



2014

strategic plan



**River Forest
Park District**

Est. 1913

*Our residents' place for
fun and community!*

Our Mission:

To enrich the community through acquisition, development, management, and preservation of parks and open space while providing fun, meaningful, and safe recreation opportunities for the residents of River Forest.

Our Vision:

The River Forest Park District is our residents' place for fun and community!

Park District Strengths:

1. Strong satisfaction of parks and recreational programs among community residents.
2. Ability to program a full variety of well managed, fairly priced recreation program offerings.
3. Excellent use of park and recreation program space in a land locked community.
4. Strong intergovernmental cooperation.
5. Effective collaboration on responsiveness on usage of all athletic fields.
6. Strong management and control of financial assets.
7. Professional staff.

Park District Areas of Improvement:

1. Establish a permanent indoor space for Park District programs, including indoor gym space, indoor walking track, and multi-use space.
2. Acquire/lease space to develop a splash park/slash pad facility.
3. Acquire/lease space to develop a dog park.
4. Expand the platform tennis program to accommodate 2 additional platform tennis courts.
5. Expand the number of programs for adult and senior fitness and wellness.
6. Expand the number of summer time special events.
7. Offer a travel soccer program.
8. Create a more interactive and informative website.
9. Implement a sustainability program to be incorporated into a practices of the Park District

Program and Services

Goal #1: Provide high quality recreation programs to meet community needs.

1. Focus program expansion in the areas of adult fitness and wellness, special events, and youth sports. Recreation Services Manager, Athletic Supervisor
2. Research the need and costs to create a travel soccer programs for River Forest residents. Athletic Supervisor
3. Solicit a corporate sponsor to underwrite each Park District special event. C&M Supervisor
4. Work with Parks Foundation in developing a green education program series. Executive Director
5. Re-design the Park District website with easier navigation for the user. C&M Supervisor

Parks and Open Space

Goal #1: Preserve, maintain, and enhance existing open space of the Park District.

1. Develop an operation plan for ball field maintenance, mowing, tree maintenance, and janitorial maintenance. Parks Services Manager
2. Develop an athletic field use plan allowing the rotation of field use. Park Services Manager
3. Develop a “green” turf plan. Park Services Manager

Goal #2: Preserve, maintain, and enhance amenities of the Park District.

1. Develop financial costs for installing a synthetic surface at Centennial Park. Discuss with District 90 the possibility of cost sharing the project. Executive Director
2. Evaluate the use of solar garbage cans in all the parks.
3. Evaluate the need and costs to construct of lacrosse “ball” wall.

Goal #3: Acquire open space and select properties to meet current and projected park and recreational needs of River Forest residents.

1. Review open space opportunities within or adjacent to the boundaries of the Village of River Forest for the construction of a full size soccer field. Executive Director
2. Review open space opportunities within or adjacent to the boundaries of the Village of River Forest for the development of a dog park. Executive Director

Facilities:

Goal #1: Provide quality recreational indoor facilities to meet resident needs.

1. Identify possible options and costs to construct recreation program space including a gymnasium and multipurpose space. Executive Director
2. Renovate The Deport, including relocating the administration offices to a different site, creating a large upper level program room and 2 lower level program rooms. Executive Director
3. Improve facility use agreements with partners to better ensure availability of program space and ensure programs will not be bumped. Executive Director, Recreation Services Manager

Goal #2: Preserve and enhance the architectural character of the Park District.

4. Evaluate the need to install an ornamental fence along Washington Blvd. at Washington Triangle and Washington Square. Executive Director

5. Inventory and strategically replace park benches and garbage cans in all parks to match the design in Keystone Park. Executive Director

Team/Organizational Development:

Goal #1: Exercise fiscal responsibilities through cost containment and efficient maintenance operations, programming, and administrative practices.

1. Increase staff training on the uses of the Park District registration program to better utilize the budgeting and reports features. Business Manager
2. Discuss with the Village of River Forest and the River Forest Library the possible sharing of communication, marketing, and IT services. Executive Director
3. Identify potential collaborative maintenance and equipment sharing initiatives with the Village of River Forest. Discuss a possible snow removal agreement. Executive Director, Park Services Manager
4. Identify potential collaborative maintenance and equipment sharing initiatives with the Park District of Oak Park and Forest Park. Executive Director, Park Services Manager.

Goal #2: Collaborate with residents to devise and employ strategies leading to greater awareness of their unique needs and preferences.

1. Host an annual social with Board Members and staff from each River Forest governmental agency to provide residents the opportunity to meeting their representatives and officials and share their ideas and concerns. Board Members, Executive Director
2. Have a Board Member attend each special event, engaging residents to provide feedback on the Park District. Board President

Goal #3: Expand on cooperative relationships that enhance recreational opportunities and park experiences

1. Collaborate with District 90, the River Forest Library, and the Village of River Forest in communicating special event and program offerings to prevent duplication, and developing a master calendar posting all such events and programs. C&M Supervisor
2. Enter into a multi-year agreement with the Forest Preserve of Cook County for use of the ball field and soccer field at Cumming Commons. Executive Director

Goal #4: Raise public awareness by maintaining an active profile within the community.

1. Collaborate with the Village in identifying key locations in the community for a banner program. Executive Director, C&M Supervisor
2. Develop multi-media program geared toward directing traffic to the Park District's website, facebook pages and twitter account. C&M Supervisor.

Goal #5: Through professional development of Board and staff, utilize highly professional and innovative approaches to administration.

1. Develop a formal undergraduate and graduate internship program. Executive Director, Recreation Services Manager
2. Department heads and supervisory staff shall become active members in their professional associations, taking advantage of continuing education opportunities and contributing through committee work. Executive Director, Recreation Services Manager
3. Staff will participate in local community and professional meetings for collaborative and networking opportunities. Executive Director
4. Board Members will attend the necessary workshops and training to provide them the skills in being an effective and professional Board Member. Board President