

Annual Report 2017-2018



Best of Bloomington

WHERE RECREATION REVOLVES AROUND YOU!

Since 1964, the Bloomington Park District has strived to efficiently and economically provide recreation programs, facilities and open space for enjoyable leisure time experiences that benefit the community.

The 2017-18 fiscal year was perhaps one of the busiest ever as the District began, continued and/or finished work on projects related to the \$9.9 million referendum passed in the November 2016 election.

2017-18 Projects:

- Work began in May 2018 on renovating the Johnston Recreation Center to include committed space for active adult programming and fitness, improved early childhood space and enhanced security throughout.
- Work was completed May 2018 on improving the Springfield Park Ballfield Complex to help prevent widespread flooding of fields and paths.
- Work continued on restoring shorelines, addressing non-native and invasive species and improving stormwater management of the 20-acre Springfield Park wetland area.
- Work began in August 2018 on updating and improving some recreation features of The Oasis Water Park.
- Work was completed in August 2018 on the renovation of Circle Park.



The Bloomington Park District fiscal year begins on June 1st of each year and ends on May 31st. The revenues and expenditures inside reflect those dates. Due to printing deadlines and timing, the other content in this report covers September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.

The Park District is an award-winning agency dedicated to maintaining and preserving the community's assets, as opposed to building new, while also providing fun, affordable, convenient, trendy and safe programming for all.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Buzz Puccio
President

Andre Burke
Vice President

Jerry Marshall
Treasurer

Mike Vogl
Commissioner

Karen Johns
Commissioner

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Transition was definitely the theme for the recreation department for the 2017-18 fiscal year. With construction schedules kicking in and the Johnston Recreation Center unavailable, programming classes and events became, and continues to be, a challenge.

Thanks to strong community partners such as Stratford Square Mall, Bloomingdale School District 13, Glenbard District 87 and Bloomingdale Church, many programs continue to run without a hitch – albeit in different locations.

Preschool, Preschool Adventures and Kindergarten Kids' Place all successfully transitioned into unused space in Bloomingdale Church in September. The District's littlest learners still have access to an indoor gym at the Church, as well as nearby Sunnyside and Westlake parks.

Summer Camp occupied several classrooms in addition to gym space at Westfield Middle School. Fun and smiles never missed a beat this past summer.

The gymnastics program split its offerings between a programming space in Stratford Square Mall, Itasca Park District and Glenbard North High School.



Programming space at Stratford Square Mall

BY THE NUMBERS

- 292 unique **campers** enjoyed their summer to the fullest. The enrollment was a 10-year high for the program.
- The Park District's annual **extended trip** included 52 adventure-seekers who traveled to Mount Rushmore, the Badlands and the Black Hills of South Dakota.
- Two **busloads** cheered on the Chicago Cubs in May, and two more busloads enjoyed the scenic Chicago Botanic Gardens in July.
- **The Oasis Swim Academy** featured 413 participants learning one of life's most important skills: how to swim.
- Over one hundred **new programs** (50+ of which were for adults) were offered in 2017-18.
- 324 unique participants enjoyed **Kids' Place** and **Kindergarten Kids' Place** (before- and after-school care programs) in 2017-18.

Youth Athletics

- 232 **soccer** players took to the pitch in Spring 2018, while 239 laced up their cleats for Fall 2018.
- 144 **basketballers** hooped in YBA In-House play, while 79 competed for Travel.
- **Barracuda Swim & Dive** featured 82 swimmers and 20 divers.
- At the Optionals State Meet, the **Bloomingdale Beamers Silver Team** finished as state champions. Gold and Bronze both took second, and Junior Bronze was fourth.
- At the Tumbling State Meet, both Beginners and Advanced Beginners 1 finished as state runners-up. Advanced Beginners 2 placed third.

Special Events

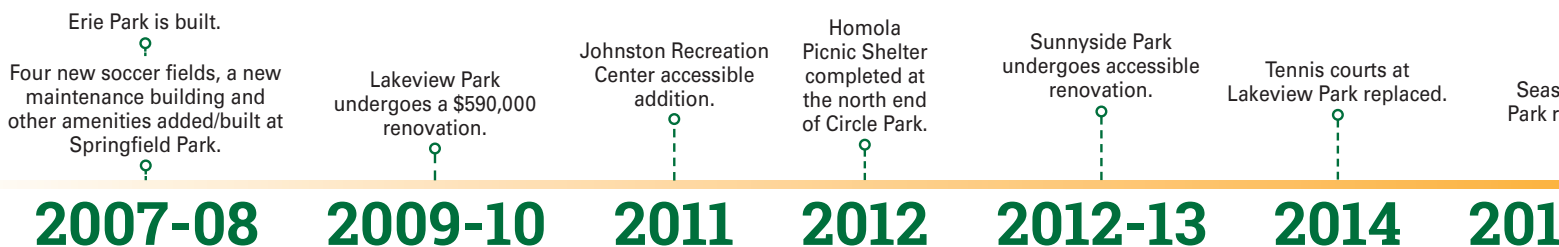
- **Summer Fun Park Days**, a new and free special event offered this past summer, was a huge success. All ages were welcome at the Wednesday and Thursday program, which visited every park in the district offering spontaneous family fun.

- **Circle Park Storytime**, a collaborative effort with the Bloomingdale Public Library, was held three times at Circle Park underneath the Homola Picnic Shelter.
- Nine different acts performed at the **Summer Concert Series**, which also offered food trucks and pre-concert activities for youngsters ages 5-12.
- 1000+ turned out on a picturesque night to enjoy an abundance of autumn activities at **Fall Fest** in October 2017 at Circle Park.
- **Bunny Bash** remained as popular as ever, with 700+ enjoying facepainting, balloon artists, contests, games, prizes, bounce houses and FREE ice cream sundaes!
- **Kite Fly & Touch-A-Truck** featured its usual assortment of good times with contests, raffles, crafts, a kite launch and a variety of trucks, tractors and other vehicles to climb, sit and play on in June at Springfield Park.

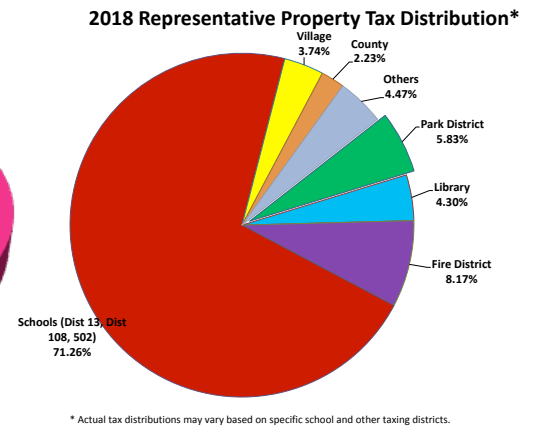
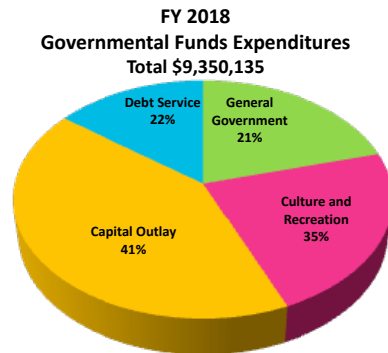
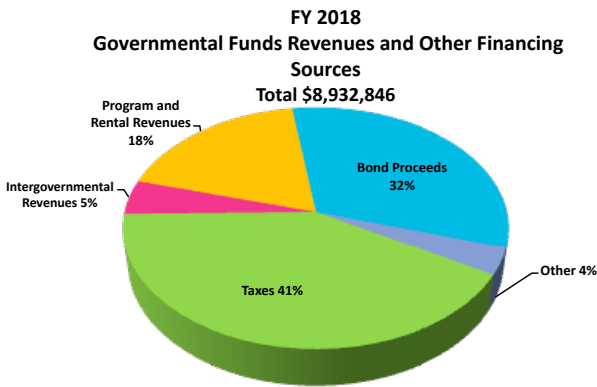


BPD Summer Camp experienced a 10-year high in enrollment in the Summer of 2018

CAPITAL PROJECT TIMELINE: 2007-2018



REVENUE & RESOURCES



PARKS & PLANNING

The complete renovation of **Circle Park**, 163 Fairfield Way, which began in October 2016, was completed in August 2018. The renovation was part of a \$224,000 matching Open Space Land and Acquisition grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The complete renovation included:

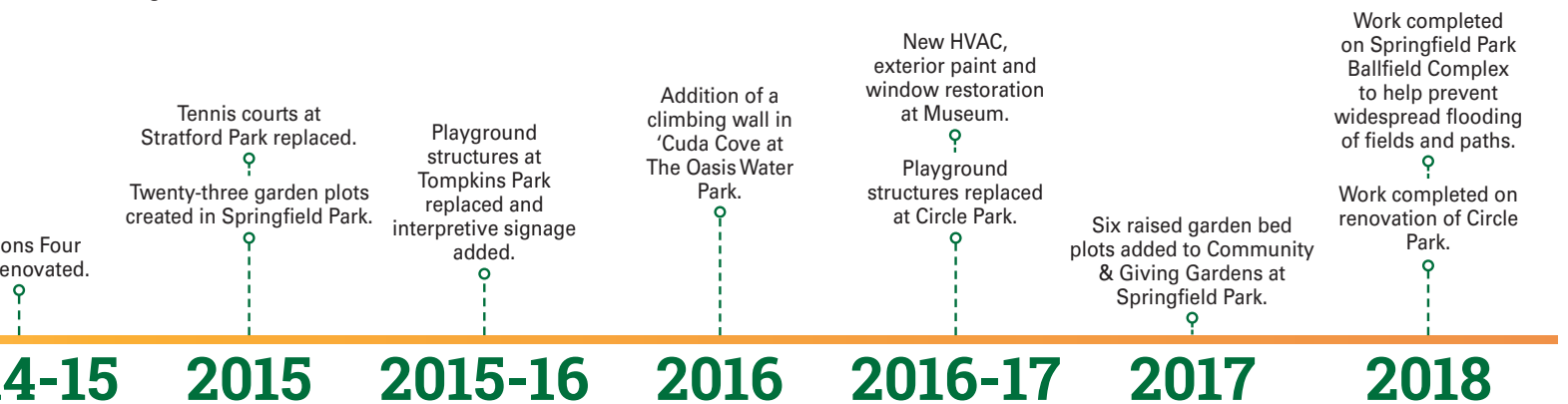
- New nature-themed playground structures
- Picnic shelter, labyrinth, counsel ring and gaga pit
- Skate spot
- Rain gardens and improvements to the stormwater systems
- Renovated roller hockey rink for multi-season use
- Interpretive nature trail with educational signage
- Three fitness stations along walking path
- Playground entry arch
- Improvements to all asphalt paths



Other noteworthy projects from the Parks and Planning Department in the past year included:

- Continuing replacement of ash trees. At **Westlake Park** alone, Parks & Planning planted 25 new trees in the spring of 2018 including Redbud, River Birch, Canada Red Choke Cherry, Japanese Zelkova, Lilac, Plum, Linden, Swamp White Oak, European Hornbeam, Korean Sun Pear, Tulip and Beech.
- Phase III of the **Community & Giving Gardens** included a new information kiosk, dedication stone/plaque, split-rail fence to separate the gardens from the soccer fields, and educational programming via the Park District.
- Volunteers collected 20 bags of garbage from Westlake Park at the **DuPage River Sweep** held May 19, 2018. The annual event is organized through The Conservation Foundation.

- Work was completed on many sections of the **Springfield Park** path, which was repaired and/or resurfaced in May. The retaining wall alongside the south and east side of the path also was improved. Many of the park benches were replaced with BPD's newly-adopted park bench style – all placed on accessible surfaces with bronze plaques identifying the bench's donor.
- **Make A Difference Day**, a collaboration between the Park District and Wolff Construction of Roselle, was held October 28, 2017 at Springfield Park. The day featured removal of invasive species, native seed plantings, pick-up of trash and litter, refurbishment of the north pond fishing pier and a barbecue.
- The interior of the **Springfield Park concession building** was renovated and includes new sinks, toilets, toilet partitions, new flooring, paint, and wainscoting in the hallway and the restrooms.
- While the **Springfield Park** ball diamonds were improved, BPD was also able to improve the **fire ring** at the nearby picnic gazebo with new benches, acorn seats, accessible fire ring, and new benches.
- **Ecological restoration** (contracted) continued at the natural areas at Sunnyside, Springfield and Circle parks.



AWARDS & HONORS



Bloomingdale Park Board President **Sebastian "Buzz" Puccio** was honored twice in 2017-18, including being awarded the **Commissioner of the Year** at the Illinois Association of Park Districts/Illinois Park & Recreation Association Soaring to New Heights Conference held January 18-20, 2018 at the Chicago Hilton.

Puccio has consistently contributed to the public service efforts in the Bloomingdale community since 1977. His name is synonymous with leadership and service in Bloomingdale. His varied experience, leadership and strong boardmanship skills have helped significantly develop and advance the mission and vision of both the Bloomingdale Park District and the Village of Bloomingdale.

Puccio was also honored with a **20-year Board Member Service Anniversary Award** at the Illinois Association of Park Districts' Best of the Best Awards Gala held October 13, 2017 at Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling.

Also at the Best of the Best Awards, **Eagle Falls Dentistry** was awarded **Best Friend of Illinois Parks (Small Business)** because of their unbelievable generosity and community support in Bloomingdale.

For the second straight year, the Bloomingdale Park District was awarded **Best of Bloomingdale** in the Not for Profit category at the Second Annual Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce Best of Bloomingdale event held March 2, 2018 at Medinah Shrine Center in Addison.

The Oasis Water Park earned Five Stars in all three of its **Starguard Certification Star Reviews** (administered via Starfish Aquatics Institute) this past summer. Facilities that earn an overall award demonstrate above average operational safety standards, lifeguard professionalism, and excellence in risk management practices. The pool is audited in lifeguard observations, skills and scenarios, and facility operations and management.

In March 2018, the finance department's comprehensive annual financial report was awarded the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the seventh straight year.



Pictured are (front row, from left) Eagle Falls Operations Director Kevin Hagemann, Eagle Falls Marketing Consultant Tanya Szatkowski, Eagle Falls Dr. Adam Szatkowski, Park District Executive Director Carrie Fullerton, (second row) IAPD President & CEO Peter Murphy, Park District Director of Marketing & Communications Josh Hendricks, Park Board President Buzz Puccio, Park Board Commissioner Mike Vogl and IAPD Chairman Frank Barz.

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation awards two grants to benefit Springfield Park Wetlands

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) approved two separate grants for the Bloomingdale Park Foundation potentially totaling \$32,500 to benefit the Springfield Park Wetlands in May 2018.

One grant for up to \$27,000 is for stewardship of the wetlands. In addition to a direct appeal to individual donors and friends, there are a number of fundraisers (Sunrise Shuffle 5K, Holiday Gift Wrap at Stratford Square Mall, Lou Malnati's Pizza Voucher Sale, etc.) from which a portion of the resources can be applied to meet the \$7,000 fundraising challenge and be matched 3 to 1 by the ICECF.

The second grant is for up to \$5,500 for public amenities and events at the wetlands. The amenities include upgrades and/or replacement of visitor boardwalks and stationary and floating piers, as well as repair/replacement of the interpretive signage that surrounds the wetlands.



LOOKING AHEAD

The Park District continues to concentrate on meeting the needs of its residents, while also seeking other ways to improve. The main focus of the future remains maintaining and improving the current processes and maintenance of infrastructure rather than building new.

Paramount to the above statement is completing the projects associated with the successful 2016 Referendum.

2018-19 Projects:

- Complete renovation of the Johnston Recreation Center to include committed space for active adult programming and fitness, improved early childhood space and enhanced security throughout.
- Complete work on updating and improving some recreation features of The Oasis Water Park.
- Continue work on restoring shorelines, addressing non-native and invasive species and improving stormwater management of the 20-acre Springfield Park wetland area.
- Replacement of the Circle Park pedestrian/bike bridge.
- Ecological restoration (contracted) to continue at the natural areas at Sunnyside, Springfield and Circle parks.
- BPD has contracted with an accessibility planning and compliance expert to update the District's Transition Plan to ensure it is serving all its patrons.

CONTACT US

BPD Museum
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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8:30AM-7:30PM
Friday: 8:30AM-4:30PM
Saturday: 9AM-1PM

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