



# **Winnetka Park District** **2025 Annual Report** *explore. discover. together.*





## Mission

Our mission is to provide a balance of quality recreation and leisure opportunities while protecting assets, natural resources, and open space to benefit present and future generations.

## Vision

We help build an active, vibrant community identity and a sustainable environment by promoting healthy lifestyles for residents of all ages and abilities through quality recreation services, parks, facilities, programs, and partnerships that meet the highest standards of excellence.

## Introduction

The Winnetka Park District is proud to present its 2025 Annual Report, celebrating a year of innovation, growth, and service. Through dedicated staff efforts and community collaboration, the District has enhanced recreational opportunities, strengthened its infrastructure, and improved organizational efficiencies. This report highlights the many ways we have worked together to create enriching experiences for all.

## Park District Leadership

### President

Elise Gibson; [egibson@winpark.org](mailto:egibson@winpark.org)

### Vice President

Jeff Tyson; [jtyson@winpark.org](mailto:jtyson@winpark.org)

### Commissioners

Christina Codo; [ccodo@winpark.org](mailto:ccodo@winpark.org)

Scott Corley; [scorley@winpark.org](mailto:scorley@winpark.org)

Cynthia Rapp; [cyrapp@winpark.org](mailto:cyrapp@winpark.org)

Colleen Root; [croot@winpark.org](mailto:croot@winpark.org)

David Seaman; [dseaman@winpark.org](mailto:dseaman@winpark.org)

### Executive Director

Shannon Nazzal; [snazzal@winpark.org](mailto:snazzal@winpark.org)

### Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at 6pm on the fourth Thursday of every month. All meetings are open to the public. Learn more at [winpark.org/board-of-commissioners](http://winpark.org/board-of-commissioners).

**Cover Photo:** *Bike Winnetka, Daddy + Daughter Dance, Beach Carnival, Platform Tennis*



@winnetkaparks

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## A Letter from the Executive Director

As we enter the new year, it is an ideal time to reflect on the meaningful work accomplished by the Winnetka Park District's dedicated staff and Board of Commissioners. This 2025 Annual Report highlights the many ways the Park District continues to enhance parks, beaches, facilities, and recreational opportunities throughout our community, while also thoughtfully planning for the future needs of our residents.

A significant milestone in 2025 was the completion and adoption of the Winnetka Park District Comprehensive Master Plan. Developed with strong community involvement, this plan provides a clear roadmap for future improvements and long-range decision-making, including upcoming planning efforts such as the 2026 Skokie Playfield Master Plan. It reflects our commitment to listening, planning responsibly, and investing with purpose. We are excited to continue on with this project as we develop the Winnetka Park District's Strategic Plan, which is now being worked on by staff and will translate long-term goals into measurable, actionable steps for the next five years.

Throughout 2025, we celebrated pivotal improvements across the District. These included the renovation of Happ Road Park, which refreshed the playground and amenities for community enjoyment; the Green Bay Trail Paving Project, where additional trail segments were repaved and jogging paths re-leveled; and the successful cleanup at Elder Lane and Centennial Beach, ensuring safe water access and allowing Elder Lane Beach to reopen after several years of closure. These efforts underscore our dedication to maintaining and preserving high-quality green spaces and beaches for all to enjoy.

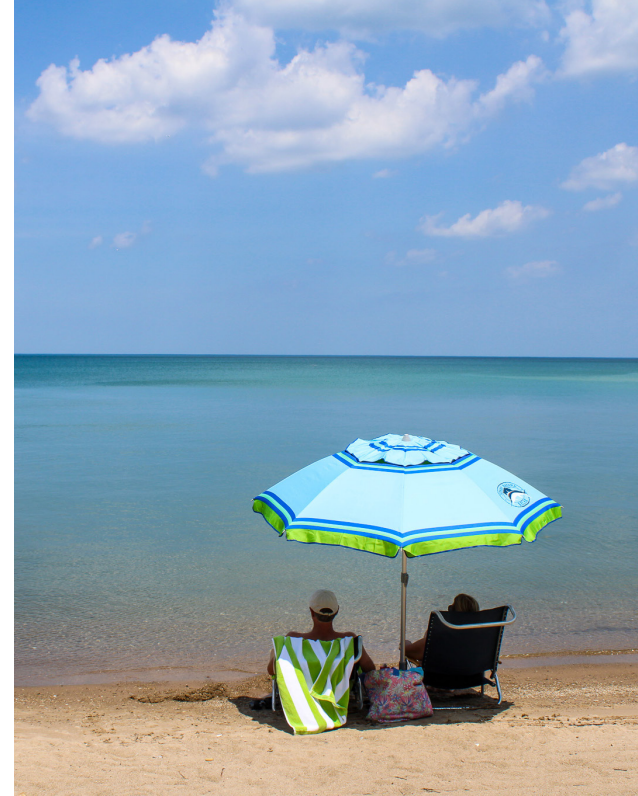
Additionally, creating fun is at the heart of what we do. In 2025, residents came together to play, connect, and create memories through a wide range of offerings - from new adult fitness programming to long-standing favorite events, as well as new family-friendly experiences, such as our new Back to School Bash. These programs not only promote health and wellness but also strengthen the sense of community that makes Winnetka such a special place.

Equally important is our commitment to sound financial stewardship. Anchored by strong planning and responsible policies, the District remains in a solid financial position, ensuring sustainability now and into the future. Transparency is a core value of the Winnetka Park District. Through data, reporting, and staff insights, our Annual Report is intended to clearly demonstrate the impact we have made across the community, while also outlining our goals for the year ahead.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and our dedicated staff, thank you for your continued trust, engagement, and support. We look forward to another year of progress, partnership, and shared experiences within our community.

Sincerely,

**Shannon Q. Nazzal, CPRE**  
**Executive Director**  
**Winnetka Park District**



**Facilities: 6**



**Parks: 26**



**Beaches: 5**



**Programs Offered:**  
**227**



**Total Registrations:**  
**11,475**



# Financial Stewardship



## Winnetka Approximate Tax Breakdown

School District #36: 40%  
New Trier High School Dist.: 30%  
Village of Winnetka: 15%  
Winnetka Park District: 5%  
Water Reclamation District: 5%  
Other: Forest Preserve, Cook County, Library, Townships: 5%

## Recognitions

### GFOA Award

The Annual Comprehensive 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 17th straight year.

## Grants Awarded

**United States Tennis Association**  
**\$60,000**

Outdoor Lighting for Tennis Courts

**Illinois Department of Public Health**  
**\$8,555**

Environmental Beach Grant

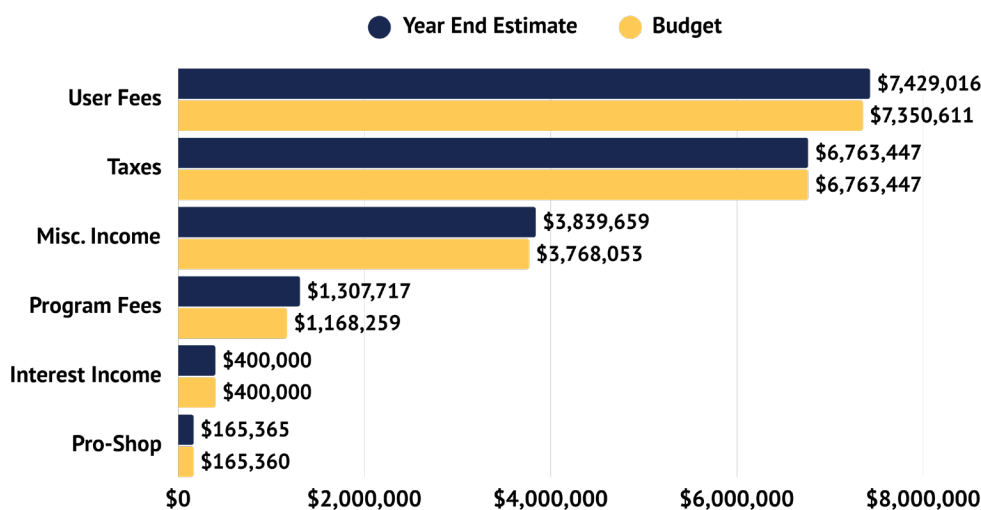
**Park District Risk Management Association - \$2,500**

Safety Grant

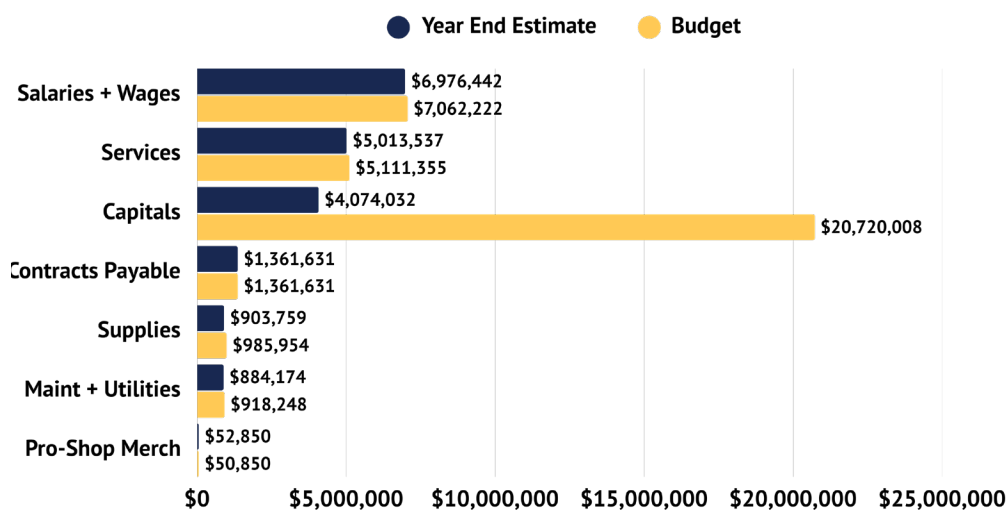
**Illinois Municipal Electric Agency**  
**\$30,000**

Lighting Grant

## 2025 Revenue



## 2025 Budgeted Expenses





# Parks + Projects



## 2025 Year in Review

### Comprehensive Master Plan

Adopted in 2025 with strong community involvement, setting the stage for future planning efforts, including the 2026 Skokie Playfield Master Plan

### Happ Road Park Playground Renovation

Happ Road Park was renovated to refresh the playground and park amenities for the enjoyment of the community.

### Green Bay Trail Paving Project

An additional 1,200 linear feet of trail was repaved, and the stone jogging path was re-leveled.

### Elder Lane and Centennial Beach Cleanup

Completed to ensure safe water access for the community, allowing for the reopening of Elder Lane Beach, which had been closed for several years.

### Outdoor Tennis Lighting LED Replacement Project

Replacement of outdated high-pressure sodium lights with focused LED fixtures, reducing energy consumption and minimizing light pollution.

## Other Highlights

### WPD Tree Nursery

In 2025, the WPD replanted more than 50 new trees for future transplanting throughout District parks.

### Ongoing Review of Elder Lane and Centennial Shoreline

Continued evaluation and future planning to protect and enhance these bluffs and beaches.

### Fire Safety Improvements

Installation of a fire suppression system at the Golf Course Cart Barn and new fire alarm systems at the Clubhouse and Cart Barn facilities.

## 2026 Projects in the Works

### Skokie Playfield Synthetic Turf Replacement Project

Initiated in late 2025 and scheduled for completion in 2026. The project includes a new synthetic turf field with a shock pad and natural infill material.

### Tower Road Playground Renovation

Replacement of the existing, dated playground with a new structure featuring expanded play opportunities for the community.

### Outdoor Tennis Courts 1–7 Renovation

Begun in late summer 2025, this project involves a complete renovation of the outdoor tennis courts, which have not been updated in over 50 years. Improvements will address long-standing cracking and drainage issues.

### Elder Lane and Centennial Bluff Cleanup

Restoration of the bluffs by removing invasive species and dead or declining trees to promote native plant growth and reopen views of Lake Michigan for the community.

### Skokie Playfield Campus Master Plan

The next phase of future planning following the Comprehensive Master Plan, guiding long-term improvements and enhancements identified for the site.

### ADA Transition Plan

A detailed assessment of District parks and facilities to identify necessary ADA upgrades and ensure compliance with current accessibility standards, including the development of an implementation transition plan.



# *playing* together.



## NEW Recreation Programs:

Spynergy

Walk with Ease

Mother + Son Date Night

Back to School Bash



**1,843** Youth Sports Participants



**464** Adult Fitness Participants



**2,041** Camp Participants



**51** WPD-led Birthday Parties



## Recreation Events

**5,625** Special Event Attendees



Daddy + Daughter Date Night



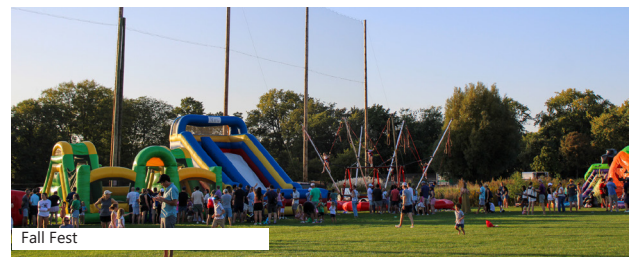
Mother + Son Date Night



Fourth of July



Back to School Bash



Fall Fest



Bike Winnetka



## LAKEFRONT

### Beach Passes Sold

**5,878** Beach Passes

**111** Lloyd Launch Passes

**430** Dog Beach Members

### Daily Admission Visits

**629** Residents

**572** Non-Residents

### Pass Visits to Swimming Beaches

Tower: **5,468** passholders

Maple: **2,675** passholders

Elder: **247** passholders

### NEW in 2025!

Elder opened for beach-access only



# ICE

## Registrations

**1,511** Ice Skating Registrations

**398** Hockey Registrations

## Rentals

**1,916** hours

## New in 2025

Hosted ISI District Championships

Offered new Stick + Puck drop-in program

Launched new scheduling software

Offered new summer camp rentals with Home Ice

## Staff Updates

Toni Cantagallo, New Skating Director

James Faedtke, Certified Ice Technician designation

Paul Schwartz, Certified Rink Administrator designation



# PLATFORM TENNIS

## Registrations

**108** Lesson Participants

Winnetka Platform Tennis Club agreement approved.



# TENNIS

## Registrations

**1,576** Youth Participants

**1,545** Adult Participants

## Memberships

**650** Members

## Teams + Tournaments

13 Junior Tournaments offered.

Home to seven greater suburban ladies tennis teams & ten USTA adult tennis teams (indoor season).

Home to six women's and three men's travel teams (summer season).



# GOLF

## Rounds of Golf

**30,936** 18-Hole Rounds

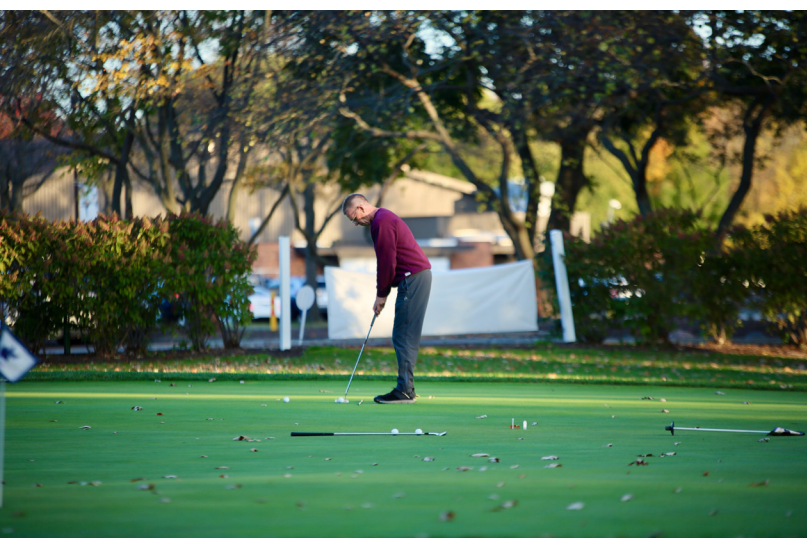
**15,033** 9-Hole Rounds

## Buckets of Balls Sold

**7,929** small buckets

**18,585** large buckets

*Approximately 2,100,000 balls sold!*

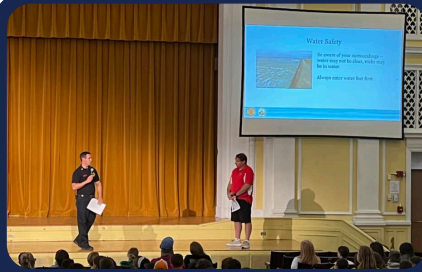




# WPD in the Community



**Expanded lifeguard education to the community.**



**Expanded and presented BEach SAFE water safety curriculum to all five D36 schools + students.**



**Winnetka-Northfield Library offered weekly storytimes at Dwyer & Hubbard Woods.  
Total attendance: 1,430**



**Offered new family events at Winnetka Farmers Market: two family yoga days and one sports day.**



**Partnered with NSSRA to run Gator Tennis program.**



**Partnered with Haven Youth Services to offer Winnetka Youth Organization (YO) at Indian Hill for school year 25/26.**



**Partnered with with Mike DeBartolo for the sixth year of Playing for Parkinson's. Mike has raised over \$500,000 for The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research through this event. In 2025, Mike was awarded Outstanding Volunteer of the Year by the Illinois Association of Park Districts.**



**Field Rentals:  
7,552 total field rental hours**



**Facility Rentals:  
409 at Indian Hill Park  
87 in the community room  
41 rentals at the beach houses  
39 park rentals**



# Marketing



## FACEBOOK

**Followers:** 4,094

**Increase of followers:** +689 people

**Total views:** 334,528

**Top Post:** October 5 - Luke Laidley  
Scoreboard Dedication



15,595 Views / 122 interactions



## INSTAGRAM

**Followers:** 3,350

**Increase of followers:** +211 people

**Total views:** 316,023

**Top Post:** October 1 - Fall Fest Recap



5,997 views + 87 interactions



## WEBSITE

**Views:** 641,100

Average of 11,958 visitors per month



## EMAIL

**Total Sends to subscribers:** 619,667

**Total Emails Sent:** 83

Average open rate of 61.9%



## BROCHURE

Launched our first printed  
brochure since Winter 2020.  
Sent to 6,080 households.

# Administration

Board adopted revisions to Policy 8.08 for Affiliate Programs and updated the affiliate program agreements. Board adopted revisions to chapters 1-4 of the policy manual.

## HR Updates

- Updated the PT and FT pay scales
- Migrated the Personnel Policy, and Safety & Crisis Manuals to PowerDMS, our document management platform.
- Implemented a new payroll, Time & Attendance Tracking, and Applicant Tracking System. Creating efficiency, improving accuracy, and reducing staff time.
- Processed 325 employee and volunteer fingerprints.
- Hired and onboarded 272 employees (new and rehires).
- Completed integration with Employee Navigator (benefit enrollment portal) and payroll, enabling automatic updates between the systems.
- Created and implemented an updated performance management process and merit metric system.
- Updated and standardized all FT, PT, and seasonal job descriptions.



