



NORTHBROOK PARK DISTRICT

# MOVING FORWARD

2026

A strategic guide to the next ten years

## *Ten Years of Innovation Strategically Planned*

### Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) Overview

The Northbrook Park District developed this plan to guide facility and program development decisions for the next 10 years. The planning process, shaped by the community, covers five key phases: Analyze, Connect, Envision, Prioritize, and Implement. The Implement phase will be accomplished in collaboration with our residents' shared strategic vision for the District's future.

**View the complete Comprehensive Master Plan at [nbparks.org](http://nbparks.org)**

*The District worked with Hitchcock Design Group as the lead consultant on this project.*

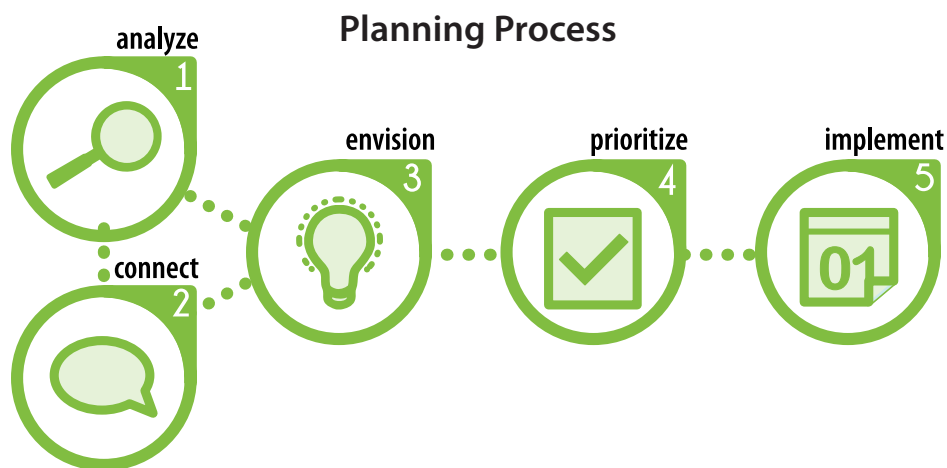


*The Mission of the Northbrook Park District is to enhance our community by providing outstanding services, parks and facilities through environmental, social and financial stewardship*

## Creating A Strong Foundation For Growth Purpose

The purpose of the Comprehensive Master Plan is to:

- Assess existing parks, facilities, and programs.
- Determine community sentiment about existing services and facilities.
- Identify park, facility, and program needs.
- Define strategic and measurable goals and objectives.
- Provide an action plan to implement strategies over the next five to ten years.



The Northbrook Park District service area covers approximately 17.25 square miles and serves a population of almost 34,000 people. Located in northeast Cook County, the Park District maintains more than 500 acres of parks, playgrounds and golf courses.

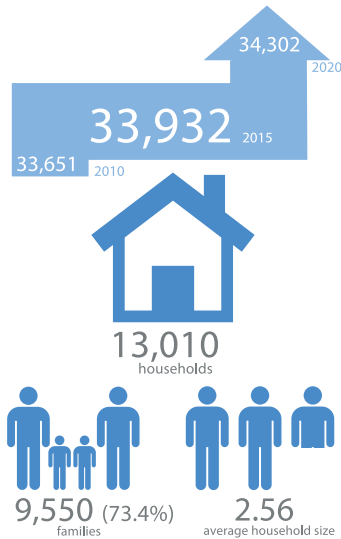
In addition to 22 parks, the Park District owns and manages several facilities in Northbrook including:

- |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Anetsberger Golf Course   | • Northbrook Theatre            |
| • Ed Rudolph Velodrome      | • Northbrook Senior Center      |
| • Leisure Center            | • Northbrook Sports Center Pool |
| • Meadowhill Aquatic Center | • Sportsman's Country Club      |
| • Northbrook Sports Center  |                                 |

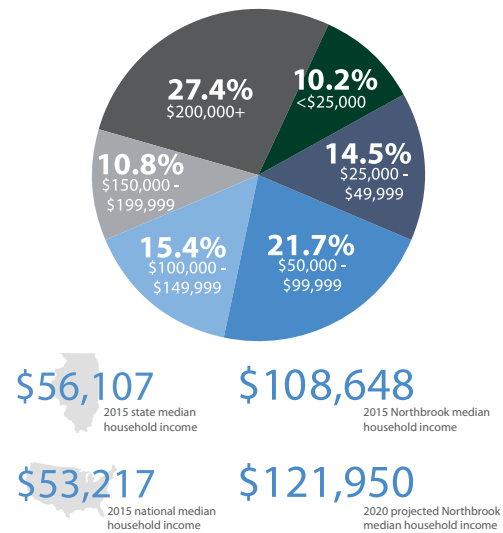
# Our Community At-A-Glance

## Analyze: Demographics

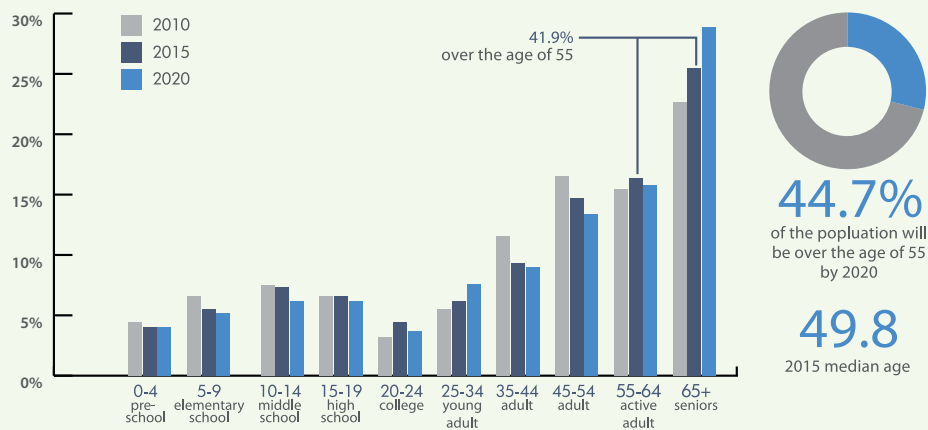
### TOTAL POPULATION



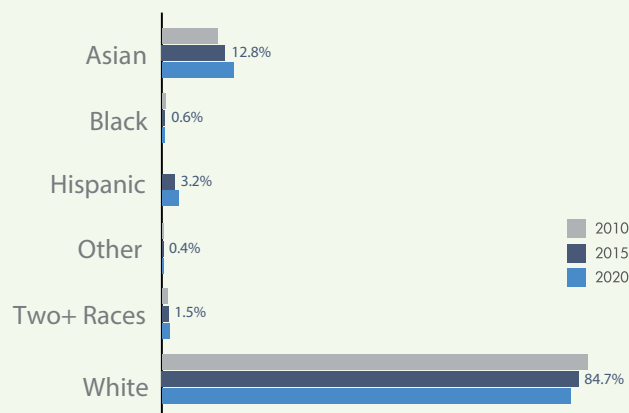
### INCOME DISTRIBUTION



### AGE DISTRIBUTION



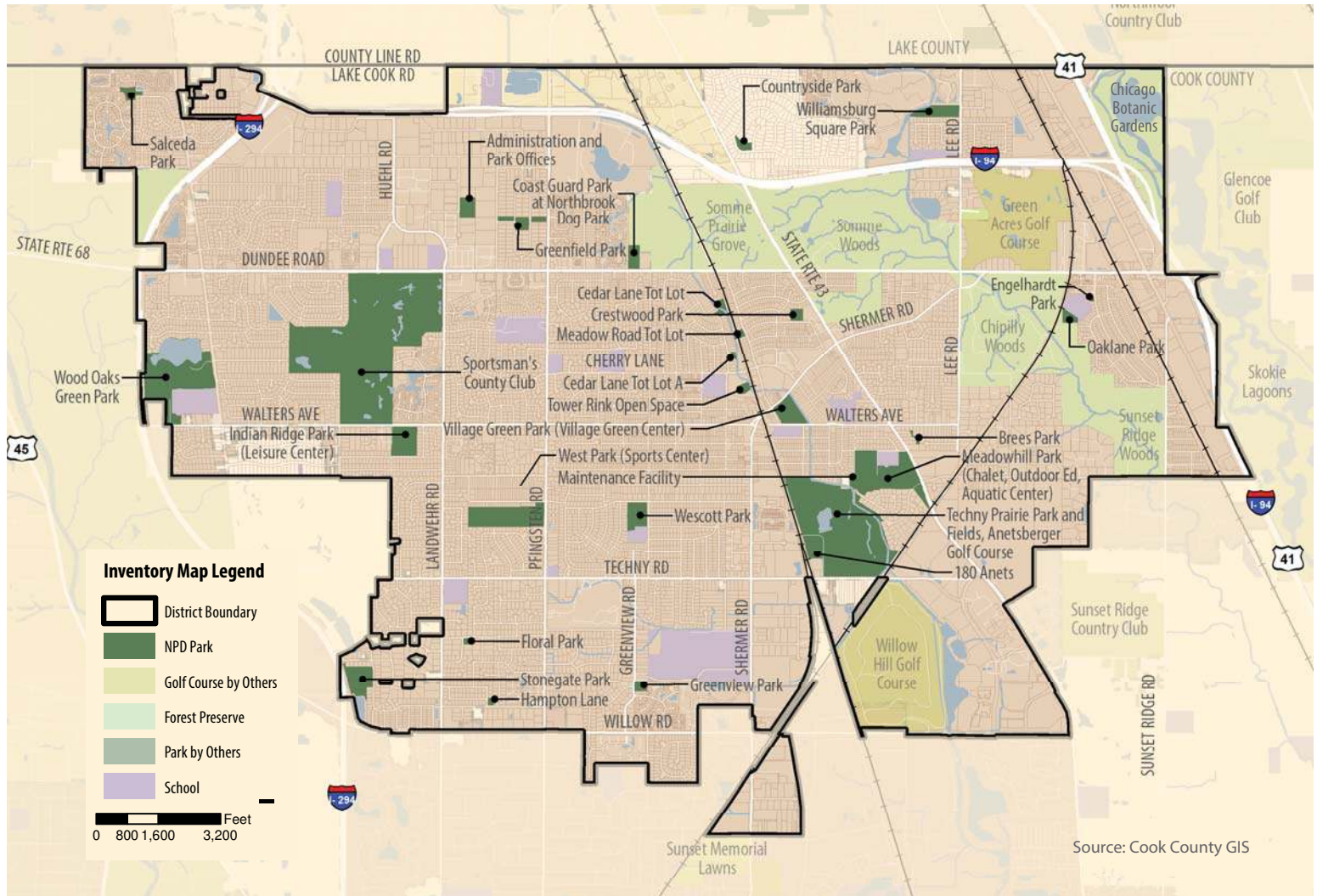
### RACE / ETHNICITY



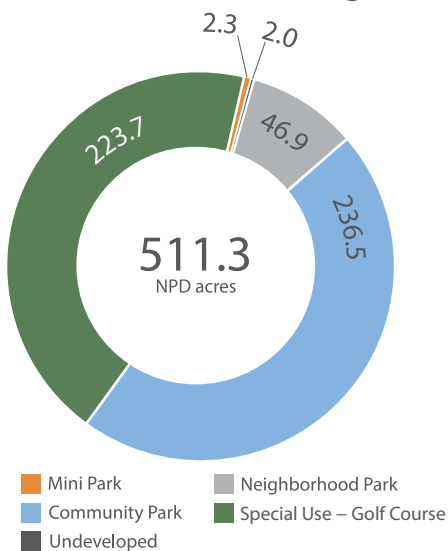


# Maintaining Quality Facilities

## Analyze: Inventory



### District-Owned Acreage



The Northbrook Park District has 19 parks that total 285.6 acres which is comparable to the median of national standards. An additional 223.7 acres is owned by the District at Sportsman's golf course. Undeveloped open space exists at 2 acres for a total of 511.3 acres owned by the District.





Northbrook Sports Center



Sportsman's Country Club



Meadowhill Aquatic Center



Leisure Center, Senior Center, Northbrook Theatre





# *Making The Most Of Our Assets*

## **Analyze: Level of Service**

NRPA Park Metrics are the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for park and recreation agencies. Launched in 2009, these agency performance resources assist park and recreation professionals in the effective management and planning of their operating resources and capital facilities. The District's Plan incorporates statistics and data from NRPA's Park Metrics. The Level of Service analyses evaluate how well the District's parks, facilities, and amenities are serving the current needs of the community.

These four different Level of Service measurements help a community understand how equitable and comprehensive their current park and recreation offerings are. They are:

1. **Acreage:**
  - A calculation of the minimum amount of land required to provide all of the recreation activities, and facilities required to support such activities
2. **Distribution:**
  - An evaluation of how equitable park and open space sites are placed throughout the community, as well as how accessible existing sites are to residents
3. **Amenities:**
  - A calculation of the minimum number of amenities and facilities required to meet state and/or national averages
4. **Square Footage:**
  - A calculation of the minimum number of indoor square footage required to provide all of the recreation programs and services

# *What Our Residents Shared*

## **Connect: Community Input**

Resident and stakeholder input is integral to the success of the District's long-term planning. The CMP community engagement process included the following outreach:

- Community Survey in 2016
- Community Meetings at the Park District
- Stakeholder Survey (Partners, Affiliates, Village, Chamber, Schools)
- Discussions with Board of Commissioners and District Management
- Website feedback link
- "My Sidewalk" online portal

### **Expand and Improve Key Program Areas**

Feedback from the community engagement cited six key areas for increasing recreational programming. These include:

- Adult fitness and wellness programming
- Active adult programs
- Nature and environmental programs
- Active outdoor recreation
- Indoor lap swimming
- Increased choices for summer camp programs

The Community Survey indicated adult fitness and wellness programming are a high priority for residents. The stakeholder survey and staff meetings also echoed the need for additional adult fitness and wellness programs. The community meeting participants, stakeholders, staff, and the Board of Commissioners identified the need for expanding older adult programs. There are significant opportunities to engage inactive adults with fitness and wellness programming such as body weight training, interval training, strength training, and fitness programs, especially given the aging demographic in Northbrook. However, all groups identified that program offerings are constrained by the lack of indoor recreation facilities.

According to NRPA Park Metrics, park and recreation agencies continue to expand their active adult offerings by providing various opportunities for triathlons, fitness, technology, entertainment and art classes. Programs like Yoga and Pilates are increasing in popularity across all adult populations and Northbrook residents are 63% more likely than the average American to participate in these class-based activities.

## Connect: Community Survey Summary – Continued

### Maintain Existing Parks and Open Spaces

Most (85%) households responding to the survey have used Northbrook Park District parks during the past 12 months, and 98% rate the parks as excellent or good. These are better results than many of the surveys the planning team has done, and speaks to the investment the Park District puts into maintaining their parks and open spaces. This will continue to be a priority into the future. Although stakeholders are satisfied with the parks, it was noted that some could be “modernized” and brought up to current standards. Specifically, stakeholders identified improvements to Meadowhill Park, Sportsman’s Country Club, and Techny Prairie Park and Fields. Staff and Board also echoed the need to prioritize maintenance and upgrades to existing parks before investing in new properties.

### Expand Walking/Biking Trails

Like many other communities, walking and biking trails are an important need for the Northbrook Park District community. Residents are at least 28% more likely to walk for fitness, bike, or run/jog than the average American. Walking and biking trails are the highest priority for investment according to the community survey. Survey respondents also indicated that they would use walking and biking trails (71%) and 51% identified they would support the development of new and/or connection of existing walking and biking trails throughout the District.

At the community meetings, trails were the number one priority for attendees. Comments related to trails included build more trails, improve bike access to parks, connect bike paths, and install calisthenics stations along paths. Stakeholders, staff and Board members also echoed the need for upgrades to and connections between existing trails and the development of new trails. Board members voiced the need to explore partnerships to implement new trail connections, and other community engagement methods indicate the community would support this initiative.







## Connect: Community Survey Summary – Continued

### Upgrade Existing and Consider Providing New Indoor Recreation Spaces

New and improved indoor recreation space was listed as a high priority for nearly all community engagement participants. Based on future investment, community survey respondents selected three program areas as priorities:

1. Fitness and Wellness
2. Active Adult Programs
3. Indoor Lap Swimming

The community survey indicated that 58% would use a fitness and exercise facility if available. The online engagement platform mirrored those results, with most respondents indicating the top action item they would support is the development of a new community/recreation center.

An indoor walking track was the highest indoor facility priority for community meeting participants. Stakeholders noted a need for a gymnasium, fitness/workout facility, indoor turf, and multi-purpose space. They noted that providing indoor recreation opportunities may attract younger families to the area too.

To achieve the goals identified in this Plan, the Board of Commissioners will develop viable solutions to address the community's desire for new facilities as well as upgrade and/or expand existing District facilities.

### Upgrade Aquatic Facilities

According to the community survey, Northbrook Sports Center Pool and Meadowhill Aquatic Center were two of the top three priorities for investment. Meadowhill Park was also a priority for stakeholders. In June, 2017, the District will unveil a new pool facility at Northbrook Sports Center Pool. The new facility will provide recreational elements for all ages and greater programming flexibility, while maximizing service to the entire community. The project includes a 25-yard pool with six lanes, a leisure pool, a vortex pool, zero-depth entry, two diving boards, deep water diving pool with a drop slide, and a climbing wall.

# Our Roadmap For The Future

## Envision: Identify Facility Needs

### 2014 NRPA Park Metrics Benchmarks—Indoor Recreation Space

Classification for populations 30,000-40,000	Recommended Square Footage	NPD Square Feet (Total)	Square Footage deficiency / surplus (SF)
Recreation Center*	72,036.8	0.0	-72,036.8
Community Center**	25,783.8	41,445.0	15,661.2
Senior Center	5,940.1	3,290.0	-2,650.1
Gymnasium	12,942.8	6,800.0	-6,142.8
Indoor Competitive Pool	4,015.5	0.0	-4,015.5
Indoor Leisure Pool	10,473.5	0.0	-10,473.5
Fitness Center	3,978.2	0.0	-3,978.2

\* Recreation Center: Indoor Walking/Running Track, Fitness Equipment/Classes, Indoor Courts, Health + Wellness, Cardio, Multi-Purpose areas

\*\*Community Center: Early Childhood/Youth/Adult/Senior Programs, Arts, Performing Arts, Camps, Community Rooms

Note: NRPA Park Metrics are the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for park and recreation agencies. Launched in 2009, these agency performance resources assist park and recreation professionals in the effective management and planning of their operating resources and capital facilities.

## Prioritize: Goals

The purpose of the Prioritize Strategies Phase is to develop actionable goals for the Park District to accomplish over the next five to ten years. The eight goals identified in the CMP are:

### Comprehensive Master Plan Goals – Capital

1. Improve and add indoor space to meet current and future needs for increased program and recreation opportunities.
2. Maintain and update existing assets to provide quality parks, facilities, and trails that are attractive, safe, accessible, and compliant with codes and standards.
3. Establish new parks to address park and open space acreage and distribution deficiencies.
4. Establish a community wide trail and bike network to improve connectivity, outdoor fitness, and equitable access.

### Comprehensive Master Plan Goals – Operational

5. Expand recreation opportunities to align with community interests, trends, and demographics.
6. Strengthen community relations to further build support, trust, and awareness.
7. Conduct operations with fiscal responsibility to maintain quality parks, facilities, and services in a sustainable fashion.
8. Explore partnership opportunities to leverage available and interested community resources to achieve mutually beneficial goals.





## A Comprehensive Strategy

### Implement: Action Plan

The final section, the Action Plan, is a multi-page chart in the CMP (pages 138-150) that identifies the steps and anticipated timeline for implementing the CMP strategies (actionable goals) over the next 5-10 years.

### Action Items: 2016 – 2017

#### Recreational Opportunities

- Northbrook Sports Center Pool: Renovation – *complete June 2017*
- Meadowhill Park: Update Master Plan – *begins summer 2017*
- Golf Courses: Needs Assessment – *begins summer 2017*

#### Trails and Bike Network

- Collaboration between District, Village and Bike Task Force – *ongoing*

#### Operations

- New District website – *complete May 2017*
- Improved data systems: registration and financial software – *begins fall 2017*

### Action Items: 2018 – Beyond

The Action Plan timeline highlights projects through 2026 and is divided into quarters within each year. A detailed summary of the action items is provided in a chronological year by year list. The items are further organized by the following categories: Facilities Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Trails and Open Space and Capital Improvements.



Consult the entire Comprehensive Master Plan at [nbparks.org](http://nbparks.org) to learn about the goals and strategies, analysis, survey data and national standards.

We look forward to ongoing community engagement to refine and build upon the action items identified in the Plan. Add your name to our mailing list at [comm@nbparks.org](mailto:comm@nbparks.org) to receive information on future projects including community meeting dates.



545 Academy Drive  
Northbrook, Illinois 60062  
847-291-2960  
[nbparks.org](http://nbparks.org)