On behalf of the Crystal Lake Park District Board of Commissioners and staff, we wish you the happiest of holidays! With a productive 2019 coming to a close, it is a time to reflect on the successes and challenges of the year and look ahead to a great 2020!

The Crystal Lake Park District worked through a detailed process to revise an ordinance that formally allows the placement of piers on the bed of Crystal Lake. The Crystal Lake Park District owns 94% of the lake bed.

As a result of this process, an independent Lake Advisory Committee is being formed to provide feedback of resident concerns involving lake use, safety and ecology to the three government entities involved in the management of Crystal Lake (Park District, City of Crystal Lake and Village of Lakewood).

We thank you for the excellent and useful feedback. Staff will develop initiatives based on the survey results. We will keep you updated of any future action plans as they are developed.

WAY TO GO SAM!

The Crystal Lake Park District recently completed an Attitude and Interest survey of Park District residents. The survey was conducted by an outside source in order to provide unbiased, statistically accurate results.

Some of those findings include:

- The district is held in very high regard with residents, averaging higher than state standards
- The district offers strong programs and special events
- Value of services based on taxes paid to the park district was perceived as appropriate
- 9 out of 10 households reported visiting a Crystal Lake Park District park or facility within the past 12 months
- Interest in a pool and/or recreation center was cited, however, most respondents have concerns regarding an increase in tax dollars

Snow is not removed from park trails allowing for winter activities including snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

ICE REQUIREMENTS & SAFETY

All winter activity areas are monitored on a daily basis to determine usability and safety. The Park District staff inspects ice rinks daily. At each skating rink, ice thickness is averaged from measurements taken from six locations.

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SNOWFLOWING AND SALTING

All facility parking lots and sidewalks are maintained after a snowfall. Snow is removed based upon facility use and daily schedules. The Park District also plows and salts public walks to allow for pedestrian traffic.

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The CLPD Nature Center Butterfly House will be getting a face lift over the upcoming winter months. Improvements to the lighting, heating, air conditioning and humidifying systems will be made.

The goal of the project is to improve the environmental conditions for the butterflies that reside in the house and to improve growing conditions for the plants that provide their nectar and habitat. The Nature Center Butterfly House opened in 2002 and is open to the public free of charge from May to September.

The Crystal Lake Park District will be completing another phase of the ongoing fen restoration project over the winter months ahead. Invasive trees that intercept groundwater crucial to the health of the fen will be removed. Areas where trees were removed last year have flourished with the additional water and sunshine. Native seeds that had been dormant for decades have sprouted and the health of the fen is improving.

The next phase of tree removal will take place primarily along the walking path south and west of the picnic shelter. The area will be marked with signs and a map is posted on the Project Update page at crystallakeparks.org.

Exact dates for removal activity will be posted once they are determined. The removal process has less impact on the surrounding plant material when the ground is hard and frozen.

The Park District will be reusing the existing materials to build the new butterfly house, which will be more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. The new structure will have improved ventilation and lighting, and will provide more space for visitors to learn about butterflies and their habitat.

If you have comments but are unable to attend, please send them to Ann Viger, Director of Park Development and Interpretive Services at aviger@crystallakeparks.org.