

Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2014 - 2018



VERNON HILLS PARK DISTRICT PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Vernon Hills Park District has undertaken the process of updating the Park and Recreation Master Plan. The purpose of this document is as follows:

- Review the inventory of recreational facilities available for the residents within the District
- Evaluate the current trends in recreation
- Develop the Park District Standards for Facilities based upon the current and projected population estimated by the Census data
- Identify Park by Park enhancement recommendations through consultant recommendations and Park Tours to review all facilities
- Develop a listing of Priorities for guiding the decision making process for renovations, acquisitions, and developments throughout the District
- Identify potential funding opportunities from a variety of sources that can defer tax payer expenses to attaining the Standards and reaching the Goals defined within the Parks Master Plan
- Begin Implementation of the Parks Master Plan for 2014 - 2018

The Parks Master Plan is anticipated to be a dynamic and flexible tool for the management of the Park District. Each year during the annual budget development process, the Park Board will re-evaluate the suggested priorities for available funding capabilities and review new opportunities that may have presented themselves between the time of adoption of this plan and the subsequent new fiscal years as they come.

This document is further designed to allow the Vernon Hills Park Board to make refinements in the direction of the priorities determined, based upon changes that may occur for possible acquisitions, development of new parks or facilities as the demographics demands or funding opportunities evolve from the date of acceptance of this document.

A. PREFACE

The Vernon Hills Park District is the caretaker of the parks, facilities, and the provider of recreation programs for its residents. The District has grown and adapted over the years to reflect the rapid growth and changes occurring in the community as a whole.

The District responded effectively to its first Master Plan in 1976, to its second Master Plan in 1983, to its third Master Plan in 1998, and to its fourth Master Plan in 2005. Its accomplishments have solidified its position as an irreplaceable community agency and resource.

In 2010, the Board of Park Commissioners decided to evaluate its effectiveness in providing recreational needs for the residents of the District in an effort to forge a plan that would take it into planning and meeting the needs once the entire District has reached its projected capacity of residents. The Board incorporated the efforts of its staff, Village residents, and a consultant to perform a detailed phone survey of the residents and a planner to evaluate the parks and facilities in this effort. It is particularly fitting that this Master Plan update is occurring at this time. The Village of Vernon Hills has developed to the limits of its corporate boundaries. A slowing of the recent rapid business / industrial growth within the Village is evident at this time, as nearly all vacant land parcels are developed. Because Vernon Hill's future is relatively known, accurate planning to meet the future park and recreation needs is possible.

The results of this planning effort are contained in the following Parks Master Plan. It has been developed as a dynamic and flexible plan, one that will be reviewed and updated on a continuing basis. As such, it is a plan that can be used as a resource for the growth and development of parks and recreation within the Vernon Hills Park District.

B. MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROMOTE DIVERSE COMMUNITY BASED RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY PROVIDING A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS, SERVICES, FACILITIES AND NATURAL SPACES TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR RESIDENTS.



VISION STATEMENT

**ADDRESSING THE LIFELONG LEISURE NEEDS
OF ALL VERNON HILLS RESIDENTS.**

C. PLANNING PROCESS OBJECTIVES

The following Planning Objectives will be utilized in the review, inventory, and preparation of the New Vernon Hills Parks Master Plan.

1. Review, update, and utilize appropriate data from the 2005 Master Plan Document.
2. Review and update the existing park, recreation, and open space standards, definitions, functions, and classifications of park, recreation, and open space resources, where all facilities of the community are interrelated and where there is an equitable plan for distribution of facilities and improvements.
3. Analyze the natural and cultural factors within the community influencing the Park District and its environs.
4. Inventory existing public park, village and school recreation facilities that serve the Districts residents.
5. Utilize the Park District Board of Commissioners, Park District staff, community organizations, and representatives of local government in assessing community recreational needs.
6. Analyze the Park District's future financial capability regarding parks, recreation and open space programs and recommend a financial program for its continued implementation and maintenance.

D. PRINCIPLES

The following principles are offered as a basis for the broad aspects of physical planning for parks, recreation, and open space areas and facilities for the Vernon Hills Park District. Agreement with these principles is a prerequisite to acceptance of the more definitive Goals and Objectives; and the Park and Recreation Master Plan.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

The Vernon Hills Park District is to provide recreation opportunities for all, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, physical or mental disability or handicap, association with a person with a handicap or disability, military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, citizenship, or socio-economic background. In providing recreation opportunities, the Park District also will not discriminate on any basis prohibited by any applicable federal, state or local statute, ordinance, rule or regulation.

ANALYSIS OF FACILITIES

The planning for our parks, land preservation, and recreation is to be based upon a thorough evaluation of existing public and Park District facilities, finances, existing natural resources, environmental sensitivity, public safety, energy conservation, present and anticipated needs and trends. In order to continue to provide the desired level of exceptional recreational opportunities, the Vernon Hills Parks Master Plan should undergo periodic review, reevaluation and revision of long-range plans on a regular and periodic basis.

PUBLIC COOPERATION

Planning for public facilities is to be undertaken with full cooperation and input of the citizens of Vernon Hills so the park system may, to the greatest extent possible reflect the needs and interests of all individuals. Therefore this process has utilized the expertise of a phone survey of a reliable quantity of the residents to provide targeted input from the residents throughout the community. An updated community survey will be distributed in fall 2014.

UNIFIED SYSTEM

Recreation, parks and open space resources of the Park District, Village of Vernon Hills, Lake County Forest Preserve and the school systems should be

planned as related parts of a unified, well balanced system to serve the community.

INTEGRATION IN GENERAL PLAN

The Master Plan is to be integrated with all other sections of the Comprehensive Plan of the Village and School Districts.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

To the greatest extent feasible, park and recreation areas are to be conveniently located within the Park District and are to be provided with safe and convenient access for the citizens with all abilities.

BEAUTY, EFFICIENCY AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Beauty, functional efficiency and fiscal responsibility all complement each other in recreation and park facilities and are equally important goals of planning.

ADVANCED ACQUISITION OF SITES

Wherever possible land for recreation, parks, preservation, and historical sites should be acquired or reserved well in advance of future development.

SUITABILITY OF SITES

Selection or acceptance of sites is to be based on their suitability for the intended purpose, as indicated in the Park and Recreation Master Plan. Sites that will not be accepted include sites that are too steep, are planned to hold detention water for flood control purposes, or on unsuitable soils. Exceptions to this Principal can be made on a "case-by-case" basis.

PERPETUITY OF USE

Park and open space land is to be dedicated and held inviolate in perpetuity, protected by law against diversion to purposes other than recreation and preservation and against invasion by inappropriate uses from outside sources.

ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

When the situation arises, the Park District is to explore development, funding, staffing, and maintenance alternatives in achieving its role in providing recreation opportunities for the citizens of Vernon Hills.

E. GOALS/OBJECTIVES

A goal is a statement of broad direction, purpose, or intent based on the identified needs of the community. A goal is general and timeless.

The portions of the following list of goals were provided by the 2010 Strategic Planning and Implementation Retreat. These goals were refined further by the Board of Park Commissioners.

Wow our Customers

Objective 1. Stay one Step Ahead of Customers: anticipating customer needs will allow the District to better position itself for the future. Staying ahead includes identifying trends and incorporating those trends into the inventory of programs, facilities, and services offered.

Objective 2. Provide exceptional parks, programs, and facilities: this objective includes identifying ways to improve and expand outdoor and indoor space as well as measuring customer satisfaction to ensure residents are satisfied with the level and quality of services provided. Exceptional services also suggest consistent service experiences for customers. Ensuring program offering alignment with community needs is also a basic tenet of exceptional services.

Objective 3. Implement a Customer Loyalty Program: developing loyal customers is extremely important to the District. These are customers who are the District's best advocates and purchase and use services most frequently. In order to keep these customers loyal, various programs and techniques such as discounts will be used to entice them to stay.

Fiscal Responsibility

Objective 1. Get a Bigger Bang for the Buck: this objective suggests overall cost efficiency and effectiveness. The District will align programs based on customer need. In addition, there will be regular processes to review expenditures and identify ways of cutting costs. Furthermore, there will be an ongoing approach to sharing financial results with the Board and employees.

Objective 2. Grow Program, Facility, and Alternative Revenue: attempts to reduce reliance on tax support will allow the District greater flexibility in its allocation of financial resources. In concert with other objectives, growing non-tax revenue will assist in this endeavor. This includes an ongoing effort to grow fund balances.

Objective 3. Create Strategic Fee Structure: this objective seeks to create a more sophisticated platform in the establishment of fees, including the ability to base fees, in part, on cost recovery percentages of core programs and facilities.

Operational Excellence

Objective 1. Strengthen and Expand Partnerships: residents are looking for increased value through strategic partnerships with key agencies such as the Village and School District. This objective addresses the need to develop a strategic approach to partnerships, along with a satisfaction assessment of partners in working with the District.

Objective 2. Operational and Customer Improvements through Technology: the use of technology plays an integral role in satisfying customers through streamlined processes, such as the registration system. Being an early adaptor to new technology suggests staff training and allocation of resources toward continuously upgrading technology systems.

The other benefit of technology is the ability to generate good data for decision making.

Objective 3. Standardize Processes: developing streamlined processes reduces internal and external customer service variation, which is one of the most important goals for a service system. Identifying and standardizing processes also results in reduction of waste and better efficiencies.

Objective 4. Develop Sustainable Practices: the District aspires to be a best practice agency in the management and implementation of sustainable practices such as reduction of waste and reuse of materials. Sustainable practices touch all areas of the District, from park maintenance practices, to design of parks, and recreation program offerings. All areas of the District will be involved in this endeavor.

Continuous Team Development

Objective 1. Create a Staff Empowerment Environment: employee satisfaction is directly dependent upon staff's ability to make decisions and be involved in issues facing the District. As a result, the District espouses a leadership culture that fosters employee involvement in decision making.

Objective 2. Align Staff Responsibilities to Strengths: the District benefits greatly when employee strengths closely match their job responsibilities. In other words, this objective relates to ensuring the employees are "on the right seat in the bus." Using employee strengths result in better performance.

Objective 3. Provide Growth and Development Opportunities: an ongoing commitment to employee growth and development will occur. This includes

the identification of training opportunities beyond the typical local and state park and recreation training activities. In addition, the District will ensure that training dollars will be aligned with the development of identified employee core competencies.

F. HISTORY

DETAILED HISTORY

In 1973, the people of Vernon Hills learned that the park district of a neighboring community was taking steps to annex those subdivisions of Vernon Hills know as New Century Town and Plymouth Farms. The Village attorney was instructed to take legal action to block annexation.

A petition to form a park district was circulated by Vernon Hills residents, presented to the court and on November 27, 1973, a successful referendum created the Vernon Hills Park District. Five Commissioners were elected as part of the referendum process and they were:

Louise Wassman	-	six year term
Vincent Michel	-	six year term
Dolores Sullivan	-	four year term
Henry Maier	-	four year term
Robert Shaw	-	two year term

The lengths of the original terms were determined by lot as prescribed by law. Dolores Sullivan was elected President; Henry Maier, Vice-President; and Louise Wassman, Secretary.

The following is a list of commissioners and their length of service:

Robert Shaw	-	1973 - 1976
Henry A. Maier	-	1973 - 1979
Vincent Michel	-	1973 - 1981
Louise Wassman	-	1973 - 1981
Dolores C. Sullivan	-	1973 - 1985
W. James Gruber	-	1977 - 1983
Phyllis J. Ording	-	1979 - 1981
Roger M. Simone	-	1981 - 1989
Dennis Skidmore	-	1981 - 1993 and 1999 - 2005
Thomas M. Wahl	-	1981 - 1995
Lloyd A. Gjelsten	-	1983 - 1985
Kelli Garvanian	-	1985 - 2008
Cynthia T. Peterson	-	1985 - 2009
Carol A. Hendricks	-	1989 - 2003
John S. Filippo	-	1993 - 1999
Cynthia J. Moore	-	1995 - 2004
Carol Sente	-	2005 - 2009
Mike Meline	-	2003 - Present
David Doerhoefer	-	2005 - Present
Jim Ballowe	-	2008 - Present
Bruce Robbins	-	2009 - Present
Cindy Kessler	-	2009 - Present

The Park Commissioners found themselves in a unique position in that Vernon Hills was a rapidly growing village whose growth was being determined by that phenomenon known as Planned Unit Development (PUD). Because of this, the Park District had an insight on future park, recreation, and open space needs.

To assist them in preparing for this future, the Board retained the firm of McFadzean and Everly. Carl Furest and Claude Rogers were the principle planners working with the Commissioners in the establishment of both a master plan and master site plans for the District's first parks.

The first full-time Parks and Recreation Director was hired in June, 1976.

The following is a list of directors and their length of service:

David Hall	-	June, 1976 - April, 1978
Carl P. Hartmann	-	April, 1978 - December, 1996
Larry A. DeGraaf	-	January, 1997 - March, 2009
Jeff Fougerousse	-	July, 2009 - Present

EARLY OPERATIONS

Until June 20, 1976, the Village of Vernon Hills provided recreation programs for its residents using funds from its corporate budget. An intergovernmental agreement between the Village and the Park District was signed in June, and it provided that the District would assume the recreation function of the Village subsidizing the operation with funds previously budgeted for its recreation department. The Village would continue to provide maintenance for the District, and also lease the Community Center and a five acre portion of Oakwood Park to the District for \$1.00 a year. The District also entered into an intergovernmental agreement with School District 73, enabling the District to conduct recreation programming at Hawthorn School.

LAND ACQUISITION

In 1976 an agreement with Menconi, Inc. provided the District with a three acre donation which included a house and a storage building, which at the time, became the administrative and maintenance headquarters of the District, 610 Cherry Valley Road. The playground and park area adjacent to Oakwood Road, south of Fiore's nursery was purchased using a Federal, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) grant, using the value of the donated three acres as the District's 50% matching funds.

In four areas of the District, land donation agreements were completed between developers and the Village, prior to the creation and organization of the Park District. The New Century Town Annexation Agreement provided 128 acres; the Deerpath PUD included 65 acres; and the Mil - 60 Annexation Agreement contained 43 acres.

Following is a list of major acquisitions and the method of acquisition:

AREA/PARK	DATE ACQUIRED	METHOD
Oakwood Park (South)*	October 1976	Gift
Oakwood Park (North)*	October 1976	Purchase
Deerpath Park (Parcel A)	May 1977	Developer Donation
Century Park (Little Bear Lake)	August 1977	Developer Donation
Sullivan Woods	March 1979	Developer Donation
Deerpath Center	February 1980	Purchase
Deerpath Park (outlots)	February 1980	Purchase
Kelli Garvanian Park**	July 1980	Purchase
Cynthia T. Peterson Park***	October 1980	Developer Donation
Deerpath Park (Parcel J)	December 1980	Purchase
Deerpath Park (Parcel M)	March 1981	Developer Donation
Augusta Park	May 1981	Developer Donation
Century Park (Big Bear Lake)	May 1982	Developer Donation
Oakwood Park (Center)	August 1986	Village Donation
Oakwood Park (buildings)	August 1986	Village Donation
Kiddie Korral Park	August 1986	Village Donation
Sugar Creek Park	October 1988	Developer Donation
Aspen Drive Site	December 1988	Purchase
Aspen Backyard Park	1991	Leased from Village
Grosse Pointe Park (East)	November 1991	Developer Donation
Stone Fence Farm Park	December 1991	Developer Donation
Royal Oak Park	1993	Developer Donation
Hawthorne Club Park	April 1993	Developer Donation
Grosse Pointe Park (West)	August 1993	Developer Donation
Hartman Park	1997	Purchase
Hawthorn Melody Park	2000	Developer Donation
Carriage Green Park	2001	Developer Donation
Grosse Pointe Right-of-Way	2001	Leased from ComEd
Ranney Park	2003	Developer Donation
Central Park	2003	Developer Donation
Donnelley Park	2003	Developer Donation
Beaver Creek Park	2003	Developer Donation
Lake Charles Park	2003	Developer Donation
Torrey Pines Park	2004	Developer Donation
Westwood Park	2008	Village Donation

* Name was changed to Hartman Part in 1997 - previously Oakwood Park

** Name was changed in August 2008 - previously Marimac Park

***Name was changed in July 2009 - previously Century Park (West)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

It is important to recognize the role of the Village and its foresight in planning for the open space needs of future residents in their requirements to set aside park/open space land; and to acknowledge its willingness to contribute funds and to deed donated land to the District.

PARK DEVELOPMENT/SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

1976 - 77 The District completed its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

1976 - 77 Two parcels of land were developed by Urban Investment and Development Company prior to being deeded to the District. The parcels included Little Bear Lake and six acres on Hawthorn Drive. Development included the tennis courts, bicycle paths, softball field, two bridges, security lighting, miscellaneous site furnishings, and landscaping. The improvements were completed by Urban Investment prior to deeding the land, saving the District in excess of \$250,000.

1978 The District received its first Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (LAWCON) and used the \$120,000, 50 -50 matching funds, to begin development of Deerpath Park. Grading and seeding of the north half of the park had been accomplished with District funds and the grant enabled the construction of the play areas at the north part of the park; trees and shrubs; construction of the bicycle path; two softball fields; and finish grading of the south half of the park.

1979 The District was awarded a \$34,500 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and built the playground and picnic shelter in Oakwood Park, constructed a bicycle path and planted 45 trees and shrubs. The District continued to use its own funds to landscape all park areas owned at that time, establish turf and add park benches in all areas.

1980 In February, the District purchased the former Deerpath development sales office from Christ Lutheran Church for \$62,700 and remodeled it for use as a multipurpose building for classes of instructions, meetings of civic organizations and party rentals.

A \$200,000 LAWCON grant enabled the District to complete the bicycle path system in Deerpath park; construct a picnic shelter, build a second playground, four tennis courts, two softball fields, parking lot and provide for landscaping. The grant also enabled the District to construct the island picnic shelter in Little Bear Lake.

A contractor donated 60,000 cubic yards of non-organic fill which formed the base of the sled hill at Big Bear Lake.

1981 Using its own funds, the District developed the playground at Marimac Park, including landscaping.

The District also began operating the former Tally-Ho Country Club swimming pool, which was then owned and renovated by the Village.

A cash and development donation from Urban Investment, along with its own funds totaling 25% of the total development costs, enabled the District to complete the playground development in Century Park (West).

1982 The sled hill was completed, using a donation of time and materials from Lake County Grading and Urban Investment.

Initial development began at Big Bear Lake, with Urban Investment building the bicycle path system, supplying the finish grading and seeding.

Using its own funds, the District completed the development of Augusta Park, including a small children's playground, walkways, and trees and shrubs.

1983-84 The District completed its second Park and Recreation Master Plan.

1985 The Maintenance Building on Phillips Drive was constructed along with two picnic shelters in Century Park and one in Deerpath Park.

1986 Using a \$200,000 OSLAD grant, the District constructed two softball fields, access roads and parking lots, boat docks, and launching ramp in Century Park

The Village deeded the former Village Hall Community Center building at 290 Oakwood Road; a five acre parcel in Oakwood Park and the .02 acre Kiddie Korral to the District.

1987 The District and the Village jointly conducted a study to determine the need for a community center. Based on the positive results of the study the District conducted a referendum for voter approval of the funds to build the center. The vote totals were 252 'Yes' votes and 266 'No' votes, the referendum failed.

1988 Continuing its search for a site large enough to accommodate a concentration of recreation facilities (community center, aquatic complex and premium sports fields) the District, with a ten-year \$1,500,000 assistance plan from the Village, purchased the 31 acre Aspen Drive site.

1989 With input from Commissioners, staff, an advisory committee and interested residents, the District put together a plan for development, with cost estimates. The question was again put to the voters, this time being defeated by a two to one margin.

1990 Pathway lighting for Deerpath, Marimac and parts of Century Park, begun in 1989, was completed.

The Board decided to build a community center and aquatic complex, with minimal impact on taxes, and with the help of Mesirow financial planners, put together a non-referendum bond issue for \$5,500,000, an amount that would be retired in 2005.

1991 The architectural firm of Williams, Pollack and Associates was hired to design and engineer the community center and aquatics center project.

Ten acres were deeded to the District from Center Homes, the developer of the Grosse Pointe subdivision and 3.7 acres from Kimball Hill, the developer of the Stone fence Farms subdivision.

Aspen Backyard Park was built and opened.

1992 Groundbreaking took place for the community center and aquatics center on April 11, 1992.

1993 Ten acres was deeded to the District by United Development Homes, the developer of the Hawthorn Club subdivision and an additional six acres at Grosse Pointe.

On June 5, dedication ceremonies were held for the new aquatics center. The center opened to the public the following day.

On September 11, dedication ceremonies were held for the new community center named for one of the founding Commissioners of the District, Dolores C. Sullivan, who passed away in March 1993.

1994 Renovated Westwood playground by donating and installing new playground equipment.

1995 - 1996 Hawthorn Club and Grosse Pointe Parks were opened to public use.

1997 Oakwood Park was renamed Carl P. Hartmann park in honor of Carl's retirement as Director of the District for 18 years. Construction of a new, enclosed pavilion in Hartmann Park was completed and was named the Hartmann Pavilion.

The District agreed to accept three developed park sites from Town & Country Builders at its Centennial Crossing subdivision along with \$100,000 cash, and agreed to accept three undeveloped park sites from Zale Homes at its Gregg's Landing development.

Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County (SRACLC) moved from its Mundelein location to its new home at 290 Oakwood Drive in Hartmann Park.

Kid's Castle, a large volunteer playground construction project located in Deerpath Park, was completed and opened for use. The project volunteers raised nearly \$140,000 in cash and contributed thousands of volunteer hours to finance and construct the 'Castle'. The value of the project, if purchased commercially, would have been in excess of \$200,000.

1998 The District's third Parks and Recreation Master Plan update was completed.

The Village and Park District entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement whereby the Village transferred current and anticipated developer impact fees from the Routes 45 and 21 development area to the District to be used for the Family Aquatic Center Addition. Total amount was \$1.4 million.

The District refinanced its long term debt in order to help finance its planned improvements. Total amount netted from the refinancing was \$5.2 million.

The District's first skateboard facility was opened, using a portion of the Sullivan Community Center parking lot. It was the first of its kind in the area.

1999 A \$200,000 OSLAD Grant was received for the renovation of Hartman Park. Total costs for the major renovation of the park were \$500,000.

Legislative grants were received from Senator Link (\$250,000) and Representative Moore (\$75,000). Both grants were used to completely renovate the two playgrounds in Century Park, including the addition of a sand volleyball court and the playground in Marimac Park. Total renovation costs at these three sites were \$510,000.

2000 A \$200,000 OSLAD grant was received for the expansion of Grosse Pointe Park.

Legislative grants were received from Senator Peterson (\$50,000) and Representative Mathias (\$25,000) to assist in the \$615,000 development of the west portion of Grosse Pointe Park, and \$35,000 from Representative Gash for the partial renovation of Aspen Backyard Park.

The District leased the ComEd right-of-way in Grosse Pointe Village for 20 years for use as a path and for parking purposes.

Sugar Creek Park was built and opened.

Development in Sullivan Woods included an asphalt path and two bridges connecting the woods to both Hawthorn Club and Sugar Creek Parks.

2001 Carriage Green Park was built and opened.

A \$322,500 OSLAD grant was received for the development of Hawthorn Melody Park.

A large (\$4.2 million) addition to the Family Aquatic Center was completed that included a second zero depth leisure pool, two 35' tall water slides and a lazy river.

An asphalt path, connecting August Park to Aspen Drive, along the east edge of the District's Aspen site was built, along with heavy landscaping along the rear of the homes on Appleton Drive to provide additional screening from the Family Aquatic Center addition.

A legislative grant of \$275,000 was made by Senator Link to assist in the renovation of parts of Deerpath Park.

2002 A legislative grant of \$75,000 was made by Senator Link to assist in replacement of the three main bridges in Century Park.

Hawthorn Melody Park was built and opened. Total District development costs of this new park were \$700,000. Zale Homes donated the costs of the park's excavating and grading, entry road, parking lot, sidewalk construction and grass seeding, estimated to be \$300,000.

2003 Ranney, Central, and Donnelley Parks, in Centennial Crossing, each fully developed, were added to the District's park inventory.

Carriage Green Park was built and opened at a development cost of \$60,000.

2004 A \$341,600 OSLAD grant was received for the development of Lake Charles Park. Total development of this new park was \$700,000.

The three main bridges in Century Park were replaced at a cost of \$315,000.

The Village of Vernon Hills Athletic Complex (VHAC), located at the former Nike Missile Base, opens for use. Operation of the VHAC is based on an Intergovernmental Agreement where the Park District schedules the use of the athletic fields and the Village funds the maintenance of the site.

A shelter, an additional piece of playground equipment and shredded rubber playground safety surfacing was added to Augusta Park.

A shredded rubber playground safety surfacing was added to the Stone Fence Farms Park playground.

2005 The District completed its fourth Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Lake Charles Park opens to the public.

2006 The District received \$100,000 Grant from Representative Ryg for Century Park Summer Celebration grounds.

2007 The District received \$300,000 matching Grant from the Village of Vernon Hills for Summer Celebration grounds.

2008 The District received \$100,000 Grant from Senator Link and Representative Ryg for Century Park shoreline restoration.

2010 Received \$400,000 from IDNR OSLAD Grant for Century Park North renovation project.

2012 Received a \$2,000,000 loan from the Village of Vernon Hills in acquisition of Lakeview Fitness Center.

2014 Updated fifth Master Plan

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vernon Hills Park Board sought to prepare a tangible, flexible planning instrument that identifies priorities for providing recreational opportunities to people of all abilities in Vernon Hills. In addition, the document is to identify and plan for the various possible funding options for acquisitions and development of parks and open space, and plan for long term enhancements and maintenance of the variety of park facilities throughout the District. The following outlines the recommendations and approach resulting from this planning process:

- The District prepared an Inventory of the recreational resources available to the residents. This Inventory included amenities both offered by the Park District and other outside sources that were free to all residents.
- An Analysis/Evaluation was prepared of the quantity of various resources available and compared to the current and projected future population of the District, and then analyzed against National Standards for similar resources offered on a “per thousand” population basis. For example- National Standards recommends districts provide 1 soccer field per 2,000 residents, Vernon Hills currently offers 1 soccer field per 2,000 residents.
- The entire Park District System was evaluated with respect to quantities of facilities offered as compared to National Standards and identified any shortfalls in facilities.
- A Resident Input Survey was conducted in 2009 via phone survey, contacting 4,000 residents. Input was recorded and tabulated, with a summation of the input regarding the levels of satisfaction and expectations or needs identified from each participant.
- The information obtained from the District Analysis and the Resident Input Survey was combined, resulting in the District Wide Recommendations. These recommendations identified everything from the need for additional bathrooms to having more lighted walking trails and offering more adult fitness programs.
- Input from staff, user groups and the Park Board helped develop a listing of Priorities for the implementation of the District Recommendations. These were assembled into fiscal years, based upon estimated costs for the implementation of the improvements. They were then balanced against the expected available annual capital funds available for these improvements.

- Finally, a 2010 financial plan for the funding of these recommended improvements was prepared.
- Please note that this plan intends that the Priorities and the Financial Plan will be re-evaluated each year during the preparation of the Park District Annual Budget preparation process. The available capital resources, combined with any new opportunities that may arise, should be considered during the preparation of the budget preparation process.

The following summarizes the resulting Master Plan/Strategic Plan (2010)

- The quantity of playgrounds seems adequate for the current population, with the specific exception of the area of Gregg's Landing.
- Expansion of the Family Aquatic Facility with either more slides, a deep diving well, Interactive Water Spray Park and a themed process throughout the facility.
- Expansion of the Community Center to include additional gymnasium space and expanded fitness equipment facilities.
- Provide additional walking, jogging and biking trails within the Park District system.
- Provide shade structures at every playground, and shade opportunities within the larger parks.
- Provide more convenient restroom facilities within the parks.
- Provide more convenient parking for the parks.
- Parking lot resurfacing at Sullivan Community Center.
- Research expansion or addition of Park Maintenance Facility, or new building for Park Maintenance Facility.

The 2014-2018 Priorities focus on some maintenance items necessary from the past years planning and items committed prior to the completion of the Master Plan. Those included:

- Installing new spray features at the Family Aquatic Center
- Shoreline stabilization for Century Park (natural plantings only)

MASTER PLAN SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES INCLUDED:

- Enhancing outfield/sideline baseball fencing at 2 to 3 fields per year
- Enhance landscaping throughout Century Park in a yearly program
- Perform tennis court repairs at Deerpath Park
- Fitness equipment replacement at Lakeview Fitness Center
- Locker room enhancements at Lakeview Fitness Center

MASTER PLAN SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES INCLUDED:

- Install playground and park improvements at Grosse Pointe, Stone Fence, Century Park North and Augusta Parks
- Tennis court lighting at Deerpath Park or Vernon Hills High School
- Review future enhancements of facility additions at Sullivan Community Center and Lakeview Fitness Center

Planning additional annual Priorities are shown in that section of the Master Plan, but are not shown here. Beyond two years, there is probability that some refinement to the Master Plan Priorities will occur; therefore they are not listed in the Executive Summary.

III. PARKS SYSTEM INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

A. INVENTORY PROCESS

The Vernon Hills Park District is but a part of a larger, diverse, and complex urban community.

The purpose of the Parks System Inventory is to identify all the recreational opportunities available to the residents within the Park District. These facilities were considered to be any recreational facility that were considered public and available to any resident at no charge- fee based private membership facilities were not included in the inventory. The process of developing the inventory of the Vernon Hills Parks System consisted of physically inspecting each of the park sites and counting each of the facility items within each park. In addition, each school site was visited and evaluated with each facility counted. Interior school facilities were not included, since relationships between governmental bodies at times can change or be out of the control of the Vernon Hills Park District. We fully encourage intergovernmental cooperation for the betterment of the recreational benefit to the residents of the District, but have not included these items in the Inventory.

B. MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Various municipal jurisdictional boundaries affect the Vernon Hills Park District. The relationship of these boundaries is noted on the adjoining map.

The Park District boundaries are coterminous with the boundaries of the Village of Vernon Hills. The area encompasses approximately 5,650 acres or approximately 8.8 square miles. The adjoining map illustrates that the potential for growth of the District is limited and generally speaking has reached its maximum size.

ADJACENT MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Libertyville

The Village of Libertyville lies to the north of Vernon Hills. The Village of Libertyville has a municipal park and recreation department, not a park district.

Mettawa

The Village of Mettawa lies to the east of the park district and follows the Des Plaines River as its primary western boundary. The Village is not served by a Park District.

Mundelein Park & Recreation District

Adjoining Vernon Hills Park District to the northwest and west is the Mundelein Park & Recreation District. This jurisdiction runs north and west from the intersection of Route 45 and Butterfield Road. The Mundelein Park & Recreation District also shares most of the same boundaries with the Village of Mundelein.

Long Grove Park District

This district adjoins the Vernon Hills Park District at its south west corner. The District's boundaries are coterminous with the Village of Long Grove.

Indian Creek

The Village of Indian Creek is surrounded on three of its sides by the Vernon Hills Park District. Its northern boundary adjoins the Mundelein Park & Recreation District. The Village does not have a park and recreation department at present.

Lincolnshire

The Village of Lincolnshire adjoins the District at its southeast corner. Lincolnshire has a park and recreation department.

Buffalo Grove Park District

Adjoining the District along its southern border is the Buffalo Grove Park District.

C. LAND USE AND BARRIERS

Surrounding land use and barriers define segments of the District into distinct neighborhoods. Primarily, major arterials impede pedestrian and bicycle traffic to the parks of the District. They can also restrict access to certain facilities and sites. In the past, residents of one portion of the community were often unable to visit or utilize a facility unless they traveled there by car. Now, as development occurs within the Village of Vernon Hills, consideration has been given to pedestrian/bicycle routes that link the elements of the Village together. The ability of the resident to walk or bicycle to a park facility is an important aspect of the master plan.

LAND USE

Land uses that can define a neighborhood may take the form of major commercial, major office/business park, or even open space such as a semi-public golf course.

Major commercial and office/business development is concentrated along the Route 60 corridor. This development corridor, along with the heavy vehicular use of Route 60, creates a north south division of the community. There are only a few points along this corridor where pedestrian traffic is able to cross.

As development has occurred along this corridor, the Village has required that a bike path be constructed. This bike path runs parallel to Route 60 along the southern portion of Route 60 and links to the north south trail that runs through Deerpath Park and can cross at Aspen Drive.

BARRIERS

Pedestrian barriers may take the form of major traffic arteries, railroads, water features, or restrictive land uses.

The major traffic arteries affecting pedestrian flow within the Park District are State Routes 21, 83, and 60, Butterfield Road and U. S. 45.

Other vehicular routes may become barriers in the future as the area develops according to the Village Land Use Plan.

D. SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

District #73 - Elementary (Hawthorn)

The majority of the Vernon Hills Park District is served by District #73. Their facilities include all of the Hawthorn Schools north and south of Route 60.

District #96 - Elementary (Long Grove)

In addition to District #73, a small portion of the Vernon Hills Park District is served by District #96. This District lies southwest of the main Vernon Hills area.

District #76 - Elementary (Diamond Lake)

Elementary District #76 lies west of central Vernon Hills and includes a portion of the Grosse Pointe Village Development.

District #103 - Elementary (Lincolnshire)

Elementary District #103 lies to the southeast of Vernon Hills.

District #128 - High Schools (Libertyville High School)

District #128 serves the majority of the Vernon Hills Park District. Vernon Hills is in the southwest corner of this district.

District #125 - High School (Stevenson)

High School District #125 wraps around the southern portion of the Park District. Portions of Grosse Pointe and Stone Fence farm developments fall within this district. It also owns a 40+ acre athletic complex at the site of the former Nike Missile Base,

adjacent to the VHAC.

Catholic Schools

The Catholic Archdiocese operates an elementary (Santa Maria Del Popolo Elementary) and a high school (Carmel High School) that residents of the District attend.

E. PARK BY PARK INVENTORY

The following pages illustrate the Inventory of each of the parks within the Vernon Hills Park District System. Each park is shown alphabetically as listed below:

Aspen Backyard Park	Page 27
Augusta Park	Page 28
Beaver Creek Park	Page 29
Carriage Green Park	Page 30
Central Park	Page 31
Century Park- Boat Launch	Page 32
Century Park- North	Page 33
Deerpath Park	Page 34, 35
Donnelley Park	Page 36
Garvanian Park	Page 37
Grosse Pointe Park	Page 38
Hartmann Park	Page 39
Hawthorn Club Park	Page 40
Hawthorn Melody Park	Page 41
Kiddie Korral Park	Page 42
Lake Charles Park	Page 43
Peterson Park	Page 44
Ranney Park	Page 45
Royal Oak Park	Page 46
Stone Fence Farm Park	Page 47
Sugar Creek Park	Page 48
Sullivan Woods	Page 49
Torrey Pines Park	Page 50
Westwood Park	Page 51



ASPEN BACKYARD PARK

INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- Swings – 2 Belt / 2 Tot
- 1 Multi Spring Rider
- 1 Single Spring Rider
- Above Grade Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- ADA Accessible Ramps
- Open Play Area
- 1 Small Shelter
- 1 Picnic Table
- 3 Benches
- 2 Trash Receptacles
- Park Sign
- Landscaping
- On Street Parking





AUGUSTA PARK

INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- Swings – 5 Belt / 1 Inclusive
- 1 Climbing Structure
- 1 Single Spring Rider
- Above Grade Concrete Curb with Recycled Rubber Safety Surfacing
- Curb Cut for Access
- Open Play Area
- 1 Small Shelter
- 1 Picnic Table
- 2 Trash Receptacles
- Park Sign
- Landscaping around Park Sign
- On Street Parking





BEAVER CREEK PARK



INVENTORY

- Undeveloped



CARRIAGE GREEN PARK



INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure
- Swings – 2 Tot
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- ADA Accessible Ramps
- Open Play Area
- 1 Small Shelter
- 1 Picnic Table
- 2 Trash Receptacles
- 2 Benches
- Asphalt Walking Trail around Park Perimeter
- Park Sign
- Landscaping around Park Sign
- On Street Parking



CENTRAL PARK



INVENTORY

- Ornamental Gazebo
- Open Lawn Area
- 1 Bench
- 1 Trash Receptacle
- Landscaping
- Stone Column Entry Feature
- Stone Retaining Walls around Gazebo used as seating
- Park Sign
- On Street Parking



CENTURY PARK - BOAT LAUNCH

INVENTORY

- Asphalt Boat Launch
- Dock
- Picnic Area with Picnic Tables and Grills
- Parking Lot – recently resurfaced
- Restroom/Shelter/Concession Building
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Asphalt Walking Path with Lights
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Exercise Stations along Pathway
- Landscaping





CENTURY PARK - NORTH



INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- 2 Swings – 2 Belt / 1 Tire, 2 Tot
- 3 Spring Riders
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- Open Play Area
- 3 Baseball Fields – 70’ Bases with Skinned Infields
- Baseline Fencing and Hooded Backstops with Covered Dugouts
- Players Benches
- Bleachers
- Storage Containers
- Trash Receptacles
- Benches
- Bike Rack
- Portable Toilets (Seasonal)
- Park Sign
- Parking Lot
- Cricket Pitch Field
- Bocce, Baggo and Horseshoe area
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Accessible Fishing Pier
- 20 x 30 Picnic Shelter
- Information Kiosk
- Osprey/Swan Nesting Platform
- Walk/Bike Path
- Sand Volleyball
- Full Court Basketball
- Outdoor Ice Rink
- Sled Hill
- Teen Playground Area
- 2000 sq. ft. Activity Building
- Community Garden



DEERPATH PARK - NORTH



INVENTORY - NORTH

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- 2 Swings – 4 Belt / 1 Inclusive, 2 Tot
- Fire Truck Play Structure
- Multi-Spring SeeSaw
- 2 Spring Riders
- Sand Play Area with Digger and Sand Table
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- ADA Accessible Ramps
- Open Play Area
- 2 Soccer Fields
- 2 Baseball Fields 70' Bases with Skinned Infields
- Arched Backstops and Baseline Fencing
- 4 Players Benches
- 4 Bleachers
- 2 Storage Containers
- Shelter with Restrooms – Single stall on each side
- Drinking Fountain
- 3 Grills
- 14 Picnic Tables
- Bike Rack
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Triple Hoop Shootout
- Basketball Court with Color Coating
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Asphalt Walking Trail with Lighting
- Parking Lot with Lighting
- Park Sign
- Landscaping



DEERPATH PARK - SOUTH



INVENTORY - SOUTH

- Kids Castle Wood Play Structure with Perimeter Fencing
- Restroom Building – Single stall on each side
- Drinking Fountain
- 1 Soccer Field
- 6 Tennis Courts with Color Coating
- Batting Cages
- 2 Baseball Fields 90' Bases with Skinned Infields
- Arched Backstops and Baseline Fencing
- 4 Players Benches
- 4 Bleachers
- 2 Storage Containers
- Portable Toilet at Playground
- Asphalt Walking Trail with Lighting
- Parking Lot with Lighting
- Park Sign
- Landscaping



DONNELLEY PARK

INVENTORY

- 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- Swings – 2 Belt / 2 Tot
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- Open Play Area
- Ornamental Gazebo
- Picnic Table
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Stone Column Entry Feature
- Stone wall along playground edge for seating
- On Street Parking
- Park Sign
- Landscaping
- Access path to the VHAC and Vernon Hills High School





GARVANIAN PARK

INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- 2 Swings – 3 Belt / 1 Inclusive, 2 Tot
- Sand Play Area with Digger
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- Open Play Area
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Asphalt Walking Trail with Lighting
- Backstop with Base Cutouts
- On Street Parking
- Park Sign
- Landscaping





GROSSE POINTE PARK

INVENTORY

- 3 Playgrounds
 - Playground A
 - o 2-5 yr. Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
 - o Swings – 3 Belt / 1 Inclusive / 2 Tot
 - o 2 Spring Toys
 - o 1 Seesaw
 - Playground B
 - o 2-5 yr. Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
 - o Swings – 2 Belt / 2 Tot
 - o 2 Spring Toys
 - o 1 Climbing Structure
 - o Play Panels
 - Playground C
 - o 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- ADA Accessible Ramp at Playground B
- Open Play Area
- 2 Tennis Courts
- ½ Court Basketball with Color Coating
- 3 Baseball Fields with 70' Bases and Skinned Infields
- Arched Backstops and Baseline Fencing
- Irrigated Ball Field Turf
- 6 Players Benches
- 6 Bleachers
- 1 Storage Container
- Restroom Building
- Small Picnic Shelter
- Drinking Fountain
- 1 Picnic Table
- Asphalt Walking Trail
- Trash Receptacles
- Benches
- Bike Racks
- Adult Exercise Area with Timber Curbs and Wood Fiber
- 2 Parking Lots
- Park Sign
- Landscaping





HARTMANN PARK



INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- 2 Swings – 3 Belt / 1 Inclusive, 4 Tot
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- Open Play Area
- 1 Steel Picnic Shelter
- 1 Wood Picnic Shelter
- Restroom/Classroom Building
- Park District Hexagonal Maintenance/Storage Building
- Drinking Fountain
- Picnic Tables
- 3 Grills
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Bike Racks
- Hockey Rink (In-Line Hockey)
- 2 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 3 Baseball Fields with 60' Bases and Skinned Infields
- Arched Backstops and Baseline Fencing
- 6 Players Benches
- 6 Bleachers
- Parking Lot
- Park Sign
- Landscaping
- Outdoor Ice Rink
- Pay Phone



HAWTHORN CLUB PARK



INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- 2 Swings – 3 Belt / 1 Inclusive, 4 Tot
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- Open Play Area
- 1 Large Picnic Shelter
- Picnic Tables
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Bike Rack
- 1 Backstop with Base Cutouts
- 2 - ½ Court Basketball Courts
- Asphalt Walking Trail
- Parking Lot
- Park Sign
- Landscaping
- Path Entrance to Sullivan Woods



HAWTHORN MELLODY PARK



INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- 2 Swings – 3 Belt / 1 Inclusive, 4 Tot
- Sand Play Area with Digger
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- ADA Accessible Ramps
- Restroom Building with two stalls each side
- Large Picnic Shelter
- Small Gazebo
- 2 Grills
- 8 Picnic Tables
- Drinking Fountain
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Bike Rack
- 2 Baseball Fields with 70' Bases and Skinned Infields
- Hooded Backstops and Baseline Fencing
- Irrigated Ballfield Turf
- 4 Players Benches
- 4 Bleachers
- Soccer Field
- ½ Court Basketball Court
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Asphalt Walking Trail with Lighting
- Parking Lot
- Park Sign
- Landscaping



KIDDIE KORRAL PARK



INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- 2 Swings – 2 Belt, 2 Tot
- 2 Spring Riders
- 1 Climber
- Triple Hoop Shootout
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- 1 Picnic Tables
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Bike Rack
- Memorial Stone
- Park Sign
- Landscaping



LAKE CHARLES PARK

INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- Swings – 2 Belt, 2 Tot
- 2 Spring Rider
- 4 Climbers
- Open Play Area
- 1 Bike Rack
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Asphalt Walking Trail with Lighting
- 3 Shelters
- 1 Grill
- 1 Half Court Basketball Court
- Fishing Pier
- Canoe Launch
- Overlook
- Parking Lot
- Park Sign
- Landscaping





PETERSON PARK



INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- 2 Swings – 7 Belt / 1 Inclusive, 4 Tot with a Sand Play Area
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- Open Play Area
- Picnic Area with Tables and Grills
- Soccer Field
- 4 Tennis Courts
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Baseball Field – 70' Bases with Skinned Infield
- Baseline Fencing and Straight Backstop with Covered Dugout
- Players Benches
- 1 Bleacher
- Trash Receptacles
- Benches
- Bike Rack
- Asphalt Walkway with Lighting
- Small Picnic Shelter
- Shelter with Restroom – Single stall on each side
- Outdoor Full Court Basketball
- Full Court Four Square Court



RANNEY PARK

INVENTORY

- 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- Open Play Area
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Pergola Seating Area
- Drinking Fountain
- Stone Column Entry Feature
- Park Sign
- Landscaping





ROYAL OAK PARK

INVENTORY

- Open Play Area
- Detention Area
- Park Sign





STONE FENCE FARM PARK

INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure, 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- 2 Swings – 3 Belt / 1 Inclusive, 2 Tot
- 2 Spring Riders
- Concrete Curb with Recycled Rubber Safety Surfacing
- Pergola Seating Area
- Open Play Area
- Backstop with Base Cutouts
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Bike Rack
- Asphalt Walking Trail with Lights
- Park Sign
- Landscaping





SUGAR CREEK PARK



INVENTORY

- 5-12 yr. Play Structure
- 2 Spring Riders
- Concrete Curb with Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing
- Retaining Wall
- Shelter
- Open Play Area
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Bike Rack
- Picnic Table
- Park Sign
- Landscaping
- Path Entrance to Sullivan Woods



SULLIVAN WOODS

INVENTORY

- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Asphalt Walking Trail
- Park Sign





TORREY PINES PARK

INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure
- Open Play Area
- 1 Small Shelter
- 1 Picnic Table
- 3 Benches
- 2 Trash Receptacles
- Park Sign
- Landscaping
- On Street Parking





WESTWOOD PARK

INVENTORY

- 2-5 yr. Play Structure
- Open Play Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Trash Receptacles
- Park Sign
- Landscaping



NRPA STANDARDS

Neighborhood Park-	Service Radius- 1/4 mile, 1/4 - 5 acres
Community Park-	Service Radius- 1/2 mile, 5 - 10 acres
Regional Park-	Service Radius- 2 mile, 10 - 50 acres with specialty features attracting visitors from a greater distance in the smaller acreages (Aquatic Facilities, Skate Parks, Sports Complexes, Indoor Facilities- Community Center)
Linear Park-	Service Radius- 1/4 mile, acreage varies due to length of park.
Specialty Facility-	Indoor facility that generates trips from residents willing to drive a distance to utilize the facility- Community Center, Aquatic Facility, etc.

This plan gives an illustration of the distribution of facilities throughout the Park District. This sheet and the following service radius diagram show the distribution of facilities for the residents throughout the community. The neighborhood park's service area covers a one quarter mile radius, where as the community parks cover one half mile. From evaluating the coverage shown on the plan, small areas north of Route 60 and west of Deerpath appear to be the only areas lacking park facility coverage. The other areas within the boundaries of the District to the east and southeast are primarily commercial and subsequently don't need park facilities directly adjacent.

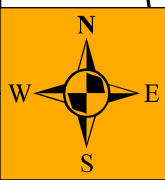
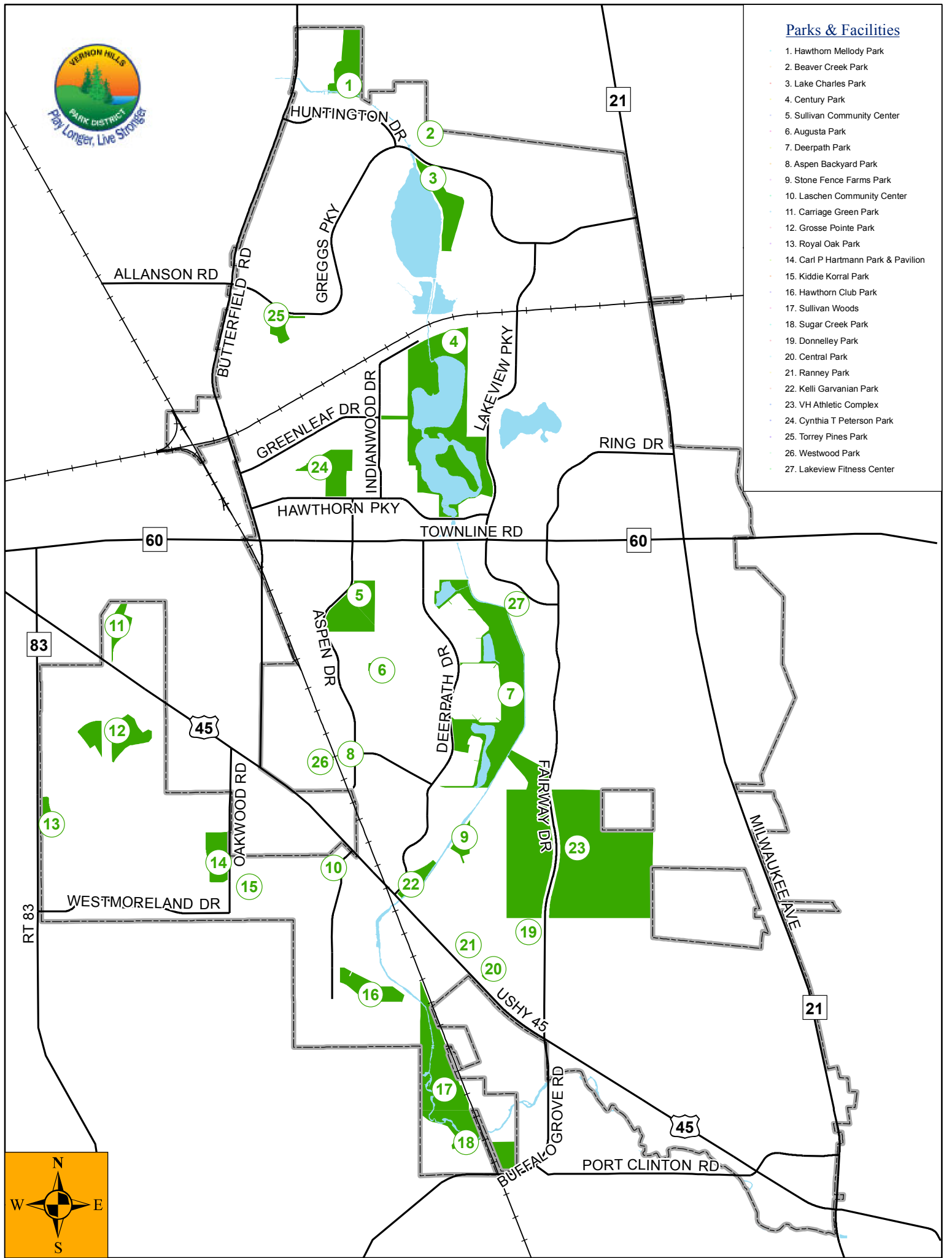
	Total Acreage	Barbecue Grills	Ball Fields	Basketball Courts	Walking Path* (mi.)	Boat Launch	Cross Country Skiing	Exercise Trail/Area	Family Aquatic Center	Fishing	Fitness Center	Gymnasium	Ice Skating	In-Line Skate Park	Lake/Pond	Open Field/ Play Area	Parking Lot	Picnic Shelter/Gazebo	Playground	Programs	Restroom Sites	Room Rentals	Sledding	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts
Aspen Backyard Park 6 North Aspen Drive	.7															●		1	1							
Augusta Park 210 Augusta Drive	2.3															●		1	1**							
Beaver Creek Park 2087 Beaver Creek Drive	.97															●										
Carriage Green Park 540 Grosse Pointe Circle	8				.28											●		1	1							
Central Park 520 Central Park Place	1.5															●		1	1							
Century Park 1001 Lakeview Parkway	113	6	3	2	2.7*	●	●	●		●			1		2	●	3	11	2**		2		●			1
Century Park North Pavilion 1401 Indianwood Drive	NA																			●		●				
Deerpath Park 299 Onwentsia Road	69	1	4	1	1.5*		●			●			2		3	●	2	4	3**		2			2	6	1
Donnelley Park 359 Donnelley Place	1.6															●		1	1							
Kelli Garvanian Park 215 S. Deerpath Drive	5.5		1				●									●			1**							
Grosse Pointe Park 900 Grosse Pointe Blvd.	38		3	1	1.5			●		●					1	●	2	1	2**		1				2	
Hartmann Park/Pavilion 292 Oakwood Road	9.9	4	3		.25							1	●		●	2	2	1**	●	1						2
Hawthorn Club Park 160 Sheffield Drive	10		1	1	.4											●		1	1**							
Hawthorn Melody Park 2221 Hazeltine Drive	16	2	2	1	.5*		●									●	1	1	1**		1			2	1	
Kiddie Korral Park 300 Greenbriar Lane	.4															●			1							
Lake Charles Park 11 E. Greggs Parkway	69	1			.5	●				●				1	●	1	3	1								
Lakeview Center 700 Lakeview Parkway											●															
Laschen Community Center 294 Evergreen Drive	NA																1			●	3	●				
Cynthia Peterson Park 200 Hawthorn Parkway	16.25	3	1	1	.6		●									●		1	1**		1			1	4	1
Ranney Park 137 Ranney Avenue	1.6															●			1							
Royal Oak Park 70 Royal Oak Drive	1.3															●										
Stone Fence Farm Park 224 Stone Fence Rd	3.7		1													●			1**							
Sugar Creek Park 1081 Creek View Drive	13						●									●		1	1							
Sullivan Community Center 635 Aspen Drive	12						●	●		●	●		●			●	1		1	●	2	4				
Sullivan Woods Sugar Creek & Hawthorn Club Parks	28						●																			
Torrey Pines Park 520 Torrey Pines Way	4.78															●		1	1							
Vernon Hills Athletic Complex 15 S. Fairway Drive (Village owned)	37.5		6												1		2	1			1			6		
Westwood Park 300 Sullivan Drive	.5																	1	1							

*Indicates lighted path **ADA inclusion swing



Parks & Facilities

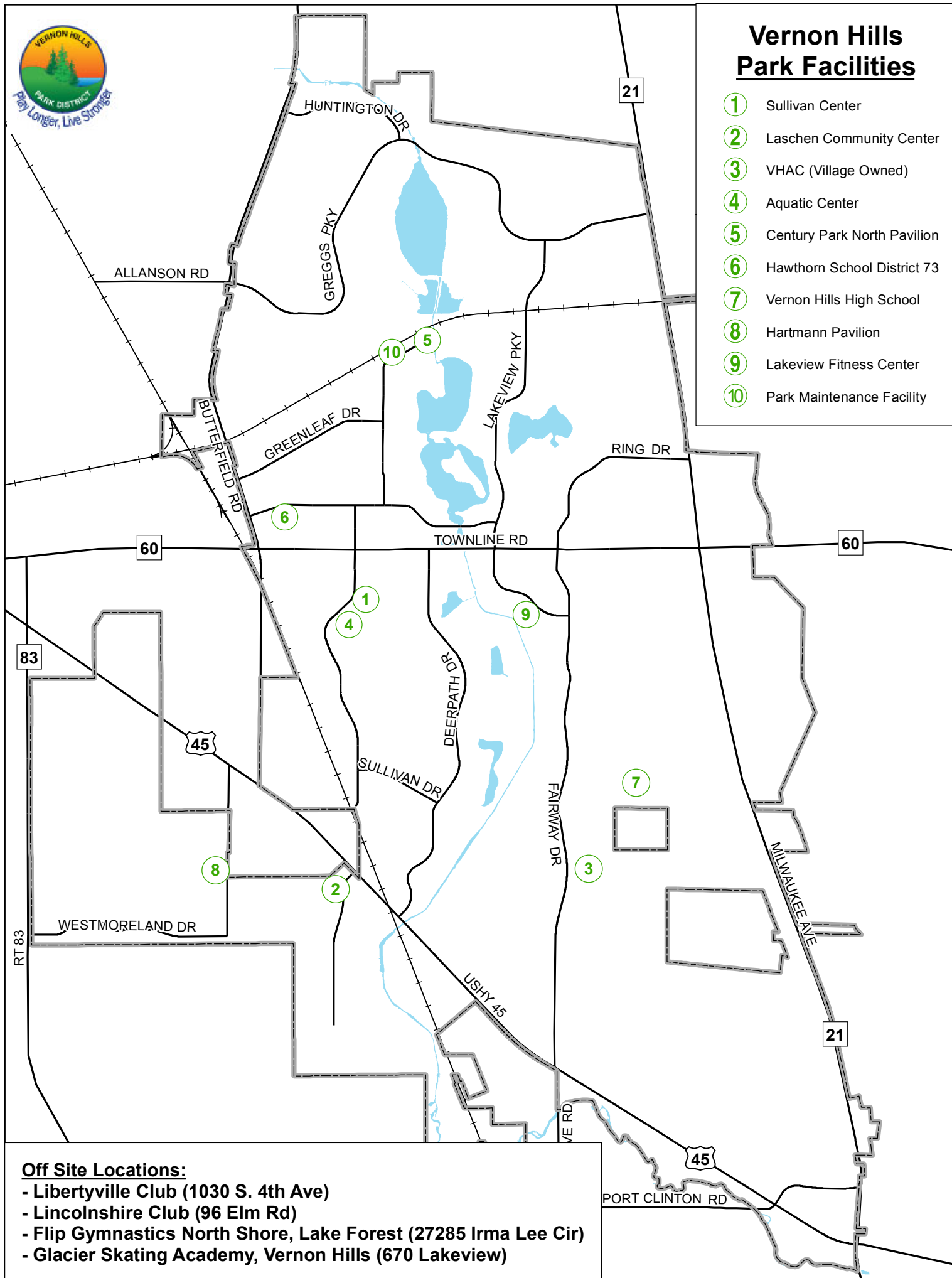
- 1. Hawthorn Melody Park
- 2. Beaver Creek Park
- 3. Lake Charles Park
- 4. Century Park
- 5. Sullivan Community Center
- 6. Augusta Park
- 7. Deerpath Park
- 8. Aspen Backyard Park
- 9. Stone Fence Farms Park
- 10. Laschen Community Center
- 11. Carriage Green Park
- 12. Grosse Pointe Park
- 13. Royal Oak Park
- 14. Carl P Hartmann Park & Pavilion
- 15. Kiddie Korral Park
- 16. Hawthorn Club Park
- 17. Sullivan Woods
- 18. Sugar Creek Park
- 19. Donnelley Park
- 20. Central Park
- 21. Ranney Park
- 22. Kelli Garvanian Park
- 23. VH Athletic Complex
- 24. Cynthia T Peterson Park
- 25. Torrey Pines Park
- 26. Westwood Park
- 27. Lakeview Fitness Center





Vernon Hills Park Facilities

- ① Sullivan Center
- ② Laschen Community Center
- ③ VHAC (Village Owned)
- ④ Aquatic Center
- ⑤ Century Park North Pavilion
- ⑥ Hawthorn School District 73
- ⑦ Vernon Hills High School
- ⑧ Hartmann Pavilion
- ⑨ Lakeview Fitness Center
- ⑩ Park Maintenance Facility



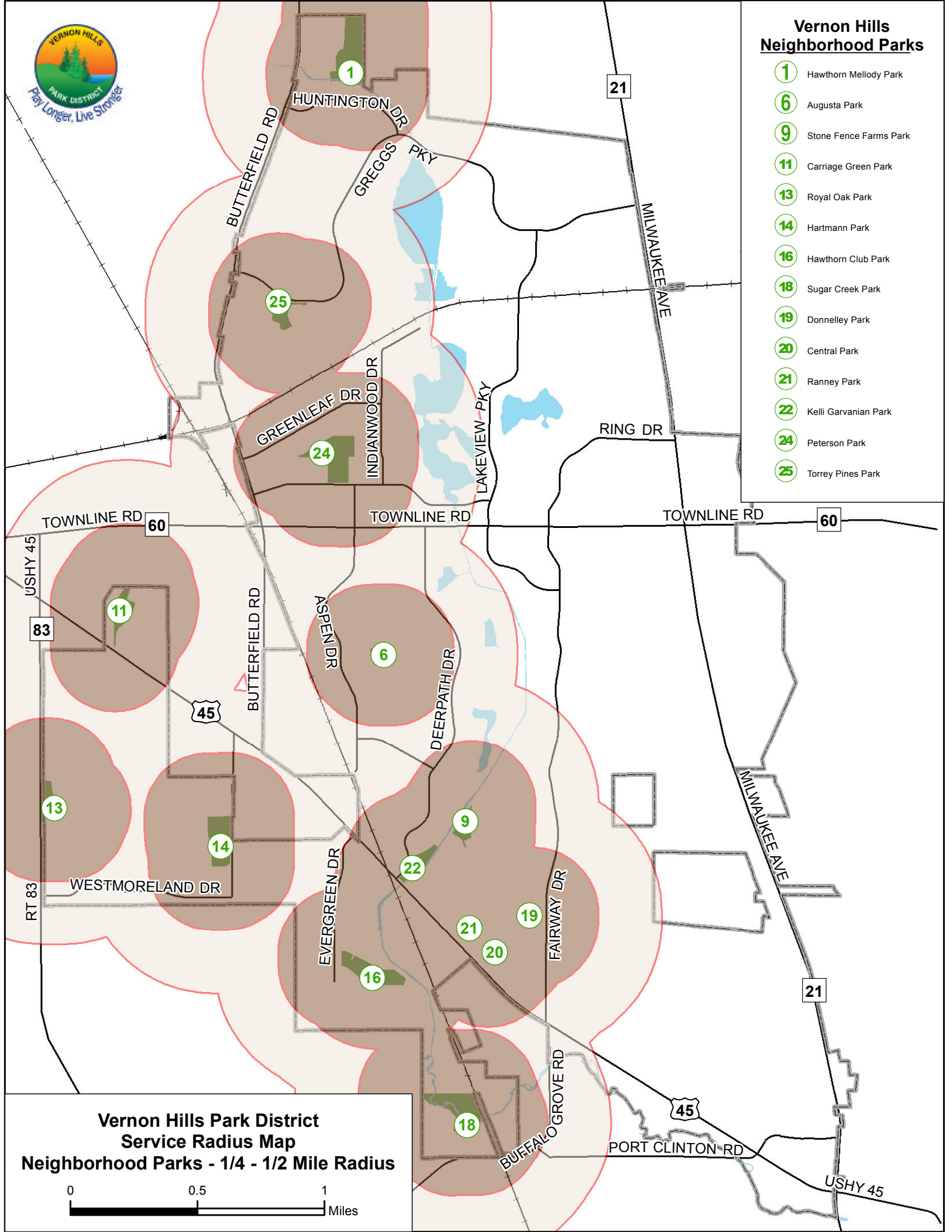
Off Site Locations:

- Libertyville Club (1030 S. 4th Ave)
- Lincolnshire Club (96 Elm Rd)
- Flip Gymnastics North Shore, Lake Forest (27285 Irma Lee Cir)
- Glacier Skating Academy, Vernon Hills (670 Lakeview)

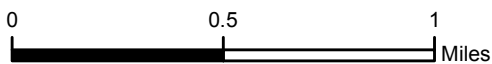


Vernon Hills Neighborhood Parks

- 1 Hawthorn Melody Park
- 6 Augusta Park
- 9 Stone Fence Farms Park
- 11 Carriage Green Park
- 13 Royal Oak Park
- 14 Hartmann Park
- 16 Hawthorn Club Park
- 18 Sugar Creek Park
- 19 Donnelley Park
- 20 Central Park
- 21 Ranney Park
- 22 Kelli Garvanian Park
- 24 Peterson Park
- 25 Torrey Pines Park



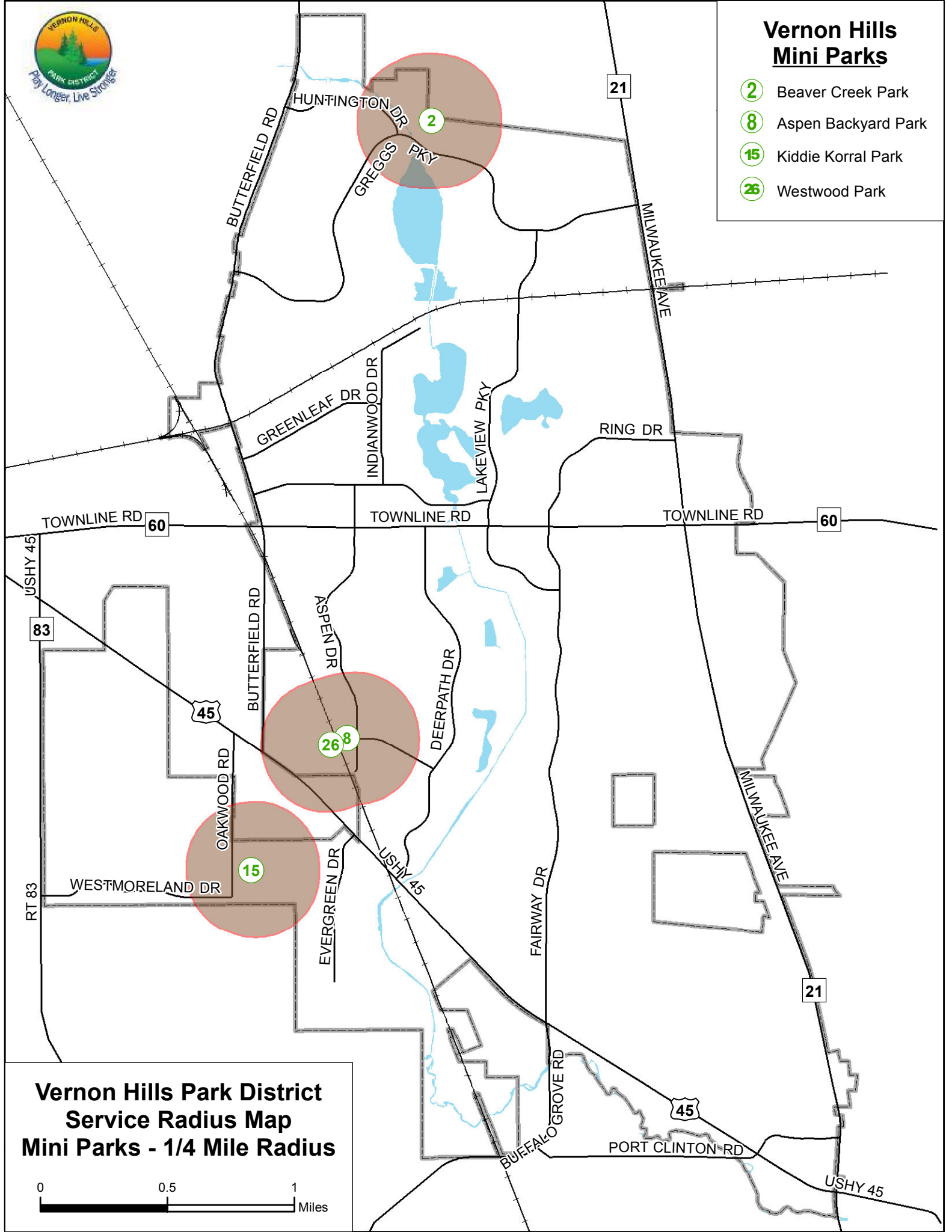
**Vernon Hills Park District
Service Radius Map
Neighborhood Parks - 1/4 - 1/2 Mile Radius**



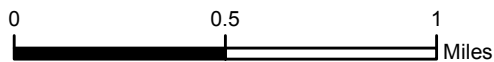


Vernon Hills Mini Parks

- 2 Beaver Creek Park
- 8 Aspen Backyard Park
- 15 Kiddie Korral Park
- 26 Westwood Park



**Vernon Hills Park District
Service Radius Map
Mini Parks - 1/4 Mile Radius**



PARK SYSTEM ANALYSIS

A. OPEN SPACE PURPOSE

The purpose of recreational open space may be defined as land and/or water area which serves the specific land uses of providing park and recreation opportunities, conserving valuable and natural resources, structuring urban development and form, and which is consciously being acquired or publicly regulated for recreation.

OPEN SPACE FUNCTIONS

Along with residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial uses, open space serves an important purpose in land classification and in planning for how land is to be used. Open space is classified according to the function or use to which it is put. In terms of the Vernon Hills Park District, there are two primary functions of open space.

- 1 The provision of recreation resources:

The Recreation Function

- 2 The protection of natural resources:

The Conservation/Protection Function

The Recreation Function

Open space land used for recreation covers a multitude of facility types and activities ranging from neighborhood parks to the larger regional forest preserves and state parks.

Recreation open space may be used for either passive or active recreational activities. Recreation open space may be either publicly or privately owned.

Each type of recreation area will be further classified to better define its purpose, objectives, size, service area, population served, and location.

Conservation/Protection Function

Open space for conservation purposes follows recreation as the most common purpose for which open space is acquired and preserved. "Conservation open space" guards and maintains natural features and areas. The designation of areas as conservation open space does not depend upon demand as in the case for provision of most recreation open spaces, but rather upon their unsuitability for urban development or their uniqueness as natural resources.

Open space for conservation encompasses objectives such as protection of water bodies and water courses, groundwater recharge areas, erodible slopes, forests, floodwater control and woodlands, soils having severe limitations for development, unique or endangered vegetation and wildlife habitat, areas of unique geological or scientific interest, and areas of unique historic and architectural merit. Such lands may be used for a wide variety of recreation activities such as hiking, outdoor education, interpretations, etc. Purposes for the conservation and protection of natural resources are described in the following:

Water Resources

Surface Water, Lakes, Ponds, Streams, Rivers, Storm Water
Control Systems
Subsurface Water
Wetlands
Flood plains

Fragile Soils

Unique Topographic Features

Forests and Woodlands

Wildlife Habitat

Unique Vegetation, Geological, Scenic or Scientific Interests

Sites of Historical or Cultural Interests

B. RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOCAL OPEN SPACE

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY MATRIX

Local Open Space Classifications	Vernon Hills Park District	Village of Vernon Hills	School Districts	Lake County Forest Preserve
Recreation Function				
1 Neighborhood	Primary	Cooperative	Cooperative	None
2 Community	Primary	Cooperative	Cooperative	Cooperative
3 Village-Wide	Primary	Cooperative	Cooperative	Cooperative
4 Community-Wide	Primary	Cooperative	Cooperative	Cooperative
5 Linear	Primary	Cooperative	None	Cooperative
Conservation/Protection Function				
1 Conservation Area	Cooperative	Primary	None	Primary

C. VERNON HILLS PARK DISTRICT – PARK STANDARDS

Standards are flexible guides for planning, acquiring, and developing park and recreation areas. The standards recommended in this Master Plan are uniquely designed to accommodate the Vernon Hills Park District.

In general, the recommended Vernon Hills Park District Open Space Standard seeks to furnish 10 acres of permanent publicly owned park and recreation open space for each 1,000 residents of the population. This 10 acres per 1,000 persons standard is also the recommendation of the National Recreation and Park Association.

To effectively use the Vernon Hills Park District Standard, adjustments may be made for the following local factors:

1. Distance to the park
2. Socio-economic factors
3. Cultural and ethnic characteristics
4. Special local conditions (i.e., barriers, opportunities from other resources)
5. Private or commercial facilities
6. Available resources (i.e., the amount and type of existing facilities)
7. Expressed needs and desires of users

The following table illustrates the Standard as it relates to three local classifications: population served, size range, service area and facility designation.

VERNON HILLS PARK DISTRICT OPEN SPACE STANDARD

Vernon Hills Park District Standard:
 10 acres of Park Recreation Open Space per 1,000 Persons

	Neighborhood Classification	Community Classification	Wide Special/Regional Classification
Facility Designation:	Mini Park Neighborhood Park Neighborhood Park/School Aquatic Center	Community Park Community Park /School	Community Center
Size Range:	1 acre to 10 acres	10 - 150 acres	None
Service Area:	Within 1/2 mile walking distance	15 minutes driving time	15 minutes driving time

In the application of these Standards for the Vernon Hills Park District the following criteria were applied:

1. Public school lands, within the Village of Vernon Hills boundary, were included for the purpose of facilities open to the public that were available and non-fee based (outdoor facilities). Indoor school facilities were not included.
2. The Standards do not include private agency land.
3. Land that is vacant or undeveloped not under the ownership or control of a public agency was not included.
4. The Standards do not include Regional Open Space.

D. SYSTEM-WIDE ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE FACILITIES

The table below outlines the current inventory of facilities with the Vernon Hills Park District Standards for each facility, based upon the quantity of such facilities as related to the population it serves in increments of 1,000 persons. In each case, the quantities of facilities directly under the control of the Vernon Hills Park District are shown and the facilities separate (schools or other) are shown in a separate category. Following that is the total facilities available to the Park District residents. This quantity is then compared to the current projected population for the year 2010 and the shortfall, if any, are shown. Surplus of facilities are shown only as a "0", since they meet the recommended quantity of facilities for that population.

VERNON HILLS PARK DISTRICT POPULATION

1990 Census:	16,000	2005 Special Census:	23,353
1998 Current	18,032	2010:	25,211

Source: Village of Vernon Hills

EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Primary Classification	Neighborhood Parks Park District Owned	Total Acres
NPK	Aspen Backyard Park	0.7
NPK	Augusta Park	2.33
NPK	Beaver Creek Park	.97
NPK	Carriage Green Park	8
NPK	Central Park	1.53
CPK	Century Park	110
CPK	Deerpath Park	68.84
NPK	Donnelly Park	1.64
NPK	Garvanian Park	5.33
CPK	Grosse Pointe Park	37.42
NPK	Hartmann Park	9.92
NPK	Hawthorn Club Park	10.22
NPK	Hawthorn Melody Park	16.27
NPK	Kiddie Korral Park	0.41
NPK	Lake Charles Park	56.62
NPK	Peterson Park	16.2
NPK	Ranney Park	1.62
NPK	Royal Oak Park	1.3
NPK	Stone Fence Farm Park	3.77
NPK	Sugar Creek Park	12.91
NPK	Sullivan Woods	28.09
NPK	Torrey Pines Park	4.78
NPK	Westwood Park	.5
Total Acres.....		399.37

Primary School Owned	Park/Schools Acres	Neighborhood Acres	Total
NPS	Hawthorn School	1	5
NPS	Dist. 73 Elem. School	.5	3
NPS	Dist. 73 Prim. School	.5	3
Total Neighborhood Park-School Acres			11
Total Neighborhood Park Acres Including Schools			72.4
Total Neighborhood Sites			19
Total Neighborhood Park-School Sites			3
Total Neighborhood Park Sites Including Schools			22

LEGEND:

- NPK - Neighborhood Park
- NPS - Neighborhood Park/School
- CPK - Community Park

E. PARK DISTRICT FACILITY STANDARDS COMPARISON

PARK DISTRICT FACILITIES

Facility	Vernon Hills Park District Standards	Vernon Hills Park District Existing Facilities	Public Non Park District Facilities ¹	Total Facilities Available	Recommended Quantity of Facilities at 25,211 (2010)	Current Facility Shortfall (2010) ²	Recommended Quantity of Facilities at 25,211 (2010)
Soccer Fields	1/2,000	4 ³	7	11	12	1	14
Baseball/Softball (all sizes)	1/2,000	17	16	33	12	0	14
Football Fields (all sizes)	1/15,000	0	3	3	2	0	2
Full Court Basketball	1/6,000	3	0	3	4	1	5
1/2 Court Basketball	1/4,000	5	6	11	6	0	7
Tennis Courts	1/5,000	12	16	28	5	0	6
In-Line Skate Area	1/20,000	1	0	1	1	0	2
Skate Park *	1/10,000	1	0	1	2	1	3
Sand Volleyball Courts	1/3,000	10	0	10	8	0	9
Play Structures	1/1,000	24	4	28	24	0	27
Ice Skating Area ⁴	1/10,000	2	0	2	3	0	4
Picnic Shelters - Large ⁵	1/4,000	5	1	6	8	2	9
Shade Structures - Small*	1/1,000	12	0	12	24	12	27
Walking/Biking Trails	1 mile/2,500	9.3 miles	11.4 miles	21 miles	9.3 miles	0	10.8 miles
Swimming Pool*	1/10,000	1	0	1	2.5	1.5	3
Community Center*	1/20,000	2	0	2	1.5	0.5	2
Restroom Facilities*	1/3,000	7 ⁶	4	11	8	0	9
Fitness Center		1	0				
Recommended Open Space	10 Acres per 1,000 population	425.6			233		270

¹ Non-fee based facilities located on school and village properties

² Based on available Park District and Non-Park District Facilities

³ There are also multiple areas suitable for practice area

⁴ Flooded basketball court

⁵ Rentable shelters large enough for events

⁶ This includes only the restrooms in the parks and not at Sullivan Center or Laschen Community Center

⁷ 293.3 acres of open space and 123.3 acres of lakes and ponds

IV. SYSTEM WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following outlines a summary of The Vernon Hills Park District Parks Master Plan Recommendations:

- The NRPA recommended standards for the population of Vernon Hills shows that there should be 12 junior or full-size soccer fields available for this quantity of residents. Using the publicly available facilities at the schools in tandem with those of the Park District, the total available fields are 11. We will need to work with the Vernon Hills Soccer Club and identify additional soccer fields for their future use.
- Currently there are ample softball and baseball fields for the existing and projected population quantities. Per the population and National Standards, there are an adequate number of basketball courts for this population. The Vernon Hills Park District also currently has an excess of tennis courts as compared to the National Parks and Recreation Standards, and should not plan to add tennis courts at this time. However, lighted tennis courts needs to be assessed.
- The existing Aquatic Facility supports a bather load and quantity slightly less than the National Average, and the Community Input Survey supported expansion of the swimming pool with either more slides or a deep diving well, or both. In addition, the Park District should consider adding an Interactive Water Spray Park to facilitate the water play value within the community, either at the Aquatic Facility or another location within the Park District.
- The Community Centers meet the test of the National Standards; however, the available activities and facilities need to be expanded. Particular attention should be placed upon additional gymnasium space. The Community Input Survey supports an expanded Community Center with more “Health Club” amenities. This was accomplished in 2012 with the purchase of the Lakeview Fitness Center. The cost effective approach would be to mitigate the existing wetlands north of the Sullivan Center, expand into this area, and look

at possible joint venture or cooperative efforts between the other local arms of government- specifically the School District and the Village. Additionally, research Pre-School facility improvements and relocating Administrative Staff to Sullivan Community Center.

- The current amount of developed Open Space is greater than the National Recommended Standard of 10 acres per thousand residents, and appears to meet the needs of the 25,211 residents.
- To provide additional walking, jogging and biking trails within the Park District system. Consider completing inter-park trails within the larger parks that don't currently have trails circumnavigating the parks, and look for opportunities to connect existing trails to both local and regional trail systems.

In reviewing the quantities of the various facilities in conjunction with the Resident Needs Assessment Phone Survey, the following items came to the forefront for the Analysis portion of the Vernon Hills Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The particular items in the Park District Facility Standards Comparison Table on page 64 are indicated by an "*", and are discussed individually below:

COMMUNITY CENTER

At present, there were no available "standards" for defining the size or configuration and programmatic uses for a "Community Center". The current two facilities (Sullivan Center and Laschen Center) provide a wide array of opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities. However, the Resident Needs Input Survey indicated strong support for more active recreation facilities in the Community Center, specifically in the area of exercise equipment, weights and active "workout" areas with a gymnasium. Although no gymnasium was included in the purchase of the Lakeview Fitness Center this initiative met the standards of identifying and fulfilling a workout area with exercise equipment and weights. One area of possible means of better serving the community is through cooperative exchange of facilities with District 73 and District 128 schools. District 73 currently has several gymnasiums that the Park Board should plan to meet with their Board and work together to facilitate the use of gyms for the Vernon Hills Park District. The inclusion of some programming

capabilities through this cooperative interaction would greatly reduce the demands and construction costs of an expanded or new Community Center. This would not eliminate the need for enhancing the available Community Center offering, but the programmatic requirements and planning for this new Center would be significantly impacted. Meetings and discussion with the two Districts to determine available solutions to utilizing gym space should be conducted prior to developing any firm plans on the expansion or new development of a Community Center, including expansion/renovation of a preschool wing.

RESTROOM FACILITIES

In response to the Resident Needs Input Survey, there was a significant indication for more convenient restroom facilities within the parks. Based upon National Standards, the Inventory indicates additional restrooms are not needed, three of the restrooms shown are located at the Vernon Hills High School, and one other at another school site. However, these are not always open to the public and not under the control of the Park District to work in conjunction with current programmed activities. Where practical and reasonably attainable in the high demand parks, additional restroom facilities should be included. The ability to add restrooms to any of the parks requires an in-depth evaluation of available utilities and their location and distance in order to feasibly and affordably construct permanent washroom facilities. Where not practical, particular attention should be given to aesthetically attractive, clean and sanitized portable facilities should be planned.

The building inventory map (page 53) shows locations where restroom buildings exist. Currently, the Park District has 7 restroom buildings (not including facilities within current buildings- Laschen Center, Sullivan Center, Lakeview Fitness Center and the Aquatic Center). In reviewing the existing parks, consideration should be given to adding restroom buildings where feasible and where utilities exist. As an alternative to these solutions, consider developing aesthetically pleasing portable toilet screening facilities and make them a high priority to keep clean and sanitized.

WALKING/JOGGING/BIKING TRAIL FACILITIES

The strongest area of recreational development across the country centers

on active trail systems. In the Resident Input Survey, 61% of the households use the trails system. The Vernon Hills Park District has a good trail system, which can always be improved. The following list identifies parks where trails are a key component of the facilities offered:

- Hawthorn Melody Park
- Lake Charles Park
- Century Park
- Carriage Green Park
- Grosse Pointe Park
- Hartmann Park
- Hawthorn Club Park
- Sullivan Woods
- Garvanian Park
- Deerpath Park
- Peterson Park
- Stone Fence Farms

Grosse Pointe Park also includes the extended trail within the north/south section of the ComEd Power Line Right-Of-Way.

Opportunities exist to increase the number of trails in some areas within the District. One specific opportunity would be to expand the trails around the Sullivan Center and Aquatic Facility to the south and west. The Park District should explore possibilities to expand the trail system within North Century Park through or around White Deer Golf Course to Lake Charles Park. Cooperative ventures with the Village might link parks on Village property between Century Park and Lake Charles Park.

The third item identified in the Community Input Survey was how parking areas in some locations are a concern. The concern expressed was twofold - first, the quantity of spaces available and second, the convenience of those spaces. One option would be to look at adding smaller lots off the street, or work with the Village to provide more on street parking. This item needs to be delineated further in the Park by Park Analysis of this Master Plan.

The fourth item is to add additional drinking fountains in Parks.

V. PARK BY PARK FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

CENTURY PARK:

Century Park is the most heavily used park in the District and, as such, has seen much wear and is in need of numerous renovations. The range of renovations cover vehicular access and parking, erosion control, shoreline stabilization, fishing opportunities and a new pier, a winter recreational area with sledding and ice skating, a landscape master plan for re-forestation and a water aeration system are many of the items that need to be planned within the park. Below is a listing of the recommended park projects that should be included in the Century Park Master Plan:

- All three roadway entries should be reviewed to accommodate vehicular and bicycle/pedestrian access safely.
- Develop terraced retaining walls at each of the three bridges to minimize shoreline erosion and add aesthetic beauty to this central focal area of the park.
- Prepare an overall plan for the entire shoreline stabilization, incorporating a variety of measures including, but not limited to, sheet piling, bio-log wetland plantings in less steep areas, and erosion matting as options to consider.
- Develop an overall landscape master plan that addresses a long term plan for aesthetic landscape planting enhancements, reforesting the park, shoreline stabilization planting approach, and turf renovation where appropriate.
- Implement the aeration systems within the lake to maintain higher water quality for fish life within the lakes.
- Plan for fishing opportunities throughout the property by developing “fishing outcroppings” with large ledge rock style boulders or small piers along the edge of the lake.

FAMILY AQUATIC FACILITY:

- Plan to provide large scale additions to the facility. The first and most sought is the installation of a deep diving well for a 1-meter diving board and drop slides for the public. This is a separate stand-

alone facility with pool decking around it and at least one drop slide with one 1-meter diving board.

- The second addition for the Aquatic Facility is the installation of and operation of an interactive water spray ground within the site of the pool. This would be a varied type of facility that would include in-ground water geysers, controllable spray features and interactive features for kids to play in.

ASPEN SITE SOUTH:

The existing land south of the Aquatic Facility offers the opportunity for development of recreational opportunities that should be explored and planned. With the Hawthorn Schools Campus across the street, additional open field space has been requested. This area of land could also offer walking/jogging/biking trail connections that would support children going to school and further connect the Aquatic Facility and Augusta Park to the surrounding neighborhood. The options are endless as to what we can do with this site.

GARVANIAN PARK LANDSCAPE PLAN:

Once the IDOT roadway engineering plans have been completed for the widening of Route 45, plan to develop a walking/jogging/bicycle path connection through the southern part of Garvanian Park that connects to the walkway along Route 45 to the train station. This area could have an extensive landscape developed with ornamental plantings that would be visible by the thousands of cars that pass this site each day on Route 45 while providing a valuable connection from this neighborhood to the train station, Stone Fence Farms Park, Sullivan Woods and other locations in southern Vernon Hills.

LIGHTED WALKING PATHS:

The Resident Input Survey showed that walking/jogging/biking was the most popular activity within the District, and is consistent with national trends. The opportunity to extend the ability for this recreational activity would be greatest realized through the addition of pathway lighting along many of the existing and proposed walkways throughout the District. The Park District should plan to add lighting Grosse Pointe Park, Hartmann

Park, Stone Fence Farm Park, Hawthorn Club Park, Sullivan Woods and Lake Charles Park.

REMAINING PARKS

The following parks have been fully developed and did not have additional or new facilities proposed from the development of the Master Plan. These parks should maintain regularly scheduled upkeep and care for the existing facilities within each park:

- Carriage Green Park
- Royal Oak Park
- Hartmann Park
- Aspen Backyard Park
- Kiddie Korral Park
- Hawthorn Club Park
- Sugar Creek Park
- Ranney Park
- Central Park
- Donnelley Park
- Stone Fence Farm Park
- Augusta Park
- Hawthorn Melody Park

Each of these parks should continue to have the high quality maintenance and care which has been demonstrated through the past years, and was heavily complimented in the Resident Input Survey.

VI. PARK DISTRICT PRIORITIES

A. PARK DISTRICT 2010 PRIORITIES

1. Continuing projects from the 2009 priorities include adding a pond aerator to another lake, continuing the shoreline stabilization within Century Park, adding shade shelters to additional parks, installing aesthetically appealing portable toilet enclosures to a park, continuing to enhance a baseball/softball game field, implementing the annual landscape master plan planting to Century Park, and maintaining and upgrading the interior of the Laschen Center.
2. Work with the School District to renovate the Aspen Property south of the Family Aquatic Facility. This includes some brush removal and clearing, grading and installing a walking trail connection from the Aspen Street sidewalk to Augusta Park.
3. Initiate Ash Borer treatments on diseased trees.
4. Implement a wetland delineation program for Century Park.
5. Install new fencing/dugouts at Century Park ball fields.
6. Initiate new community garden in Century Park.

B. Park District 2011 Priorities

1. Vernon Hills High School turf installation intergovernmental agreement. Vernon Hills Park District donates \$100,000 for use of the field for 10 years.
2. Playground installation scheduled for Sullivan Center and Aspen Backyard Park.
3. Initiate agreement with Lake County Public Works for underground sewer improvements in Garvanian and Deerpath parks.
4. Complete final phase of Century Park North grant project.

C. Park District 2012 Priorities

1. Implement ADA Standards developed with assistance of Park Staff and architectural recommendations.
2. Formulate design implementation phase of the new Park Maintenance Facility.
3. Begin construction of new Park Maintenance Facility
4. Acquisition of Lakeview Fitness Center in late 2012. Purchase all nine (9) acres of property in cooperation with the Village of Vernon Hills.

D. Park District 2013 Priorities

1. Commence Sullivan Community Center/ Aspen site for future improvements with School District #73 and Vernon Hills Library.
2. Tennis court improvements at Peterson Park are a necessity, with construction to commence in fall of 2013, and completion in spring 2014.
3. Parking lot improvements at Lakeview Fitness Center to include light inventory and resurfacing. Additional parking needs will be looked into.
4. Inventory all pathway lighting in all parks.

E. Park District 2014-2015 Priorities

1. Deerpath Park Master Plan
 - i. Renovation of Kids Castle playground.
 - ii. Renovation of tennis courts.
 - iii. Renovation of ball fields to include backstops, player benches and covered dugouts.
 - iv. Research and implement potential fishing pier in one of the bodies of water.
 - v. Repair and sealcoat bicycle and walking paths.

F. Park District 2016-2017 Priorities

1. Grosse Pointe Park
 - i. Renovation of playground.
 - ii. Renovation of ball fields to include backstops, player benches and covered dugouts.
 - iii. Retaining wall renovation.
 - iv. Basketball and tennis court renovation.
 - v. Repair and sealcoat bicycle and walking paths.

**VERNON HILLS PARK DISTRICT
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013-2017**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Park Maintenance Facility	2,500,000				
Trucks/Tractors/Equipment	120,000	108,000	98,000	160,000	94,000
Warrington Playground (5-12 year old playground)	80,000				
Stone Fence Playground		60,000			
FAC Leisure Pool Sand Blast	20,000				
FAC Storage Locker Renovation				14,000	
Peterson Tennis Courts	150,000				
Ball Field Backstops Deerpath 1 & 2			80,000		
FAC Lazy River Sand Blast & Re-paint		100,000			
Grosse Pointe Playground		70,000			
Century Park (Northeast Playground)		90,000			
Augusta Playground		30,000			
Deerpath Tennis Courts			225,000		
Peterson Playground			150,000		
Garvanian Park Tennis Courts Re-surface				80,000	
Hawthorn Club Playground				80,000	
Garvanian Park Playground				100,000	
Warrington Playground (ages 2-5)					50,000
Kiddie Korral					25,000
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>2,870,000</u>	<u>458,000</u>	<u>553,000</u>	<u>434,000</u>	<u>169,000</u>

**LAKEVIEW FITNESS CENTER
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013-2017**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Roof Replacement	158,000				
LFC Structural	183,000				
Steam room, whirlpool, swimming pool - tile & grout	70,000				
Locker replacement - Phase I	30,000				
Vehicle transition to van	6,000				
Parking lot re-surface and striping	10,000				
Storage shed	2,000				
Unilift	6,000				
Locker replacement - Phase II		30,000			
RTU (3 replacements)		40,000	40,000		
New equipment (bikes & treadmills)			30,000		
 Sub Total	 465,000				
 **Lobby renovation, fitness room, baby sitting area, and aerobics dance room remodel	 500,000				
 <u>TOTALS</u>	 <u>965,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>		

VII. FINANCIAL PLAN

As with the District's 2005 Park and Recreation Master Plan, paying for the planned capital improvement priorities eventually must be discussed. Funding for the projects is an integral part of the process because in many instances, the availability of funds is the single most important factor in determining the priorities. The Board was relatively successful in gathering funds from a variety of sources in order to achieve the capital improvement objectives in its 2005 Master Plan. Each of those sources will be further explored in this Plan as well.

Potential sources of funds are identified as follows:

1. Non-Referendum Bonding Authority. Funding for the Sullivan Community Center and Family Aquatic Center in the early 1990's was derived from this source. While State law no longer permits this type of bonding authority and is not expected to permit it any time in the near future, the law does permit the Park Board to retain the same level of debt that it had at the time the law changed. In 2013 the Park District issued \$4,000,000.00 in General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternative Revenue Source) that will expire in late 2022. At that time, the District can again consider extending its indebtedness through non-referendum bonds in an amount estimated to be \$8,225,383.00
2. Referendum Bonding Authority. The Board has always had the authority to ask its residents, via referendum, for the authority to issue bonds for specific capital improvement reasons. To date, the Board, for various reasons has chosen not to do so. Due to the continual growth of Vernon Hills since the 80's, school district referenda have inundated residents with tax burden. Although there is no Village of Vernon Hills property tax per se, property taxes, due mostly to educational costs, are high in Vernon Hills. The Board has historically believed that a Park District referendum, even for a popular and necessary project, would be adding additional tax burden in its residents and has elected not to do so. This source of funds always remains an option because of the potentially large

amount of funds possible to generate through this means, especially if the project is a high dollar cost project. At this time the amount of funds that would be available via referendum is up to \$37,249,913.00.

3. **Developer Impact Fees.** The Village's Ordinance regarding developer impact fees for park improvements has been a good source of capital improvement funds in the past. As new residential construction within the Village boundaries nears completion and as available land is developed within the next one to three years, this source will decrease. The developing TIF District at the northwest corner of Routes 45 and 21 will contain a relatively large residential development when it is eventually developed, the amount of income from this source and the expected timeframe for receipt for this income is \$331,880.00. There are a few possibilities of future residential developments within Vernon Hills, most notably at the northeast corner of Routes 60 and 21 and along the east side of the Route 21 corridor, although there are no definite plans approved at this time. The Village of Vernon Hills has begun a new development "The Oaks" on Rt. 45 (Kelly's Camp), which will provide significant impact fees to the district to include \$1,200,000.00.
4. **Grants.** The District used grants successfully during the execution of its 1999-2004 capital improvement program. Four Department of Natural Resources Open Space and Land Development Program grants were received during this period totaling more than one million dollars. Grants were also received from the State via local legislators and the Illinois EPA. These sources of funds will be explored again, as well as new sources, to help fund qualifying projects. An OSLAD grant of \$400,000.00 was received in 2010 for the development of Century Park North.
5. **Annual Operating Budget.** It remains possible to fund some of the District's smaller capital improvement projects through its annual operating budget. This is not a large source for funds, due to the limits placed on tax levy rates by the State imposed Tax Cap, but it is a steady source for approximately \$350,000 per year. The Funds that can potentially contribute toward capital improvements are the

Corporate Fund, Recreation Fund, Paving & Lighting Fund, and the Special Recreation Fund (for accessibility improvements).

6. Partnerships. Partnerships between the Park District, the Village and District 73 have existed in one way, shape or form, since the creation of the Park District in 1973. The most notable partnership of course, has existed between the Park District and the Village, where many projects have been cooperatively completed with both party's commitment and involvement. Most recently, examples of partnering are the Intergovernmental Agreement involving the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex, Lakeview Fitness Center and the Park District's use of the old Village Hall. Opportunities for additional partnering in the future are limited only by each Board's creativity, resolve and willingness to work together. The Park District and the Village share the same constituents.

Mutually beneficial partnerships continue to be explored with District 73. Some minor success in partnering with local businesses has been achieved and it is greatly appreciated. However, it has mostly been in the form of commercial sponsorship of the District's special events and has not been at the capital improvement scope in dollar value. Opportunities in this area will continue to be explored.

As Park District needs change or as emergencies and/or opportunities may arise, in addition to this "Five Year" plan, each February/March the Park Board meets to review the capital improvement plan and re-establish yearly priorities as necessary, depending on the needs of the District, residents expressed needs and available resources to do the job. The projected schedule for completion may be accelerated or modified as needed.