

# History and Demographics

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## **Arlington Heights Park District**

### **Historical Dates**

- 1892 - Railroad Parks established; vacant land alongside railroad tracks leased to Village.
- 1925 - Arlington Heights Park District was incorporated; first Commissioners were Nathaniel Banta, Eugene Berbecker, Julius Flentie, Henry Klehm and Albert Volz; first tax collection was \$1,335.
  - Village deeded Memorial Park to the Park District.
  - Park District began landscaping and maintaining Railroad Parks.
- 1926 - First Park Superintendent appointed (seasonal), John Bauer.
- 1927 - Park District boundaries revised to include the same area as the Village of Arlington Heights.
- 1931 - First bonds issued (\$13,000), by ordinance, for the purchase and development of a south side park.
- 1933 - Civil Works Administration made a grant of public funds to the Arlington Heights Park District for one-half the cost of landscaping one of the railroad parks, planting elm trees throughout the Park District and construction of a skating rink in South Park.
- 1934 - First referendum, by straw vote, to authorize Park District to issue \$25,000 in bonds for the construction of a public swimming pool. The referendum failed 215 to 201.
- 1935 - Board authorized one of its Commissioners to investigate the matter of organized playground activity and the first recreation program began.
  - First special election held to vote on the annexation of additional property to the Park District. The question passed 70 to 10.
- 1936 - Works Progress Administration approved Park District project to construct a fieldhouse, swimming pool, shelter building, and other facilities at Recreation Park.
  - Referendum passed to issue \$20,000 in bonds to pay for Park District's share of Recreation Park project. Park District final share was \$43,400.
- 1937 - Arlington Heights Park District joined the Illinois Association of Park Districts. Membership dues were \$25 for the Park District.
- 1938 - Park District issued \$30,000 in bonds, by ordinance, to pay for completion of Recreation Park construction.
- 1939 - Recreation Park pool and fieldhouse dedicated and officially opened.
- 1941 - Recreation Commission began; Board appointed representatives from civic organizations.
- 1946 - Special election held to establish the Corporate tax rate at .125% and the Recreation tax rate at .0625%. The vote was successful.
- 1953 - Summer recreation program first expands into fall with the addition of Midget Football.

- 1955 - Referendum passed to acquire land and develop facilities at Pioneer Park; \$675,000 in bonds issued.
- 1957 - Pioneer Park fieldhouse, pool and maintenance garage officially opened.
- 1959 - Heavy land acquisition and annexation program began.
- 1962 - Referendum passed for park development and land acquisition; \$395,000 in bonds issued.
- 1963 - Hasbrook Park fieldhouse opened.
- New bathhouse at Recreation Park opened.
- 1964 - Two parcels of Nike Base land declared surplus by the Federal government purchased by the Park District (Kingsbridge Arboretum and a portion of Heritage Park).
- 1965 - Referendum passed for land acquisition; \$465,000 in bonds issued.
- 1967 - \$13,000 was donated to School District #59 to help finance a larger multipurpose room at Juliette Low School.
- 1968 - Referendum passed for park development; \$2,800,000 in bonds issued.
- 1970 - Fieldhouses and swimming pools opened at Camelot and Frontier Parks, swimming pool and bathhouse opened at Heritage Park, and indoor swimming pool opened at Olympic Park. Olympic Pool operated and funded jointly with High School District #214.
- 1971 - Committee established for the acquisition of the Nike Base site.
- 1972 - Revenue bonds issued in the amount of \$735,000 for the construction of an indoor tennis facility.
- 1973 - Forest View Tennis Club (6 indoor courts) opened.
- Portion of Nike Base site (12 acres) conveyed to Park District by Federal government.
- 1974 - Additional 52 acres of the Nike Base site conveyed to the Park District by the Federal government.
- 1975 - Park District signed lease agreement with Arlington Heights Youth Athletic Association allowing them to construct a storage and administration building at Frontier Park.
- 1975 - Referendum passed to increase Corporate tax rate to .175% from .125%, increase the Recreation tax rate to .12% from .075%, and issue bonds in the amount of \$537,000 for deferred maintenance projects and construction of a maintenance garage.
- Park District 50th Anniversary celebration held at Recreation Park.
- 1976 - Maintenance Garage at Frontier Park completed.
- Additional 26 acres of the Nike Base site conveyed to the Park District by the Federal government.
- \$577,000 installment contract approved for the construction of handball/racquetball courts at Forest View Racquet Club.

- Referendum passed to issue \$1,500,000 in bonds for construction of a golf course and \$1,300,000 in bonds for park development.
- 1977 - Eight handball/racquetball courts opened at Forest View Racquet Club.
- \$334,000 installment contract approved for addition to the Arlington Lakes Golf Club clubhouse building.
- 1978 - Recreation Park fieldhouse and health club remodeling completed.
- Hasbrook Park fieldhouse remodeled into Hasbrook Cultural Arts Center.
- Heritage Park meeting room addition opened.
- 1979 - Arlington Lakes Golf Club opened on Nike Base site.
- 1980 - Sunset Meadows Driving Range and ballfields opened.
- 1981 - Pioneer Park swimming pool filter system renovated.
- 1982 - Park Place Senior Center opened.
- 1983 - Park District named the **National Gold Medal Award Winner for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.**
- Festival Park developed with a donation from the Arlington Heights Festival Committee.
- \$300,000 issued in bonds by ordinance for the purpose of land acquisition and computer system upgrade.
- Received an \$18,700 SBA Grant for tree plantings in Willow Park.
- 1984 - 5.2 acres (Frontier Estates) purchased with 1983 bond funds (\$155,000) to expand Frontier Park.
- 2.3 acres (Beile property) purchased with 1983 bond funds (\$90,000) to expand Sunset Meadows.
- Prairie Park developed with \$61,000 in Community Development Block Fund Grant monies from the village.
- 1985 - 11.1 acres of land acquired through land dedication in the Lake Terramere Subdivision.
- Developed an intergovernmental agreement between the Historical Society, Village, and Park District for continuing provisions of Museum services and programs.
- Developed agreement with Christian Liberty Academy for use of the athletic fields and gymnasium at the former Arlington High School.
- The Park District self-insured its joint insurance program effective May 1, 1985 and was accepted into the Park District Risk Management Agency on July 1, 1985.
- The Arlington Heights Park District Safety Committee was established.
- 1986 - Received a \$200,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund matching grant for the renovation of Recreation Park swimming pool.
- Purchased properties located at 7 and 27 North Belmont for \$143,000. The houses were demolished in order to expand Recreation Park.

- Purchased property at 21 South Belmont, adjacent to Recreation Park, for \$156,000.
  - Acquired Carriage Walk Park through land dedication from the subdivision developer.
  - Final payment of installment contract made on Forest View racquetball courts.
  - Purchased 8.92 acres of land at Olympic Park from School District #214 for \$265,000; received a \$150,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant for partial reimbursement.
- 1987
- Purchased North School from School District #25 for \$465,000.
  - Negotiated contract with the Arlington Heights Postal Service for their use of approximately 50 parking spaces at Olympic Park.
  - Purchased Flentie Park from School District #23 for \$153,756.
  - Kingsbridge Arboretum expanded - "K-Mart Triangle" land dedication in exchange for vacation of easement from developer.
  - Lighting approved and installed at Sunset Meadows Driving Range.
  - Purchased Heritage Tennis Club for \$1,090,000.
  - Acquired Falcon Park (1.1 acres) through land dedication.
- 1988
- Jointly purchased, with the Village of Arlington Heights, the North School Playlot for \$400,000.
  - Renovation of North School into the Administration Center was completed and the dedication took place on September 18, 1988.
  - Purchased 8.56 acres, known as Methodist Park, for \$900,000.
  - Forest View Racquet Club Revenue Bonds were prepaid on May 1, 1988.
  - The grand "re-opening" of Recreation Park Pool took place on June 25, 1988.
  - Renovation of Heritage Tennis Club was completed.
- 1989
- The Arlington Heights Park District was a finalist for the National Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.
  - Acquired 53 Park of Commerce and Pasquinelli properties (Creekside Park), and Lake Cook Triangle (Sunset Ridge Park) through dedication.
  - The Children at Play (C.A.P.) Before and After School Program began in the fall at six elementary schools in District #25.
  - A cooperative agreement was developed with School District #214 Community Education to provide adult volleyball and basketball leagues at the Forest View Education Center.
- 1990
- The Arlington Heights Park District was a finalist for the National Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.
  - The newly renovated Forest View Park Outdoor Tennis Complex officially opened on June 9, 1990.
  - Safety Town and Tennis Court renovations were completed at Olympic Park at a cost of \$266,713.

- The North School Park development was approved with a budget of \$550,000 plus donations; construction began in the Fall of 1990.
  - Received a \$200,000 matching grant for Phase I of Lake Arlington from the Open Space and Land Acquisition Fund.
  - Received a \$175,000 matching fund bicycle grant for the 1.8 mile path around Lake Arlington and one mile along McDonald Creek.
  - Signed a lease with the Village of Arlington Heights for the Park District's use of Lake Arlington.
  - Agreement signed with School District #23 to jointly construct a gymnasium addition at Betsy Ross School. The agreement included a Park District contribution of \$490,000 for usage of the facility for recreation programming purposes.
  - Leased 11 acres from School District 23 for soccer fields at Patriots Park.
- 1991
- The Arlington Heights Park District was a finalist for the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.
  - North School Park was completed and officially dedicated in July 1991. The site includes a playground, display fountain, amphitheater and extensive landscaping.
  - Pioneer Park and pool were renovated with new brick paving, fencing, expanded lawn sunning areas in the pool, resurfacing the entire deck area, and landscaping. A new parking lot for 75 cars and a new walkway along the main driveway were also added.
  - Fitness center at Forest View opened on October 28, 1991. The facility was renamed the Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club.
- 1992
- The Arlington Heights Park District was awarded the **1992 National Gold Medal Recipient for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management**. It was one of the few agencies to be a two-time recipient, having received this honor in 1983.
  - Received the "Elite Gold" National Aquatic Safety Award for the excellent performance rating achieved by the lifeguard staff.
  - Signed an agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights regarding recreational use at the "landfill site" at 3800 N. Kennicott Avenue.
  - Received an OSLAD Grant to begin Phase III of Lake Arlington in the amount of \$175,000.
  - The Grand Opening of Lake Arlington was held on June 6.
  - The Park District was selected by the Western Tennis Association as the 1993 Member Organization of the Year for its programs at Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club and the Heritage Tennis Club.
  - Two of the racquetball courts at the Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club were converted to an aerobics studio.
- 1993
- Finalized the \$770,000 purchase of 3.3 acres of property east of Recreation Park at 100 N. Hickory (used \$100,000 from the Park District Frontier Days Recreation Park Expansion & Improvement Fund).

- Purchased a building at 1436 East Davis Street for \$725,000 to be used as a central maintenance service center.
- Construction began at the landfill site in north Arlington Heights for development of a nine-hole, par-three golf course. The site was officially named Nickol Knoll Park.
- Received a \$50,000 bike path grant for McDonald Creek bike path connections from the Illinois Department of Conservation.
- The Park District Board of Commissioners approved a major re-organization of the Park District combining the Recreation Department with the Revenue Facilities Department. Three major divisions were created and Director's assigned in the Department of Parks & Planning, Recreation & Facilities, and Finance & Personnel.
- Five new Superintendent positions were filled in conjunction with the agency re-organization: Superintendent of Golf Maintenance, three Superintendents of Recreation, and a Superintendent of Administrative Services.
- Patriots Park soccer field opened for use.
- Melas Park Master Plan developed.
- Arlington Heights Park District was one of the first agencies in Illinois to receive the IPRA/IAPD Distinguished Park & Recreation Agency Certification.
- Juliette Lowe School (School District #59) became a Children At Play site.
- Training Supervisor position approved by the Park Board.
- Management Information Systems Supervisor position approved by the Park Board.
- 1994 - Intergovernmental agreement was completed with School District #21 for gym programming at Edgar Allen Poe School in exchange for the Park District contribution of \$500,000 in up-front construction costs.
- Entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Mt. Prospect Park District, Village of Mt. Prospect, and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to develop the west side of Melas Park into an athletic complex.
- Received a \$200,000 (OSLAD) grant for Melas Park development.
- Tax Cap legislation for the collar counties of Cook County passed by the Illinois General Assembly.
- Remodeling began at the Davis Street Service Center.
- Golf Maintenance Supervisor position approved by the Park Board for Nickol Knoll Golf Course.
- Received a \$43,605 matching SBA Street Tree Grant.
- The bicycle trails for the McDonald Creek paths were completed. Trails connect the four bridges at Camelot Park, Willow Park, and Lake Arlington.
- Construction began on the Nickol Knoll clubhouse.
- Construction began on Lake Arlington Phase IV, including the boathouse.
- 1995 - Received a \$200,000 OSLAD grant for Melas Park development.

- Lake Arlington Boathouse construction completed at a cost of \$552,169 and opened to the public on August 12.
  - Dedicated the Poe School Community Gym on January 31.
  - Nickol Knoll Clubhouse construction completed at a cost of \$412,747 and the facility opened for a partial season.
  - Golf Operations Supervisor for Nickol Knoll Golf Course approved by the Park Board (re-allocated from Arlington Lakes Golf Club restaurant)
  - Melas Park Phase I completed.
  - Received a score of 99.05% on the PDRMA insurance evaluation, placing the Park District in the excellent category for the first time.
  - ADA signage was installed at all community centers, Olympic Park, Arlington Lakes Service Center, Lake Arlington Boathouse, and Nickol Knoll Golf Club.
  - Rotary Club donated \$5,000 for trees at Lake Arlington.
  - One tennis court at Carefree Park was converted for skateboard use.
  - The AUTOCADD design system was installed in the Planning Department.
  - Contracted for 24 weeks of mowing services at smaller parks-an experimental project to be evaluated in 1996 for continued use.
  - Arlington Lakes Golf Club restaurant operation changed as of April 1-banquet food service was provided by outside caterers while restaurant and bar operations were run the by Arlington Lakes staff throughout the golf season.
- 1996
- Issued \$3,000,000 in General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds for park improvements.
  - Received a score of 98.6% on the PDRMA insurance evaluation, placing the Park District in the excellent category for the second year in a row and accrediting the Park District for the next two years.
  - Melas Park Phase II was completed. First softball games and volleyball matches held (partial season).
  - Poe and Riley Schools (School District #21) became Children At Play sites. The CAP program now serves children and families at ten school sites.
  - Assistant Golf Supervisor position approved by the Park Board for Arlington Lakes Golf Club.
  - Nickol Knoll Golf Club opened for the first full season of golf and was officially dedicated on July 13, 1996.
  - Davis Street Service Center opened on April 1<sup>st</sup> – new home for all trades and fleet maintenance operations.
  - Entered into a three-year contract for 26 weeks of mowing services at 20 park sites (49.3 acres).
- 1997
- Issued \$1,550,000 in General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds for park improvements.
  - Telephone registration for Park District programs began with the fall program session.

- Signed an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights for the purpose of obtaining facility space in the new Senior Center.
  - The first full season of play at Melas Park Sports Complex began on May 12. The official dedication was held on June 28. Phase III construction was completed.
  - The Arlington Heights Historical Museum was the beneficiary of the annual Arlington Heights Ball and received \$11,000 to use for the climate control project.
  - The Log Cabin refurbishing project at the Historical Museum was completed in August and the Log Cabin was rededicated during Septemberfest. The Museum received \$7,700 in donations for this project, including \$2,000 from Frontier Days, Inc.
  - Received a \$200,000 OSLAD grant for the redevelopment of Pioneer Park Swimming Pool in December.
  - Purchased one (1) acre of land from Southminster Presbyterian Church to expand Dryden Park for \$338,000.
- 1998
- Senior programs were relocated to the new Arlington Heights Senior Center on December 19 and the Park District's senior supervisor offices moved in on January 12. The Senior Center was officially dedicated on January 31. The Arlington Athletic Club opened on February 23. The Park District signed a new intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights for program space in 1997.
  - The "old" Pioneer Park Swimming Pool closed on August 16<sup>th</sup> with a good-bye party, Something Old is New Again, to celebrate 41 years of service. Demolition started the next day.
  - The Park Board approved converting the two south tennis courts at Olympic Park into a Skate Park, approved the expenditure of \$10,000 for skate features, and approved a license agreement with the Lattof YMCA to manage the skate park. The Skate Park opened in August and was officially dedicated on September 19.
  - The Park District Web Site, <http://www.ahpd.org>, went live on September 16.
  - Approved the Management Information Systems Technician position.
  - The Park District was re-evaluated and retained its certification as an IPRA/IAPD Distinguished Park & Recreation Agency
  - Major tennis court renovations were completed at Green Slopes and Centennial Parks.
  - Arlington Academy of the Arts became the new identity and logo for all Park District arts programming.
  - The Nathaniel Moore Banta house at the Historical Museum was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 20.
- 1999
- Purchased the .4 acre Schwantz property (2100 N. Fernandez) adjacent to Frontier Park for \$215,000 in March.
  - Purchased 1.3 acres of land on the south side of Recreation Park along Northwest Highway (500, 506, & 510 East) for \$840,000 on July 14 (used \$100,000 from AHPD/Frontier Days Recreation Park Expansion & Improvement Fund).

- Entered into an agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights for improvements to Douglas Avenue along the east side of Recreation Park. The Park Districts share of the improvement cost was not to exceed \$150,000.
- The new Pioneer Park Swimming Pool opened on June 12<sup>th</sup>; the grand opening was held June 18<sup>th</sup>. The new facility features a zero-depth swimming pool with water play features including geysers, wall sprays, and a small water slide in the shallow end; a zero-depth wading pool with four in-pool geysers; and a diving pool with two one-meter diving boards and a 10-foot drop slide. Architects for the new pool were Pollock Holzrichter Nicholas Ltd. and the general contractor was Schaeffges Brothers, Inc.
- Approved a full-time Secretary I position for the Davis Service Center.
- Approved the Marketing Supervisor position.
- Approved the Website Coordinator position.
- The Historical Society/Museum received a \$10,000 grant from the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Capital Grant Program for the Climate Control Project for the museum buildings.
- The Park District/Museum received a \$10,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Operating Grant Program to develop a school outreach program and a museum website.
- The Comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey final report was presented to the Park District in July. The survey was conducted by Management Learning Laboratories.
- Entered into a formal agreement with School District 25 for athletic field use.
- Received a score of 95.8% on the PDRMA insurance evaluation, placing the District in the excellent category for the third time and accrediting the District for the next two years.
- As a result of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey, the Park Board approved the firm of Pollock Holzrichter Nicholas Ltd. to complete phase I of a Master Plan of Park District Recreation Facility Improvements for seven facilities (Camelot, Frontier, Hasbrook, Heritage, Olympic, Pioneer, and Recreation Community Centers and Pools) including architectural evaluation and master planning services.
- Received a \$70,000 legislative grant from Senator Dave Sullivan and the Illinois First Program to renovate and rebuild the soccer fields at Patriots Park.
- Received a \$500,000 legislative grant from Representative Carolyn Krause and the Illinois First Program to remodel the south wing of the Administration Center.
- Received a \$100,000 legislative grant from Representative Sidney Mathias and the Illinois First Program to rebuild the playground at Lake Terramere Park.
- Received a \$50,000 legislative grant from Representative Suzanne Bassi and the Illinois First Program to renovate the athletic fields at Rand Berkley Park. Rep. Bassi was also able to obtain a \$200,000 legislative grant for the Village of Arlington Heights to purchase land at Dunton and Campbell Streets for a downtown park.

- Received a \$130,000 legislative grant from Senator Wendell Jones and the Illinois First Program to renovate the walking paths at Hasbrook Park. Senator Jones was also able to obtain a \$310,000 legislative grant for the Village of Arlington Heights to develop the new downtown park.
- 2000
- On March 21, the Park District asked the voters to authorize the levy and collection of an additional tax of \$0.15 in the Corporate Fund beginning in levy year 2001. The referendum was defeated, 6,341 No to 5,328 Yes.
  - On November 7, the Park District asked the voters to authorize the issuance of \$15,000,000 for swimming pool renovations at Camelot, Frontier, Heritage and Olympic Parks. The referendum passed, 15,725 Yes to 14,571 No.
  - Online registration for recreation programs began on October 15.
  - The Park District celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Party in the Park at North School Park on June 9.
  - The Park District purchased .2 acres of land at 17 S. Belmont adjacent to Recreation Park for \$348,000.
  - The Park District purchased .67 acres of land at 2004 N. Fernandez adjacent to Frontier Park for \$550,000.
  - The Park District's website received the NRPA Marketing and Communications KUDOS Award for Class II for Best Website/Homepage Promoting Recreation.
  - Pioneer Park Swimming Pool received an IPRA Outstanding Facility Award.
  - Commissioner Kathryn Graham was named an Outstanding Board Member by the Illinois Association of Park Districts.
  - The Woodshop at the Senior Center opened in February. The Woodshop is a joint agreement project with the Village of Arlington Heights.
  - The snack bar and pro shop at Arlington Lakes Golf Club was remodeled and expanded for the 2000 golf season; project architect was Hundrieser/Gutowosky Associates, Inc.
  - Payton's Hill at Nickol Knoll Golf Club was dedicated on May 13. The Hill honors Chicago Bear football great, Walter Payton, who died in November 1999, and who trained at the site when he lived in Arlington Heights. The memorials include a bronze plaque at the clubhouse, a second bronze plaque at the overlook on the top of the hill, and a display of Payton memorabilia in the clubhouse.
  - The Museum website, [www.ahmuseum.org](http://www.ahmuseum.org), went live on July 11.
  - The Heritage Gallery at the Arlington Heights Historical Museum opened on November 4, 2000. The Gallery is designed as a changing exhibit space and replaces the Country Store.
  - The Park District received a \$90,000 legislative grant from Senator Wendell Jones and the Illinois First Program to rebuild the playground at Greenbrier Park.
  - The Park District received a \$90,000 legislative grant from Representative Suzanne Bassi and the Illinois First Program to rebuild the playground at Hasbrook Park.

- The Park District received a \$25,000 grant from Representative Sidney Mathias and the Illinois First Program to rebuild the playground at Sunset Ridge Park.
  - The Park District received a \$105,000 grant from Senator David Sullivan and the Illinois First Program to renovate the ball diamond lighting on Meyer Field at Recreation Park.
  - The Park District/Museum received a \$9,850 grant from the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Operating Grant Program to develop a coloring/activity book on local history for K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders and a \$1,500 grant from the Illinois Arts Council for Irish Fest.
  - The Historical Society/Museum received a \$100,000 legislative grant from Representative Suzanne Bassi and the Illinois First Program for the climate control project in the Muller and Banta houses.
  - The Historical Society/Museum received a \$20,000 grant from the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Capital Grant Program for HVAC improvements in the Pop Factory.
  - The Historical Society/Museum also received other grants and donations including: \$8,500 from Arlington Eve 2000 for Heritage Gallery exhibits; \$2,700 from the Arlington International Racecourse Pony Auction for the climate control project; \$1,800 from Frontier Days, Inc. for a professional picture hanging system for the Heritage Gallery; and a \$500 Illinois Humanities Council Technical Assistance Grant to attend a class on exhibit design for small museums.
- 2001
- The Arlington Heights Park District was awarded the **2001 National Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management**. As a *Third Time* recipient of this prestigious award, the Park District joined an elite group of nine agencies throughout the United States that have been so honored (four of the nine are Illinois Park Districts).
  - Commissioner Michael Gilfillan received the Allan Weisburg Commissioner of the Year Award from the Illinois Association of Park Districts.
  - The “old” swimming pools at Camelot, Frontier, and Heritage Parks closed on August 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning an ambitious three pool renovation project approved by the November 2000 referendum. Demolition and construction began on August 28. Project architects were Pollock Holzrichter Nicholas Ltd.
  - The Arlington Heights Park Foundation was formed and began meeting in May.
  - Tennis court lighting and ceiling upgrades completed at Heritage Tennis Club.
  - A new logo was approved by the Park District in October.
  - The remodeled south annex wing of the Administration Center was formally dedicated on October 6 by Representative Carolyn Krause, who provided a \$500,00 Illinois First Legislative Grant for the project, and programs began using the facilities on October 30. The renovation upgrades two existing classrooms into a combination dance studio/meeting room with a room divider; provides a waiting/program viewing room for parents and siblings; creates two outdoor accessible restrooms and a staging area for North School Park events; and increases the storage area.

- The Park District/Museum received a \$9,640 grant from the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources Museum Operating Grant Program to produce ADA videos of the Muller and Banta houses.
  - The Park District/Museum also received a \$2,000 grant from the Illinois Humanities Council for community programming to supplement the Smithsonian exhibit “Yesterdays Tomorrows-A Past Vision of the American Future” and a \$1,500 grant from the Illinois Arts Council for Irish Fest.
  - The Historical Society/Museum raised \$8,100 for Heritage Gallery exhibits through Arlington Eve 2001.
- 2002
- The Park District received a \$400,000 OSLAD grant for the redevelopment of Frontier Park Swimming Pool.
  - The Park Board approved the Superintendent of Human Resources position (upgrade from supervisor position).
  - The new swimming pools at Camelot, Frontier, and Heritage Parks opened in June. Each swimming complex features a zero depth leisure pool with water play features attached to a six-lane lap pool, a zero depth wading pool with water play features, a diving pool with diving boards and/or drop slides, and a spray ground.
  - **CLASS**, the Park District’s new program to recognize employees who demonstrate commitment to **C**ustomer satisfaction, **L**eadership, **A**ttitude, **S**ervice and **S**afety, began in June. Both full- and part-time employees may be nominated for the quarterly award by Park District residents or fellow staff.
  - Rotary Field, a renovated youth baseball/softball diamond at Prairie Park, was dedicated on April 28. The renovation plan, which added fencing, dugouts, an electronic scoreboard, and resurfaced the field, was proposed by the Arlington Heights Youth Athletic Association. Funding was secured by the AHYAA in the form of a \$25,000 donation from the Arlington Heights Noon Rotary Club, a \$20,000 Illinois First Grant from Senator David Sullivan, and private donations.
  - A former storage room was remodeled into a training/conference room at the Administration Center.
  - JAZ (Junior Activity Zone), an after school program for middle school students, began in August. The program, a cooperative program with the Park District, School District 25, and the Arlington Heights Teen Center, is held at the Teen Center.
  - Attendance at the Senior Center topped the 5,000 mark for the first time for the month of April.
  - The Park District/Museum received a \$7,602 grant from the Illinois Department of Revenue Museum Operating Grant Program for a historic trading card series and traveling educational trunks. The Museum also received a \$1,000 grant from the Illinois Arts Council for Irish Fest.
- 2003
- The Park District annexed 21 properties (voluntary) in the Lynwood subdivision on January 28, 2003 and 83 properties (involuntary) in the Lynwood subdivision on February 11, 2001.

- The Park District purchased 2.76 acres of land, including a building located at 1440 E. Davis Street, adjacent to the Davis Service Center, for expansion of the service center operations, for \$1.2 million.
  - The warehouse building at 100 N. Hickory was demolished.
  - The Parks and Planning Department was reorganized under the Director into two divisions with Superintendents overseeing each area.
  - Entered into an agreement with the Metropolis Performing Arts Center for cooperative programming, beginning with “Curtain’s Up” summer camp.
  - Signed an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights to share GIS data.
  - Adopted a new program brochure format beginning in Fall 2003 – the 5 issues per year, newspaper size Leisure Times will be replaced with a 4 issues per year, magazine size program guide. The program guides will be delivered by a door-to-door direct service instead of bulk mail.
  - The sideline and outfield fence was replaced at Meyer Field at Recreation Park.
  - Griffith Field was dedicated at Centennial Park on May 31. The field improvements were made possible through a \$50,000 donation from the Griffith Family.
  - A revised Museum Intergovernmental Agreement was approved in April 2003, adding the Arlington Heights Memorial Library as a partner, revising the structure of the Museum Advisory Committee and shifting the responsibility of museum room rental to the Park District.
  - The Park District/Museum received a \$500 Illinois Arts Council Grant for Irish Fest.
  - Olympic Pool closed May 8 for renovation. Demolition work began in mid June. Project architects were Pollock Holzrichter Nicholas Ltd. and general contractor was A.J. Maggio Construction.
  - A new Aquatic Leadership Program designed to mentor and teaches leadership and aquatic skills young staff who will be acting as Assistant Pool Managers and Assistant Lesson Coordinators, began in June.
- 2004
- The Park District purchased 1.83 acres of land at 1701 W. Kirchoff for \$925,000, for expansion of Sunset Meadows Park.
  - Purchased and installed Thor Guard Lightninging Systems at Arlington Lakes Golf Club and Nickol Knoll Golf Club.
  - New agreement signed with School District 214 regarding the use of Olympic Pool.
  - A design and development plan for Sunset Meadows Park was approved.
  - A design and development plan for the Hickory property, including a youth ball diamond and open space, at Recreation Park was approved.
  - Lights were installed on the soccer field at Melas Park. (Total cost \$65,000).
  - Olympic Indoor Swim Center reopened on June 12, with a grand opening celebration on June 20. The newly remodeled facility includes a new zero-depth family activity pool with a 50-foot flume slide, tot slide, floor geysers, water play features and stair

entry; a renovated lap/lesson/swim meet pool; a renovated diving well with a three-meter drop slide, walk out stairs, and new one-meter diving boards; a unisex sauna on the pool deck; new family changing rooms in the remodeled locker rooms; a new entry off the parking lot; a new and expanded customer service/registration area; and new party and meeting rooms. Total project cost was \$5,327,000.

- The Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club fund was reclassified from an enterprise fund to a special revenue fund.
  - The Park Board and staff identify Pioneer Park as the first community center/park that should be renovated as part of the community center revitalization program.
  - Approve development of a Community Interest Survey (consultant is Synovate)/
  - The District was named an IPRA/IAPD Distinguished Park and Recreation Agency in November. Since ten years had passed since the first Distinguished Agency evaluation, the District had to go through a full evaluation, and passed with the highest score ever recorded thus far.
- 2005
- Signed agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights to transfer 2.489 acres of leased land at Sunset Meadows Park to Park District ownership.
  - The Community Interest Survey final report was accepted by the Board in April.
  - Hire Williams Associates Architects, Ltd. as architects for the Pioneer Park reconstruction project.
  - Hire Corporate Construction Services as the construction manager for the Pioneer Park reconstruction project.
  - The Park District Board and staff worked with consultant Jane Turrentine to develop a vision, goals, and objectives for the Park District in preparation for writing the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. This was the first major change in the comprehensive planning process since the first Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1982.
  - A new Park District vision and goals statement was adopted in April.
  - The energy efficient light replacement project at Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club was completed. The District received a \$36,720 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for this project.
  - The roof was replaced at Heritage Tennis Club (last done in 1987).
  - The Park District purchased the MainTrac Computerized Maintenance Management System Software.
  - To comply with the ADA Act, hired the National Center on Accessibility to conduct a facility assessment of Park District buildings and outdoor facilities and approved the involvement of NCA in the pre-design phase of projects as needed.
  - The new youth/pee wee ball diamond located on the site of the former 100 N. Hickory storage building at Recreation Park was dedicated on June 14, 2006. The Arlington Heights Youth Athletic Association donated \$6,500 for sideline and backstop fencing. Total cost for the project was \$101,500.
  - The Park Board approved retaining the grant consulting firm C. H. Schrader & Associates to advise and assist the Park District.

- A new Sport Court SportShield floor was installed over a new radiant heat system in the gym at Frontier Park.
  - Registration through the touchtone phone system is phased out beginning with the Fall program cycle.
  - Phase I of the Sunset Meadows Park development project began. Phase I includes clearing the site of trees to accommodate two football fields, moving three utility poles, grading the turf, and realigning a part of the public sidewalk.
  - The Village of Arlington Heights approved a new Land Dedication Ordinance, increasing the cost per acre of cash in lieu of land to \$165,000 per acre from \$85,000 per acre.
  - Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights to extend TIF District # 1. (NOTE: This extension agreement was agreed upon by all public governments involved with the exception of School District 25, which means that TIF District #1 will expire on time and an extension will not likely be approved by the State of Illinois legislature.)
  - Approved a Release of Easement to Northwest Community Hospital regarding a height restriction on hospital buildings originally imposed by the federal government when Arlington Lakes Golf Club was a Nike missile base (dated July 24, 1961) and which was transferred to the Park District when the missile base land was transferred to the Park District in 1973-1976.
- 2006 - The Park Board approved the schematic design for Pioneer Park redevelopment in January.

## **Arlington Heights Park District History**

### **Prior to 1925**

Originally this place called Arlington Heights was a part of the prairie of the Midwest. Various Indian tribes roamed the area at will until the western expansion of the white man drove them out. The Indian Treaties and the Homestead Act of the 1830's and 40's encouraged permanent settlement of the area and ASAP Dunton filed three claims in 1837. William and James Dunton, Asa's sons, moved onto their properties in 1844, followed by Asa in 1846. William Dunton named the small town "Bradley" in 1854; however the name was changed to "Dunton" a year later. The biggest force shaping the early Midwest was the railroad. William Dunton persuaded the rail builders to route the train through his town by selling 16 acres of his own land for railroad right of way for only \$350. The improved transportation to Chicago spurred the industrial and farming growth of "Dunton" and, in 1874, "Arlington Heights" was chosen as the new name for the village. The train is still a central focus of the community today.

In 1887, the Village of Arlington Heights was incorporated and civic improvements were begun. In 1892, because the townspeople protested the unsightly conditions of the land alongside the railroad tracks, the Railroad developed several parks on the north and south sides of the railroad right of way. These "railroad parks" were the beginning of the park system in Arlington Heights.

### **1925-1940**

In 1925 the citizens determined, by petition, that there was a need for an organized park district and that future development of the community demanded such an organization. On June 9, 1925, the Arlington Heights Park District was formed and the first Park District meeting was held June 18, 1925, with Commissioners Nathaniel Banta, Henry Klehm, Eugene Berbecker, Albert Volz, and Julius D. Flentie.

Some of the first land acquisitions made by the new Park District included the dedication of Memorial Park by the Village (originally donated to the Village in 1883 by Dr. John Best as the site for a soldier's memorial) and leasing the railroad parks along the Chicago and Northwestern right of way. Development of these parks took much of the Commissioners' time and effort as they pitched in to help with the work. The first taxes levied by the Park District were collected in May 1926 and totaled \$1,335.72. In 1926, the first Park Superintendent (seasonal) was appointed. The Park District began moving towards a recreation program by erecting the first community Christmas tree in 1926 and allowing the Business Men's Association to build a bandstand in one of the railroad parks in 1929. In 1928, the boundaries of the Park District were revised by annexation to be the same as the Village boundaries. The first bonds were issued, by ordinance, for land acquisition and development of a south side park in 1931. New park lands were purchased or donated and a grant from the Civil Works Administration in 1933 helped plant over 2,000 Moline elm trees within the District, landscape one of the railroad parks and build a skating rink in South Park, which later was renamed Cronin Park.

By 1934 the citizens of Arlington Heights were contemplating bigger projects and, although the yearly tax levy was only \$3,000, a straw vote held to determine if the Park District should construct a public swimming pool failed, 215 to 201. In 1935 one of the Park Board Commissioners was

authorized to investigate the matter of organized playground activity in the Park District and the first recreation programs soon began. In 1936 architectural drawings for a pool and fieldhouse were drawn, and accepted, as a Works Progress Administration project. The whole project was put together in five hours to meet federal deadlines. Bonds were issued, through referendum and ordinance, by the Park District to finance its portion of the project, which amounted to \$43,400. On May 28, 1939, Recreation Park fieldhouse and swimming pool were officially dedicated and on June 17, these facilities were opened to the public. Other recreational facilities included a shelter house, ice skating rink, croquet court, baseball diamond, tennis courts, horseshoe courts, and shuffleboard courts.

When Recreation Park swimming pool opened for the 1939 season, the admission price was 10¢ for children up to 13 years old, 20¢ for youth ages 13 to 19 and 25¢ for adults. During the first summer of operation, 591 season tickets were sold, primarily to children and youth. Daily admission prices remained the same for the 1940 season but a discount season ticket was offered for the first time. Swimming races and a diving competition were held at the pool on a 1940 summer evening following a band concert and, in 1942, the first annual Arlington Heights Recreation Park swimming and diving meet, sanctioned by the Central A.A.U., was held. Fear of polio kept people away from public swimming pools in 1943 and forced the Park District to close Recreation Park swimming pool in early August with net receipts of only 42¢. However, swimming soon became popular again and, in 1947, the Park District reported that 37,000 people had used Recreation Park pool during the summer. Through the years, and even with the addition of four outdoor pools, Recreation Park swimming pool continued to be the center of the District's summer swimming programs.

### **1940's**

In 1941, the first meeting of the Recreation Commission was held. The Commission developed from an idea of a local resident and the Park Board appointed representatives from local civic associations. The recreation programs of the District continued to develop and, in 1946, the Community Council donated 30% of the profits of the July 4th festival to the Park District for recreational programs and a portion of the fieldhouse at Recreation Park was designated as a youth center. 1946 also saw Park District residents approve a referendum to establish the corporate tax rate at .125% and the recreation tax rate at .0625%.

### **1950's**

By 1950, a summer playground director was working for the Park District. The recreation program consisted only of summer activities including swim lessons, little league, softball, tennis lessons, handicrafts, the Lions Olympics, trips to Cubs and White Sox games, volleyball leagues, a Girls Athletic Club, and the annual water show. Programs were held primarily at Recreation Park but a few were held at South Park (Cronin Park). Recreation activities expanded into the fall for the first time in 1953 when the midget football program began.

In 1952 the controversy began over the selling of the Railroad Parks. The Village attempted to purchase several parcels of the land from the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad to widen Davis Street in order to provide off-street parking. However, the Park Board and Village citizens were adamantly opposed to the loss of the parks and the matter was dropped. Meanwhile, the Chicago and Northwestern began a program of liquidating non-revenue producing property, including the

Railroad Parks and, in 1958, offered to sell five of the eight parcels to the Village (two parcels had already been sold and the railroad station stood on another parcel). The Village held an unsuccessful referendum for the purchase of the Railroad Parks for parks and parking in 1959. Emotions were running high both for keeping the Railroad Parks and turning them into much needed parking for the downtown business section. In the meantime, the Arlington Heights National Bank quietly purchased one parcel of land from the Chicago and Northwestern and began installing a parking lot for their customers in 1960. Cries of outrage were heard throughout the Village but, in 1961, the Village purchased four parcels of land for parking expansion. By the mid 1960's the Railroad Parks, which served as the catalyst in the formation of the Arlington Heights Park District, had been turned into parking lots.

In 1955, Park District voters approved a referendum to issue \$675,000 in bonds for land acquisition and park development. By 1957, when the fieldhouse, pool, maintenance garage, ball diamonds, and tennis courts were completed at Pioneer Park, the Arlington Heights Park District consisted of two community parks, seven neighborhood parks and many small lots in Stonegate and Scarsdale.

During the mid 1950's, the little league baseball program started by the Park District had grown too large for the Park District staff to handle alone. A group of involved citizens formed an association, the Little League Organization, and took over the operation of the program. A cooperative agreement was established between the Park District and the Little League whereby the Little League was responsible for furnishing uniforms and equipment, and securing coaches, officials, scorers, and other volunteers to run the baseball program while the Park District was responsible for maintaining the ball diamonds. Soon the Park District's midget football program became a part of the Little League and was operated in the same manner as the baseball program. To date, the boy's baseball, girl's softball and boy's football programs continue to be organized and operated by a parents association, now known as the Arlington Heights Youth Athletic Association. The Park District has cooperated with this group since its inception by maintaining athletic fields, constructing additional fields, and leasing office and storage facilities to the Association.

1957 saw the beginning of a year round recreation program for the Arlington Heights Park District. Fall and winter program offerings included adult badminton, men's volleyball, open basketball, indoor golf, adult arts and crafts, square dancing, and tumbling. Most of the programs were free; charges were made only for special trips, materials and special instruction.

When the first full-time recreation superintendent was hired in 1959, the complexion of the District's recreation programs began to change. The 1959 playground program was expanded to include four neighborhood parks in order to bring summer activities closer to the children. New programs for adults and children were offered including slimnastics, a fall fishing derby at the swimming pools, horseback riding lessons, and a winter ice carnival sponsored by the Rotary Club; and the gymnasium at Recreation Park began to be used as a roller skating rink.

## **1960's**

The rapid population growth of Arlington Heights during the 1950's spurred the Park District into a heavy land acquisition and annexation program in the 1960's. From 1950 to 1960, the population rose 218% while park and open space land lagged behind national standards. New subdivisions were required to dedicate park land; however, the Park District began to realize that simple land dedication was not enough; money for development was necessary. In many cases donations of

time and materials eased the development squeeze but annexations of unincorporated land proved to be the most beneficial in increasing the tax base and bonding powers of the District. In addition, during the 1960's, voters passed three bond referendums for land acquisition and development: in 1962 for \$395,000, in 1965 for \$465,000 and in 1968 for \$2,800,000. These referendums enabled the Park District to acquire needed land and to build many facilities including the fieldhouse at Hasbrook Park, the bathhouse at Recreation Park, an addition to the maintenance garage at Pioneer Park, the swimming pools and fieldhouses at Frontier and Camelot Parks, the swimming pool and bathhouse at Heritage Park, and the indoor swimming pool at Olympic Park along with ball diamonds, tennis courts, multipurpose areas, athletic fields, playgrounds, and to install walkway and park lighting.

The Park District's recreation programs continued to grow during the 1960's. A senior citizens club was formed, after-school game rooms were opened and a playschool program for 3 to 5 year olds began. Ice-skating was expanded with the installation of lights and a shelter building at Hickory Meadows in 1962. Other new programs included the annual Easter Egg Hunt, dance classes and ski trips. During this time the community centers began to remain open in the evening for drop-in activities instead of opening only for scheduled meetings and programs. By 1964 the recreation programs had grown large enough to justify hiring a full-time recreation supervisor. The Park District began a summer program for mentally handicapped children in 1965, which soon expanded into the fall and winter. During the late 1960's the first recreation fieldwork students came to work at the Park District and a training and exercise room was opened in the basement of Recreation Park.

In 1967 the Park Board and School District 59 agreed that the Park District would contribute \$13,000 to help finance the construction of a larger multipurpose room at Juliette Low School which the Park District would use for recreational activities after school and on weekends. The school would use Heritage Park athletic fields, ball diamonds and playground during school hours, and the park and school land would be developed as a single coordinated area. In 1998, when School District 59 began the remodeling and addition to Juliette Low School, a new intergovernmental agreement was signed giving the Park District use of the commons and gym for programs before and after school and on weekends and providing for joint development of a new playground.

### **Arlington Lakes Golf Club**

Late in 1964, the Park District believed that the United States Government would list the Arlington Heights Nike Base site as surplus land, a location that the Park District was very much interested in for a regional park. One hundred acres of the site was actually listed as surplus late in 1966 but, the United States Navy declared an interest in 24 acres for a Navy housing project, thus dashing the Park District's hopes of acquiring the 100 acres for a planned 18 hole golf course. The Navy's housing plans never materialized and, in 1971, the Park Board organized a Blue Ribbon citizens committee to help in the acquisition of the land. During this time the Village also declared an interest in the Nike site for flood control purposes.

In 1972 very heavy flooding hit the homes in the area adjacent to the Nike site and the quest to gain acquisition of the site gained momentum. The Village's Citizens Action Committee against Flooding, the newly formed Citizens Committee for the Utilization of the Nike Base, the Village

Trustees and staff, and the Park District Board and staff began to channel their efforts in the same direction. The Park District's golf course plans were revised to include flood control lakes and thus became a part of the Village wide flood control plan. The Park District was further involved in the Village's flood control plans through the use of retention and detention basins for recreation areas including softball diamonds, a golf driving range, sled hills, tennis courts, and ice skating rinks.

The United States Navy again declared an interest in 51 acres of the Nike site for housing in late 1972 dashing the acquisition hopes for a second time. By 1973, Senators Charles Percy and Adlai Stevenson had become involved in the fight and 13 acres of the land was conveyed to the Park District from the Federal government.

In 1974 the fight for acquisition continued with the help of Representative Philip Crane. Many involved citizens wrote letters to Federal officials, journeyed to Washington for meetings and picketed the Nike site. The Navy gave up their interest in 52 acres of land but the Army decided they needed those extra 52 acres for reserve training. Eventually the President of the United States intervened and the controversial 52 acres was awarded to the Park District.

The 65 acres the Park District now owned was in two parcels, one on the east and one on the west end of the Nike site. This land situation was definitely not conducive to the construction of an 18-hole golf course. The Army was standing firm in their need for the remaining acreage for reserve training so the golf course/flood control plan was revised for a 9 hole course on the 52 acres. However, the fight went on for acquisition of an additional 26 acres.

More picketing was planned for the summer of 1975 but the plans were put on hold when the Army stated they were willing to discuss joint use of the land. The final 26 acres were conveyed to the Park District in 1976 and the Army, citizens and Park District worked out the boundary lines to permit the best use of all the acres deeded to the Park District.

The Village earmarked \$800,000 for use at the golf course for flood control, and took care of the excavation and grading of the site. In 1976, Park District voters approved a \$1,500,000 bond referendum for golf course development. The Park Board approved a \$334,000 installment contract in 1978 for construction of a larger clubhouse facility and appointed a Citizens Advisory Committee to advise the Board on the formulation of the golf course's operational policies and procedures.

In May of 1979, the Arlington Lakes Golf Club opened its golf course and restaurant to the public culminating 14 years of effort by dedicated citizens, the Village, Park District, and elected officials including State Representative Virginia Macdonald and Congressman Donald Rumsfeld along with Senators Percy and Stevenson, and Congressman Crane. In 1980, the Park District expanded golf services with the opening of Sunset Meadows Driving Range. Lights were installed at the Driving Range in 1988. Arlington Lakes Golf Club is as popular today as the District envisioned it would be in 1964. During its 22nd year of operation (May 2001-April 2002), more than 57,000 rounds of golf were played. The pro shop area was remodeled in 2000 to expand the pro shop, add more seating in the snack bar, add new counters and displays, and redesign the office area. Over the years, the District has modified the operation of the Arlington Lakes Restaurant in an effort to find the right place in a difficult market. The Restaurant began as a full service restaurant and bar operation, and then changed to lunch and dinner with bar services during the golf season from May through August along with full service banquet operations. Currently, the restaurant offers banquet room rentals using outside catering with bar services provided by Arlington Lakes. From May

through August, the restaurant is open with a sandwich menu and full bar service from 5:00-10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. All other food service at the Golf Club is handled through the snack bar.

## **1970's**

In 1971, the Park District had a survey taken of District residents to determine their attitudes towards the Park District's Commissioners, staff, programs, and facilities. One of the conclusions of the survey stated that residents were interested in an artificial ice skating rink and an indoor tennis facility while they were not interested in tax rate increases. The Park District sponsored a public meeting to discuss the feasibility of constructing an indoor tennis facility and an indoor ice rink. Out of this meeting a citizens committee was formed and began to study the issues. After much effort on the part of the committee it was decided that the Park District should build an indoor tennis facility with revenue bonds and conduct a general obligation bond referendum for the construction of an indoor ice rink.

In June and August of 1972, the Park Board issued \$735,000 in revenue bonds by ordinance to finance the construction of an indoor tennis facility and Forest View Tennis Club opened in 1973 with six indoor tennis courts. In 1976, the Park Board approved a \$577,000 installment contract for construction of eight handball/racquetball courts at Forest View and the air-conditioned courts were opened in 1977. On May 1, 1988, the Forest View Racquet Club Revenue Bonds were called and pre-paid, exactly one year prior to their due date. Several improvements were made at the Racquet Club in the early 1990's. The outdoor courts were completely re-designed including surfacing, lighting, brick patio, and pavilion, and were opened to the public on June 9, 1990. Renovations in 1991 and 1992 included installation of a new HVAC system, converting the second floor into a full-scale fitness center, converting two racquetball courts into an aerobic/dance studio, expanding the men's locker room, and installing an elevator. The facility was renamed Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club in 1991.

In December of 1972 the vote went against the Park District's referendum to issue \$2,550,000 in general obligation bonds for park improvement and development including the construction of a fieldhouse at Dryden Park, land acquisition, the construction of a north side maintenance garage, and the construction of an indoor ice rink complex along with increasing the corporate tax rate by .025%.

In the mid 1970's the Park District was facing a financial deficit. The annual income from taxes was not keeping pace with rising costs. The District began to cut expenses through elimination of programs and personnel and was forced to postpone all except emergency repairs. As the situation became more critical the Board organized a Citizens Park and Recreational Financial Plan Committee to study the problem and make recommendations. The Committee recommended that the District conduct a referendum, restricting the request for money to only essential projects. The outcome was the successful 1975 "Save the Parks" referendum which authorized the Park District to increase the corporate tax rate from .125% to .175%, increase the recreation tax rate from .075% to .12%, and issue \$537,000 in bonds for deferred maintenance projects and construction of a maintenance garage at Frontier Park. The 1976 referendum which authorized the Park District to issue bonds to construct the golf course also authorized bonds of \$1,300,000 for park development. The results of this referendum can be seen in the addition of the meeting rooms to Heritage Park;

remodeling of the Recreation Park fieldhouse, Pioneer Park bathhouse, and Hasbrook Park fieldhouse into the Hasbrook Cultural Arts Center; full development of Centennial, Wildwood, Carousel and Victory neighborhood parks; and construction of additional tennis courts, and lighting of walkways, play areas, tennis courts, and the ball diamonds at Recreation Park, Centennial Park and Sunset Meadows.

The recreation program of the 1970's saw continued expansion to serve all age groups, all interests and all areas of the Village with the opening of Camelot, Frontier and Heritage Parks and swimming pools in 1970. Olympic Indoor Swim Center opened the same year and the District's popular learn-to-swim program became a year round activity. The operation of Olympic was unique in that the Park District and School District 214 shared the costs and the pool time. During the early 1970's, garden plots were planted at Prairie Park, the mobile recreation trailer brought playground programs back out to the neighborhood parks and the Arlington Heights Park District Bicycle Association was formed and began to map a bike path throughout the Village. New senior citizen activities included the Gold Key Card and bus service, sponsored by the Rotary Club, to Over 50 Club. The Northwest Special Recreation Association was formed in 1974, with the Arlington Heights Park District as one of the founding agencies, and began the task of offering recreational activities to special populations. The spirit of cooperation was evident in the Safety Town, Counselor-In-The-Park and Ecology Corps programs, all cooperative efforts between the Park District and the Village, school districts, Illinois Department of Labor, and the Junior Women's Club. During this time the Park District also entered into cooperative agreements with surrounding park districts including Mt. Prospect, Buffalo Grove, and Rolling Meadows for the use of facilities such as swimming pools and indoor ice rinks. The Park District continued to initiate new programs during the late 1970's including Body Rhythm and soccer.

On June 22, 1975, the Arlington Heights Park District celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a "Golden Summer Celebration" at Recreation Park. A full day of old time games and contests, an ice cream social, a balloon launch, free admission to the swimming pool, and musical concerts brought Arlington Heights residents to Recreation Park to share in the celebration.

Arlington Heights' Bicentennial Celebration, "Festival '76", was held at Recreation Park and each year since then, an annual Fourth of July "Frontier Days Festival" has been held at Recreation Park. Frontier Days is organized and run each year by the Arlington Heights Festival Committee, a large organization of volunteer citizens, with the cooperation of the Park District, the Village and a number of local businesses. Each year, the Committee donates profits from the Festival to various community projects. The Park District has been the beneficiary of numerous Festival grants including a grant for the summer outdoor concert series and a grant to support expenses to repair the Log Cabin at the Museum. Additionally, in 1988, the Park District and Frontier Days, Inc. signed an agreement to establish a special fund, which the Festival would contribute to each year, for the purpose of acquiring land adjacent to and improving Recreation Park. The Park District has used monies from the Recreation Park Expansion & Improvement Fund twice: \$100,000 towards the purchase of 100 N. Hickory in 1993 and \$100,000 towards the purchase of the Northwest Highway property in 1999.

## 1980's

During the early 1980's, the Park District's emphasis switched from acquisition, development and growth to maintaining and upgrading its parks and facilities. Renovations were completed at the community centers, Arlington Lakes Restaurant, and the Forest View Racquet Club. The original filter system and wading pool piping at Pioneer Park swimming pool was replaced in 1981. Playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, and softball, baseball and soccer fields were renovated based upon a master plan

Festival Park was developed in 1983 with a donation from the Arlington Heights Festival Committee on a lot leased from the Village. Located in the Historic Arlington Neighborhood, Festival Park was planned with resident input to reflect the character of the surrounding area. In 1984, Prairie Park was developed after serving as a garden plot site for thirteen years. The District received \$86,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds from the Village to develop the park, which is next to a low-income housing development.

The District issued \$300,000 in bonds by ordinance in December 1983, for the first time since 1938, for the purpose of land acquisition and to upgrade the computer system. The land was acquired in 1984 and used to expand the acreage of two parks. Frontier Estates, 5.2 acres south of Frontier Park, was purchased for \$155,000 and the Beile property, 2.3 acres north of Sunset Meadows, was purchased for \$90,000.

Recreation programs continued to expand during the early 1980's. The health craze hit Arlington Heights along with the rest of the country and the District responded with all types of exercise classes for kindergartners through senior citizens. Day camps became popular again as more families sent both parents into the work force. The Park District's soccer program emerged in the 1980's as an extremely popular activity. Parent support of the program and the increase in participation led to the location of premier soccer fields at Olympic Park. In 1982, the District's recreation programs for senior citizens moved to Park Place Senior Center. Based on studies made by the Senior Citizens Commission, the Village leased a closed elementary school and remodeled it into Park Place. The Park District assisted in planning and designing the Center and was responsible for coordinating and funding the recreation programs. Park Place housed eight local service agencies that worked together to bring a well-rounded program to seniors.

The highlight of the early 1980's for the Arlington Heights Park District was when the District was named the 1983 National Gold Medal Award winner for excellence in park and recreation management in Class III (50,000-100,000 population). Presented annually by the National Sports Foundation, the Gold Medal is awarded based on the quality of service, improvements made during the previous five years, extent of future planning, participant involvement, and acceptance by the community.

In 1985 the Arlington Heights Park District celebrated 60 years of service to the community with various special events taking place at the Park District facilities and community centers. Admission prices at the pools were rolled back to 1930s prices, 10¢ children up to 13 years old, 20¢ for youth ages 13-19, and 25¢ for adults.

The Park District continued intergovernmental cooperation by signing an agreement in 1985 with the Arlington Heights Historical Society and the Village of Arlington Heights to continue providing

services and programs at the Arlington Heights Historical Museum. The agreement established the Park Historical Committee. The Museum complex includes the 1882 home of F. W. Muller, the 1908 Banta House, a Log Cabin, and a Coach House, which tell the story of Arlington Heights over the last 160 years. The Museum and Historical Society have been the recipient of numerous awards and grants over the years including when the Nathaniel Moore Banta House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. Museum programs and special events continue to thrive and offer a unique leisure experience to the residents of Arlington Heights.

In 1986, the Arlington Heights Park District received a \$200,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund matching grant for the renovation of Recreation Park swimming pool. Renovations on the pool began in September 1987, and the grand re-opening of Recreation Park Pool took place on June 25, 1988. The main pool was extended to 50 meters, the standard for long course competitive swimming, and a new zero depth wading pool was installed. Other features included a special deck surface, underwater lighting, a new concession area, and extensive landscaping. The new pool attracted the state Junior Olympic Swim Meet in 1990 and 1991, with over 500 swimmers participating each year. In 1989 and 1990, Recreation Park Community Center received a "facelift." The facade of the building was renovated to the original wood and brick "Swiss" pattern and the first floor and gym were air-conditioned in 1989, and all exterior aluminum doors and windows were replaced with fire rated wood doors and windows in 1990.

Between 1986 and 1990 the Park District continued its land acquisition program, acquiring 11.1 acres of land through a transfer of title at the Lake Terramere Subdivision. Property was purchased at 7 and 27 North Belmont to expand Recreation Park, and Kingsbridge Arboretum was expanded by the "K-Mart Triangle" acquisition. At Olympic Park, 8.92 acres of land was purchased from School District #214. A \$150,000 OSLAD grant was received for partial payment. Falcon Park (1.1 acres), Flentie Park (4.5 acres) and Carriage Walk Park (3.3 acres) were acquired in 1987. Also during this period, the Park District acquired Carefree Park (.6 acres), Creekside Park (22.4 acres), and Sunset Ridge Park (2.3 acres). In 1988, the District purchased Methodist Park for \$900,000. The Methodist Park site is a "special use" park with three softball diamonds and one baseball diamond.

In 1987, the Park District purchased North School, built in 1938 with an addition in the 1950's, from School District #25. The school was renovated, and in September 1988 was dedicated as the new Park District Administration Center. The renovation included preserving the original woodwork throughout the building and combining the magnificent style of 1938 with the modern technology of today.

The Heritage Tennis Club proved to be an excellent acquisition for the Park District. Purchased in October 1987 and re-opened to the public in November 1987, the facility is located at the north end of the community, thus complementing the Forest View Racquet Club located at the south end of Arlington Heights. The building's roof was replaced immediately and a complete interior renovation of the club took place during the summer of 1988. Major renovations since opening include a new HVAC system and acoustic improvements in 1996. Arlington Heights is the only suburban Park District in Illinois that operates two indoor tennis/racquet clubs.

In the fall of 1989, the Park District began a special joint program with the Village and School District #25. The program known as Children at Play, or C.A.P., was designed to assist the working

parent, providing recreational activities before and after school for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. In 1989, its first year of operation, the program served 150 children at six sites. School District #59 (Juliette Low School) joined the program in 1993 and School District #21 (Poe and Riley Schools) joined in 1996. During the 2004-2005 school years, the C.A.P. program served 714 children and their parents.

## **1990's**

Both the Village of Arlington Heights and the Park District saw a unique opportunity to develop a downtown park and jointly purchased the North School Playlot (1.6 acres next to the Park District Administration Center) for \$400,000 in 1988. Construction on the site began in the fall of 1990 with completion of the park in spring 1991. The park includes open space, a fountain, amphitheater/performance area, and playground. The Village Board of Trustees and the Park Board of Commissioners agreed the site would be called North School Park. Several fundraising programs were developed in conjunction with North School Park. A "Buy a Brick" program was initiated whereby individuals, organizations, and businesses could purchase an engraved brick paver to be included in North School Park. Also, two major donations were received, the fountain in memory of Virgil Horath and the playground in memory of Irving Robbin. The completion of North School Park saw the beginning of many new community oriented annual special events including a summer concert series, Autumn Harvest, and Holiday Lighting, which features beautiful lighted displays throughout the park.

Throughout the years the Park District has coordinated many types of intergovernmental agreements, not only with Arlington Heights' agencies but also with neighboring park districts to expand the delivery of leisure services to the community. Between 1988 and 1994 the Park District began several new joint efforts. A cooperative gymnastics programs with the Rolling Meadows Park District was started in 1988 and gardening programs with the Mt. Prospect Park District were started in 1990. An agreement was signed in 1990 with School District #23 to jointly construct a large community gymnasium addition at Betsy Ross School. A similar agreement was signed in 1994 with School District #21 for a large community gym addition at Edgar Allen Poe School. The agreements include Park District use of the gyms for recreation programs in the evenings and on weekends which allowed for expansion of youth and adult athletic leagues. In 1990, a cooperative agreement with School District #214 Community Education and the Mt. Prospect Park District was developed to provide adult volleyball and basketball leagues at the Forest View Education Center. Equally accessible playground equipment and a raised garden were installed at Rand-Berkley Park in 1989/90. The park was used by the special education students at Berkley School as well as the community. The project was completed by the Park District, School District #25, and the Northwest Special Recreation Association. An intergovernmental property exchange took place in 1992 with School District #25, with the Park District trading 6.3 acres at Greens Park for 7.06 acres at Rand Berkley School. In addition to the land, the Park District was given use of 2 ball diamonds and soccer fields at Thomas Middle School constructed by the School District with specifications supplied by the Park District.

Pioneer Park, originally built in 1956/57, received several improvements during the early 1990's. The 1990/91 project included new fencing around the swimming pool deck area, resurfacing the pool deck, installing brick pavers in the concession area, between the buildings and at the north

entry to the center building; total reconstruction of the driveway and existing parking lot, installing a concrete walk along the driveway, and building a new parking lot in the hockey rink area. Other improvements to the community center building were new windows and doors in 1991 and central air conditioning in 1992.

In the fall of 1990 the Village of Arlington Heights dedicated Lake Arlington. Lake Arlington is a 93-acre site that includes a 50-acre detention lake and 11 acre native wetland. The Park District signed a lease agreement with the Village to program the recreational activities at the lake. Facilities at the site in addition to the lake include: a boathouse, a 2.4 mile bicycle/pedestrian path, picnic areas, playgrounds, boat dock, boat storage, and a nature study area. A total of \$600,000 has been received in grants for site development. Organized recreational activities started on June 6, 1992, the official grand opening date, and emphasized paddleboat and sailboat rentals and sailing lessons. All phases of the Lake Arlington project were finished in 1995 with the completed construction of the boathouse.

The Arlington Heights Park District continued the tradition of excellence by being named the 1992 National Gold Medal Award winner for excellence in park and recreation management in Class III (50,000 - 100,000 population) after having qualified as a finalist from 1989-1991. Both Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club and Heritage Tennis Club were named by the United States Tennis Association as 1991 Outstanding Tennis Facilities. The Park District was named Member Organization of the Year by the Western Tennis Association in 1993 in recognition of the entire tennis program. In 1993 the District received the IPRA/IAPD Distinguished Park and Recreation Agency Certification, one of the first agencies to receive this honor. The District was re-evaluated and retained its recognition as a Distinguished Park and Recreation Agency in 1998. Every year since 1992, the District has received either the "Elite Gold" or "Elite Silver" National Aquatic Safety Award for the excellent performance rating achieved by the lifeguard staff. In 1995, 1996, and 1999, the Park District received excellent category rankings on the PDRMA insurance evaluation, which accredited the District through 2002. The Park District has received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Audit each year since 1986.

The Park District purchased two pieces of property in 1993. The District purchased the former Weber-Stephen property, 3.3 acres of land east of Recreation Park at 100 N. Hickory, for \$770,000 in June, using \$100,000 from the Arlington Heights Park District/Frontier Days Recreation Park Expansion & Improvement Fund. Two existing buildings were demolished; the area was seeded and used to expand the green space at Recreation Park. The remaining building is used as a storage facility for the Park District. In August, the Park District purchased a 22,500 square foot industrial building at 1436 East Davis Street for \$725,000. The building was updated and renovated as a centralized maintenance facility and tradesmen from Pioneer and Frontier Service Centers were relocated to the Davis Service Center in 1996.

After many years of negotiations, the Park District signed an agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights in 1992 to develop the "landfill site" on the north side of town. Groundbreaking was held at the site, officially named Nickol Knoll Park, in 1993. Facilities at the park include a nine-hole, par 3 golf course with clubhouse, ball field/soccer field, sled hill, and perimeter 1.25-mile bicycle/pedestrian path. Nickol Knoll opened for a partial season on July 29, 1995. The first full

season of golf operations and park activities at Nickol Knoll began in spring, 1996, and the facility was officially dedicated on July 13, 1996. The first full season of operation saw over 20,000 rounds of golf played. At the end of its sixth full season, May 2001-April 2002, over 21,700 rounds of golf were played. Nickol Knoll is supported by an on-site Maintenance Service Center, which also serves as a fire-training academy and classroom for the Village of Arlington Heights.

In 1993, the Park District developed a master plan for Melas Park, a site owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, leased to the Village of Mt. Prospect and subleased to the Arlington Heights and Mt. Prospect Park Districts. Although previous agreements allowed for programming at the site, the Arlington Heights Park District's area remained largely unused and unimproved. A 1994 intergovernmental agreement between the four agencies permitted the Arlington Heights Park District to develop the property west of the access road into an athletic complex. Construction started in 1994 and a partial season of softball and volleyball games began in 1996. The first full season of play at Melas Park Sports Complex began on May 12, 1997, with the official dedication on June 28, 1997. The 35-acre facility includes four lighted softball fields, a handicapped accessible playground, sand volleyball courts, a concession/storage building, and a picnic area. A total of \$400,000 in OSLAD grant money was received for the project. The perimeter and interior bicycle/pedestrian pathway system was developed with the Mt. Prospect Park District and completed in 1999 with a \$500,000 Illinois First grant the Village of Mt. Prospect received through Representative Carolyn Krause in August 1998.

In early 1996, the Village of Arlington Heights and the Senior Citizen Commission began to look for a new site for the Park Place Senior Center. The old school building, which housed the Senior Center, was scheduled for demolition by School District 25 during the rebuilding of South Middle School on the same site. In November 1996, the Village purchased the eastern portion of the Central-Wilke Plaza shopping center for the new senior center and, in July 1997, the Park District signed an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights for space in the new senior center. The new Arlington Heights Senior Center was dedicated on January 31, 1998. The Park District was responsible for the construction costs of the recreational areas and coordinating the recreation programs offered at the Center. Recreation facilities include the Arlington Athletic Club fitness center, a dance studio, an art studio, and a gift shop. In September 1999, the Park District and the Village signed an agreement to develop and operate a woodshop at the Senior Center, with the Village providing and maintaining the space, the Park District developing and conducting programs, and Senior Center, Inc. purchasing the initial equipment. The woodshop opened for classes and drop-in use in February 2000.

The Youth Commission of the Village of Arlington Heights and the Youth Skate Committee began to lobby the Village and the Park District for support of a park for skateboarding. In June 1998, the Park Board approved converting the two south tennis courts at Olympic Park into a skate park, allocated \$10,000 in funding, and signed an agreement with the Lattoff YMCA in Des Plaines to manage the facility. After a month of building by Park District staff and Youth Skate Committee members, the Skate Park grand opening was held on September 19, 1998. Skating features include quarter-pipes, a spine box, and several small ramps for use by skateboarders and in-line skaters. The six members of the Youth Skate Committee were presented with the Illinois Park and Recreation Association/ Illinois Association of Park Districts' Community Service Award in March 1999. In early 1999, the Youth Skate Committee received a \$4,000 grant from the Festival

Committee for improvements to the Skate Park. With an additional \$5,000 from the Park District, the Skate Committee was able to fund and build a small half pipe for the Park. The new Skate Park has become a popular destination for teen and pre-teen skating enthusiasts.

During the 1990's, computers and their related technology had a strong impact on the Park District. The District purchased its first computer, with two terminals, in 1978. That basic system evolved into a complete area network with a personal computer on every desk. The system was used for accounting, budgeting, payroll, inventory control, registration, scheduling, publications, court/facility/participant usage, museum collection management, pool chemical control, energy management, employee and job training, and more. District employees used computers to create, store, retrieve, and share information and communicate with each other and with customers and vendors. The District's Employee Info Spot intranet site served as the Online information/resource site for employees and includes the most current information on human resources, benefits, safety, training, policies, procedures, forms, manuals, surveys, reports, the Comprehensive Plan, and more. The ever increasing amount of hardware and software and the need to manage and organize the data and information used on a day-to-day and long-term basis required the addition of new jobs. The Management Information Systems Supervisor position was approved in 1993; the Management Information Systems Technician was approved in 1998, and the Website Coordinator position was approved in 1999.

The District used technology to provide residents with the convenience of 24-hour a day access to information and registration. Telephone registration for recreation programs began the fall of 1997 (phased out beginning in Fall 2005). The Arlington Heights Park District website, <http://www.ahpd.org>, went live on September 6, 1998. The website offers comprehensive District information, updated daily, included special promotions; the Leisure Times program brochure; job and volunteer opportunities; a listing of all parks, facilities, staff and Board members; program, activity, and league information; and more. Program registration went online through the website in October 2000 and the Museum's website, [www.ahmuseum.org](http://www.ahmuseum.org), went online in July 2000.

The recreation programs of the 90s continued to grow in all areas. Summer day camps remained popular, particularly with the addition of before-and-after camp care for the benefit of working parents. The Arlington Heights Historical Museum offered different types of programs to Park District residents including period and holiday craft classes, programs for school and scout groups, and special events such as Civil War Days, German Fest, Holiday and Mother's Day Teas, the annual House Walk, and Irish Fest. The soccer program, which began in the late 70s, continued to grow as the number of house league and travel league teams increased each year. With the opening of Lake Arlington in 1992, the Park District began offering sailing lessons and camps. Sailing-tennis-golf and Adventure (canoeing-fishing-climbing) Camps were added in the late 90s. All of the Park District's visual and performing arts classes became the Arlington Academy of the Arts in 1996. Athletic programs retained their popularity with residents especially in the areas of volleyball and junior golf leagues. Several new annual special events began with the completion of North School Park, including a summer concert series, Autumn Harvest, and Holiday Lighting. Programs and activities for seniors increased in both number and attendance with the opening of the new Senior Center in 1998.

## **Pioneer Park Swimming Pool**

The Park District staff studied the five outdoor swimming pools in 1994 and concluded that four of the pools were aging and in need of major renovation or reconstruction. A 1995 facility evaluation by Water Technology, Inc. determined that Camelot, Frontier, and Heritage Park swimming pools were in fair to good condition for their age, however, Pioneer Park pool, 38 years old and corroding both inside and out, needed to be replaced. The Park District July 1997 Pool Renovation Strategy concluded that Pioneer Park Swimming Pool should be the first pool renovated. Through a series of staff and community meetings during the fall and winter of 1997-1998, a final design was developed and approved that maintained the characteristics of the neighborhood pool concept that is firmly established in Arlington Heights while providing a more modern design and facilities. The “old” Pioneer Park swimming pool closed for the season on August 16, 1998, with a “Something Old is New Again” good-bye party to celebrate 41 years of service and construction started the next day. The “new” Pioneer Park swimming pool opened on schedule on Saturday, June 12, 1999, featuring a swimming pool that ranges in depth from zero to five feet and includes walkout stairs with handrails, water play features including geysers and wall sprays, and a small water slide in the shallow end. The new wading pool ranges in depth from zero to fourteen inches and includes four in-pool geysers. The new diving pool features two one-meter diving boards and a 10-foot high drop slide. The new bathhouse provides larger locker rooms, two separate family dressing rooms, and an expanded concession area that serves both pool users and general park users. The mechanical building provides year-round restroom access for general park users and a warming room for ice skaters. The Park District received a \$200,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the Pioneer Park swimming pool reconstruction. Pioneer Park’s new swimming pool has proved to be extremely popular. Public swimming attendance almost doubled from the summer of 1998 to 1999, from 31,812 to 58,477 and was 50% more than attendance at the other four outdoor pools combined. During the summers of 2000 and 2001, attendance at Pioneer Park swimming pool averaged 43% higher than the combined attendance at the other outdoor pools.

## **Late 1990s/Early 2000s**

Beginning with the first seasonal park superintendent hired in 1926, the Park District staff had increased to 103 full-time and over 1,000 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and volunteers in 2002. Along with this growth in staff has come the explosive growth in federal, state, and local laws applying to safety, insurance, risk management, training, and personnel management. To adequately manage all of these functions, the Park Board approved two new jobs within the Finance and Personnel Department: a Training Supervisor position was approved in December 1993 and a Human Resources Supervisor position was approved in February 1997. In 2002 the Human Resources Supervisor position was upgraded to a Superintendent level.

Land acquisition for the purpose of expanding existing parks continued to be a priority for the Park District during the late 1990s and 2000. In 1997 the District purchased one acre of land from Southminster Presbyterian Church at a cost of \$338,000 to expand Dryden Park. In March 1999, the District purchased the .4 acre Schwantz property (2100 N. Fernandez Ave.) for \$215,000 and, in October 2000, purchased .67 acres of land at 2004 N. Fernandez Ave. for \$550,000. Both of these properties are adjacent to Frontier Park. The District purchased 1.3 acres of land on the southeast

side of Recreation Park along Northwest Highway (500, 506, & 510 East) for \$840,000 in July 1999, using \$100,000 from the Arlington Heights Park District/Frontier Days Recreation Park Expansion & Improvement Fund. In July 2000 the District purchased .2 acres of land at 17 S. Belmont adjacent to Recreation Park for \$348,000.

Recognizing the need to plan for the long term recreation and facility needs of the community and to analyze current commitments and resources for future development, the Park District completed two extensive surveys in 1999. The Community Needs Assessment, a District-wide survey conducted by Management Learning Laboratories, reported the recreation needs, attitudes, interests, and opinions of the residents. Major results indicated that the 40 year old system of neighborhood parks and recreation facilities were an asset to the neighborhoods and enhanced the quality of life and property values in Arlington Heights and that the preferred way to fund parks, programs and facilities was a combination of user fees and taxes. Respondents indicated they wanted well maintained, upgraded and modernized facilities. MLL stated the results should be used for short-term and long-term planning for programming, facility maintenance and renovation, and land acquisition. The Facilities Evaluation and Conceptual District Plan, conducted by Pollock Holzrichter Nicholas, Ltd., evaluated the existing conditions of the swimming pools and recreation centers at Camelot, Frontier, Heritage, Pioneer, and Recreation Parks, Olympic Indoor Swim Center, and Hasbrook Cultural Arts Center. The Plan recommended that the Park District develop a long range program to maintain, renovate, remodel, and replace these facilities to insure that they will continue to meet the needs of the community into the 21st century.

During 1999 and 2000, the Park District was fortunate to be the recipient of several legislative grants from our elected State Senators and Representatives through the Illinois First Program that helped fund a number of planned projects. The 1999 grants included: \$70,000 from Senator Dave Sullivan to renovate and rebuild the soccer fields at Patriots Park; \$500,000 from Representative Carolyn Krause to remodel the south wing of the Administration Center; \$100,000 from Representative Sidney Mathias to rebuild the playground at Lake Terramere Park; \$50,000 from Representative Suzanne Bassi to renovate the athletic fields at Rand Berkley Park; and \$130,000 from Senator Wendell Jones to renovate the walking paths at Hasbrook Park. Grants received during 2000 included: \$50,000 from Senator Wendell Jones to rebuild the playground at Greenbrier Park; \$90,000 from Representative Suzanne Bassi to rebuild the playground at Hasbrook Park; \$25,000 from Representative Sidney Mathias to rebuild the playground at Sunset Ridge Park; and \$105,000 from Senator David Sullivan to renovate the ball diamond lighting on Meyer Field at Recreation Park.

On May 13, 2000, Payton's Hill was dedicated at Nickol Knoll Golf Club in honor of Chicago Bear football great, Walter Payton. During his eight years as an Arlington Heights resident, Payton ran the hill while in training. Payton died in November 1999 from liver cancer and residents requested a memorial on the spot which had long been called "Payton's Hill." The memorials include a bronze plaque at the clubhouse, a second bronze plaque at the overlook on the top of the hill, and a display of Payton memorabilia in the clubhouse. The plaques were donated by the First Northwest Bank of Arlington Heights.

On June 9, 2000, the Arlington Heights Park District celebrated its 75th anniversary with a Picnic in the Park at North School Park featuring music and food. The celebration continued on the next day

with free admission to all the outdoor swimming pools and featured games, contests, prizes and special concession prices.

### **Swimming Pools**

Knowing that the ability to finance capital projects through non-referendum general obligation bonds would be lost in 2001 due to the Tax Cap, the Park Board decided to request a 15¢ rate increase in the Corporate Fund through a referendum held in March 2000. The purpose of the tax rate increase was to generate funds to maintain and upgrade the existing neighborhood centers, pools, parks and facilities as well as acquiring land and developing new parks. The referendum failed and voter feedback indicated that the tax dollars requested should be reduced and limited in duration, and that specific projects with timelines for completion should be identified.

In November 2000 the Park District went back to the community and asked for approval to issue \$15 million in general obligation bonds to replace, construct and improve the swimming pools at Camelot, Frontier, Heritage, and Olympic Parks. The District indicated that construction on the first project would start in 2001 and that all projects would be completed in three years. This referendum passed and the process to replace the 31-year old outdoor swimming pools at Frontier, Camelot, and Heritage Parks began immediately.

The first phase in the pool reconstruction projects included developing architectural plans, using the design features of the new swimming pool at Pioneer Park, as a starting point, and the decision was made to rebuild all three pool complexes at one time to lessen the impact on the public. After a series of staff and community meetings, the final plans presented the new Frontier, Camelot, and Heritage Park swimming pools as neighborhood pools which would be capable of handling all the current aquatic programs offered by the Park District and also offer modern amenities. The main swimming pools at each facility were modified slightly to give a different appearance and each facility was developed with a unique color scheme and water play features. The “old” swimming pools at Frontier, Camelot, and Heritage Parks closed for the season on August 12, 2001, with a good-bye party to celebrate 32 years of service and construction started the next day. The “new” swimming pool complexes opened on schedule in June 2002 and each includes a new leisure swimming pool that ranges in depth from zero to 3 feet and includes walkout stairs with handrails; recessed ladders; an underwater bench seat with bubblers; and water play features including geysers, wall sprays, and a small water slide in the shallow end. The leisure pool is attached to a six-lane lap pool which ranges in depth from 3 ½ to 5 feet. The new wading pools range in depth from zero to 18 inches and include in-pool geysers and side sprays. Camelot’s wading pool also includes a small water slide. New spray ground areas include geysers and different water-play features at each park. The new diving pools are 12 feet deep and are different at the three swimming complexes: Camelot’s diving pool included a one-meter diving board, a drop slide, and stairs across one end of the pool while the diving pools at Frontier and Heritage include one-meter and three-meter diving boards and an extended area of 12-foot water for deep water play. The pool deck areas include four large shade umbrellas and an adult deck area with a sunshade. The bathhouses were remodeled and updated, two new family changing rooms were added, the lifeguard offices were extended for better supervision, and the concession areas were expanded. The Park District received a \$400,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the pool reconstruction at Frontier Park. The swimming pool complexes at

Camelot, Frontier, and Heritage Parks proved to be extremely popular. Public swim attendance from the summer of 2001 to 2002 almost doubled at Camelot Park, from 13,726 to 26,815, and more than doubled at Frontier Park, from 12,490 to 35,401, and Heritage Park, from 11,937 to 29,589.

Renovation of the indoor swimming pool at Olympic Park began in April 2001 with design and development. Following several public meetings and many discussions with High School District 214, whose swim teams used the indoor pool for practices and meets, about a combined effort to renovate and expand the pool, a plan was approved by the Park Board in December 2002. Olympic Indoor Swim Center was closed on May 8, 2003, and construction started immediately. The swim center reopened on June 12, 2004, with a grand opening celebrated on June 20, 2004. The newly remodeled facility includes a new zero-depth family activity pool with a 50-foot flume slide, tot slide, floor geysers, water play features and stair entry; a renovated lap/lesson/swim meet pool which was also deepened to accommodate new swim competition regulations; a renovated diving well with a 3-meter drop slide, walk out stairs, and new 1-meter diving boards; a unisex sauna on the pool deck; new family changing rooms in the remodeled locker rooms; a new entry off the parking lot; a new and expanded customer service/registration area; new party and meeting rooms; and lighting, acoustical, code required, and ADA required improvements. The lower level was renovated in 2005 – a divider wall was installed so that the lower level can be used as either one large room or two smaller rooms. The new Olympic facility has proven to be very popular. Public swim attendance from May 2004-April 2005 increased to 39,008 from 30,815 during 2002-2003; rentals (including birthday parties) jumped to 4,433 from 1,926; and lesson enrollment increased to 4,200 from 3,124.

## **21st Century**

The beginning of the 21st century has seen the Park District expand programs and services, renovate facilities, and continue its tradition of excellence. The Arlington Heights Park District was awarded the 2001 National Gold Medal for excellence in park and recreation management. As a third time recipient of this prestigious award, the Park District joined an elite group of nine agencies throughout the United States that have been so honored. The new swimming pool at Pioneer Park was named an Outstanding Facility in 2000 by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association and the Park District website received the 2000 NRPA Marketing and Communications KUDOS Award for Class II for Best Website/Homepage Promoting Recreation. The Park District's annual budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 1999, (May 1999-April 2000) received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. In November 2004, the Park District was certified as an IPRA/IAPD Distinguished Park and Recreation Agency. Since ten years had passed since the first evaluation, the District had to go through a full evaluation, and passed with the highest score ever recorded thus far.

The early 2000s brought many changes. The Park District adopted a new logo in October 2001 and adopted a new program brochure format in 2003. The new four issue per year, magazine size program guide replace the five issue per year Leisure Times newspaper. In addition, the delivery of the program guide was changed to a door-to-door delivery service from bulk mail. A new program to recognize Park District employees who demonstrate commitment to Customer satisfaction, Leadership, Attitude, Service and Safety, or CLASS, began in June 2002. Both full and part-time employees may be nominated for the quarterly award by District residents or fellow staff members.

A new Museum Intergovernmental Agreement was approved in April 2003, adding the Arlington Heights Memorial Library as a partner and revising the structure of the Museum Advisory Committee. In 2003, the Park District and the Village of Arlington Heights signed an agreement to share GIS (Geographical Information System) data. The Parks and Planning Department was reorganized under the director into two divisions with superintendents overseeing each area in 2003. Main Trac, a maintenance management system program that computerizes most of the manual work scheduling and recording methods, was installed in 2005. This new system will tie work and costs to individual park sites and provide relevant data and reports.

The Arlington Heights Park Foundation was founded in May 2001 to further public interest in parks and recreation, and to preserve our natural resources in Arlington Heights. One of its goals is to work with other associations to organize, promote and coordinate volunteer activities to enhance Park District programs. Foundation fund raising provides scholarships, equipment and sponsorships, and open space conservation.

One hundred and four properties in the Lynwood subdivision were annexed into the Park District in January and February 2003. The Park District purchased the building and land located at 1440 E. Davis Street (2.76 acres), adjacent to the Davis Service Center, for \$1.2 million in 2003. This purchase has allowed for the expansion of the service center operations at Davis Street and therefore, demolition of the warehouse building at 100 N. Hickory in October 2004, and eventual demolition of the service center at Pioneer Park. In 2004 the Park District purchased 1.83 acres of land at 1701 W. Kirchoff, adjacent to Sunset Meadows, for \$925,000, and in 2005, 2.489 acres of land leased at Sunset Meadows from the Village of Arlington Heights was transferred to Park District ownership.

The south annex wing of the Administration Center (built in the 1950's, adding kindergarten and first grade classrooms to the original 1938 North School building) was renovated in 2001. The Park District purchased the building in 1987 from School District 25 and renovated the former school into the Administration Center. Work on the annex was funded with a \$500,000 State of Illinois legislative grant secured by Representative Carolyn Krause. The annex was formally dedicated by Representative Krause on October 6, 2001, and programs began using the facilities on October 30, 2001. The renovation included remodeling two existing rooms into combination dance studio/meeting rooms, with a room divider for added flexibility; providing a program viewing/waiting room for families; improving the west parking lot entrance to the building; creating two outdoor accessible restrooms for North School Park events; and creating a receiving area for bulk delivery and increasing the storage area for program supplies.

Other facility renovations include the Heritage Gallery at the Arlington Heights Historical Museum in November 2000. The Gallery, which replaced the Country Store, is located in the Old Soda Pop Factory building and specializes in local history exhibits drawn from the Historical Society's collections along with national and regional traveling exhibits. The Gallery received \$18,400 in community grants to fund exhibits. Since 2000 the Museum and Historical Society have received \$174,692 in grants for the climate control project, HVAC improvements, special events and programming, and exhibits. An energy efficient light replacement project on the tennis courts at Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club was completed in 2005. The Park District received a \$36,720 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for the project. Heritage Tennis Club

benefited from a new light system and ceiling replacement in 2001 and a new roof in 2005. In 2004, Thor Guard Lightening Detection Systems were installed at Arlington Lakes and Nickol Knoll Golf Clubs.

The redevelopment of the ball diamond at Prairie Park into Rotary Field was a cooperative venture between the Park District and the Arlington Heights Youth Athletic Association. The renovation added sideline and homerun fencing; covered player's dugouts with cement floors and protected warm-up bullpens; an electronic scoreboard; and resurfaced the field. Youth Athletic secured funding in the form of a \$25,000 donation from the Arlington Heights Noon Rotary Club, a \$20,000 Illinois First grant from Senator David Sullivan, private donations, and the Park District did the work. Rotary Field was dedicated and opened for play on April 28, 2002. The baseball diamond at Centennial Park was renovated and dedicated as Griffith Field on May 31, 2003. The field improvements, including new sideline fencing, new dugout shelters on concrete slabs, and a modified backstop, were made possible through a \$50,000 donation from the Griffith family. In 2003 the sideline and outfield fencing was replaced at Meyer Field at Recreation Park and, in 2004 lights were installed on the soccer field at Melas Park.

New park development during the early 2000s included a new youth/peewee ball diamond at Recreation Park, located on the site of the 100 N. Hickory warehouse, which was dedicated on June 14, 2005. The Arlington Heights Youth Athletic Association donated \$6,500 for sideline and backstop fencing. Sunset Meadows Park development plans were approved in August 2004 and Phase I of the 3-phase project began in September 2005. When completely developed, the park will feature two lighted football/soccer fields, a playground, an expanded parking lot, and a building with washroom, storage and driving range service area. Other proposed additions to the park include a skate park and walking path.

Park District recreation programs during the early 21st century continued to grow in all areas. Two dance companies were formed: Synergy, for dancers ages 13 & over, and Fusion, for dancers ages 9-15. Students must audition and the companies participate in dance competitions. Curtains Up, a performing arts camp offered in cooperation with the Metropolis Theatre, began in 2003 and has been a rousing success. The Playcenter program saw its first major change in many years with expanded offerings at several sites and a name change to Preschool. Participation in athletic activities remained high with growth in soccer, youth basketball with the addition of 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade leagues, t-ball with the addition of evening classes, youth and adult volleyball and adult softball. The Park District signed agreements with the Buffalo Grove Park District in 2000 and the Wheeling Park District in 2002 to program and conduct summer outdoor tennis lessons. Special events increased in number with new events being held, including Janus Theatre, a historical United States flag display, National Night Out, the Arlington Heights Art Guild Art Show, and the Arlington Criterium Classic bike race at North School Park; Haunted Halloween and the Melinda the Mermaid series at Lake Arlington; Arlington Eve, sponsored by the Historical Society, and History on Stage and "Appraise the Past" antique event at the Museum; and the Soccer Parade, Family Fun Fair, Trunk or Treat, Polar Express Train Ride, Family Swim & Campout, and school holiday day camps. Public swim, swim lessons and the inter-park swim teams all increased in number with the opening of the new swimming pools at Camelot, Frontier, Heritage, Pioneer and Olympic Parks. The Aquatic Leadership program, designed to mentor and teach assistant pool managers and assistant lesson coordinators solid leadership and aquatic skills, began in 2003. JAZ, the Junior

Activity Zone, was introduced for the 2002/2003 school year and is offered in partnership with the Village of Arlington Heights and School District 25. JAZ is an after school program for middle school students held at the Arlington Heights Teen Center, with students bused from their middle schools. Programs and activities continued to increase at the Senior Center with offerings during the day and evening Monday through Friday, Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons, and monthly attendance topped the 5,000 mark for the first time during April 2002. During 2002 the non-senior program fees were eliminated; offering one fee for all programs at the Senior Center; however, priority registration is given to adults age 55 and over.

In late 2004 when planning for the 2005-2006 Budget and capital projects, and the 2006-2011 Comprehensive Plan, the Park District determined that a more current community interest survey was needed. The last community needs survey was conducted in 1999 and, since that time, the Village and Park District have changed in demographic make-up and housing patterns. Synovate, an international research company, was selected to assist staff in the creation and administration of a new community needs assessment. According to the results, residents want the following: choices for indoor/outdoor fitness; maintenance of playgrounds and facilities; continuing superior maintenance of parks; careful consideration of program schedules; consideration of specialized recreation options; and they favor neighborhood recreation centers, and feel it is better to expand them, over a large multi-purpose facility. In preparation for developing the 2006-2011 Comprehensive Plan, the Park District Board and staff worked with corporate consultant, Jane Turrentine, to develop a new vision, new goals and objectives for the Park District. This was the first major change in the comprehensive planning process since the first Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1982. In April 2005, the Park Board approved a new vision statement for the Park District: *The Arlington Heights Park District enriches our community by providing quality recreation, parks, facilities and fun.* From the new vision statement, the Park Board and staff established six very wide reaching goals for the District. Once the goals were established, supervisory staff developed strategies for each goal and a series of specific objectives to assist the Park District in reaching each goal. This new format directs all staff to focus their objectives on common goals instead of individual goals, encourages more collaboration with staff in other departments, and provides a stronger emphasis on teamwork.

Since the late 1990s, the Park District Board and staff have discussed community center expansion concepts, from expanding and renovating the current five community centers to developing a large, centralized multi-use center. In September 2004 the Board and staff reviewed the various options, and in October, 2004, the Board officially approved Phase I of the Community Center Revitalization Program, which named Pioneer Park as the first community center and park to renovate. In April 2005, the Park District hired Williams Associates Architects, Ltd. as architects and Corporate Construction Services as the construction manager for the Pioneer Park project. After eight months of staff and community meetings, the Park Board approved the schematic design for Pioneer Park on January 6, 2006, and authorized Williams Architects to proceed with the design development phase. On April 11, 2006, the Park Board approved the Design Development Phase plans and drawings and authorized Williams Architects to initiate the Construction Document phase. Demolition and construction is projected to start in August or September 2005, after the swimming pool closes for the summer.

The Arlington Heights Park District continues to offer new and innovative programs, expand existing programs and services, and maintain a capital improvement schedule to renovate and update facilities and general infrastructure. The community of Arlington Heights will continue to be served through a network of 58 parks including five community parks with outdoor swimming pools and community centers along with a myriad of special facilities including Olympic Indoor Swim Center, Hasbrook Cultural Arts Center, the Historical Museum, Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club, Arlington Lakes Golf Club, Sunset Meadows Driving Range, Nickol Knoll Golf Club, Lake Arlington, Melas Park Sports Complex, and Heritage Tennis Club.

Elmer Crane

"Arlington Heights Park District History as compiled from the  
Official Park Board Minutes, 1925-1948"  
May 5, 1948

Sue Glueckert, Administrative Assistant and Amy Bridges, Park Planner  
Compiled from Official Park Board Minutes and Park District Scrapbooks  
January, 1982; November, 1984

Cathy A. Puchalski, Administrative Assistant  
Compiled from Official Park Board Minutes and Budget Documents  
November, 1987; February, 1991

Sue Gwinnup, Superintendent of Administrative Services  
Compiled from Official Park Board Minutes and Budget Document  
February, 1994; February, 1997

Sue Glueckert, Administrative Assistant  
Compiled from Official Park Board Minutes, Annual Reports and Budget Documents  
January, 2000; April 2003; April 2006

**Arlington Heights Park District  
Commissioners and Their Terms of Office**

1925-29	Albert F. Volz	1969-71	John C. Edwards
1925-32	Nathaniel M. Banta	1971-72	William A. Meister
1925-33	Henry C. Klehm	1971-72	Robert A. Stenzel
1925-33	Eugene N. Berbecker	1972-73	John C. Edwards
1925-33	Julius D. Flentie	1972-73	C. Robert Rees
1929-35	James A. McElhose	1972-75	Katherine A. Muller
1932-40	Elmer W. Crane	1972-79	Lloyd W. Meyer
1933-43	William Windheim	1973-74	Bruce B. Everly
1933-45	George K. Volz	1973-03	Kathryn E. Graham
1933-45	Paul C. Taege	1974-75	Arthur R. Gollberg
1935-39	Thomas H. Wilson	1975-75	Robert D. Smith
1939-41	George A. Glow	1975-75	Darwin W. Townsend
1940-45	Marion A. Hogate	1975-77	Robert J. Throckmorton
1941-43	Elmer C. Karstens	1975-79	Jacqueline J. Gruenewald
1943-47	Elroy J. Harris	1975-83	Robert P. Rohleder
1943-49	Robert M. Beatty	1977-81	F. Bruce Westerberg
1945-49	Nat T. Burfeind	1979-87	Chester W. Sawyer
1945-51	Walter Kroeber	1979-91	Arlene J. Mulder
1945-57	Edward C. Wahl	1981-00	Sandra L. Fernstrom
1947-55	William H. Spomer	1983-97	James M. Radlein
1949-53	Lawrence J. Dahlgren	1987-03	Michael S. Gilfillan
1949-55	Earl W. Hadland	1991-97	Sharon I. Romack
1951-60	Robert M. Skallerup	1997-01	Thomas G. Drake
1953-54	Gerhard E. Seidel	1997-	Robert Smith
1954-55	Fred Gieske	2000-	Robert L. Whisler
1955-59	J. Warren White, Jr.	2001-	Maryfrances H. Leno
1955-60	Robert T. Bradle	2003-	Andrew R. Bennett
1955-67	George Schaefer	2003-	Robert J. Nesvacil
1957-71	E. Elliott Ormsbee		
1959-75	Charles B. Cronin		
1960-63	Wilbert E. Becker		
1960-69	Douglas L. Thomson		
1963-69	John C. Edwards		
1967-68	Joseph R. Byerwalter		
1968-72	Edward Condon		
1969-69	Thomas K. McShane		
1969-79	Roy A. Bressler		

## Arlington Heights Park District

### Directors

John Bauer	Superintendent of Parks	1926 – 1930, seasonal
Albert Kehe	Superintendent of Parks	1930 – seasonal, August-November
William F. Meyer, Jr.	Superintendent of Parks	1931 – seasonal, March-November
Henry Mueller	Caretaker	1932 – seasonal, March-November
	Superintendent of Parks	1933 – 1935, seasonal
		January 1936-May 1939
	Caretaker	May 1939-February 1940

**\*\* All employees listed above actually worked in the maintenance and upkeep of the District's parks, not in an administrative or supervisory capacity.**

Walter Kroeber	Park Superintendent of Construction of WPA Fieldhouse & Swimming Pool (Recreation Park)	March 1937-July 1939
John S. Hickey	Superintendent of Parks	May 1939-September 1940

**\*\* on May 13, 1940, the Commissioners stated that they felt the man so appointed as Superintendent of Parks should have complete charge of all Park operations.**

Otto G. Bolte	Superintendent of Parks	September 1940-January 1942
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**\*\* on April 2, 1941, all Park District employees were placed under the supervision of the Superintendent of Parks**

James McElhose,	Acting Superintendent of Parks	February 1942-March 1942
	Superintendent of Parks	April 1942-May 1944
Herbert T. Mueller	Superintendent of Parks	May 1944-November 1944
Alfred L. Blume	Superintendent of Parks	December 1944-April 1952
Edward F. Wahl	Acting Superintendent of Parks	May 1952
Thomas P. Thornton	Superintendent of Parks and Recreation	June 1952-November 1980
Gerald M. Oakes	Executive Director	February 1981-December 2002
Roger W. Key	Executive Director	December 2002

## Demographics

### Historical Perspective

Arlington Heights had its beginnings in the late 1830's when eastern homesteaders and German immigrants moved into the area. The new settlers started farming and small communities began to take shape. In 1854, the railroad came to Arlington Heights, linking the small farm town to the city of Chicago. The Village of Arlington Heights was incorporated in 1887 and by the early 1900's basic civic improvements and public services had begun. Arlington Heights was changing from a small farm town into the suburban village we know today.

When the Park District was formed in 1925, it served a population of approximately 2,300. The population continued to grow at a steady pace until it reached 8,768 in 1950. Arlington Heights had its largest decade of population growth during the 1950's and 1960's, reaching 65,058 in 1970, due to suburban America's growth boom after World War II. During the next two decades, the population boom slowed, increasing to 75,460 in 1990.

Arlington Heights began as a community of young pioneers and the lower age groups were dominant in the Village through the 1970s. The post World War II baby boom and large movement of young families from the cities to the suburbs contributed to this dominance. By 1980 the population make-up was beginning to undergo a subtle change, transforming Arlington Heights from a village dominated by youth to a village whose majority of residents were 25 years old and over. All of these population changes can be attributed to the drop in the birth rate and the increase in life expectancy.

### Population Comparisons

<b>AGE</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>
under 5 years	10.4%	14.2%	8.9%	5.6%	6.9%
5-17 years	20.4%	29.3%	31.6%	23.6%	15.8%
18-24 years	6.4%	4.1%	8%	10.5%	8.5%
25-54 years	46.8%	41.7%	40.8%	43%	46.5%
55-64 years	8.2%	5.7%	6%	9.6%	10.1%
65 & over	7.7%	5%	4.7%	7.7%	12.2%
75 & over	3.1%	1.7%	1.8%	3.1%	5.3%
85 & over	na	.3%	.4%	.7%	1.6%
Median Age	33.3	27.4	26.1	32.4	35.7

According to the U.S. Census, the number of households in Arlington Heights grew from 2,493 in 1950, to 28,810 in 1990, with largest period of growth between 1950 and 1970. Housing development has historically been low density and single-family. However, because of increasing land value and construction costs, along with the lesser availability of land area, housing began to favor moderate density and multi-family developments. The average household and family size followed the national trend, continuing to decline each year.

Historical population data on Arlington Heights shows that the majority of Village residents have been Caucasian. By 1990 the cultural diversity began to change slightly, with the largest minority group being Asian. In addition, residents who were of Hispanic origin continued to increase. According to past census data, the majority of Arlington Heights residents completed high school, while at least one-third received a bachelor's degree from college. Arlington Heights families have also reported continually increasing household and family median incomes.

### **Village Population<sup>1</sup>**

1870 - 600	1920 - 2,250	1970 - 65,058
1880 - 995	1930 - 4,997	1980 - 66,116 <sup>2</sup>
1890 - 1,424	1940 - 5,668	1990 - 75,460 <sup>3</sup>
1900 - 1,380	1950 - 8,768	2000 - 76,943 <sup>4</sup>
1910 - 1,943	1960 - 27,878	2030 - 82,441 <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Patterns for Growth," Arlington Heights Planning Department.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, January 1981

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, January 1991

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, January 2001 (76,031)

Special Census, 2005 (76,943)

<sup>5</sup> Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

### **Current Analysis and Trends**

Arlington Heights is an attractive, affluent, prestigious community located in the Northwest Corridor of the Chicago Metropolitan area. Based on the 2000 census, Arlington Heights is the third largest suburb in Cook County, the eighth largest in the Chicago metropolitan area, and the twelfth largest community in the State of Illinois. The 2000 Census reports the population to be 76,031, an increase of only .76% from 1990. In 2005 a special census that counts the people who have moved in since the 2000 census showed an increase of 912 residents, bringing the total population to 76, 943. Statistics reported by Census 2000 will have an impact on the Arlington Heights Park District, including the types of programs that are planned, and where and when they are held, to how the Park District communicates with residents and employees. There are a number of population trends that should be watched and studied to assess their impact on the Park District.

The decline in population growth is only natural considering that Arlington Heights is land-locked and the last large parcels of land were developed with homes and shopping centers during the 1990s. Five large residential developments were completed: Greenwood Place at Rand and Hintz Roads, featuring a combination of single family homes and townhouses; Luther Village, a senior living complex at the Lutheran Home; and three high-rise residential developments in downtown Arlington Heights - Arlington Town Square, Village Green and Metropolis Performing Arts Center. Village planners indicated the 2000 Census did not count all residents of the new downtown condos, as a majority were unoccupied when the census was being conducted. They predict a population growth between 1,000 and 1,200. The Daily Herald reported that one-half of those moving into downtown Arlington Heights are expected to be empty-nesters.

Census 2000 statistics show a shift in the age of Arlington Heights' residents. The number of children under age five declined by 12.3% to 4,554, following a 41% increase from 1980 to 1990. Conversely, the number of school age children (5-17 year olds) grew by 9.2%, to 13,001, with the largest growth in the 10-14 year old range. College age and young adults ages 18-24 declined by 29%, to 4,537. The number of 25-54 year olds and 55-64 year olds remained stable, with a decline of 3.4%, to 33,870, and an increase of 2.8%, to 7,848, respectively. The largest changes came in the senior age groups, with ages 65-74 increasing by 14.5%, to 6,015; ages 75-84 increasing by 57%, to 4,355; and ages 85 & over increasing by 53%, to 1,851. The median age of Arlington Heights residents increased by four years, to 39.7, largely due to the surge in the population age 75 and over.

Arlington Heights clearly follows the national trend of an aging population. The Daily Herald reports that the number of people between the ages of 75 and 84 grew faster in the Northwest suburbs in the past 10 years than in Cook County, the State of Illinois, or the United States. The Chicago Tribune reports there are more older and middle age people, compared with young people, than at anytime in United States history. This generation maintains active, healthier lifestyles before and after retirement and shows less inclination to slow down as they age. The "new-older generation" benefits from improved medicine and medical advances. In addition, as the Daily Herald reports, seniors (age 60+) are staying in their communities as empty-nesters. Instead of moving to warmer climates, the majority are remaining in their own homes or moving into the downtown condominium/apartment developments in order to stay close to family and friends and live in the towns they helped build.

Arlington Heights continues to see growth in the number of minority residents with Asians becoming the largest minority group. Census 2000 data reported 90.6% of the residents are white, followed by 6% Asians, 1% Black or African American, and 2.5% indicating other races. This compares to the 1990 Census statistics of 94.8% white, 3.7% Asian, .6% Black or African American, and .8% other races. The percentage of residents who are of Hispanic origin is 4.5% of the total population in 2000, an increase of 65% since 1990. The number of Arlington Heights residents who were born outside of the United States increased to 10,546, a jump of 50%. Of the population age five and over, 17.7% reported speaking a language other than English at home, a 49.6% increase from 1990. More people reported speaking Indo-European languages, followed by Spanish, and Asian/Pacific Island languages.

Census 2000 statistics show Arlington Heights is a stable, family-oriented community. The total number of households increased by 6.8% to 30,763. Family households actually declined in number, but they still make up 66.7% of the total households, while non-family households (the householder living alone or with non relatives) increased, making up 33.3% of the total households. The traditional married couple family with children under 18 represented one out of every four total households, while 3.5% of the total households are headed by single parents raising children under 18. One out of every four households includes individuals 65 years and over. The average household size in 2000 decreased to 2.44 persons, and the average family size decreased to 3.05. Of the total occupied housing units, 76.7% are owner-occupied and 23.3% are rented, compared to 1990 statistics of 72.6% owner occupied and 27.4% rented. Only 3% of the total housing units are vacant, a decrease from 5.3% in 1990.

Single family homes represent 65% of the total housing units, as in 1990, and 60.6% of those ages five and over lived in the same house in Arlington Heights as they did in 1995, compared to 54.2% in 1985.

According to Census 2000 data, Arlington Heights is a relatively affluent community. The median household income is \$67,807, which is a 32.1% increase from \$51,331 in 1990. However, when the 1990 median household income is adjusted for inflation, the increase is only 1.25%. Village officials feel that senior housing developments and condominium conversions of apartment complexes during the 1990s, which have kept the older population in Arlington Heights longer, are among the reasons for this small gain. In comparison, the median household income of the State of Illinois is \$46,590; and the United States is \$41,994. The 2000 median home value rose steadily to \$240,600 from \$169,100, helped primarily by the successful downtown revitalization.

People who live in Arlington Heights are well educated and the employment rate is high. Almost all residents age 25 and over are high school graduates, and almost one-half of those are college graduates. Employment statistics show that fewer residents are part of the work force in 2000, 40,866, as compared with 43,136 in 1990, during a period when the population remained relatively stable. Arlington Heights officials feel that this number declined because of older people moving in and current residents retiring. However, the employment rate remains high, at 65.9%, with 1.6% unemployment. Only 1.6% of Arlington Heights families were considered to be living below the poverty level. Arlington Heights is following the state and national trend of an increase in dual income families, which is creating the need for additional child support services. In 2000, 52.3% of children under age 6 had both parents living at home, in the labor force, up from 49.8% in 1990. Also, 66.6% of children ages 6-17 had both parents living at home in the work force, up from 64.2% in 1990.

**Arlington Heights, Illinois**  
**Census Comparison 2000 to 1990**

	2000		1990	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>POPULATION</b>				
Total	76,031	100.00%	75,640	100.00%
Under 5	4,554	6.80%	5,191	6.90%
ages 5-17	13,001	17.10%	11,906	15.80%
ages 18-24	4,537	6.00%	6,411	8.50%
ages 25-54	33,870	44.50%	35,080	46.50%
ages 55-64	7,848	10.30%	7,637	10.10%
ages 65-74	6,015	7.90%	5,251	6.90%
ages 75-84	4,355	5.70%	2,775	5.30%
ages 85 +	1,851	2.40%	1,209	1.60%
Median Age	39.7		35.7	
<b>RACE/ETHNIC ORIGIN</b>				
White	68,854	90.60%	71,514	94.80%
Black or African American	728	1.00%	479	0.60%
American Indian/Alaska Native	58	0.10%	52	0.10%
Asian	4,548	6.00%	2,797	3.70%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	30	0.00%		
Some other race	907	1.20%	618	0.80%
Two or more races	906	1.20%	na	na
Hispanic Origin of any Race	3,393	4.50%	2,046	2.70%
Foreign Born Population	10,546	13.90%	7,042	9.30%
Language Spoken at Home Population 5 years and over	71,417	100.00%	70,296	100.00%
English Only	58,797	82.30%	62,199	88.50%
Language other than English	12,620	17.70%	8,727	12.40%
Spanish	2,721	3.80%	1,457	2.10%
Other Indo-European Languages	6,524	9.10%	na	na
Asian & Pacific Island Languages	2,863	4.00%	1,977	2.80%
<b>HOUSEHOLDS</b>				
Total Households	30,763	100.00%	28,810	100.00%
<i>Family Households</i>	20,531	66.70%	20,644	71.70%
with own children under 18	8,982	29.20%	na	na
Married-couple family	17,972	58.40%	18,272	63.40%
with own children under 18	7,912	25.70%	na	na
Female Householder, no husband present	1,925	6.30%	1,789	6.20%
with own children under 18	857	2.80%	na	na
Male Householder	634	2.10%	583	2.00%
with own children under 18	213	0.70%	na	na
<i>Non-Family Households</i>	10,232	33.30%	8,166	28.30%
Householder living alone	8,908	29.00%	6,836	23.70%
Householder 65 & over	3,529	11.50%	2,412	8.40%
Households with persons under 18 years	9,319	30.30%	9,239	32.40%
Households with persons 65 & over	8,366	27.20%	6,215	21.60%
Average Household Size	2.44		2.58	
Average Family Size	3.05		3.11	

**Arlington Heights, Illinois**  
**Census Comparison 2000 to 1990**

	2000		1990	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b><i>HOUSING UNITS</i></b>				
Total Housing Units	31,725	100.00%	30,428	100.00%
Occupied	30,763	97.00%	28,810	94.70%
Owner Occupied	23,608	76.70%	20,914	72.60%
Renter Occupied	37,155	23.30%	7,896	27.40%
Median Rent	\$933		\$711	
Vacant	962	3.00%	1,618	5.30%
Single Family Homes	20,617	65.00%	19,808	65.10%
Living in same house as 1995 (age 5 & over)	43,291	60.60%		
Living in same house as 1985 (age 5 & over)			38,429	54.60%
<b><i>INCOME/HOME VALUE</i></b>				
Median Household Income	\$67,807		\$51,331	
1990 Income adjusted for inflation			\$66,969	
Median Home Value	\$240,600		\$169,100	
1990 Home value adjusted for inflation			\$217,119	
<b><i>EDUCATION</i></b>				
Percent High School Graduate & over	92.70%		89.80%	
Percent Bachelors Degree & over	46.50%		39.50%	
<b><i>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</i></b>				
Population 16 years and over	60,502	100.00%	60,453	100.00%
In labor force	40,866	67.50%	43,136	71.40%
Employed	39,845	65.90%	41,977	69.40%
Unemployed	992	1.60%	1,145	1.90%
Not in labor force	19,636	32.50%	17,317	28.60%
Families below poverty level	323	1.60%	289	1.40%
Persons below poverty level	1,878	2.50%	1,788	2.40%
Own children under 6 years	5,658	100.00%	6,228	100.00%
All parents in family in labor force	2,959	52.30%	3,099	49.80%
Own children 6-17 years	11,709	100.00%	10,713	100.00%
All parents in family in labor force	7,802	66.60%	6,879	64.20%

**NOTE:** 2004/05 Special Census: Population – 76,943; Housing Units – 32,114

## Population Growth vs Park District Acreage

