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Crystal Lake IL 60014

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PARK REPORT

Vol 3 Winter 2020

*****ECRWSS*****

Residential Customer

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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

OFFICE HOURS

YEAR ROUND
M-F 8:30 AM - 5 PM
WED 8:30 AM - 6:30 PM
(effective 1-2-20)

APRIL-JULY
SAT 9:30 AM - 12 PM

CLOSED

DECEMBER 24 & 25
DECEMBER 31
JANUARY 1, 2020

CRYSTALLAKEPARKS.ORG



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

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



**A MESSAGE FROM
JASON HERBSTER**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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).

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

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.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



SAM THOMPSON AND
ACA REP COLETTE MARQUARDT

Congratulations
**SAM
THOMPSON**

Since 1986, Sam has been a Recreation Supervisor for the Crystal Lake Park District. Her passion is providing a quality, inclusive camp experience for children and counselors. Countless children and staff have been impacted by Sam's dedication and commitment to her career.



Park and Recreation Magazine, Sam has spoken at local, state and national conferences. She has been one of ACA's subject matter experts since 2007.

Since Sam joined the Crystal Lake Park District in 1986, she has been recognized by 8 different agencies, receiving a total of 13 awards.



Sam has been involved in a wide variety of professional organizations. She is an American Camp Association standards visitor and instructor. She is also a Teams course facilitator and medic first aid instructor. In addition to authoring or co-authoring several articles for the Illinois

WAY TO GO SAM!

WINTER ACTIVITIES

The Park District has multiple locations available to enjoy outdoor winter activities, weather permitting. Parks are open dawn to dusk.

ICE HOCKEY AND ICE SKATING

Hockey goals are set up at Main Beach and West Beach once the ice is cleared of snow. Benches and skate mats are available at Main Beach once the rink is cleared of snow. The skate areas at Main Beach are lighted daily from 4-9 pm.

Please note: We do not keep separate rink areas for free skate and ice hockey, but skaters tend to section the ice into hockey and free skate areas.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Cross country ski trails are available at various open areas of the Park District which include Lippold Park, Veteran Acres, Sterne's Woods and Butternut Preserve. No lights and warming facilities are available on the trails.

SLED HILL

The sled hill at Veteran Acres is inspected daily when snow is on the ground in order to insure there are no safety concerns. The hill is lighted daily from 4-9 pm.



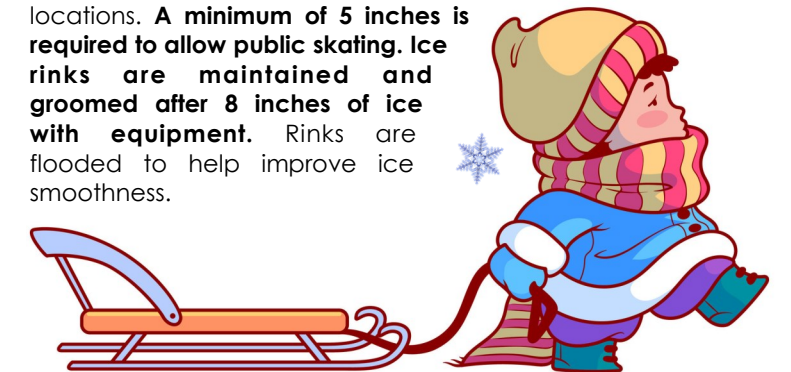
SNOWPLOWING AND SALTING

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.

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. **A minimum of 5 inches is required to allow public skating. Ice rinks are maintained and groomed after 8 inches of ice with equipment.** Rinks are flooded to help improve ice smoothness.



FOR UP-TO-DATE CONDITIONS/CLOSINGS, SIGN UP FOR ALERTS AT RAINOUTLINE.COM OR CALL 815.410.4475

UPCOMING PROJECTS



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.



WORK BEGINS ON RENOVATING THE BUTTERFLY HOUSE



PUBLIC NOTICE

ASBURY & CANTERBURY PLAYGROUNDS
will be replaced in 2020

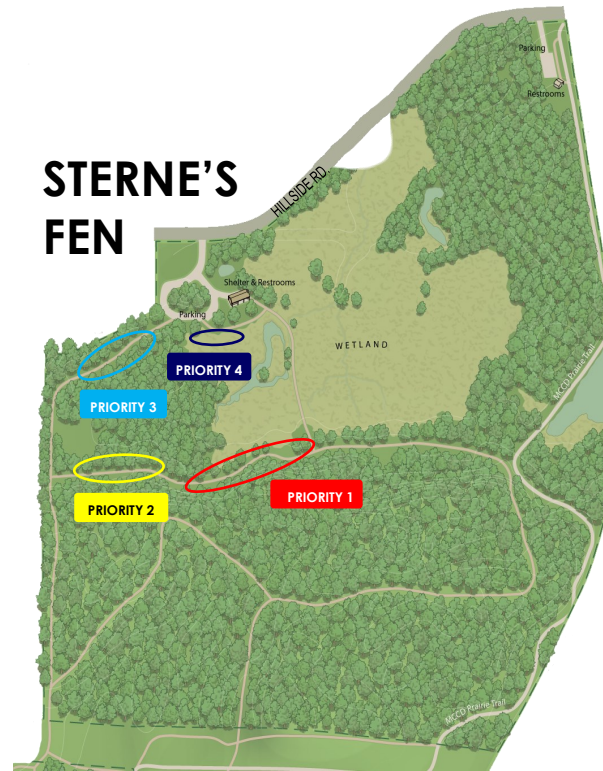
Asbury Park Public Input Meeting
Monday, January 13 @ 7:00 PM

Canterbury Park Public Input Meeting
Tuesday, January 14 @ 7:00 PM

If you are interested in voicing your opinion on the final design and layout of the new playgrounds, please attend the public input meetings which will be held in the lower level of the Administrative Office at 1 E. Crystal Lake Avenue.

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.

STERNE'S FEN



The 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.



PHASE 1 FEN RESTORATION

NEED GIFT IDEAS?

PICK UP A GIFT CARD TODAY!

ADMIN OFFICE OPEN MON-FRI 8:30-5 PM

LAND ACQUISITION

HOW DOES THE CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT ACQUIRE PROPERTY?

General Practices Manual Policy 3.2 – Land Acquisition states:

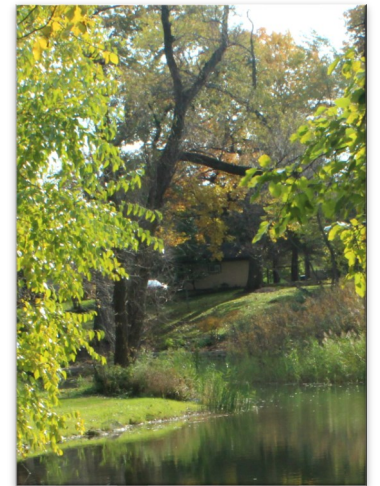
The Crystal Lake Park District occasionally has the opportunity to purchase or accept the donation of additional parcels of land. Although each situation is different and should be thoroughly evaluated based upon its unique characteristics and merit, the following are general guidelines to be used when determining whether or not to acquire additional property.

LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITIES:

- Parcels that would expand an existing park site or link existing park sites.
- Parcels that would protect endangered natural areas or that influence the ecological health of current parks and properties.
- Parcels that provide an area for a recreational activity or operational function that is identified as needed.
- Parcels located in underserved areas of the Park District.
- Parcels that can be maintained by existing staff, equipment or contractual arrangement.
- Parcels that provide trail connectivity.

THE PARK DISTRICT WILL NOT ACCEPT:

- Parcels that are not usable by the public.
- Parcels that are not accessible by the public, maintenance or safety personnel.
- Parcels that contain facilities or structures that do not fit with the Park District mission.
- Parcels that would create a financial burden on the district.



SHAMROCK HILLS POND

The Crystal Lake Park District periodically reviews all properties to determine if the parcel/property/facility brings value to Park District residents as noted above.

MINIMUM WAGE LAW

Date	Wage Per Hour
January 1, 2020	\$ 9.25
July 1, 2020	\$10.00
January 1, 2021	\$11.00
January 1, 2022	\$12.00
January 1, 2023	\$13.00
January 1, 2024	\$14.00
January 1, 2025	\$15.00

In February of 2019, Governor Pritzker signed legislation increasing minimum wage throughout the state of Illinois. Over the course of the next 5 years, minimum wage will increase to \$15 per hour. Please note the mandated schedule for implementation.

The Crystal Lake Park District is one of the largest, if not the largest, first time employer of youth in our community. Many of the jobs (beach staff, seasonal park maintenance staff, and camp staff) are minimum wage positions.

As a result, the change in minimum wage law will have an impact on the Crystal Lake Park District. Program and Facility budgets will be adjusted to help offset this increase in wages over the course of the next five years with actual users of these programs and facilities covering much of the cost. However, areas such as Main and West Beaches that are true public services do not and will not be able to cover this minimum wage increase with the minimal \$1 entry fee that is currently charged.

2019 TAX LEVY

The Crystal Lake Park District Board of Commissioners moved to not increase the tax levy by the full amount at the December Park Board Meeting. The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) this year allows for an increase of 1.9%. After much thought and consideration, the Park Board settled on a lesser amount of 1%. Strong consideration was given to a flat levy (no increase), but capturing new growth and accommodating the increase in minimum wage required by law were some of the factors that came into play along with a CPI that is anticipated to be very low next year. The Crystal Lake Park District tax rate is expected to decrease again this year for the fifth consecutive year.

HOME VALUE	1% WITH NEW GROWTH		2019 EST RATE: 0.481885		INCREASE
	2018 ASSESSED VALUE	2018 TAXES	2019 REASSESSED VALUE	2019 PROPOSED TAX	
150,000	50,000	250.14	53,000	255.40	5.26
200,000	66,667	333.52	70,667	340.53	7.01
250,000	83,333	416.90	88,333	425.67	8.76
300,000	100,000	500.28	106,000	510.80	10.52
350,000	116,667	583.66	123,667	595.93	12.27
400,000	133,333	667.04	141,333	681.06	14.02
450,000	150,000	750.42	159,000	766.20	15.77
500,000	166,667	833.80	176,667	851.33	17.53