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Crystal Lake IL 60014

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PARK REPORT

Vol 1 Spring 2019

COMMUNITY SURVEY



The Park District seeks your feedback so that we can continue to meet the community's evolving needs. We are conducting a community survey to better understand and serve you through our park system, facilities, programs and events.

We have selected aQity Research & Insights (an independent research firm) to conduct this survey. Randomly selected households will receive a survey invitation in the mail in the next few weeks. If you receive one, please follow the instructions to complete it as we hope to have a strong response from the community.

If you are not part of the random household selection, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to complete a survey after the random sample has had time to complete their surveys. This way all Park District households will have the opportunity to provide feedback. Thank you in advance for your participation!

**THE CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT
VALUES YOUR OPINION!**

DANDELIONS

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DANDELIONS IN OUR PARKS?

For a few weeks each spring, the Park District is asked the question "Why are there so many dandelions in our parks?" The Park District strives to balance the well-being of our residents with the aesthetics and safety of our parks.

WE PURPOSELY DO NOT SPRAY weed killer in most of our parks because broad applications of pesticides can be considered harmful to those who come in prolonged contact with the pesticide. In addition, parks provide water absorption which eventually infiltrates into many areas including groundwater and Crystal Lake. These weed killing products can impact aquatic invertebrates.

DANDELIONS SUPPLY HONEYBEES with pollen. By spraying the flowers, pesticides are introduced into bee hives.

So next time you see a dandelion, make a wish and know that in a few weeks the dandelions will disappear for another year!



A MESSAGE FROM JASON HERBSTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Congratulations to our incumbents Debbie Gallagher and Cathy Cagle and to our newest board member, Jason Heisler. As we look to the future of the Crystal Lake Park District, we are excited to continue to provide quality programs, facilities and leisure experiences to the residents of the Crystal Lake Park District.

In an effort to enhance communication, we will be mailing bi-annual newsletters to update the community on capital projects and to answer questions you as a Park District resident may have. We welcome any suggestions for future publications.

Please email me at jherbster@crystallakeparks.org.

BOATING ON CRYSTAL LAKE

(INCLUDING KAYAKS AND PADDLEBOARDS)

Park District Residents Only

Park District resident boat owners must purchase a key card each year to use the Main or West Beach launch ramps. All watercraft such as a paddleboard or kayak must enter through the boat gate and requires the purchase of a boat gate key card. Daily admission fees apply to the boat gate key holder and all guests wanting to use the beach and swimming areas at either beach.

IN ORDER TO PURCHASE A CARD YOU MUST PROVIDE:

A CURRENT ILLINOIS DRIVER'S LICENSE
ILLINOIS WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION CARD

PURCHASED JAN 2-LABOR DAY \$80
SENIORS (Ages 60 & Older) \$40

Key card is 1/2 price
after Labor Day

Bring in last year's
key and receive \$5
off card fee

MAIN BEACH SPECIAL EVENTS

Concerts in the Park	Tuesdays @ 7 pm
Midsommar Fest (Colonel Palmer House)	June 8
Family Game Night	June 12
Beach Bash	June 22
Fireworks & Concert	July 7
Kids Party in the Park	July 19
Cardboard Cup Regatta	July 27
Monarchs & Music	August 11

CHECK CRYSTALLAKEPARKS.ORG FOR FULL EVENT DETAILS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

STERLING MEADOWS PLAYGROUND FOUND A NEW HOME!

When the playground at Sterling Meadows Park was replaced, the playground was donated to an organization named 'Kids Around the World'. Work on reconstructing the Sterling Meadows playground in Mangala Devi Nepal began in September 2018.



The efforts were part of a project with Samaritans Purse Canada where the team built 10 playgrounds in the areas affected by the earthquake.



HOW FAR OUR TENNIS BALLS HAVE TRAVELED!

Old tennis balls have been donated to Global Fingerprints which will distribute tennis balls to children in Myanmar (Burma.) **That's 8,052 miles!**

Residential Customer

*****ECRWSS*****

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

1 E. Crystal Lake Avenue Crystal Lake, IL 60014
TEL: 815.459.0680 FAX: 815.477.5005

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 8:30 AM - 5 PM
WED 8:30 AM - 7 PM
SAT 9:30 AM - 12 PM (APR 6-AUG 10)

CLOSED

May 27 • July 4 • September 2 • October 14

OFFICE SERVICES

SEASONAL BEACH PASSES
BOAT LAUNCH KEY CARD
FISHERMAN KEYS
WATERCRAFT STORAGE
HOUND TOWN DOG PARK KEY CARD
PROGRAM REGISTRATION
FACILITY RENTALS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MICHELE HARTWIG • DEBBIE GALLAGHER
SHAWN ZIMMERMAN • TOM AQUILINA • CATHY CAGLE
CAROLINE BACHOUR-CHEMALY • JASON HEISLER



To improve the quality of fishing in Crystal Lake and other park ponds, the Crystal Lake Park District regularly stocks a variety of species following a plan developed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

In 2019, Crystal Lake, Willows Edge, Shamrock Hills and Veteran Acres ponds will be stocked and a creel survey will be conducted to help determine future fish stocking needs of Crystal Lake and ponds.

2018 CRYSTAL LAKE

85	10"+ Northern Pike
90	10-12" Tiger Muskie
415	3-5" Redear Sunfish
820	5-7" Walleye

2018 SHAMROCK HILLS

25	1-1.5 lb. Largemouth Bass
25	1-4 lb. Channel Catfish
75	5-8" Largemouth Bass
75	8-11" Channel Catfish
100	6-8" Hybrid Sunfish

An Illinois fishing license is required for anyone 16 years and older. Crystal Lake Park District Fishing Ordinance 11.17 is enforced on Crystal Lake and all park district bodies of water.

STERNE'S FEN RESTORATION PROJECT



In 2018 the Crystal Lake Park District applied for and was granted the **FIRST AND ONLY** Wetland Restoration Fund grant, overseen by the McHenry County Technical Advisory Committee. The total cost of the project was \$138,810, with all but \$20,000 being provided by the Wetland Restoration Fund.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

The project consists of 7.81 acres of wetland restoration involving hydrologic modifications and invasive species control. The wetland enhancement plan includes the installation of grade control structures constructed of rip rap within eroded channels to create a more diffuse water flow and raise the local water table. Clearing of invasive woody vegetation that compromises the fen hydrology and contributes to the channel erosion was a key component of the overall plan.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

Phase 2 of the project commenced in 2018 with invasive species control during the growing season. The grade control structures were installed and in early 2019 the woody vegetation clearing was completed. Native seeding will be completed in the spring of 2019 that will be followed by a five year period of management and maintenance. The improvements are designed to have no influence on off-site flooding potential. The primary benefits of Phase 2 include reducing bank erosion by slowing flow velocities in the eroded channels, improving outflow water quality, restoring fen hydrology and biological diversity enhancements through the removal of invasive species and re-establishment of rare native fen vegetation.

- REMOVE INVASIVE TREES & UNDERBRUSH
- STABILIZE EXISTING TRAILS
- RESTORE NATURAL WATER FLOW
- RESEED WITH NATIVE FLOWERS
- ADD INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- IMPROVE THE LONG TERM HEALTH OF THE FEN



We take the responsibility of land stewardship very seriously.

The Park District works in conjunction with environmental agencies to conserve and protect land



PROJECT QUERCUS

100 TREES EACH YEAR

For the past 10 years, the Crystal Lake Park District and the Land Conservancy of McHenry County have worked together to plant upwards of 100 trees per year throughout CLPD parks.

These trees were planted by students from the THREE CRYSTAL LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOLS.



COMPLETED PROJECTS

Lippold Park Berm

The Lippold Park Berm Project on the south edge of the park took place this past fall and winter to enhance the berm's ability to hold water in Lippold Park.



PHOTO AS OF 4-18-19

Looking east along the new berm, soccer fields to the left of the berm and residences to the right. The area of dead grass (brown area) is where water was retained all winter by the berm. The new grass seed on the berm itself is currently covered with a straw mulch.

Playground Replacements

New playgrounds were installed late last year at Feinberg and Four Colonies Parks. These were completed as part of the park district's playground replacement program. The goal is to replace playgrounds every 18-20 years or when they are no longer considered safe or maintainable. All playgrounds are inspected and repaired on a regular basis by a Crystal Lake Park District Certified Playground Safety Inspector. Park District playgrounds are designed in accordance with standards for public playgrounds that are outlined by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the American Society for Testing Materials.



FOUR COLONIES PLAYGROUND

Fetzner Park - The Fetzner Park Riparian Area Restoration Project has now moved into an ongoing maintenance phase. Over the summer you can expect to see restoration professionals working to prevent weeds, encourage growth of native plants and maintain health of the creek.

In addition, Fetzner Park is slated to be a 2019 Project Quercus site. Bernotas Middle School students will be planting 70 oak trees in May.

UPCOMING REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



Asbury Park - Following the park district's playground replacement plan, the existing playground at Asbury Park will be removed and replaced. Neighbors and other members of the public will be invited to a planning meeting for comments, input and suggestions for the new playground. The planning for this project will begin later in 2019.

Veteran Acres Oakwoods Lodge Parking Lot - The small parking area near the pond at Veteran Acres will be renovated to improve parking conditions and alleviate flooding that causes the lot to be unusable.

2019 PROJECTS

PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Spoerl Park - The tennis courts and basketball court at Spoerl Park are being rebuilt due to large cracks and uneven surfaces which made play difficult and created trip hazards. Work will proceed throughout the spring with the goal of opening the new courts in early June.

Feinberg Park - The tennis court at Feinberg Park will be crack-filled and resurfaced in the near future. Additionally, the basketball court will be overlaid with asphalt then resurfaced due to cracks, low spots and poor playing surface. Work will begin soon with the goal of opening the courts in early June.

Racket Club - The paved area around the front entrance of the club will be renovated to improve handicap accessibility. This includes moving the handicap accessible parking spaces from their existing location and closer to the front door, changing grade and slope of existing areas of pavement, and altering the curb and sidewalks in a few locations.

Shamrock Hills Park - The existing driveway will be widened and parking will be added to provide public access to the park. Future plans for remodeling the building for public use are underway but are currently not funded.

Wyndwood Park - The tennis court at Wyndwood Park is being rebuilt due to large cracks and uneven surfaces which has made play difficult. In addition, at the request of neighborhood residents, a basketball court is being added. Work will proceed throughout the spring with the goal of opening the new courts in early June.



TENNIS COURT INSTALLATION

