



Stewardship Report

2018 Year in Review



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Cover photo: Monarch butterflies at
Techny Prairie Park and Fields.

*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

Eileen Loftus, Recreation Director

Mindy Munn, Administration & Finance Director

Wendy Peterson, Executive Administrator

Ann Ziolkowski, Marketing & Communications Director

Dear Northbrook Residents,

Now in its eighth year, our annual Stewardship Report provides a snapshot of District initiatives, projects, programs and finances to ensure access to the latest recreation, fitness and wellness opportunities.

Guided by our Mission of environmental, social and financial stewardship, we are proud to share our accomplishments in 2018, including:

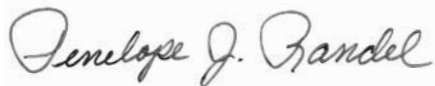
- Launching 2018–2022: New Places to Play (page 7)
- Finalizing design phase for new Activity Center (pages 8-9)
- Saving \$353,000 on electricity over past five years (page 16)
- Collaborating with community partners (page 26)

A major highlight of 2018 was moving forward on the design of the new Activity Center at Techny Prairie Park and Fields. As we work closely with Wight Architects on this project, our commitment to quality and excellence remains at the forefront. The District expects to begin construction Summer 2019.

We continue our conscientious, responsible management of District assets and finances while meeting the needs of the community and being fiscally responsible with public dollars. For the 25th consecutive year, the District received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

We hope you enjoy the wonderful resources offered by the Northbrook Park District and invite you to take part in the many opportunities for recreation and active play we provide in the community. We look forward to seeing you at our parks, in our classes and joining us at special events.

Have a happy, healthy and joyous 2019.



Penelope J. Randel, President
Northbrook Park District Board



Molly Hamer, Executive Director
Northbrook Park District



Concept Design for New Activity Center at Techny Prairie Park and Fields

Active Spaces

2018–2022: New Places to Play

Determined by Northbrook residents as their priorities for investment over the next ten years, the Northbrook Park District approved a Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) in 2017. The Plan outlines the goals and objectives of the District for the next ten years. After careful review of community feedback and available financial resources, the Board has identified three capital projects. These initiatives, **2018–2022: New Places to Play**, are now in progress.

2018–2022: New Places to Play

Design. Build. Experience!

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

- Fitness and Wellness – including indoor walking track
- Active Adult Programs – cardio and yoga classes
- Senior Programs – focus on wellness
- Open Gyms – all ages programming

Golf Course Improvements

A full assessment of golf operations was conducted last summer. Planning will continue into the coming year with future improvements to:

- Sportsman's Classic 18 and East 9 Courses
- Clubhouse at Sportsman's
- Driving Range

Meadowhill Park Improvements

At Meadowhill Park, priorities include adding universal changing rooms at Meadowhill Aquatic Center and upgrades to other various amenities.

New Activity Center Concept and Planning



Wight Team Leads Design Discussion with Park District Staff



New Activity Center Interior View – Second Floor



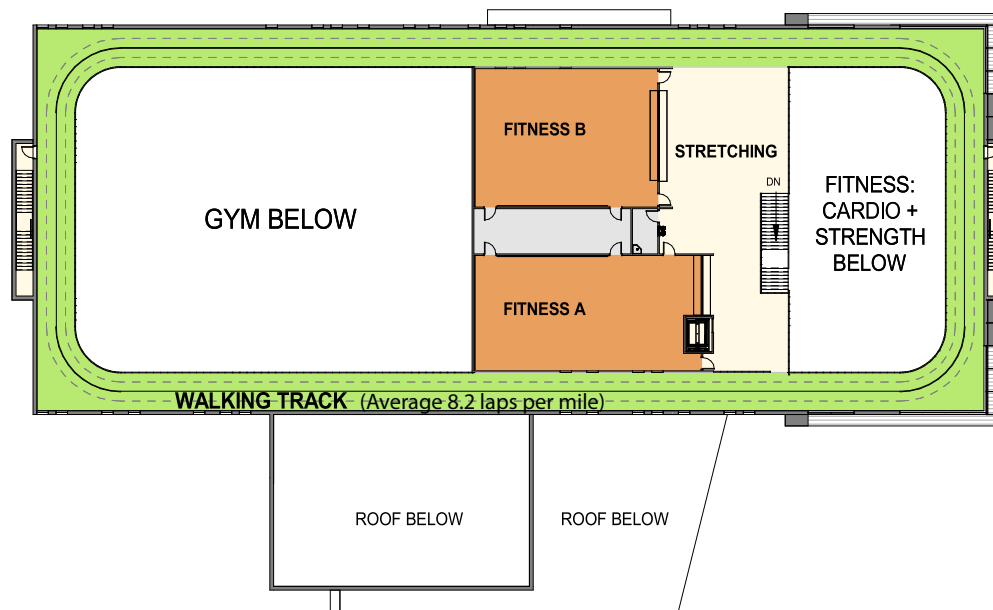
Wight, Corporate Construction and Park District Staff at Recent Activity Center Design Meeting

Potential Programs and Services

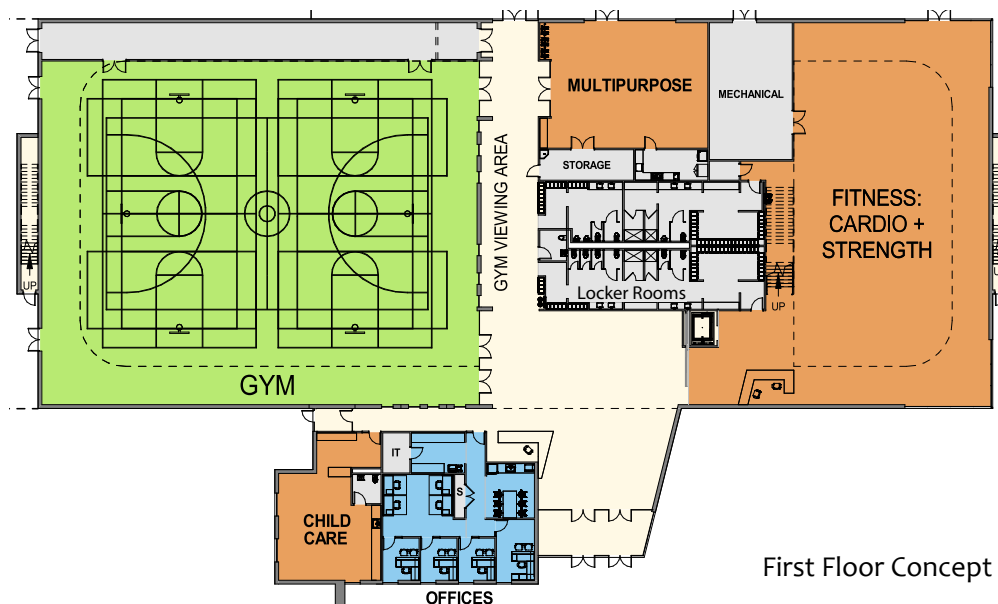
Basketball
 Volleyball
 Pickleball
 Personal Training
 Summer Camps
 Instructional Youth Sports
 Parent-Child Classes
 Walking/Jogging Track
 Childcare

Potential Classes

Nutrition Classes
Mind & Body Classes: Tai Chi, Yoga, Meditation
Cardio Fitness Classes: Zumba, WERQ, Spin Classes, Boot Camps, Interval Training
Strength Classes: Kettlebells, Total Body Strength, Core Training
Low Impact Aerobics Classes: Zumba Gold, Sit and Be Fit, Nia, Joints in Motion



Second Floor Concept



First Floor Concept

Delivering Outstanding Facilities

Improvements at the Northbrook Sports Center



Northbrook Sports Center Lobby

Renovations at Northbrook Sports Center were completed in September 2018 and included a new front desk and vestibule at the main entrance. The changes create a welcome, engaging atmosphere, placing staff front and center to provide the best customer service.

"We wanted to create something that was aesthetically pleasing while continuing to provide the outstanding services the public expects."

Angus Shields, Recreation Division Manager

The upgraded vestibule provides improved energy efficiency—keeping cold air out during the winter months and warm air out in the summer months.

Other changes at the main entrance included relocating offices and skate rental for enhanced traffic flow. An additional ADA accessible door was installed on the north side of the building and sliding doors were added to the south side, offering easy access for patrons with disabilities as well as participants entering the facility with skating and hockey equipment.



Pathway at Village Green Park in the Heart of Northbrook



Techny Prairie Park and Fields Walkway

Improving Our Parks

Smoother surfaces were created for the community to stay active on the paths at Village Green Park, Techny Prairie Park and Fields and Meadowhill Park. The District sealcoated a total of 556,625 square feet of pathways which is the equivalent of 10 football fields.

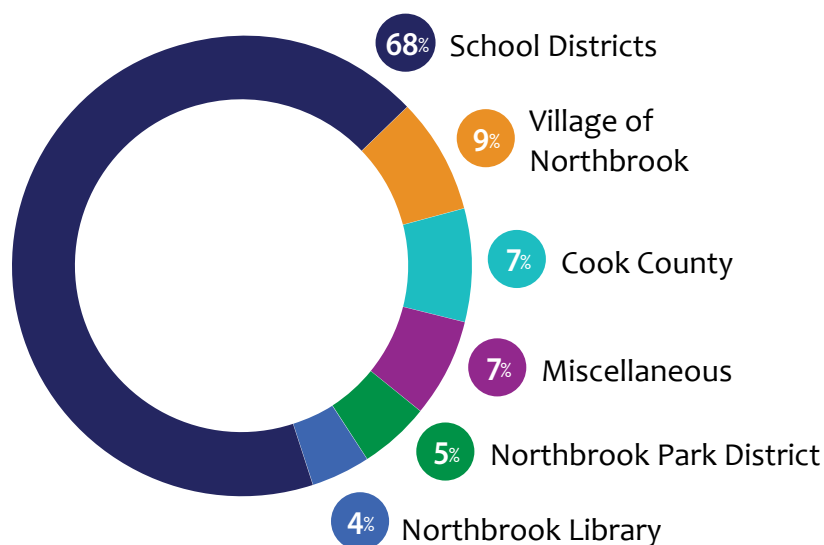
Surfaces also were improved at the Leisure Center, where 51,637 feet of the main lot were repaved in August. A total of 33,064 square feet in the west lot were resurfaced, enhancing the experience for patrons who visit the facility daily for programs and activities.

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 2018 fiscal year was \$0.419 per \$100 of assessed value, compared to \$0.423 in the previous year.

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	2018
Population	34,688	33,170
Tax Rate	\$0.341	\$0.419
Total Budget	\$18,854,555	\$21,903,402
Outstanding Debt	\$17,450,000	\$0

Revenue & Resources*

For the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2018, revenue totaled \$21.1 million. The largest sources of revenue were derived from property taxes (52%) and user fees (35%).

52%

Property Taxes

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

35%

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

2%

Merchandise Sales

Sales of retail merchandise primarily at Sportsman's Country Club

5%

Other*

Revenues including surplus property, investment income and miscellaneous reimbursements.

Expenditures*

For the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2018, expenses totaled \$19.6 million. The Park District funded \$2.5 million in capital improvements during the fiscal year.

11%

Benefits

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

13%

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

21%

Contractual Services

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

11%

Debt Service

Principal and interest payments owed on outstanding debt issues; end of current fiscal year, the District had no outstanding debt

36%

Salaries and Wages

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

8%

Supplies

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



*These are preliminary results based on timing of publication.

Innovative Services

Providing Positive Experiences

We understand the needs of busy families and look to streamline processes to improve the customer experience. With that in mind, the District introduced more flexibility with registration by expanding our registration software (Active Net®) to include camps, Adventure Campus, freestyle ice programs and pool passes. Summer camp and Adventure Campus families are now offered flexible registration options. Customers also can initiate and manage their own payment plans through the flexible registration system.

Another recent technology enhancement—the Vendini ticketing system—introduced to Northbrook Theatre in 2017, became available for Northbrook-On-Ice ticket purchases in 2018. Vendini makes purchasing tickets a breeze, allowing customers to access tickets on their mobile phones. Tickets are available for our theatre and ice shows at nbparks.org.



Northbrook Park District Summer Camp Carnival



Bluehawks Call Northbrook Sports Center Home



GBN Spartan Hockey Locker Room at the Northbrook Sports Center



Bluehawk's Take the Ice

Cheering on the Home Teams

The Northbrook Park District is proud to be part of our community sports teams. In August 2018, locker rooms at Northbrook Sports Center were repainted in home team colors for the Bluehawks, Glenbrook North Spartans and Junior Spartans hockey clubs. In addition, the coaches' locker room was relocated and renovated to provide a private space for coaches.

Environmental Leadership

Small Changes. **BIG IMPACT!**

Sustainability and environmental stewardship are at the core of everything we do. The District works throughout the year to identify ways we can conserve water, reuse and recycle materials and support wildlife and pollinator habitats in our parks and golf courses with native plants and trees.

Invasive buckthorn, which can destroy native landscape, was removed from the west side of West Park in 2018 and replaced by a variety of native shrubs and plants, including Arctic Fire Red-Osier Dogwood, Brilliant Red Chokeberry, Chicago Lustre Arrowwood Viburnum, Apple Serviceberry, Wild Blue Virginia Iris and Woodland Phlox.

In 2018, the District...

- Recycled 340 gallons of oil and 30 gallons of antifreeze from District vehicles
- Recycled 20 cubic yards of plastic and cardboard at Northbrook Days
- Planted 7,700 spring bulbs

Sustainable Practices

Significant strides also have been made throughout the District to reduce energy costs, with the latest data showing a notable savings in energy. Between 2012 and 2017 the District has seen an electricity use reduction of:

- 752,700 kilowatts at the Joe Doud Administration Building
- 566,500 kilowatts at the Leisure Center
- 2,281,000 kilowatts at Northbrook Sports Center

↓ 3,600,000 kW =
\$353,000
SAVINGS



A Blue Heron Takes Flight at Sportsman's Country Club's East 9 Course

Leaving a Legacy

The District was recognized for its commitment to enhancing the community through environmental stewardship when Sportsman's Country Club earned its second Audubon International Certification (first certification was in 2015). The golf course received the honor in September. To be certified, facilities must maintain a high degree of environmental quality in a variety of areas, including:

- environmental planning
- wildlife and habitat management
- outreach and education
- chemical use reduction and safety
- water conservation and water quality management

Audubon officials were particularly impressed with Sportsman's continued effort to create naturalized areas on the golf course to help provide food, water and habitat for local and migratory wildlife.

Sportsman's is one of only 43 sites in Illinois and 905 courses in the world to receive this honor.

"Sportsman's Country Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program," said Christine Kane, CEO at Audubon International.

"They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property."





New Golf Cars Save Fuel and Go Twice the Distance



Award-Winning PGA Instructor Michael Wenzel



Sportsman's Country Club's Classic 18 is a North Shore Favorite

A 'Driving' Force in Local Golf

Gorgeous midsummer weather made for a record July at Sportsman's Country Club and Anetsberger Golf Course.

"When the weather was great, our numbers were some of the best we have seen in the past decade," said Greg Baron, Director of Golf Operations. "It's exciting to see so many people out on the courses enjoying this great game!"

The golf car fleet at Sportsman's was expanded in 2018 from 85 vehicles to 92. The cars are fuel injected, enabling the District to get nearly double the gas mileage. In addition, two, electric four passenger Club Car golf car vehicles were added to enhance the golf experience for families. Sportsman's offers a family golf program on the East 9.

Golfers of all ages now have more opportunities to learn and perfect their game. An indoor instruction studio was added in January in the Sportsman's clubhouse dining room. The studio features two hitting nets and one TrackMan® projected simulator available to golfers during the winter months.

At-A-Glance

2018 Highlights

- 10 Open Events/Tournaments at Sportsman's
- 2 Events/Tournaments at Anetsberger
- 7 Illinois Junior Golf Association Events (474 Competitive Rounds)
- 160 Permanent tee time players

2018 League Participation

- 171 18-hole league members
- 165 9-hole AM league members
- 285 9-hole PM league members

2018 Rounds

- 26,857 Sportsman's 18 Hole Rounds
- 29,185 Sportsman's 9 Hole Rounds
- 8,369 Anetsberger Rounds

Behind the Scenes...



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1. 57 adult softball teams competed in our 12" and 14" leagues this summer, fall and in our end-of-season tournament.
2. Our annual Fishing Derby is successful with help from Keystone Hatcheries who stock Lake Shermerville with hundreds of fish and the Izaak Walton League who volunteer at the event.
3. Looking for a great day in the park? Check out one of our 18 playgrounds in a neighborhood near you.
4. The Northbrook Dog Park has two enclosed areas—one for big dogs and one for small dogs—and is open 365 days a year. Membership information is available at nbparks.org.

Noteworthy District Achievements

Financial Excellence

For the past 17 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 in meeting the highest principles of government budgeting.

For the 25th 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.



Award-Winning Northbrook Sports Center Pool

The Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) presented the District with the **Outstanding Facility Award** for outstanding achievements in recreation facility design and development of the new Sports Center Pool. The Northbrook Sports Center pool opened June 2017.

Sportsman's was named 2018 North Shore **Reader's Choice Award—Best Driving Range**.

The District was awarded \$5,000 Feed a Bee Grant from Bayer.

The District's website, nbparks.org, was recognized with two national awards in 2018:

- The **National WebAward for Outstanding Achievement in Web Development**
- **Horizon Interactive Media Silver Award** in Government Agency Category

Golf Digest announced our PGA Pro Michael Wenzel named among the **Best Young Teachers in America under 40** for 2018-2019.

Enhancing Life Through Recreation



A Splashtastic Summer!

The excitement was nonstop at Northbrook Sports Center Pool and Meadowhill Aquatic Center where families splashed away at the children's play area, leapt off diving boards and rode tube and body slides.

Summer 2018 Pool Season by the Numbers:

- 3,049** members
- 14,875** daily admission patrons
- 644** Splash Cards sold
- 11,002** members scanned at Northbrook Sports Center Pool
- 13,328** members scanned at Meadowhill Aquatic Center

Teams Elite Celebrates National Success

The District's synchronized skating program, Teams Elite, had another triumphant season in 2017-2018, with the Intermediate team defeating 11 other teams in the U.S. Figure Skating National Championship in Portland, Oregon in February. In January, Teams Elite swept the Midwest Sectional Championships in their divisions in Wichita, Kansas, winning all four divisions. In December, the 2018-2019 Teams Elite Junior Team achieved the sport's highest honor—chosen to represent Team USA at the Spring Cup in Milan, Italy.



Special Events Bring Us Together

Discovering new and exciting ways for the community to connect is one of our favorite services! In 2018 we added new events to our lineup, including the well-received **Father-Son Campfire**.

Our outdoor concert series, **Tuesdays in the Park** included opening act performances by the Park District's own Park Larks, a senior show tune group and Northbrook Theatre companies. The public was able to take advantage of a new feature "Tuesdays in the Park" specials to help support local restaurants.

Families also had a spectacular time at our sold-out **Daddy-Daughter Dance: A Night in Hollywood**, **Mother-Son Date Night** and **Northbrook Autumnfest**, which drew a record 2,500 people.

We partnered with the Village of Northbrook Arts Commission to present two events: The **Plein Air Painting Festival** featuring artists painting outdoor scenes around town and **Northbrook Artists Studio Tour** with artwork from nearly 20 local artists—11 of whom are members at our Senior Center.



Tuesdays in the Park in the heart of Northbrook—Village Green Park

Participant Profiles

Transforming Lives—One Program at a Time

The positive impact of Northbrook Park District programs can be seen throughout the community. Just ask Vibha Jain, who joined the Senior Center more than a year ago. Looking for activities to help her get out of the house and become more social, she joined the Palette Pals, later adding ceramics and knitting to her schedule. Vibha visits the Senior Center about three to four times a week to create, meet with friends and work out at The Ridge—the Leisure Center’s fitness space.



As a caregiver for her husband, Balbir, Vibha said the moments when she can take a break and come to the Senior Center are transformative. She joined the Senior Center at the urging of her daughter, Meeta.

“When I’m here, I’m in my happy place. I forget about what’s going on at home. It gives me time to get away from all the stress, so that when I am home, I can do more things for my husband.”

Among the masterpieces Vibha has painted in Palette Pals, she is proud of the portraits of her five grandchildren. But her favorite is a portrait of her husband Balbir.

“He encourages me to come here,” said Vibha, a 27-year resident of Northbrook. “He thinks it’s good for me.”

In addition to the artwork she’s created, often given as treasured gifts to family members, Vibha said she’s made something else at the Senior Center—new friends. Good friends.

Northbrook Theatre Steals the Show

We think your program is just

WONDERFUL.

Your staff is so patient, warm and inclusive. Our daughter has gained so much

CONFIDENCE.

Nicole N.

What a great production! We

LOVED

EVERY MINUTE

of the show

Kate & Dave E.

Thank you and your team for another

GREAT FAMILY EXPERIENCE.

It was a lot of fun this year and I enjoyed the cast's banter throughout the rehearsals.

Larry F.

It was

INCREDIBLE!

Our daughter had a blast and learned so much. The experience was

AWESOME!

We are so fortunate to have such a great theatre company in Northbrook.

Eileen C.

I am **INCREDIBLY**

GRATEFUL

for the community theatre program. I had so much fun with my sister and with my husband. I am glad you had the vision to make the show about

FAMILY & COMMUNITY.

Heather B.

SUPER POSITIVE

experience and the scenery and costumes were so

IMPRESSIVE!

Alyssa D.

Partnering to Expand Services

Thank you to the partner agencies, affiliates, school districts, businesses and organizations that collaborated with us in 2018 to serve the Northbrook community.

Partners

Chicago Blackhawks
Chicago District Golf Association
Congregation Beth Shalom
Eye Level of Northbrook
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
GBN Key Club
GBS Interact Club
George Garner Cyclery
Glencoe Park District
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Junior Golf Association
Islamic Cultural Center of Greater Chicago
Izaak Walton League
Keystone Alliance/Glenkirk Enterprises
North Shore Senior Center
Northbrook Action Baseball
Northbrook American Legion Post 791
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 School Districts
Northbrook Senior Services Commission
Northbrook United Methodist Church
Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association
Northern Suburban Special Recreation Foundation
Northfield Township Food Pantry
Reds Garden Center
Rotary Club of Northbrook
St. Norbert School
Sunset Foods
Underwriters Laboratories
Village of Northbrook
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



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1. Speed skating Olympian Chuck Burke meets a young fan and Northbrook Sports Center speed skater.
2. Executive Director Molly Hamer (far left) and Board of Commissioners (L-R) Mary Ann Chambers, Jeff Simon, Kenneth Slepicka and Michael Schyman ready to march at the 4th of July Parade.
3. Participants enjoying a dance at our Senior Center's Volunteer Luncheon.
4. Young runners taking off at the annual Liberty Lap on July 4.



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2nd Annual Northbrook After Dark at Techny Prairie Park and Fields