



# 2017 Stewardship Report



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Cover photo: Charlotte, a young Northbrook resident, relishing an afternoon at the Meadowhill Park playground

*This report was written and designed by the Northbrook Park District Marketing & Communications Department.*



## Our **Mission**

To enhance our community by providing outstanding services, parks and facilities through environmental, social and financial stewardship



## Our **Vision**

To be recognized as a national leader in delivering innovative park and recreation services based on responsiveness, trust and accountability to our community

# Northbrook Park District Board of Commissioners & Executive Director



Penelope Randel  
President



Mary Ann Chambers  
Vice President



Lisa Chalem



Michael Schyman



Jeffrey Simon



Kenneth Slepicka



Michael Ziering



Molly Hamer  
Executive Director

## Senior Leadership Team

Greg Baron, Golf Director

Ed Dalton, Parks & Properties Director

Jean Hodal, Executive Administrator

Eileen Loftus, Recreation Director

Mindy Munn, Administration & Finance Director

Ann Ziolkowski, Marketing & Communications Director



Dear Northbrook Residents,

Since 1927, the Northbrook Park District has been integral in making Northbrook a desirable, respected community by providing outstanding parks, programs and facilities. The District is pleased to present our annual Stewardship Report highlighting our projects, programs and finances from 2017.

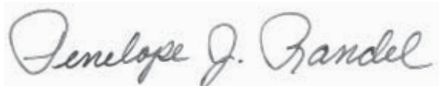
We began 2017 with a year-long tribute recognizing the District's 90th Anniversary. In addition to that milestone, we are proud of several other achievements this past year which we feature in this report, including:

- Implementing the District's **Comprehensive Master Plan: Moving Forward 2026**
- Completing a Meadowhill Park Assessment and a Golf Assessment at Sportsman's Country Club and Anetsberger Golf Course
- Reopening Northbrook Sports Center Pool on time and on budget
- Celebrating the Sports Center Pool re-opening on June 17
- Receiving Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting  
– 24th consecutive year
- Launching a new District website and implementing a new registration system
- Representing Northbrook as the Grand Marshal in the 4th of July Parade
- Enhancing partnership opportunities with the Village including the Plein Air Festival

Moving forward, we are excited to announce **2018-2022: New Places to Play**, adding value and wonderful recreation opportunities in Northbrook. As you look at the following pages, you will see the depth of our commitment and get a glimpse of what lies ahead.

It is an honor to serve the Northbrook community and make a difference in the lives of our residents.

Respectfully,



Penelope J. Randel, President  
Northbrook Park District Board



Molly Hamer, Executive Director  
Northbrook Park District

# Community Planning

## Moving Forward 2026: Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP)

The Board of Commissioners approved the **Comprehensive Master Plan: Moving Forward 2026**, in February 2017, which provides direction for the Northbrook Park District for the next ten years. The CMP outlines key operational and capital initiatives determined by Northbrook residents as their priorities for investment over the next ten years. The four key goals from the CMP include adding indoor program space, updating existing facilities, establishing new parks and open space, and creating a community-wide trail/bike network.

The District has a fiduciary responsibility to invest our resources in delivering outstanding recreation services to our residents. After careful review of community feedback and available financial resources, the Board has identified three priority capital projects.

These initiatives, **2018–2022: New Places to Play**, will start in 2018.

*The CMP is available at [nbparks.org/plans](http://nbparks.org/plans).*

# 2018–2022: New Places to Play

## 1 Indoor Program Space

The Northbrook Park District is moving forward to build an Activity Center at Techny Prairie Park and Fields on the six-acre parcel purchased in 2011. The District will be partnering with Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association (NSSRA) on the facility.

The Activity Center addresses four of the **Top 5 Priorities for Investment for Programs**, as identified in the CMP Community Survey:

1. Fitness and Wellness – including indoor walking track
2. Active Adult Programs – cardio and yoga classes
3. Senior Programs – focus on wellness
4. Open Gyms – all ages programming

## 2 Golf Course Improvements

A full assessment of golf operations was completed in September 2017. Priorities identified include improvements at:

- Sportsman's 18 and 9 hole courses
- Clubhouse at Sportsman's
- Driving Range

## 3 Meadowhill Park Improvements

The Meadowhill Park Assessment identified the following priorities:

- Demolish Outdoor Education Center (OEC) – built in 1968
- Improve Meadowhill Aquatic Center – add universal changing rooms
- Explore program improvements at the Ed Rudolph Velodrome



With a water walk, vortex pool & more, the Northbrook Sports Center Pool is really making a splash with residents



# Delivering Outstanding Facilities

## Northbrook Sports Center Pool Grand Opening

The new Northbrook Sports Center pool opened Saturday, June 17, 2017, with nearly 500 people celebrating the reopening. The new pool provides recreational elements for all ages and allows for greater programming flexibility while maximizing service to the entire community. The facility is home to a 25-yard pool with six lanes, leisure pool, vortex pool, zero-depth entry, a deep-water diving pool with two diving boards and a drop slide, a climbing wall and a water walk feature.

The Northbrook Park District takes pride in maintaining our facilities to the highest standards. One of the key goals of this project was to upgrade aging infrastructure at the old pool. The pool shell at the popular community pool was 50 years old and needed to be replaced. The pool's mechanical systems, underground piping and concrete deck also needed attention.

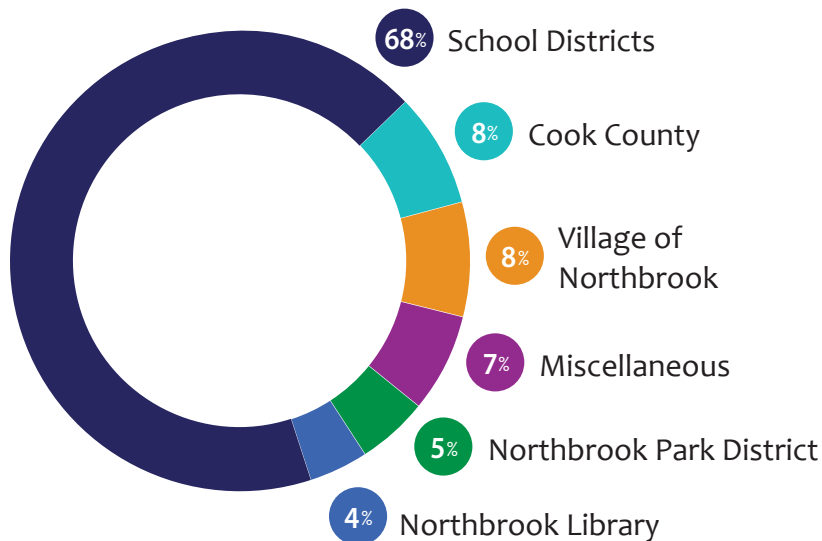
# Fiscal Integrity

Park District programs and services are funded largely through user fees, while property tax revenue primarily funds operational and maintenance costs of park amenities and facilities. The District's tax rate for the 2017 fiscal year was \$0.423 per \$100 of assessed value, compared to \$0.569 in the previous year.

The District maintains an Aaa bond rating from Moody's and was the first Park District in Illinois to attain that rating.

## Overview of Northbrook Property Taxes

The Park District represents 5% of the total property tax bill for Northbrook residents.



## Finances at a Glance

Fiscal Year	2008	2017
Population	34,688	33,170
Tax Rate	\$0.341	\$0.423
Total Budget	\$18,854,555	\$27,356,726
Outstanding Debt	\$17,450,000	\$4,095,000
Bond Rating	Aaa	Aaa

## Revenue & Resources

For the fiscal year ending April 30, 2017, revenue totaled \$22.6 million. The largest sources of revenue were derived from property taxes (53%) and user fees (34%).

### 53% **Property Taxes**

Taxes collected from property owners based on an assessed valuation and tax rate

### 34% **User Fees**

Fees charged for recreation programs; reviewed annually by the Executive Director and staff

### 6% **Facility Rentals**

Fees charged to rent District facilities, such as ice rinks, athletic fields, meeting rooms and picnic areas

### 1% **Merchandise Sales**

Sales of retail merchandise primarily at Sportsman's Country Club

### 6% **Other\***

Revenues including surplus property, investment income and miscellaneous reimbursements

\*During the year, the District received over \$500,000 in impact fees related to a commercial/residential development. This is non-recurring revenue to the District.

## Expenditures

For the fiscal year ending April 30, 2017, expenses totaled \$24.1 million. The Park District funded \$5.5 million in capital improvements during the fiscal year.

### 10% **Benefits**

Expenditures for employee health insurance premiums and employer costs associated with Social Security, Medicare and pension benefits

### 23% **Capital Projects**

The District maintains a ten-year Capital Improvement Plan; Board and staff review on a regular basis; capital project funding provided through issuance of debt obligations and operating surplus

### 16% **Contractual Services**

Expenditures reflect outside services provided by others such as mowing services and recreational providers

### 15% **Debt Service**

Principal and interest payments owed on outstanding debt issues; end of current fiscal year, District had \$4.1 million in outstanding debt

### 30% **Salaries and Wages**

District has 73 full-time staff, 300 part-time positions and about 250 seasonal employees

### 6% **Supplies**

Materials and supplies needed to provide recreation programs and park maintenance services





# Innovative Services

[nbparks.org](http://nbparks.org)

The District's new website was launched in May, 2017. In addition to an entirely new design, the biggest improvement was creating a mobile and tablet responsive site making it more accessible and easier for users to navigate.

Another exciting feature is the launch of the District's newsfeed. From updating residents on changes in programs and events, to sharing timely articles about things to do at the District, this news feature keeps residents informed and engaged.

Other highlights include:

- Comprehensive events calendar
- Improved search capabilities and site navigation

Residents get the most up-to-date, real-time information on programs, events and facility status.





Northbrook Theatre Summer Workshop – celebrating kids’ creativity & expression

## Registration System

After diligent research, District staff determined that a transition to ACTIVE Net would be our best registration solution to provide an enhanced user experience while also improving internal processes.

Several park and recreation agencies currently use ACTIVE Net’s registration software, including Chicago Park District.

Key features include:

- Quick click links to popular information
- Improved search functionality
- Intuitive filter tools to find activities
- Enhanced security that meets and/or exceeds PCI compliance (credit card fraud, consumer protection)

**\$174,000**  
**SAVINGS**  
over 5 years

Post implementation and annual operating costs are expected to decrease significantly from previous software.

# Environmental Leadership

## Saving Significantly More Water

The Northbrook Sports Center Pool uses the latest filtration technology. Regenerative media filters have dramatically reduced the amount of water used, while saving on chemical and heating costs.

777,000 gallons  
**WATER SAVED**  
2017 vs 2016



## Creating Butterfly Migration Routes

This past spring, the Park District assisted the Northbrook Garden Club in procuring 150 Asclepias incarnate (milkweed plants). The District has been proactive in helping create a Monarch Waystation to help sustain butterflies along their annual migration routes.





## Revitalizing Prairie Diversity

In effort to enhance environmental best practices, on February 17, 2017, Techny Prairie Park and Fields received an ecological prescription burn. The section of the prairie burned includes the area along the Trail Through Time. Burning only a section of the prairie allows refuge for wildlife habitat while maintaining different sections of the prairie each year. Prescription burning is a major tool for preserving the biological diversity of the prairie. Planned burns can:

- Decrease competition from weeds
- Reduce the buildup of vegetative fuel
- Increase plant vigor



## Improving Storm Water Management

The Northbrook Park District signed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Village of Northbrook to lessen the impact of flooding in neighborhoods north and west of West Park. The Village began the project in August and concluded in November. With the granting of this easement, the Village also enlarged the storm water storage capacity for District use as well as addressed an ongoing standing water issue in the park.

All of the baseball and softball fields will be available in April 2018, while the soccer fields will be available to the District for programming in June of 2018.





Northbrook Golf Academy – our youth golf program like no other



# Enhancing the Golf Experience

Aligned with the District's Comprehensive Master Plan, a Golf Assessment was conducted in 2017 by Sirius Golf Advisors. The assessment included golf operations at Sportsman's Country Club and Anetsberger Golf Course. In addition to analyzing our facilities, the consultants interviewed stakeholder groups, resident and non-resident golfers, Board of Commissioners, District staff and visited dozens of regional courses. The assessment focused on what can be done to improve operational performance and customer satisfaction. Based on the findings, the District will begin major golf improvements at Sportsman's in conjunction with the **2018-2022: New Places to Play** initiative.

## At-A-Glance

### 2017 Highlights

- 10 Open Events/Tournaments at Sportsman's
- 2 Events/Tournaments at Anetsberger
- 8 Illinois Junior Golf Association Events (453 participants)
- 1 USGA Men's Mid-Am qualifier
- 164 Permanent tee time players

### 2017 League Participation

- 175 18-hole league members
- 148 9-hole AM league members
- 283 9-hole PM league members

### 2017 Rounds Compared to 2016

- 27,237 Sportsman's 18 Hole Rounds – up 1,058
- 30,469 Sportsman's 9 Hole Rounds – up 1,561
- 10,828 Anetsberger Rounds – down 6





Finance. Technology. Recreation. Custodians. Business. Marketing. PGA Golf Pros & Professional Skating Instructors. Landscape Architects. Trades. Human Resources. Mechanics. Graphic Designers. Risk Management. Theatre. Grounds. Lifeguards.

# Serving Northbrook for 90 Years!

The Northbrook Park District team is comprised of many professionals from diverse educational backgrounds. We recognize and thank all of our full-time, part-time and seasonal staff who make the District one of the most respected in Illinois.

# Noteworthy District Achievements

## Financial Excellence

For the past 16 years, the District has received the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The award reflects the commitment of the District to meeting the highest principles of government budgeting.

For the 24th consecutive year, the District received a **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** from the GFOA for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.



Former & current Commissioners represented the District as the 2017 4th of July Parade Marshals – Celebrating our 90th Anniversary.

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Commissioner Penny Randel receives prestigious Illinois Association of Park District's **Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award**

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Park Board adopts 10-year Comprehensive Master Plan

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District announces **2018-2022: New Places to Play** capital projects

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Sportsman's named **North Shore Reader's Choice Award – Best Driving Range**

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Park Board, Northbrook Girls Softball, staff and residents dedicate new ball field at Wescott Park

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Northbrook Sports Center Pool Grand Re-Opening

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Ethan Williams, Recreation Supervisor, elected IPRA Board Director-Elect – Facility Management

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Ribbon cutting at new Bocce Ball Courts at Indian Ridge Park

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Northbrook Sports Center awarded **Jewel-Osco/Kraft Heinz \$20K #Hockeyville Jewel Sweepstakes** – purchases new hockey scoreboards

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Golf Digest announces **Best Golf Teachers in Illinois** – District's PGA Pro Michael Wenzel ranks #12

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# Our Programs Know No Limits



Teams Elite, the District's esteemed synchronized skating program, launched a successful 2017-2018 season with all four teams capturing first place at the Kalamazoo Kick Off Classic in Michigan. They continued their strong start at the prestigious Dr. Porter Classic in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The Preliminary & Novice teams matched their championship performances from Kalamazoo. The Juvenile & Intermediate teams earned second place in their divisions.





Indian Ridge Park's new Bocce Ball Courts – fun for all ages



Get fit at the Leisure Center's new fitness room  
– The Ridge



Second-to-none singing troupe, the Senior Center's Park Larks,  
entertaining all year long





Tuesdays in the Park concert series draw hundreds to Village Green Park through June & July

# What Our Community Is Saying

## WHAT A SHOW!

## WOW!

The choreography, music and staging was so good! Thank you again.

She **ADORES** this program!

We are so lucky you do so much for our kids...the inclusiveness and **COMPASSION** of your programs is a blessing.

Thank you again,  
*Jessica L. and family*

Thank you Northbrook Park District.  
Great facility and coaches!

## GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING

at the Northbrook Sports Center!

*Karline P.*

Thank you for an

## EXCELLENT

golf outing! The course was in **FANTASTIC SHAPE**.

Great service by all your staff.

*John F.*

On behalf of the Northbrook Girls Softball Association we wanted to thank the park staff for all of their

## FINE WORK

and help during the Spartan Classic. The extra effort to prep the fields on Friday morning after the rains was greatly appreciated by all. We received a number of compliments throughout the tournament!

*Christine L.*

We were

## BLOWN AWAY

by the *Annie* production. Our son had such a fantastic time and we are still singing the *Annie* songs every day.

We appreciate everything you put into this show and he will

**BENEFIT** from this experience long after the curtain closed!

Many thanks,  
*Kate & Dave E.*







Sunshine Preschool friends reconnect at Indian Ridge Park

# Making Lifelong Connections

Karen and her daughter had a wonderful reunion with old friends at Indian Ridge Park this past September. The former Northbrook residents moved to Florida two years ago and were back due to Hurricane Irma.

Luckily, their house was okay but that week had been anything but normal for them. They packed up

their mini-van with all that they could including their dog and decided to come back “home” to wait out the storm in Northbrook.

When we caught up with her, Karen was upbeat and positive about her situation saying, “It’s nice to be back and have a sense of normalcy and comfort.”

Her daughter was busy playing with friends she made while attending Sunshine Preschool. The moms are just as good of friends. The playdate/mini-reunion gave Karen and her daughter a fun day in the park.





Photos (L-R, Top-Bottom): Yoga, Safety Town, STEM Challenge, Northbrook After Dark, Hockey Training Academy

# Partnering to Expand Services

Thank you to the partner agencies, affiliates, school districts, businesses and organizations that collaborated with us in 2017 to serve the Northbrook community.

## Partners

Chicago Blackhawks  
Chicago District Golf Association  
Congregation Beth Shalom  
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago  
Eye Level of Northbrook  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County  
GBN Key Club  
GBS Interact Club  
George Garner Cyclery  
Glenbrook Racquet Club  
Glencoe Park District  
Illinois Junior Golf Association  
Islamic Cultural Center of Greater Chicago  
Jennifer Lynn Snyder Teen Heart Foundation  
Keystone Alliance/Glenkirk Enterprises  
North Shore Senior Center  
Northbrook Action Baseball  
Northbrook Arts Commission  
Northbrook Boy Scout Troops  
Northbrook Chamber of Commerce  
Northbrook Civic Foundation  
Northbrook Fire Department  
Northbrook Garden Club

Northbrook Historical Society  
Northbrook Police Department  
Northbrook Public Library  
Northbrook Racquet Club  
Northbrook School Districts  
Northbrook Senior Services Commission  
Northbrook United Methodist Church  
Northbrook Youth Commission  
Northern Suburban Special Education District  
Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association  
Northern Suburban Special Recreation Foundation  
Northfield Township Food Pantry  
Reds Garden Center  
Rotary Club of Northbrook  
St. Norbert's School  
Sunset Foods  
Underwriters Laboratories  
Village of Northbrook  
Whole Foods  
Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook

## Affiliates

Northbrook Baseball  
Northbrook Competitive Figure Skating Team  
Northbrook Cycle Committee  
Northbrook Girls Softball Association  
Northbrook Hockey League  
Northbrook Jr. Spartans Hockey Club  
Northbrook Speed Skating Club  
Spartan FC Soccer





Great things happen when we all come together –  
District staff packing meals at Chamber event



Touch-A-Truck at UL – making big impressions  
on our littlest residents



Reading lets the imagination soar – the Little Library at Wood Oaks Green Park





545 Academy Drive  
Northbrook, IL  
60062

## ECRWSS

Residential Customer  
Northbrook, IL 60062

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
NORTHBROOK, IL  
PERMIT NO 76



Annual Autumnfest brings friends & family together – making memories that last a lifetime