



Play Longer, Live Stronger

A Message from our Board President...

I feel very fortunate to represent the Vernon Hills community as a Board member at the Vernon Hills Park District. The Park District's **mission** of *promoting diverse community based recreational opportunities* is one that the board and staff uphold through our **vision** to *address the lifelong leisure needs of all Vernon Hills residents*.

This Annual Report highlights our financial stability, our past accomplishments, and our goals for the upcoming year. While 2009 was a challenging year, the Park District was able to maintain strong financial stability through thoughtful planning and attentive monitoring of our resources. Even with a cold, rainy summer impacting the Family Aquatic Center, the Park District was able to end the year on a positive note with the addition of new shade structures at the aquatic center and enhancements in the parks including renovating the multi-court at Peterson Park, landscape improvements at Garvanian Park, and continuing the Shoreline Stabilization Project in Century Park. Plan development for the north end of Century Park was also researched thoroughly in 2009.

The District completed its new 5-year Strategic Plan in 2009. A Community Survey as well as focus groups and benchmarking helped create a plan for the future goals and development of the Park District. The Strategic Plan can be found on our website.

The outlook for 2010 is promising. We have a number of significant projects planned including new playgrounds at Kiddie Korral Park (complete), Westwood Park, and the Sullivan Community Center. In late summer, the lobby area of the Sullivan Community Center is undergoing a makeover with updated furniture, color scheme, and the addition of WiFi stations and a registration kiosk. Our main focus is the development of the north end of Century Park. The District was awarded an OSLAD (Open Space Land Acquisition and Development) Grant to partially fund this project. Amenities and park plans are included on the back page of this Annual Report.

Thank you for your continued support and please feel free to contact the Park District with your thoughts and suggestions.

Jim Ballowe, 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. Only about 5% of your total tax bill goes to the Park District.

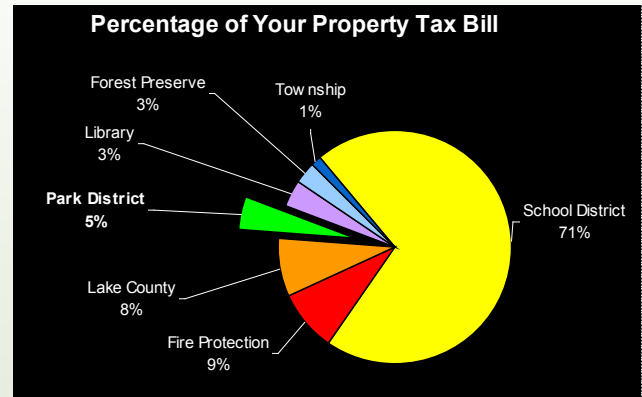
The Park District's tax rate for 2009 was .317. A home that is valued at \$300,000 has an EAV of \$100,000 and would contribute \$317.00 of their 2010 tax bill to the Park District. As seen in the tax comparison chart, the Vernon Hills Park District has one of the lowest Park District tax rates in Lake County.

Sources of Revenue

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

Vernon Hills Park District 20 Year Tax Rate History

Year	Rate
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
1990	0.657



Tax Rate Comparison

based on 2009 rates

Round Lake Park District	0.485
Buffalo Grove Park District	0.411
Grayslake Park District	0.366
Gurnee Park District	0.364
Mundelein Park District	0.363
Vernon Hills Park District	0.317

2009 Property Tax Bill

Taxing Body	Rate	% of Total
School District	4.586	71%
Fire Protection	0.552	9%
Lake County	0.506	8%
Park District	0.317	5%
Library	0.226	3%
Forest Preserve	0.200	3%
Township	0.094	1%
	6.481	

What are fees and charges?

This year the Park District will collect a total of \$6,039,454 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:

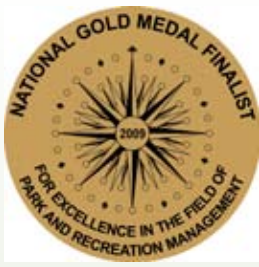
Funds on hand are invested in accordance with the Park District's Investment Policy and State statutes. As custodians of the public's money, the park District only invests in instruments with maximum security.

Bonds:

The Park District issues bonds on an annual basis. The bond money is used to make payments on longer term ongoing capital improvements throughout the District.

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.*



National Gold Medal Award For Excellence Finalist

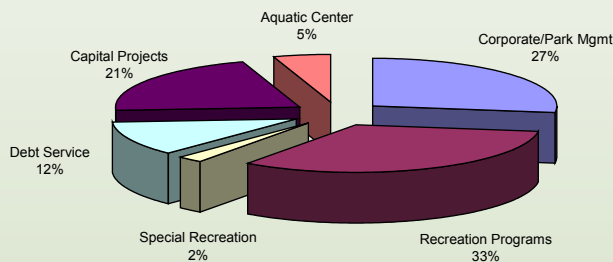
The National Recreation and Park Association has recognized the Vernon Hills Park District as a finalist in the Class V (25,000 population) category in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Illinois Distinguished Agency

The Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association awarded the Vernon Hills Park District with the Illinois Distinguished Agency Award, 2005-2011.



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.

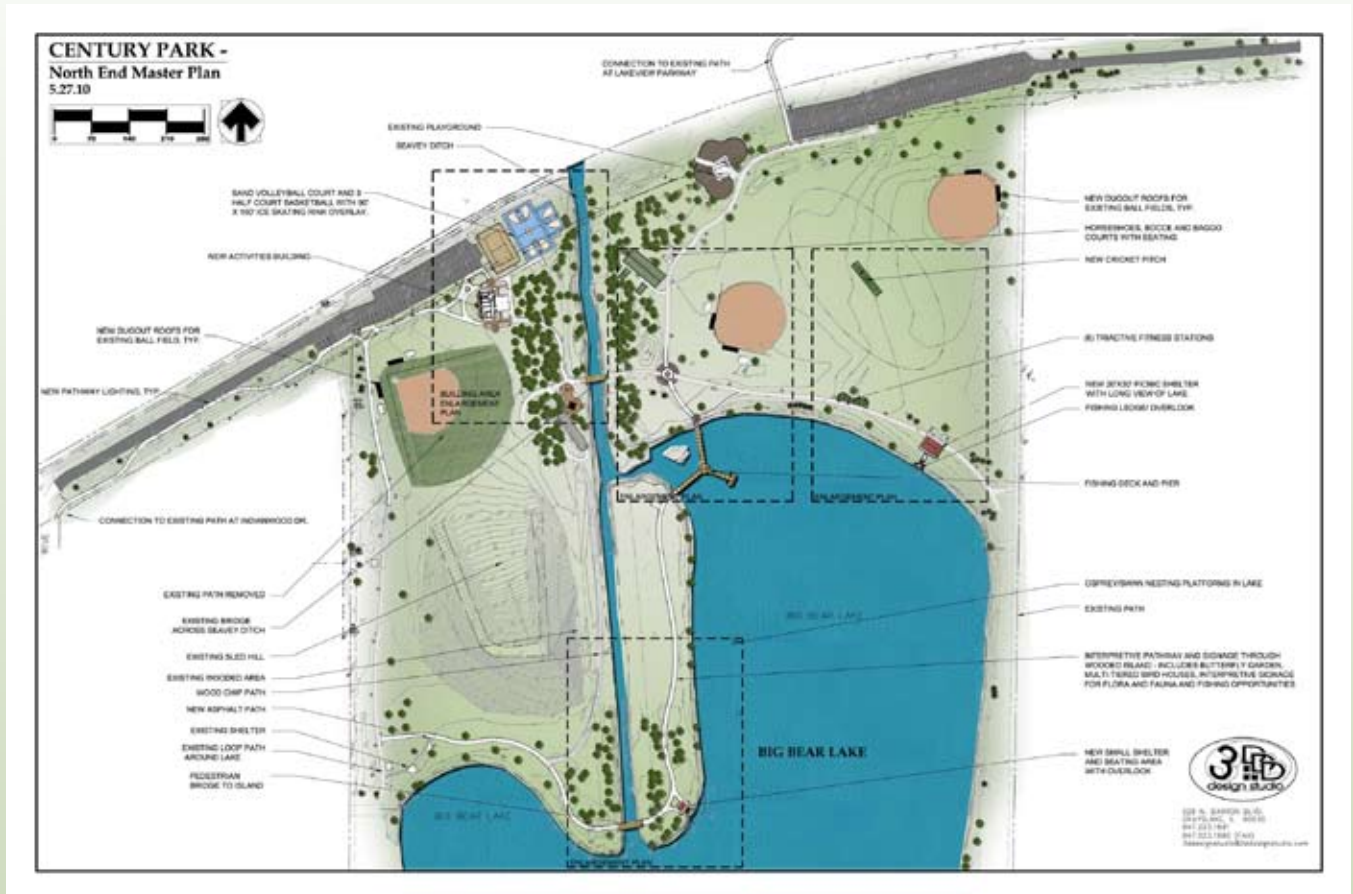
Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

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 15 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.



Century Park North Renovation Plans

The District was awarded an OSLAD (Open Space Land Acquisition and Development) Grant to partially fund the renovation of the northern section of Century Park. Renovations are proposed to begin this summer with a proposed completion date of spring, 2011.



Amemities proposed for Century Park North End:

- Dugout roofs for existing ball fields
- Horseshoes, Bocce and Baggo Courts with seating
- Cricket Pitch
- 6 - 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
- Osprey/Swan Nesting Platforms in lake
- Interpretive pathway and signage in the wooded island
- Sand Volleyball Court
- 3-1/2 Court Basketball with 90' x 150' Ice rink overlay
- Activities Building/Fieldhouse
- Walking paths with pathway lighting



The playground at Kiddie Korral Park was replaced in June, 2010. The playgrounds at Westwood Park and the Sullivan Community Center will be replaced this summer.