



**Arlington Heights  
Park District**

**Comprehensive Plan**

**2006-2011**

March 10, 2006



## Step Up To Health, It Starts in the Parks

This new program celebrates:

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Ways to Improve Your Health
- Livable Communities

Your healthy lifestyle is defined by how you take care of yourself and your family. That includes healthy eating and physical activity.

Benefits of regular physical activity for adults include preventing problems caused by heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure; weight control; build and maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints; reduce feeling of depression and anxiety; help older adults maintain strength & balance; promote psychological well-being.

During childhood and adolescence, there is an association between physical activity levels and: aerobic fitness, levels of body fat, use of tobacco and alcohol, healthier eating habits, self-esteem, teamwork, leadership and socialization.

Get started with Park District facilities and programs:

**Walking paths**—at Lake Arlington, Melas Park, around the community centers—help track your progress, encourage you to get moving.

**Sports**—a variety of programs designed for youth & adults. Check the offerings in our program guide. Don't forget tennis at Forest View and Heritage, golf at Arlington Lakes and Nickol Knoll, swimming at Olympic Indoor Swim Center & the outdoor centers this summer.

**Dance**—tap, jazz, hip-hop, Irish Step, ballroom & Latin—dozens of classes for youth, adults & seniors.

**Fitness classes**—floor fitness; water exercise; and senior fitness runs.

**Fitness facilities**—Forest View Fitness Center and the Senior Center's Athletic Club provide equipment and inspiration, along with classes and drop-in time.

Park District classes help you achieve a healthy life style and just as important.

Create livable communities by spreading the word, bringing a friend to class, organizing a team and living a healthy lifestyle.



410 N. Arlington Heights Road / Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004  
(847) 577-3000 / Fax: (847) 577-3050 / [www.ahpd.org](http://www.ahpd.org)

April 11, 2006

Dear Resident:

On behalf of the Park Board of Commissioners, it is my pleasure to present the 2006 Comprehensive Plan of the Arlington Heights Park District. The Park District began the concept of long range planning with the first Comprehensive Plan in 1982. An updating process occurs every three years. With each revision, the Comprehensive Plan improves as a working document.

The 2006 Plan is a proposed course of action for the Park District over the next five year period. The Comprehensive Plan is designed to encompass all aspects of the Park District's operations, including finance, personnel, parks, land acquisition and development, facilities and programs. The Plan has been proposed by staff and approved by the Park Board. It is now ready to be used as an active guide by the Arlington Heights Park District.

Thank you for taking the time to be an involved and interested citizen of the Arlington Heights community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maryfrances H. Leno", written over a horizontal line.

President

Maryfrances H. Leno

Board of Commissioners

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Comprehensive Plan 2006-2011  
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## **Introduction**

The Arlington Heights Park District, incorporated in 1925, has a long and proud history of service to the residents of Arlington Heights. Located in northwest Cook County, the 16.2 square mile Park District provides open space, facilities and programs through a network of 58 parks on 715 acres. Recreational facilities operated by the Park District include one indoor and five outdoor swimming pools, five community centers, a cultural arts center, historical museum, senior center, two indoor tennis clubs, two golf clubs, a recreational lake, and a lighted softball complex. Throughout the year, more than 65,000 people participate in over 2,800 recreation programs.

The Village of Arlington Heights has a well-established reputation as an outstanding community. The area has grown substantially over the last seventy-five years and there is relatively little undeveloped land in the Park District. The 2000 U.S. Census and 2005 Special Census report the population of the Village to be 76,943, an increase of less than 1% from 1990. Arlington Heights features a strong business community and offers a vibrant economic climate. The Park District continues to study population and economic trends, and the resulting demand on existing programs, facilities, and parks, and makes changes to accommodate the needs of the community.

Significant milestones, since the 2003 Comprehensive Plan was adopted, include the renovation of Olympic Indoor Swim Center, re-certification as an IPRA/IAPD Distinguished Park and Recreation Agency in 2004, purchase of land at Sunset Meadows Park, issuance of \$10 million general obligation park bonds for the renovation of Pioneer Park and funding of the capital improvement plan, and conducted a community survey in 2004.

The 2006-2011 Comprehensive Plan was developed to coordinate all facets of the Park District's operation including community needs, land acquisition, programs, facilities, budget, and personnel in an effort to maximize existing resources. The Comprehensive Plan reflects the changing community and the needs of the individuals we serve, and provides information about the proposed course of action the Park District established to meet the residents' needs and wants.

**It is important to realize that the Comprehensive Plan is simply a statement of current conclusions of the planning process. It needs to be viewed as an agreed upon program of constructive action, not as a binding contract.**

## **Executive Summary**

The Comprehensive Plan identifies the major work goals for the next five years developed and to be executed by supervisory staff. These objectives are designed to move the Park District forward to meet the ever changing needs of the community. In determining the future needs, staff utilized the following tools: The 2005 Needs Assessment Survey, the 2003 Comprehensive Plan, Park Board visioning sessions, supervisory staff brainstorming, program evaluations, resident comments and industry trends.

This Comprehensive Plan is greatly modified from former Plans. Although past Comprehensive Plans were updated every three years, the method in which they were developed remained the same as the original created in 1982. This Plan began in April 2005 when the Park Board and staff conducted a goal setting workshop facilitated by an outside corporate consultant. During this process the Park Board approved a new Vision Statement:

**The Arlington Heights Park District enriches our community by providing quality recreation, parks, facilities and fun.**

From this new Vision Statement, the Park Board and staff established very wide reaching goals for the District:

- Ensure the efficient and effective use of financial resources and Park District assets.
- Provide innovative recreational opportunities and facilities to meet the diverse programming needs of our community.
- Continue the District's pursuit of being a community, regional, state and national leader.
- Promote an environment of cooperation, collaboration and teamwork.
- Provide quality internal and external customer-focused service.
- Provide stewardship of our open spaces and natural resources.

Once these 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 Comprehensive Plan format directs all staff to focus their objectives on common goals instead of individual goals that were set in prior Comprehensive Plans. This new format encourages more collaboration among staff in other departments and provides a stronger emphasis on teamwork.

The Plan includes statements of goals, strategies and objectives, which provide the framework for planning recommendations, policies and future projects and actions:

**Goals** describe end situations toward which planning efforts should be directed. They are broad and long-range. They represent an end to be sought, although they may never actually be fully attained.

**Strategies** are broad statements that set a direction. They are pursued through specific actions or objectives.

**Objectives** describe more specific actions that should be undertaken in order to advance toward the overall goals. They provide more precise and measurable guidelines for planning action.

Together, the goals, strategies and objectives paint a picture of what the Park District wants to accomplish with its Comprehensive Plan, along with other development tools and ordinances. They provide direction and serve as a guide for evaluating specific projects and alternatives.

The goals and objectives presented in this document are based on: a) input from staff and the Park Board of Commissioners; b) the community surveys and comments; and c) feedback from various public meetings and discussions.

Historical information and demographics are updated to reflect any major changes since 2003.

This Plan encompasses different needs and interests that Park Board and staff consider important enough to investigate and pursue within the next five years; following are general themes found throughout the various goals:

- Identifying and securing outside revenue sources through grants, sponsorships, partnerships and other cooperative ventures.
- Review and evaluation of program fees, the effect of scholarship and possible impact of multi-child discounts might have on program budgets.
- Investigate safety considerations such as lightning prediction systems; security cameras; security and safety training.
- Technology enhances to serve the Park District's external customer needs and internally for staff efficiency.
- Leisure programming – evaluations on effectiveness of existing programs, expansion into emerging trend areas and more marketing of facilities and activities.

## **Arlington Heights Park District Profile**

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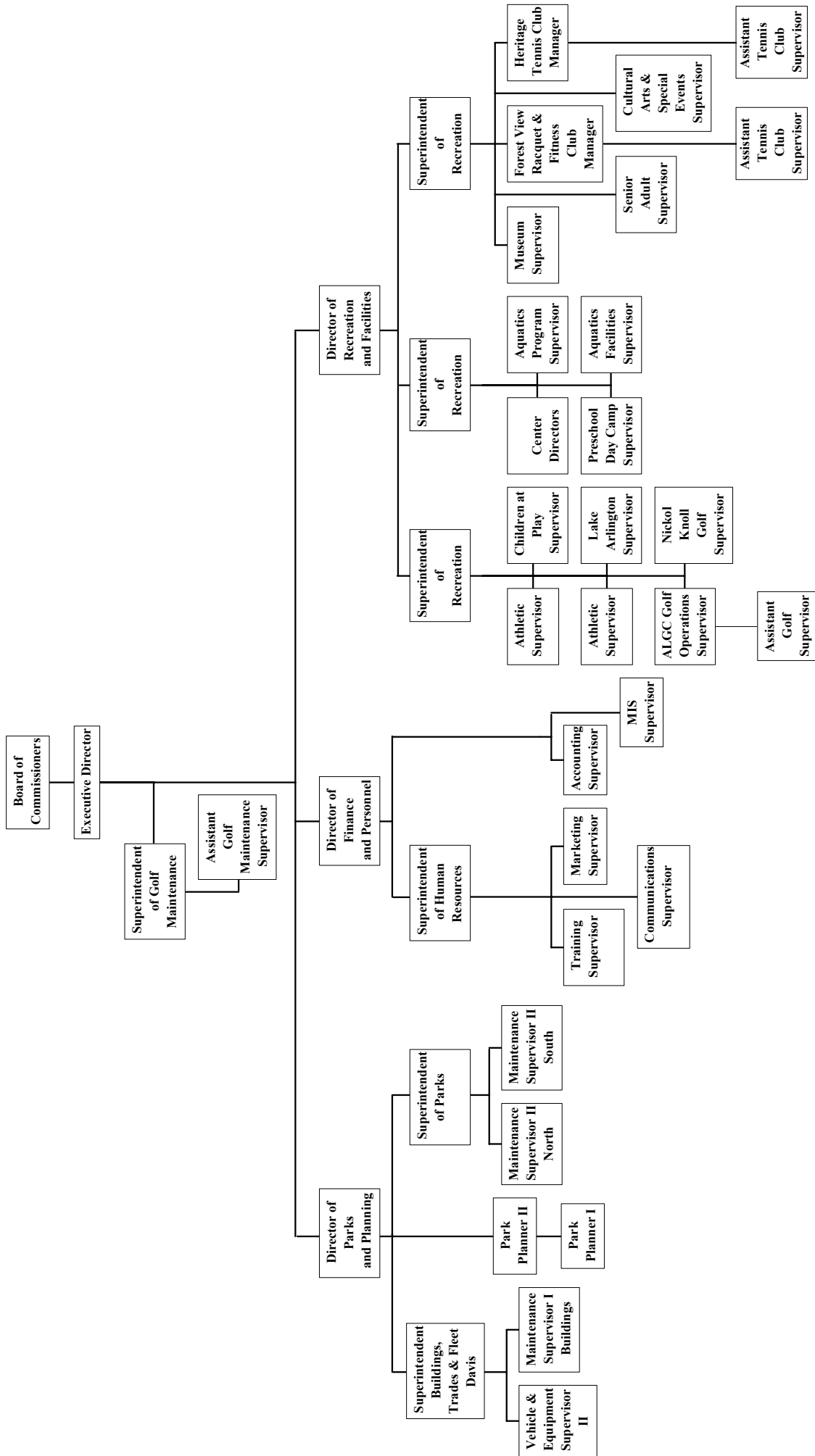
<b>Established</b>	On June 9, 1925, the Arlington Heights Park District was formed with Commissioners Nathaniel Banta, Henry Klehm, Eugene Berbecker, Albert Volz, and Julius Flentie.
<b>Governed</b>	By a five member volunteer Board of Commissioners, each of whom serves four years. Current Board consists of Maryfran H. Leno, President; Andrew Bennett, Vice-President; Robert Nesvacil; Robert E. Smith, and Robert L. Whisler.
<b>Boundaries</b>	The 16.2 square mile District is located in northern Cook County and southern Lake County, 27 miles northwest of downtown Chicago. It lies in Elk Grove and Wheeling Townships and is bordered by Buffalo Grove and Wheeling to the north; Elk Grove Village on the south; on the west by Rolling Meadows and Palatine; on the east by Mt. Prospect. The District serves most of Arlington Heights and small portions of Palatine, Mt. Prospect, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, and Lake County.
<b>Population</b>	The Park District's population is approximately 76,943. It's the third largest suburb in Cook County, the eighth largest suburb in the Chicago Metropolitan area and the twelfth largest community in the State of Illinois.
<b>Real Estate</b>	The equalized assessed value of real estate for 2004 is \$2,445,415,403 (most recent available).
<b>Tax Rate</b>	The tax rate for 2004 is .465 per \$100 of assessed value (most recent available).
<b>Fiscal Year Budget</b>	The proposed operating budget for 2006/07 is \$21,281,101. The fiscal year begins May 1 and concludes on April 30.
<b>Bond Rating</b>	The District issues General Obligation Bonds periodically for capital improvements. In September 2005, Moody's Investor Service, Inc. gave the Park District an upgrade to an Aa2 rating, basically citing the current economic climate, well managed financial operations that yield stable operations, and ample reserve levels as the reason.

## **Arlington Heights Park District Profile**

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<b>Park Resources</b>	The District owns 456.53 acres, leases 258.56 acres of land and has 58 parks comprised of community parks, neighborhood parks, play lots, passive parks and linear parks. Recreational facilities include five outdoor swimming pools, five community centers (each with gymnasium and meeting rooms), a cultural arts center, historical museum, senior center, Forest View Racquet and Fitness Club, Heritage Tennis Club, Arlington Lakes Golf Club, Olympic Indoor Swim Center, Nickol Knoll Golf Club, Melas Park Softball Complex, Lake Arlington's 1.8 mile walk/bike path and 50 acre boating lake, a driving range, 45 softball diamonds, 3 football fields and 17 soccer fields, 38 playgrounds, 53 outdoor tennis courts, 12 outdoor ice skating rinks and 39 picnic areas.
<b>Programs and Services</b>	The District provides a full range of activities and services year 'round. Major recreation programs include athletics, fitness, music, arts and crafts, performing arts, preschool programs, museum programs, swimming, tennis, senior programs, day camps, special events, trips, in cooperation with School District 25 and the Village of Arlington Heights, a before and after school program for grade school children called Children At Play (CAP), and an after school program for middle school students called Junior Activity Zone (JAZ). The District is affiliated with the Northwest Special Recreation Association, and sponsors the Community Band and many other special interest groups.
<b>Staff</b>	The District has an appointed executive director responsible for administration of the District and a full-time staff of one hundred two (102). The District also employs over one thousand part-time, seasonal, and temporary workers, and volunteers.
<b>Affiliations</b>	The District is affiliated with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA).
<b>Contact</b>	Arlington Heights Park District: 1-847-577-3000; Fax: 1-847-577-3050; E-mail: <a href="mailto:comments@ahpd.org">comments@ahpd.org</a> .
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.ahpd.org">http://www.ahpd.org</a>

# Arlington Heights Park District Organizational Chart



## **Arlington Heights Park District**

410 N. Arlington Heights Road  
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004  
847-577-3000

### **Commissioners**

President Maryfrances H. Leno  
Vice President Andrew R. Bennett  
Robert J. Nesvacil  
Robert Smith  
Robert L. Whisler

### **Attorney**

Timothy J. Riordan

### **Staff**

Executive Director Roger W. Key  
Director of Recreation and Facilities James L. Glueckert  
Director of Parks and Planning Brian Huckstadt  
Director of Finance and Personnel Donna L. Wilson  
Superintendent of Recreation Susan Gwinnup  
Superintendent of Recreation Cathy A. Puchalski  
Superintendent of Recreation John Robinson,  
Superintendent of Golf Maintenance Jules "Butch" Peuvion  
Superintendent of Human Resources Nancy Aldrich  
Superintendent of Parks Alan Welk  
Superintendent of Parks Paul Guza

### **Adopted**

January 25, 1982

### **Revised**

April 9, 1985  
March 8, 1988  
August 27, 1991  
July 26, 1994  
June 10, 1997  
May 23, 2000  
April 22, 2003  
April 25, 2006



## *The Arlington Heights Park District*

enriches our community by providing quality recreation, parks, facilities, and fun.

### *We do this by:*

- ◆ Ensuring the efficient and effective use of financial resources and Park District assets.
- ◆ Providing innovative recreational opportunities and facilities to meet the diverse programming needs of our community.
- ◆ Continuing the Park District's pursuit of being a community, regional, state and national leader.
- ◆ Promoting an environment of cooperation, collaboration and teamwork.
- ◆ Providing quality internal and external customer-focused service.
- ◆ Providing stewardship of our open spaces and natural resources.

