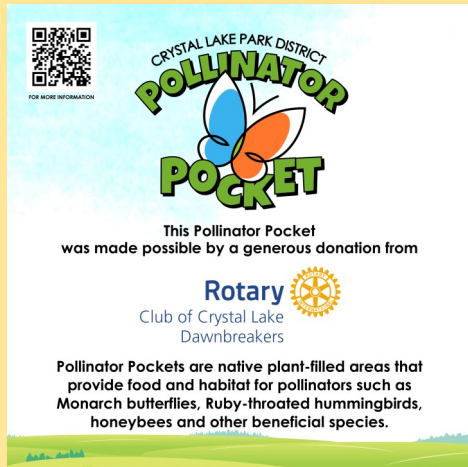




POLLINATOR POCKETS

The Park District would like to recognize the Rotary Club of Crystal Lake Dawnbreakers for their generous donation of over 160 pollinator plants. On May 14, members of the Crystal Lake Dawnbreakers and the Park District planted these plants in a newly designed Pollinator Pocket garden that includes pavers, benches and new signage at the entrance of the Nature Center.



In addition, the Crystal Lake Park District Environmental Committee held a spring firewood sale. The fees collected from that sale was used to purchase 300 pollinator plants. On June 9, Park District staff created a pollinator garden at the base of Veteran Acres pond. Look for more pollinator pocket gardens to pop up throughout the district!

FREE MONARCHS & MUSIC
SUN AUG 14 12:30-4:30 PM MAIN BEACH
 MONARCH FAIR PRESENTED BY THE MONARCH COALITION COMMUNITY BAND SHOWCASE
 VISIT CRYSTALLAKEPARKS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

PARKS & NATURAL AREAS

While out and about in the parks and natural areas, please:

- ◆ Explore all nature has to offer, but do not pick or cut flowers, plants or trees
- ◆ Appreciate the wildlife without disturbing animals and birds, including nests and dens
- ◆ Do not remove barriers to closed paths, trails or playgrounds
- ◆ Enjoy designated trails only
- ◆ Keep motorized vehicles or devices off of trails and out of parks.

CRYSTAL LAKE INVASIVE WEED TREATMENT

Users of Crystal Lake have likely seen a considerable increase in the amount of aquatic plants in the lake.

Some reasons for this include:

- The introduction of invasive zebra mussels years ago by boats and birds
- Lack of snow and ice cover during the winter months allowing earlier growth in the spring
- Due to the clarity of the water created by the work of the zebra mussels, sun light is able to further penetrate the water to greater depths causing more plant growth

The Crystal Lake Park District has approved additional funds for the 2022-23 fiscal year for the ecology of the lake to treat approximately 48 acres of the lake to remove the invasive species Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum Spicatum*).

There are six major areas (see map below) that will be treated based on historical data collected annually that show where the highest density of the Eurasian Watermilfoil resides in the lake.



Drone photos have also been used to help confirm the areas to treat. The treatment work will be contracted out to a licensed applicator who will secure the proper permits to complete this work within the specifications of the product being used. This process will follow all safety rules and guidelines. The product being used will not have any impact on fish or users of the lake. The date(s) of application are still to be determined based on when the Eurasian Watermilfoil begins to grow and the ideal time to target the plant for best results.

If you wish to receive alerts regarding lake treatment dates, please subscribe to updates via this link: <https://bit.ly/LakeTreatmentNotification>

FISH STOCKING

The Crystal Lake Park District recently received a revised fish stocking plan from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Channel catfish and large mouth bass were released into Crystal Lake in May. A second stocking will take place in fall.



Photo Credit: Bill Philpot

The 10-year plan provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will be followed by the Crystal Lake Park District to provide the most optimal fishing possible for the community.



COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

The Comprehensive Master Planning process used to develop needs based on community feedback continues to move along as scheduled. Trend, demographic and agency data has been gathered. Comprehensive GIS mapping has been prepared and the park inventory and analysis is almost complete. To date, more than 440 community members have responded to a general online survey. Stakeholder (local organizations, community leaders and governmental entities) meetings were followed up with community input meetings in May and June. In late June and early July, a statistically accurate sampling of community members will be surveyed. Results from these phases of the process will then culminate in the final three phases of the master plan: the Envision Phase, the Prioritize Phase and the Master Plan Phase.

VANDALISM

Vandalism continues to be a growing issue in the parks. No park is exempt from vandalism and lately, Main Beach washroom facilities have become a frequent target. Increased patrolling of the site by Park Police as well as video surveillance equipment on park property should alleviate continued damage at Main Beach.

If you see vandalism in progress please call 911

If you happen to find vandalism, please call the Park Police Non-Emergency line 815.356.1114

CRYSTAL LAKE PARKS INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

The Crystal Lake Parks Initiative Foundation will be hosting the Cardboard Regatta at Main Beach on Saturday, July 23. The event has been on hiatus for the past few years and the Crystal Lake Parks Initiative Foundation has dedicated itself to bringing it back as one of their major fundraising events. As a participant or spectator, don't miss out on this fun-filled day!

Funds raised by the Foundation go towards park improvements.



PROJECTS

PLAYGROUNDS

An extensive list of projects to improve and enhance the communities parks and facilities is in place for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Playground safety surfacing work has begun at Veteran Acres, Woodland Estates and Woods creek parks. The playgrounds are fenced off and closed until the projects are completed. Because the playground safety surfacing projects are weather dependent (temperature and dryness), the later start caused by the weather delays pushed construction into the busy summer outdoor play season. We do not anticipate the playground surfacing work to affect splash pad operations at Veteran Acres or Woods creek parks. Staff are working closely with the contractor to make sure the playgrounds are safe and ready for play as soon as possible.

The redesign of the playground area and new playground structures at Kamijima, Brighton Oaks and Lapins parks are scheduled for 2022. Park District staff gained community input on designs through a series of public input meetings. Many excellent suggestions and constructive feedback came from the meetings. One common concern came up about the small size of the playground area at Kamijima Park. Because Kamijima Park is entirely in a flood plain, the footprint that exists in that park must remain as designed. Playground equipment has been ordered, however, manufacturer delays have caused uncertainty on delivery. Installation will begin upon arrival of the playground structures.

Playground surfacing and playground structure project updates can be found on our website at crystallakeparks.org/project-updates.



Brighton Oaks Playground Concept

PAVING

Several paving projects throughout the Crystal Lake Park District will take place this year. Parking lots at Grand Oaks Recreation Center, Administration Building, Hill Farm and Woodland Estates will be repaved.

TENNIS/BASKETBALL COURTS

Tennis courts at The Racket Club and Woodland Estates will be renovated along with the basketball court at Woodland Estates and Sterling Meadows.

CONCESSIONS

Upon conclusion of the beach season, the Main Beach concession area will undergo a renovation that will provide a facility to better accommodate both the summer concession operations along with the rental operations throughout the year. The Main Beach building has become a premier rental facility in the community due to its scenic beauty and relaxed atmosphere.



1 E. Crystal Lake Avenue
Crystal Lake IL 60014

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PARK REPORT

Vol 10 Summer 2022

*****ECRWSS*****

Residential Customer

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

DRIVE THRU HOURS

M-F 8:30 AM - 12 PM

APR-JUL
SAT 9:30 AM - 12 PM

AUG-MAR
WED 5 - 6 PM

CLOSED

MONDAY, JUL 4
MONDAY, SEP 5

CRYSTALLAKEPARKS.ORG



OFFICE SERVICES

SEASONAL BEACH PASSES
BOAT LAUNCH KEY FOB
FISHING KEYS
WATERCRAFT STORAGE
HOUND TOWN DOG PARK KEY CARD
PROGRAM REGISTRATION
FACILITY & PICNIC SHELTER RENTALS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SARAH MICHEHL • LINDA MATTHIAS
KAREN JOHNSON • JASON HEISLER • DEBBIE GALLAGHER
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A MESSAGE FROM
JASON HERBSTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With summer underway, there is a lot going on at the Crystal Lake Park District! For the first time in three years, summer operations are back to normal. Camps, beaches and all programs are in full operation and program registrations look to be exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

This edition of the Park Report highlights projects that are scheduled for completion during fiscal year 2022-23, information about an upcoming Crystal Lake Park District referendum question, weed treatment and fish stocking in Crystal Lake and updates on the Comprehensive Master Planning process. Thank you for taking the time to read the Park Report and here is to a great summer!



REFERENDUM BALLOT QUESTION

On June 28, 2022, the Crystal Lake Park District Board of Commissioners will ask the community to vote on a referendum question regarding a change in terms of office for elected Park Board Commissioners from four year to six years.

The rationale behind asking voters to consider this change is to ensure stability to the community and to the Crystal Lake Park District through a more staggered election cycle. The proposed change would result in two to three Commissioners being elected every other year instead of the current three in one election and four in another election.

The Board of Commissioners is submitting this referendum to the residents of the Park District to provide continuity in the progress and direction of the Crystal Lake Park District so that a majority of commissioners remain in office at each election.

The Crystal Lake Park District Board of Commissioners are residents of the Park District who are elected to act as representatives of all residents of the District in maintaining and promoting the use of park and recreation activities. There are seven Commissioners, each of whom currently serve a four-year, unpaid term.

Q. How will the outcome of the referendum affect my taxes?

A. The results of the referendum will have no impact on your taxes.

Q. Where can I find more information?

A. Visit crystallakeparks.org/About Us/Referendum or contact Jason Herbster, Executive Director at jherbster@crystallakeparks.org.



MAIN BEACH

300 LAKESHORE DRIVE, CRYSTAL LAKE
815.477.5404

REGULAR SEASON

Jun 4 - Aug 12 (7 days/week)

9 am - Dusk

POST SEASON

Weekends only

(Aug 13 & 14, 20 & 21, 27 & 28, Sep 3-5)

10 am - 6 pm

WEST BEACH

2330 LAKE AVENUE, CRYSTAL LAKE
815.477.5009

REGULAR SEASON

Jun 5 - Aug 12 (7 days/week)

11 am - 6 pm

A handicap beach wheelchair is available at both Main and West Beach. Please contact the Beach Office for further information at 815.477.5404.



FIREWORKS CONCERT

SUN JUL 3

MAIN BEACH
300 LAKESHORE DR, CL

9 AM-2:30 PM

Regular Beach Admission

AFTER 2:30 PM

\$5 Person

Children Under 3 Free

PICNIC TABLES LIMITED.
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. ONE TABLE PER FAMILY.



FREE CONCERTS BEGIN AT 7 PM

MAIN BEACH • 300 LAKESHORE DRIVE

NEW!



CHECK OUR WEBSITE
'SPECIAL EVENTS' PAGE
FOR THE WEEKLY
FOOD TRUCK SCHEDULE

IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, THE DECISION TO CANCEL THE CONCERT WILL BE MADE AT 4 PM. SIGN UP AT RAINOUTLINE.COM FOR ALERTS OR CALL 815.410.4475

PARTICIPATING SPONSORS

Baird & Warner (Prigge), Dunkin' CL, Gassensmith Realtor Group, Gehris & Associates, LLC, Home State Bank, Huntington Learning Centers (LITH), Keller Williams (Goodale/Ormseth), Ringers Landscape Services, Rotary Club of Crystal Lake Dawnbreakers, Vineyard Church

QUESTION AS IT WILL APPEAR ON THE JUNE 28 BALLOT:

QUESTION TO CHANGE THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS FROM FOUR YEARS TO SIX YEARS

Should the terms of office of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Crystal Lake Park District be increased to six (6) years from the present four (4) year terms?