



**Comprehensive Plan
2010-2015**

June 11, 2010



410 N. Arlington Heights Road • Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004
(847) 577-3000 • FAX (847) 577-3050

May, 2010

Dear Resident:

The 2010-2015 Comprehensive Plan represents the collaborative efforts of Arlington Heights residents, Park Board of Commissioners, Park District staff, a Delphi committee and others to create an action-oriented work plan to guide us over the next five years. The outcome of this effort will help ensure that we preserve and build upon Arlington Heights parks, open spaces and recreation programming.

Over the past six months the Park District sought input from the community. Comments from the 2009 Needs Assessment Survey, focus groups, Delphi committee and the Park Board of Commissioners were incorporated into the plan. The draft plan is organized into six goals that identify areas where we will dedicate our energies over the next five years. Three of the goals are externally focused providing active stewardship for the Park District's parks and open spaces; supporting healthy lifestyles and diversity through recreation opportunities; strengthening relationships with the public; maintaining Park District land and facilities. The remaining three goals are more internally focused and are dedicated to building a strong staff and to strengthening structures and systems across the organization to serve our needs more effectively. Given the appropriate resources we will achieve the entire strategic action plan items listed in the plan.

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

Sincerely,

President

Maryfrances H. Leno

Board of Commissioners

**Arlington Heights Park District
Comprehensive Plan 2010-2015
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- C. Provide a safe environment for District visitors and personnel.
- D. Acquire/implement a level of technology that enables the Park District to conduct business in a manner which meets public expectation.
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- B. Provide quality recreational programs and services which meet the needs of all age groups, and promote a healthy lifestyle in the community.
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- C. Enhance the District’s image through effective and proactive public relations.

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- C. Adequately train, evaluate, support and provide a qualified team to operate the business of the District at a quality level.

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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 715.09 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 78,000 people participate in over 3,000 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 U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates report the population of the Village to be 77,784, an increase of less than 3% 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 2006-11 Comprehensive Plan was adopted, include the renovation of Pioneer Community Center, development of land at Sunset Meadows Park, issuance of \$4.95 million general obligation park bonds for the funding of the capital improvement plan, a \$400,000 OSLAD grant was received for the development of Sunset Meadows Park, completion of Phase I improvements at Memorial Park with funds raised by the Memorial Park Citizen's Group and implementation of the 2009 Needs Assessment Survey.

The 2010-2015 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 which were developed and will 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 2009 Needs Assessment Survey, the Delphi Committee report, focus groups, Park Board visioning sessions, supervisory staff brainstorming, program evaluations, resident comments and industry trends.

The Comprehensive Plan is based on an open process of collaborative thinking, decision-making, and input from the Park District Board of Commissioners and staff, community leadership, and the public. The Plan serves as a work plan that identifies goals the Park District will focus on over the next five years, and outlines specific action strategies that will help accomplish these goals. Specifically identified are initiatives and work needed for the Park District to respond effectively to external conditions, such as demographic and economic changes.

The Comprehensive Plan is an expression of the Park District's future goals and a guide for decision-making and action. The Plan is comprised of six goals, each with strategic initiatives and action strategies.

Goals are areas of Park District focus over the five-year planning period. The Plan's goals are complementary and support the overall vision, mission, and values.

Strategies are specific topics within each goal that the Park District will focus on to achieve that particular goal.

Action Plan Items are the specific steps the Park District will take to accomplish the goals and strategies. Action plan items will be SMART (specific, measurable, action-orientated, realistic, and time stamped) and provide clear direction on what needs to be accomplished within the five-year planning period.

Together, the goals, strategies and action plan items comprise 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, strategies and action plan items 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 2006.

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

Goal #1- Financial Resources and Assets

The Park District values the efficient and effective management of land, facilities, staff, services, and partnerships. Over the next five years, the Park District will focus on: identifying best business models to support efficient and effective service and program delivery; optimizing the Park District's organizational model; reviewing policies and procedures; and evaluating the existing fees and charges policies.

Goal #2 - Recreational Opportunities and Facilities

The Park District will provide relevant recreation opportunities that support physical and emotional wellness. The Park District's programs and services encourage health and fitness for all and promote lifelong play, discovery, creativity, and learning. Over the next five years, the Park District will focus on: encouraging physical and emotional wellness; promoting the participation of youth, teens, and seniors; supporting arts, culture, and imaginative play; fostering environmental stewardship; and aligning programming goals with the needs of diverse populations.

Goal #3 - Leadership

The Park District will continue to establish itself as a recognized leader in the community, state and nation through responsive, dedicated service and excellence in management, programming, facility development and maintenance. Over the next five years, the Park District will promote participation in community service organizations and professional organizations promote the Park District's role within the community and sponsor and participate in community projects. It will dedicate itself to studying industry and community trends and to implement cutting edge actions.

Goal #4 - Teamwork

The Park District considers employees its most important resource in carrying out the vision, mission and values of the organization. Over the next five years the Park District will develop employee and workforce capacity and organizational culture to provide the internal foundation needed to successfully serve the public.

Goal #5 - Customer-Focused Service

The Park District will strive to build and sustain trusting relationships by using innovative approaches to engage in dialog with the public. Over the next five years, the Park District will focus on ensuring that the public has the information needed to access facilities, parks, programs, and services, and staff has the information needed to make sound policy, budget, and program decisions. Such information will help ensure that all interactions with the public result in more productive relationships and greater mutual understanding and respect. This information must be used to insure the highest level of service for external and internal customers.

Goal #6 - Stewardship

The Park District will manage its land and facilities in a manner that contributes to public pride and quality of life in Arlington Heights. It values ecological preservation, environmental sustainability, and incorporates these values when making decisions over how land and facilities will be maintained and managed. Over the next five years, the Park District will focus on: planning and preventive maintenance; ensuring public safety at parks and facilities; and expanding green management practices.

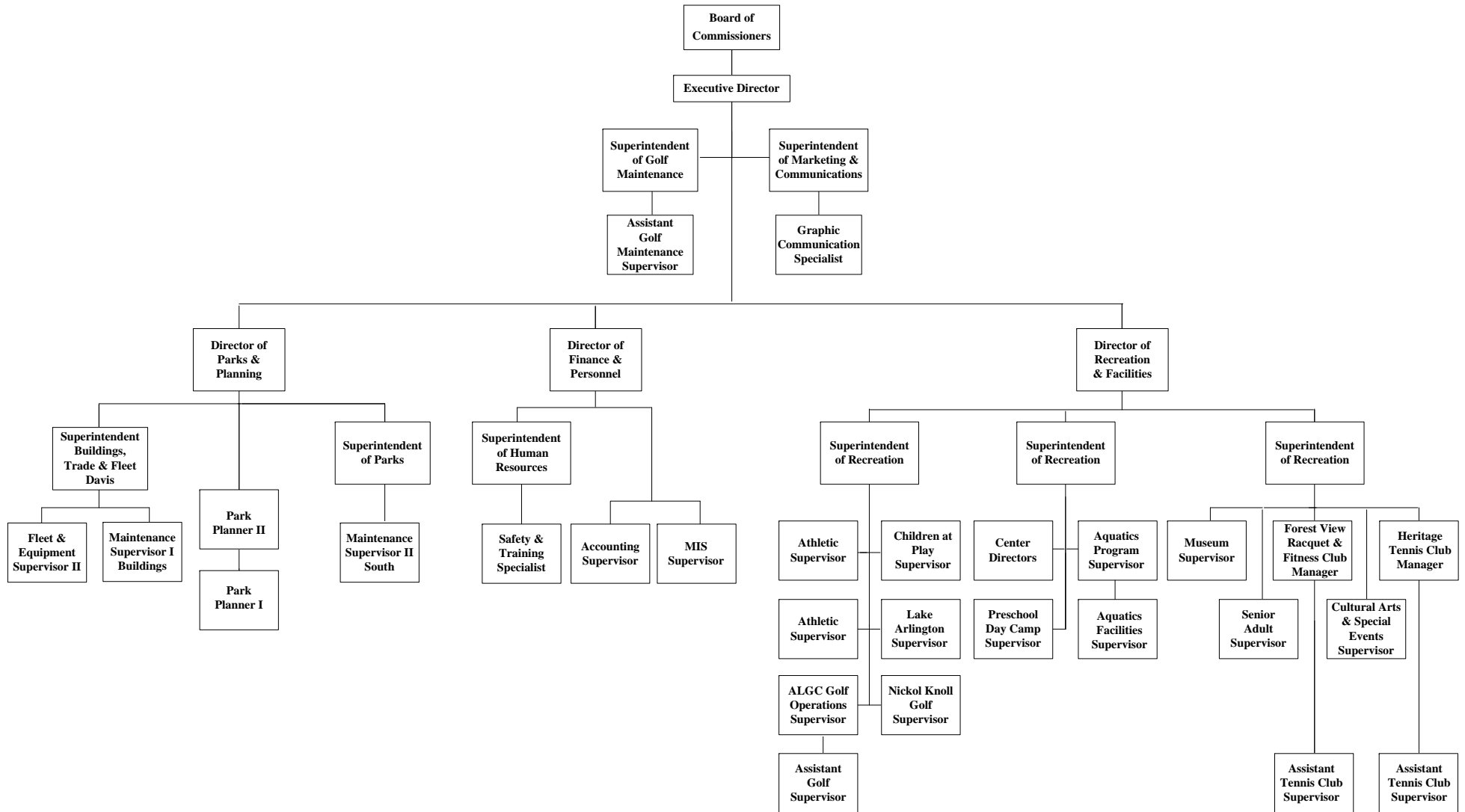
Arlington Heights Park District Profile

Established	On June 9, 1925, the Arlington Heights Park District was formed with Commissioners Nathaniel Banta, Henry Klehm, Eugene Berbecker, Albert Volz, and Julius Flentie.
Governed	By a five member, volunteer Board of Commissioners, each of whom serves four years. Current Board consists of Maryfran H. Leno, President; Myles A. Naughton, Vice-President; Robert J. Nesvacil; Robert E. Smith, and Robert L. Whisler.
Boundaries	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.
Population	The Park District's population is approximately 76,958. 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.
Real Estate	The equalized assessed value of real estate for 2008 is \$3,495,153,737 (most recent available).
Tax Rate	The tax rate for 2008 is .378 per \$100 of assessed value (most recent available).
Fiscal Year Budget	The proposed operating budget for 2010/11 is \$24,169,431. The fiscal year begins May 1 and concludes on April 30.
Bond Rating	The District issues General Obligation Bonds periodically for capital improvements. In April 2010, Moody's Investors Service upgraded the Park District's bond rating to Aaa. The Aaa rating (highest rating available) will allow Arlington Heights Park District to issue debt at the lowest possible interest rate as the organization has proven itself to be among the top tier of local governments in terms of financial strength, both in Illinois and nationally. Arlington Heights Park District joins a select number of high performing park districts at the Aaa rating level.

Arlington Heights Park District Profile

Park Resources	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 meeting rooms and four with gymnasiums), 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 2.4-mile walk/bike path and 50-acre boating lake, Sunset Meadows driving range, athletic fields and .88-mile walking path, 45 ball diamonds (41 Park District, 4 School District), 3 football fields and 7 soccer fields (5 Park District, 2 School District), 42 playgrounds, 52 outdoor tennis courts, 9 outdoor ice skating rinks, 7 sand volleyball courts, 30 basketball courts and 17 picnic areas.
Programs and Services	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, a before- and after-school program for grade school children called Children At Play (CAP). The District is affiliated with the Northwest Special Recreation Association, and sponsors the Community Band and many other special interest groups.
Staff	The District has an appointed executive director responsible for administration of the District and 102 full-time staff. The District also employs over one thousand part-time, seasonal, and temporary workers, and volunteers.
Affiliations	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).
Contact	Arlington Heights Park District: 1-847-577-3000; Fax: 1-847-577-3050; E-mail: comments@ahpd.org .
Web Site	http://www.ahpd.org

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 Myles A. Naughton
Robert J. Nesvacil
Robert E. Smith
Robert L. Whisler

Attorney

Timothy J. Riordan

Staff

Executive Director	Steve Scholten
Director of Finance and Personnel	Donna L. Wilson
Director of Recreation and Facilities	James L. Glueckert
Director of Parks and Planning	Brian Huckstadt
Superintendent of Golf Maintenance	Jules "Butch" Peuvion
Superintendent of Marketing and Communications	Anita Pacheco
Superintendent of Human Resources	Nancy Aldrich
Superintendent of Recreation	Susan Gwinnup
Superintendent of Recreation	Cathy A. Puchalski
Superintendent of Recreation	John Robinson,
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
June 22, 2010



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.

Plan on a Page: Goals and Strategic Initiatives

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