



Woodridge
PARK DISTRICT

EFFICIENCY REPORT



APPROVED BY THE WOODRIDGE PARK DISTRICT'S DECENNIAL COMMITTEE
ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ON NOVEMBER 30, 2023

I. PURPOSE

The Woodridge Park District ("Park District") formed its Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency on May 16, 2023, to study efficiencies and report recommendations regarding those efficiencies and increased accountability pursuant to 50 ILCS 70/1, et seq. (the "Committee").

II. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee consisted of the following individuals:

MEMBER & TITLES	
Bill Cohen	Board President/Committee Chairperson
Brian Coleman	Board Vice President/Commissioner
Jack Mahoney	Board Secretary/Commissioner
Sam Venouziou	Board Treasurer/Commissioner
Kenneth Perry	Board Commissioner
Samantha Loane	Resident Member
Jeff Sampson	Resident Member
Jenny Knitter	Director of Parks, Planning & Development

III. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee met as follows:

MEETING DATE	MEETING TIME	PLACE
Tuesday, September 26, 2023	6:30pm	Fred C. Hohnke Community Center
Monday, October 30, 2023	6:30pm	Fred C. Hohnke Community Center
Thursday, November 30, 2023	5:30pm	Fred C. Hohnke Community Center

Minutes of these meetings are available on the Park District's website or upon request at the Park District's administrative office.



IV. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF GOVERNING STATUTES, ORDINANCES, RULES, PROCEDURES, POWERS, JURISDICTION

The Woodridge Park District was established by a referendum initiated and approved by the voters of the Park District in 1969. All Illinois park districts, including the Woodridge Park District, are governed by the Park District Code, 70 ILCS 1205/1 et seq. The Woodridge Park District's mission, core values and strategic goals identify focused efforts on fiscal responsibility in an environmentally sustainable manner in partnership with the community and other community service providers avoiding duplication of efforts.

Having a separate and distinct taxing body for parks, recreation, and conservation within the local community, which operates apart from general purpose governments, is extremely beneficial to the community for many reasons, as detailed further in this report.

- **Elected, Non-Partisan, Non-Compensated Board.**

The Park District is governed by a board of five commissioners. Commissioners must reside within the boundaries of the Park District and are elected at the Consolidated Election in odd-numbered years. Pursuant to state law, commissioners are non-partisan and serve without compensation.

- **Accessible and Focused Representation.** Having a dedicated board to oversee these essential facilities, programs, and services provides the community with increased access to their elected representatives and allows those elected representatives to remain focused solely on those facilities, programs, and services. This is contrasted with general purpose governments where elected representatives are responsible for broad oversight on a wide range of issues. This special purpose benefit is particularly advantageous when it comes to budget and finance oversight.

- **Increased Transparency.** Having a dedicated unit of local government to provide park and recreation services also improves the relationship between the Park District and its residents because of the transparency and openness related to the board and park district operations. Having detailed agenda and action items allows taxpayers to be better informed about the inner workings of their local government. When individual units of government are responsible for providing specified services like park districts, transparency is increased because action items and budget procedures are more detailed. Additionally, these items and budgetary decisions are subject to more scrutiny by locally elected officials than is the case with larger, multi-purpose governments with a multitude of departments.

- **Protection of Revenues.** Because the Park District is a separate unit of local government, the revenues it generates can only be used for park district purposes. This assurance is contrasted with general purpose governments like cities, villages, and counties that provide a multitude of services such as fire, police, public works, economic development, etc., where revenues that are generated specifically for parks and recreation can be expended on other services with limited, if any, input from voters.
- **Protection of Assets.** Public parks and other real property owned by the Park District is held in trust for the residents of the Park District, and, subject to very limited exceptions, can only be sold or transferred if residents approve of the sale or transfer by a referendum. This is contrasted with general purpose units of government, which have authority to sell or dispose of property by a vote of the governing board.
- **Providing the Community More with Less.** The Park District does more with much fewer funding options. Unlike other units of local government that receive direct state funding, and income, sales, use, hotel/motel, motor fuel and other numerous taxes, the Park District's only tax revenues come from a modest portion of a resident's overall property tax bill. In fact, despite its limited funding options, the Park District share is an average 6% of the local tax bill.

As part of good governance and implementing best practices in the management of day-to-day operations, the Park District has also adopted the following ordinances, rules, policies, and procedures:

- Behavior Policy for Participants, Parents, Guardian's and Spectators
- Rules & Regulation Ordinance
- Registration Policies and Procedures
- Facility and Room Rentals Procedures
- Park Shelter Rentals Procedures
- Fees and Charges Ordinance
- Protecting our Student Athletes Act
- Aquatics Admissions Manual
- Aquatics Concession Manual
- Aquatics Swim Coach Manual
- Aquatics Swim Instructor Manual
- Aquatics Employee Manual
- ARC Operations Manual
- Maintenance Operations Manual
- Natural Resources Management Plan
- Village Greens Facility and Golf Shop Procedure Manual
- Village Greens Outside Operations Attendant Procedure Manual

- Village Greens Cart Attendant Procedure Manual
- Village Greens Ranger Training Program
- Village Greens Maintenance Standards and Procedures
- Village Greens Alcohol Management Program
- Village Greens Food and Beverage Procedure Manual
- Village Greens Food and Beverage Prep Cook Procedure Manual
- New Board Candidate Orientation and Overview
- Comprehensive Policy and Procedures Manual
- Employee Job Description Manual
- Personnel Policy Manual
- Part-time Employee Manual
- Seasonal Personnel Manual
- Risk Management Manual
- ADA Transition Plan
- Community and Program Survey Results
- Employee Satisfaction Survey Results
- Strategic Master Plan
- Volunteer Manual

V. LIST OF SHARED SERVICES AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Park District works diligently to provide the best possible programs, services, and facilities to the community at the least possible cost. One of the many ways the Park District achieves this goal is by partnering with neighboring park districts, school districts, other units of local government within or near the community, the State, non-profit organizations, and for-profit corporations.

Below is a comprehensive list of the current partnerships, agreements, and other relationships that assist the Park District's mission of delivering the best possible services at the least possible cost to the community. Since 1992, the Woodridge Park District has been awarded \$13.3MM in grant funds. Between 1992 and 2013, the Woodridge Park District has been awarded 3.3MM in grant funds (see *Appendix A for all shared services and partnerships established prior to 2014*). Between 2014 and 2023, the Woodridge Park District has been awarded 10MM in grant funds (see *below information for more detail on these agreements/partnerships*).

1. Membership in SRA

The Park District is part of the South East Association for Special Parks And Recreation (SEASPAR) Special Recreation Association ("SRA"). Special recreation associations are a form of intergovernmental cooperation among units of local government that are authorized under the Illinois Constitution, the Intergovernmental

Cooperation Act, the Park District Code, and the Municipal Code. Their formation is rooted in a fundamental belief and recognition that "Recreation is for Everyone." They are shining examples of local government efficiency.

By partnering together, local communities are able to effectively and efficiently deliver more successful program opportunities to community members who have special needs. Furthermore, by participating in the SRA, the Woodridge Park District networks with Twelve other local governments (Village of Brookfield, Clarendon Hills Park District, Darien Park District, Downers Grove Park District, Village of Indian Head Park, Park District of La Grange, Community Park District of La Grange Park, Lemont Park District, Lisle Park District, Village of Western Springs, Westmont Park District, Village of Willowbrook - joining in 2024) to provide many more program opportunities for our community members who have special needs and offers a choice between participating in the SRA's programs or in programs that are provided by the Park District through inclusion services.



The Park District and the SRA also achieve efficiency by utilizing existing facilities that are owned and operated by the SRA's members, including the Park District. Utilizing these existing facilities allows the SRA to deliver services to its member communities at a lower cost. Currently, the Woodridge Park District provides SEASPAR access to the following facilities for their program offerings:

- Fred C. Hohnke Community Center
- Athletic Recreation Center (ARC)
- Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Facility
- Village Greens Golf Course
- Jefferson Jr. High School Athletic Facility

The SRA also provides the support for participants with special needs who choose to register for the Park District programs or inclusive programming. The SRA collects information on the registered participant and determines what supports are needed for that participant to be successful in this inclusive setting or the Park District program. This could include additional training of the supervisory staff, additional support staff, the use of adaptive equipment, behavior management, and/or other measures that will assist in the successful participation of this individual in the Park District program. Although success may not look the same for everyone, the SRA works with the Park District's staff to ensure the best possible results for all the participants in the program. The Park District's cost of providing these services would be much greater without its participation and partnership in the SRA.

In 2022, the SRA successfully served 47 Woodridge residents in 197 programs. The SRA also supported 11 Woodridge participants in inclusive programs that were provided by the Park District.

The Park District is very proud of the ongoing collaboration with the SRA. By working cooperatively with other local governments, not only is the District better able to collectively serve all citizens within our communities, including persons with disabilities, but through collaboration and resources sharing, it can be done in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

2. Other Woodridge Park District Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA's) with other park districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts, or municipal recreation agencies

GRANTS:

- In 2014, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge for the Village to purchase and donate land for the ARC in the amount of \$2,250,000.
- In 2014, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge to receive Tax Increment Financing Funds (TIFF)



OTHER AGREEMENTS:

- In 2014 - 2019, an agreement for shared use of Information Technology Services with the Oswegoland Park District (50% Oswegoland District / 50% Woodridge Park District).
- In 2014, an agreement made with the Village of Woodridge for the addition of improvements to 63rd Street Park within existing village utility easements.
- In 2014, the Woodridge Park District joined a tax consortium to fairly defend agencies and assess real estate properties in order to realize tax revenue entitled to by law. The consortium is with Community High School District 99, Downers Grove Grade School District 58, Maercker District 60, Darien Public Schools District 61, Center Cass School District 66, Woodridge Elementary District 68, Downers Grove Park District, Village of Downers Grove, Downers Grove Public Library, Woodridge Park District, and Lisle/Woodridge Fire Protection District.
- In 2014, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge to establish an SSA (Special Service Area- local tax district) to pay for the actual costs of maintenance of the stormwater management area addition required with the development of the new Timber's Edge Subdivision.
- In 2015, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge to cooperatively apply for grant funds in an effort to complete the Crabtree Creek Water Quality Improvement Project and address erosion along the creek, with each agency owning property along this creek corridor.

- In 2017, an agreement for snow clearing of path from Pulte Subdivision north of Meadowview school (Hobson Hill) to be cleared by School District 68 in order to provide access for children to school on the path that the Park District, otherwise, owns and maintains
- In 2018, an agreement with School District 68 for recreational use of the Jefferson Athletic Facility during non-school hours and weekends, with Woodridge Park District reimbursing the full cost of turf field lighting in the amount of \$750,000.
- In 2019, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge to construct a sled hill on the Town Centre, 44-acre co-owned property.
- In 2019, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge, Woodridge School District 68, the Woodridge Library to construct a parking lot expansion with Town Centre.
- In 2019, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge defining cooperative planning and management of the Woodridge Jubilee Special Event.
- In 2019, and agreement with the Village of Woodridge to establish an easement for access to a stormwater drainage basin in a newly established stormwater easement to reduce flooding in the surrounding community at 63rd Street Park.
- In 2019 - 2020, an agreement for shared use of Information Technology Services with the Lemont Park District (30% Lemont Park District / 70% Woodridge Park District).
- In 2020, an agreement for the Village of Woodridge to host a mobile food bank in the Cypress Cove Parking Lot, in the midst of the Covid19 pandemic.
- In 2021, when the Woodridge Community was directly hit by a tornado on June 20th, the Woodridge Park District properties had 10 park sites that were also impacted. Staff immediately reached out to neighboring districts and received an overwhelming response receiving emergency assistance from 14 park districts (Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Bloomingdale, Bolingbrook, Carol Stream, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Hanover Park, Lemont, Lisle, Lombard, Palatine and Wheaton), as well as from the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program. These crews helped cut, chip and haul off fallen trees throughout our parks, as well as assisted with removing large hanging branches and felled smaller trees destroyed by the storm.
- In 2021, as part of the Tornado assistance efforts, the Woodridge Park District assisted the Village of Woodridge with clearing streets and making streets passible for residents and EMS.
- In 2022, an agreement to transfer the Crabtree Creek property owned by the Woodridge Park District to the Village of Woodridge so the Village can construct and maintain public infrastructure improvements for the surrounding community.
- In 2023, Garden Plot usage at resident rates for 2024 at Downers Grove Park District while relocated WPD Garden Plots at Jubilee Point Park are under construction.
- In 2023, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge for the Woodridge Park District to purchase outright the full 44-acre property at Town Centre (renamed as Jubilee Point Park) upon execution of the agreement, to be paid over a 20-year timeframe as defined by agreed upon payment plan terms.
- In 2023, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge, Woodridge Library and Woodridge Park District concerning natural gas payments and proportional share incurred based on property percentage served.
- In 2023, Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District donated 25 (5 gallon) oak trees and mulch to help begin replanting efforts at Boundary Hill Woods after the 2021 tornado destroyed over 300 trees at this site.



3. Woodridge Park District Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA's) with other units of local government

GRANTS:

- In 2014, Crabtree Creek received a Water Quality Improvement Grant from DuPage County for \$24,775.
- In 2015, the Triangle Park Restoration Project Phase 3 received a CDBG from HUD and DuPage County for flood reduction in the amount of \$263,526
- In 2016, Triangle Park Phase 3 received a Fee-In-Lieu Grant from DuPage County in the amount of \$38,000.
- In 2016, Triangle Park Phase 3 received a Streambank Stabilization and Restoration Program (SSRP) Grant from Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District in the amount of \$10,000.
- In 2022, the Park District received grant funds through DuPage County related to work to improve quality of park infrastructure as a result of Covid. Staff applied for funds for Cypress Cove to have wifi for better communication during social distancing scenarios which resulted in a \$10,000 grant. The remaining LARPA Grant Funds of \$282,939 were awarded to provide air sanitization systems at the following buildings: Athletic Recreation Center (ARC), Fred C. Hohnke Community Center (FHCC), Village Greens Club House.

OTHER AGREEMENTS:

- In 2015, an agreement with the Woodridge Park District/Village of Woodridge and the Highway Authority, modeling the extents of the groundwater impacts of soil contamination migration indicating proximity to Highway Authority right-of-way.
- In 2015, an agreement with the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District to use Hawthorne Hill Woods House for fire and rescue training exercises before the District demolished the house.
- In 2020, an agreement with DuPage County and various DuPage County Park Districts to reimburse funds associated with the CARES Act regarding Coronavirus emergency relief.
- Use of DuPage County SWAP (Sherriff's Work Alternative Program) for non-violent sentenced offenders to pay back their debt to society through community-based programs. The Park District utilizes these laborers multiple times each year for maintenance support of mulching and landscape crew support.



4. Woodridge Park District Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA's) with the State of Illinois

GRANTS:

- In 2014, Crabtree Creek received a 319 Grant from Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) related to streambank restoration for \$63,405.
- In 2014, Lake Harriet received a grant for development of an accessible fishing pier from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for \$57,630.
- In 2014, the Athletic Recreation Center received a Park and Recreation Facility Construction Grant for \$2,500,000 from IDNR.
- In 2014, the Athletic Recreation Center permeable paver parking lot received a 319 Grant from IDNR to improve water quality for \$362,582.
- In 2016, Triangle Park Phase 3 received a 319 Grant from IDNR related to streambank restoration for \$350,996.
- In 2019, Lake Harriet received a grant for providing pathway lighting from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for \$142,370.
- In 2023, an Open Space and Land Acquisition Development Program, (OSLAD) Grant for \$600,000 for the Town Centre Phase 2 Development Project.
- In 2023, a Recreation Trails Program Grant for Hawthorne Hill Woods Trail Project in the amount of \$200,000.
- In 2023, a Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant for any bondable construction project in the amount of \$225,000 allocated for Jubilee Point Park.

OTHER AGREEMENTS:

- In 2015, a partnership agreement with University of Illinois Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) to provide energy cost savings data and identified incentives that could cover some of the cost of energy efficacy upgrades at the ARC resulting in \$158,688 in total incentives.



5. Partnerships or agreements with athletic or similar affiliate organizations that operate sports or other leagues

- Woodridge Sea Lions Swim Team Parent Association Bylaws
- Woodridge Soccer Association Bylaws
- Woodridge Athletic Association Bylaws
- Downers Grove Roadrunners Inc., Bylaws

6. Woodridge Park District Partnerships or other interrelationships with non-profits

GRANTS:

- In 2015, Illinois Association of Park Districts Power Play Grant – Before and After Care Program for \$1,000
- In 2016, a donation from the Woodridge Rotary Club was provided for the purchase of a recumbent bike for the ARC in the amount of \$6,907.

OTHER AGREEMENTS:

- DuPage County 4-H Club volunteered their labor to plant 25 native oaks at Boundary Hill Woods as part of the tornado reforestation efforts.
- Kids Around the World (KATW) – Donation of used playground equipment by WPD to this organization from various sites: Murphy School, Edgewood School, Willowcreek School and Echo Point Park. Staff solicits local volunteers led by KATW to carefully and safely

remove the playgrounds. KATW then takes these salvaged playgrounds and refurbished them providing new hardware and pieces when needed. KATW then matches the playground to appropriate sites overseas, often in locations where children have not had the opportunity to play on a playground before. These partnerships also save the district equipment removal and disposal fees that can range from \$5,000 - \$8,000 per site.

- Woodridge Special Events Committee volunteer at Jubilee (annual summer festival), a partnership of volunteer service time for carnival ticket sales in exchange for a cash donation based on hours worked by volunteers.
- Woodridge VFW for proceeds associated with Haunted Forest Walk for providing electrical support and security overnight during this 2-day event. Due to the age of the volunteers in this organization, 2022 was the final year of this agreement.
- Boy Scouts and other clubs who set up and host “scenes” for Haunted Forest Walk with proceeds from events shared amongst groups.
- Woodridge VFW to host a flag burning event at garden plot location
- Woodridge Garden Club for donation of garden plot fees in exchange for vegetables grown to be donated to the West Suburban Community Pantry
- Woodridge Rotary for staff preparation and watering along with volunteer installation of pollinator garden at 83rd Street Park.

7. Woodridge Park District Partnerships with for profit organizations

GRANTS:

- In 2014, the Athletic Recreation Center (ARC), energy efficiency grants were provided by ComEd resulting in rebates of \$158,688.
- In 2016, Triangle Park Phase 3 received a Green Region Program Grant from ComEd in the amount of \$9,500.
- In 2020, Ide's Grove West Park Development, a Gametime/IAPD Statewide Initiative Grant was received resulting in a \$44,169 cost savings.

OTHER AGREEMENTS:

- In 2022, Donation of labor, plant materials, and sustenance supplies for volunteers for a Community Planting Day at Ide's Grove West Park as part of the tornado recovery and woodland restoration work from Davey Tree.

8. Informal cooperation with other units of local government which save taxpayer dollars by eliminating redundancy

- In 2023, for the Playground Replacements at Murphy and Edgewood Schools, to ensure implementation in 2023, a year in advance, School District 68 agreed to share in improvement costs at 50% with a savings to the District of over \$181,600.

VI. OTHER EXAMPLES OF EFFICIENT OPERATIONS

Use of volunteers. (Pre-Covid 19) One way in which the Park District reduces the burden on taxpayers is through the use of volunteers. In 2019, 515 individuals volunteered for an estimated 9,300 hours of service to the Park District.

Youth employment. (Pre-Covid 19) The Park District is a major employer of youth (ages 14 – 18) in the community. In 2019, the Park District employed 64 youth. Not only is this an efficient way to deliver services, but youth employment serves as a valuable training tool for the future workforce.

Natural Resource Consortiums. The Park District collaborates with other public bodies in an effort to gain efficiencies related to several services. Along with the tax consortium referenced in other local intergovernmental agreements in 2014, the Woodridge Park District is also a member of a Northeastern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) consisting of 170+ municipal and non-profit organizations to manage municipal aggregation to obtain lower electric (since 2010) and a gas utility rate (since 2022). This collaborative allows for a group rate of these resources at a reduced rate due to increased buying power resulting, on average since 2008, 27% lower rates



Joint purchasing. The Park District participates in joint purchasing cooperatives pursuant to the Governmental Joint Purchasing Act (30 ILCS 525/0.01 et seq.) thereby saving taxpayer dollars through economies of scale.

THESE INCLUDE:

1. KPN – Keystone Purchasing Network
2. NCPA – National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance
3. OMNIA Partners (previously TCPN – The Cooperative Purchasing Network / National IPA – Intergovernmental Purchasing Alliance / US Communities)
4. Sourcewell (previously NJPA – National Joint Purchase Alliance)
5. TIPS – Texas Interlocal Purchasing System

ITEMS PURCHASED THROUGH THESE COOPERATIVES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Vehicles, mowing and maintenance equipment
- Playground equipment, rubberized playground surfacing
- Park shelters, park shade structures/fabric canopies, park benches
- Air cooling condensing units

Efficient operational best practices through stewardship of resources. The Park District continues to make design and purchasing decisions that consider environmentally friendly alternatives with assessment of the benefits and value of return on these investments.

BELOW ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THOSE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATIONS:

- Recirculating water at Hobson Corner Park and Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park pools and splash pads.

- LED lighting conversions completed at various parks and facilities: Fred C. Hohnke Community Center (interior and exterior), Cypress Cove (interior and exterior), Village Greens Club House and parking lot (interior and exterior), Sunnysdale Park, Windy Point Park, Orchard Hill Park and Janes Avenue Park. The proposal cost estimated value including material and labor was just over \$204,000. Due to the contractor working directly with ComEd to implement utility direct rebates and incentives, the Park District received services at fraction of that estimated value at just over \$667.00. Along with initial implementation savings gained, after completion of these LED conversions, additional utility cost reductions resulted in energy savings of approximately 50% reductions at each location, resulting in more long-term savings to the district's operations.
- Utilizing fork lift with propane power for lower carbon emissions.
- Implementing variable frequency drives to control motors and pumps for more efficient use of electricity along with added longevity to equipment lifespan.
- Use of zero fungicides, zero synthetic fertilizers and composting of organic kitchen waste as a fertilizer at Village Greens Golf Course.

Collaboration with other park districts on best practices.

Because park districts are not in competition with one another, they are more willing than the private sector to share best practices. These best practices help to avoid unnecessary costs and deliver services more effectively and efficiently.

- Aquatic Facility partnership between the Woodridge Park District, Bolingbrook Park District and Lisle Park District to allow resident rates at each agency's facility due to an agency's unforeseen closure.
- Partnerships with neighboring park districts for use of fleet vehicles (e.g. buses) due to unforeseen operation issues.

Reliance on Non-Tax Revenue. Unlike most local governments that rely on a wide range of sales, use, and income taxes, the Park District is not permitted to assess these types of taxes. Additionally, although the Park District is an economic engine for the community and generates much revenue for the state and the community in the form of hotel/motel, sales, and motor fuel taxes, the Park District does not receive any of these revenues. Also, unlike Illinois cities, villages, counties, and school districts that received billions of dollars in direct financial assistance from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Park District did not receive any such direct federal aid. The Park District also does not receive state funding under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) or General State Aid (GSA) that these same cities, villages, counties, and school districts receive through the State budget.

Instead, the Park District provides all of the programs, facilities, and services to the community with a very modest amount of property taxes and from non-tax sources such as memberships, program registrations, and other user fees as well as private donations and grants.

VII. TRANSPARENCY TO THE COMMUNITY

The following information about the Park District may be obtained by citizens in the location listed.

DOCUMENT	LOCATION(S) AVAILABLE (website, administrative offices, county clerk, state website, etc.)
Popular Annual Financial Reports	website/ administrative offices
Annual Comprehensive Financial Report	website/ administrative offices
Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance	website/ administrative offices
Woodridge Park District 2023 Budget	website/ administrative offices
Annual Levying and Assessing Taxes	website/ administrative offices
2023 Employee Compensation Disclosure	website/ administrative offices
Vendor Info doing business with District	website/ administrative offices
Agenda and minutes	website/ administrative offices
Behavior Policy	website/ administrative offices
Rules and Regulation Ordinance	website/ administrative offices
2021-2025 Strategic Plan	website/ administrative offices
2022 Annual Achievements Report	website/ administrative offices
ADA transition plan	website/ administrative offices
Volunteer Manual	website/ administrative offices
Freedom of Information Act Manual	website/ administrative offices
Recreation Survey Results & Reports (2018 – 2022)	website/ administrative offices
Bonds	county clerk / emma.msrb.org
Current Bids and Requests For Proposals (RFP's) & Results	website/ administrative offices
Information on Capital Development Projects	website/ administrative offices

The Park District offers residents many opportunities to provide feedback. These include:

- The Board of Commissioners meets once each month. Residents may provide public comment at every meeting.
- The Park District's annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is available in tentative form at least 30 days prior to its adoption at an open meeting of the Park District Board. Additionally, at least one public hearing is held prior to final action, and notice of the hearing is published in the newspaper at least one week prior to the hearing.
- The Park District's annual property tax levy is approved at an open meeting of the Park District Board in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The Park District follows all public notice and hearing requirements under the Truth in Taxation Law prior to the adoption of this annual tax levy. The Park District's annual levy is also subject to the limitations of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law.
- Residents may contact or request information from the Park District by phone at 630-353-3400 or email at mail@woodridgeparks.org, or boardofcommissioners@woodridgeparks.org.
- Committees and Boards that have community representation include:
 - Woodridge Park District Board of Commissioners
 - Woodridge Administrators
 - Woodridge Soccer Association Board
 - Woodridge Athletic Association Board
 - Woodridge Sea Lions Swim Team Board
 - Golden Years Club
 - Crafting For a Cause
 - Garden Club
 - Senior Rods Fishing Club
 - Hooked on Books
 - Woodridge Park District - Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency – 2023
- Community surveys seeking public feedback include:
 - 2023 Winter/Spring Sports League Survey
 - 2023 Winter/Spring General Programs Survey
 - 2023 ARC Fitness Surveys
 - 2023 Spring Woodridge Soccer Association Survey
 - 2023 Swim Lesson Survey
 - 2023 Adventure Camp Survey
 - 2023 Trek & Travel Camp Survey
 - 2021 Meadowview School Playground Replacement Surveys
 - 2017 Community Survey Overview & Results
- Public Hearings or meetings where community input was obtained over the past 5 years:
 - Development of Recreation Trail in Hawthorne Hill Woods for Illinois Department of Natural Resources Trails Program Grant – March 14, 2023
 - Town Centre Phase 2 Development Open House at FHCC for public comment – August 31, 2022
 - Annual Tax Levy Extension and Budget & Appropriations Public Hearings

VIII. DISTRICT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The District's achievements have been recognized in numerous ways.

Awards

- 2023 – Illinois Association of Park District's (IAPD) Best of the Best Award Gala Winner of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Award – Woodridge Park District with the Village of Woodridge for Town Centre Acquisition.
- 2023 – Past Board President Fred C. Hohnke, Woodridge's notable people for The DuPage Warhol Public Art Challenge
- 2022 - Illinois Association of Park Districts/Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IAPD/IPRA) Distinguished Accredited Agency Award
- 2021 - 2023 – Star Guard Elite 4 & 5 Star Safety Award – Cypress Cove
- 2021 – IAPD/IPRA Exceptional Workplace Award
- 2021 – IAPD/IPRA Community Impact Award given to Assistant Director of Recreation, Julie Rhodes.
- 2020 - IAPD Best of the Best Award Gala Winner of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Award – Woodridge Park District with School District 68 for Jefferson Jr. High Athletic Complex.
- 2020 - IAPD Best of the Best Award Gala Winner of the Best Friend of Illinois Parks – Business / Dr. Robert Girgis DDS / Girgis Orthodontics



- 2019 – 2022 – Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR)
- 2019 – IAPD/IPRA – Professional of the Year – Mike Adams
- 2019 IPRA/IAPD Outstanding Facility Award – Woodridge Park District's Athletic Recreation Center.
- 2019 – Star Guard Elite 4 & 5 Star Safety Award – Cypress Cove
- 2018 - American Public Works Association (APWA) Chicago Metro Chapter Executive Committee voted the Woodridge Park District's ARC Project of the Year for Structures- \$5 Million to \$25 Million
- 2016 – American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – ARC Remediation for Engineering Excellence.
- 2015 - 2018 – Star Guard Elite 5 Star Safety Award – Cypress Cove
- 2014 - IAPD Best of the Best Award Gala Winner of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Award – Woodridge Park District with the Village of Woodridge for ARC Development Agreement.
- 2014 – The Chicago Traveler Guide, Top 10 Waterparks

Continuing Education Scholarships for WPD Staff

- Staff has been awarded over \$5,000 in scholarships for continuing education through various parks and recreation organizations since 2014.
- Staff attends continuing education to ensure efficient and effective means and methods for conducting parks and recreation services are being implemented to best serve it's residents. Trainings and education are offered through these various organizations:
 - National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA)
 - Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA)
 - Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD)
 - Certified Parks and Safety Inspectors (CPSI)
 - Certified Pool Operators (CPO)
 - Illinois Arborists Association (IAA)
 - Chicago Wilderness
 - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

IX. BENEFITS AND SERVICES

The Park District serves the entire community from the youngest child to the oldest adult and all ages in between. It does so in a variety of ways.

1. Parks and Recreation Amenities

The Park District offered the following parks and recreation amenities to the community last year. (See District stats below and park locations and amenities matrix on the next page):

DISTRICT STATS

35 DEVELOPED PARKS

OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREA SITES **41**

21 MILES PAVED OFF-ROAD PATHWAYS

PICNIC AREAS **19**

30 MULTI-PURPOSE OPEN PLAY AREAS

PICNIC SHELTERS **16**

685 ACRES

PLAYGROUNDS **32**

14 BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS

BASKETBALL COURTS **14**

12 TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS

PARK LOCATIONS AND AMENITIES MATRIX

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■ Parks ★ Facilities ● Schools PR=Practice Fields INF=Denotes Baseball Practice Infields H=Half Court Basketball

Revised 11/20

2. Programs (Pre-Covid 19)

The Park District offers a variety of program types each year. Registration details from 2019 are provided below to demonstrate pre-Covid 19 participation levels.

PROGRAM TYPE	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS / SESSIONS IN 2019	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN 2019
Special Events	53	549
Arts & Crafts	13	15
Before & After School Care	4	228
Camps	91	1,730
Dance & More	55	122
Early Childhood	295	1,480
Exploration	86	156
Fitness	59	157
Martial Arts	68	274
Music	105	88
Sports	492	5,429
Trips/Active Adults	62	788

3. Additional Services

The Park District provided the following additional services to the community.

- Town Centre - Community Garden
- Village of Woodridge & Woodridge Park District Coop Landscape Brush Drop-off and Mulch Pickup Program
- 2021 Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic at the ARC (Coop w/ Village of Woodridge)
- Memorial Tree and Memorial Bench Programs – an opportunity to honor loved ones with a permanent memorial feature sited at an agreed upon park location. Purchase of tree and/or bench and plaque are at purchaser's cost with staff dedicating time to meet with residents, provide design options for plaques and coordinate tree types and provide cost for purchaser's review and approval. Staff also dedicates time to coordinate delivery, installation and care of tree/bench including warranty replacement at no additional cost.
- Rotary Financial Assistance Program for families in need to participate in Park District programs.
- AARP Tax Help for senior citizens.
- DuPage Senior Citizens Council – home delivered meals/home repairs/wellbeing checks for seniors.
- Blood pressure checks at the Fred C. Hohnke Community Center the first Thursday of each month.
- Free use of Park District facilities and parks to Woodridge not-for-profit civic groups for charitable causes (e.g. Rotary Recycling Extravaganza, Mini Triathlon, Lion's Easter Egg Hunt, etc.)

- Special events including:
 - Autumn Opener
 - Oktoberfest
 - Haunted Forest Walk
 - Cabin Fever Family Fun
 - Road Rally
 - Motion Explosion
 - Clean Up the Parks Day
 - Kids Thrill at the Hill
 - Woodridge Jubilee
 - Unplug Illinois Olympic Day
 - Movies Under the Moon
 - Summer Concert Series
 - All Village Garage Sale

4. Other Benefits

While the Park District is a special purpose district, its impact to the community is multi-faceted and far reaching. For example, the Park District's parks, recreational programming, and other opportunities improve the community's overall physical and mental health and wellness, thereby reducing health care costs. Before and after school and summer programs offer safe, convenient, and affordable childcare options for working families during critical times when school is not in session. These opportunities also help reduce juvenile crime. The Park District's open space and trees help improve air and water quality while mitigate flooding. The WPD parks provide outdoor places to play, socialize and retreat within the community while also providing diverse habitats for wildlife.



X. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

1. Intergovernmental Fees and Charges

One opportunity for efficiency would be the elimination of fees and charges assessed by other units of government. By way of example, below is a fee that another unit of local government waived because the Park District's taxpayers are also taxpayers of these other units of local government. Such fees and charges that are not waived, and the bureaucracy that accompanies them, inhibit the Park District's ability to deliver programs, facilities, and services at the least possible cost to the community.

In 2023, the Woodridge Police Department/Village of Woodridge waived fees for providing police presence at the Oktoberfest special event resulting in a \$5,200 cost savings to the Woodridge Park District.

Other units of local government should recognize that intergovernmental fees often lead to inefficiency in the expenditure of taxpayer dollars through extra bureaucracy and administrative costs. In many cases, the unit of government assessing the fee ultimately benefits from the project or event, meaning it can recoup its costs through the extra sales tax or other revenue that will be generated. Where such fees are absolutely necessary, general purpose units of government should offset the fee by crediting the Park District for all benefits they will receive from a project, event, or property. For example, open space that is protected and maintained by the Park District helps mitigate stormwater management costs, so assessing stormwater management fees on the Park District not only leads to inefficiency, but is also shortsighted.

Governmental units should be discouraged or prohibited from charging more than their out-of-pocket costs associated with the activities covered by a fee that is assessed to another unit of local government with the same taxpayers. Put another way, one unit of local government should not profit by taxing another. Eliminating local permit fees is a way to reduce administrative costs without impacting overall public revenue. Local government best serves the people when it cooperates and works together. Some communities recognize this and do not charge fees to other units. All communities should be encouraged to follow that model to receive the best results for local taxpayers and to promote governmental efficiency.

2. Maintaining relationships for improved efficiency with other governments

The Park District is also negatively impacted by the inefficiency of the state and other units of local government.

- By conducting this report, staff has realized the importance of intergovernmental relationships and plans to meet more frequently and communicate with other state and local government entities to ensure efficient use of resources.

3. Unfunded Mandates

Unfunded state mandates are another cost driver. While the Park District recognizes that there are benefits to some of these mandates, modifications could help alleviate some of the burden to the Park District.

- Non-resident FOIA Requests.** Last year, the Park District spent approximately \$8,000 in staff time and legal fees to fulfill FOIA requests. Often the individuals/businesses submitting the FOIA requests are from outside of the Park District boundaries, and they appear to be serving a specific agenda, rather than assuring better local government. Below is a list of non-resident and/or commercial FOIA requests addressed by the Park District:
 - Non-profit request for full payroll expenditures by individual for the year 2021.
 - Individual request related to how pools are chemically treated, water is turned over, and bathhouses are cleaned
 - Commercial request (four separate requests) for any and all purchasing records
 - Commercial Business request for portable units and recycling from last 3 years
 - Commercial request for documents regarding Jubilee Festival.
 - State department request for staff information
 - Commercial request for bid document submittals
 - Commercial request for dog waste liner purchase information
 - Commercial request for past bid information

Under current law, resident taxpayers end up footing the bill for these non-resident or commercial requests. In order to help alleviate the burden for these non-resident requests the law could be amended to: (1) add a requirement that non-residents identify/explain the purpose of the request for information; (2) add a time limit on how far back a non-resident can request information; (3) staff time and costs could be included in the amount that is reimbursable for non-resident and commercial requests; (4) move back the deadline for non-resident requests 10 business days so that the Park District does not have to delay services to its residents in order to comply with a non-resident request.





Sunshine laws are supposed to protect taxpayers by allowing them to shed light on any issue that is not exempt from FOIA. However, local government can be burdened by having to drop everything to rearrange priorities to meet FOIA deadlines, particularly if it has limited resources. Since local residents ultimately bear the expense of complying with FOIA, treating resident and non-resident requests differently would be justified.

b) **Criminal Background Checks.** All park districts are statutorily required to conduct criminal background checks on all employees pursuant to Section 8-23 of the Park District Code. The background checks must be done through the Illinois State Police (ISP). In 2019, the Park District spent \$9,100 for criminal background checks. The Park District does not recommend eliminating this mandate because it is necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of children and other Park District patrons. However, the State should explore ways in which it could improve the current system and make it less costly for park districts to comply with the law.

The mandate also raises the fundamental question as to why one layer of government is forced to charge its taxpayers to comply with a State mandate when the State made the determination to impose the mandate. Put another way, if the State has determined that criminal background checks are necessary for public safety, the State should assist with compliance.

The Park District recommends studying whether there can be a more efficient background check process implemented through the ISP to reduce the time and expense it takes for background checks. Another suggestion is for ISP to waive the fee for checks on minors or waive all fees for name checks. If there is a "hit" from a name check, the fee could be charged for the more costly fingerprint check. Since it is a State mandate, perhaps the fee structure for park districts should also be reviewed to determine whether the fee being charged exceeds the actual cost of doing the check and, if so, perhaps the ISP could consider reducing its cost to local governments.

c) **Prevailing Wage.** One way to reduce burden on local government staff is to limit the prevailing wage requirement to larger capital contracts. This would free up tracking of the paperwork on small repairs and projects. One reason for creating a threshold requirement is the cost of the administrative burden relative to the cost of the actual project. For example, eliminating prevailing wage on smaller projects, e.g., those less than \$50,000, will result in more local bids and decrease the overall cost for these smaller public works projects.

d) **Newspaper Publication.** The newspaper is no longer the most effective way to provide notice. Websites are cheaper and reach more people. Permitting the Park District to post the information on its website in lieu of newspaper publications would reduce costs.

e) **Class A Commercial Driver's License** - In order to obtain a commercial driver's license – class A, as of 2023, there is a new training requirement that applies more to standard truck drivers nationally, and therefore has negatively impacted the Park District. This new requirement of extensive and costly training prior to taking a CDL-A written test puts a new training burden including 4 weeks of staff time and often costs associated with signing up for this training. Due to this new burden, staff is investigating the need for a CDL-A license in order to operate park maintenance equipment and may consider downsizing some equipment and possibly eliminating the requirement for this Class A-CDL license for many park staff.

f) **Bikeway Path Signage for Highway Crossings** – Bikeway signage is another new unfunded mandate effective January 1, 2024, that requires posting permanent warning signage on bikeways 150 feet ahead of all roadway crossings, posting signage about known dangerous conditions, severe curves or slippery when wet as well as posting

temporary signage with temporary dangerous conditions (construction projects). This seems to be a subjective requirement with many of these conditions that in past have fallen under tort immunity as open and obvious for path users.

4. Opportunities for Increased Transparency

- As illustrated above, the Park District is very transparent in its operations. For this reason, the committee does not see any additional opportunities for increased transparency.

5. Opportunities for Other Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA's)

- The Woodridge Park District works closely with other local governments and continues to seek ways to work together to achieve its mission.

6. Opportunities for Savings such as Energy Efficiency Projects and Joint Purchasing

- Staff will investigate return on investments related to utilization of electric vehicles within District's automotive fleet and mowing equipment.
- When roofing replacement is scheduled, staff will investigate solar panels and options related to energy savings to assess cost efficiency and return on investment with support from University of Illinois' Smart Initiative Program.

XI. FINAL REPORT CERTIFICATION

The signature of the Committee Chairperson and date indicates the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency's final review and approval of this Efficiency Report for the Woodridge Park District.

Dated: November 30, 2023

Signed: 

Name: Bill Cohen, Board President and Committee Chairperson



APPENDIX A

Appendix to Efficiency Report for the Woodridge Park District, approved by the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency on November 30, 2023

This appendix references the same information and titles in the main body of the Efficiency Report for the Woodridge Park District dated November 30, 2023, but refers specifically to efficiency efforts prior to the year 2014. Information shown only applies to sections V. and VII. and VIII., as labeled below. Please note, if a section of the report is not shown, it means there is no applicable information to document that was executed prior to 2014 relative to that specific category.

V. LIST OF SHARED SERVICES AND PARTNERSHIPS

2. Other Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with other park districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts, or municipal recreation agencies

OTHER AGREEMENTS:

- In 1972, a lease agreement between School District 68 and the Woodridge Park District for the use of certain school facilities to operate recreation programs for residents in exchange for general grounds maintenance.
- In 1974, an agreement that authorizes Police Officers in the Village of Woodridge to enforce all laws on Woodridge Park District properties.
- In 1983, maintenance agreement between the Village of Woodridge and the Woodridge Park District for the District to maintain stormwater management facilities and open space and the Village to conduct lake dredging and design grades of basins.
- In 1983, when the Village of Bolingbrook and School District 68 determined that land preserved for a school at the current Falconridge Park was no longer need for school purposes, an agreement was made to lease the property for use by the Woodridge Park District to utilize the site for recreational purposes for the good of the community.
- In 1997, an agreement between the Village of Woodridge and the Woodridge Park District to build various bike paths as part of a cooperative grant award with each agency responsible for development and funding of their section and grant administration.
- In 1997, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge for the Woodridge Park District to conduct operations of the Village Greens Golf Course.
- In 1998, an agreement for School District 68's (SD68) shared use of the Janes Avenue Park – Parking Lot for administration and joint use of the soccer field, just east of SD68 Administration Building, for recreational purposes.
- In 2001, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge and School District 68, from time to time to share personal property including equipment, motor vehicles, tools and implements in an effort to foster economic and efficient use of public funds.
- In 2004, the lease was terminated and transfer of the property of Falconridge Park was made to the Woodridge Park District for continual park use with continual stormwater management of the site remaining the responsibility of the Village of Bolingbrook.
- In 2007, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge to acquire the 44-Acre property known as Town Centre/Jubilee Point Park, previously owned by the Community High School District 99.
- In 2010, an agreement with the Naperville Park District to acquire, use and maintain a mobile performance stage (73% Naperville Park District / 27% Woodridge Park District).
- In 2011, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge and Woodridge School District 68 to install a system of cameras at Janes Avenue Park to capture and deter illegal activity.
- In 2011, an agreement between the Village of Woodridge and the Woodridge Park District defining each agency's role in constructing, maintaining and improving work associated with Memorial Park.
- In 2012, an agreement with the Village of Woodridge and the Woodridge Park District to share in 50% of the rights, title and interest in the 44 Acre Property, debt service payments, and jointly prepared master plan for future project development.
- In 2013, an agreement for the Village of Woodridge to transfer the title of the Janes Avenue Shopping Plaza (4.08 acres) to the Woodridge Park District, for development of an athletic recreation center, a mutually beneficial improvement to the community.
- In 2013, an agreement that all member entities of SEASPAR, our Special Recreation Association, have authorized use of SEASPAR vehicles limited to emergency situations and subject to availability.
- In 2013, a lease agreement with the Village of Woodridge for the Woodridge Park District to continue conducting operations of the Village Greens Golf Course.

3. Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with other units of local government

GRANTS:

- In 1995, Echo Point Park received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD and DuPage County in the amount of \$18,231.
- In 1996, Echo Point Park- Phase 2 was awarded another Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD and DuPage County for \$114,251.
- In 1999, Echo Point Park Phase 3 received a final Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD and DuPage County for \$214,184.
- In 2001, Janes Ave. Park Phase 1 received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD and DuPage County for \$266,220.
- In 2003, Janes Ave. Park Phase 2 received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD and DuPage County for \$238,590.

- In 2004, Janes Ave. Park Phase 3 received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD and DuPage County for \$319,731.
- In 2005, Windy Point Park received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD and DuPage County for \$32,338.
- In 2007, Windy Point Park Phase 2 received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD and DuPage County for \$84,000.
- In 2013, Caddie Corner Park received a Water Quality Improvement Grant from DuPage County for \$21,400.

4. Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA's) with the State of Illinois

GRANTS:

- In 1992, Summerhill Park received a grant for the purchase of plant material from the Illinois Department of Commerce for \$15,361
- In 1995, Caddie Corner Park received an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant for \$100,000.
- In 1995, Seven Bridges and Ide's Grove East Parks received a grant for a tree planting initiative from the Illinois Department of Commerce for \$50,000
- In 1996, a grant was provided for the purchase of the Cypress Cove Recycled Site Furnishing from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs for \$51,190.
- In 2000, Orchard Hill Park Phase 1 received a State Legislator Initiative Grant for grading, and for Janes Avenue Park berms and planting for a total of \$350,000.
- In 2000, the Community Center received a grant for \$15,000 for development of handicap parking from the State Legislator Initiative Grant,
- In 2002, Janes Avenue Park received a grant for landscape improvements from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for \$25,000.
- In 2007, Forest Glen Park received a grant for landscape improvements from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for \$25,000.
- In 2008, School District 68, Meadowview School and various school sites received a Safe Routes to School grant to create bike to school safety programs from the Illinois Department of Transportation in the amount of \$19,200.
- In 2008, various public walks along school routes received a Safe Routes to School Grant to create accessible routes to school from the Illinois Department of Transportation in the amount of \$50,000.

- In 2008, Cypress Cove Phase 3 Splash Pad received an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant for \$400,000.
- In 2010, the Janes Avenue Skate Park received a grant for \$35,000 from the State Legislator Initiative Grant from Patti Bellock and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
- In 2010, Janes Avenue Skate Park received an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant from Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for \$237,400.
- In 2013, Caddie Corner Park received a 319 Grant from IDNR for streambank restoration for \$70,832.

OTHER AGREEMENTS:

- In 2001, an agreement was made with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority to use the Access Road for the District's Maintenance Facility and use of the Authority's right-of-way for the Bought Road Plaza Access Road and shared costs for future repairs associated with this access road.

6. Partnerships or other interrelationships with non-profits

GRANTS:

- In 2007, Forest Glen Park received an Access to Recreation Grant from the Kellogg Foundation for the development of Woodridge Park District's first "universally designed" park in the amount of \$426,000.
- In 2010, the Park District's Before and After Care Program received an Illinois Association of Park Districts Power Play Grant in the amount of \$2,000.
- In 2012, the Park District's Before and After Care Program received an Illinois Association of Park Districts Power Play Grant in the amount of \$1,000.

7. Partnerships with for profit organizations

GRANTS:

- In 2005, Forest View Park received a developer donation from Globe Real Estate Development for \$21,180.

VII. TRANSPARENCY TO THE COMMUNITY

- Community Surveys with public feedback
 - 2009 Community Needs Assessment Overview & Results

VIII. DISTRICT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The District's achievements have been recognized in numerous ways.

AWARDS (PRIOR TO 2014)

- 2013 – Midwest Institute of Park Executives – Helping Hands Service Award for staff's support and volunteerism associated with the tornado that impacted Washington, IL.
- 2012 - 2014 – Star Guard Elite 4 & 5 Star Safety Award – Cypress Cove
- 2011-2016 - Illinois Association of Park Districts/ Illinois Parks and Recreation Association's Distinguished Accredited Agency Award
- 2010 – 2022 – Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting
- 2010 - Schools and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education (SCARCE) Earth Flag Award
- 2010 – Golf Course Certification in Environmental Planning from Audubon Cooperative Society for Village Greens of Woodridge.
- 2010 – Star Guard Elite 5 Star Safety Award – Cypress Cove
- 2009 – Aquatics International Magazine, Best of Aquatics – Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park
- 2008 – Forest Glen Park – Nationally Recognized Universally Designed Park by the National Center on Accessibility
- 2008 - Illinois Association of Park District's Best of the Best Award Gala Winner of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Award – Bikeway Agreement with Village of Woodridge
- 2005-2006 – Star Guard Elite 5 Star Safety Award – Cypress Cove
- 2004 – Burhani Cricket Club of Woodridge – Above and Beyond Award
- 2004 – World Water Park Association's Wave Review Awards – Best Brochure
- 2004 – Woodridge Park District's Board President Fred C. Hohnke received the Illinois Association of Park District's Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award.
- 2003 – World Water Park Association's Wave Review Awards – Best Print Media
- 2003 – Chicago Magazine Best of Chicago – Best Water Park – Cypress Cove
- 2003 - ABC's TV's "190 North – Chicagoland's Favorite Waterpark Hot Spot – Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park
- 2002 – Business Ledger's "Excellence in Business Achievement" Award – Village Greens of Woodridge
- 2001 – "Course of the Year" by the National Golf Course Owners Association – Village Greens of Woodridge
- 1999 – Board President Fred C. Hohnke, received the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) Commissioner of the Year Award.
- 1999 – National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA), Excellence in Aquatics Award – Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park
- 1999 & 2001 – "Best Buys in Chicagoland" by Chicagoland Golfer Magazine – Village Greens of Woodridge
- 1999 - Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) Outstanding Facility Award – Echo Point Park
- 1998 – Board President Fred C. Hohnke received the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) Citizen Board Member Branch National Service Award
- 1998 – Midwest Institute of Park Executives (MIPE) – Great Lakes Park Training Institute Daniel J. Flaherty Memorial Award – Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park
- 1998 – Athletic Business Magazine – Architectural Showcase Facility – Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park
- 1997 – Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) Outstanding Facility Award – Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park
- 1997 – Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) Outstanding Facility & Park Award – Mending Wall Park
- 1997 – Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) Outstanding Facility & Park Award – Seven Bridges Park
- 1993-2010 - Illinois Association of Park Districts/ Illinois Parks and Recreation Association's Distinguished Accredited Agency Award

- END OF APPENDIX A -



Woodridge
PARK DISTRICT



SCAN THE QR
to visit website



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