



2010-2011 Annual Report

Century Park North shoreline restoration phase 6 will include natural plantings along the western shoreline

A message from our Board President...

I am extremely fortunate to represent the Vernon Hills community as a Board member of our Park District. Our **mission** of promoting diverse community based recreational opportunities is one the board and staff uphold through our **vision** to 'address the lifelong needs of all Vernon Hills residents'.

Capital improvement efforts continue to play an active role in our annual planning as we developed shoreline areas in Big Bear Lake, replaced playgrounds at the Sullivan Community Center and Westwood Park, Family Aquatic Center drainage upgrades, initiated a community garden, added a open play area across from Hawthorn Elementary South and made major recreational enhancements to Century Park (see inside for more information on this project) .

Our focus on long range planning shows the community our year end results of our Strategic Plan through a report card system. The District is working on updating our Master Plan and will post the results of the plan on our website later this year.

The Annual Report also highlights the district's financial practices/accomplishments, strategic efforts, capital planning and agency goals. Throughout 2010, the Park District was able to maintain a strong financial structure amidst all the local, state and national economic challenges. The agency has taken significant strides in strengthening our long term fiscal responsibilities.

2011 looks promising as we have several projects in the works including completion of Century Park North, a new playground in Aspen Backyard Park, Century Park ball field #1 regrading, new fitness equipment in Sullivan Community Center, sandblast and repainting of two leisure pools and new ball field backstop windscreens and protective netting .

The Park District thanks our residents for their continued support of our programs, parks and facilities and we always welcome feedback from you. The Board meets regularly on the fourth Thursday of every month and we would love to have you visit us as well at www.vhparkdistrict.org.

David Doerhoefer, President
Vernon Hills Park District Board of Commissioners



Vernon Hills Park District Revenue Sources:

What share of my property tax bill goes to the Park District?

Property Taxes

As a government entity, the Park District has the power to levy and collect taxes on all taxable property within the district through the preparation of a tax levy ordinance. The Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of your property will determine the amount of property taxes you will pay to the Park District. In 2011, only about 6% of your total tax bill goes to the Park District.

The Park District's tax rate for 2010 was .427. A home that is valued at \$300,000 has an approximate EAV of \$100,000 and would contribute \$427.00 of their 2011 tax bill to the park district. As seen in the 20 year tax rate history, the District's rate increased by \$0.11. This increase reflects the District's decision to take advantage of falling interest rates and refinance the remaining 10 years of a 20 year bond issue saving the District over \$500,000 in interest.

Vernon Hills Park District 20 Year Tax Rate History

Year	Rate
2010	0.427
2009	0.317
2008	0.344
2007	0.343
2006	0.351
2005	0.334
2004	0.346
2003	0.373
2002	0.340
2001	0.352
2000	0.360
1999	0.380
1998	0.402
1997	0.420
1996	0.416
1995	0.480
1994	0.470
1993	0.486
1992	0.507
1991	0.536

What are fees and charges?

This year the Park District will collect a total of \$6,500,000 in revenue. Over 30% of this revenue is collected through program fees and charges. This helps to keep property taxes at a minimum while keeping program fees affordable.

Interest Income:

Funds on hand are invested in accordance with the Park District's Investment Policy and State statutes. As custodians of the public's money, the park District only invests in instruments with maximum security.

Other:

The District receives additional money for services rendered as well as contributions or donations. The Park District does not receive any sales tax revenue.

Sources of Revenue

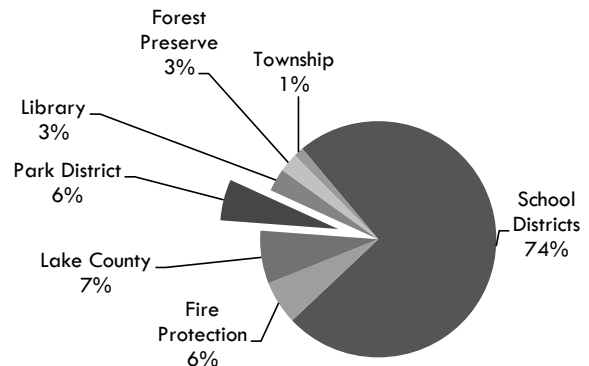
- | Property Tax
- | Program Fees – Recreation and Aquatic
- | Interest
- | Fundraising/Donations
- | Bond Proceeds
- | Grants



2010 Property Tax Bill

Taxing Body	Rate	% of Total
School District	5.6323	74%
Fire Protection	0.453	6%
Lake County	0.550	7%
Park District	0.427	6%
Library	0.238	3%
Forest Preserve	0.198	3%
Township	0.102	1%
	7.591	

Percentage of Your Property Tax Bill

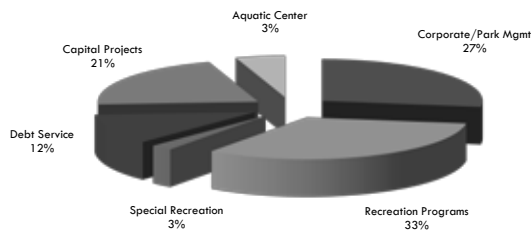




Illinois Distinguished Agency

The Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association has recognized the Vernon Hills Park District as an Illinois Distinguished Agency. The VHPD is one of only 10 % of Illinois Park Districts to receive this accreditation.

Expenses by Fund



A Steward of our Resources

Where is the revenue used?

Corporate/Park Management: Park Management is focused on maintaining 465 acres including 23 park sites, 24 playgrounds, 4 community centers, an aquatic center as well as 54 sport fields & courts, and 10 miles of walking paths. Our park standards ensures that all parks receive adequate attention to address aging equipment, new trends, and ADA regulations in a timely and responsible manner. The Corporate Fund also consists of legal services, professional fees and employee benefits.

Recreation Programs: Sixty-five percent of the Recreation Fund is supported through user fees while 35% is supported through property taxes. Expenditures for recreation programs include athletics and variety programs for youth and adult, preschool, Afterschool Program, day camp, dance, fitness, aquatics and special events. Approximately 8,500 program registrations are processed each year.

Aquatic Center Operations: The Family Aquatic Center operates as a self-sustaining facility and does not receive any tax subsidy. The average attendance at the FAC is 54,500 during the summer.

Debt Service: Debt Service expenditures include retirement of general obligation bonded debt, which was accumulated in prior years to finance large scale projects.

Budget

The budget is a plan for the Park District's spending for each fiscal year from June 1st to May 31st. The Park Board approves the budget each year at the May Park Board meeting. Prior to the May Board meeting, the budget is posted for public inspection and a Public Budget Hearing is held to allow for comments and questions.

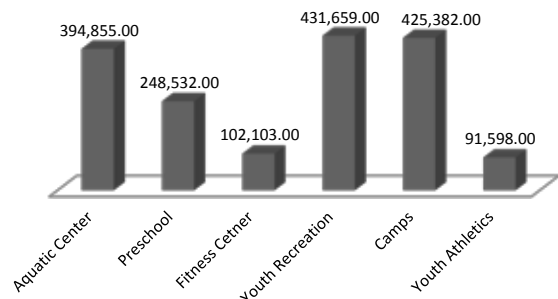
GFOA Certificate of Achievement

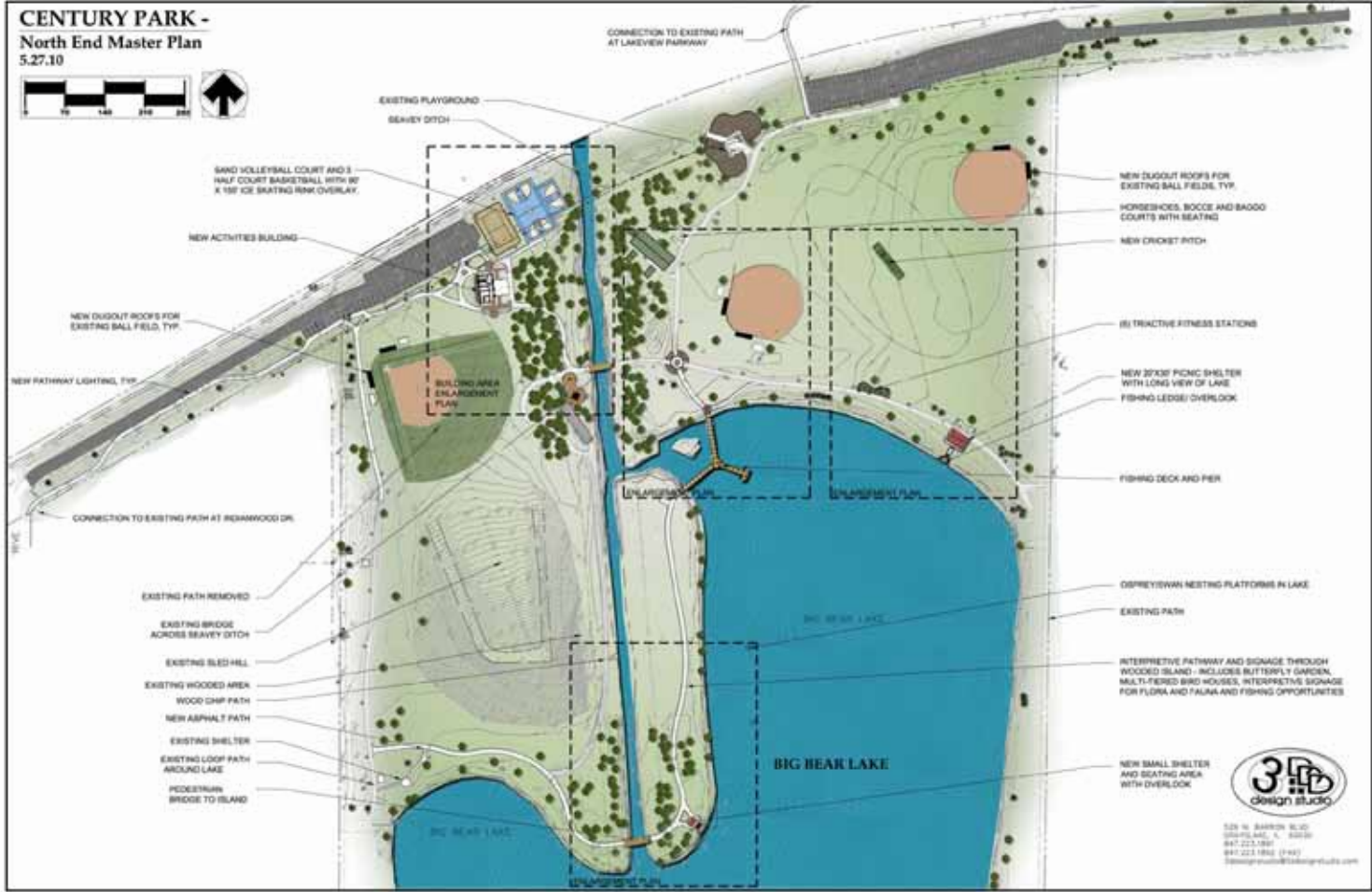
The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the Vernon Hills Park District for the 2008 and 2009 fiscal years. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

At the conclusion of each fiscal year, a financial audit and CAFR is completed. The audit is a mandated financial report compiled by a professional auditor. The goal of a CAFR is to clearly communicate the Park District's financial story. The Government Finance Officer's Association has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Vernon Hills Park District for 16 consecutive years. To achieve this award, the District's CAFR had to demonstrate a constructive "spirit of full disclosure", clearly communicate its financial story, and motivate potential users to read the CAFR. The Districts CAFR and budget can be found on the district's website at www.vhparkdistrict.org.

2010 Program Revenues





New amenities in Century Park North:

- | Dugout roofs, new fencing and backstop for existing ball fields
- | Horseshoes, Bocce and Baggo Courts with seating
- | Cricket Pitch
- | 3 - Triactive Fitness Stations
- | 20' x 30' Picnic Shelter with long view of lake
- | Play Equipment: Zip Line, Orbitor, Spacenet
- | Two Fishing Ledges/Overlooks
- | Fishing Deck and Pier
- | Bluebird and Duckhouse boxes
- | Interpretive pathway and signage in the wooded island
- | Sand Volleyball Court
- | Full Court Basketball plus half court with 90' x 150' Ice Rink overlay
- | 2000 square-foot activities pavilion
- | Additional 3/4 mile walking paths with pathway lighting

Century Park Grand Opening Celebration
Tuesday, August 9 from 6-8pm

1401 Indianwood Drive
at the new Century Park North Pavilion

Family Fun including Baggo, Bocce Ball, and Cricket demonstrations

Check out the website for more details!

