Woodridge PARK DISTRICT

PATHWAYS

NEWS & UPDATES FROM THE PARK DISTRICT



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SEASON

- Meet the New Faces of the Woodridge Park District
- Woodridge Resident Samantha Wagner Chosen to Represent Team Illinois at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games
- Help Shape the Future of Cultural Arts in Woodridge

2026 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Continuing Investments In Our Shared Spaces



The playground and shelter at Jubilee Point Park are coming together as construction moves forward.

The Woodridge Park District is launching a bold lineup of 2026 Capital Development, Replacement, and Accessibility Improvement Projects that will elevate recreation experiences, modernize infrastructure, and continue transforming our parks into vibrant, welcoming spaces for all. Updated timelines for each project will be shared on the Parks Projects webpage as the start of construction approaches.

Jubilee Point Park

Now that spring is here, construction at Jubilee Point Park is moving full speed ahead! Current work includes:

- Shaping the park with driveway and parking lot curbing, concrete flatwork, and garden plot improvements
- Preparing the playground for endless play with subbase installation ready for rubber surfacing
- Laying the groundwork with utility conduit installation
- Powering up the park with site electrical work and new parking lot lights
- Burying overhead lines as ComEd service comes online

With each step forward, we move closer to a vibrant community space for play and connection, set to be completed this summer.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

LEARN MORE ABOUT PARK PROJECTS

2026 Capital Projects: Continuing Investments In Our Shared Spaces *(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)*

Challenge Course at Jubilee Point Park

In partnership with School District 68, the District will develop a dynamic Ninja Warrior-style Challenge Course at Jubilee Point Park, adjacent to Jefferson Junior High School.

Inspired by the popular TV series American Ninja Warrior, this innovative playground will feature:

- Obstacle-course style physical challenges
- A synthetic turf 40-yard dash
- A digital timing system
- Patron seating and site furnishings

The Challenge Course will serve as both a community amenity and a fitness training resource for Jefferson Jr. High students - encouraging strength, agility, and healthy competition for users of all ages.

Castaldo Park Picnic Area Expansion

Infrastructure upgrades and improvements at Castaldo Park to enhance picnicking and gathering opportunities include:

- An expanded paved picnic area adjacent to the existing shelter with accessible seating
- Recreational amenities such as ping-pong and baggo
- Potential permanent grills and/or a fire pit

These enhancements will create a more inviting and functional space for picnic rentals and community events.

New Drinking Fountain at Mending Wall Park

A new water service line and drinking fountain will be installed, providing convenience and improved comfort for park visitors and their pets.

Playground Replacements & Upgrades

As part of the District's Capital Replacement Program, the playground equipment will be replaced at Falconridge Park, Westminster Park, and Windy Point Park.

Additionally, 63rd Street Park will undergo a full playground redevelopment including:

- New curbed concrete borders
- Modern play equipment and swings
- Accessibility improvements
- Patron seating and landscape plantings

Asphalt Parking Lot & Path Resurfacing

Milling, paving, and line striping improvements will be completed at several locations, including:

- Castaldo Park parking lot
- Cypress Cove parking lots and driveway
- 83rd Street to Cypress Cove path
- Ide's Grove West bike path
- Hobson Corner Park parking lot
- Janeswood to Meadowview/Yellowstar Path
- Maintenance Building to Frontage Road
- Orchard Hill Park (Baseball) parking lot
- Summerhill Park path



An example of a challenge course amenity

Pavement Maintenance Projects

Crack filling, sealcoating, patching, and striping will take place in parking lots at Echo Point, Falconridge and Forest Glen Parks in addition to numerous park paths. This will extend the life of existing infrastructure while maintaining safe, smooth surfaces for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

School Field Improvements

Baseball field improvements planned at Goodrich and Meadowview Schools include:

- Replacement fencing and backstops
- Paved, covered dugouts

At Meadowview School, upgrades will also include:

- Accessible path connections
- Paved spectator seating areas
- Team dugouts
- An accessible portable restroom
- Accessibility-focused site improvements

Ide's Grove East Park

Renovations will address ADA accessibility needs around the playground and a redevelopment of the pond overlook/fishing pier, including a reconfiguration of the access walks and related site grading and restoration.

Summerhill Park

Enhancements include the replacement of modular playground borders and retaining walls with concrete curbed playground borders and retaining walls. Additionally, the seating area overlooking Prentiss Creek will be redeveloped to provide ADA-compliant seating with new accessible and stepped walkways to access the overlook space.

Janes Avenue Park

An accessible asphalt walking path will extend from the shelter building to the northeast baseball field's first base spectator area. Concrete flatwork around the shelter will also be renovated to address ADA accessibility issues.

Meet the New Faces of Woodridge Park District



NICK BACARELLA | *Youth Athletic Supervisor*

Nick Bacarella, a Woodridge native, proudly serves the community where he grew up. After graduating from Downers Grove North, he earned a baseball scholarship to Lewis University and received his degree in Sport Management. His 2022 internship with the Woodridge Park District led to his role as Athletic Supervisor. Nick enjoys seeing kids play the sports they love and helping leagues and tournaments run successfully, especially at the ARC. A lifelong athlete, he still plays pickleball and follows sports, cheering on the Michigan Wolverines, Chicago Bears, and Chicago Cubs. He also values family time, especially his annual Michigan reunion.



ALEX REENTS | *Mechanic*

Alex brings a strong background in mechanical and facility maintenance work, with experience that began in high school automotive classes and continued through his studies at Universal Technical Institute in automotive maintenance and industrial diesel technology. He has been working in the industry ever since, with expertise in diesel systems and electrical diagnostics. At WPD, Alex enjoys that no two days are the same, whether he's in the shop or out in the field supporting his team. His interest in parks and recreation grew from his previous experience with DuPage County, and he's proud to now be part of the Woodridge Park District team.



SEAN RIVERA | *ARC Assistant Facility Manager*

Sean grew up in Bolingbrook and brings a strong passion for people and community to his role as ARC Assistant Facility Manager. His favorite part of working at the ARC is the opportunity to interact with and help new people every day, making the facility a welcoming place for all. Outside of work, Sean enjoys reading, going on walks, and playing basketball. He's a big dog lover and even works at a doggy daycare - so it's no surprise his four-legged companion, Macy, keeps him busy. Sean also comes from a unique family: he has three siblings who are triplets.



RYAN ONDRACEK | *ARC Assistant Facility Manager*

Ryan grew up in Woodridge and is excited to give back to the community he knows so well in his role as ARC Assistant Facility Manager. One of his favorite parts of working at the ARC is being part of a sports-related field while helping serve the community where he was raised. Currently living in New Lenox, Ryan enjoys watching sports, especially soccer and football; playing soccer; and spending time with friends and family. Ryan recently graduated from Lewis University in December with a degree in Sport Management.



ANDREA HOFFMAN | *Fitness Guest Services*

Andrea has lived in Woodridge since 2006 and grew up in Naperville. She is excited to be part of the Woodridge Park District team, especially because of the supportive and friendly people she works with every day. Andrea loves all things creative, including crocheting and baking. She and her husband, Chris, have three children - Hailey, Alex, and Abby - and their household is full of animals, with four cats and hopes of adding dogs in the future. One of Andrea's favorite spots in Woodridge is the Hobson Corner Splash Pad, perfect for cooling off during a long summer walk. A fun fact about Andrea: she decorates her home with 15 or more Christmas trees each year!

Help Shape the Future of Cultural Arts in Woodridge

The Woodridge Park District is gathering community input to explore the demand for expanded cultural arts programming. Residents are invited to take a short survey to help guide potential offerings, such as visual arts, theatre, and cultural events, that reflect the interests and creativity of our community. Your feedback will play an important role in shaping future programs and ensuring that arts opportunities continue to grow and thrive in Woodridge. **Scan the QR code to the right to take the survey!**

Woodridge
PARK DISTRICT
2600 Center Drive
Woodridge, IL 60517
www.woodridgeparks.org

Standard Prsrt
U.S. Postage
PAID
Downers Grove, IL
Permit #769

Mission Statement

We create community, connections and belonging through exceptional parks, facilities and recreation experiences.

Woodridge Resident Samantha Wagner Chosen to Represent Team Illinois at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games

The Woodridge Park District is proud to share that local SEASPAR athlete Samantha Wagner has been selected to represent Team Illinois in track and field at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, taking place June 20th -26th in Minnesota. This remarkable achievement places Samantha among an elite group of competitors representing Team Illinois on a national stage.

Samantha's selection is a testament not only to her exceptional athletic ability, but also to the qualities that truly define a champion: humility, dedication, perseverance, and an unwavering positive spirit. These traits have made her a standout within SEASPAR's athletic community and beyond.

Her accomplishment is especially significant, as she becomes the 13th SEASPAR athlete in history to earn the honor of competing at a national or world-level Special Olympics event. This milestone highlights both her personal commitment and the strength of SEASPAR's training, coaching, and support programs.

Samantha continues to inspire teammates, coaches, and fellow participants with her sportsmanship and drive - values that reflect the very heart of SEASPAR's mission. As she prepares for the 2026 Games, Woodridge is looking forward to cheering her on and celebrating her continued success.

ABOUT SEASPAR

The South East Association for Special Parks and Recreation (SEASPAR) provides dynamic, high-quality recreation programs and services for individuals with disabilities in communities throughout Chicago's western suburbs, including Woodridge. Through athletics, arts, social programs, and therapeutic recreation, SEASPAR empowers participants to discover strengths, build friendships, develop skills, and gain confidence. SEASPAR's philosophy centers on inclusion, access, and the belief that every individual deserves the chance to participate, achieve, and thrive. With dedicated staff, supportive member communities, and a welcoming environment, SEASPAR creates opportunities for individuals of all abilities to reach their full potential. SEASPAR also provides inclusion assistance to those individuals who wish to participate in Woodridge Park District programs.



To learn more about SEASPAR programs, volunteer opportunities, or ways to support its mission, visit seaspar.org.