



Stewardship Report

2019 Year in Review



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



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



Matthew Curin



Michael Schyman



Jeffrey Simon



Michael Ziering



Molly Hamer
Executive Director

Senior Leadership Team

Greg Baron, Director of Golf Operations
Ed Dalton, Director of Parks & Properties
Eileen Loftus, Director of Recreation
Mindy Munn, Director of Administration & Finance
Wendy Peterson, Executive Administrative Assistant
Joan Scovic, Director of Marketing & Communications

Dear Northbrook Residents,

This Report offers an amazing opportunity to share with the community the steps we are taking to ensure a strong future for the Northbrook Park District. Our accomplishments in 2019 created a foundation that will inspire an appreciation of fitness, nature and play for generations.

As we move forward on two major projects in the **2018-2022: New Places to Play** initiative—construction of the new Activity Center at Techny Prairie Park and Fields and preparing for course renovations and a new clubhouse at Sportsman’s Country Club—we also reflect on significant milestones of our existing facilities and programs.

In May, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Northbrook-On-Ice, a premier event showcasing talented Northbrook Park District Icettes, competitive figure skaters and skating school students. We also welcomed back 43 former Icettes from the years 1969-2018.

The Leisure Center, a hub of activity for all ages, turned 35 in 2019. The District purchased the building and land, formerly Indian Ridge School, in 1984.

Another poignant anniversary was that of Village Green Park, which was acquired by the District 75 years ago. This local treasure is home to an impressive collection of magnificent oaks providing natural beauty to downtown Northbrook. In October, we celebrated Oak Awareness Month, also known as OAKtober, sharing important information on the vital role our majestic trees play and how we maintain and protect these irreplaceable natural resources.

An exciting partnership in the fall with the Northbrook Garden Club and the Northbrook Historical Society led to the preservation of heritage peonies. History will bloom for years to come at District parks and facilities where the peonies have been transplanted.

The Northbrook Park District is dedicated to providing innovative recreation options while responsibly managing our valuable resources. We are pleased to have you along for this journey as we forge a lasting legacy.



Penelope J. Randel, President
Northbrook Park District Board



Molly Hamer, Executive Director
Northbrook Park District



Northbrook Park District Staff and the Park Board of Commissioners at the Groundbreaking celebration for the new Activity Center — July 10, 2019

2018–2022: New Places to Play

The Northbrook Park District has launched into the **2018–2022: New Places to Play** capital projects. In July, staff joined the Park Board of Commissioners for a Groundbreaking event for the new Activity Center located at Techny Prairie Park and Fields, across from Anetsberger Golf Course.

Building for the Future

Construction is progressing for the Northbrook Park District's new Activity Center at Techny Prairie Park and Fields—an extraordinary space promoting health, wellness and fitness. The Northbrook Park District is receiving a \$1.78 million grant from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation which will fund construction and materials to achieve the Net Zero Energy building status. Net Zero Energy buildings offset their own energy consumption by generating required energy on-site from renewable resources. The new Activity Center's innovative plans by Chicago-based architects Wight & Company exceed state and national sustainability standards and are part of the District's ongoing commitment to enhancing the community's green spaces now and for future generations.



Concept Design for the new Activity Center at Techny Prairie Park and Fields



Northbrook Park District colorfully announced the new Activity Center's Groundbreaking at the 4th of July Parade



Park Board of Commissioners President Penelope Randel speaks at Groundbreaking event

Looking Inside the Activity Center



The new 44,200 square-foot Activity Center is being built with a gymnasium and fitness center on the 1st floor and group fitness studios, stretching area and walking/jogging track on the 2nd floor.

Future gym activities include:

- basketball
- pickleball
- sports camps
- volleyball

The fitness center features a wide variety of cardio and strength equipment.

Future fitness classes include:

- mind and body
- cardio fitness
- strength
- low-impact aerobics





Concept Design for new Clubhouse at Sportsman's Country Club

Embracing a New Era in Golf

Beginning in 2020, a new golf experience is underway for the community. This comprehensive project includes:

- New clubhouse with improved year-round dining experience
- Rebuilt Classic 18 greens
- New forward tee boxes
- Re-grassed fairways and East 9 greens
- East 9 irrigation improvements
- Practice Range enhancements

"Construction begins this winter. The memories we've made will be cherished, but what's to come is going to be terrific."

Greg Baron, Director of Golf Operations

Sportsman's is closed for the 2020 season with a scheduled reopening in the summer of 2021. Reciprocal agreements were finalized with area courses so golfers can continue to play the game they love. Northbrook Park District residents will be given resident rates by the Park District of Highland Park, Glenview Park District and Wheeling Park District during the closure.

Sportsman's: A Rich History

Paying Tribute to a Local Landmark

The 2019 season of Sportsman's Country Club ended with big changes on the horizon. More than 450 people attended an Open House in December to celebrate the history and future of Sportsman's where they learned about upcoming renovations that will offer amazing new features and amenities for local golfers.

Teeing Off for a Final Round

As the Golf Division readied for one of the largest renovations in Sportsman's history, it was still business as usual when it came to serving Northbrook golfers. August was a record month for both Anetsberger Golf Course and Sportsman's. Tee time utilization at both courses during the month exceeded 70%, while the industry season average is just 49%.

Golf At-A-Glance

2019 Highlights

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

"When the weather is nice, people are anxious to get out and play golf. We love how much people enjoy the game in this community!"

John Billiter, Head Golf Professional

2019 League Participation

- 163 18-hole league members
- 189 9-hole AM league members
- 272 9-hole PM league members

2019 Rounds

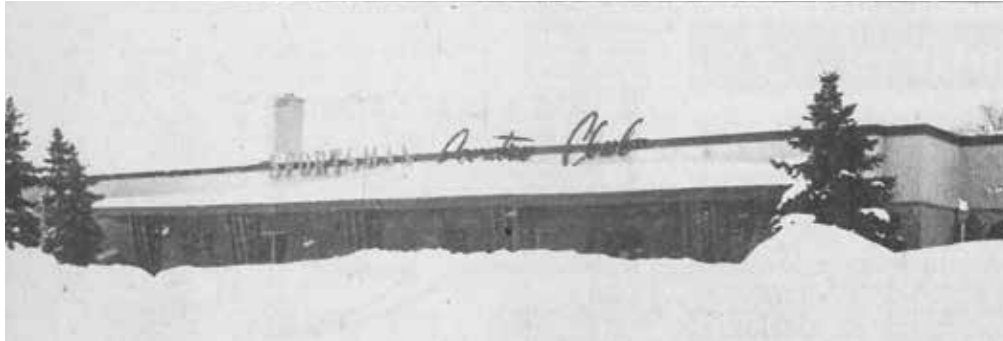
- 26,557 Sportsman's 18-Hole Rounds
- 28,090 Sportsman's 9-Hole Rounds
- 8,381 Anetsberger Rounds



Sportsman's Clubhouse 1942



Groundbreaking for Clubhouse 1982



Sportsman's Clubhouse 1979



Sportsman's cars and Clubhouse circa 1980s



Sportsman's Clubhouse 2019



Mini Golf circa late 1980s



Delivering Outstanding Facilities

Replacing Turf Fields

Just in time for an exciting season of flag football and soccer, new turf fields opened in the fall at Techny Prairie Park and Fields. While the turf installed in 2006 had an expected lifespan of 10 years, the District was able to extend the life of the turf to 13 years through careful maintenance, cleaning and grooming. The new high-quality, durable turf will provide an outstanding facility for the community for years to come.

Other District projects accomplished in 2019 include:

- Renovations to the restrooms at Wood Oaks Green Park
- Landscape improvements at the Leisure Center
- Repairs to the culvert and driveway at Wood Oaks Green Park

"As financial stewards, we work to extend the life of the District's amenities."

Ed Dalton, Director of Parks and Properties

Debuting New Pickleball Courts at Stonegate Park

Six new outdoor pickleball courts were added in September at Stonegate Park, 3425 Whirlaway Drive, creating more opportunities for the community to enjoy this increasingly popular paddle sport. “These new pickleball courts are a valuable addition to the Northbrook Park District,” said Recreation Supervisor Cameron Edelman. “We’ve seen a growing interest in pickleball and are excited to expand our programming.”

The courts are the District’s first dedicated space for pickleball. Drop-in players and rentals are welcome and pickleball instruction will begin in late spring 2020.

Indoor drop-in pickleball is offered at Greenbriar Gym and the Leisure Center. Additionally, pickleball can be played at outdoor tennis courts where pickleball lines have been added: Crestwood Park, 1824 Milton Avenue; Williamsburg Square Park; 200 Lee Road; and Wood Oaks Green Park, 1150 Sanders Road.

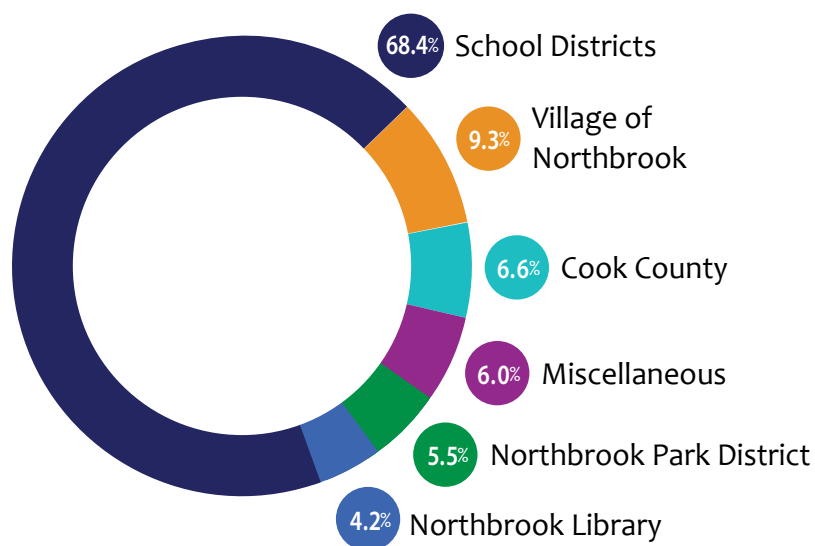


Fiscal Integrity

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 2019 fiscal year was \$0.455 per \$100 of assessed value, compared to \$0.418 in the previous year.

Overview of Northbrook Property Taxes

The Park District represents 5.5% of the total property tax bill for Northbrook residents.



Finances at a Glance

Fiscal Year	2009	2019
Population	34,688	33,170
Tax Rate	\$0.332	\$0.455
Total Budget	\$19,720,738	\$29,559,659
Outstanding Debt	\$14,655,000	\$7,535,000

Revenue & Resources*

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, revenue totaled \$22.5 million. The largest sources of revenue were derived from property taxes (53%) and user fees (35%).

- 53% 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 staff
- 6% Facility Rentals**
Fees charged to rent District facilities, such as ice rinks, athletic fields, meeting rooms and picnic areas
- 4% Other**
Revenues including surplus property, investment income and miscellaneous reimbursements
- 2% Merchandise Sales**
Sales of retail merchandise primarily at Sportsman's Country Club

Expenditures*

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, expenses totaled \$22.9 million. The Park District funded \$5.5 million in capital improvements during the fiscal year.

- 32% Salaries and Wages**
Personnel costs for the District's 69 full-time and 300 seasonal employees
- 24% Capital Projects**
Projects identified within the District's 10-year Capital Improvement Plan including design and construction costs for the District's new 44,200 square-foot Activity Center
- 19% Contractual Services**
Expenditures for services provided by outside contractors such as mowing services and program providers
- 9% Benefits**
Expenditures for employee health insurance premiums and employer costs associated with Social Security, Medicare and pension benefits
- 9% Debt Service**
Principal and interest payments owed on outstanding debt issues
- 7% Supplies**
Materials and supplies needed to provide recreation programs and park maintenance services

*These are preliminary results available at the time of publication.



Former Northbrook Theatre participants returned as Camp Counselors for the Summer Performing Arts Workshops

Staff Spotlight

Promoting Workplace Excellence

Northbrook Park District's engaged and experienced staff members work hard to fulfill the District's Mission to provide outstanding services to the community. The largest employer in Northbrook of youth ages 16 to 24, the District employs 69 full-time staff and 300 part-time staff, including customer service representatives, recreation supervisors, custodians, camp counselors, lifeguards, administrative and parks staff. Many of our former program participants who attended District activities as children return in their adulthood to become counselors or instructors themselves.

In April 2019, the District released the results of its Employee Engagement Survey, which showed a high level of satisfaction among staff. Key findings included:

- 94%** Good place to work
- 93%** Interested in the future of the District
- 94%** Work with people they like

"We had five former members of our theatre camp come back in 2019 to work as counselors. They said they wanted to recreate the great experience they had at the Northbrook Park District when they were kids."

Erin Sweet, Performing Arts Manager



Valuing A Diverse Skill Set

The District is proud to employ a significant number of talented in-house experts—from PGA pros, landscape architects, arborists, mechanics, skating instructors and theatre technicians to maintenance and carpentry professionals who handle many of the facility repairs and renovations. To recognize the level of talent and customer care staff provide, the Northbrook Park District implemented an Exceptional Service Award to acknowledge employees who provide top-notch service. Members of the community are encouraged to nominate employees at nbparks.org/exceptional.

Environmental Leadership

Achieving Sustainability

Reducing waste and keeping recyclable items out of landfills are important elements of the Northbrook Park District's Mission of environmental stewardship. In 2019, the Trades Department recycled:

- 1,465 pounds of light fixture ballasts and batteries
- 2,074 pounds of crushed light bulbs
- 430 gallons of used oil
- 21 vehicle battery cores



Expanding Energy Savings

Continued and accurate monitoring of our Building Automation System to gauge energy use resulted in significant energy savings. During 2019, the District saw an electricity use reduction of:

- 8,012 kilowatts at the Joe Doud Administration Building
- 42,466 kilowatts at the Leisure Center
- 54,892 kilowatts at the Northbrook Sports Center

Making A Ripple Effect

Since the renovated Northbrook Sports Center Pool's reopening in 2017, state-of-the-art filtration technology used 183,000 fewer gallons of water in 2019 versus 2018.

The new filtration system has conserved a total of 1,966,000 gallons of water since its installation.



Peony garden at the Christman home*



Garden Club member holding a peony plant



Park District staff relocating peony plants



Peony garden at former Northbrook Gardens*



Garden Club members digging out a peony plant



Park District staff posing for a group photo

Partnering to Preserve Heritage Peonies

History will flourish at District parks and facilities thanks to a 2019 partnership with the Northbrook Garden Club and the Northbrook Historical Society. District staff worked with Garden Club members to preserve heritage peonies that were planted in 1928 as part of Northbrook Gardens, which closed in 1945 to make way for the former Sky Harbor Airport. The peonies were then moved to the property of William F. Christman, who managed Northbrook Gardens. His grandson, Edward “Bud” Smith, carried on the care of the peonies for several decades. Smith was on site in September when the District and Garden Club removed many of the peonies for preservation during an event fittingly named the “Big Dig.” These heirloom peonies were replanted at Techny Prairie Park and Fields, Wood Oaks Green Park, Village Green Park, Greenview Park and Greenfield Park, where the community will be able to enjoy their bright, fragrant blooms for generations. Heritage peonies were also incorporated into the new Leisure Center landscape design.

*Photos courtesy of the Northbrook Historical Society

Celebrating the Mighty Oak

Northbrook Park District is home to nearly 800 oak trees; several are more than 200 years old. Oaks play a significant role in the beauty of parks, providing shade, animal habitats and environmental benefits including stormwater volume control.

During the Earth and Arbor Day Celebration at Village Green Park in April—a 30-year cooperative event between the Park District and the Village of Northbrook—Ed Dalton, Director of Parks and Properties spoke about oak tree preservation and management efforts.

For October's Oak Awareness Month in Illinois, also known as OAKtober, the District worked to raise awareness about oaks via social media and nbparks.org through weekly trivia, videos and fun facts.



(L-R) Charlie Bauer and Jeffrey Sun working on Eagle Scout Project*

Improving the Landscape

The District partnered with local Eagle Scouts to enhance wildlife habitats at Sportsman's Country Club. Projects included creating nesting boxes for mallards and a loafing platform with a ramp turtles can climb to bask in the sun.

At Techny Prairie Park and Fields, students from Northbrook Junior High kicked off their school year by removing about 30,000 invasive plants as part of an ecology day program. The District's parks professionals also taught students about the importance of native plants and the environmental consequences of invasive species such as purple loosestrife. "What these students accomplished in one morning would have taken our crew a good two days," said John Boldt, Landscape Maintenance Professional. "It's wonderful to see the next generation stepping up to be good stewards of the environment."

*Photo courtesy of C.J. Bauer

Noteworthy District Achievements

Excelling in Finance

For the past 18 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 meet the highest principles of government budgeting.

For the 26th 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.



L-R: Executive Director Molly Hamer, Marketing and Communications Manager Joy Stuart and previous Director of Marketing and Communications Ann Ziolkowski with awards

2019 Awards

Sportsman's was named **2019 North Shore Reader's Choice Award—Best Driving Range**



PGA Pro Michael Wenzel was named among the **Best Teachers in Illinois by Golf Digest** for 2019-2020

Northbrook Theatre received a **\$13,900 grant** from the Illinois Arts Council Agency

The District's Marketing and Communications Division was recognized with three awards from the Illinois Park and Recreation Association in 2019:

- **First Place for Marketing Campaign** – Community Musical *The Wizard of Oz*
- **First Place for Print Communication** – Stewardship Report
- **Second Place for Website** – nbparks.org

Enriching Life Through Recreation

Promoting Fun Through Active Play

From pickleball to performing arts, fencing to fitness and athletics to early childhood, the Northbrook Park District is proud to offer a wide variety of recreation opportunities. Program participation increased almost 10% in 2019, as more people chose the District as their destination for learning, socializing and staying active.

A place of discovery, hobbies, new friendships and fun, the Leisure Center turned 35 in 2019. Northbrook Park District voters in 1984 approved a \$1.2 million referendum to purchase the former Indian Ridge School and land at 3323 Walters Avenue. Home to the Northbrook Park District Senior Center, Sunshine Preschool and Northbrook Theatre, the facility hosted hundreds of programs throughout the year, including summer camps, performing arts workshops, theatre productions, fitness classes, senior activities and early childhood programming.

Finding Cooperative Recreation Solutions

Residents of Northbrook/Glenview School District 30 had an extended summer in 2019 as they awaited completion of the new Maple School in September. As partners, the Northbrook Park District extended traditional summer camp offerings and School District 30 provided the location at Wescott School. Additional weeks of full-day recreation programs were offered in May and August with extended early morning and evening hours to accommodate the needs of families.



The Northbrook Theatre Community Musical Cast from the spring 2019 production of *Newsies*

Making A Positive Impact through Performing Arts

Northbrook Theatre is an expressive piece of the District's delivery of innovative recreation opportunities for people in the community. Theatre and arts help families connect. The Community Musical, *Newsies* had a cast of 57 youth and adults ranging in age from 9 to 67, including several family groups. The shows, which performed in June, drew audiences of more than 1,300.

Prioritizing inclusion and accessibility, Northbrook Theatre held its first sensory-friendly performance in October, featuring *The Cat in the Hat*, a Northbrook Theatre for Young Audiences show. These special performances are structured to enhance accessibility for audience members with various sensitivities, allowing the enjoyment of shows without some of the conventions of a traditional theatre setting. Adjustments include dimming the house lights

instead of turning them off, reducing the volume of sound during noisy moments and allowing audience members to talk, leave their seats and utilize the lobby as a quiet space for taking a break. Patrons are welcome to bring their own cushions and comfort items during the show. Additional sensory-friendly performances will be offered in the future.

The District received a \$13,900 Illinois Arts Council Agency Grant in September, ensuring Northbrook Park District's Performing Arts Department will continue to provide high quality productions and programming. The grant will be used to support performing arts programming for all ages. To qualify for the grant, organizations must show their programs and activities have artistic, educational and cultural value for the areas they serve.

Earning the Podium for Team USA



(L-R) Teams Elite Junior skaters Sofia Gisiner and Molly Kaplan

History was made and milestones reached at the Northbrook Sports Center in 2019! Teams Elite, an eight-team synchronized skating program, celebrated its 20th anniversary by achieving high honors both nationally and internationally. Teams Elite's Junior Team brought home the gold in February from the Spring Cup, an international competition held in Milan, Italy. It was an event that united the community, with hundreds of fans gathering for a Send-Off Rally at the Northbrook Sports Center. Other Teams Elite wins for the 2018-2019 season included 1st place for the Novice, Intermediate and Juvenile teams at the Midwestern & Pacific Coast Synchro Skating Sectionals in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Juvenile teams also received 1st place at the Colonial Classic in Lowell, Massachusetts.

"A culture of excellence has long been the hallmark of the Northbrook synchronized skating program," said Molly Hamer, Executive Director. "On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and the entire Northbrook staff, I am thrilled to congratulate our talented, hardworking skaters and our skilled and dedicated coaches for this phenomenal accomplishment. We are #NorthbrookProud!"



Icette alumni representing 1969-2018

Connecting the Past, Present and Future

A crowd-pleasing community tradition, Northbrook-On-Ice celebrated 50 years with its anniversary show *Turn Back Time*. A total of 375 skaters participated in the show, featuring the dazzling costumes, spectacular sets and high-energy performances that have captivated audiences for five decades. Creating a sense of nostalgia, 43 Icette alumni including Debbie Stoery, an original Icette, joined the production.

The public was equally enthusiastic about the anniversary, with a total of 4,708 tickets sold for four performances during a three-day period. The first show on Friday, May 10 was a sold-out performance.

In addition to the Icettes, the show also included Spartan Skaters, Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association's SPICE Skaters and individual routines by current nationally-ranked figure skaters. This event not only gives skaters an arena to showcase their talents, but brings the community together each year. The timelessness of the 2019 show embodied the Northbrook Park District's guiding principles of teamwork, the pursuit of excellence and building strong relationships and community.

Creating Lasting Traditions through Special Events



Northbrook Park District Senior Center St. Patrick's Day Party



Tuesdays in the Park at Village Green Park



Kids' Duathlon at Ed Rudolph Velodrome in Meadowhill Park



Northbrook Autumnfest at Meadowhill Park

On a warm June evening in 2019, Susan Sak relaxed beneath the trees at Village Green Park with her two daughters, Andrea and Jamie (pictured above), and family friend Marlene Kerstein. The group was enjoying live music during Tuesdays in the Park, a summer tradition since Andrea and Jamie, now in their 20s, were toddlers. "It's just so nice and pretty here at Village Green Park," Susan said. "I grew up in Northbrook and used to come here with my parents. The Northbrook Park District is part of my childhood."

Special events make memories families can cherish. Popular events throughout 2019 included Autumnfest, Winter Carnival, Daddy-Daughter Dance, Mother-Daughter Spring Tea, Father-Son Sports Night, Movie in the Park, Senior Center holiday parties and bingo lunches, the Liberty Loop 5K and Liberty Lap Fun Run.

Partnering to Expand Services

Thank you to the partner agencies, affiliates, school districts, businesses and organizations that collaborated with us in 2019 to serve the Northbrook community.

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

Partners

Align Wellness Center
Chicago Blackhawks
Chicago District Golf Association
Chicago Wolves
Congregation Beth Shalom
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



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Members from the Senior Center Park Larks group spread cheer throughout Northbrook