The Crystal Lake Park District is making a strong effort to ensure every resident is as informed as possible about what is happening in your parks, facilities and programs. In an effort to enhance communication, residents will receive three newsletters a year along with this annual report. The intention of the newsletters is to keep the community informed of ongoing and upcoming projects throughout the Crystal Lake Park District along with answers to common questions we receive. The seasonal activity guides will continue to be mailed separately. Social media and the Crystal Lake Park District website continue to be excellent sources of information for the community.

The purpose of this annual report is to provide a snapshot of the Crystal Lake Park District’s financial picture along with other numbers of interest such as program participation and facility use. In addition, capital projects completed over the course of the year are included along with an update on the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

As always, you are encouraged to contact any member of the Crystal Lake Park District Board or any staff with questions or concerns you may have pertaining to your local source of parks, recreation and leisure! Thank you for taking the time to review this Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Debbie Gallagher, Park Board President

2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

Dear Crystal Lake Park District Resident,

The Crystal Lake Park District is making a strong effort to ensure every resident is as informed as possible about what is happening in your parks, facilities and programs. In an effort to enhance communication, residents will receive three newsletters a year along with this annual report. The intention of the newsletters is to keep the community informed of ongoing and upcoming projects throughout the Crystal Lake Park District along with answers to common questions we receive. The seasonal activity guides will continue to be mailed separately. Social media and the Crystal Lake Park District website continue to be excellent sources of information for the community.

The purpose of this annual report is to provide a snapshot of the Crystal Lake Park District’s financial picture along with other numbers of interest such as program participation and facility use. In addition, capital projects completed over the course of the year are included along with an update on the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

As always, you are encouraged to contact any member of the Crystal Lake Park District Board or any staff with questions or concerns you may have pertaining to your local source of parks, recreation and leisure! Thank you for taking the time to review this Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Debbie Gallagher, Park Board President
The 2017-2022 Strategic Plan continues to progress as expected. Of the 162 items in the plan, 102 are either complete or on schedule to be completed on time. The remaining items are scheduled to start in the upcoming years as scheduled. Some examples of items that have been completed include:

- Developed a Crystal Lake Park District awareness program using digital analytics from social media and digital content.
- Invented and assessed the Crystal Lake Park District’s current facilities and open spaces.
- Implemented and are using Intergovernmental Agreements to share resources and expand programming by identifying specific programs that can be held in the schools.
- Developed a new Crystal Lake Park District logo as part of an overall branding campaign.
- Provided increased internal training on the budget format and new branding campaign.

162 items in the plan, 102 are either complete or on schedule to be completed on time. The original turf was 14 years old and beyond repair. The use of synthetic turf on this type of athletic facility is not only good for the players, but dramatically reduces daily maintenance needed on the fields.

**2018-9 COMPLETED PROJECTS**

**Boncosky Synthetic Turf**
New synthetic turf installations at the Boncosky Softball Complex were replaced last fall. The original turf was 14 years old and beyond repair. The use of synthetic turf on this type of athletic facility is not only good for the players, but dramatically reduces daily maintenance needed on the fields.

**Shamrock Hills Parking**
The existing driveway is being widened and 22 parking spaces are being paved to provide public access to the park. Future plans for remodeling the building and developing passive recreation areas in the park for public use are underway but currently not funded. The park district will give updates as they arise.

**Steine’s Fen Restoration**
As reported in the Spring 2019 issue of Park Report, a large scale fen restoration project was completed in early spring. The removal of invasive trees and underbrush allowed sunshine to reach the ground for the first time in decades. The result was a beautiful flush of new growth from the dormant seed bank in the ground. Rehydrating the fen by installing check dams along the eroded creek provided the water needed for new seedlings. After just one growing season, the fen is flush with desirable, native plant material that provides abundant habitat for birds, bees and other wildlife. Further removal of invasive trees is planned for the winter of 2020.

**Lippold Park Drainage**
In 1996, the park district allowed the City of Crystal Lake to construct a berm north of the walking path near the soccer field complex. Fill material from a sanitary sewer project in the North Shore neighborhood was used to construct the berm which was intended to help reduce the surface flow of stormwater from Lippold Park toward the neighborhood. After historic flooding in 2017 it was discovered that the berm was not built per the approved engineering plans. The park district undertook the task of “completing” the berm so that it would function as designed. This project was initiated through the City of Crystal Lake’s Stormwater Initiatives Program in which the park district has been an active participant.

**Sterne’s Fen Restoration**
In 2016, the parks division started collaborating with certified arborists to collect data for a comprehensive tree inventory program. These trees can be found in all mowed areas of the parks. The mapping of trees allows the CLPD to monitor and manage the tree population efficiently.

There are currently 4,085 trees in the respective open areas. The CLPD is working to remove 289 of these trees which have been classified as in poor condition, infested or have structural defects. 80 trees were purchased and planted last year to replace the trees determined to be in poor condition.