

WHY ARE SOME TREES CONSIDERED INVASIVE?



All trees are good for our environment, right? Wrong! Believe it or not, some trees, shrubs and other plants are considered invasive. Why?

Invasive plants have a tendency to spread and disrupt ecosystems in natural areas. They can out-compete native plants, upsetting the balance of the ecosystem which can make a habitat less suitable for native plants and animals. Invasive plant species are a significant and ongoing land management concern. In northern Illinois, examples of these species include common buckthorn, Callery pear, Amur maple, burning bush, barberry and more.

The Crystal Lake Park District employs certified arborists and natural resource professionals who manage these native areas. As serious land stewards, we understand that removing living trees and brush can appear detrimental to the environment. But, in fact, it is clearing the way for the proper vegetation to take root and flourish.

A good example of our efforts includes the 2017 Fetzner Park riparian project. Trees and brush were removed along the creekbeds to make way for new growth. Within a few months of the clearing, residents noticed flowers, birds and bees in abundance along the pathway.

This winter, the Park District removed invasive brush in the following areas:

BUTTERNUT PRESERVE

Southern Prairie

Woodland areas adjacent to the main clearing

FOUR COLONIES PARK

Native Prairie Pond Buffer & Wooded Grove

LIPPOLD PARK

Native Detention Basin, adjacent to batting cages

STERNE'S WOODS AND FEN

Scattered trailside brush along the Fen View Trail
Buckthorn Thicket in lowland north of the Fen View Trail

WEST BEACH

Natural Shoreline

WILLOWS EDGE PARK

West (Northwest Prairie Section) & Waterford Cut/Huntley Rd

SHAMROCK HILLS

Brush adjacent to the ponds

For more details, please visit our website under the ABOUT US/PROJECT UPDATES tab.



PROJECTS

MAIN BEACH PAVILION FULL SERVICE BAR

The Park District is excited to unveil the reconfigured concession area of the Main Beach Pavilion. The focus of this project is to bring a full-service bar to our Main Beach facility rentals. We are also updating our concessions area to be more efficient for food prep, caterers and service. In addition, the program room has been designed to serve as a bridal room/waiting area prior to weddings and receptions. Renovations are expected to be completed in April '23. Recently engaged? Call 815.459.0680 for available dates!



Newly Configured Concessions Prep Area



Full Service Bar Window

FACILITY FACELIFTS

Various buildings received facelifts and repairs, making them more weatherproof and secure. Spoerl Park Building had new fascia and soffits installed; the Nature Center's shingle roof was replaced; the Rotary storage building received new flooring, roof, and fascia, soffit and siding were replaced. The Rotary bathroom received a new roof, skylights, soffit, siding and gutters. Oakwoods Lodge received new flooring, roof, fascia, soffit, siding, windows and gutters.



Oakwoods Lodge



Rotary Building

HOST YOUR NEXT SPECIAL OCCASION AT ONE OF OUR BUILDINGS WITH SPECTACULAR VIEWS!

VISIT CRYSTALLAKEPARKS.ORG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR RENTAL FACILITIES



NEW PLAYGROUNDS

Brighton Oaks, Kamijima and Lapins Park all received new playground equipment. Community residents provided input on colors and play equipment selections. Brighton Oaks playground is now filled with both a 2-5 age level play structure and a 5-12 age level play structure including an adult-infant swing where both a caregiver and infant child swing together while facing each other. Kamijima Park's new playground is lakeside-themed and includes shade sails to provide relief from summer's heat. The Kamijima playground will be open for play as soon as the contractor finishes installing the climbers. Lapins Park playground welcomes play in a woodland color palette featuring new swings, a new play structure, a climber, crawl tube and kettle drums. New underdrainage was installed underground and benches and a square table with seats made of recycled plastic lumber finish out the playground amenities.



Brighton Oaks Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



New Surface at Acorn Alley Playground

PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENTS

New poured-in-place rubber surfacing was installed at Woodland Estates, Veteran Acres Acorn Alley and Woodscreek's Crystal Castle this past summer. Due to material supply issues and contractor labor challenges, some of the projects were delayed in getting the work completed done in a timely manner. We appreciate the patience and understanding of our residents during these delays.

Woodland Estates received new play equipment pieces including a Curva Spinner, a DigiRider rocket ship, three colorful interactive panels and a Wee Planet Climber for 2-5 year olds. The boulder rock wall was removed, and the playground leveled out, making the playground ADA accessible throughout. The block retaining wall was repaired and new capstone units were installed. Underneath the surfacing, additional underdrainage was installed. In addition to the new rubber surface, Veteran Acres Acorn Alley Playground received a new Curva Spinner.

PAVING

Driveways and parking lots were resurfaced with new asphalt at Grand Oaks, Administration Building and Hill Farm Park / Barlina Preschool. Savings were found through reuse of base material where feasible. Bright yellow lines direct drivers to park and new curbs and walks help guide visitors to building entrances.

HALIGUS PARK GRANT AWARDED

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) along with state leaders recently awarded the Crystal Lake Park District with an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant of \$600,000 for the development of a new park on Haligus road, an underserved area of the Crystal Lake Park District.

The park site is 10 acres in size and located just south of the Village of Lakewood Public Works facility on Haligus Road. The Village of Lakewood donated the land to the Park District for developing the community park.

The Park District held community meetings to gather design input from residents. The park proposes many exciting features which may include pickleball courts, a splash pad and playground, demonstration garden, a shelter, restroom building, an outer loop walking path with seating nodes, a soccer field, basketball court and paved parking. A walking path will surround the park and run along the Kishwaukee River.

The design layout for the park will be finalized in the upcoming months with the goal toward a fall 2023 ground-breaking to construct the park. Additional community input will be sought as final designs for the splash pad and playground are explored.

STERLING MEADOWS PARK

The basketball court and northside pathways were resurfaced at Sterling Meadows Park along with the installation of new under-drainage. The basketball court will be color-coated as soon as temperatures warm above 50 degrees both day and night this spring.

LIPPOLD FAMILY MINI-GOLF COURSES

New outdoor carpeting was installed at our Lippold Park Family Golf Center Mini Golf courses. Fresh bright green and beige outdoor carpeting provides a refreshed look and offers a new textured experience to our two themed 18-hole mini golf courses.

Look for a new entrance sign with digital display to be installed this spring!



New Rubber Mulch and Hole Markers Freshen up the Courses



New Carpet on Mini-Golf Courses



1 E. Crystal Lake Avenue
Crystal Lake IL 60014

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Crystal Lake, IL
60014
Permit #28



PARK REPORT

Vol 12 Spring 2023

*****ECRWSS*****

Residential Customer

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

1 E. Crystal Lake Avenue Crystal Lake, IL 60014
TEL: 815.459.0680 FAX: 815.477.5005

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 8:30 AM - 5 PM

DRIVE THRU HOURS

M-F 8:30 AM - 12 PM

APR-JUL
SAT 9:30 AM - 12 PM

CLOSED

MONDAY, MAY 29
TUESDAY, JULY 4

CRYSTALLAKEPARKS.ORG



OFFICE SERVICES

SEASONAL BEACH PASSES
BOAT LAUNCH KEY FOB
FISHING KEYS
WATERCRAFT STORAGE
HOUND TOWN DOG PARK KEYCARD
PROGRAM REGISTRATION
FACILITY & PICNIC SHELTER RENTALS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ERIC ANDERSON • CATHY CAGLE
DEBBIE GALLAGHER • JASON HEISLER • KAREN JOHNSON
LINDA MATTHIAS • SARAH MICHEHL



A MESSAGE FROM
JASON HERBSTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As one of the more mild winters in recent years comes to a close, the Crystal Lake Park District has been busy. Due to the mild temperatures and dry conditions, much progress has been made in clearing invasive species in some of the natural areas throughout the District, making way for spring flora to flourish.

Work is scheduled to begin in the coming year featuring a new park development on Haligus Road, just south of the water treatment plant. This 10-acre park will fill a gap in service in the northwest portion of the Crystal Lake Park District. Nature Center exhibits will undergo complete replacement in 2023-24 thanks to an Illinois Department of Natural Resources grant that will fully fund the project (more in our next Park Report.)

As the transition to spring begins, it is not too early for those interested in summer employment to apply. Lifeguard, camp counselor, concession and park maintenance positions are available and fill up quickly, so candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The year long Comprehensive Master Planning process will conclude in March. The plan outlines key areas that the Park District will focus on for the next five years.

The use and need for the services of the District continue to grow. If you have not already joined in the fun, visit our website to see what we have to offer you and your family to Explore, Play and Experience!

MASTER PLAN

The Comprehensive Master Planning process is wrapping up and will be completed to coincide with the start of the 2023-2024 fiscal year (5/1/23-4/30/24). One component of the process was to complete a needs assessment of the community. This statistically valid survey along with an online survey gave residents an opportunity to provide valuable feedback. The most important Park District recreation amenities and facilities based on the survey results are walking/biking trails, nature trails, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, green space and an indoor running/walking track. More senior (age 55+) programs, Movies in the Park and concerts were areas of recreation survey participants would like to see increased. Upon the completion of the Comprehensive Master Plan, the final document along with the statistically accurate survey will be posted on the Crystal Lake Park District website.



FREE SEEDS!

As the Park District continues to support the Mayors Monarch Pledge, the Environmental Committee will be distributing seed packets to the community.



Visit our table at the Community Clean Up Day or stop by the Nature Center after April 22 to pick up your free seeds!

Thank You

FOR RECYCLING
400 LBS
OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



REGISTER ONLINE FOR SUMMER CAMPS

DAY CAMP
YOUTH SPORTS
ART, DANCE & THEATRE!

VISIT OUR ONLINE DIGITAL GUIDE



PLEASE HELP CLEAN UP OUR COMMUNITY PARKS AND NEIGHBORHOODS!

SAT APRIL 22 8:30 AM-1 PM



MEET AT McCORMICK PARK

RAIN OR SHINE

GROUPS LARGER THAN 8 SHOULD CONTACT
PRESTON AT PSKULTETY@CRYSTALLAKEPARKS.ORG

NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER

The Crystal Lake Park District recognizes the need for a community center, fitness area, walking track and public swimming pool for its residents. These needs were confirmed by a recent community needs survey. The Park District considered whether the Northwestern Medicine Health & Fitness Center (formerly, Healthbridge) in Crystal Lake would satisfy these needs. The Park District engaged with representatives of Northwestern and was advised that Northwestern was only interested in short term leasing of the facility at this time.

After reviewing this scenario, the Park District quickly determined that it was not in the best interests of the residents and taxpayers of the Park District to lease the premises because it was not a permanent solution for the needs of the community.

The Park District appreciates the passion and interest shown by many residents asking the Park District to keep the facility open. It's not possible for the Crystal Lake Park District to keep the facility open, unfortunately, as it's not for sale. In order to channel the enthusiasm for a community fitness center and pool, the Park District plans to explore other options to make such a facility a reality.

The Park District thanks all those who have reached out and offered their opinions on this issue.

SEASONAL JOBS

The Crystal Lake Park District is one of the largest employers of young people in McHenry County. Job openings can be found at crystallakeparks.org/ABOUT_US/JOBS.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Summer Camp Counselor
- Lifeguards & Beach Staff
- Golf Learning Center
- Tennis Instructors/Pros
- Concessions Staff
- Parks Grounds & Laborers



DATES TO REMEMBER

(WEATHER PERMITTING)

- SAT MAR 25: LIPPOLD PARK BATTING CAGES OPEN
- SAT APR 8: SPOERL PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS OPEN
- SAT APR 8: LIPPOLD FAMILY GOLF CENTER OPENS
- MON APR 17: SPRING SOFTBALL LEAGUE STARTS
- FRI MAY 5: SUMMER REGISTRATION BEGINS
- SAT MAY 27: MAIN BEACH OPENS