrote:

I agree, Carter. Thanks so much for the time and thought you've put into this, Bruce. You rock!

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On Sep 3, 2022, at 6:54 PM, Carter Black <blackcarter2021@gmail.com> wrote:

Bruce, you should be a journalist. I wonder if this formula is true and where did it come from? We need to look into that reasoning. THANKS FOR YOU INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM THEY DO GIVE PULITZERS OUT IN THE SPRING CB

On Sat, Sep 3, 2022 at 8:41 AM Robert Levin <rltabletennis1@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you for keeping us posted!

On Fri, Sep 2, 2022 at 11:02 PM Bruce Swanson <jbruceswanson@att.net> wrote:

Hello all, I had a pleasant and informative conversation with Ben Rea (Director of Parks and Planning) this morning and I was able to voice our concerns about the proposed 2 courts and was able to gather some information from "their" side to try to understand the reasoning in the court reduction.

First, Ben said they (the park district) have received about 57 emails so far concerning Rec Park and have been forwarding them to the board. He said the board is well aware of interests in general, not just the tennis courts but the renovation in general. Second, he is working closely with Carrie Fullerton, Executive Director, concerning issues with the courts. Third, this project is still just in the "concept stage" and is far from anything written in stone or finalized and they (the board) is more than willing to listen to concerns and thoughts. They are not opposed to keeping 3 courts or adding a 4th but more on that later in the email.

Ben did bring up some points that explained "the why" or the thought process or the reasons behind the reduction of courts from 3 to 2.

Oddly enough, the reduction in courts is not solely based on money or cost (even though it is a concern and a factor) but rather based more on overall park aesthetics and inclusivity. By that he means is one area of concern is making the playground more inclusive and accessible so those in wheelchairs or walkers can have easier access. In addition, they want to have a central corridor (walking path) running east to west that cuts the park in half, allowing better access to the western edge of the park from the eastern parking lot. They want to open up the park more and allow ease of movement from parking lot to parking lot. (That fits in with the other pathways they want around the park) The east parking lot is going to be the main parking lot for the park.

They want to put in a small parking lot next to the playground for a couple of reasons. One, to make handicap parking and general parking available for the playground and that area of the park. Two, to ease street parking which leads into reason three and that is hopefully open up better site lines to perhaps prevent any kids from running in between cars and out into the street and getting hit by a car. So it's a convenience factor and a potential safety issue.

Because they want to put the parking lot next to the playground where the tennis court are currently the courts would be moved south a little bit but are restricted in open real estate because of the land owner (lot 10 on the drawing). If he is ever willing to sell, the park district is willing to listen but until then nothing.

Here's where it gets interesting and probably our biggest road block or obstacle.....too many tennis courts already in existence in Arlington Heights! Yup, you heard me right. According to Ben, they have too many courts per capita according to the NRPA, National Recreation and Park Association (of which they are a card

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carrying member). Currently there are 43 tennis courts available within the park district limits and that's including the ones they have already re-configured or reduced (i.e. Green Slopes) to include pickle ball courts. According to the NRPA and their "rules" or guidelines, a town/city the size/population of Arlington Heights should have 37.5 courts. Again, according to Ben, that figure of 37.5 courts is based on 1 court for every 5,000 people. How the NRPA came up with that ratio, he doesn't know.

So, as it stands now, Arlington Heights has 6 more tennis courts than they should have and the park district wants or "prefers" to "slim down" close to that 37-38 number. Guess what? That's why they reduced the courts from 3 down to 2 - to help eliminate an "access" court and help get closer to 37-38. However, like I said, Ben did say the park district is not totally opposed to having/keeping 3 courts but adding a 4th would probably not gonna fly. Adding a court when they are already over the NRPA's "quota" seems highly unlikely unless they do major cuts somewhere else. (ya, right)

Another issue we're going up against is of course money. It's not necessarily the cost to build 3 new courts (or add a 4th), it's the upkeep and maintenance down the road a few years that they have to be cautious about. All the courts in Arlington Heights have issues and the board is trying to do their due diligence spending money as evenly and effectively as possible on every park - not just tennis courts. 2 courts are "cheaper" to maintain in the future than 3 basically.

He said the tennis courts at Rec were built so long ago (1930's?) and were shoddily built (the substructure) and that's why cracks, paint problems, etc. redevelop after only a year or two. Unless the courts are destroyed and rebuilt, the park district will always have this dilemma (it's the problem or cause at all the parks that are severely "damaged"). Not to say the new courts won't have issues, they'll just be better built (within code so to speak) and maintenance issues should be less. They aren't gonna spend a lot of money now on courts that are destined to be destroyed in a few years. Any work to be done or is being done is basically for aesthetics only and not meant for major repair.

Ben told me that the cost to color coat Rec tennis courts (they're currently in the process) was/is \$100,000. He says the park district bids out all construction/repair work.

After talking with Ben, it is my opinion that the amount of courts already in existence in Arlington Heights (43) is our toughest and biggest roadblock to overcome, not necessarily money - but finances are definitely in play (maintenance mostly). Sounded like the park district is pretty much set on court reductions to get down to NRPA's guidelines. However, I also feel if we make our case strong enough (and others do too) - keeping 3 courts is a possibility. Adding a 4th is probably pie in the sky regardless of popularity or crowded conditions but as of now it seems it could still be on the table (probably close to the edge of the table, close to falling off).

We are allowed to attend a board meeting of course and express our views. However, (like Mick said) the board may not give any response or go into discussions at that time. We'd have limited time to speak (a few minutes) and the board most likely would not address each one of us individually but rather give a general response (if any) to the group after.

As I mentioned, the board is hearing us (and others). Ben said he'll speak with Carrie Fullerton next week because there is such a large number of responses/emails and see if they can't come up with some sort of

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"recap" or summation of our conversation and post information on the reason on why the reduction of courts to 2 on their website and/or forward something to me to pass along to all of you.

We have a chance, not quite slim to none but less than 50/50 I'd say. The fact the park district is "overcrowded" with tennis courts it's gonna be an uphill battle no doubt. Maintenance expense for "more" courts is a big factor too but the total number of courts is the biggest factor. Apparently they take the NRPA's guidelines pretty seriously. In the meantime, please continue to email Carrie Fullerton at: cfullerton@ahpd.org or email Ben at: brea@ahpd.org

More as I find out. Bruce

P.S. FYI, he did say they did indeed replaced the lights/bulbs at Rec tennis courts so it wasn't our imagination that the courts seemed brighter, lol. He also said the light fixtures are so old, LED bulbs were not possible to install (seems strange).

69. 9/6/2022 Brady Watkinson bwatk97@gmail.com

Comment: Please, please, PLEASE keep the Tennis Courts!! Me and my family go so much and with losing one it'll be much harder! Also, the outdoor basketball courts need a LOT of work done. Cracks on the blacktop, rust on the backboards and rim, PLEASE keep our outdoor environment the same!!

70. 9/7/2022 Ron Cimo roncimo@gmail.com

Comment: 1. Are the tennis courts going to be lighted?

2. Is only the inside of the Rec park building going to be renovated for the new bathhouse so the architectural integrity of the outside structure will remain intact?

71. 9/9/2022 Valentina Dancheva valentina.dancheva@gmail.com

Comment: I'm very unsatisfied with the decision to reduce the tennis courts. There is lack of tennis courts in this area so the people who are tennis players need more opportunities to play. Please open some new tennis courts with lights, we need them to keep our kids active and to be able to practice tennis with no limit. Thanks!

72. 9/13/2022 Kaia Manova kaiatmanova@gmail.com

Comment: Hello, I'm an 8th grader in Arlington Heights that loves spending my evenings after school at the tennis courts at Rec Park. Normally, on a weekday, I have to wait at least 30 minutes for an available court. So, I was really sad when I found out that one of the tennis courts is going to be removed. A lot of my classmates want to play tennis every day but leave after waiting for too long. If the tennis courts were reduced to 2, the waiting time would get even longer. Everyone in my grade has a lot of extracurricular activities after school, as well as tons of homework. We manage to fit one hour for playing time in our schedule but end up playing for 15 minutes. We all enjoy tennis so much! It makes us happy and gets us moving, but we would love if that wait time could be shortened! Rec Park is the only park nearby with a practice wall, which we all use everyday to improve our skills. Everyone would be forever thankful if you could keep the third tennis court and the big practice wall!

73. 9/13/2022 Alex Manova alextmanova@gmail.com

We have so much fun and memories on the tennis courts!!! We have played all day from noon to sunset. Having lights and a giant wall is key, I can practice my tennis hits. A few times my family went to the tennis courts to play. For the next 2 hours we couldn't get in. There are so many people they are already having to wait. By taking away one court it will

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only make the waits longer. We won't be able to play tennis when it's dark. Please consider the fact of how much people use the courts. -Alex M

74. 9/19/2022 Kathy Scheiner kathy.scheiner@sbcglobal.net

Comment: Supposedly there is a survey about Rec improvements? What is the link?

75. 9/19/2022 John Petrovski JPetrovski212@gmail.com

Comment: Pickle Ball is the current rage - any plans to install some pickle ball courts??

76. 9/19/2022 Christine Petrovski Christine.ziegenfuss@gmail.com

Comment: My suggestion would be to add pickle ball courts.

77. 9/20/2022 Nicholas Petrovski npetrov3@gmail.com

Comment: I think pickle ball courts would be more useful, especially compared to a bag toss game where you either bring your own bags or the bags go missing.

78. 9/19/2022 Mrs. Valerie Prorok valhood@hotmail.com

Message: Thank you for considering the interests of the residents and allowing input for the Recreation Park remodel plan. I am thrilled to hear the plans are still under construction. Are the plans open to having 4 courts and lights like Pioneer park? It would be great to see a plan for Pickleball courts there as well. The courts at Greenslopes are always busy and it is disappointing that there are no lights. I don't understand what the "bags area" is for. Is that where people are supposed to bring their own cornhole games? I'm not sure that needs to be "planned space" as people typically set up anywhere there is green space. Thanks again!

79. 9/19/2022 Mrs. Susan Ripka sjoripka@aol.com

Message: Thank you for sharing the tennis court and park designs for the Rec Park plans. I urge you to consider 4 tennis courts as they are used so much - especially at night with the lights. I would also ask you to reconsider the bags/bean bag toss and fitness areas. I would propose bocce ball or pickle ball instead. Rarely (if at all) do I see anyone using the outdoor fitness area or bag toss. I believe these are outdated ideas and the space would be better utilized. Thank you.

80. 9/20/2022 Christine Muhr chrismuhr@comcast.net

Message: Dear Park District Board Members, I enjoyed attending the board meeting last week. I truly appreciate how the board listened to the concerns of community members by making plans for three tennis courts at Recreation Park. I hope the board will also consider a fourth court to accommodate larger groups like my tennis group and the high levels of demand for usage. As the board considers various options, I hope that beanbag toss games and the fitness equipment will be eliminated. I don't think these are popular or good use of space. To help with the new parking lot concerns, maybe the tennis courts can be moved to the east field. This might be an ideal spot for four courts. Lastly, I hope the board will save the mature, tall trees that provide shade and beauty. Each tree is a living thing that has been growing for many years, and in my opinion is more valuable than the new features being brought into the park. Please research what may cause damage to roots of trees. Thank you.

81. 9/20/2022 Janet Oettrivski jpetrovski@aol.com

Comment: PickleBall courts. Less bag toss courts. Bike racks

82. 9/24/2022 Tanny Weisgram tannyweisgram@comcast.net

Comment: We do NOT want REC pool changed. The changing room water is better than pioneer. NO laps to swimming (children jump into the lap lanes) Lifeguards do not watch them. Baby swimming class should be held in

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wadding and/or NO depth pool...Pioneer has larger wading pool than REC. LAP + deep water swimmers were thrown out because of BM from this class. Lap swimmers breathe this water. The mother was laughing that her child did drop the BM...at Rec pool. Rec should charge for : A)aerobic class -lappers do NOT require teachers + paraphernalia bought by [ARC.@](#)) Those who paid for summer should NOT be able to swim in extended time in Sept. I hear you complain you have NO lifeguards however you do NOT charge the se hanger ons..+ YOU made money from charging aerobics in the past. Aerobic class have the choice times-THAT IS NOT FAIR since they do NOT pay more than swimmers. 3) our children enjoyed the sliding board in the children's room. You should be using BABY pool NOT WELLness -not diapers.

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park



Community Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Date: August 24, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: Arlington Heights Park District
410 N Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois

RE: Recreation Park OSLAD Grant

Name

E-mail (optional)

Kathleen Gabriel	KGabriel@wideopenwest.com
Barbara Watts	bk watts 83@gmail.com
Andrew Koller	AKOLLER55@yahoo
Ben Caputo	bcaputo99@comcast.net
John Clarkson	jclarkson14DD@gmail.com
Linda/Alex Lokun	lindalokun@yahoo.com
Laura Reed	reedreed@hotmail.com
Doug Reed	dougreed3579@gmail.com
Nick Minella	Minella.Nick@yahoo.com
Erica Minella	Erica Pense@hotmail.com
MADALINA IVAN	MADALINAIVAN1@YAHOO.COM
Marian Meinhart	maisy413@gmail.com
Mrs. Schmidt	222 Silk Street
Julius Symanski	julius.symanski@stfrancis.edu
JASON NEUER	neuer@comcast.net



Community Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Date: August 24, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: Arlington Heights Park District
410 N Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois
RE: Recreation Park OSLAD Grant

Name	E-mail (optional)
Matt Miford	mymiford@gmail.com
Katie Roberts	keyoung1@gmail.com
The Potsch Family	potschfamily@gmail.com
Alison McLaughlin	a.mclaughlin@comcast.net
Charles McLaughlin	charlemclaughlin@comcast.net
Ryan McLaughlin	R.mclaughlin12@comcast.net
KEVIN MORIKADO	KEVINMORIKADO@GMAIL.COM
Kevin Bradley	Kbradley68@sbcglobal.net
Patricia Schroeder	patricia.casper@gmail.com
JOHN SCHROEDER	JOHN@SCHROEDER.ME
Jean Borrell	jborrell@hotmail.com
Todd Mitchell	todd.mitchell@netzero.com
Paul Mocer	paul.mocer@gmail.com
Michelle Mocer	michelle.mocer@gmail.com
Adam Eichorn	age557@gmail.com
Myles Whiteblom	mwhiteblom@hotmail.com



Community Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Date: August 24, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Location: Arlington Heights Park District
410 N Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois

RE: Recreation Park OSLAD Grant

Name	E-mail (optional)
MAGN VANDOLIK	
Douglas Feshing	Andrew.feshing@gmail.com
MARINETTE/JOAN FREDERICKS	JOHN.FREDERICKS@BOS.COM
"	MAR@GIFTBANDIT.COM
Tim Burge	tburge@yahoo.com
Paul Petricca	paulpetricca@gmail.com
Tommy Petricca	twed@qancast.net
Skyl Ottolino	aottobilly@gmail.com
Paul Ottolino	abarbbilly@gmail.com
Jim Lutz	112 N. Pine Ave
Elaine + Pat Schreck	elaine.petricca@gmail.com
Katie Bonk	Katie.zonk@gmail.com
CLAIRE YOUNG	cm171500002.com
Anne Young	a.young1221@yahoo.com
Lilly Kephart	lillykephart@gmail.com
Jen Kovach	

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park



Community Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Date: August 24, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: Arlington Heights Park District
410 N Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois
RE: Recreation Park OSLAD Grant

Name	E-mail (optional)
Mike Turner	
Je Perry	permy.joe@concrete
Brian Forrest	Brian.E.Forrest@gmail.com
Mark Hartmann	MiHMuse@AOL.COM
Pat Hartmann	Patann1@aol.com
Lauren O'Donnell	lauren.nat173@gmail.com
James O'Donnell	jboodonia@gmail.com
Anjali Bagar	anjali.kumard@yahoo.com
Jennifer Kim	jbe jbe Kim@gmail.com
James Kim	James Kim 3210@gmail.com
GREG SIMMONS	GREG.SIMMONS@cent.com
Jonathan Wit	
Laure Wit	
NATHAN HIRSCH	
John Hayes	mahayes206@gmail.com

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
ROOM 121A
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: 217/782-4471



DISTRICT OFFICE:
171 W. WING ST. • SUITE 202
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60005
PHONE: 847/749-1880

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
ANN GILLESPIE
SENATOR • 27TH DISTRICT

August 29, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter supporting the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The current amenities at the park are in need of updating. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase the natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, add a new accessible parking lot to service the playground, two new replacement tennis courts, provide two shelters and lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations. I fully support their effort to improve the park and its facilities.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000, and will cover the cost of the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000, and the proposed projects will not be done without it. Part of this grant will be used to build the park district's first completely inclusive playground. Inclusive playgrounds are essential to the well-being of our communities, families, and children. Inclusive playgrounds allow children with disabilities to participate fully in play, building stronger bonds with their peers and their wider community. I strongly urge you to consider this worthwhile and much-needed funding request.

SOYBEAN INKS

Hitchcock Design Group

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park



If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Gillespie".

Ann Gillespie

State Senator (IL-27)

847-749-1880

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CAPITOL OFFICE:
200-8S STRATTON OFFICE BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
(217) 782-3739

DISTRICT OFFICE:
171 W. WING STREET
SUITE 202
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60005
(847) 749-1137



COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS - CHAIRPERSON
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & EQUITY
INSURANCE
REVENUE & FINANCE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE &
COMMERCE - VICE CHAIR

MARK L. WALKER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 53RD DISTRICT

August 26, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter strongly supporting the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The current amenities at the park are in need of updating. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase the natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, add a new accessible parking lot to service the playground, two new replacement tennis courts, provide two shelters and lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations. I fully support their effort to improve the park and its facilities.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000, and will cover the cost of the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000. This grant will help meet the needs of our community's young people by offering accessible activity options. I strongly urge you to consider this worthwhile and much needed funding request.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark L. Walker".

Mark L. Walker
State Representative
District 53

SOYBEAN INKS

Hitchcock Design Group

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park

43 HIGHWOOD AVE
HIGHWOOD, IL 60040
(847) 945-5200

108 B STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
(217) 782-3650



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

LEADER JULIE A. MORRISON

STATE SENATOR • 29th DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION
ETHICS
HEALTH APPROPRIATIONS- CHAIR
HEALTH- CHAIR
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
SPECIAL ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE- CHAIR
STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT APPROPRIATIONS

August 30, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park.

The current amenities at the Park are in need of updating. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase the natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, a new accessible parking lot to service the playground, two new replacement tennis courts, provide two shelters, lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000 and will cover the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000 and the proposed projects cannot be done without it. I strongly urge to consider this worthwhile and much needed funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Morrison".
Julie A. Morrison
State Senator, 29th District

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
3153 DUNDEE ROAD
NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS 60062
847-279-5199
847-377-9497 FAX



SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
731-LE STRATION BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217-558-1004

JONATHAN D. CARROLL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
57TH DISTRICT

August 25, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter strongly supporting the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The *current amenities at the park* are in need of an update. Among the additions listed below, this grant will replace a skate park that was removed in 2017. It will also increase the foliage, provide two shelters, lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations. The addition of particular consequence will be the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities. I fully support their effort to improve the park and its facilities.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000, and will cover the cost of the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000, and the proposed projects will not be done without it. Parks are a public good and this grant will provide for a more robust and inclusive experience for the citizens of Arlington Heights and the 57th District. I strongly urge you to consider this worthwhile and much needed funding request.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Carroll", is written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Carroll
State Representative
Illinois' 57th Representative District

SOYBEAN INKS

Hitchcock Design Group

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park

Springfield Office:
108 E. State House
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-3875

Illinois State Senator



Laura M. Murphy
Deputy Majority Leader
State Senator 28th District

District Office:
1645 S. River Road, Suite 7
Des Plaines, IL 60018
(847) 718-1110
(847) 718-1118

August 25th, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter strongly supporting the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The current amenities at the park are in need of updating. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase the natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, add a new accessible parking lot to service the playground, two new replacement tennis courts, provide two shelters and lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations. I fully support their effort to improve the park and its facilities.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000, and will cover the cost of the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000, and the proposed projects will not be done without it. This grant will provide opportunity for youth in the community to have a safe place to meet and play after school hours and on weekends. I strongly urge you to consider this worthwhile and much needed funding request.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laura M. Murphy".

State Senator Laura Murphy - 28th District

www.SenatorLauraMurphy.com

SOYBEAN INKS

Hitchcock Design Group



Village of Arlington Heights

33 South Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005-1499
(847) 368-5000
Website: www.vah.com

Thomas W. Hayes
Mayor

August 25, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter strongly supporting the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The current amenities at the park are in need of updating. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase the natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, add a new accessible parking lot to service the playground, two new replacement tennis courts, provide two shelters and lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations. I fully support their effort to improve the park and its facilities.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000, and will cover the cost of the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000, and the proposed projects will not be done without it. This grant will facilitate additional recreational opportunities for our citizens with disabilities and help us fulfill our obligation to meet the needs of all of our residents. Accordingly, I strongly urge you to consider this very worthwhile and much needed funding request.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas W. Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas W. Hayes
Mayor



Village of Arlington Heights

33 South Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005-1499
(847) 368-5000
Website: www.vah.com

September 9, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter strongly supporting the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The current amenities at the park are in need of updating. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase the natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, add a new accessible parking lot to service the playground, two new replacement tennis courts, provide two shelters and lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations. I fully support their effort to improve the park and its facilities.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000, and will cover the cost of the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000, and the proposed projects will not be done without it. I strongly urge you to consider this worthwhile and much needed funding request.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Sincerely,

Alice Son

ason@ahml.info / 847-506-2668

Arlington Heights Youth Commission, Chair

Hitchcock Design Group



We exist to provide outstanding opportunities through recreation for children and adults with disabilities.

August 18, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The Arlington Heights Park District proudly represents the citizens with disabilities in Arlington Heights through their partnership with Northwest Special Recreation Association and their continued commitment to supporting access to recreation for everyone regardless of ability.

The current amenities at the park need updating. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase the natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, add a new accessible parking lot to service the playground, two new replacement tennis courts, provide two shelters and lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000, and will cover the cost of the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000, and the proposed projects cannot be done without this support. I am so very excited to learn of the Park District's plan to renovate Recreation Park, making it the only inclusive playground with a new accessible parking lot, in Arlington Heights meeting the mission of NWSRA. (We exist to provide outstanding recreation for children and adults with disabilities throughout the northwest suburbs of Chicago.) This project reflects our mutual commitment to all residents of our community regardless of ability. The playground and Skate Park will be a lasting example of true inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the Rolling Meadows Community. Therefore, we desire your approval of the Arlington Heights Park District's grant application.

I strongly urge you to consider this worthwhile and much needed funding request.

An association of the local park districts serving

Arlington Heights • Bartlett • Buffalo Grove • Elk Grove • Hanover Park • Hoffman Estates • Inverness • Mount Prospect
Palatine • Prospect Heights • River Trails • Rolling Meadows • Salt Creek • Schaumburg • South Barrington • Streamwood • Wheeling

3000 West Central Road, Suite 205 • Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 • VOICE 847/392-2848 • FAX 392-2870 • TTY 392-2855 • www.nwsra.org

Hitchcock Design Group

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracey Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tracey" being more prominent than the last name "Crawford".

Tracey Crawford
Executive Director



- **Teamwork:** Support each other and work together
- **Respect:** Be open, honest and kind
- **Enthusiasm:** Exceed expectations
- **Collaboration:** Combine resources to achieve common goals
- **Communication:** Listen, share and adapt



To be a leading force,
creating greater
options that enrich the
life experience of the
participants, families and
communities we serve

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park



August 29, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter on behalf of the Arlington Heights Park Foundation, which strongly supports the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The current amenities at the park need upgrades. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, add parking for individuals using the playground, provide a picnic shelter, replace the aged but much used tennis courts, improve the walking path, and add outdoor fitness stations. All of which support the mission of the Park Foundation. The Foundation fully supports the districts effort to improve the park and its facilities.

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000, and the proposed projects will not be done without it. This grant will provide funding for our oldest and most beloved park that is the pinnacle for our 4th of July festivities, Frontier Days. The Foundation strongly urges you to consider this worthwhile and much needed funding request. In fact, the Foundation understands the importance of this project and has unanimously voted to contribute \$200,000 towards the fully inclusive playground.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Sincerely,

Carol Gabrielsen, President
Arlington Heights Park Foundation

420 N. Arlington Heights Rd. | Arlington Heights, IL 60004 | P: 847.577.3008 | F: 224.425.4534 | ahparkfoundation.org

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park



1929 N KENNICOTT DR., ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60004

August 18, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter strongly supporting the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The current amenities at the park are in need of updating. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase the natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, add a new accessible parking lot to service the playground, two new replacement tennis courts, provide two shelters and lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations. I fully support their effort to improve the park and its facilities.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000, and will cover the cost of the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

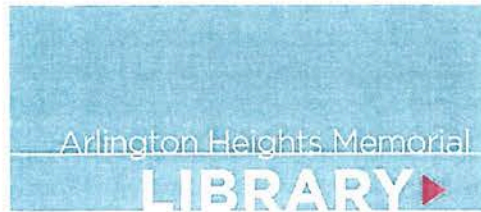
The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000, and the proposed projects will not be done without it. This grant will provide the community a much-needed skate park and fully accessible playground for the Arlington Heights residents. I strongly urge you to consider this worthwhile and much needed funding request.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Sincerely,

Erik Oiler
AHYAA Board President
Arlington Heights Youth Athletic Association
847-840-8363 | ahyaa.president@yahoo.com

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park



▶ adding value in your life

August 25, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter strongly supporting the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OS/AD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The current amenities at the park are in need of updating. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase the natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, add a new accessible parking lot to service the playground, two new replacement tennis courts, provide two shelters and lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations. I fully support their effort to improve the park and its facilities.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000, and will cover the cost of the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000, and the proposed projects will not be done without it. As a community partner and advocate for the inclusion of all our community members, the Arlington Heights Memorial Library is very much in favor of the Park District's plan to improve the facility with a focus on accessibility. This grant will help support the effort of a more inclusive community that we can provide to our residents. I strongly urge you to consider this worthwhile and much needed funding request.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Driskell".

Michael Driskell
Executive Director
Arlington Heights Memorial Library

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park

August 18, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
On Behalf of the Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter strongly supporting the Arlington Heights Park District's request for an OSLAD grant for the renovation of Recreation Park. The current amenities at the park are in need of updating. This grant would replace a skate park that was removed in 2017, increase the natural plantings to the site, add the district's only fully inclusive playground for those with disabilities, add a new accessible parking lot to service the playground, two new replacement tennis courts, provide two shelters and lawn games, and outdoor fitness stations. I fully support their effort to improve the park and its facilities.

The proposed project has a budget of \$3,700,000, and will cover the cost of the following:

- Construction of a fully accessible playground that meets today's ASTM and ADA requirements
- Construction of an accessible parking lot to service the new playground
- Construction of two new tennis courts
- Construction of a picnic shelter near the playground and skate park
- Provide outdoor fitness stations
- Walking path improvements and park entries along Route 14

The Arlington Heights Park District is requesting a grant of \$600,000, and the proposed projects will not be done without it. This grant will demonstrate the city's commitment to prioritizing the needs of all children. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) currently estimates that 1 in 6 (17%) of all children present with developmental disabilities of some kind, creating an urgent need to consider the needs of this population. Inclusive playgrounds create opportunities for children with and without disabilities to play together, encouraging cognitive, motor, speech-language, and social development within a natural environment. Currently, there are limited options for families in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago to visit local inclusive playgrounds, leaving many to travel many miles north, west, and south, which can be inconvenient for any family, especially those traveling with children who require additional support.

Our local nonprofit organization called C.I.T.Y. of Support ("Children In Therapy and You"), is always looking for spaces to host playgroups, outings, and recreational activities that support the abilities of all children. Families with children in therapy can sometimes feel isolated within their community, whether it be due to limited access or fear of not fitting in. This proposal for an inclusive playground not only acknowledges the importance of creating opportunities for children of all abilities, but it welcomes and celebrates their presence in the Arlington Heights community.

ATTACHMENT A-8 Project Justification
Arlington Heights Park District
Recreation Park

I strongly urge you to consider this worthwhile and much needed funding request.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, I would be happy to discuss this recommendation in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Deiter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beth" and last name "Deiter" clearly distinguishable.

Beth Deiter

Founder and Board Chair

C.I.T.Y. of Support (Children In Therapy and You)-501©3



Village of Arlington Heights

33 S. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1499
(847-368-5000)
Website: www.vah.com

September 28, 2022

Carrie Fullerton
Executive Director
Arlington Heights Park District
410 N. Arlington Heights Rd.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Dear Ms. Fullerton,

I am writing to confirm the Village of Arlington Heights' (VAH) intent to engage in an exchange of parcels with the Arlington Heights Park District (AHPD) per our recent discussion.

Under this exchange, the AHPD would gain ownership of:

- The portion of the Campbell Street Right-of-Way immediately south parcel 03-29-338-003 and immediately north of parcel 03-29-351-012. The Village would vacate the ROW in question.

The VAH would gain ownership of:

- Parcel 03-32-424-048 near S. Dryden Place, adjacent to Dryden School.

This exchange will be formalized at an upcoming meeting of the Arlington Heights Village Board.

Best Regards,

Randall R. Recklaus
Village Manager