

The Winnetka Park District's mission is to provide a balance of quality recreation and leisure opportunities, while protecting assets, natural resources and open space for the benefit of present and future generations.

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WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT



Park Place

Fall 2011

WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT TRIPLES THE FUN FACTOR ON SEPTEMBER 17

The Winnetka Park District is planning an action-packed day of fun on **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17** with three special events all rolled into one.

BIKE WINNETKA is an inaugural event that will take bicycle riders through scenic Winnetka beginning at 2 pm. Thanks to the generosity of the Winnetka Park District's Community Partners, the cost of this event is **only \$5 per person** when registering prior to September 9 (\$10 the day of the event). Partners include: **Autohaus on Edens, Citibank, Cooper & Cooper Direct Marketing Services, David Duda, D.D.S., First Bank and Trust, Green Bay Cycles, Harris Bank, Higher Gear, Hudson Company, Land Rover Winnetka, Nexum, Northbrook Toyota/Scion, North Shore Community Bank, TL Fritts Sporting Goods, Ringhofer Printing, Winnetka Current/Wilmette Beacon and Zengeler Cleaners.**



All participants that pre-register will receive a packet full of goodies, including t-shirt, water bottle and final route map. More information about this event including route map, downloadable registration form or link to online registration is available at www.winpark.org (under recreation, recreation programs).



FALL FEST (formerly Oktoberfest) rolls right into the end of Bike Winnetka at the north end of Skokie Playfield. This free community event will feature: Face Painters, Euro Bungy, Moonwalk, Inflatable Slide, DJ/Karaoke by "Dance All Night" and Food/Beverages will be available for purchase. Community Partners for this event include: **Grand Food Center and the Rotary Club of Winnetka-Northfield.**

If the day wasn't already spectacular enough, the Winnetka Park District will throw in a little bit of Americans favorite pastime with the **WINNETKA WHIFFLE BALL CHALLENGE**. The Winnetka Park District staff will be creating two portable stadiums with outfield fences, signage, field markings, scoreboards, and sound effects to go along with the excitement of seeing teams from throughout the community compete for the traveling trophy created especially for the Challenge.

Teams will be comprised of five male players (21 years and older). Cost is only \$25 per team. Early registration is encouraged to ensure participation (maximum of 16 teams). More information including video, rules, downloadable registration form and link to online registration is available at www.winpark.org (under news tab).

WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT has created a day that has something for everyone without the need to leave your own "backyard"!

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS . . .

September

- 9 September Satellite - Level 7 Tennis Tournament
- 17 Bike Winnetka Fall Fest
Winnetka Whiffle Ball Challenge
- 23 September II - Adult NTRP & Level 7 Tennis Tournament

October

- 1 Touch A Truck
- 7 October Classic - Adult & Level 6 Tennis Tournament
- 15 Scout Day at the Winnetka Ice Arena
- 21 Fall Classic - NTRP & Level 6 Tennis Tournament
- 28 Middle School Haunted House Tour
Halloween Jr. Open - Level 6 Tennis Tournament
Middle School Paddle Halloween Madness
- 29 Halloween on Ice
Jumpin' Junior High Halloween Paddle Night
- 30 Jr. Jamboree - Paddle

November

- 5 Try Hockey For FREE Day
- 11 November Satellite - Level 7 Tennis Tournament
- 23-27 Wishbone Youth Hockey Tournament
- 24 Turkey Day Skate



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540 Hibbard Road
Winnetka, IL 60093

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www.winpark.org

THE GREAT FLOOD OF 2011 - EFFECT ON THE WINNETKA GOLF CLUB

On July 22, 2011 the Winnetka Golf Club fairways were in excellent condition, a testament to the hard work and complete dedication of the grounds crew, led by Golf Superintendent, Henry Michna. By the next day, we were on our way to substandard fairway and rough conditions. This is our story . . .

What Happened?

- 7-inches of rain fell on Saturday, July 23 with an additional 2" of rain falling over the next six days.
- The 18-Hole Course was **completely submerged** (excluding most greens and tees) for 3 to 4 days.

Why It Happened?

- The Winnetka Golf Club's primary function is flood relief for the community followed by recreation.
- The course takes on twice the watershed (>200 acres) than the 110 acre course.
- Thus, a typical two-inch rainstorm is equal to a four-inch storm.
- Due to the extensive pond system and pumping capacity (*macro-drainage*), and the vast amount of surface drainage (*micro-drainage*), the course can typically respond similarly with other courses. This storm overwhelmed the entire system.

Why Are The Fairways So Brown?

- Turfgrass can stay submerged for only brief periods as oxygen is essential to the root system of the plant.
- The fairway turf that was submerged 2-3 days was severely damaged and died back to the crown of the plant. Thus you may see the new shoots of green turf slowly coming back in the brown areas.
- The fairway turf that was submerged for 3-4 days has died and can be identified by the barren or muddy areas. At this point in time it is approximately 20-30% of the total 25 acres of fairway turf or about 5-8 acres has died.
- The fairway turf is cut considerably lower than the rough and subsequently is more sensitive to stress.

What Is The Staff Doing To Restore The Fairways?

- Staff has already started spot aeration and over seeding on the worst areas.
- Fairways have been sprayed preventively for disease control and a moderate amount of liquid fertilizer.
- As soon as the conditions firm up staff will continue the over-seeding program. Areas that do not germinate, or are set back by excessive rain or temperatures, will be over seeded repeatedly throughout the fall and next spring as necessary.

What Should The Golfer Expect?

- The best recovery should take place during the temperate months of September and October.
- The re-establishment program will be ongoing until there is 100% recovery. This may take us into next spring.
- The appearance of the fairways by late October will be a good indicator of what to expect for early 2012.
- By late May next year, weather permitted, fairways should be back to normal.

General Assessment

- The best recovery and most critical influence moving forward is cooperative weather. The right climatic conditions will provide for more recovery than any money applied to labor, seed, fertilizer or chemicals.
- Heavy rainfalls, high temperatures and high humidity can set back the recovery process.
- Once this work is completed, in the future, we look forward to the fairways being better than ever as Pennlinks II is the newer variety bentgrass being used for reseeding. #10 Approach was sodded to this variety in 2007 and has done better than any other variety after a flood experience.



View from #5 Green after the July 23, 2011 Storm
(additional pictorials are available on the WGC Facebook page @ www.facebook.com/winnetkagolfclub - click on Blog)

Stormwater Management is a priority for the Winnetka Park District. This is evident in our Skokie Playfield Master Plan approved April 28, 2011. Water Management was placed on the 0-3 year priority list, and engineering work is currently being conducted by Gewalt Hamilton Associates.

The Winnetka Park District is also working cooperatively with the Village of Winnetka for community-wide solutions.