



2022-2032 Comprehensive Master Plan



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Park District of La Grange

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the many citizens, stakeholders, District staff, Board of Commissioners, and community groups who provided extensive community input and insight by their participation in various engagement methods throughout the planning process in the development of this Comprehensive Master Plan. The efforts of this community will continue to ensure the success of the Park District of La Grange.

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Executive Summary

The Park District of La Grange (PDLG) provides a comprehensive system of public parks, activity buildings (including a 125,000 square foot recreation center), and recreation amenities that greatly contribute to the quality of life for residents and visitors of the Village of La Grange, Illinois. The PDLG prides itself on providing diverse and affordable recreation opportunities of people of all ages, interests, and abilities. To plan for the future of this valuable system, the Park District commissioned a planning team to develop this Comprehensive Master Plan to:

- Identify the values of the community
- Provide a community-driven vision for parks, open spaces, and facilities
- Provide strategies for the planning, development, and administration of parks and recreation programming for the District

The Comprehensive Master Plan process began in the spring of 2021 under the guidance of the original Planning Team of Planning Resources Inc., TRIA Architecture, Readex Research Inc., and Executive Decisions Inc. These consultants completed the initial outdoor park assessments, facility studies, recreation and programming analysis and assessments, and community surveys and compiled the results of each of these assessments into preliminary draft reports. In the summer of 2022, Hitchcock Design Group was brought onto the project to supplement the information gathered in the initial assessments and assemble the final report. This collective group of consultant is referred to as The Planning Team.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in over 2.5 million confirmed cases and over 32,000 deaths and climbing within the State of Illinois as of January 13, 2022. During the lockdown and restrictions placed on public activities and gatherings, public parks and open spaces have become a valuable resource for individuals' psychological, physical, social, and spiritual wellness as residents continue navigating through the Coronavirus pandemic. Nation-wide trends indicate that park visitation has increased since March 2020 compared to visitor numbers prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and can be correlated to the restrictions on social gatherings and closure of work-place, commercial, and recreation indoor facilities. These circumstances have led to increased demand from residents for parks and open spaces and highlighted the important role and benefits that parks and open spaces provide.

While the pandemic did not impact the results and recommendations of this Master Plan directly, some affects of the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to be seen

long-term within the PDLG and other parks and recreation systems across the country. Communities like La Grange residents have developed a newfound appreciation for the outdoors while recreation agencies have faced new challenges including increased maintenance requirements and financial hardship due to the economic down-turn. The community engagement process was also changed by the pandemic, with participation in virtual engagement sessions held during the planning phase drawing higher resident participation compared to traditional, in-person engagement meetings. Residents were also given the opportunity to participate in the planning process through the statistically valid survey which collected input from non-park users and PDLG residents without internet access in addition to regular Park District participants.

The park design and recreation system strategies outlined in this Comprehensive Master Plan Report illustrate the core challenges of healthy community planning as it relates to parks, open spaces, facilities, and programming. The pandemic has further emphasized the importance of reevaluation of priorities and strategies to provide equitable recreation resources to the La Grange community while weathering major local, state, national, and global events.

The following is an overview of the contents of this Comprehensive Master Plan:

Introduction:

The Park District of La Grange has a rich history of community, culture, and tradition. The Park District’s mission and history are significant for planning for the future, since they are the underlying principles that help shape the District and the community it serves. In addition to identifying the Planning Team and their roles in the planning process, this chapter presents a brief overview of the history of the Park District of La Grange and its context to the Village of La Grange and highlights key events during the Village’s celebrated history. This chapter also includes a brief description of the planning process undertaken in the development of this plan.

Chapter 1 - What We Have Now:

This chapter provides the community context necessary to understand the current Park District of La Grange conditions. To help the Park District better satisfy the current and future demands of the community, this chapter presents a detailed study of the Park District of La Grange population, age distribution, ethnicity, languages spoken, educational attainment, household income, and poverty to identify the community’s requirements of existing and future park facilities and services.

This chapter also includes a comparison of the Park District of La Grange to other park and recreation agencies within the region, providing a comparison of the common elements found within parks. A comparative analysis of the Park District to other local park districts and to national park and recreation agencies or other park and recreation agencies in the midwest provides an understanding of the PDLG’s performance in park organization, programming, services, amenities, and facilities within the industry in order to identify potential needs and deficiencies.

Chapter 1 also presents an explanation of park evaluation criteria and assessments of each individual park location based on on-site observation and Park District staff insight. Each park assessment includes a 2021 Google aerial image of the property, a general description of the site, an assessment of the current conditions, an evaluation of the amenities and features located in the park, 2021 photos of the park, and a summary of the recommended improvements. A similar assessment of the six PDLG facilities is also included. Each facility assessment includes general building information and observations, an assessment of condition, 2021 photos of the facility, and a summary of the recommended improvements.

The final section of Chapter 1 presents a review of the core programs offered by the Park District, including the program success, average class size, facility membership, and financial review.

Chapter 2 - Envisioning Our Future:

Community engagement is critical to developing a plan that reflects community goals and builds consensus among stakeholders and residents. The community visioning process included members of user groups, Park District residents, stakeholders, Park District staff, and Park District Board of Commissioners who participated in online, mail-out, and in-person visioning sessions throughout the process. This chapter describes the methodology of the various engagement methods and provides the analyzed findings.

Chapter 3 - Rediscover the Fun:

Chapter 3 provides the roadmap for the future of the PDLG including the needs identified in the inventory and analysis and community engagement exercises regarding the Park District’s parks and open spaces, open space standards, facilities, programs, operations, and maintenance. This chapter details possible goals and strategies that may be implemented to meet these recreation needs and aims to provide residents with a more efficient, relevant, and safe parks and recreation system. The chapter concludes with a 10-year action plan and year-by-year calendar that documents the proposed timing and steps of each goal.

Chapter 4 - Appendix

The appendix contains sources and additional information utilized during the development of the Comprehensive Master Plan. The community-wide statistically valid survey and results are provided as a supplemental document.



Introduction

La Grange, Illinois provides vibrant park and recreation resources for its residents while the Park Board of Commissioners, and District staff continually seek to improve and increase available programs and facilities. This Comprehensive Master Plan is intended to provide a framework and suggested priority lists for the future direction of the Park District and to document the District's current condition and the opinions of residents on recreational and park activities.

It is the mission of the Park District of La Grange to provide quality recreation programs, facilities, and parks that enhance the health, happiness and quality of life of Park District residents and program participants.

In the fall of 2020, the Park District of La Grange recognized that it was necessary to update their 2011-2021 Comprehensive Master Plan and 2014 update in order to provide long-term direction for delivery of services and to sustainably meet community expectations. This document is a high-level strategic plan for park and recreation facilities within the PDLG from present to 2032.

The PDLG had undergone numerous changes since the adoption of the last comprehensive master plan document in 2014 and the timing of this 2022-2032 Comprehensive Master Plan benefits from five key factors:

1. Many of the recommendations of the previous 2011-2021 Master Plan have been implemented, and these investments and accomplishments have generated new opportunities.
2. Subtle demographic changes within the Village of La Grange's population require an adjustment of park services to meet a variety of new needs.
3. Community interest in new trends in outdoor recreation and sports has changed with time and available facility capabilities. Park programming and management of these programs and facilities needs to be adjusted to meet these interests and expectations.
4. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting closure of businesses and in-person programming brought increased visitation to the PDLG's parks. This change resulted in a renewed interest in outdoor recreation and the Park District as well as how Park District resources are distributed.

5. The PDLG suffered financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic which led to the cancellation of revenue-generating programs and events, decreasing user fees. As funding stabilizes, it is important to evaluate how operational changes have impacted District performance and examine alternatives and creative solutions for future operations.

About the Park District of La Grange

The Park District of La Grange was founded in 1929 with four park locations. In its 92 year history, the district has grown and evolved to continue to meet the changing recreation needs of its residents. The Park District currently maintains 66.7 acres of parkland at 13 locations. The Park District serves a three-square mile area that matches closely with the boundary of the Village of La Grange and includes a section of unincorporated Cook County to the southwest.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide quality recreation programs, facilities, and parks that enhance the health, happiness, and quality of life of Park District residents and program participants.

Organizational Structure

The Park District Board of Commissioners consists of five officials elected by the residents to serve a 4-year term. The Board are the primary decision-makers for the Park District and are led by the Park Board President and Vice President who are elected internally by the Board on an annual basis. The Park Board evaluates and selects the Executive Director for the District in addition to appointing the District treasurer, secretary, legal counsel, and District representative to the SEASPAR board. The Park District employs over 80 full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff who are lead by the Executive Director

Existing Conditions/Natural Features

Land Use

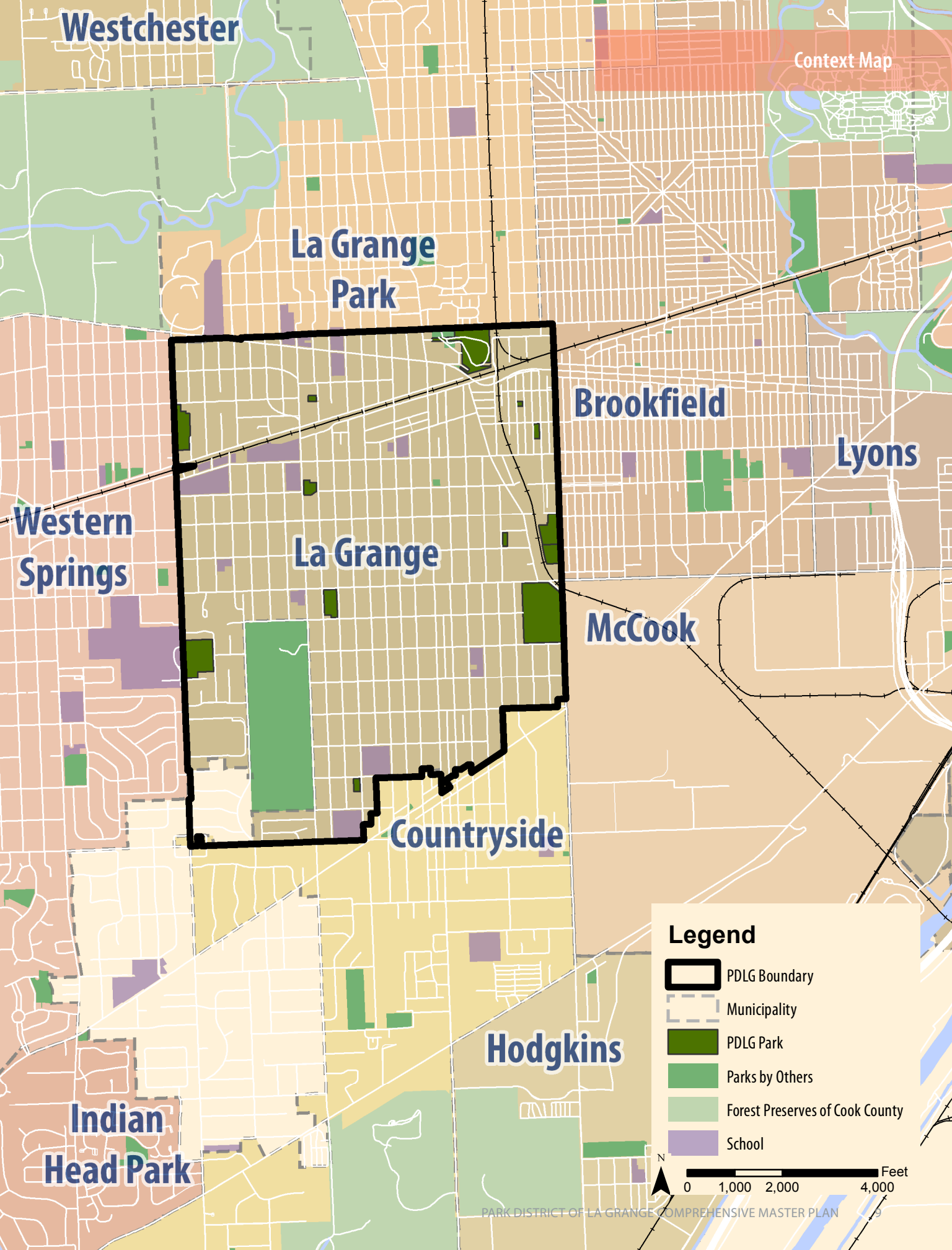
The majority of the Park District of La Grange land uses are single or multi-family residential. The east side of the Village along the CSX/ Indiana Harbor Belt railroad includes light industrial and multi-family. The commercial district is located along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail line and along La Grange Road. Multiple school and institutional uses are located throughout the District.

Public Open Space

The Park District is one of the main providers of open space in the area. Residents also have access to a number of recreational opportunities surrounding La Grange including the Brookfield Zoo, Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve, Possum Hollow Woods, Bemis Woods, Sundown Meadow, and miles of bike trails through the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

About the Village of La Grange

The Village of La Grange was founded in 1879 and the population increased quickly as people learned what the Village of La Grange had to offer. At the time of the United States Census Bureau 2010 census, the Village had a total population of 15,545 and is located approximately 14 miles southwest of Chicago. The Village is about 2.52 square miles and is a land-locked community with limited opportunities to grow or expand geographically. It is surrounded by the neighboring communities of Countryside, McCook, Brookfield, La Grange Park, La Grange Highlands, and Western Springs.



Westchester

Context Map

La Grange Park

Brookfield

Lyons

Western Springs

La Grange







McCook

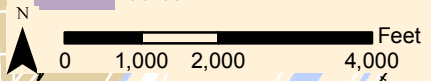
Countryside

Hodgkins

Indian Head Park

Legend

-  PDLG Boundary
-  Municipality
-  PDLG Park
-  Parks by Others
-  Forest Preserves of Cook County
-  School



Park District Time Line:

1920s:

- The Park District of La Grange is founded under commissioners E.E. Barrett, B.E. Gordon, Arthur B. Hall, W.E. Keller, and Charles L. Rice (1929)
- The first park parcels are purchased for Shawmut Park (currently Gordon Park), Eastview Park (currently Sedgwick Park), Waiola Park, and Gilbert Park (1929)

1950s:

- The District's name is changed from "La Grange Park District" to "Park District of La Grange"

1960s - 1970s:

- Eastview Park is renamed to Sedgwick Park after long-standing Commissioner/President Robert Sedgwick
- Shawmut Park is renamed as the Bert E. Gordon Park after one of the original commissioners
- Sawyer Park (now Rotary Centennial Park) becomes the Park District's fifth park
- The Park District purchases five acres along Gilbert Avenue from William S. Denning for \$200,000
- The Park District moves into its new headquarters at 4903 Gilbert Avenue (1979)

1990s:

- Denning Park is expanded
- Spring Avenue Tot Lot is purchased through referendum funding (1995)
- Elm Park opens (1997)

Early 2000s:

- Grant funding is awarded for the expansion of Denning Park
- Sedgwick Park and Gilbert Park tennis courts are repaired and resurfaced through referendum funding

2004:

- The Park District holds a Winterfest at Gilbert Park to commemorate its 75th Anniversary

2005:

- A referendum for the development of a new recreation center is passed

2006

- The Park District of La Grange Recreation Center opens
- The Chicago White Sox Academy announces it will be leasing space in the new recreation center
- A concession stand and ball field lights are installed at Sedgwick Park, donated by The La Grange Little League

2010:

- Lyons Township awards a grant for redevelopment at Denning Park for multi-use fields, new playgrounds, and updates to the entrance
- The State of Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation awards \$73,318 to the Park District to replace all the lighting fixtures in the Recreation Center with energy efficient fixtures

- The Neighborhood Network pricing plan is initiated to provide favorable nonresident pricing to residents of the communities adjacent to the Park District of La Grange

2011:

- An American with Disabilities Act (ADA) needs assessment is completed by Recreation Accessibility Consultants

2012:

- The Park District enters into an intergovernmental agreement with School District 102 to take over their Before & After School Program
- The Park District enters into an agreement with the City of Countryside in which residents of Countryside will receive resident rates for any of recreational programs in exchange for programming use of 22.5 acres of park land
- The District issues \$2,530,000 par value of General Obligation Park (Alternate Revenue Source) Bonds series 2012C to finance Phase I of the Gordon Park improvements with an OSLAD Grant from the State of Illinois

2013:

- Denning Park is reopened after renovations
- A community park watch initiative called "Be Our Eyes" begins after a fire destroyed the Elm Park playground

2014:

- A community garden is started in Denning Park
- The Before and After School Program is expanded to include an additional location for the students from the St. Francis Xavier School
- Gordon Park is reopened after renovations
- The Park District partners with the La Grange Business Association to run the La Grange Endless Summerfest special event
- The entire Recreation Center is used to host Project C.U.R.E. a not-for-profit organization of medical professionals dedicated to providing medical screenings, dental, and vision services to the less fortunate in the community
- The State of Illinois awards the Park District a PARC Grant for the construction of a fitness center inside the Recreation Center

2015:

- The entire Recreation Center is used to host Project C.U.R.E. for two days, during which services were provided to over 750 individuals needing care.
- The Park District Community Center is used to host the Greater Chicago Food Depository to provide fresh fruits and vegetables
- The walking pathway at Waiola Park is replaced to meet ADA standards

2017:

- The Park District's new fitness center, La Grange Fitness Center, opens
- A playground is installed at Meadowbrook Manor



2018:

- The sale of 2.82 acres in Gordon Park to Pathway Senior Living is completed

2019

- Gilbert pathway is replaced
- Part of the roof is repaired and the front doors and three office windows are replaced at the Recreation Center
- Sedgwick tennis courts are resurfaced via overlay, and Sedgwick 47th St. parking lot is replaced

2020:

- Community Center roof is replaced
- All Park District operations are shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 18th
- Some Park District operations are reopened with limited occupancy in July

2021

- The Park District purchases about 3 acres of land adjacent to the Recreation Center with the intention of using the property for parking

The Planning Context

Purpose of this Plan

The Park District of La Grange engaged the Planning Team to develop its 2022-2032 Comprehensive Master Plan to provide direction for future action based on shared values with community, agency staff and elected officials. This plan identifies and defines the capital improvements and goals for the Park District to complete over the next ten years while achieving the following objectives:

- Provide guidance in developing policy, establishing, or changing programs and services, setting the budget and creating park and facility improvements over the next decade.
- Serve as a tool for communicating to our staff, commissioners, and the general public about what we do and value.
- Build on what works now while identifying gaps in programs, services and strategies we need to fill in the next decade. This plan focuses on the park system, not specific recommendations for individual parks.
- Build from past master plans, existing policies, activity plans, strategic directions and the community input gained during the next six months of engagement across the system, all of which incorporate more specific recommendations.

The Park District of La Grange maintains and updates its District-wide comprehensive plans to provide a long-range planning tool for best management practices in maintaining and enhancing the District's parks and public recreation opportunities for the benefit of residents and visitors over a multi-year planning period. This planning process is the latest update in the District's long-range planning efforts and incorporates extensive public input, stakeholder and focus group interaction, detailed inventory, and analysis of existing recreation programs and assets to create a road map for success.

The Master Plan provides direction on park programs, facility maintenance, general capital improvements, park amenities, parkland redevelopment, budgets, and funding opportunities while building on the Park District's rich history of service to the community.

Many conditions have changed since the previous Comprehensive Master Plan and subsequent update were adopted in 2011 and 2014. While not a dramatic change, the Village of La Grange's and Park District of La Grange's demographics have experienced small

shifts in total population, average resident age, and diversity which impact the value placed on and demand for recreation options. More dramatically, the nationwide "Stay-at-Home" order restricting movement and social gathering, and the closure of entertainment venues, forced PDLG Park Board, staff, and community residents to recognize the positive impact their local parks, open spaces, and recreation services have on the community's quality of life. In La Grange's densely developed "built-out" landscape, the PDLG's parks supply much-needed opportunities for residents to play outdoors, participate in fitness, leisure, and wellness activities, be social, and enjoy a small break from the built environment.

Key Issues

Key issues were identified using several tools, including a review of existing plans and documents, focus groups, open house presentations, a community survey, and inventory and level of service analysis. The information gathered was evaluated, and recommendations were developed that address these key issues:

- Continue to maintain and improve existing parks, facilities, and amenities
- Make improvements to or replace some existing facilities and amenities
- Continue to improve programming and service delivery
- Continue to increase marketing, branding, and awareness
- Pursue additional funding sources and opportunities

Methodology of the Planning Process

The process guiding the development of this Master Plan included the formation of an integrated project team comprised of staff and Park Board members, a review of institutional history, analysis of existing conditions, and engagement with members of the PDLG community. The development of this plan included the following key tasks:

Data Gathering and Review

The data gathering and review task consisted of reviewing and integrating relevant data from PDLG practices, past planning initiatives, and from other active community initiatives to provide background information and supporting context to ensure that this Comprehensive Master Plan aligns with the community's history and needs. The following documents were consulted during the data gathering and review task:

- Park District of La Grange: 2011-2021 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- Park District of La Grange, Illinois Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY2020
- Capital Budget Replacement Plan 2015 – 2027
- General, Recreation, and Special Fund Operation Budget Fiscal Year 2021/2022
- Program Guides
- Village of La Grange's Comprehensive Plan / Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Corridor Plan

Existing Parks & Facility Inventory

This inventory consisted of a detailed comprehensive assessment of each of the District's services including parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities to determine current conditions, use patterns, environmental issues, and economic impacts of these locations.

Level of Service Analysis

The Level of Service Analysis task included the evaluation of the District's recreation components relative to the quantity/size of the amenity per population, quantified the population served by various District amenities, and compared PDLG services provided to those offered by other similar agencies.

Community Engagement

The Public Involvement Phase task consisted of an in-depth, open, and resident-focused community process in which Park Board members, District staff, user groups, associations, and other stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide their assessments and expectations of District offerings.

Community members participated in the following engagement opportunities:

- "Meet the Planners" - informal Master Plan introduction
- Focus Groups/Stakeholder meetings
- Community-wide Open House/Public Workshop meetings
- Statistically valid community interest and opinion survey
- Open link survey
- Over-the-counter survey

Financial and Program Analysis

This task focused on then Park District's non-physical assets in its operations, programming, and finances while relating this data back to the information collected in earlier tasks to determine what is working well, identify opportunities for improvements, and determine what additional support services or tangible resources may be needed to continue to offer and improve these components.

Needs Assessment

The Planning Team utilized the results of the previous tasks to identify and prioritize the major recreation needs of the PDLG community. During this task, the Planning Team consulted with District Staff and Park Board members to ensure each need accurately reflects community desires, aligns with the District's mission and vision, and is feasible to achieve within the 10-year timeframe of the Comprehensive Master Plan.

Recommendations: Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

The final task of the Comprehensive Master Plan focused on the future of the Park District by organizing the identified needs into a series of goals and recommendations for enhancing PDLG's parks and recreation amenities. These recommendations describe ways to enhance recreation level of service and resident quality of life through organizational efficiencies, financial opportunities, improved programming, service delivery, and improvements to facilities and amenities. Each goal and its corresponding objectives is prioritized into the Action Plan which shows the proposed sequence to accomplish each goal including its operational impacts and estimated time frame.





Chapter 1: What We Have Now

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Summary

The demographics and recreational trends analysis provides a thorough understanding of the population and cultural makeup of residents within the District to determine the size and density of the various population groups within the Park District and to estimate the future size and relevant characteristics for the purpose of assessing future needs and preferences.

The demographic analysis is reflective of the Park District of La Grange's total population and its key characteristics such as age segments, race, ethnicity, income levels, and gender.

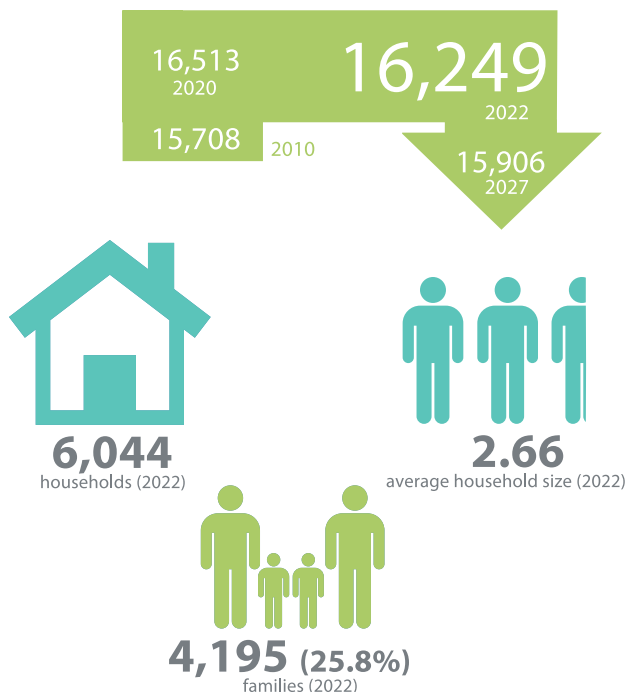
Methodology

The demographics review utilized the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Business Analyst Online (BAO) software to gather up-to-date demographic data necessary to gain an understanding of the Park District of La Grange and its context. This software utilizes data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 census applied to the PDLG boundary. In addition to actual census results, accurate to the nearest census block, ESRI provides annual adjustments in years when the US Census is not completed, projections of anticipated demographic changes, and market trend summary. The data included in the analysis was acquired in July 2022 and reflects actual numbers as reported in the 2020 and 2010 Censuses as well as estimates for 2022 and 2027.

For comparison purposes, demographics data was also collected for the Village of La Grange. This data was also provided by ESRI and included information from the American Community Survey Data (ACS), an ongoing survey that provides vital information every year about the United States and its people. Information for the Village of La Grange was collected in June 2021 and did not include the updated 2020 US Census results.

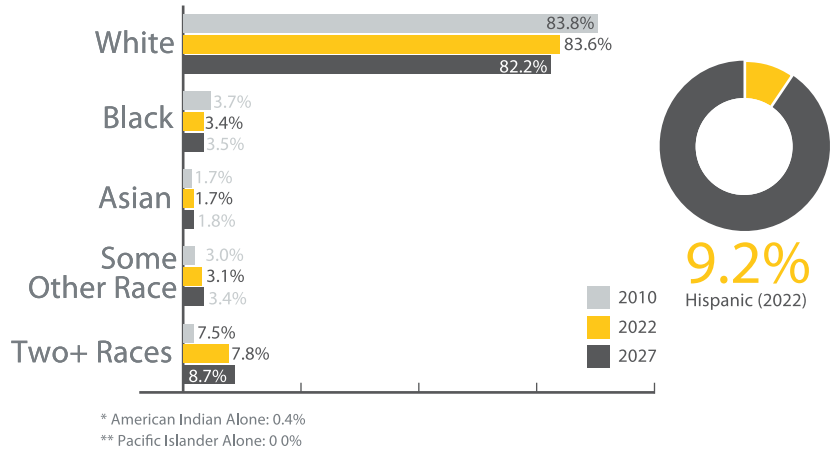
Population

In 2020, the state of Illinois lost approximately 80,000 residents according to the U.S. Census Bureau. However, the Chicago region, which encompasses the Park District of La Grange, has retained a stable population. According to 2020 Census results and projections, the Park District of La Grange has an estimated population of 16,249 residents. This is a slight decrease from the recorded 16,513 population in 2020 and it is projected that minor population loss will continue in the next five years, returning to the PDLG population to comparable levels as recorded in 2010.



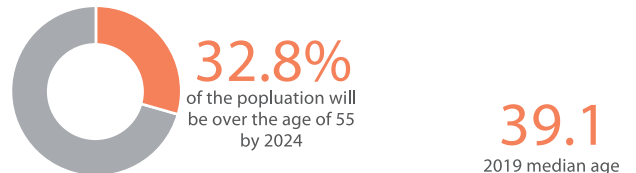
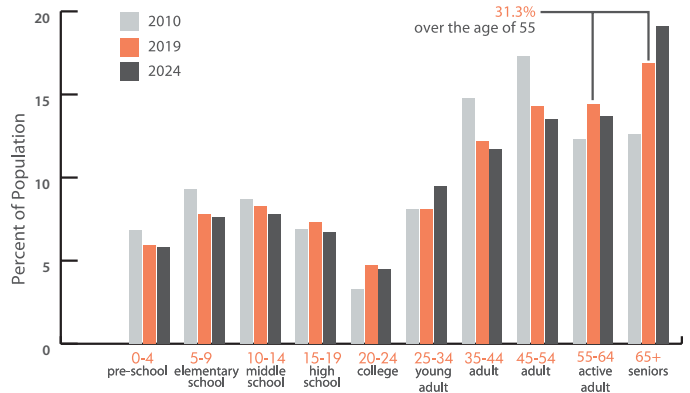
Race and Ethnicity

The PDLG has a diversity index of 41 with a majority “white” population of (83.6%) followed by “two + races” (7.8%), then “black” (3.4%), “some other race” (3.1%), and “asian” (1.7%). The Park District population is also expected to grow more diverse as the populations in all categories except for “white are projected to grow. In addition, 9.2% of the population identifies their race as hispanic, this population is anticipated to continue growing at a faster rate than any of the races recorded in the US Census. These trends align with the 2050 population projections according to the Pew Research Group.



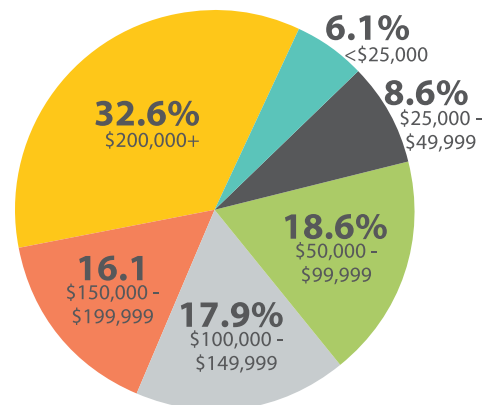
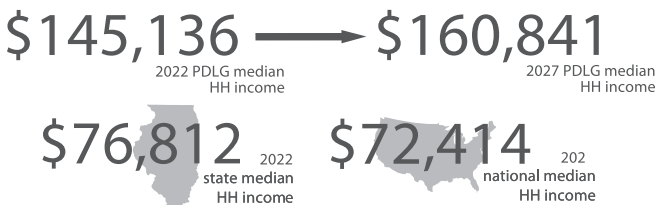
Age Segments

Evaluating the PDLG by age segments, a significant segment of the population is aging with over 30% of the population age 55 or older and the largest increases are occurring in the 65+ range. The only other age category that is growing is the 20-24 age range and projections anticipate that these residents will remain in the Park District in the next five years as they age into the next 25-34 age range by 2027. Assessing the population as a whole, the PDLG is projected to continue its current aging trend. This is largely due to the increased life expectancies and the remainder of the Baby Boomer generation shifting into the senior age groups. Additionally, more opportunities for residents to “age-in-place” due to the rise of age-restricted and senior living communities may be making aging-in-place in the Park District more appealing.



Income & Employment

The Park District of La Grange median household income has been trending upward since 2010 and the median household income of \$145,136 is well above the state median income (\$76,812) and national median income (\$72,414).



While many residents of the PDLG are considered affluent, about 6% of the population is living below the poverty line as defined by Illinois Legal Aid as a household that makes less than \$25,000 per year.

Employment

The Park District of La Grange has seen an increase in employment and a decrease in unemployment in the last ten years. Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to shifts in household income, employment, and poverty levels across the world, PDLG unemployment rate of 3.5% is better than the state rate of 4.6% and national rate of 4.1%.

According to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the Chicago region's unemployment rate in April 2020 reached 17.2%. The unemployment rate reflects individuals who are actively looking for work and does not include the approximately 49,000 people who left the workforce entirely since February 2020. Many left the workforce to provide child and family care, were forced to take furlough, or were unable to work because they were high-risk for illness.

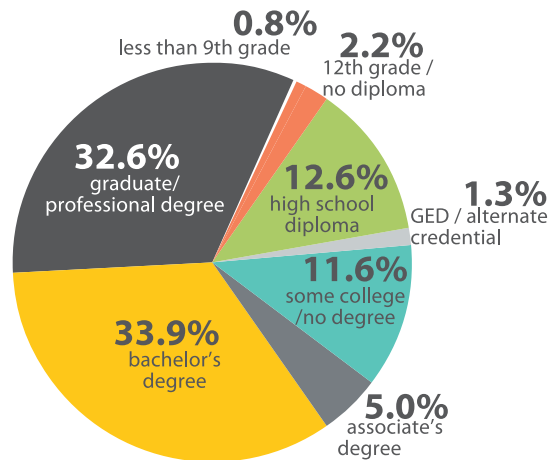


Education

PDLG residents are well educated with 97% of residents holding a high school diploma or higher and over 70% of residents holding a degree from a higher education institution such as a college or university in 2022.

97.0%
High School Diploma
or Higher

71.6%
Higher Education
Degree

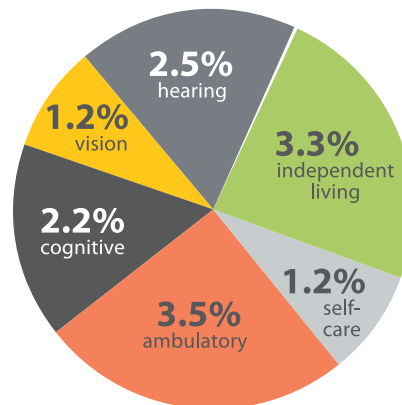


Disability

Of the 6,044 total households within the Park District of La Grange boundaries, 16.3% (988 households) include at least one member with a hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and/or independent living disability.

Studies of the types of disability and disability by age for the Village of La Grange indicate that the total percentage of the population with a disability has decreased since 2012, but disabilities have increased in the 65 year and over age cohort. The most common types of disabilities seen in the 2019 data include difficulty with independent living and ambulatory and cognitive disabilities.

13.9%
population with a
disability



16.3%
households with 1+
persons with a
disability(s) (2022)



LGBTQ+ Community:

Information on population identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community is not available for the Park District or Village but the U.S. Census records and Williams Institute studies estimate that as much of 8.9% of the State of Illinois population identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender. It can be assumed that the PDLG population is comprised of a similar percentage of individuals in these categories.

Key Findings:

- Diversity is increasing with the largest growth recorded in the Hispanic population
- The 65+ age segment is growing rapidly
- The median household income has grown since 2010 and remains above the state and national medians
- The unemployment rate is below state and national levels
- The majority of Park District residents are highly educated
- Over 15% of households include at least one resident living with a disability

RECREATION TRENDS

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2021-2025

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identifies the State's major outdoor recreation priorities and trends and provides statistics for available public recreation land and amenities available state-wide

The SCORP identified six priorities for Illinois through 2025:

- **Health and Wellness** – Provide, encourage, and promote opportunities for people to be physically active in parks, advance healthy lifestyles, and engage in physical fitness.
- **Access to Outdoor Recreation** – Expand opportunities on new lands and develop/revitalize facilities, including increasing access for people of all abilities and income levels.
- **Natural Resource Stewardship** – Respond to recreational needs and preferences by adapting and re-purposing lands for open space and parks ensuring resource conservation and protection.
- **Conservation Education** – Promote environmental ethics and provide resource education opportunities, engaging youth and adults in the outdoors.
- **Trails and Greenways** – Protect and/or develop linear green spaces in metropolitan and community areas for conservation and recreational purposes.
- **Cooperative Partnerships** – Coordinate to share costs and leverage additional funds to use grant money most effectively.

The Emerging Parks and Recreation Industry Trends In 2021 (and beyond)

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) predicts new trends for parks and recreation programming every year. However, due primarily to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic, there have been major changes in the recreation industry – land use patterns in our urban environments have created a renewed interest in parks, trails, and the walkable environment which is positive for park and recreation agencies. While NRPA predicts a number of trends, only those trends that are relevant to and feasible for the PDLG are included below:

- **Utilizing Parks and Recreation Spaces Everywhere:** Innovative locations for public parks are increasingly being proposed as agencies/authorities are converting available space in dense urban areas to parks and open spaces. As

a result, new types of spaces and new uses are emerging such as outdoor dining on urban streets, the conversion of streets to bike lanes and trails, and the installation of parklets in parking spaces and travel lanes. These creative solutions have opened new possibilities for urban parks and other locations where land availability for new development is limited, like the PDLG.

- **Health Equity and Social Services:** One of the strongest emerging trends for 2021 is the focus on health and health equity as parks and recreation play a greater role in supporting mental health and well-being. This movement toward health and well-being has been magnified by COVID-19 but is expected to continue well beyond the pandemic and intertwine with a greater focus on meeting the social needs of communities.
- **Technology in Parks and Recreation:** As cities and towns are becoming smarter, so are parks. Residents and park patrons are increasingly expecting access to Wi-Fi and charging stations in public spaces, and downloadable content such as augmented-reality walks, games, and exhibits. Likewise, leaders in parks and recreation systems are implementing new technologies such as automatic mowing equipment, self-maintained toilets, robotic cleaning systems, and semi-autonomous drones for various tasks.
- **Growth Of Esports:** As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, participation in many in-person and indoor sport programs were restricted as a safety precaution. During this time, esports have played a larger role in park and recreation establishments as esports can be conducted in parks, live on webcasts, and participated in remotely. Now, more agencies are considering team esports competitions as a viable programming sector and some are designing facilities with dedicated spaces for esports in parks across the country.
- **Re-imagining Parks and Recreation Offerings:** The world is moving, working, and surviving differently since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, a detailed report on Park and Recreation Trends for 2021 recorded several new additions to park programs that were not common in previous years. According to respondent answers documented in the report the top trends to look for by percent of responses are educational programs (62.2%), holiday and other special events (up to 81.6%), and adult sports teams (59.1%). These have replaced day camps and summer camps, arts and crafts programs, and performing arts programs in popularity.

A list of the ten top-most planned programs within the parks and recreation industry are listed below:

- Group exercise programs
- Teen programming
- Fitness programs
- Mind-body balance programs such as yoga
- Programs for active older adults
- Educational programs
- Environmental education programs
- Holidays and other special events
- Adult sports teams
- Special needs programs

Societal, Cultural, and Conditional Trends Affecting Parks and Recreation

Based on reports compiled by the IDNR and NRPA, demographic trends recorded by the U.S. Census, and the Planning Team's observations of the Chicagoland recreation market, there are several major societal, cultural, and conditional shifts affecting the future of parks and recreation.

- **The American Population:** America is a country of constant change and evolution, recent shifts in definitions of what constitutes a family, who works outside the home, how people identify themselves, and when they retire are just some factors that have come to the forefront of American life. Understanding these changes can create new challenges for park districts but also highlight new opportunities and market sectors for growth. Societal trends that affect the PDLG include the aging of the largest birth generation, the Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) into the active adult and senior age brackets, a shrinking middle-class, with more young people considering themselves lower or lower-middle class, and increasing diversity. Hispanics are the fastest growing minority in much of the country, and the X, Millennial/Y, and Z generations (born in the mid-1960s or later) are the most ethnically diverse in history. These generations also tend to be less involved in traditional social structures, such as church membership and political affiliation, relying instead on social media to create networks. To account for these shifts, park districts and recreation agencies are expanding their reach to include offerings for a greater range of ages, the use of social media for connecting to the general public, and taking steps to accommodate different ethnic populations and culture groups. This increase in inclusivity includes using methods such as diversity training for staff, incorporation of cultural materials into programs, and bilingual signage.
- **The Changing Family:** Due in part to the economic stresses facing families in America today, many adult children are staying at home longer and elderly parents are moving in with their children. Additionally, many young adults are waiting longer to marry and start families. There has also been an increase in the number of mothers choosing to stay at home and military personnel returning to civilian life. Pet ownership is also increasing. Park and recreation agencies have begun to focus on developing multi-generational and family options such as family membership deals, offering programs geared towards veterans and multi-generational participation, meeting the need for childcare, and considering the addition of off-leash pet areas within park sites to better appeal to these changes in family and household make-up.
- **Rising Crime:** People are less likely to visit parks if they do not feel safe while spending time there. In order to address real and perceived safety concerns, agencies are providing lighting in parks, the presence of uniformed park security, transportation, and are reviewing the safety of routes to and from parks and facilities.
- **Wellness:** Poorly managed diets, lifestyle choices, and metabolic risk factors are common concerns for the American public and can lead to long-term health risks and premature death. The availability of and access to parks, recreation facilities, and recreation programs may help to address these concerns by promoting an increase in physical activity and overall wellness. Park management can also improve individual behaviors such as alcohol use and tobacco smoking by offering substance-free parks and providing educational programs on substance dependency.
- **Childhood and Nature:** Preschool and school-age children are spending less time in recess and physical education classes, increasing the need to exercise independently. The increasing appeal and availability of video games, television, and other indoor activities have further reduced physical activity and decreased appreciation for nature. Therefore, park districts and recreation agencies should continue to focus on providing activities for children and families and suggests that children benefit from programs that introduce nature and elements of our outside world, in addition to athletic programs. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, park agencies should also consider offering programs to address the recreational needs of the growing number of home-schooled children and those who choose a remote form of education.

- **Fitness Equipment and Technology:** New ways to stay fit are being continuously developed and modifications to proven techniques and equipment emerge daily. The trend of office and workplace fitness is also growing through wellness programs, encouraging physical activity, and providing support and information on nutrition and tobacco use. Park district and recreation agencies might consider partnering with local businesses to design and implement professionally led quality wellness programs. They might also consider installing “free outdoor gyms”.

Technology is increasingly being incorporated into fitness in many ways: software is available to lead and guide workouts, personal devices now monitor and record heart rate and steps, virtual spaces facilitate participation from remote locations, and social media offers support and challenges from fellow participants and provides interactive communication within communities.

Because fitness trends are constantly changing, recreation agencies should balance offering trendy new programs with the continuation of popular programs that the community enjoys. Agencies can also boost their success by providing opportunities for community outreach and feedback by issuing online surveys and polling community members.

Trends Conclusion

Park and recreation agencies are continually faced with new challenges in meeting the needs of a changing society, but also have a wide range of research, techniques, and equipment to address those needs. An understanding of recreation trends as well as patterns of demographic change is important to the continued success of a park and recreation agency. Recreation programming and plans need to be comprehensive enough to address the multi-faceted challenges that communities face, while also focusing on the need to connect with diverse park users to ensure healthy, active communities.





BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS

The development of comparative benchmarking provides an understanding of how the Park District of La Grange compares to other park and recreation agencies in the area in meeting the needs of its residents.

The Park District of La Grange was benchmarked against five other Districts of comparable population and/or demographics located in established Chicagoland communities:

- Oak Brook Park District (OBPD)
- Westchester Park District (WPD)
- Community Park District of La Grange Park (CPDLGP)
- Burr Ridge Park District (BRPD)
- Elmhurst Park District (EPD)

Key benchmarking data for the PDLG and the five comparison communities includes:

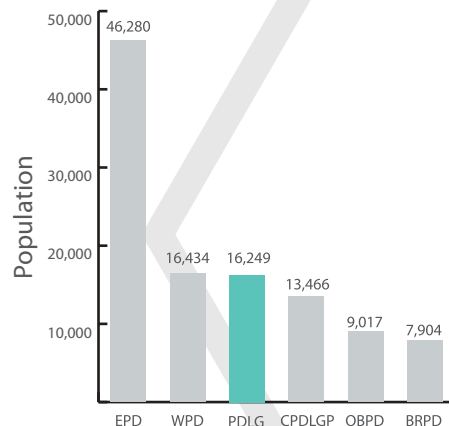
- Population
- Median household income
- Total number of parks/facilities
- Total park acres
- Acres per 1,000 residents
- Number of athletic fields
- Number of playgrounds
- Total expenditures
- Capital improvement expenditures
- Equalized assessed value

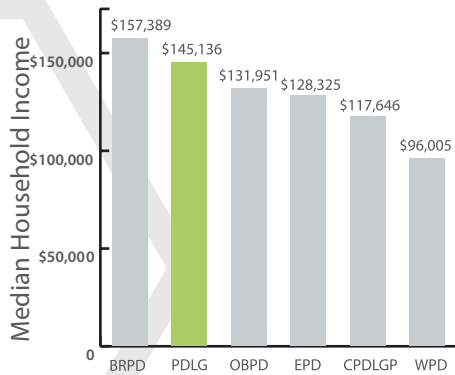
It should be noted that there may be some slight deviation in the information obtained from other park districts as some criteria definitions vary slightly between agencies. Agency information for these agencies is for the years 2020-2022 and was obtained through NRPA Park Metrics, ESRI, Cook and DuPage Counties records, the agencies' websites and the Planning Team's database.

Population Characteristics

Population

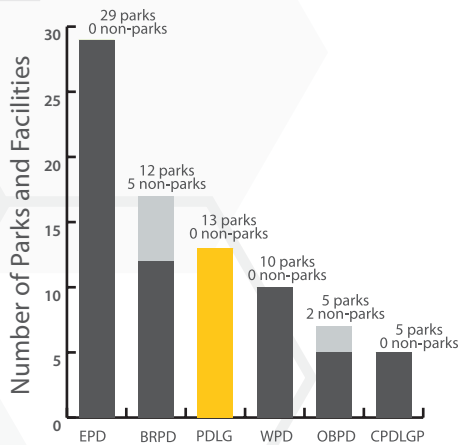
The five peer park districts range in population from 7,904 to 46,280 with an average of approximately 18,620. The Park District of La Grange is slightly below the average population of these agencies but still near the center of this range with a population at 15,545. Of those park districts included in the comparison, Westchester Park District and Community Park District have population numbers most similar to La Grange.





Median Household Income

The medium household income for the five peer park districts ranges from \$96,005 to \$157,389 and averages to \$126,263 per household. The Park District of La Grange has a median household income of \$145,136 which is higher than all but one of the peer districts

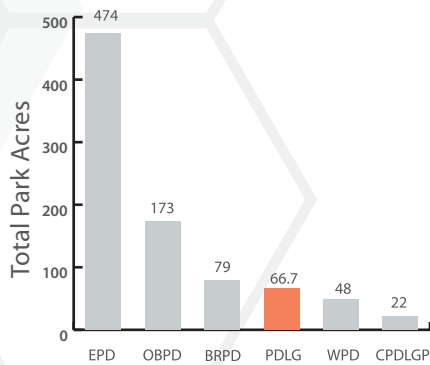


Parks and Amenities

Total Number of Parks and Facilities

The peer districts and PDLG provide recreation at two types of properties: parks and non-parks. Park locations are properties that offer outdoor recreation amenities and may or may not include facilities. These parks include both owned and leased properties. The number of parks offered ranges from 5 to 29 with an average of 12 parks/agency. The PDLG is in the center of this range, offering 13 parks.

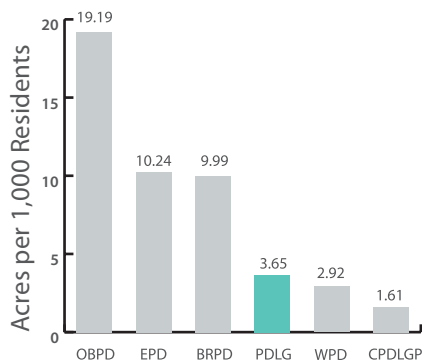
Non-park locations are facilities or other land uses that do not provide outdoor recreation or are specialty facilities that serve a dedicated, single-use purpose and/or require admission fees for access. Two of the peer districts provide non-park locations numbering between 2 - 5 per district. The PDLG does not provide any non-park sites.



The total of non-park and park locations provided by peer park districts ranges from 5 to 29 locations and averages to 14 locations per district. Once again, the PDLG is in the center of this range with 13 locations.

Total Park Acres

The total acres of land provided, including land that is owned and leased by the park districts ranges from about 22 acres to 474 acres. Compared to the other three agencies and PDLG, Elmhurst Park District and Oak Brook Park District are outliers in this range with extremely high acreage which drives the average acres up to 159 acres/park district. While the 66.7 acres offered by the PDLG is significantly lower than the average, it is close to the median of 79 acres/park district.



Acres per 1,000 Residents

Since the peer park districts vary in size, a comparison of parks and facilities on a per 1,000 population basis provides a more equitable comparison. When compared to the other cities based on population, Oak Brook Park District had the highest ratio of park acreage with a ratio of 19.19 acres per 1,000 residents. This number is bolstered by one very large community park complex and a relatively small population. Elmhurst Park District and Burr Ridge Park District have similar circumstances and therefore high acres/population.

Number of Athletic Fields

Athletic fields include t-ball, baseball, softball, football/rugby, lacrosse, soccer, and multi-purpose fields. The Park District of La Grange offers a comparable number of athletic fields to the peer park districts with the exception of Elmhurst Park District which offers significantly more fields than the other agencies in this comparison.



Number of Playgrounds

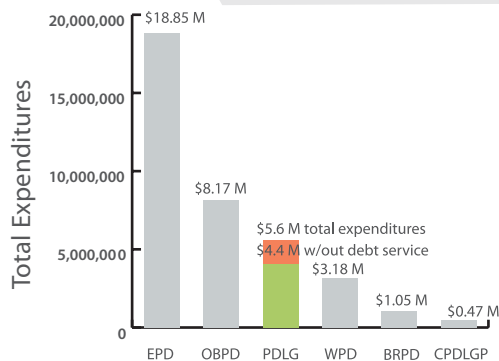
The number of playgrounds offered is more balanced across the five peer park districts and the Park District of La Grange. The PDLG offers exactly the average number of playgrounds as the peer agencies, 11 playgrounds.



Operations and Finances

Total Expenditures

Total expenditures are the sum total of an agency’s spending in one fiscal year. These expenditures for the PDLG include wages and salaries, employee benefits, professional services, office operations, building and grounds, promotion and publicity, and capital improvements. Generally, the agencies with the most acreage and greatest number of amenities has the most expenses. The average PDLG expenditures from 2013-2022 are \$5.6 million with debt service and \$4.4 million without debt service. Compared to the peer park districts, the PDLG is slightly below the average of \$6.35 million.

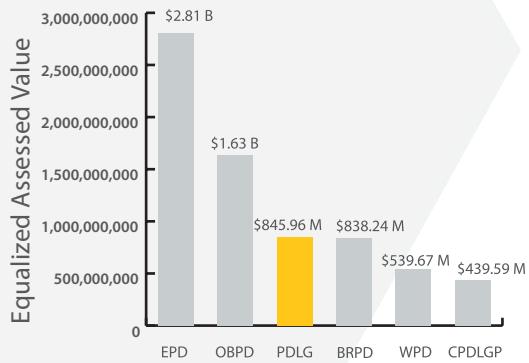


Capital Improvements Expenditures

Capital improvements are defined as costs related to making changes to improve capital assets, increase their useful life, or add to the value of these assets. The capital expenditures of the peer park districts range from \$489,700 to \$3.22 million, averaging about \$1.45 million. In 2021, the PDLG spent \$829,224 for capital projects, well below the average of the peer agencies, but above the median of \$575,438. It should be noted that this spending may vary greatly from year to year due to unique instances such as the purchase of property or the development of new locations/amenities. Similarly, unique revenue sources such as the sale of property or receipt of grant funding may allow the District to invest more capital in some years.



Comparing the total expenditures for each agency and the percent of dollars used towards capital improvements, the Park District of La Grange percentage of 13% is the lowest, with the other five park districts averaging 30%.



Equalized Assessed Value

Equalized assessed value (EAV) is the total value of each park district's land and improvements factored against the state of Illinois equalization factor. As with other financial benchmarks, the park districts with more assets have higher EAVs. The EAV for the PDLG is \$845,961,041, nearly equal to the median of the five peer park districts of \$838,235,532.

Public - Private Partnerships

Residents of PDLG are not limited to Park District properties for their open space and outdoor recreational opportunities. Like most recreation agencies, public - private partnerships (PPPs) are a key component of the PDLG parks and recreation system. As financial pressures and budget constraints increase, recreation agencies rely on these agreements as a way of reducing operating budgets, turning these responsibilities over to or sharing them with other governmental agencies or private companies. These agreements are especially beneficial to land-locked communities like the Park District of La Grange which has limited potential to gain more green space or property for indoor development.

School districts provide similar active recreation amenities to the park districts at their school sites, including playgrounds, fields, and courts. Rather than trying to cover all of the community's recreation needs themselves, partnerships with other open space providers are a good opportunity to assist all agencies in providing the highest level of service to their residents. La Grange is served by two public elementary school districts – Districts #102 and #105 and includes the Lyons Township High School

The Park District takes an active approach in collaborating with its partners, and these relationships take on different forms, but there are three primary types that the park and recreation agencies like PDLG engage with:

- Intergovernmental Partnerships
- Affiliate Partnerships
- Corporate Partnerships

All three of these types are important to the Park District of La Grange mission. The first two PPP types are well established within the District, but the third one, corporate/park partnerships, is an untapped opportunity that should be considered in the future. As the Park District reviews and renews its partnership agreements, it should classify the user fee potential to be gained by the type of services offered within each category. A list of the current PDLG partners for each type of PPP is included below and outlines of the terms and benefits of each agreement can be found in the appendix.

Intergovernmental Partnerships

- Village of La Grange
- City of Countryside

School - Park Partnerships

- School District 102
- St. Francis Xavier Parish

Affiliate Partnerships

- South East Association for Special Parks & Recreation (SEASPAR)
- Community Park District of La Grange Park
- Kiwanas Club of La Grange
- Chicago White Sox
- Rotary Club of La Grange
- American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)
- Celtics Soccer
- Lyons Township Soccer
- La Grange Little League
- La Grange Babe Ruth

Private - Park Partnerships

- La Grange Business Association

Additional Corporate Partnerships may be an untapped opportunity the PDLG should consider moving forward. The Village of La Grange has a vibrant downtown business environment and can provide outlets for businesses that seek local exposure and value the mission of the Park District. Through Corporate Partnerships, the PDLG can create unique and customized branding opportunities that are also cost effective in order to meet the District's goals and objectives. Possible partnership opportunities could include banner campaigns, website branding, joint advertising, and corporate sponsorship of park and facility locations and amenities.

External Program Providers

In addition to the five local benchmark districts and PDLG PPPs, the surrounding area plays other important roles in determining what programs the Park District offers. The Park District of La Grange is one of 27 open space and outdoor recreation providers within the community which includes public and private providers such as neighboring park districts, fitness centers, libraries, churches, schools, preschools, club sports, and dance studios. Private providers are usually membership-based and are typically found in more populated areas. Public providers tend to be more family-orientated and offer a range of programs that are not always revenue generators for the facility. It is the Planning Team's experience that most private providers serve a different user group than public recreation facilities.

Some of these external providers share facilities and programs with the Park District of La Grange through their intergovernmental agreements including Western Springs Recreation Department, Community Park District of La Grange Park, and the City of Countryside's schools and parks.

While the Park District is in partnership with some agencies, others are in direct competition by offering similar activities and programming, such as Chair Yoga, Harmony Music Program, Noah's Ark Preschool, Math Club, and a variety of athletic programs. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County also provides regional active and passive recreation opportunities while preserving significant open space assets near the Park District boundary.

A full list of local public and private recreation providers documented by the Planning Team can be found in the appendix.

INVENTORY

Overview

It is important to assess the current inventory of parks and amenities within the Park District and analyze their Levels of Service (LOS) within the community. Many amenities within park and recreation agencies are measured by levels of service, certain acres of open space, or the number of amenities per 1,000 people, to determine the quality and quantity of facilities and parks based on guidelines to meet the community's needs and wants. When park and recreation agencies establish service area criteria, this improves their ability to develop quality parks, implement essential facilities and recreation amenities, and improve grant funding eligibility.

Provision of Parks

NRPA states "A park system, at a minimum, should be composed of a 'core' system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population." The La Grange Park District systems provides 66.7 acres of parkland across 13 total sites. With a population of 16,249 residents, the PDLG provides a level of service of 3.64 acres/1,000 population, below the recommended NRPA amount of public parkland.

The page to the right shows the Park District of La Grange park system.

MEMORIAL PARK

KIWANIS PARK







EHLERT PARK

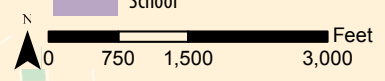
RIDGE CRES PARK

LA GRANGE COUNTRY CLUB

- Gilbert Park
- Stone Park
- Gordon Park
- Elm Park
- Rotary Centennial Park
- Community Center & Park
- Waiola Park
- Meadowbrook Manor Park
- Recreation Center
- 610 East Avenue Property
- Denning Park
- Sedgwick Park
- Spring Park

Legend

-  PDLG Boundary
-  PDLG Park
-  Park by Others
-  Golf Course
-  Forest Preserves of Cook County
-  School



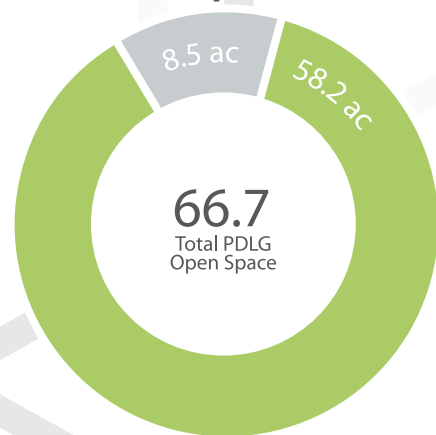
Park Classification

Classification Guidelines

NRPA guidelines recognize five classifications for parks: Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, School-Park, Community Park, and Large Urban Park. Commonly, School-Parks are included in the Neighborhood Park category and Large Urban Parks are included in the Community Park category. These categories of mini, neighborhood, and community parks are considered active parks for their role as the key component of recreation in a park system. Other open space categories recognized by the NRPA are Natural Resource Areas, Greenways, Sports Complexes, Special Use, and Private Park/Recreation Facility. Finally, the Planning Team identifies land that is owned by the Park District but is not developed or used for recreation or conservation purposes as Undeveloped Parks. Additional information regarding the park types that are defined by NRPA and are applicable to the PDLG system is provided on the following pages.

The Park District of La Grange includes mini, neighborhood, community, special use, and undeveloped parks in its system. A full inventory of the parks owned and leased by the PDLG and the amenities provided at each location can be found later in this chapter.

PDLG Total Department Acreage



■ Total active recreation areas ■ Other PDLG managed open space

Active Park Definitions and Criteria

Mini Parks

(1/4 Mile “Walk-to” Service Area; 2,500 sq. ft.- 2.0 Acres)

Mini parks are the smallest type of park and mainly designed to serve a concentrated population or a specific age group or function, but they can serve persons of all ages located in the immediate area. Mini parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience. The amenities provided can center on play apparatus for young children; however, some also include passive activities for adults and seniors depending on the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.

Other amenities typically found at mini parks include gazebos, benches, scenic overlooks, picnic tables, and ornamental landscaping. These parks usually do not provide on-site parking. “mini parks” are also known as “pocket parks”.

Successful mini parks have four key qualities:

1. They are accessible
2. They allow people to engage in activities
3. They are comfortable spaces that are inviting
4. They are sociable places

In general, mini parks offer minimal amenities on-site and are not designed to support organized recreation services. The service area for mini parks is usually less than a quarter-mile and is 2.0 acres or less in size. Mini parks are intended for users within close walking distance of the park. Their primary purpose is to provide recreation to residents where major roads do not have to be crossed.

Currently, PDLG contains five mini parks totaling 3.8 acres:

- Elm Park – 1.6 acres
- Meadowbrook Manor Park – 0.6 acres
- Spring Park – 0.8 acres
- Stone Park – 0.5 acres
- Rotary Centennial Park – 0.3 acres.

Mini Park Development Guidelines:

- **Size of park:** Between 2,500 sq. ft. and 2.0 acres in size. Anything larger would typically be considered a neighborhood park
- **Service radius:** Five city blocks or less than 1/4 mile in a residential setting
- **Site selection:** Servicing a specific recreation need, ease of access from the surrounding area, and linkage to a community pathway system are key concerns when selecting a site. Ideally, it will have adjacency to other park system components, such as the trail system. Location is determined by the needs of the neighborhood, partnership opportunities, and the availability and accessibility of land
- **Length of stay:** One-hour or less
- **Site features:** Mini parks are typically designed to provide a recreation use for one user group such as a playground or splash pad for youth, benches for walkers, landscape and trails for the enjoyment of the natural environment, or display of artwork for the local neighborhood, and amenities should be ADA compliant. Although demographics and population density play a role in location, the justification for a Pocket Park/Mini Park lies more in servicing a specific recreation need or taking advantage of a unique opportunity. Community input should be the primary determinant of the development program.
- **Landscape design:** Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience
- **Revenue facilities:** None
- **Land usage:** 90% active and 10% passive. The character may be one of intensive use or aesthetic enjoyment. The primary function of such a park is to provide recreation space to those areas of the community where population densities limit the available open space. Area businesses and residents should be encouraged to assist in policing and the day-to-day maintenance of this type of park.
- **User experiences:** Predominately self-directed, but a signature amenity may be included to provide opportunities for leader-directed programs. Depending on the size and location, special events could be activated
- **Maintenance standards:** Dependent on site features, landscape design, and park visitation
- **Signage:** Directional signage and facility/ amenity regulations to enhance user experience
- **Parking:** Typically not required
- **Lighting:** Typically limited to security and safety
- **Naming:** Named after a prominent or historic person, event, or natural landmark, per the Park District’s naming policy



Neighborhood Parks

(1/2 Mile "Walk-to" Service Area; 2.0 – 10.0 Acres)

Neighborhood parks form the foundation of the park district and serve as the recreational and social focus of their neighborhoods and contribute to the identity of that neighborhood. Neighborhood parks should have safe pedestrian access for surrounding residents and parking may or may not be included but generally accounts for less than ten cars and provides for ADA access when present. Neighborhood parks generally range in size from 5 to 10 acres; however, due to the available land within the park district, as well as the amenities provided, sites as small as two acres in size can be appropriate for a neighborhood park. Neighborhood parks are designed for a ¼ to ½ mile radius of service. Concentrated intense informal recreation activities are common in these parks and they are usually designed within a limited amount of space. These parks serve residents in a variety of age groups. The park should be easily accessible, and access should be uninterrupted by major roads or other barriers.

Neighborhood parks often preserve the unique landscapes and serve the community as gathering places and general athletics. These park features commonly include aesthetically designed play areas, picnic areas, splash pads, ball fields, skating, open space for field games, shelters, and walking paths. Neighborhood parks should serve between 10,000 to 20,000 residents or 1.0 to 2.0 acres per thousand people.

Currently, PDLG contains two neighborhood parks totalling 9.3 acres:

- Gilbert Park – 5.7 acres
- Waiola Park – 3.6 acres

Neighborhood Park Development Guidelines:

- **Size of park:** 2 to 12 acres (usable area measured). The preferred size is eight acres
- **Service radius:** 0.5-mile radius
- **Site selection:** On a local or collector street. If near an arterial street, provide a natural or artificial barrier. Where possible, next to a school. Encourage location to link subdivisions and be linked by trails to other parks
- **Length of stay:** One-hour or less
- **Site features:** May include one non-programmed sports fields, playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with some shaded elements, reservable or non-reservable shelters, loop trails, one type of sports court, and benches. Amenities should ADA compliant. One signature amenity (e.g., playground, splash pad, sport court, gazebo) may be included, and parks don't typically have restrooms unless they are necessary for a signature amenity.
- **Landscape design:** Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience with an integrated color scheme throughout and customized to demographics of the neighborhood. Safety design should meet established Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards
- **Revenue facilities:** None
- **Land usage:** 85% active and 15% passive
- **User experiences:** Typically, self-directed, but a signature amenity may provide opportunities for leader-directed programs
- **Maintenance standards:** Dependent on site features, landscape design, and park visitation
- **Signage:** Directional signage and facility/ amenity regulations to enhance user experience
- **Parking:** Design should include widened on-street parking adjacent to the park, when feasible. As necessary, 5-10 spaces within the park including accessible parking spaces may be provided but parking should not detract from the usable park space. Traffic calming devices encouraged next to the park
- **Lighting:** Typically limited to security and safety
- **Naming:** Named after a prominent or historic person, event, or natural landmark, per the Park District's naming policy

Community Parks

(1 Mile "Drive-to" Service Area; 10 - 50 acres)

Community parks are diverse, serving a broader purpose than the neighborhood or mini-parks with a focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. These include active and passive recreation, as well as self-directed and organized recreation opportunities for individuals, families, and small groups. Community parks are intended to serve several neighborhoods and commonly attract visitors from across and outside the Park District in addition to the immediate neighborhood they are located in. Community parks usually have both day and evening activities which can result in lighted fields and amenities. They also typically include a mix of active and passive activities such as large play structures, baseball fields, football fields, soccer fields, hiking trails, sled hills, and swimming pools and attract users of all ages. Self-directed and passive recreation activities such as meditation, quiet reflection, and wildlife watching also take place at community parks. These sites can also include natural areas.

Since community parks may attract people from a wide geographic area, support facilities are required, such as parking and restrooms.

Community parks generally range in size from 15 to 50 acres. However, due to available land area, sites over ten acres in size can be appropriate to accommodate such activities. Community parks are viewed as destinations and typically require travel by automobile for programmed recreation, requiring adequate parking. Community parks have a 1 to 3-mile service area and 5 – 8 acres of community park open space is preferred per every 1,000 people.

Currently, PDLG contains three community parks totaling 45.1 acres:

- Denning Park - 9.8 acres
- Gordon Park – 13.1 acres
- Sedgwick Park – 22.2 acres

Community Park Recommended Development Guidelines:

- **Size of park:** 10 to 100 acres. The preferred size is 20 to 40 acres
- **Service radius:** One to three-mile radius
- **Site selection:** On at least two collector streets and preferably on one arterial street. If near an arterial street, provide a natural or artificial barrier. Preference for adjacent or nearby proximity with school or other municipal use and a minimal number of adjacent residences. Trail linkage to other parks is encouraged
- **Length of stay:** Two to three hour
- **Site features:** Four or more signature amenities (e.g. trails, multi-purpose or single use sports fields, large shelters/ pavilions, community playground for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with some shaded elements, recreation center, pool or family aquatic center, sports courts, water feature) with public restrooms, drinking fountains, ample parking, and security lighting. Provide loop trail connectivity and links to trails and/or recreation facilities. Amenities should be ADA compliant.
- **Landscape design:** Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience with an integrated color scheme throughout and customized to demographics of the neighborhood. Safety design should meet established Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards. Provide enhanced landscaping at park entrances and throughout the park at signature amenities.
- **Revenue facilities:** One or more (e.g., picnic shelters, program pavilion, dog park)
- **Land usage:** 65% active and 35% passive
- **User experiences:** Mostly self-directed experiences but may have opportunities for leader directed programs based on available site features and community demand
- **Maintenance standards:** Dependent on site features, landscape design, and park visitation
- **Signage:** Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience. May include kiosks in easily identified areas
- **Parking:** Sufficient to support the amenities but occupying no more than 10% of the park and parking should not detract from the usable park space. Design should include a widened on-street parking area adjacent to the park. Traffic calming devices encouraged within and next to the park
- **Lighting:** Security lighting and lighting appropriate for signature amenities
- **Naming:** Named after a prominent or historic person, event, or natural landmark, per the Park District's naming policy
- **Other:** Park should strongly appeal to surrounding neighborhoods. Development partnerships with support groups such as schools and other organizations is encouraged.

Other Types of Open Spaces

Special Use Parks

Special use parks are those spaces that do not fall within a typical active park classification. A major difference between a special use park and other parks is that they usually serve a single purpose, whereas other park classifications are designed to offer multiple recreation opportunities. A special use facility can be located inside another park or be a distinct property and it may require an admission fee for access to some or all of its amenities.

Special use parks generally contain one facility or amenity that falls into the following categories:

- **Historic/Cultural/Social Sites** – Unique local resources offering historical, educational, and cultural opportunities. Examples include memorials, historic downtown areas, commercial zones, arboretums, display gardens, and amphitheaters. These sites are frequently located in community or regional parks
- **Golf Courses** – 9- and 18-hole complexes with ancillary facilities such as clubhouses, driving ranges, program space, and learning centers. These facilities are highly maintained and support a wide range of ages and skill levels of golfers. Programs are typically targeted for daily use play, tournaments, leagues, clinics, and special events. Operational costs come from daily play, season pass holders, concessions, driving range fees, earned income opportunities, and the sale of pro shop items.
- **Indoor Recreation Facilities** – Specialized or single-purpose facilities such as community centers, senior centers, performing arts facilities, and community theaters. Frequently these are located in a community or regional park.
- **Outdoor Recreation Facilities** – These facilities are typically regional attractions and unique to a community or a region. Examples include aquatic parks, disk golf, skateboard, BMX, and dog parks, which may be located in a park

The PDLG includes two special use parks totalling 5.6 acres

- Community Center Park – 0.9 acres
- Recreation Center – 4.7 acres

Additionally, the PDLG provides several amenities typical to special use facilities at its active park sites, including:

- Sedgwick Park Activity Building (at Sedgwick Park)
- Gilbert Park Activity Building (at Gilbert Park)
- Denning Park Activity Building (at Denning Park)
- Gordon Park Concession Building (at Gordon Park)
- A skate park (at Gordon Park)
- A splash pad (at Gordon Park)

Special Use Park Recommended Guidelines:

- **Size of park:** Depends upon facilities and activities included. The diverse character of these parks makes it difficult to apply acreage standards
- **Service radius:** Not directed by NRPA standards. Depends upon facilities and activities included. Typically serves special user groups or the entire population and are typically drive-to destinations
- **Site selection:** Given the variety of potential uses, no specific standards are defined for site selection. The site should be located where it is appropriate for its use
- **Length of stay:** Varies by facility
- **Site Features:** Varies by facility
- **Revenue facilities:** Due to the nature of certain facilities, revenue may be required for construction and/or annual maintenance. This should be determined at a policy level before the facility is planned and constructed
- **Land usage:** Varies by facility
- **User experiences:** Varies by facility
- **Maintenance standards:** Dependent on site features, landscape design, and park visitation
- **Signage:** Directional signage and facility/ amenity regulations to enhance user experience
- **Parking:** On-street or off-street parking is provided as appropriate for the facility
- **Lighting:** Security lighting and lighting appropriate for the facility
- **Landscape design:** Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience
- **Naming:** Named after a prominent or historic person, event, or natural landmark, per the Park District's naming policy
- **Other:** Provide enhanced landscaping at park entrances and an integrated color scheme throughout the park. Safety design should meet established CPTED standards and amenities and facilities should be ADA accessible.

School Grounds

Combining public agency resources, such as PDLG and School District 102, expands the District’s recreation, social, and educational opportunities in an efficient and cost-effective way. The current inter-governmental agreement (IGA) between the Park District and School District provide PDLG use of the elementary schools for the District-led indoor before and after school BASE program.

IGAs such as this are common as school grounds often complement other community open lands. For example, an elementary school can serve as a neighborhood park, providing a playground and open space to the surrounding community during non-school hours and a middle school or high school may serve in a number of capacities that could include athletic fields, basketball courts, etc. In exchange, agency use of school indoor properties can provide indoor recreation opportunities without the significant investment and potential duplication of resources that is associated with new indoor development or renovation.

The PDLG is not currently maintaining any school ground property.

School Grounds Recommended Guidelines:

- **Size:** Variable as it depends on the function
- **Location:** Determined by the location of the school district property
- **Site features:** May include playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, athletic fields, and trails
- **Recreation services:** Mainly self-directed recreation activities. If athletic fields are developed on school grounds, they are typically sized for and oriented to youth programming.
- **Other:** Establishing a joint-use agreement is recommended to make school ground designations work for both agencies. This is particularly important to the maintenance, liability, use, and programming of the facilities

Natural Areas

Natural Areas are largely undeveloped with limited construction. These spaces contain natural resources that can be managed for recreation and natural resource conservation values such as a desire to protect wildlife habitat, water quality, and endangered species. Natural areas can also provide opportunities for nature-based, self-directed, low-impact recreational opportunities such as walking and nature viewing, however, the intent of nature preserves/ open space is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities as possible. Integration of the human element with that of the natural environment that surrounds them should be limited to only include amenities that enhances the overall natural experience.

While these types of open space are typically owned and managed independently of park districts by county forest preserve districts or state departments, some local agencies may manage limited natural area properties or maintain natural areas within their other parks. Examples may include native habitats under power line corridors or creek areas.

Natural Areas typically consist of:

- Individual sites exhibiting natural resources
- Lands that are unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential
- Parcels with steep slopes and natural vegetation, drainage ways and ravines, man-made ponding areas, and utility easements
- Protected lands, such as wetlands/ lowlands and shorelines along waterways, lakes, and ponds

While the Park District La Grange does not own or maintain any natural areas, residents enjoy the benefits of being able to access more than 400 acres of Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) that are in the vicinity.

SPORTS COURTS AND AMENITIES

NATURAL FEATURES

Basketball Court	Batting Cages	T-ball Field	Baseball Field	Softball Field	Disc Golf (holes)	Football / Rugby Field	Horseshoe Pit	Lacrosse Field	Skate Park	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Tennis Court with Pickleball Overlay	Handball Court	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating Rink	Sled Hill	Creek / River / Open Water	Natural Area / Gardens
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1.5																					
0.5																					

0.5		2									4										
1		2								1											

1										1											X
2	2		4		2					1	2		3			1					X

6.5	2	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	7	4	4	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	2
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8.5	2	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	7	4	4	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	2
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3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.5	2	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	7	4	4	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2

Basketball	Batting Cages	T-ball	Baseball	Softball	Disc Golf (holes)	Football / Rugby	Horseshoe Pit	Lacrosse	Skate Park	Soccer	Tennis Court	Tennis Court with Pickleball Overlay	Handball	Volleyball Court	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Ice Skating	Sled Hill	Creek / River / Open Water	Natural Area / Gardens
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Amenity Distribution

Planning Areas

Planning areas are used to analyze park distribution, land acquisition and park facility redevelopment needs, and area delineated by major pedestrian barriers including major roads or highways, railroad corridors, and impassible natural features.

In the Park District of La Grange, arterial roads and railroad tracks serve as the main pedestrian barriers resulting in 8 planning areas. The Planning Team also identified several non-planning areas shown in light blue. These areas are isolated by pedestrian barriers but do not have any residents. Additionally, there were several small geographic areas that are isolated by roads or railroad tracks that do include residents but are too small or do not have enough residents to qualify as a planning area. These are known as sub-planning areas and identified as a sub area to the nearest planning area where a future connection might be made. For example, areas 1A, 1B, and 1C are sub-planning areas of planning area 1.

Population information for each of the planning areas and sub-planning areas is included in the table below. This information was generated by the ESRI BAO tool and estimates the total population and number of households and families for each area in 2022 and 2027.

Distribution and Level of Service

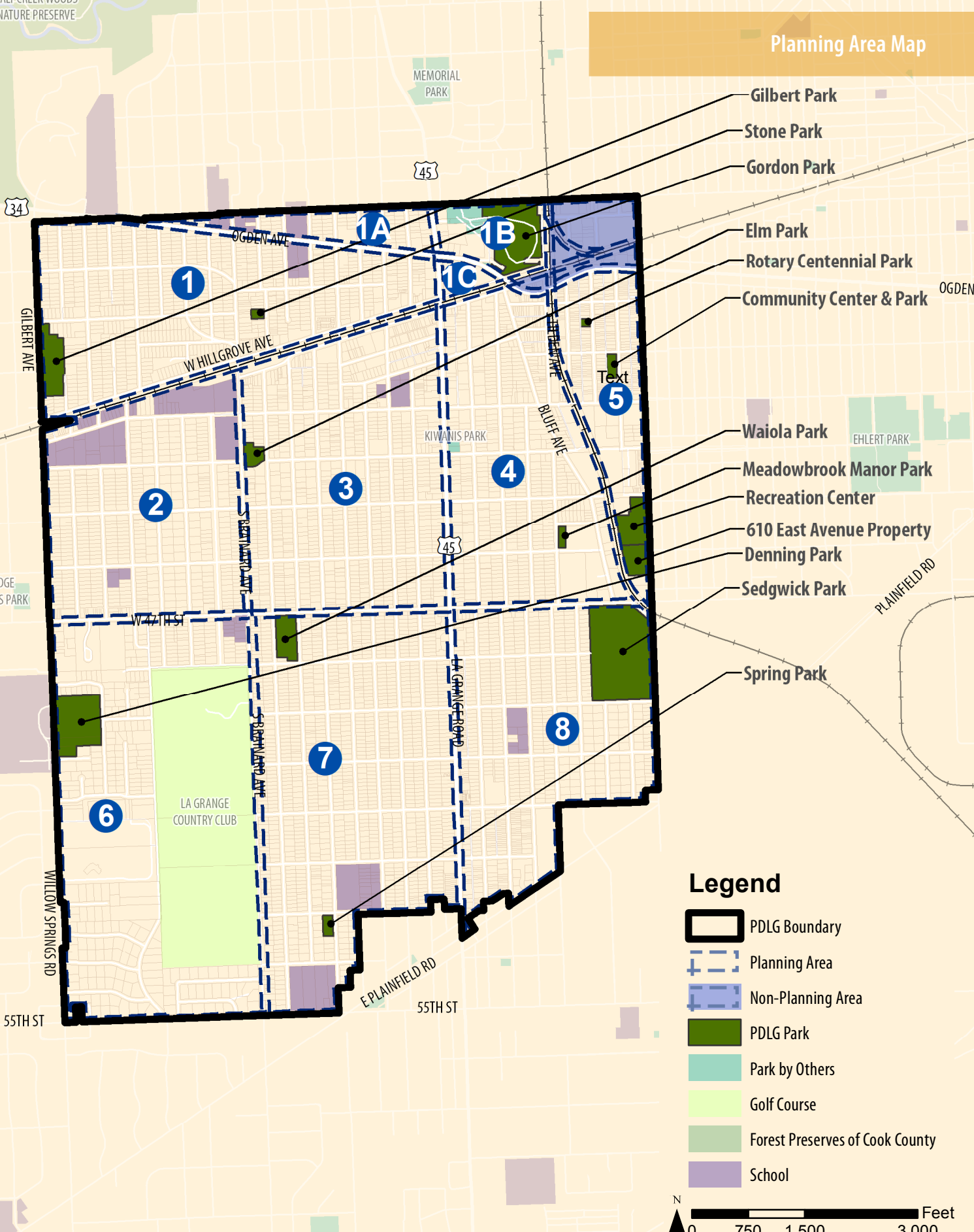
A service area, illustrated in the following maps with an orange halo, was created around each individual park. The shape of each service area is determined by analyzing the existing road and sidewalk infrastructure to identify the actual route and distance one has to travel to access the park. The size of the service area is dependent upon the park classification and is either a quarter-, half-, or one-mile. Service area mapping and additional information about the active park classification and level of service calculations can be found on the following pages.

Planning Area Population and Projected Change

Planning Area	2022 Total Population	2022 Household Population	2022 Family Population	2027 Total Population	2027 Household Population	2027 Family Population
1	2,462	2,462	2,175	2,377	2,377	2,099
1A	280	280	239	271	271	231
1B	362	362	256	350	350	247
1C	107	107	76	104	104	73
2	1,401	1,401	1,328	1,343	1,343	1,273
3	2,739	2,739	2,339	2,672	2,672	2,279
4	1,871	1,826	1,508	1,871	1,826	1,506
5	670	609	471	700	639	495
6	920	904	820	889	873	793
7	2,961	2,947	2,652	2,862	2,848	2,562
8	2,474	2,468	2,090	2,466	2,460	2,080

*Due to the method in which census data is projected from the 2020 census and other sources and due to limitations in accuracy for citizen privacy, population numbers are estimates and may vary slightly from actual Park District conditions.

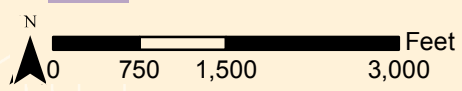
Planning Area Map



- Gilbert Park
- Stone Park
- Gordon Park
- Elm Park
- Rotary Centennial Park
- Community Center & Park
- Waiola Park
- Meadowbrook Manor Park
- Recreation Center
- 610 East Avenue Property
- Denning Park
- Sedgwick Park
- Spring Park

Legend

- PDLG Boundary
- Planning Area
- Non-Planning Area
- PDLG Park
- Park by Others
- Golf Course
- Forest Preserves of Cook County
- School



LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

Overview

The NRPA established the “Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines” in the 1990’s for agencies to reference and ensure they were meeting the needs and demands of the community. The NRPA also maintains the Park Metrics (formerly PRORAGIS) online database for park and recreation agencies to enter their organization’s park and recreation data, budget, staffing, etc., to easily benchmark with other park agencies in the same region, state, and/or across the country. In addition to utilizing NRPA guidelines, the PDLG was compared to 22 other public recreation providers in the midwest with populations between 11,000 - 22,000. Data was collected from 2021 self-reporting. Compared to these communities, the PDLG maintains a similar number of properties but has less than half the median number of acres, indicating that PDLG properties are likely smaller than those offered by other midwest communities with similar populations.

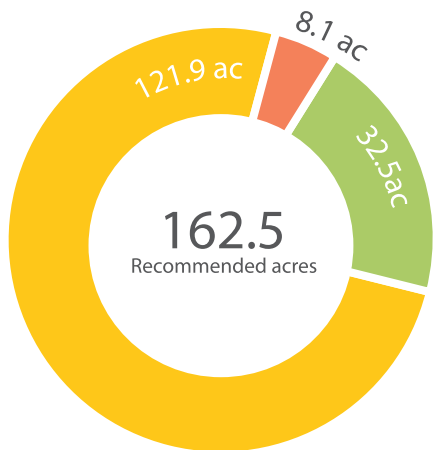
NRPA guidelines identify a Level of Service (LOS) analysis as part of the classification system used for facility planning for mini, neighborhood, and community park locations, also known as active recreation areas. NRPA commendations of 0.5 acres/1,000 population for mini parks, 2.0 acres/1,000 population for neighborhood parks, and 7.5 acres/1,000 population for community parks, totalling 10.0 acres/1,000 population of total active park acreage. Compared to these recommendations, the PDLG offers fewer than the recommended acreage per population for all three park types. Because the other park types are unique to their agency and highly variable, NRPA does not provide recommended acreage for natural areas, special use, greenways, or undeveloped properties. When all of the PDLG park acreage is added to the level of service comparison, the District still offers fewer than the recommended acreage.

Level of Service also includes analysis of park and amenity distribution through service areas. These service areas, illustrated in the following maps with an orange halo, are generated from each individual park access point and the shape is determined by analyzing the existing road and sidewalk infrastructure to identify the actual route and distance one has to travel to access the park. The size of the service area is dependent upon the park classification and is either a quarter-, half-, or one-mile for mini, neighborhood, and community parks, respectively. Other types of open space such as special use parks and undeveloped sites, are not included in this analysis.

Park Metrics Benchmarks

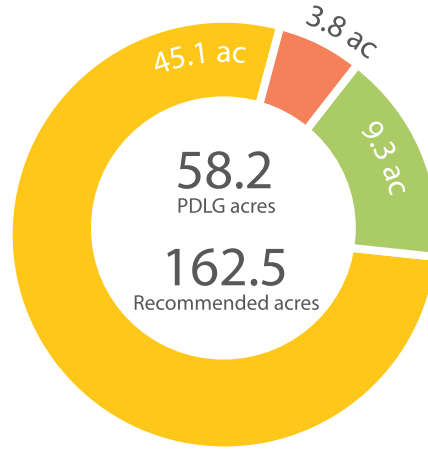
11,000-22,000 population		22 agencies
Benchmark	Park Metrics Median	PDLG
Total number of properties maintained	11	13
Total acres maintained	163	66.7

NRPA Recommended Acreage



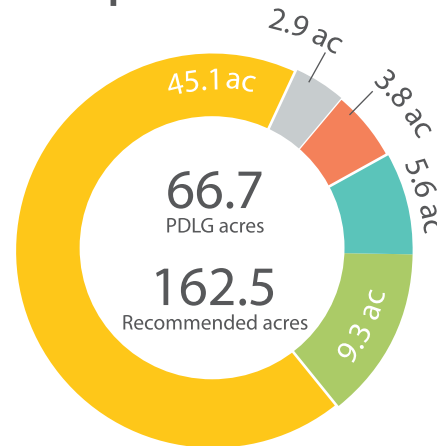
■ Mini Park ■ Neighborhood Park
■ Community Park

PDLG Active Recreation Acreage



■ Mini Park ■ Neighborhood Park
■ Community Park

PGLG Department-Owned Acreage



■ Undeveloped ■ Neighborhood Park
■ Mini Park ■ Community Park
■ Special Use

Level of Service Analysis: 10 acres / 1,000 population

OWNED / LEASED ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS

Classification	PDLG Active Park Acreage (Total)	PDLG Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Acreage	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)
Mini Park	3.80	0.23	8.12	0.50	-4.32
Neighborhood Park	9.30	0.57	32.50	2.00	-23.20
Community Park	45.10	2.78	121.87	7.50	-76.77
Total Active Recreation Areas	58.20	3.58	162.49	10.00	-104.29

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 16,249

ALL PDLG MANAGED OPEN SPACE

Classification	PDLG Acreage (Total)	PDLG Existing Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Acreage	IAPD/NRPA Recommended Level of Service (acres / 1,000 population)	Acreage deficiency / surplus (acre)
Mini Park	3.80	0.23	8.12	0.50	-4.32
Neighborhood Park	9.30	0.57	32.50	2.00	-23.20
Community Park	45.10	2.78	121.87	7.50	-76.77
Natural Areas	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Use	5.60	0.34	0.00	0.00	5.60
Greenways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Undeveloped	2.90	0.18	0.00	0.00	2.90
Total PDLG Open Space	66.70	4.10	162.49	10.00	-95.79

Recommended acreage is based off the existing population of 16,249

Mini Park Level of Service

The purpose of the Mini Park Distribution Analysis is to determine which planning areas are underserved by the PDLG’s existing Mini Park landholdings. The map to the right illustrates the quarter-mile (0.25-mile) service area reach for mini, neighborhood, and community parks shown in orange. Quarter-mile service areas are shown for neighborhood and community parks as well as mini parks as these parks can serve the function of a mini park for those residents within a quarter-mile distance from the park. Service area buffers for Mini Park access are truncated at the planning area boundaries in which the park is located because these boundaries are considered barriers to safe or comfortable pedestrian access, and mini parks are walk-to (walkable) destinations.

In total, about half of Park District of La Grange residents, 47.0%, have access to an active recreation park within a 0.25-mile walk of their home. Mini park service is heavily concentrated in planning areas 1, 1B, 5, and 7 with over 60 percent of the population in each area served by a park. Mini Park service is relatively evenly distributed throughout the Village with only one planning area (2) and two sub-planning areas (1A and 1C) lacking any mini park service provided by the Park District.

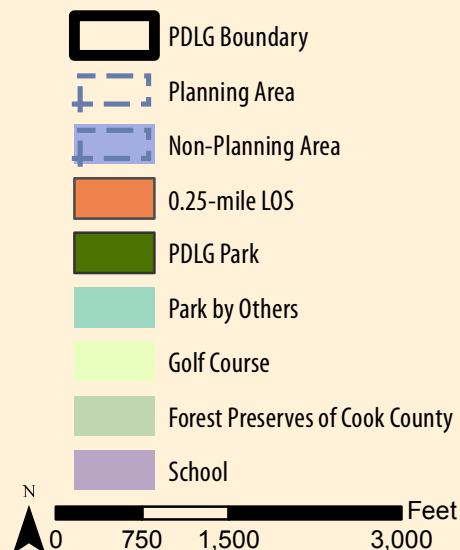
The most significant service gaps are in planning areas 2, 3, 7, and 8, where over 1,000 residents do not live within 0.25-miles of an active park amenity. Other areas with high numbers of underserved residents are planning areas 1 and 4 which each have unserved populations in the 900s.

Despite the PDLG service gaps, some residents may be finding active recreation access through other providers such as at Lyons Township High School North Campus in planning area 2 and St Francis Xavier Catholic School in planning area 1A and Cossitt Avenue School in planning area 3

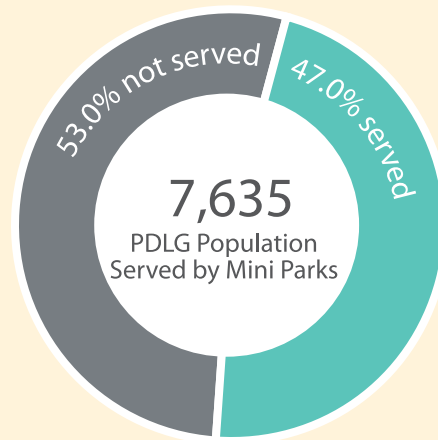
Mini Park Population Served

Planning Area	2022 Total Population	Population Served	Percent Served
1	2,462	1,485	60.3%
1A	280		0.0%
1B	362	362	100.0%
1C	107		0.0%
2	1,401		0.0%
3	2,739	909	33.2%
4	1,871	925	49.4%
5	670	590	88.1%
6	920	436	47.4%
7	2,961	1,809	61.1%
8	2,474	1,119	45.2%
Total Population Served		7,635	47.0%

Legend



* Due to the projection of 2020 US census data and map application, total population estimates will vary slightly.



Mini Park Level of Service Map

SALT CREEK WOODS
NATURE PRESERVE

MEMORIAL
PARK

Gilbert Park

Stone Park

Gordon Park

Elm Park

Rotary Centennial Park

Community Center & Park

Waiola Park

Meadowbrook Manor Park

Recreation Center

610 East Avenue Property

Denning Park

Sedgwick Park

Spring Park

45

34

GILBERT AVE

OGDEN AVE

W HILLGROVE AVE

KIWANIS PARK

BLUFF AVE

EHLERT PARK

RIDGE
ACRES PARK

W 47TH ST

PLAINFIELD RD

LA GRANGE
COUNTRY CLUB

WILLOW SPRINGS RD

E PLAINFIELD RD

55TH ST

55TH ST

Neighborhood Park Level of Service

The purpose of the neighborhood park distribution analysis is to determine which planning areas are underserved by the PDLG’s existing neighborhood park landholdings. The map to the right illustrates the half-mile (0.5-mile) service area reach for neighborhood and community parks shown in orange. Half-mile service areas are shown for community parks as well as neighborhood parks as these parks can serve the function of a neighborhood park for those residents within a half-mile distance from the park. Service area buffers for Neighborhood Park access are truncated at the planning area boundaries in which the park is located because these boundaries are considered barriers to safe or comfortable pedestrian access, and neighborhood parks are walk-to (walkable) destinations.

In total, less than half of PDLG residents, 40.6%, have access to an active recreation park within a 0.5-mile walk of their home. Service is heavily concentrated in every planning area where a Neighborhood or Community Park is provided, reaching over 60 percent of the population in each area but is concentrated in the north and south sections of the District, leaving the central part of the community in planning areas 2, 3, 4, and 5 100% unserved.

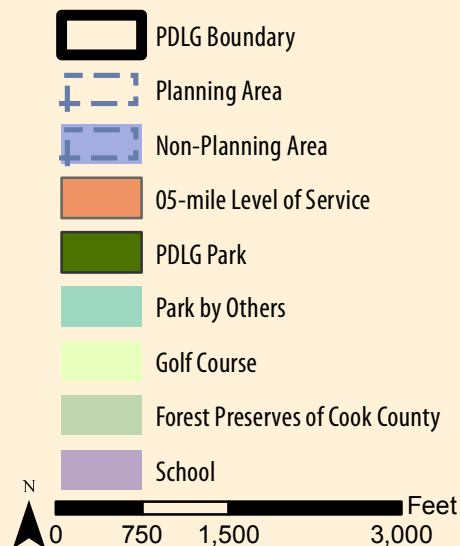
The most significant service gap is in planning area 3, where over 2,000 residents do not live within 0.5-miles of an active park amenity, followed by areas 2 and 4 with over 1,000 unserved residents, and area 1 with over 900 unserved residents.

As with Mini Park Service, some PDLG residents may be finding active recreation access through other providers such as at Lyons Township High School North Campus in planning area 2, St Francis Xavier Catholic School in planning area 1A, Cossitt Avenue School in planning area 3, and Spring Avenue Elementary School and William F. Gurrie Middle School in planning area 7.

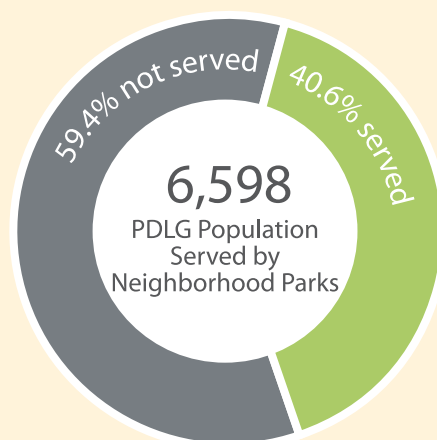
Neighborhood Park Population Served

Planning Area	2022 Total Population	Population Served	Percent Served
1	2,462	1,522	61.8%
1A	280		0.0%
1B	362	362	100.0%
1C	107		0.0%
2	1,401		0.0%
3	2,739		0.0%
4	1,871		0.0%
5	670		0.0%
6	920	633	68.8%
7	2,961	2,036	68.8%
8	2,474	2,045	82.7%
Total Population Served		6,598	40.6%

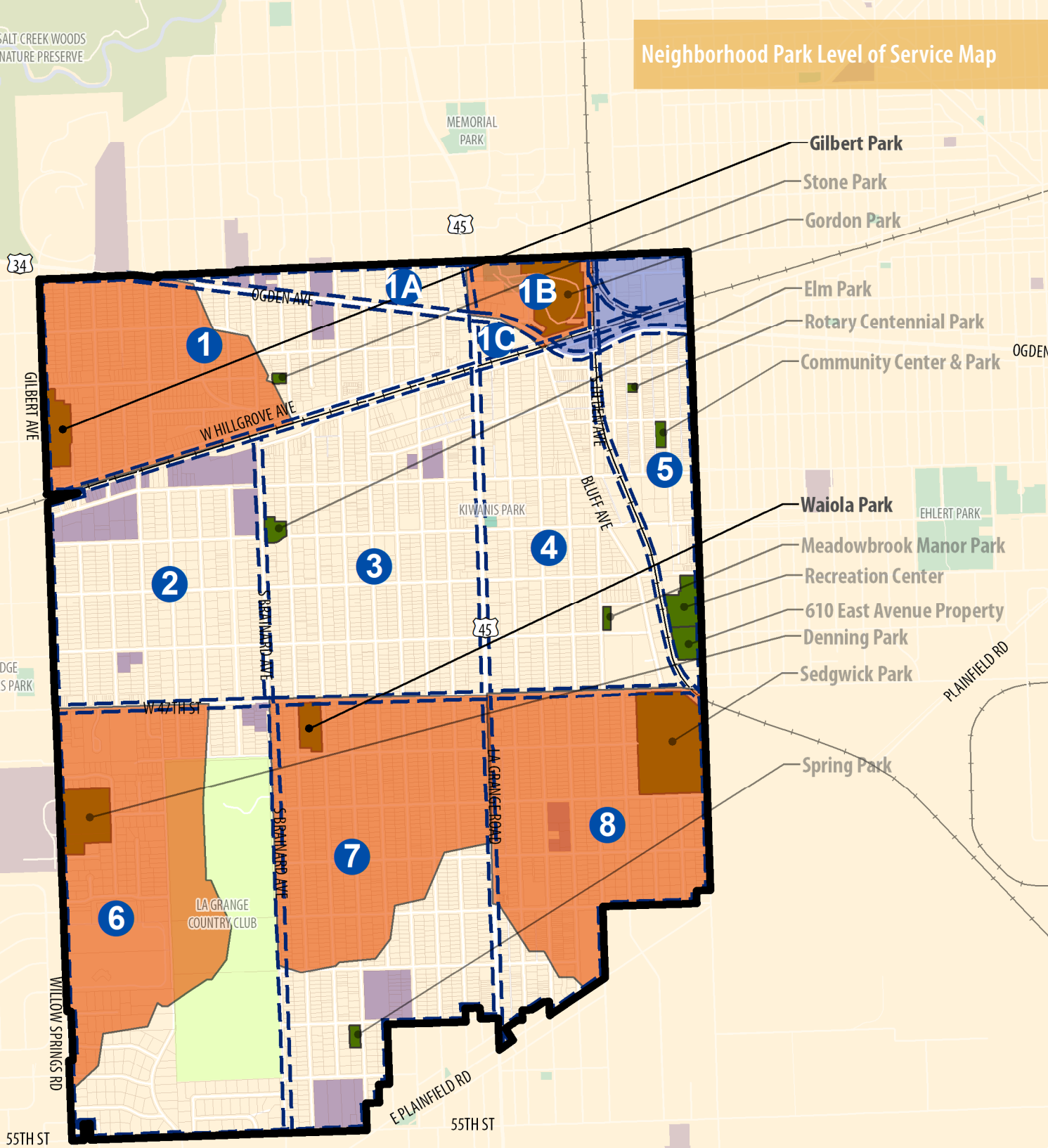
Legend



* Due to the projection of 2020 US census data and map application, total population estimates will vary slightly.



Neighborhood Park Level of Service Map



- Gilbert Park
- Stone Park
- Gordon Park
- Elm Park
- Rotary Centennial Park
- Community Center & Park
- Waiola Park
- Meadowbrook Manor Park
- Recreation Center
- 610 East Avenue Property
- Denning Park
- Sedgwick Park
- Spring Park

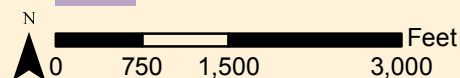
Community Park Level of Service

The purpose of the Community Park Distribution Analysis is to determine which planning areas are underserved by the PDLG’s existing Community Park landholdings. The map to the right illustrates the one-mile (1.0-mile) service area reach community parks shown in orange. Because community parks are drive-to destinations, service area buffers are not truncated at the planning area boundaries or the PDLG boundary.

In total, nearly all PDLG residents, 95.4%, have access to an active recreation park within 1.0-miles of their home. While only planning areas 1B, 6, and 8 contain community parks, service is well distributed throughout the district. The only planning areas with service gaps are planning areas 1 and 7 and the unserved population in each area is less than 500 residents. Additionally, there are over 22,000 people living within 1.0-miles of a community park who are not PDLG residents but are likely still visit these locations.

Legend

-  PDLG Boundary
-  Planning Area
-  Non-Planning Area
-  1-mile Level of Service
-  PDLG Park
-  Park by Others
-  Golf Course
-  Forest Preserves of Cook County
-  School

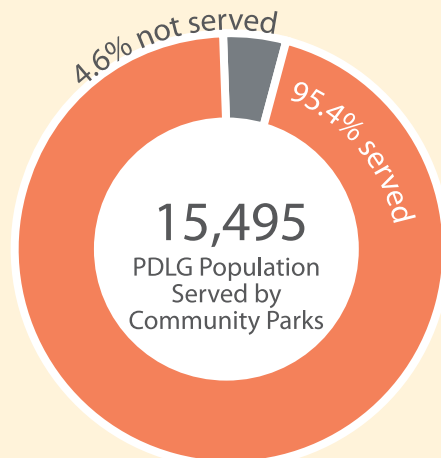


* Due to the projection of 2020 US census data and map application, total population estimates will vary slightly.

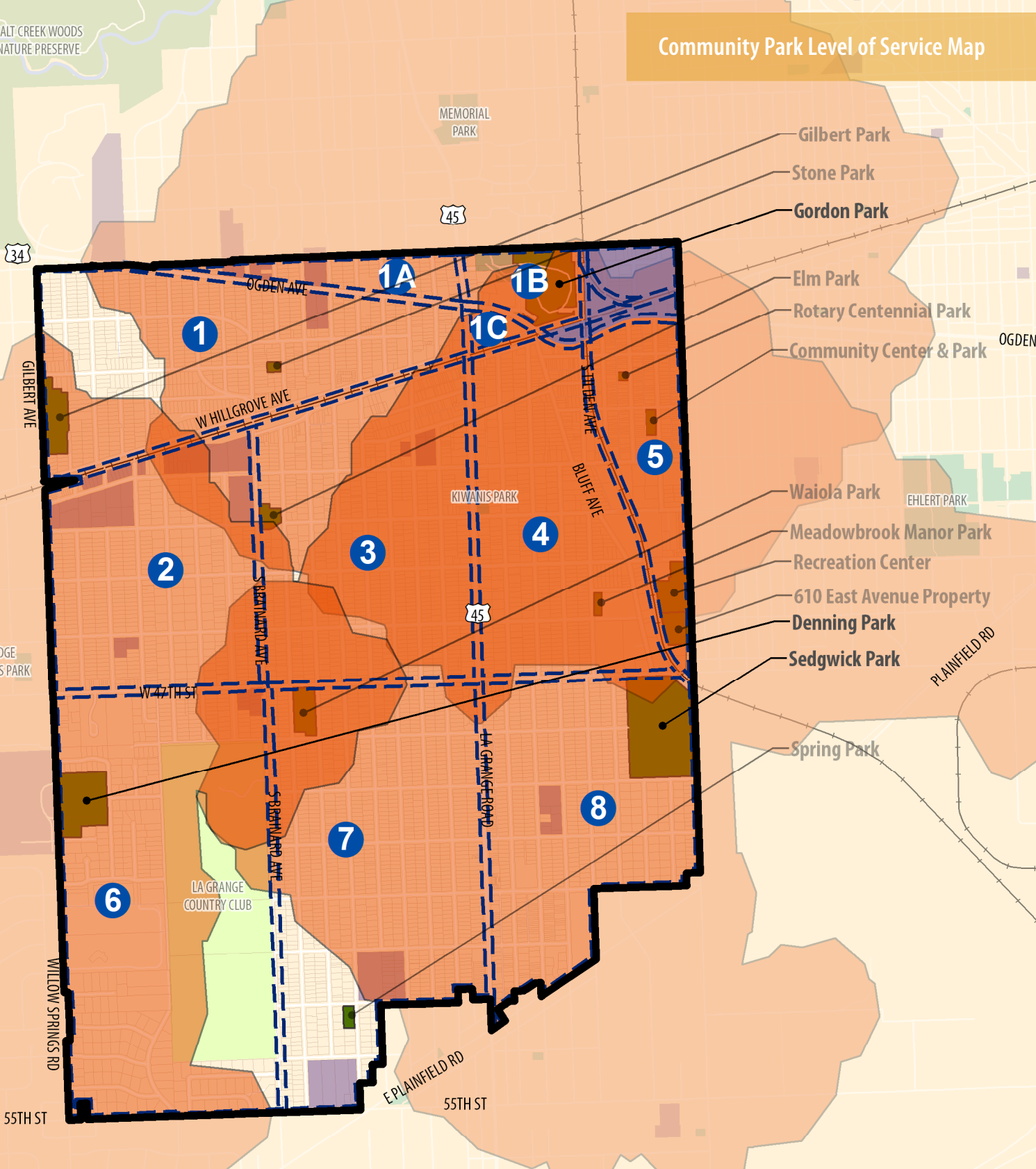
Community Park Population Served

Planning Area	2022 Total Population	Population Served	Percent Served
1	2,462	2,147	87.2%
1A	280	280	100.0%
1B	362	362	100.0%
1C	107	107	100.0%
2	1,401	1,401	100.0%
3	2,739	2,739	100.0%
4	1,871	1,871	100.0%
5	670	670	100.0%
6	920	920	100.0%
7	2,961	2,524	85.2%
8	2,474	2,474	100.0%
Total Population Served		15,495	95.4%

Out of District Service:	22,259
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Community Park Level of Service Map



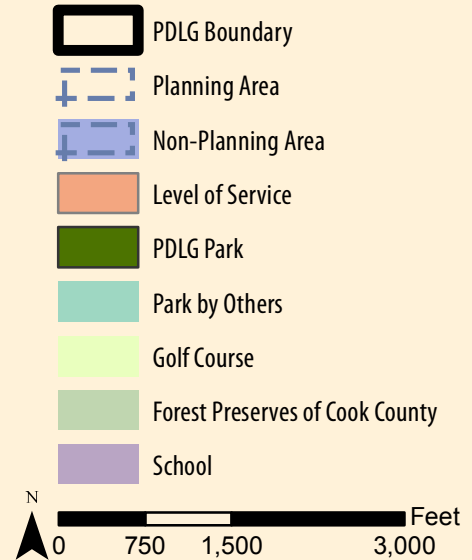
Overall Park Level of Service

The map on the right illustrates the service areas for all mini (quarter-mile), neighborhood (half-mile), and community (one-mile) parks provided by the Park District of La Grange. Per NRPA Guidelines, the Mini and Neighborhood Park service areas are truncated to the boundaries of the individual planning areas in which they reside. Community parks are considered drive-to destinations, so those service areas are not truncated to the planning area boundaries. Open Lands and Special Use land holdings are not included in this analysis.

Overlaying service areas reveals which areas are most and least served by the existing park system. The orange service area buffers overlap to form a gradient that illustrates the degree to which residents are served. Residents who fall within the darker or opaque orange areas are served by multiple parks and their amenities.

When assessing all PDLG active park locations, resident service is estimated to be 100%, meaning that all PDLG residents have access to an active recreation park within the recommended travel distance of their homes. Additionally, there are over 22,000 out-of-district residents who are expected to be visiting the PDLG parks.

Legend

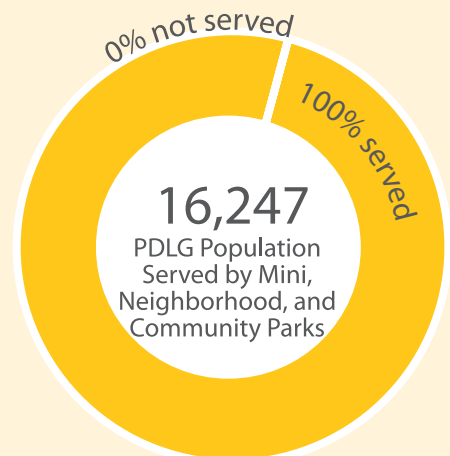


* Due to the projection of 2020 US census data and map application, total population estimates will vary slightly.

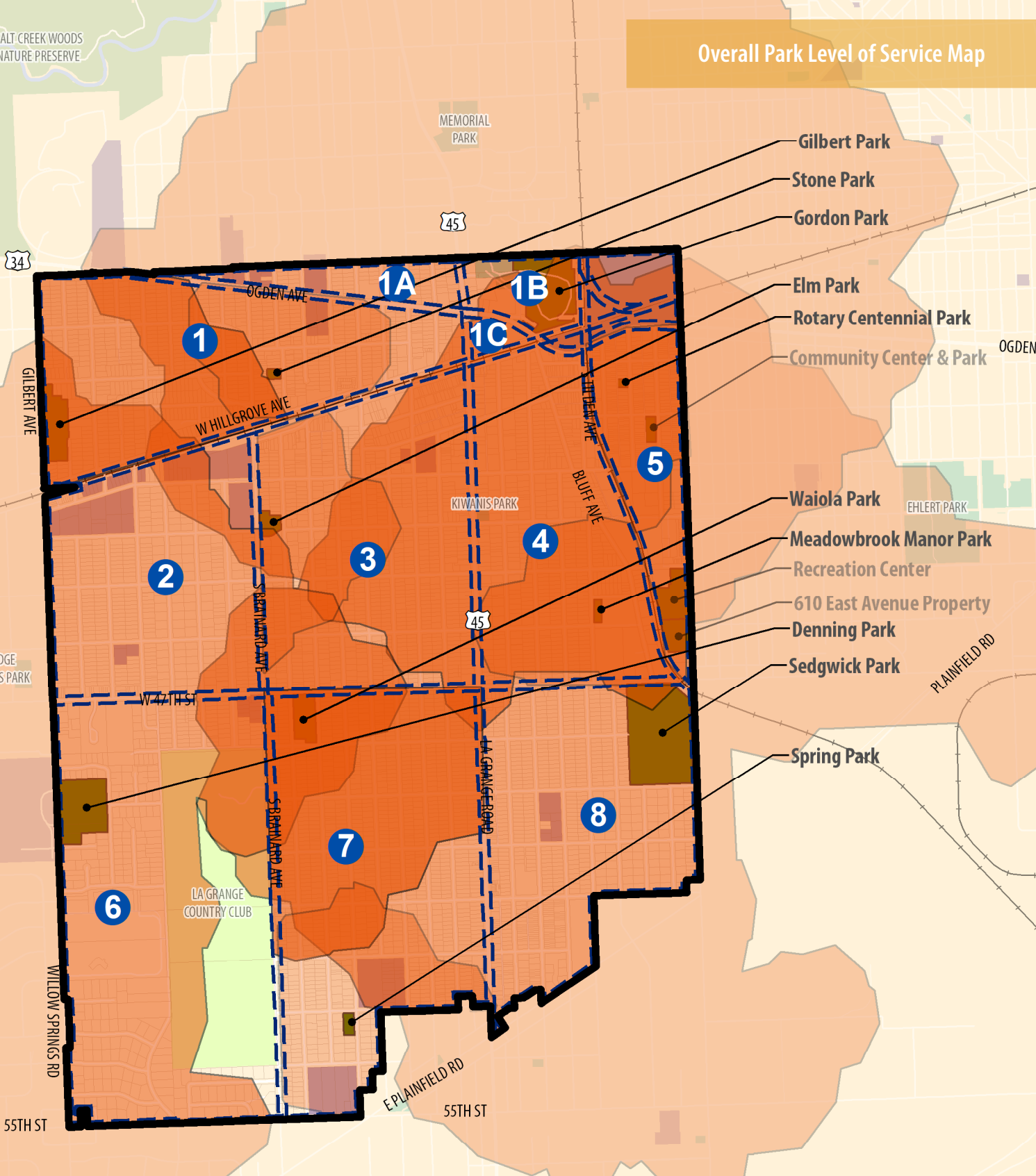
Overall Park Population Served

Planning Area	2022 Total Population	Population Served	Percent Served
1	2,462	2,462	100.0%
1A	280	280	100.0%
1B	362	362	100.0%
1C	107	107	100.0%
2	1,401	1,401	100.0%
3	2,739	2,739	100.0%
4	1,871	1,871	100.0%
5	670	670	100.0%
6	920	920	100.0%
7	2,961	2,961	100.0%
8	2,474	2,474	100.0%
Total Population Served	16,247	16,247	100.0%

Out of District Service:	22,259
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Overall Park Level of Service Map



Amenity Level of Service

In addition to park acreage and distribution, the total number of recreational amenities available to residents was considered as part of the level of service analysis. These benchmarks come from the Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics databases and only include outdoor park amenities. Items labeled as “ISD” indicated that insufficient data was provided to make this comparison.

SCORP Comparison

Based on the Illinois SCORP, the PDLG meets or exceeds the recommended number of amenities for 12 of the 22 amenities outlined in the chart to the right. Amenities that meet or exceed the recommendation are identified by green text in the “Surplus / Deficit” column. Items with red text noted in the “Surplus / Deficit” column are deficiencies. This surplus/deficit analysis only counts Park District amenities that are at current standards (not beyond their useful life). By replacing aged assets, the PDLG can quickly meet or exceed some of these recommendations.

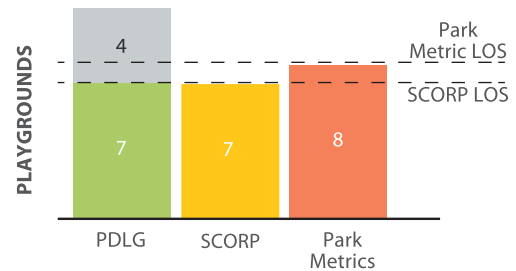
Additionally, the last column on the right prioritizes the amenities most in need according to the SCORP benchmarking where 1 represents the highest priority.

Park Metrics Comparison

The Planning Team referenced NRPA’s Park Metrics to identify how the Park District of La Grange compares to other agencies in the Midwest states with populations between 11,000 and 22,000. Park Metrics provided information about the total population per amenity for 13 different recreation outdoor amenity types for the 22 agencies within this population range. Because Park Metrics are a collection of self-reported data the number of amenities per population is a comparison point, rather than a recommendation.

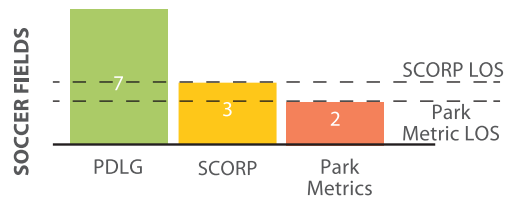
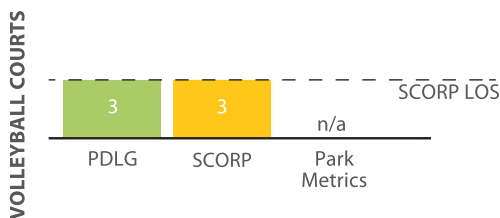
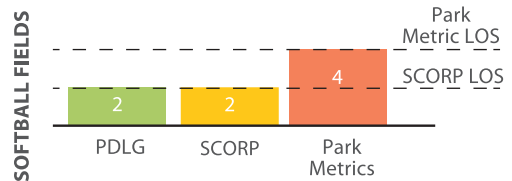
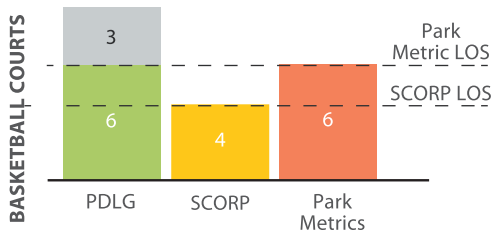
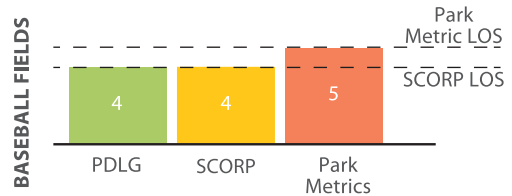
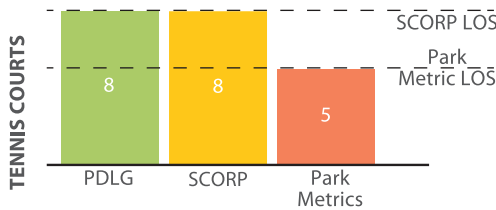
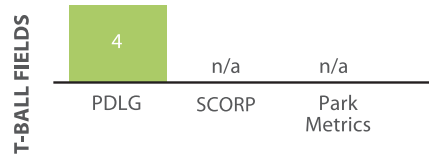
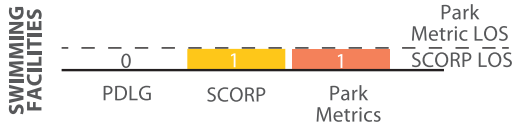
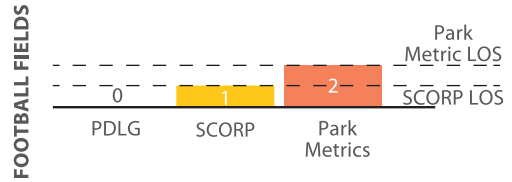
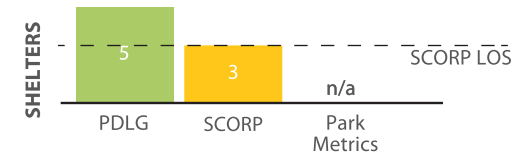
Amenity Distribution

The Planning Team also assessed the location of the shelters, basketball courts, baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, playgrounds, splash pads, community gardens, handball courts, on-site parking lots, and restroom facilities. Since each of these amenities is located within a park, amenities are relatively evenly distributed throughout the community. Amenity distribution maps can be found in the appendix.



SCORP Benchmarks - Park Amenities

	Name			Illinois Facility Average		Surplus / Deficit	Ranking
	Existing # of Facilities (total)	Existing # of Facilities at current standards	Existing # of Facilities per 1,000 population	Total # of Facilities needed to meet IL Average	IL Average # of Facilities per 1,000 population	Surplus / Deficit	Highest to Lowest Need
WATER-BASED FACILITIES							
Swimming Pools	0	0	0.00	0.5	0.03	-0.5	6
Spray Grounds / Splash Pads	1	1	0.06	0.5	0.03	0.5	16
TRAILS							
Multi-Use Trails (Miles)	5	4	0.25	2.6	0.16	1.4	18
Fitness Stations	5	5	0.31	3.6	0.22	1.4	19
DAY USE FACILITIES							
Picnic Shelters	5	5	0.31	3.3	0.21	1.7	21
Playgrounds	11	7	0.43	6.6	0.40	0.4	15
SPORTS COURTS AND FACILITIES							
Tennis Courts	8	8	0.49	8.0	0.49	0.0	13
Basketball Courts	9	6	0.34	4.1	0.25	1.4	20
Volleyball Courts	3	3	0.18	2.8	0.17	0.2	14
Baseball Fields	4	4	0.25	4.2	0.26	-0.2	8
Softball Fields	2	2	0.12	2.3	0.14	-0.3	7
T-ball Fields	4	4	0.25	ISD	ISD	ISD	ISD
Football Fields	0	0	0.00	0.9	0.05	-0.9	3
Soccer Fields	7	7	0.43	2.9	0.18	4.1	22
Ice Rinks	0	0	0.00	0.6	0.04	-0.6	5
Horseshoe Pits	0	0	0.00	3.9	0.24	-3.9	1
Bocce Court	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0	11
Shuffleboard Courts	0	0	0.00	0.7	0.05	-0.7	4
Dog Parks	0	0	0.00	0.1	0.01	-0.1	10
Frisbee Golf	0	0	0.00	0.1	0.01	-0.1	9
Skate Park	1	1	0.06	0.3	0.02	0.7	17
Field Hockey	0	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.0	11



Park Metrics Benchmarks - Park Amenities

Name			Illinois Facility Average	Surplus / Deficit	Ranking
Existing # of Facilities (total)	Existing # of Facilities at current standards	Existing # of Facilities per population	Total # of Facilities needed to meet Park Metrics median	Surplus / Deficit	Highest to Lowest Need

OUTDOOR FACILITIES						
Outdoor Swimming Pools	0	0	0.00	1.28	-1.3	7
Outdoor Ice Rink	0	0	0.00	1.30	-1.3	6
Playgrounds	11	7	0.43	8.36	-1.4	5
Skate Park	1	1	0.06	1.05	-0.1	10
Tennis Courts	8	8	0.49	5.27	2.7	11
Pickleball Courts (dedicated)	0	0	0.00	1.98	-2.0	3
Basketball Courts	9	6	0.34	6.44	-0.9	8
Baseball Fields	4	4	0.25	5.45	-1.4	4
Softball Fields	2	2	0.12	4.33	-2.3	1
T-ball Fields	4	4	0.25	ISD	ISD	ISD
Football Fields	0	0	0.00	2.17	-2.2	2
Soccer Fields	7	7	0.43	2.00	5.0	12
Lacrosse Field	0	0	0.00	0.88	-0.9	9

Park Inventory and Assessment

An inventory of the entire PDLG parks and recreation system was completed to analyze the existing parks and facilities throughout the community and to obtain a comprehensive and accurate picture of the available recreation opportunities at the time of the Comprehensive Master Plan. The PDLG system includes 13 parks and facilities comprising 66.7 acres of parkland. Each site assessment includes information about the park size, location, and classification, a numerical evaluation of the current park condition, aerial and site photography provided by Google Earth and PDLG staff from 2022, and capital improvement recommendations to improve the overall park aesthetic and function.

Park Evaluation Criteria

To determine a numerical evaluation score of each park, an assessment matrix has been developed including the 20 rated factors: Curb Appeal, Parking, Pedestrian Access, Internal Access, Paths/Trails, Park Signage, Site Furnishings, Sitting Areas, Shelters/Stages, Restrooms, Playgrounds, Sand Play, Ball Fields, Athletic Fields, Sports Courts, Winter Sports, Open Lawns, Landscaping, Natural Areas, and Overall Maintenance. Each factor has been weighted with scores ranging from 1 to 3 based on its condition of below average, average, or above average where 3 is the highest score. The park-wide evaluation score is determined by adding the scores of each factor and dividing by the total number of factors. The criteria used to determine the numerical rating and the criteria on which each factor was evaluated is described below:

Numerical Rating

- **3 / Above Average:** Amenity is within the first 1/3 of its useful lifespan and is in new or like new condition with minimal wear and signs of use that do not affect the function and safety of the users.
- **2 / Average:** Amenity is between 1/3 to 2/3 through its useful lifespan and/or has minor damage or signs of use. Any decrease in functionality is minimal and does not prevent the intended use of the amenity and user safety is not impacted
- **1 / Below Average:** Amenity is in the last 1/3 or beyond its useful life span and in poor condition with obvious signs of use or noticeably outdated design. The amenity may be damaged in a way that prevents the intended use from occurring or poses safety concerns for users.

Amenity Evaluation Factors

- **Curb Appeal:** The curb appeal of a park is measured by its character and the visitor's first impression of whether the park looks inviting, safe, well-maintained, and is aesthetically pleasing.
- **Parking:** Parking is reviewed and evaluated by on-street and off-street parking availability, quantity of spaces, existing surface and striping condition, and availability of ADA stalls and other accessibility considerations.
- **Pedestrian Access:** Pedestrian accessibility is reviewed by the functional ability to access the park from the surrounding neighborhoods. Generally, Village sidewalks, crosswalks, and regional biking trails provide accessibility while single-family backyard fences reduce and control access.
- **Internal Access:** Internal accessibility is evaluated by the functional ability to access each amenity and park facility, and if the amenity complies with Federal ADA guidelines.
- **Paths/Trails:** Path or trails include pedestrian, bicycle, and regional trails which are reviewed by condition of surface material, connection to park amenities and external pedestrian routes, wayfinding signage, and complies with Federal ADA guidelines.
- **Park Signage:** Park signs are assessed by their visibility, location, condition, surrounding landscaping, and consistency with Park District of La Grange standards.
- **Site Furnishings:** Site furnishings include benches, picnic table, bike racks, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, and other elements, which are appraised by quality, quantity, location, existing condition, and consistency with Park District of La Grange standards.
- **Sitting Areas:** Sitting areas are groupings of site furnishings that are evaluated by existing condition, quantity of benches and picnic tables relative to the park size and classification, shade availability, accessibility, and location relative to other amenities.
- **Shelters/Pavilions:** Shelters or pavilions are assessed based on existing condition of the structure and ground plane, size related to the park size and classification, and accessibility to park paths and other amenities.
- **Restrooms:** Both portable and permanent restrooms are reviewed by their condition, quantity relative to the park size and classification, accessibility, and location to other amenities.

- **Playgrounds:** Playgrounds are evaluated on overall condition, appearance, diversity of equipment, surfacing condition, type and quality of play area border, shade availability, and whether the playground meets ADA accessibility guidelines. The playground evaluation also considers the design/composition of the play area and its contextual surrounding for users of multiple age ranges and abilities.

Fitness equipment is also assessed under the play category as it shares many similar evaluation criteria including overall condition, appearance, diversity of equipment, surfacing condition, shade availability, and ADA and ASTM regulatory and best practice compliance.

- **Sand Play:** Sand play areas are reviewed by their condition, quality, accessibility, and shade availability.
- **Ball Fields:** Ball fields include baseball, softball, and t-ball fields, which are evaluated by quantity, outfield size and grass condition, infield condition, field erosion and drainage, and fencing/backstop material and condition. The assessment also considers team bench condition, spectator seating condition, shade availability, irrigation, and lighting and accessibility for players and spectators.
- **Athletic Fields:** Athletic fields consist of any rectangular field where sports are played, such as soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, football, and rugby. These fields are reviewed by type, size, grass condition, goal equipment condition, spectator amenities, and accessibility for players and spectators.
- **Sport Courts:** Sport courts include basketball, tennis, pickleball, volleyball, bocci, and shuffleboard courts, as well as in-line skate/rollerblade areas and blacktop games like four-square and hopscotch. These amenities are assessed by quantity, size, surface condition, fencing condition, equipment quality, seating availability, and accessibility to the courts. Factors such as color coat and striping condition, net adjustability, play backdrop, and lighting, are also assessed when provided.

Skate parks are also assessed under the court classification due to the similar evaluation criteria. Skate parks are assessed by their size, surfacing condition, equipment condition (if applicable), seating availability, and accessibility.

- **Winter Sports:** Winter sports include outdoor skating, hockey, toboggan, and sledding areas, which are reviewed by quantity, surface, and fencing condition, accessibility, and lighting. The availability of shelter or warming structures may also be considered.
- **Open Lawns:** Lawns are unprogrammed open spaces and are evaluated by weed control and maintenance, considering bare areas, grass health, drainage, and irrigation. This evaluation covers only the non-athletic field areas of the parks and facilities where lawns provide open space for active or passive recreation.
- **Landscaping:** Landscaping is reviewed by the quality, quantity, and diversity of plants, seasonal interest, shade provided, and appropriate scale to the surroundings.
- **Natural Areas:** Natural areas/conservation areas are reviewed by plant materials, quality, quantity, and variety. Educational and interpretive elements are also considered in the assessment.
- **Overall Maintenance:** The general maintenance of the park is assessed by the standard maintenance practices used and actual aesthetic and physical condition.

The ratings developed during the inventory and assessment of each park and facility serve as the basis for the capital improvement recommendations presented later in this report.

Community Center Park

Score: **1.8**

Site Address: 200 South Washington Avenue
Total Acres: 0.9 acres
Classification: Special Use Park

Acquired/Built: 1994
Context: Residential

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal			X	Entrance lacks landscaping
B	Parking		X		On-street parking available. Lacks an ADA stall at Washington Ave.
C	Pedestrian Access		X		
D	Internal Access			X	
E	Paths/Trails				
F	Park Signage		X		Design is not consistent with other PDLG locations
G	Site Furnishings		X		Lacks sufficient, accessible furnishings (bike racks, benches, etc.). Lighting is present but not in-scale with the park. Bleachers lack required safety barrier fence
H	Sitting Area		X		
I	Shelter/Stage				
J	Restrooms				
K	Playground		X		1 traditional style structure for 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. Lacks designated entry point and ADA access. Lack of setback from property line. Constructed 2019
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields				
N	Athletic Fields				
O	Sport Courts - Basketball			X	2 courts with lights. Surface is cracked. Access from the alleyway allows trespass and cut-through. Constructed 2012
P	Winter Sports				
Q	Open Lawns		X		Additional maintenance needed
R	Landscaping		X		Mature trees provide good shade.
S	Natural Areas				
T	Overall Maintenance		X		

Recommendations

- Provide a more durable and aesthetically appealing playground curb material such as concrete barrier curb
- Consider replacement plan for the playground considering the mature trees and site furnishings in the overall layout with new “themed” equipment to expand, and diversify the equipment to meet the needs of the young neighborhood demographic
- Develop a secondary accessible entrance from the playground to the basketball courts considering aesthetic curvilinear routes and landscaping enhancements
- Replace the entry sign with the PDLG standard signage and branding and add ornamental landscaping for visual and seasonal interest
- Add low perimeter landscaping to control views from within the park and into the park while enhancing curb appeal for the neighborhood at the courts along Washington Ave.
- Repair, resurface, and color coat existing basketball court surface, reset the hoop and provide seating
- Replace the chain link fence with new black vinyl coated chain link, ornamental fence, or wood fence material
- Provide designated and striped ADA parking stalls along Washington Avenue
- Replace light fixtures and poles with ornamental and low profile standards better suited to the park’s character



Denning Park

Score: **2.4**

Site Address: 4903 S. Willow Springs Road
Total Acres: 9.8 acres
Classification: Community Park

Acquired/Built: 1974
Context: Residential

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal	X			Landscaping is lacking at the building entrance
B	Parking		X		Updated regulatory signage, striping, ADA ramps, and curb cuts needed.
C	Pedestrian Access		X		
D	Internal Access	X			
E	Paths/Trails	X			5' width trails. Interior loop trail provided. Pedestrian lighting provided
F	Park Signage		X		
G	Site Furnishings		X		Inconsistent materials and styles
H	Sitting Area	X			
I	Shelter/Stage		X		Available for rentals. Constructed 2012
J	Restrooms		X		
K	Playground	X			Close proximity to the parking lot. 1 tree house style structure for 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. Poured-in-place surface is damaged. Constructed 2012
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields				
N	Athletic Fields - Soccer		X		Micro-field (smaller than standard play sizes)
O	Sport Courts - Basketball		X		Lacks shaded adjacent seating. Constructed 2011
P	Winter Sports				
Q	Open Lawns		X		
R	Landscaping		X		Community garden location. Mature trees provide good shade. Damaged and unhealthy trees should be replaced with new understory trees
S	Natural Areas				
T	Overall Maintenance	X			

*Additional Notes: the former Park District administration office building is leased to the LeaderShop non-profit organization

Recommendations

- Update playground equipment and include nature-based/themed equipment match the natural park character
- Repair and reseal parking lot and redesign the vehicular drop off to redirect park traffic and improve ADA routes
- Move porta-potty away from park entrance to the vicinity of the playground and shelter, considering screening and maintenance access
- Plant native species within the drainage ditch to create a “pollinator prairie” and rain garden providing green sustainable elements in the community and provide educational/interpretive signage to build resident awareness
- Remove dead trees and add more understory deciduous trees throughout the site
- Develop a master plan for the community garden area considering ADA accessibility, protection from vandalism and animals, storage of tools, water service, and a paved gathering space to create a sense of place and arrival. Incorporate sustainable gardening techniques such as native plants, composting, mulching, applying an integrated pest management approach, creating a habit for wildlife.
- Incorporate gathering spaces and teen “hang-out” areas such as hammocks, game tables, and lawn games to meet the needs of the neighborhood demographic and students at the adjacent high school



Site Address: Elm Avenue & Stone Avenue
Total Acres: 1.6 acres
Classification: Mini Park

Acquired/Built: 1996
Context: Residential

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal	X			
B	Parking		X		On-street parking available
C	Pedestrian Access		X		Access provided from Brainard Ave. and Stone Ave.
D	Internal Access		X		
E	Paths/Trails		X		Surface is cracked and uneven
F	Park Signage	X			Entry sign lacks adjacent landscaping
G	Site Furnishings		X		Lacks sufficient, accessible furnishings (bike racks, benches, etc.)
H	Sitting Area				
I	Shelter/Stage				
J	Restrooms				
K	Playground		X		2 traditional style structures for 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. Sensory stimulation is lacking. Constructed 2012
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields				
N	Athletic Fields				
O	Sport Courts - Basketball			X	Shoot-around layout with 3 hoops. Surface is cracked and uneven. Benches are inaccessible. Constructed 2012
P	Winter Sports				
Q	Open Lawns		X		Unofficial sled hill is rutted and has sections of damaged lawn from high use
R	Landscaping	X			Nadine Troy Memorial Garden location
S	Natural Areas				
T	Overall Maintenance		X		Overgrown plantings observed

Recommendations

- Update playground equipment and include “themed” layout to expand, and diversify the equipment to meet the needs of the young neighborhood demographic
- Add deciduous low growing shrubs, groundcovers or perennial plantings at the park sign and Elm Avenue entrance for better visibility and seasonal interest
- Repair and repave circular basketball court and provide accessible walkway for bench seating
- Unify bench seating style and materials throughout the park
- Provide paved, accessible path and aprons to all benches
- Improve turf conditions on sled hill



Site Address: N. Gilbert Avenue and 41st Street

Acquired/Built: 1932

Total Acres: 5.7 acres

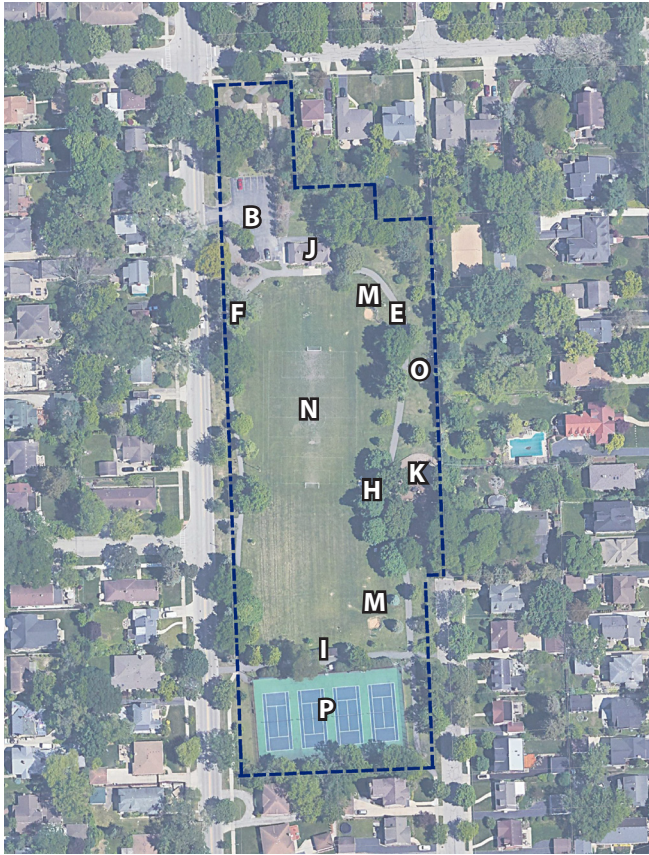
Context: Residential

Classification: Neighborhood Park

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal	X			
B	Parking		X		Updated regulatory signage and wheel stops needed
C	Pedestrian Access		X		Connections to Village sidewalks provided
D	Internal Access	X			Amenity layout is good with central playground
E	Paths/Trails		X		5' width trails. Interior loop trail provided. Pedestrian lighting provided
F	Park Signage	X			
G	Site Furnishings		X		Lacks sufficient, accessible furnishings
H	Sitting Area		X		
I	Shelter/Stage			X	Column wraps are disproportional to the shelter and limit available space for use
J	Restrooms		X		
K	Playground		X		Separate areas with 2 traditional style structures for 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. Sensory stimulation is lacking. Design cohesiveness is lacking . Constructed 2014
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields - T-ball		X		(Yelnick Field and Burson Field). Lack accessible path connections. Lack spectator seating
N	Athletic Fields - Soccer	X			1 large field can be converted into 2 small fields as needed
O	Sport Courts - Basketball			X	Lacks accessible path connection. Hoop orientation impacts the walking path when ball is overshot. Constructed 1996
P	Sport Courts - Tennis			X	Lacks accessible path connection. Surface is cracked and has areas of standing water. Courts are lit on a push button system
Q	Sport Courts - Other			X	1 hopscotch and 2 shuffleboard. Graphics are faded. Adjacent benches in poor condition
R	Winter Sports		X		
S	Open Lawns	X			
T	Landscaping		X		Mature trees provide good shade. Damaged and unhealthy trees should be replaced with new understory trees
U	Natural Areas				
V	Overall Maintenance		X		

Recommendations

- Consider developing a master plan that reconfigures the parking lot area to provide an identifiable, safe, and attractive drop-off location for preschool attendees. Consider permeable brick paving to be more inviting provide an educational opportunity for best management practices
- Provide ADA accessible paths to all amenities
- Repair, resurface, and color coat existing tennis court surface and modify fencing for ADA compliant access
- Consider replacement plan for the playground equipment including donation of the old equipment and consideration of the mature trees and site furnishings in the overall layout
- Consider locating a porta-potty with screening in the vicinity of the playground
- Reorient the basketball standard and create visual and noise buffer from the basketball court to the playground



Gordon Park

Score: **2.4**

Site Address: Tilden Avenue and Ogden Avenue
Total Acres: 13.1 acres
Classification: Community Park

Acquired/Built: 1930
Context: Residential, Commercial, Industrial

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal		X		
B	Parking		X		Adjacent parking lots are owned by the Village
C	Pedestrian Access		X		
D	Internal Access	X			
E	Paths/Trails	X			8' width trails. Interior loop trail provided. Pedestrian lighting provided
F	Park Signage	X			
G	Site Furnishings		X		More accessible seating needed
H	Sitting Area		X		
I	Shelter/Stage - Pavilion	X			Available for rentals. Includes electrical service
J	Shelter/Stage - Amphitheater	X			
K	Restrooms		X		
L	Playground	X			1 traditional style structures for 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. Constructed 2014
M	Sand Play				
N	Play - Splash Pad	X			Access controlled with ornamental fencing. Minimal visual interest when the features are off
O	Play - Fitness Stations	X			5 independently placed pieces along the park path
P	Ball Fields - Softball		X		2 softball fields. Accessible seating needed
Q	Athletic Fields - Soccer			X	2 regulation size, one micro-field
R	Sport Courts - Handball		X		3 courts with sports lighting. Tournament destination. Constructed 1989
S	Court - Skate Sport	X			2 quarter ramps, grind box, and flat rail grind bar. Designed for casual users
T	Winter Sports	X			
U	Open Lawns		X		
V	Landscaping		X		Lacking mature shade trees
W	Natural Areas		X		Butterfly garden location
X	Overall Maintenance		X		

Recommendations

- Provide additional shade trees throughout the park near amenities, seating area, and the primary entries
- Provide understory and ornamental landscape to screen at-grade utilities and infrastructure
- Consider the addition of coneflower, milkweed, and other open, tube-shape flowers within the butterfly garden, and develop a regular fertilizing regimen for better plant health to attract more butterflies
- Improve soccer field turf quality considering biosolid soil amendments
- Continue to maintain grass soccer fields to accommodate sports play and special event vehicular and foot traffic use
- Replace sports lighting with environmentally friendly LEDs in coordination with awarded ComEd grant
- Improve ADA access from off-street parking to playground and splash pad areas



Meadowbrook Manor Park

Score: **3.0**

Site Address: 339 9th Avenue
Total Acres: 0.6 acres
Classification: Mini Park

Acquired/Built: 2018
Context: Residential

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal				
B	Parking				
C	Pedestrian Access				
D	Internal Access				
E	Paths/Trails				
F	Park Signage				
G	Site Furnishings				
H	Sitting Area				
I	Shelter/Stage				
J	Restrooms				
K	Playground	X			1 traditional style structure for 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. Constructed 2018
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields				
N	Athletic Fields				
O	Sport Courts				
P	Winter Sports				
Q	Open Lawns				
R	Landscaping				
S	Natural Areas				
T	Overall Maintenance				

*Additional Notes: Park space consisting of the playground container and equipment is located on and owned by Meadowbrook Manor Senior Living and Rehabilitation but maintained by the PDLG

Recommendations

- Consider replacement plan for the playground considering the mature trees and site furnishings in the overall layout
- Improve accessible access to the site furnishings
- Continue to work with Meadowbrook Manor to meet community's needs



Recreation Center

Score: **2.1**

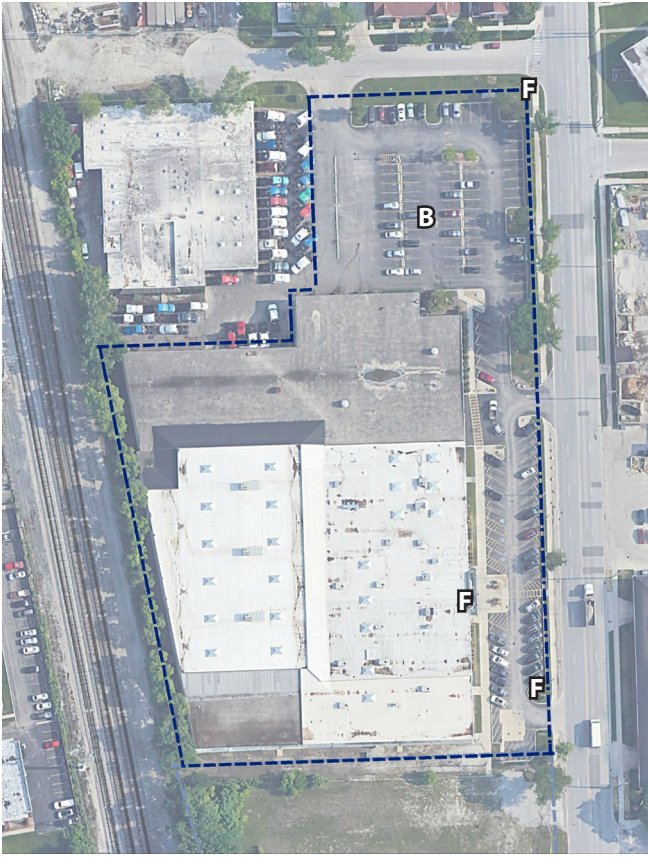
Site Address: 536 East Avenue
Total Acres: 4.7 acres
Classification: Special Use Park

Acquired/Built: 2006
Context: Commercial

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal		X		
B	Parking	X			Need for additional capacity
C	Pedestrian Access			X	Vehicular access is prioritized
D	Internal Access		X		
E	Paths/Trails				
F	Park Signage		X		Insufficient for vehicular visibility
G	Site Furnishings				
H	Sitting Area				
I	Shelter/Stage				
J	Restrooms				
K	Playground				
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields				
N	Athletic Fields				
O	Sport Courts				
P	Winter Sports				
Q	Open Lawns				
R	Landscaping		X		Screening from the road is lacking
S	Natural Areas		X		
T	Overall Maintenance	X			

Recommendations

- Add deciduous low growing shrubs, groundcover and perennial landscaping at the park signs for improved aesthetics and seasonal interest and curb appeal
- Add high-visibility signage to park entrances



Rotary Centennial Park

Score: **2.0**

Site Address: 116 Sawyer Avenue

Acquired/Built: 1970

Total Acres: 0.3

Context: Residential

Classification: Mini Park

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal		X		Perimeter fencing and gates are in poor condition and unattractive
B	Parking		X		On-street parking available
C	Pedestrian Access			X	Alley access is not ADA compliant and has potential for pedestrian/vehicle conflict. Paths do not connect to secondary access points
D	Internal Access		X		Playground is centrally located
E	Paths/Trails		X		Surface is cracked and uneven
F	Park Signage		X		Insufficient for vehicular visibility
G	Site Furnishings		X		Lacks sufficient, accessible furnishings (bike racks, benches, etc.). Lighting is present but not in-scale with the park
H	Sitting Area		X		
I	Shelter/Stage		X		Structure is dated and lacks electrical service. Concrete shelter pad is damaged
J	Restrooms				
K	Playground		X		2 traditional style structures for 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. ADA standards are not met. Sensory stimulation is lacking. Constructed 2006
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields				
N	Athletic Fields				
O	Sport Courts				
P	Winter Sports				
Q	Open Lawns		X		
R	Landscaping	X			Enhance entry for greater curb appeal (color, texture).
S	Natural Areas				
T	Overall Maintenance	X			

Recommendations

- Develop a new park master plan that eliminates the alleyway access and creates two access points off Sawyer Ave.
- Improve spatial definition between the park and adjacent residences
- Update playground equipment and include a “themed” play layout. Replace, expand, and diversify “themed” playground equipment to meet the needs of the young neighborhood demographic
- Provide a more durable and aesthetically appealing playground curb material such as concrete barrier curb
- Consider providing a drinking fountain near the playground
- Consider a more ornamental gazebo style pavilion located closer to Sawyer Avenue
- Add deciduous low growing shrubs, groundcover and perennial landscaping at the park sign for improved aesthetics and seasonal interest
- Add perimeter landscaping to control views from within the park buffer the park and adjacent residences
- Remove the chain link fence along Sawyer Avenue to present a more inviting message to the community
- Replace the chain link fence with new black vinyl coated chain link or ornamental fence material
- Replace light fixtures and poles with ornamental and low profile standards better suited to the park’s character



Sedgwick Park

Score: **2.0**

Site Address: 48th Street and 10th Avenue

Acquired/Built: 1932

Total Acres: 22.2 acres

Context: Residential and Industrial

Classification: Community Park

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal		X		
B	Parking		X		4 lots provided. Parking lots lack planting islands
C	Pedestrian Access		X		
D	Internal Access		X		
E	Paths/Trails		X		8-10' wide aggregate trail
F	Park Signage	X			
G	Site Furnishings		X		More accessible seating needed. Inconsistent materials and styles
H	Sitting Area		X		
I	Shelter/Stage				
J	Restrooms				
K	Playground		X		1 traditional style structures for 5-12 age range. Design lacks cohesiveness. Constructed 2015
L	Sand Play			X	
M	Ball Fields		X		2 Little League, 2 Babe Ruth fields. Tournament location. Furnishings in poor condition
N	Athletic Fields - Soccer			X	1 full-size, 1 medium-sized field. Grass condition is poor
O	Sport Courts - Volleyball			X	Sand quality is poor
P	Sport Courts - Tennis	X			2 courts dedicated tennis, 2 courts stripped for pickleball and tennis. Courts are lit on a push button system
Q	Sport Courts - Basketball		X		Resurfacing needed. Lacks buffers between court, parking, and residences. Constructed 1994
R	Winter Sports				
S	Open Lawns		X		
T	Landscaping		X		Mature trees provide good shade. Damaged and unhealthy trees should be replaced with new understory trees. Lack of understory ornamental plantings
U	Natural Areas				
V	Overall Maintenance		X		

Recommendations

- Resurface trails and walkways throughout the park and incorporate specialty paving at seating areas. Consider incorporating permeable options such as pavers or stone screenings for MWRD grant assistance
- Replace picnic tables with updated standard
- Repave and restripe the East Avenue and the 49th Street angled parking lots
- Consider replacement plan for the playground considering the mature trees and site furnishings in the overall layout with new equipment for the 2-5 age range
- Improve soccer field turf quality considering biosolid soil amendments
- Consider an artificial turf option field to reduce “wear and tear” on the soccer fields and/or explore an intergovernmental agreement with Lyons Township to extend and accommodate the District’s growing soccer program on their existing synthetic turf fields
- Replace sports lighting with environmentally friendly LEDs. Consider ComEd grant assistance



Site Address: 1108 S. Spring Avenue
Total Acres: 0.8 acres
Classification: Mini Park

Acquired/Built: 1996
Context: Residential

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal		X		Entrance lacks landscaping. Perimeter fencing and gates are in poor condition and unattractive
B	Parking		X		On-street parking available
C	Pedestrian Access		X		
D	Internal Access		X		Path access to secondary access is lacking
E	Paths/Trails		X		Surface is cracked and uneven
F	Park Signage		X		Insufficient for vehicular visibility
G	Site Furnishings		X		Lacks sufficient, accessible furnishings (bike racks, benches, etc.). Lighting is present but not in-scale with the park
H	Sitting Area		X		
I	Shelter/Stage		X		Structure is dated and lacks electrical service. Concrete shelter pad is damaged. Available for rentals
J	Restrooms				
K	Playground		X		2 traditional style structures for 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. ADA standards are not met. Sensory stimulation is lacking. Constructed 1995
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields				
N	Athletic Fields				
O	Sport Courts				
P	Winter Sports				
Q	Open Lawns		X		
R	Landscaping	X			Mature trees provide good shade
S	Natural Areas				
T	Overall Maintenance	X			

Recommendations

- Consider replacement plan for the playground considering the mature trees and site furnishings in the overall layout with new “themed” equipment to expand, and diversify the equipment to meet the needs of the young neighborhood demographic
- Provide a more durable and aesthetically appealing playground curb material such as concrete barrier curb
- Consider replacing the shelter to enhance the park character and add electrical service
- Add deciduous low growing shrubs, groundcover and perennial landscaping at the park sign for improved aesthetics and seasonal interest
- Add perimeter landscaping to control views from within the park buffer the park and adjacent residences
- Replace the chain link fence with new black vinyl coated chain link or ornamental fence material
- Replace light fixtures and poles with ornamental and low profile standards better suited to the park’s character



Stone Park

Score: **2.1**

Site Address: 10 N. Stone Avenue
Total Acres: 0.5 acres
Classification: Mini Park

Acquired/Built: 1995
Context: Residential

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal		X		Entrance lacks landscaping
B	Parking		X		On-street parking available
C	Pedestrian Access		X		
D	Internal Access			X	Lack of any internal paths
E	Paths/Trails				
F	Park Signage	X			
G	Site Furnishings		X		Lacks sufficient, accessible furnishings (bike racks, benches, etc.). Lighting is present but not in-scale with the park
H	Sitting Area		X		
I	Shelter/Stage				
J	Restrooms				
K	Playground		X		1 traditional style structure for 5-12 age range. ADA standards are not met. Sensory stimulation is lacking. Constructed 1995
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields				
N	Athletic Fields				
O	Sport Courts - Basketball			X	Lacks accessible path connection. Surface is cracked. Hoop footing has heaved Constructed 1985
P	Winter Sports				
Q	Open Lawns		X		
R	Landscaping	X			Mature trees provide good shade
S	Natural Areas				
T	Overall Maintenance	X			

Recommendations

- Consider replacement plan for the playground considering the mature trees and site furnishings in the overall layout with new “themed” equipment to expand, and diversify the equipment to meet the needs of the young neighborhood demographic
- Provide a more durable and aesthetically appealingly playground curb material such as concrete barrier curb
- Consider providing a drinking fountain near the playground
- Consider locating a porta-potty with screening in the vicinity of the playground
- Consider providing a shelter or ornamental gazebo to provide shaded seating for park visitors and enhance the park character
- Repair, resurface, and color coat existing basketball court surface and reset the hoop
- Add ornamental landscaping at the park entrances and perimeter landscaping to screen the park and control views from the adjacent parking look to the south
- Replace light fixtures and poles with ornamental and low profile standards better suited to the park’s character



Waiola Park

Score: **2.1**

Site Address: 545 S. Stone Avenue
Total Acres: 3.6 acres
Classification: Neighborhood Park

Acquired/Built: 1931
Context: Residential

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal	X			
B	Parking		X		On-street parking available
C	Pedestrian Access	X			
D	Internal Access		X		
E	Paths/Trails		X		Closed loop path provided
F	Park Signage		X		Lacks ornamental landscaping
G	Site Furnishings		X		Lacks sufficient, accessible furnishings (bike racks, benches, etc.). Lighting is present and in line with the park character
H	Sitting Area		X		
I	Shelter/Stage				
J	Restrooms				
K	Playground		X		1 traditional style structure for 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. ADA standards are not met. Sensory stimulation is lacking. Lacks accessible path connection. Constructed 1996
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields - Tball		X		
N	Athletic Fields				
O	Sport Courts - Basketball			X	Lacks accessible path connection. Surface is cracked and uneven. Constructed 2012
P	Winter Sports				
Q	Open Lawns		X		
R	Landscaping	X			Mature trees provide good shade
S	Natural Areas				
T	Overall Maintenance		X		

*Additional Notes: Special event location

Recommendations

- Consider replacement plan for the playground considering the mature trees and site furnishings in the overall layout with new “themed” equipment to expand, and diversify the equipment to meet the needs of the young neighborhood demographic
- Provide a more durable and aesthetically appealing playground curb material such as concrete barrier curb
- Consider locating a porta-potty with screening in the vicinity of the playground
- Consider providing a shelter or ornamental gazebo to provide shaded seating for park visitors and enhance the park character
- Repair, resurface, and color coat existing basketball court surface and provide a new hoop



610 East Avenue Property

Score: **N/A**

Site Address: 610 East Avenue
Total Acres: 2.9 acres
Classification: Undeveloped Park

Acquired/Built: 2021
Context: Commercial, Recreation

		3 Above Average	2 Average	1 Below Average	Other Notes
A	Curb Appeal				
B	Parking				
C	Pedestrian Access				
D	Internal Access				
E	Paths/Trails				
F	Park Signage				
G	Site Furnishings				
H	Sitting Area				
I	Shelter/Stage				
J	Restrooms				
K	Playground				
L	Sand Play				
M	Ball Fields				
N	Athletic Fields				
O	Sport Courts				
P	Winter Sports				
Q	Open Lawns				
R	Landscaping				
S	Natural Areas				
T	Overall Maintenance				

Recommendations

- Complete planned development of 610 East Ave. into a community recreation resource. This brownfield site was formerly owned by NICOR Gas and will be converted into a recreational green space and functional parking facility to support the adjacent Recreation Center. The PDLG is currently working with local citizens and the Cody Braun Architecture design team to develop a community-based plan for the site. When complete, the site will consist of a 137 car parking lot and stormwater detention with an interpretation area. Recreational green space and amenities will be added in future phases.



Facility Inventory and Assessment

The Planning Team and PDLG staff completed a visual survey and inventory of the PDLG indoor facilities in the spring to obtain a comprehensive and accurate picture of the facilities' condition and capacity to provide recreation, support, and administration services at the time of the Comprehensive Master Plan. The PDLG owns six facilities across its 13 park locations.

The following pages include the facility inventory for each facility including its location, approximate size, construction and renovation history, estimated renovation and replacement budgets, and aerial and site photography provided by Google Earth and PDLG staff from 2021 and 2022. A full description of needed repairs and improvements, including cost estimates, can be found in the appendix.

Park Metrics Evaluation

In addition to the facility inventory, the Planning Team utilized NRPA's Park Metrics to compare the Park District of La Grange to 22 other public midwest recreation agencies with populations between 11,000 and 22,000. This comparison considers the provided number of different types of indoor recreation spaces rather than square footage provided. It should be assumed that the number of facilities needed to meet the Park Metrics median would be rounded to a whole number.

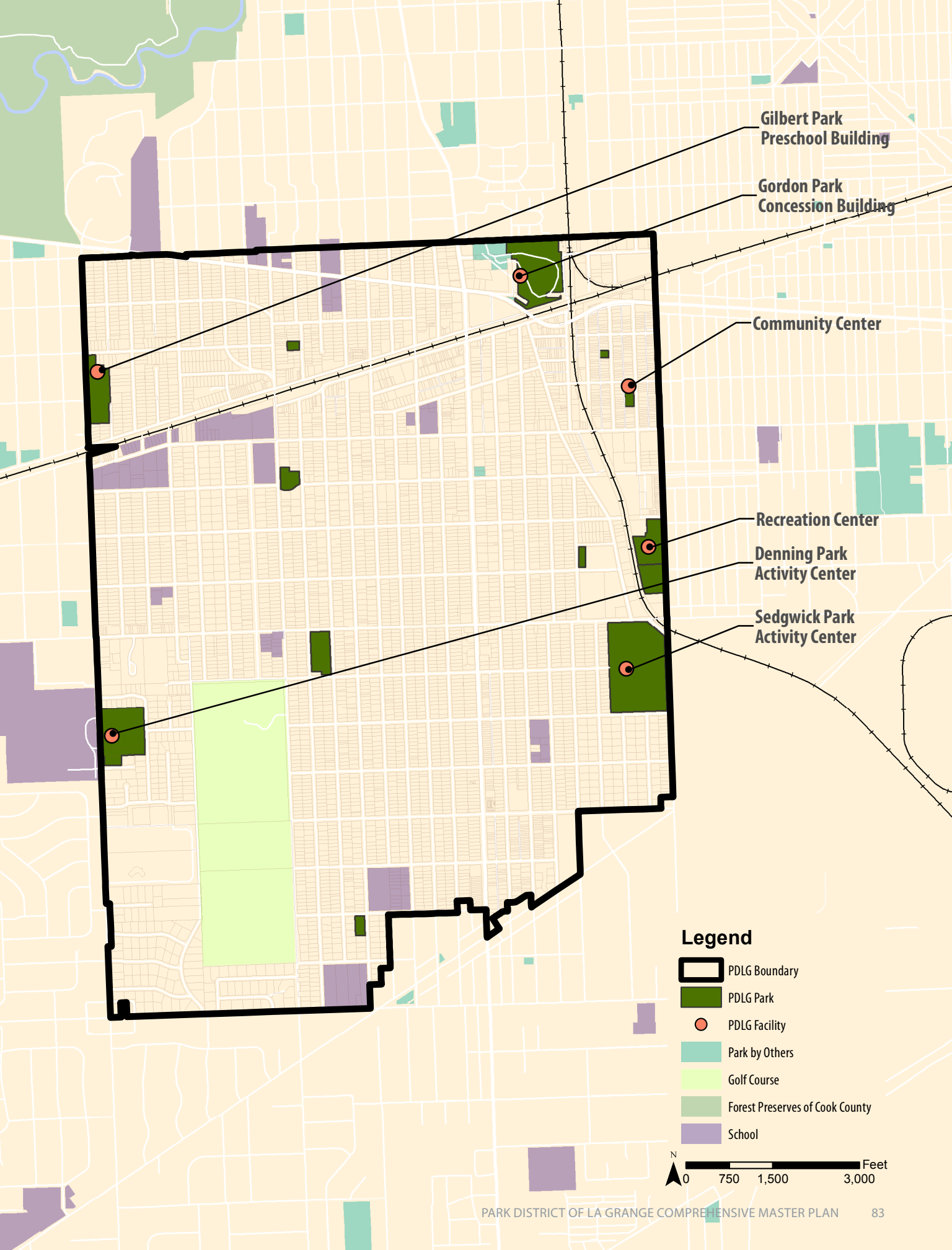
Park Metrics also records the number of facilities and total square footage owned and maintained by agencies. Compared to this benchmark, PDLG has slightly more facilities than other agencies but significantly more square footage.

Park Metrics Benchmarks

11,000-22,000 population		22 agencies	
Benchmark	Park Metrics Median	PDLG	
Total number of buildings owned	4	6	
Total square feet owned	±30,000	±137,560	

Park Metrics Benchmarks - Facilities Offered

Name	Existing # of Facilities			Illinois Facility Average Total # of Facilities needed to meet Park Metrics median	Surplus / Deficit	Ranking
	Existing # of Facilities (total)	Existing # of Facilities at current standards	Existing # of Facilities per population			
INDOOR FACILITIES						
Recreation / Community Center	1	1	0.06	1.50	-0.5	1
Senior Center	0	0	0.00	1.08	-1.1	6
Teen Center	0	0	0.00	1.07	-1.1	5
Ice Skating Rink (indoor)	0	0	0.00	2.15	-2.1	7
Indoor Competative Swimming Pool	0	0	0.00	1.03	-1.0	4
Indoor Leisure Pool	0	0	0.00	0.99	-1.0	3
Nature / Interpretive Center	0	0	0.00	0.88	-0.9	2



Gilbert Park
Preschool Building

Gordon Park
Concession Building








Community Center

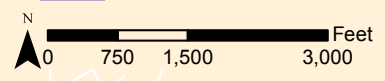
Recreation Center

Denning Park
Activity Center

Sedgwick Park
Activity Center

Legend

-  PDLG Boundary
-  PDLG Park
-  PDLG Facility
-  Park by Others
-  Golf Course
-  Forest Preserves of Cook County
-  School



Community Center

Site Address: 200 South Washington Avenue

Total Size: 4,290 square feet

Acquired/Built: 1970

Facility Construction

- Masonry bearing walls
- Low slope roof system
- Single ply membrane roof with two internal drains

Facility Utilities

- Interior mechanical room
- Rooftop remote condensing units

Facility Composition

- Large program space
- Storage rooms
- Kitchen
- Staff office

Primary Use

- Recreation programming

Functionality

- Evidence of water infiltration and efflorescence on the masonry walls
- Sections of the mechanical room piping requires testing and possible abatement
- Restrooms do not meet Illinois Accessibility Code and the American with Disabilities Act requirements

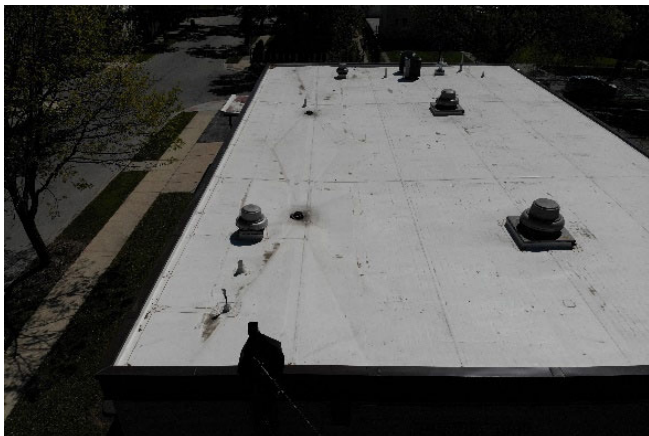
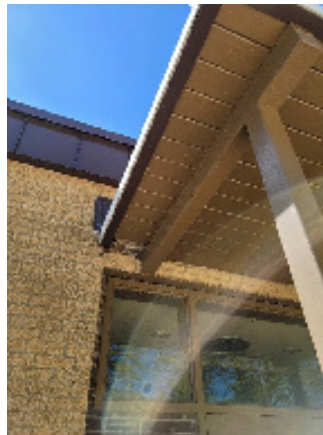
Capital Improvements and Repairs

Replacement Cost: \$1,501,500

Proposed Repairs: \$381,885

Percentage of Replacement Cost: 25.4%





Denning Park Activity Building

Site Address: 4903 S. Willow Springs Road

Total Size: 3,550 square feet

Acquired/Built: 1976

Facility Construction

- Masonry bearing walls
- Wood flooring and roof framing
- Wood siding
- Asphalt shingle roof

Facility Utilities

- Exterior mechanical unit at grade
 - Unit in poor condition and with exposed flue
 - Potential burn hazard

Primary Use

- Leased by “The Leadership” non-profit organization which provides leadership and outreach/volunteer services for elementary through high school youths.
- Offices
- Basement Storage
- (former administration office)

Functionality

- Access through rear corridor between the main entrance lobby and program space to the rear doors is restricted due to corridor being used for storage
- Access through rear corridor between the main entrance lobby and program space to the rear doors is restricted by interior swinging doors
- Periodic flooding of the basement from an unknown source
- Wood siding in need of repair or replacement
- Added wood columns and supports in the basement bearing directly on the concrete slab

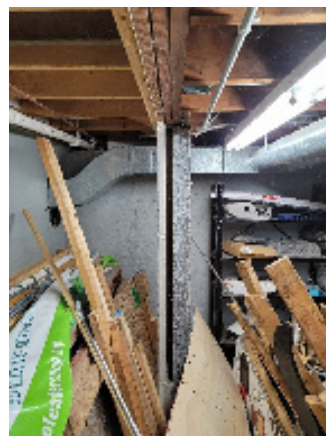
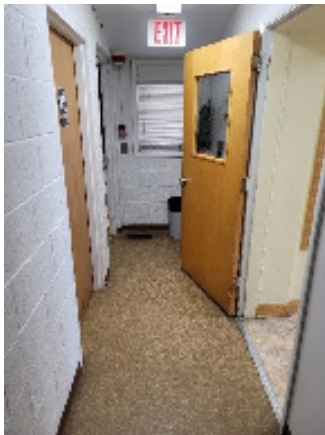
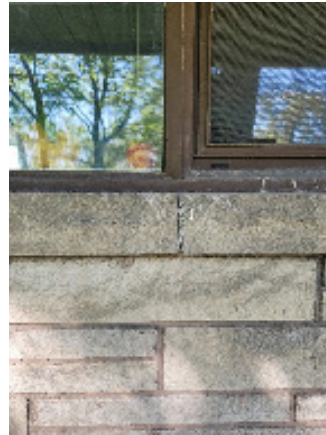
Capital Improvements and Repairs

Replacement Cost: \$1,501,500

Proposed Repairs: \$381,885

Percentage of Replacement Cost: 25.4%





Gilbert Park Preschool Building

Site Address: Gilbert Park and 42nd Street

Total Size: 1,710 square feet

Acquired/Built: 1940s

Facility Construction

- Masonry bearing walls
- Wood framed roof structure
- Wood siding
- Asphalt shingle roof

Facility Utilities

- Basement mechanical and electrical system

Primary Use

- Pre-school
- Kitchen
- Office
- (former ice skating warming shelter)

Functionality

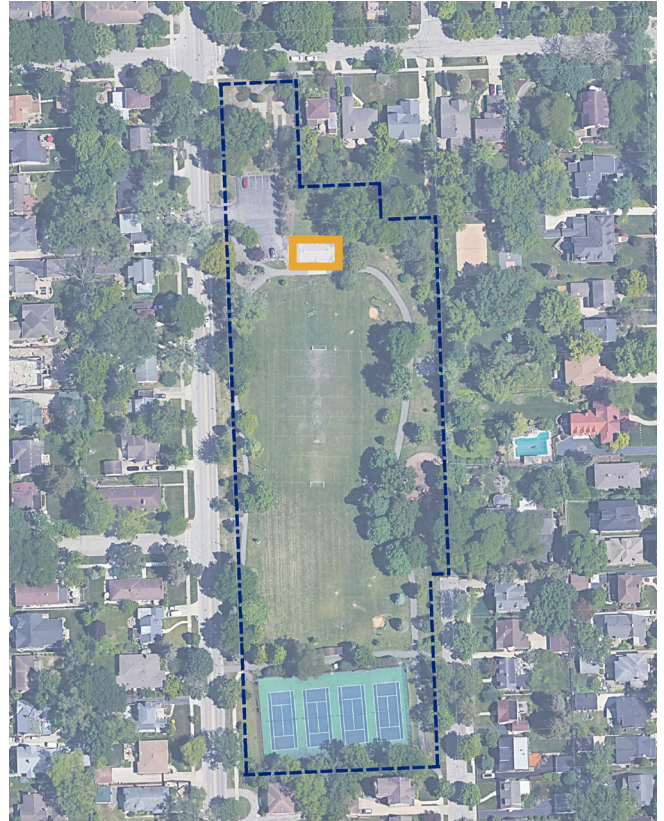
- Electrical outlets within reach of children should be covered per Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- Wood siding, fascia, and trim in need of repair or replacement
- Restrooms do not meet Illinois Accessibility Code and the American with Disabilities Act requirements

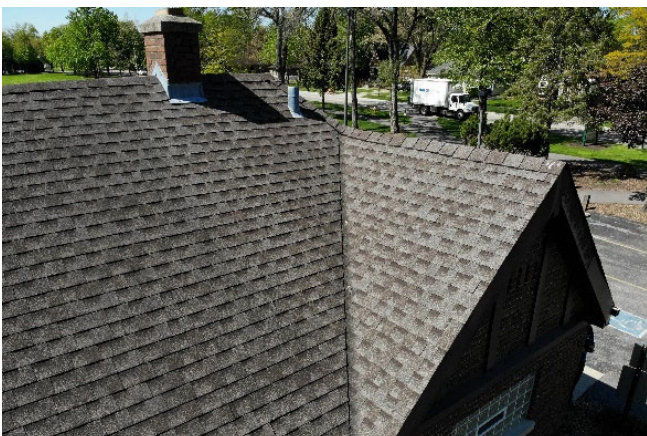
Capital Improvements and Repairs

Replacement Cost: \$598,500

Proposed Repairs: \$48,410

Percentage of Replacement Cost: 7.8%





Gordon Park Concession Building

Site Address: Ogden Avenue and Tilden Avenue

Total Size: 850 square feet

Acquired/Built: 2014

Facility Construction

- Masonry bearing walls
- Asphalt shingles

Facility Utilities

- ISD

Primary Use

- Concessions building
- Splash pad control systems

Functionality

- Soffit and fascia need repainting
- Exterior door pull handles do not meet Illinois Accessibility Code requirements

Capital Improvements and Repairs

Replacement Cost: \$297,500

Proposed Repairs: \$10,500

Percentage of Replacement Cost: 3.5%





Recreation Center

Site Address: 536 East Avenue

Total Size: 124,610 square feet

- 1st Floor: 115,660 square feet
- 2nd Floor; 8,950 square feet

Acquired/Built: 2005

Renovated: 2016

Facility Construction

- Exterior precast concrete bearing walls
- Steel low slope roof framing
- Single-ply and ballast EPDM roof systems

Facility Utilities

- 12 rooftop HVAC units

Primary Use

- Administrative offices
- Maintenance shop
- Fitness Center
- Gymnasiums
- Program spaces
- White Sox Training Academy (leased space)
- Storage
- Indoor parking garage
- Banquet room
- Conference room

Functionality

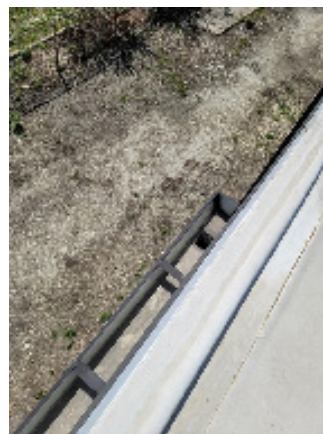
- Ballasted EPDM roof system is near the end of its useful life
- Standing water on the roof and evidence of roof leak observed on the roof and at interior ceiling tiles
- Rooftop HVAC units are near the end of their useful lives
- White Sox Training Academy batting cage netting prevents access to the second exit
- Server rooms lack dedicated cooling systems
- Inadequate coverage of carbon monoxide detection system in maintenance areas and parking garage

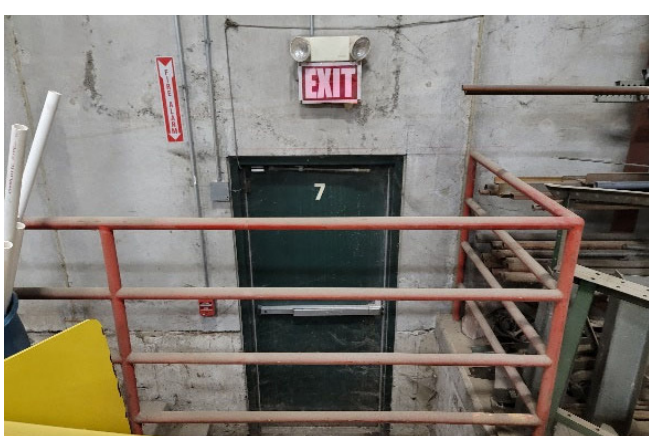
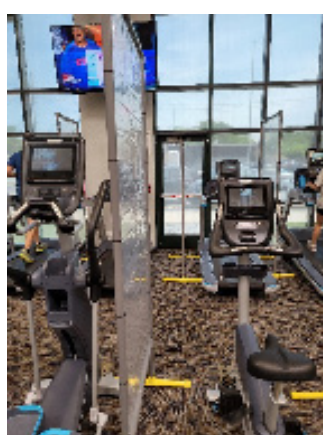
Capital Improvements and Repairs

Replacement Cost: \$43,613,500

Proposed Repairs: \$1,319,315

Percentage of Replacement Cost: 3.0%





Sedgwick Park Activity Center

Site Address: 48th Street and 10th Avenue

Total Size: 2,550 square feet

Acquired/Built: 1955

Facility Construction

- Load bearing masonry
- Asphalt low slope roof

Facility Utilities

- Interior utility room with mechanical system

Primary Use

- Partial day preschool
- Offices
- Storage

Functionality

- Roof is at end of useful life and in poor condition
- Electrical outlets within reach of children should be covered per Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- Exposed pipe insulation in utility and storage rooms should be tested and replaced as needed
- Light fixtures in main program space lack protective covers and lenses
- Exterior overhead door on the south side of the building is damaged

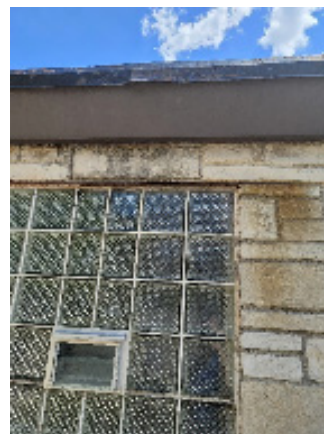
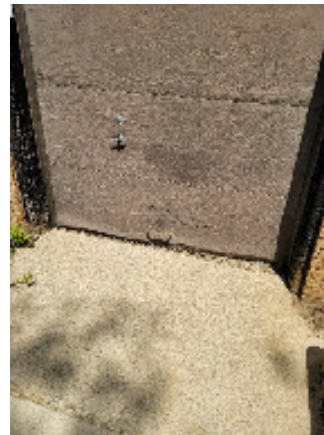


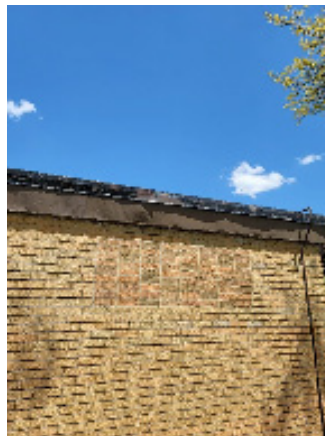
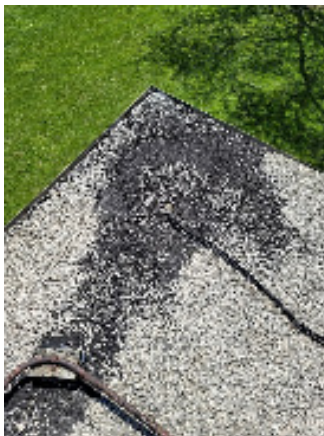
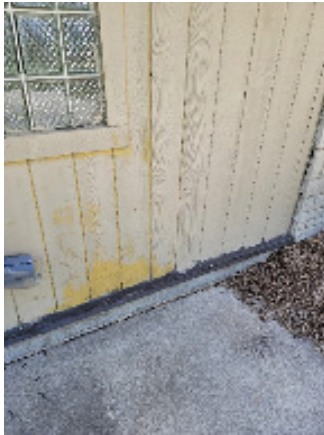
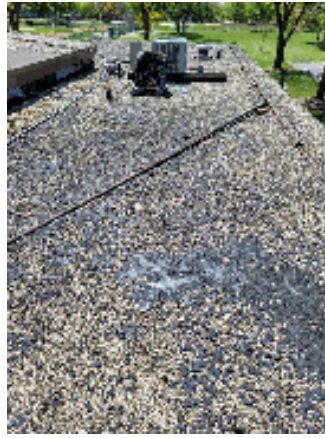
Capital Improvements and Repairs

Replacement Cost: \$892,500

Proposed Repairs: \$167,370

Percentage of Replacement Cost: 18.8%





Program Assessment

The following program assessment was completed by the Planning Team with input from Park District staff. This assessment documents the PDLG existing programs and recreation trends.

Key Performance Indicators

Documenting key performance indicators (KPI) along with maintaining a 5-year comparison delivers a dashboard of overall performance for informed decision making. Recommended key performance indicators are:

- Household penetration rate
- Program enrollment/attendance
- Success rates and average class size
- Waiting lists

These KPIs are documented over a 3 to 5-year period as part of the Park District’s unique trending information.

Household Penetration Rate

The household penetration rate is a measure of the number of households that had at least one member of the household register for a program or activity within the year. Trends are determined by a year-to-year increase or drop in household participation over a minimum of three years, although 5-years is the preferred monitoring duration. An increase in the 3 to 5-year trend line indicates that programming is connecting with a growing number of households and the customer base is expanding while a decline shows a shrinking base as households disengage from programming. A penetration rate of 30% or higher is recommended.

The following household penetration rates for the last 5 years were determined using the US Census estimated population for the Village of La Grange, IL:

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Unique Households	2,018	2,001	2,026	2,065	970
Penetration Rate	13.20%	13.10%	13.20%	13.50%	6%

*These numbers exclude BASE and Recreation Center memberships.

Program Data

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Program Offered	1418	1324	1278	1229	1067
Program Run	925	785	793	796	398
Success Rate	65%	59%	62%	65%	37%
Average Number of Participants	6	7	7	7	8
Total Participants	5887	5406	5396	5615	3069

* 2020 was the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restriction to access to recreation programming.

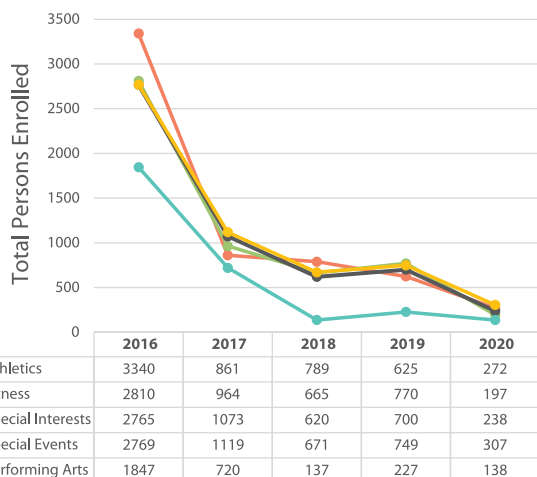
Program Enrollment/Attendance

Program enrollment and attendance gauge the popularity and relevance of programs and services. These numbers indicate the overall program and service participation growth/decline from year to year.

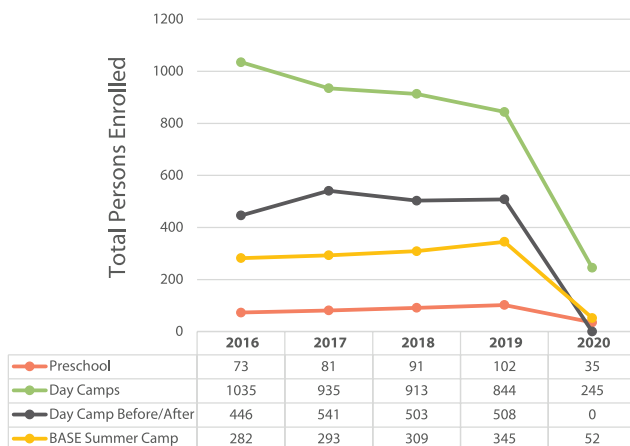
Program data for preschool, day camp and BASE data are presented separately.

Participation for Non-school Programs

Overall program participation during the last five years was relatively level with the exception of dramatically decreased participation in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic corresponding with an overall 45% decrease in participation.

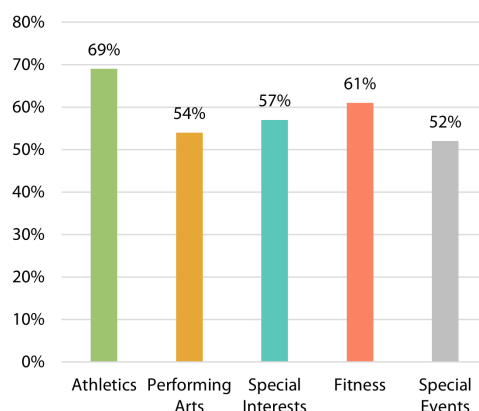


Participation for School Programs.



Program Success Rates

The program success rate is an indication of effectiveness and efficiency. It is calculated by dividing the number of programs run by the number offered. An overall program menu between 70% and 90% is considered successful while a success rate that is below 70% suggests time, effort, and resources are allocated to programs that are not aligned with community interests. A success rate above 90% may indicate conservative programming lacking fresh, trending, innovative offerings. New avant-garde opportunities when nurtured can mature into core programs.

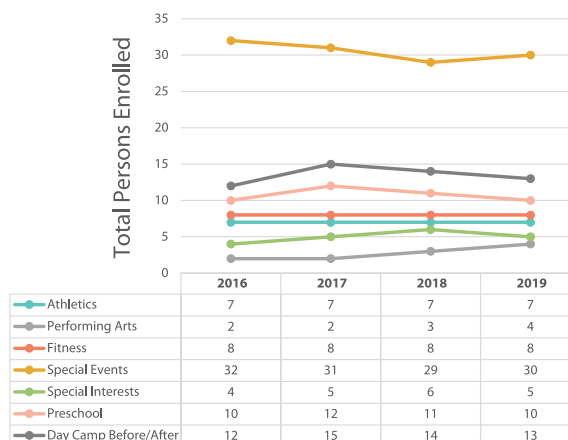


Selling recreation programs is a function of awareness, supply and demand, and pricing. Agencies can employ several strategies when cancellation rates are greater than 30%:

- Consider eliminating programs and services when the market is saturated with competition
- Eliminate offerings that have been marketed yet repeatedly fail to generate sufficient enrollment
- Consider reducing the number of similar or competing program choices
- Consider shorter class schedules and shorter increment programs to accommodate busy schedules

Average Class Size

The average class size impacts the program's margin, it is calculated by dividing the total number of participants by the number of programs run. As the average class size increases, so does the margin. Once direct costs are covered, incremental revenue hits the bottom line.



Program Balance

Each recreation program progresses through four lifecycles; Introductory, Growth, Maturity, and Decline. Recreation programming staff placed programs in the following categories:

Growth

- Dance Programs
- Kids First Sunday Athletic Classes
- Tai Chi
- Gymnastics
- La Grange Lions Travel Basketball

Mature

- Youth Developmental Basketball League 1st-4th grades
- Yoga Classes
- Jujitsu Classes
- Kiddie Kollege
- All Star Sports Soccer & T-Ball

Decline

- Karate
- Piano
- EVP Volleyball
- Men's Basketball League
- Kid Rock/Tot Rock Classes

The Learning Resources Network (LERN) is the world's leading and largest association in continuing education and lifelong learning. According to LERN, 10% to 15% of the program menu should be new programming. These programs should be suitably marketed and given opportunity to grow. 60 - 70% of the program menu should be in a growth or mature stage. These offerings should be routinely energized with a new or improved component. 10% to 15% of the program menu should be scrutinized and appropriate programs terminated to reallocate resources in new, trending, or innovative programming

The content, delivery and description of programs in all life cycle stages should be examined routinely and refreshed. However, this is especially critical for programs in the mature stage to prevent them from entering decline. Participant program evaluations are valuable when adjusting program content.

Staff cited the following challenges and inhibitors in programming for the community:

- Free programming by the library
- Competition
- Weather
- Getting the word out
- Finding knowledgeable instructors

Recreation Staff Perspectives

Six PDLG staff completed a SWOT analysis and discussion of societal, cultural, and behavioral trends in spring 2021 to determine current and future needs and identify trends that impact participation.

	Helpful	Harmful
Internal	<p>Strengths Fitness Center Basketball Day Camp/BASE Pre School</p>	<p>Weaknesses Capital Improvement Plan Facility Upkeep Marketing/ Branding Salary & Wages Staff Complacency Web Site</p>
External	<p>Opportunities Expand BASE Program Generate New Program Ideas Organizational Structure Improve Customer Service</p>	<p>Threats Legislation Number of Local Recreation Providers COVID 19</p>

The SWOT Analysis results can be used to build upon strengths, attack weaknesses, seize opportunities, and manage threats.

- **Build upon strengths:** Promote comprehensive programming to provide "something for everyone" and emphasize premier fitness facilities, the BASE program, day camps, and safety record.
- **Attack weaknesses:** Many of the identified weaknesses relate to the PDLG administration and operations. Addressing these items should include collective input and effort of the entire Park District team and may be improved by adding key, specialized staff such as a marketing expert. Staff from all departments of the Park District can also be challenged to create new programs each quarter to bring in new perspectives.
- **Seize opportunities:** Every weakness presents an opportunity for change and growth. Staff can brainstorm solutions to each weakness, prioritize, and implement new strategies to grow their success.
- **Manage Threats:** While threats are external and largely outside of Park District control, staff can identify and test strategies to manage the impact threats have on their agency. These may include ways to add flexibility and adaptability to Park District policy or new ways of differentiating the PDLG from other providers.

The SWOT exercise also offers insight into how the internal and external factors affecting programming have changed over time. According to Recreation Management State of the Industry Survey, the primary pre-COVID 19 pandemic challenges and concerns facing programming staff from across the nation were:

- Equipment and facility maintenance
- Staffing
- Marketing and increasing participation
- Creating new and innovative programs

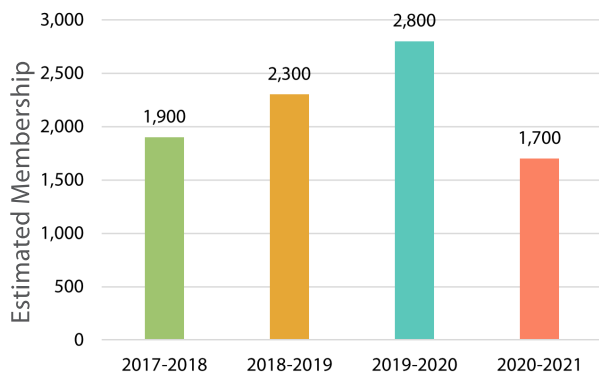
Fitness

According to the health fitness industry 16% to 25% of Americans are or have the propensity to join a gym/fitness center. The industry is benefitting from longer life spans and a desire to live a healthier more active lifestyle and the fitness industry is at the forefront of combating the obesity epidemic in the United States. Good health is a long-term investment and individuals may give up working out when it is tedious, or they do not see immediate results. Therefore, it is important to stay current with the latest fitness equipment and classes to maintain member interest and participation.

Martial arts, Learning Ladders Preschool, and La Grange Fitness received the highest satisfaction ratings in the community survey.

La Grange Fitness competes for market share with private sector facilities. It must be flexible and quick to counter competitors' membership drives, pricing discounts, and chic programming.

Since opening in September 2017, La Grange Fitness has been well received. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, households with at least one membership at La Grange Fitness were increasing at a rate of about 15% to 26% each year.



PDLG staff and the Planning Team identified three core strategies for continued success are:

1. Growing membership
2. Membership retention
3. Fitness programming

Growing Membership

There are two options to increase membership: Gain a higher percent of market share by winning members away from competitors or expand the market by engaging the non-active population. Gaining more market share includes many challenges as people often have specific reasons for

choosing where they work out including the amenities, location, travel distance, rates, equipment, appearance/cleanliness, reputation, workout partner, etc. which may be difficult to compete against. Expanding the market reduces the impact of these factor as sedentary people are given a reason and motivation to get active.

Member Retention

Keeping current members is often more impactful to success than recruiting new users and is typically less expensive. High retention is an indicator of member satisfaction and financial performance.

According to the International Health, Racquet and Sports Club Association (ISHRA) Profiles of Success report the average club retention rate is 66%. The top three reasons people stop gym memberships are:

- It is too expensive
- They can exercise elsewhere for free
- They were not using their membership.

Fitness Programming

Participants in fitness classes are ideal candidates for membership and members are ideal candidates for fitness programs. Cross-selling requires routine interaction with members and guests. In order to successfully leverage each of these sub-market areas the PDLG should understand their member's fitness goals and explain how a membership or class help achieve those goals. Additionally, the style and content of fitness programs change frequently. New programs keep participants engaged and routines from getting boring, which contributes to better member retention. Top trends in fitness programming include programs that connect the mind and body with mental and emotional health and wearable technology.

Effects of COVID-19

The 2020 coronavirus pandemic shut down businesses and kept people homebound and isolated, changing societal norms. One major change is the continuation of large and small businesses allowing work from home options. With these changes in people's schedules and locations, agencies are observing changes in use patterns, peak times, and needed staffing.

The pandemic has also increased demand for activity, socialization, and engagement. The recreation industry has always been a champion for bringing people together and creating social engagement and is benefiting from this renewed interest.

According to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association, organized team sport activity decreased measurably during the pandemic, while casual/recreational participation increased. Basketball which can be played inside or outside and lends itself to solo participation was the most participated in team sport during the pandemic. Soccer, ultimate frisbee, and flag football also grew in participation.

Remote work from home and layoffs changed the employment landscape for recreation staffing as well and many of the eliminated positions are not likely to return. Making do with fewer resources, including staff, has become a constant challenge. Due to these decreases in resources, government regulations, and public caution, recreation program providers slashed offerings. During this time, programs focused on core activities, outdoor recreation, and virtual participation became common and popular options. Moving forward, it is expected that class sizes will remain low and programs that do not perform well will be adjusted or eliminated more quickly.

School districts also faced financial and operation challenges and continue to adapt after the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Recreation Management (July 2020 edition) numerous school districts expect lower operating budgets for the 2021/2022 year. Consequently, they maybe less able to fund after school social and athletic programs or the costs to use school facilities may have to be borne by the user. If this trend continues, it may place additional demand on other recreation providers to meet this gap in service.

Some of the impacts of the pandemic include:

- Explosion of Zoom and other online meeting software
- View of parks & outdoors as a right, not a luxury (NRPA)
- Reduced workforce
- Increase in remote working
- Reduced budgets
- Increased personal hygiene
- Customer experiences that are faceless and/or touchless
- Increased importance of value, convenience, and sanitation in decision making
- Elimination of hard copy program guides and increase of electronic flip books
- Reaffirmation for the value of being outdoors
- Renewed appreciation for nature and being outdoors.
- Increased success of biking, hiking, and gardening programs

Several of these impacts and responses to the pandemic have lead to recreation agency driven fresh thinking and approaches to continue to engage participants in meaningful and beneficial ways which are expected to persist and grow in the future.



Programming Partners

Park District staff identified its programming cooperatives and partnerships as well as its competitors. Some of the key agencies are identified below and a comprehensive list of recreation service providers serving the La Grange area can be found in the appendix.

Cooperatives & Partnerships	Competitors
School District	Club Pilates
AYSO	Orange Theory
Lyons Township Soccer	LA Fitness
La Grange Little League	Chicago Lockdown Basketball
Babe Ruth Baseball	Right-at-School
City of Countryside	The Max
La Grange Business Association	Flying High
Chicago White Sox	Gemini Gymnastics
Library	Ivy League Kids
Rotary Club	Community Park District – La Grange Park Celtics Soccer
Neighboring Park and Recreation Agencies	

Appropriate competition can be healthy when it challenges agencies to prevent complacency, to strive for continuous improvement, and improve customer satisfaction. Competitors may also offer future opportunities as future partners or by fulfilling needs that are inappropriate or challenging for public recreation providers to program for.

Trends

Societal, cultural, and behavioral trends have a significant impact on the success (or lack) of recreation programs and services and public support. Park and recreation personnel must be aware of these trends and their influence on the park and recreation industry:

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Faster pace of life
- Forgetfulness
- Anxiety / Mental Health
- Demographic changes (aging, race, nuclear family, melting pot)
- Subcultures
- Increasingly networked (everything is linked, connected)
- Personalization (products/services tailored to one's own tastes & needs)
- Obesity
- Violence (including bullying, insensitivity)
- Diminishing middle class
- Technology
- Work from home

Programming with societal and cultural trends in mind should boost interest and participation. For example, a leading challenge today is mental health. Not only are adults facing anxiety and depression, but pre-pandemic children have become over committed and stressed beyond their capacity. For many people, the isolation of the pandemic amplified these feelings and mental and emotional anguish spiked and recorded prescriptive medication use to calm nerves and assist in the ability to focus increased.

People are increasingly turning to natural ways to improve their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being and programs that place an emphasis on relaxation, anxiety relief, and peace of mind tend to perform well. Participation in wellness activities including mild exercise, healthy eating/cooking, natural remedies, meditation, yoga, and nature walks are rising.

Pre-pandemic, people were pressed for time, were less focused, and more readily changed plans on short notice. Recognizing that shift, some recreation programmers have begun to offer classes in shorter increments (i.e., 2 or 4 weeks instead of the traditional 6 to 8 weeks).

For youths, sedentary technological options - iPad, iPhone, gaming - have won their attention. Excluding reading, the most popular leisure activities take place on a screen, including:

- Watching TV
- Using the computer/internet
- Playing video games and computer/internet games
- Watching/going to the movies

Recreation and fitness journals and forums identify a myriad of trends which agencies may consider adding to their offerings:

Recreation Program Trends

- Pickleball leagues and lessons
- Farmers Markets
- Esports
- Drones and Robotics
- Kayaking
- Windsurfing
- Stand up paddling
- DIY classes
- Photography / Videography
- Lacrosse
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Disc golf (aka Frisbee golf)
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)
- Environmental education and nature programs
- Programming in parks (yoga, fitness, dance) connects people with the parks.
- Programs for families with children of all ages. Gen X (1966-1976) and Gen Y (1977- 1994) place high value on family.
- Life Sports (biking, swimming, jogging/walking)
- Participation in organized youth sports is decreasing.

According to a study by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association, more kids than ever are not playing sports. Nearly 3 million fewer children have played basketball, soccer, track and field, baseball, football, and softball. Given the attention to sports concussions, parents are facing a difficult decision on their children's participation in traditional sports.

For those who are participating in sports, an emphasis on competitive sports and traveling teams has outpaced recreational leagues in many communities. Parents are feeling increasingly compelled to put their kids on competitive teams with perceived expert coaching and skill development. Travelling youth's sports has become a lucrative industry and costs for travel, practice time, and other needs often force a child to specialize and select one sport over the others

Fitness Trends

- Using wearable technology to monitor and record biometric data
- Online video, on-demand workout programs including programs developed specifically for mobile devices that allow fitness consumers to enjoy an instructor-led workout anywhere they choose
- Virtual fitness programs developed during the pandemic co-existing with in-person classes
- Mental wellness growth
- Programming outdoor fitness classes
- Maintaining ultra clean facilities
- Online personal training / virtual coaching services
 - The primary difference between video-on-demand workout programs and online personal training is that the former offers workouts for general goals while the latter delivers specific, progressively challenging programs to achieve well-defined fitness outcomes
- Personalized group training programs
 - In the past, a group exercise class meant moving the same way at the same time and same speed as everyone else in the room. With technology to track intensity (via heart rate monitors) on-screen in the front of the room, an instructor can provide a group workout that allows each participant to work at their own comfort level
 - Personal training has the highest adoption rate of any program or service in the fitness industry
- Competitive formats like American Ninja Warrior, Parkour, Spartan Race, and obstacle courses.
- Increasing popularity of traditional functional fitness equipment and accessories (medicine balls, BOSU stability balls) and flexibility/mobility equipment (foam rollers, stretch trainers and myofascial release devices)
- Nation-wide, above-average growth of boot-camp training, small-group training, HIIT group exercise classes and functional resistance training
- Untapped opportunity to fully embrace technology to enhance the member/client experience and improve productivity and efficiency.
 - Technology opportunities such as online pricing transparency, online registration, and reservations for programs, selling memberships online, virtual training and club mobile applications all have opportunity to gain significantly greater adoption with the industry
 - Social media is the only wide-spread, well-adopted technology trend

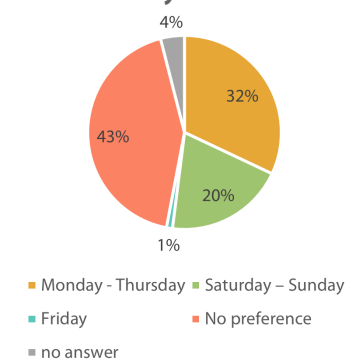
Parks and Facilities Trends

- Wi-Fi Enabled Parks
- Technology in Parks (trail counter, drones, geocaching, geofencing)
- Trails and Bike Paths
- Pocket Parks
- Dog Parks
- Nature/Interpretive Parks
- Inner City Gardens
- Aerial Parks
- Green Infrastructure

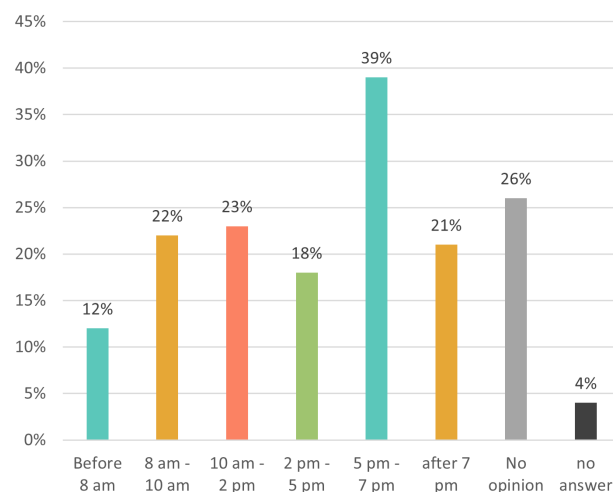
Participation

Respondents in the online Community Survey noted inconvenient program times and not having enough time as common reasons they do not participate in PDLG programming. Respondents also indicated their preferred days of the week and times of day to participate.

Preferred Day of the Week



Preferred Time of Day (participants selected multiple answers)



Marketing

Marketing includes advertising, public relations, promotions, and sales. It is a process by which a product or service is introduced and promoted to potential customers.

Developing a District-wide annual marketing plan containing specific actions, timelines, and costs is advised to strategically manage and plan for growth and accomplish documented goals. A successful marketing plan will serve as a map to guide sales/enrollment goals, schedule what should be marketed/promoted and when, and estimate the cost and leadership resources needed for each promotion.

Branding is the process of creating distinctive and long-lasting perceptions in the minds of consumers and is a critical component of a successful marketing campaign. Its main goal and benefit is to make customers remember a business. Benefits of successful branding include:

- A consistent universal image
- Loyalty
 - When people have a positive experience with a memorable brand, they are more likely to buy again from that company rather than a competing brand
- Familiarity
 - Branding makes an impact on people who have not done business with the agency but have recognition and favorable opinions of the agency from encountering the identity/brand/logo
- Reputation for quality and service
 - A good reputation makes it easier to introduce new programs or services and win acceptance
- Greater equity
 - A good name can be leveraged when seeking public support, fundraising, or engaging volunteers
- Attraction and retention of the best employees
- Establishment of partnerships within the community
- Greater employee satisfaction including an increased sense of pride and loyalty

Some of the most common marketing strategies for public recreation agencies include:

- **Seasonal Brochures:** According to The Learning Resource Network (LERN) hard copy seasonal brochures remain the number one source for marketing an agency's programs and services. Even if recipients discard it without reviewing the contents, they still acknowledge the agency without a need for intentional access.
- **E-books:** Online versions of the program guide are quickly becoming popular as a less expensive marketing choice to replace the printed brochures.
- **Photos:** Pictures can be used to convey the diversity – ethnic, gender, age, culture, ability, etc. - of programs and facilities and are more quickly accessible than sections of text.

Regardless of how agencies are marketing to the public, materials should adhere to four principles:

1. The cover must attract the reader's attention
2. The first two pages should create an interest to read further
3. Inside pages must generate the intrigue and desire to register for a class
4. The registration page needs to inspire action and registration

Program descriptions have two purposes: to describe and to sell. The descriptions should begin with a dynamic opening statement or emotional appeal then describe the course. They should end with a call to action.

Whether in print, online, or via social media, there are only three seconds to capture the reader's attention. Therefore, the message needs to be immediate and exceptionally clear.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Diversity refers to all sectors and labels put upon groups of people: race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, ability, mental, physical, and emotional health. Equity is equal opportunity and access to the parks programs and facilities including those who have limited financial means. Inclusion is inviting and welcoming all with the same fervor, enthusiasm, and respect. Equity and inclusion are achieved when diversity reveals in participation.

Participation by minorities and people of different abilities depends upon the Park District's relevance to them, they must be able to relate to the programs and services offered. Programming should reflect their interests and they should feel invited and welcome. Online and print materials must represent community demographics and target audience. Diverse constituents must be able to see themselves in marketing materials and programming or they may assume they are not the invited audience.

When participation and inclusion is not achieved, these inequities divide communities. A key element in closing the gap is representation. Regardless of the level of diversity in a community, representation in staffing, program participation and marketing helps ensure that diverse voices are heard.

Revenue Enhancement/Expense Management

Price is not always the primary driver in a consumer's purchasing decision. Consumers consider various matters including reputation, quality of instruction, quality of facility, customer service, and price. Price is often a statement of quality where low price may imply low quality.

Specialization may also be a factor in attracting participants. Recreation and fitness providers with the high market share often have facilities specifically designed for their activities. For example, people looking for a dance class are more apt to register at a facility that has a suspended wood floor, mirrored walls, excellent acoustics, and well-qualified instructors. Those in search of aerobic fitness or karate programs desire the same qualities in the hosting facility. Arts and crafts programs will attract more participation when held in spaces designed and equipped specifically for arts and crafts with sinks, kilns, storage, display shelves, etc. Optimum facilities and highly qualified staff may be offset by pricing and agencies should aim to provide the best value, not the cheapest price.

Utilizing cost recovery goals can allow agencies to achieve a sustainable balance between high quality offerings and competitive pricing. Cost recovery is the degree to which a program's fee covers the direct and indirect expenses related to the provision of that program. The degree of cost recovery is based upon who benefits from the activity - the individual or the community - and how much benefit is apportioned to each. There are three general levels of cost recovery.

- **Level One – Full cost recovery:** Programs and services that provide significant personal benefit and little to marginal community benefit. These programs and services frequently compete with the private sector and should generate sufficient revenue to cover direct, indirect, and administrative costs associated with program/service.
- **Level Two – Self-sufficient programs:** Programs in this category generate sufficient revenue to cover the direct costs of the program but not 100% of the indirect and administrative overhead. These programs and services benefit the individual participant and contribute to a well-rounded menu of activities consistent with the agency's mission.
- **Level Three – Subsidized programs:** Programs in this category do not generate enough revenue to cover the program's direct costs, nor any portion of the indirect and administrative costs. Often these programs are of a large-scale nature such as a July Fourth celebration, summer concert series, community festivals, or car/art shows offered free of charge.

For instructional and classroom type programs the Learning Resource Network (LERN) recommends budgeting with revenue first, then limiting direct costs to 60% of income. While individual programs may vary from the 40% target margin, the collective program category (preschool, youth,

adult, seniors, athletics, etc.) should aim toward a 40% goal when it aligns with the philosophy of elected officials and community demographics and the community economic climate. Additionally, a percentage goal may not always be achievable and should adjust over time as well.

Improving net revenue often requires shifting from a government mindset to a business mindset. Once a budget is approved, government employees typically narrow their focus to expenses rather than considering the context of the relationship of expenses to the revenue the program will derive. If revenue is short of projections, expenses must be managed to maintain the intended margin.

The key to long term financial success is revenue growth, this can be accomplished in several ways:

1. Analyze and reduce expenses
2. Increasing fees
 - Increase the fee without changing the service
 - Increase the fee while adding to the real or perceived value, such as including a t-shirt or item relative to the class or improving presentation or environment
 - Provide ancillary retail opportunities for participants to opt in to purchasing items related to the class or service.
3. Increasing Enrollment
 - Refresh or restructure the program
 - Reach more people.
 - Re-engage existing participants
 - Diversify marketing in multiple format and times
 - Identify the target market and focus on them

Park and recreation agencies often offer so many choices in programming that few of these classes reach maximum capacity and many are unable to meet the minimum parameters and are cancelled.

A final consideration for increasing net margin is to examine market pricing. Public recreation agencies often have lower fees than their local competition and may have an opportunity to raise it without impacting enrollment by providing the best value, not the cheapest price.

Agencies should also consider their appetite for large investments and potential strategies to reduce or eliminate unnecessary expenses. For example, recreation buildings are expensive to build, staff, and operate, and it is becoming increasingly common for recreation agencies to utilize lease or use agreements to provide indoor space or to lease their owned facilities to generate revenue. The PDLG currently has lease agreements with the Illinois Park and Recreation Association, the Chicago White Sox, and The Leadership.

Other common partners include chambers of commerce, schools, municipalities, and community organizations.



Chapter 2: Envisioning Our Future

Community Engagement

Public input is an essential part of the comprehensive master planning process to determine the wants and needs of the PDLG residents, identify current Park District information, and find common community values between Park District Staff, Commissioners, and residents.

The Planning Team utilized focus groups, open houses, workshops, an online engagement survey, and statistically valid public survey throughout the comprehensive master planning process and received input from representatives of affiliate groups, District staff, elected officials, school partners, and members of the PDLG community.

Community Engagement Process

The Park District of La Grange and Planning Team maximized opportunities for equitable and inclusive participation in the engagement process to ensure that the PDLG community was well represented, informed of the comprehensive master plan process, and empowered to participate in current and future outreach activities. The community engagement process included the following elements:

- **Online Engagement:** Information about the comprehensive master plan process and participants, upcoming meeting dates, and a link to the online engagement survey was provided throughout the planning process at www.pdlg.org/comprehensive-masterplan and featured on the PDLG webpage.
- **“Meet the Planners” Introduction Session:** This informal listening session was held from 6 PM to 8 PM at Denning Park to allow the public to meet District staff and the consultants to learn about the comprehensive master plan project and its process. In total, 29 people attended this event.
- **Public Issues & Opportunity Open House Meetings:** The Planning Team hosted two Hybrid Open House Meetings where attendees could participate in-person or online. Each meeting was held from 6 PM to 8 PM and were located at the Recreation Center in June 2021 and Community Center Park in July 2021. These meetings were designed to allow attendees to enter and leave the meeting as their schedules permitted with multiple interactive exercises and information stations. Twenty seven people attended these meetings in-person and seven attended virtually.

- **Community Focus Group Sessions:** The Planning Team facilitated six virtual focus group sessions with special interest and PDLG user groups and the Park Board of Commissioners to assess current and future needs and gather information on user groups opinions, perceptions, and experiences with District operations, management, park sites and facilities.
- **“Rediscover Fun 2022-2032” Community Needs Survey:** The community-wide Household Interest and Opinion Statistically Valid Survey branded as “Rediscover Fun 2022- 2032 Community Needs Survey” consisted of a six-page questionnaire that was distributed to households across the District. This survey included questions to measure the attitudes and interests of the District’s residents related park conditions, activities, information delivery, interest in a community swimming pool, and future projects.
- **Online Engagement Survey:** In order to reach as many residents as possible, the Planning Team provided an online version of the Rediscover the Fun survey with identical questions, allowing every resident equal opportunity to participate in the survey while maintaining the statistically-valid results of the other survey.
- **Staff Workshop:** The Planning Team facilitated a one-hour workshop with 14 members of the PDLG staff from several disciplines. Participants completed a brainstorming exercise to generate ideas of what the Park District should focus on for the next five to 10 years and voted to prioritize the top ideas.
- **Park District Board of Commissioners Workshop:** The Planning Team facilitated a one-hour workshop with the commissioners, completed a brainstorming exercise to generate ideas of what the Park District should focus on for the next five to 10 years, and voted to prioritize the top ideas.

Summaries of the results of each community engagement method are included in the following pages and provide a comprehensive picture of the PDLG community needs and preferences through the identification of common themes and issues across multiple diverse groups of participants.



Open Houses

Dates:

June 16, 2021 - "Meet the Planners" Introduction Session
June 29, 2021 - Public Issues and Opportunity Open House
July 19, 2021 - Public Issues and Opportunity Open House

Purpose:

Introduce the master planning process to determine community values, satisfaction with the current parks, facilities, and services, and identify recreational needs and wants. Because the "Meet the Planners" and Public Issues and Opportunity open houses had similar formats, results are combined in the following summary.

Format

The open house sessions consisted of a presentation and a question-and-answer public forum with multiple stations to allow the attendee to identify which park and open space facility was closest to where they reside, what they like best about their neighborhood park/Park District, what they like the least about their neighborhood park/Park District, and any key issues/concerns regarding the Park District. Participants also shared their thoughts about the Park District's external communications and their dissemination of information. These meetings also allowed the community to engage with one another, hearing the needs and expectations of other residents and community groups.

The following information is a summary of collected feedback from individuals with knowledge of the PDLG, but does not represent PDLG policy or Comprehensive Master Plan recommendations. This summary is an overview of the comments received at all three meetings and not a list of every response provided.

Key Themes

Community Values/Expectations

- Enhance the quality of maintenance and care of PDLG park sites, facilities, and amenities where needed
- Maintain what the PDLG owns as it relates to parks and facilities to support positive use and increased property values for District residents
- Continue to enhance safety and security in the parks and recreation facilities
- Provide equitable and accessible parks and recreational facilities that reflect the ability to serve a diverse public
- Health and fitness
- Environment and climate resilience
- People and community

Most Desired Programs

- Youth basketball
- Jujitsu
- Girls' softball

Most Desired Facilities

- High quality ballfields
- Regraded soccer fields
- Resurfaced basketball courts
- Dedicated pickleball courts
- Community pool
- Dog park

Most Desired Amenities

- Mature trees and shade
- Indoor recreation center playground and gymnasiums
- Walking path

Reasons for Visiting Parks

- Great place for enjoying nature
- Great place to play organized sports
- Relaxing and peaceful

Additional Feedback

Recreation Programs

- Continued support of and advocated the expansion of Athletics and Children's Programs including the addition of fine arts programming for kids and adults
- New programming opportunities and the ability to meet changing trends due to the increasing aging population
- Need for affordable programs for all members of the community including scholarships for underprivileged participants

Asset Management

- Desire for the district to focus on the facilities that are currently owned and managed, and not necessarily to provide more
- Desire for better maintenance and use of existing facilities, specifically:
 - Play fields (i.e., Gordon Park's soccer fields, and Sedgwick Park's ballfields).
 - Enhance the athletic fields in the district with covered dugouts, batting cages, scoreboards at Gordon Park
 - Increase the inventory of athletic fields

New Amenities and Park Features for Consideration

- Need to design and implement new amenities to provide additional opportunities for active recreation within existing parks, such as:
 - Dog park
 - Pickleball courts
 - Disc golf course
 - Paddle tennis
 - Accessible restrooms
 - Skate park
 - Public ice skating
 - Community pool facility for health and social cohesiveness, for expansion of summer camp activities, and as an additional revenue generator

Environmental Stewardship

- Prioritize "Green Practices" and focus more on being a leader in environmental stewardship in the community, including:
 - Resource management
 - Green infrastructure
 - Enhanced pedestrian connectivity expand walkability, educating the public on the benefits of native plants and efficiently maintained landscapes

Other Community Outreach and Equitable Management of Facilities & Park Sites

- Continue outreach to minorities and other special populations to build relationships and trust with these under participating groups
- Balance revenue
- Distribute costs fairly throughout the District to prevent deterioration of parks and facilities through a systematic program of maintenance, rehabilitation, and/or replacement.

Relationships

- Stay active in establishing and nurturing critical partnerships

Awareness

- There is a growing recognition of what the PDLG has to offer
- Potential of a redeveloped and focused social media strategy to further enhance awareness

Athletic Fields and Capacity Issues

- Concerns about field maintenance
- Lack of field availability

Equity

- Concern for inconsistency and inequality in dispersing resources appropriately and fairly to ensure that all PDLG residents have access to quality recreational opportunities, programs and facilities (from CommUNITY Diversity Group)
- Prioritize, invest in, and redevelop its parks and facilities where residents of low-income and minority communities have less access such as the east side of La Grange

Community Focus Group Sessions - Recreation Partners and Local Agencies

Dates:

July 8, 2021

Purpose:

Engage a broad group of stakeholders to gather local insight and knowledge about community needs and opportunities for the parks, facilities, and services offered by the District.

Organizations Represented

- The City of Countryside
- Western Springs Recreation Department
- Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA)
- Lyons Township High School

Format

Conversation-based sessions with representatives from the eight organizations, facilitated by the Planning Team.

The following information is a summary of collected feedback from representatives of the participating organizations and does not represent PDLG policy or Comprehensive Master Plan recommendations. This summary is an overview of the comments received at all three meetings and not a list of every response provided.

Key Themes

District Strengths

- The number of parks and their geographic distribution offers a vast array of green space options, activities, and recreation opportunities. (i.e., walkable sites) for the size of the Park District
- Gordon Park is well-designed
- Staff are passionate, informed, and hardworking
- Parks and recreation facilities are safe and clean

District Weaknesses

- Park facilities should be professionally designed to reflect changes in lifestyle (keep up with the times)
- Reduce underutilization of properties/maximize open space
- The community does not offer racquet activities that are less physically exhausting for older adults to get moderate exercise, such as platform and paddle tennis compared to regular tennis
- Lack of adequate ballfields
 - Consider an additional ballfield at Sedgwick Park to meet the recreation demand for the community
- Field conditions at the major athletic park sites need to be upgraded and improved to give the fields a cleaner, crisp look and should be considerate of the environment even if the cost is higher
- Low priority placed on green infrastructure practices
- Lack of equitable management of existing facilities and park sites. (socio-economic, race, and gender)
- Needed expansion of partnership with the Village and other organizations to enhance and provide more support of the District's mission, programs, and events
- Available financial resource to maintain and enhance the system
- Inconsistent design standards in parks for landscaping, site furnishings, amenities etc.

Community Focus Group Sessions - Municipal Partners

Dates:

July 8, 2021

Purpose:

Engage decision-makers with adjacent jurisdictions to ensure that the recommendations of this plan are well integrated into the Park District of La Grange's full planning context

Organizations Represented

- La Grange Village Manager
- La Grange Village Economic Development
- Citizen Council of La Grange
- League of Women Voters

Format

Conversation-based sessions with representatives from the four organizations, facilitated by the Planning Team.

The following summary is of collected feedback from representatives of the participating organizations and does not represent PDLG policy or Comprehensive Master Plan recommendations. This summary is an overview of the comments received at all three meetings and not a list of every response provided.

Key Themes

District Strengths

- Parks are a strong asset to the community
- The District offers a wide variety of programs and activities to residents
- The program brochure offers residents diverse and wide-ranging recreational activities – there is something for everyone
- Responsive staff with good customer service related to parks, facilities, and programs
- Great community of neighborly people who support one another

District Weaknesses

- No community swimming pool for residents who are not interested in or don't have the resources to join and sustain the membership fees for use of the private pool facilities
- No dog park
- Need to increase marketing efforts about programs and parks
- Need to improve website
- Need to upgrade ballfields

Community Focus Group Sessions - Local School Partners and Resource Providers

Dates:

July 8, 2021

Purpose:

Engage decision-makers with in-District or adjacent educational facilities and resources to ensure that the recommendations of this plan are well integrated into the Park District of La Grange's full planning context.

Organizations Represented

- St. Francis Xavier School
- School District 102
- The LeaderShop
- La Grange Rotary
- Caring 4 Kids
- Community Diversity Group
- Lyons Township High School

Format

Conversation-based sessions with representatives from the eight organizations, facilitated by the Planning Team.

The following information is a summary of collected feedback from representatives of the participating organizations and does not represent PDLG policy or Comprehensive Master Plan recommendations. This summary is an overview of the comments received at all three meetings and not a list of every response provided.

Key Themes

District Strengths

- Leadership is invested, passionate, and competent
- Knowledgeable professional staff
- Events
- PDLG is a great partner and seeks partnerships
- Long history of success and collaboration with community partners
- A community asset
- Variety of program offerings

District Weaknesses

- More staff is needed for facility maintenance
- More funding is needed
- No community pool
- Need for increased quantity and better maintenance of playground equipment
- Better promotion of park programs and events is needed



“Rediscover Fun 2022-2032” Community Needs Survey

The “Rediscover Fun 2022-2032” Community Needs Survey was sent to a random sample of PDLG households evenly distributed throughout the Park District of La Grange on November 9, 2021. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online. One week after the surveys were mailed, the Planning Team sent a reminder post card to the non-respondent households that received the surveys to encourage participation.

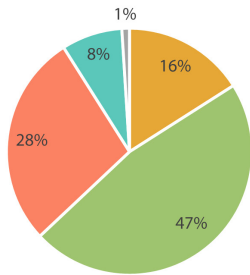
The survey instrument closed on December 7, 2021 with 232 responses received out of 2,000. Survey mailings were delivered, resulting in a response rate of 11% and a margin of error of approximately +/- 6.3 percentage points calculated at the 95% confidence level.

The following pages are a summary of some of the key data points from the statistically valid survey, the full results are provided in a supplementary report.

Overall Satisfaction

Over half, 63%, of respondents were “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the value of services provided by the PDLG.

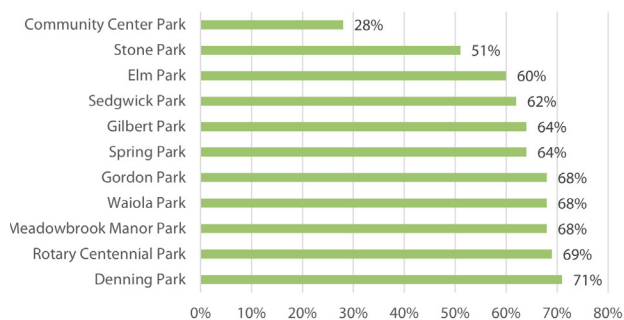
Satisfaction with Value of Services



■ 5 - Very Satisfied ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ 1 - Not at all Satisfied

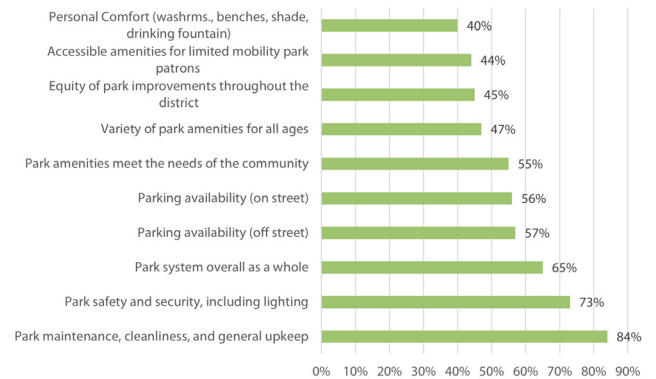
When asked about specific locations, satisfaction with parks was relatively evenly distributed among all locations except Community Center Park which was rated significantly lower. Participants were most satisfied with Denning Park.

Park Satisfaction



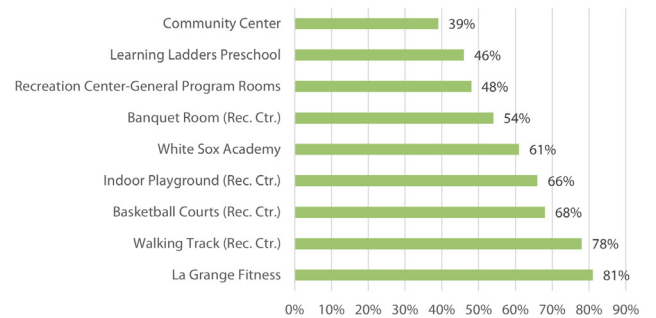
Specifically, survey participants were most satisfied with the “Park Maintenance, Cleanliness, and General Upkeep”, “Park Safety and Security, Including Lighting”, and the “Park System as a Whole”. Participants were least satisfied with “Personal Comfort”, “Accessible Amenities for Limited Mobility for park patrons”, and “Equity of Park Improvements Throughout”.

Outdoor Service Satisfaction



Satisfaction with indoor locations varied, with large differences in satisfaction between the highest and lowest ranked facilities. “La Grange Fitness” and the “Walking Track at Recreation Center” were the first and second highest rated facilities respectively, while “Community Center”, followed by “Learning Ladders Preschool” received the lowest satisfaction ratings.

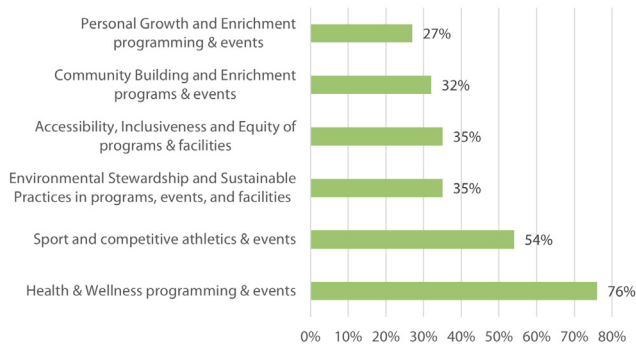
Indoor Services Satisfaction



Top Priorities

Participants rated “Health and Wellness Programming and Events”, followed by “Sport and Competitive Athletics and Events” as the highest and second highest valued offerings among the District’s programming, services, parks, and facilities.

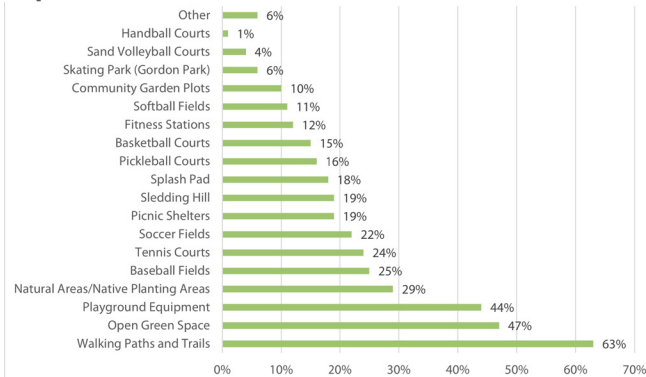
Top Values



Parks and Outdoor Amenities

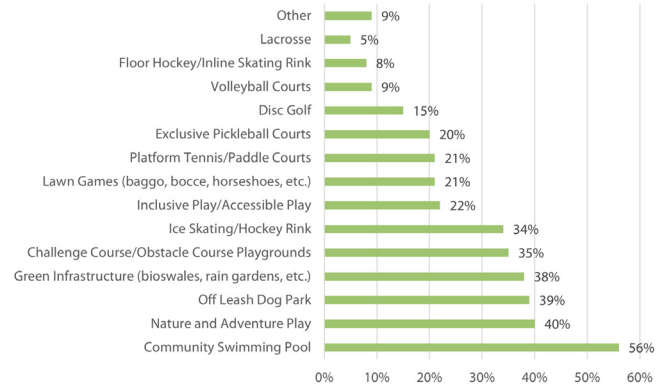
When asked what existing outdoor programs, services, parks, and facilities are most important to their household, participants selected passive activities with “Walking Paths and Trails”, “Open Green Space”, and “Playground Equipment” identified as the first, second, and third most important activities respectively.

Important Outdoor Services



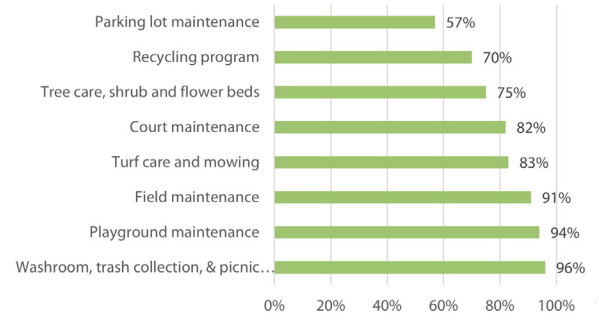
When asked what new outdoor parks, facilities, and amenities their household would like to see, a “Community Swimming Pool” was the most popular selection, followed by “Nature and Adventure Play” and “Off Leash Dog Park”.

New Outdoor Facilities



Survey participants were also asked about park and outdoor space maintenance. The top three most important maintenance items were identified as “Washroom, Trash Collection, & Picnic Area Cleaning”, “Playground Maintenance”, and “Field Maintenance”.

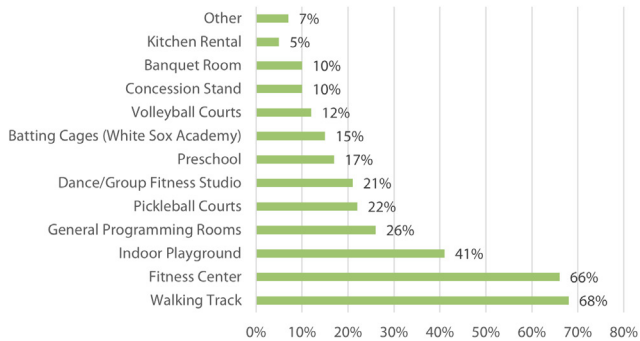
Importance of Maintenance Activities



Facilities and Indoor Amenities

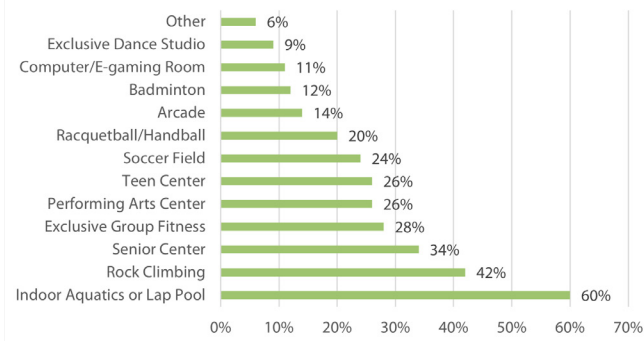
When asked what existing indoor amenities are most important to their households, survey participants rated the "Indoor Walking Track" as the top priority, followed by the "Fitness Center", then the "Indoor Playground".

Most Important Current Indoor Amenities



When considering potential new indoor amenities, participants prioritized "Indoor Aquatics or Lap Pool", followed by "Rock Climbing", and a "Senior Center" as the top three choices.

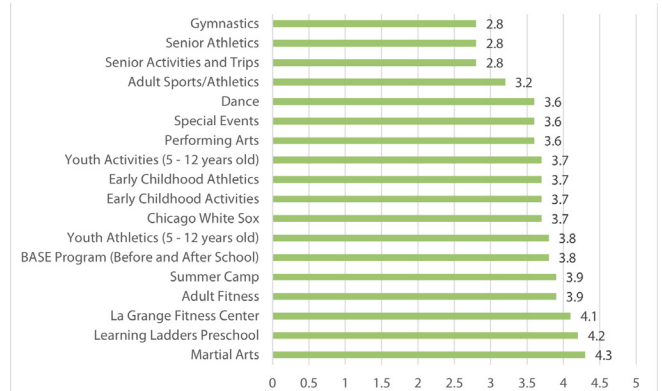
Future Indoor Amenities



Programming

Survey participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with existing PDLG programs, facilities, and staff from "not at all satisfied" (1) to "very satisfied" (5). Of the 18 program types offered, all but three were rated at least "neutral" (3) or higher. The top rated activities were "Martial Arts", "Learning Ladders Preschool", and 'La Grange Fitness Center." "Gymnastics", "Senior Athletics", and "Senior Activities and Trips" received the lowest satisfaction ratings.

Satisfaction with Areas of Service, Mean Summary

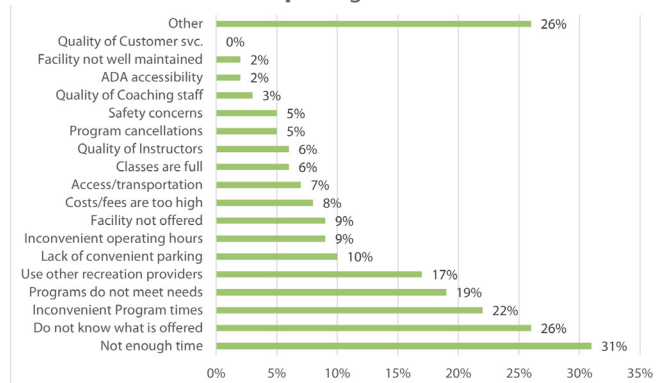


Participation also correlated with satisfaction as the programs with the most frequent participation were generally more highly rated than those with low participation.

Participation

The top reason why survey participants do not use PDLG parks, programs, and facilities was that there is "Not Enough Time". Participants also listed "Do Not Know What is Offered" and "Inconvenient Program Times" respectively as the other top reasons.

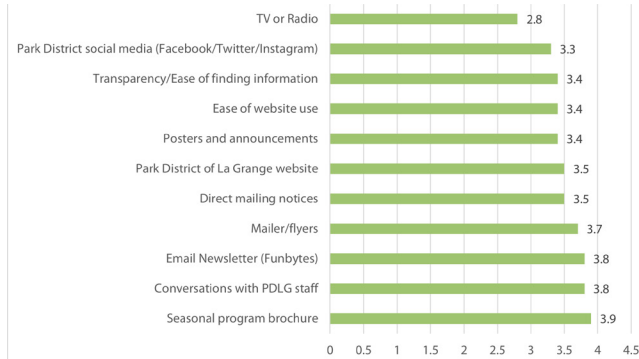
Reasons for Not Participating



Park District Communications

Overall, survey participants are satisfied with the PDLG's various communication method with most formats receiving a rating between "neutral" and "very satisfied". Participants are most satisfied with the "Seasonal Program Brochure" but least satisfied with "TV or Radio advertising".

Satisfaction with District Communications

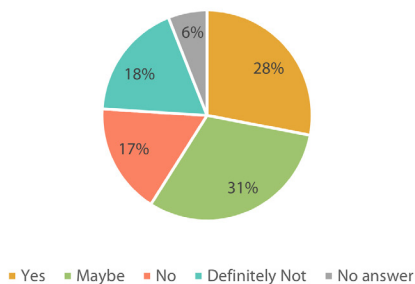


Community Issues

The final section of the Community Needs Survey, asked participants to rate the importance of and willingness to support the development of trending and resource-heavy amenities that are not currently provided by the La Grange Park District.

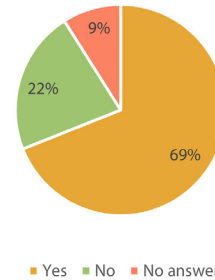
Swimming Pool: 59% of survey respondents think that an outdoor swimming facility is needed in the PDLG. 28% of participants also indicated "yes" when asked if they would support a tax increase to fund this amenity and an additional 31% selected "maybe".

Support for Tax Increase to Fund Outdoor Pool



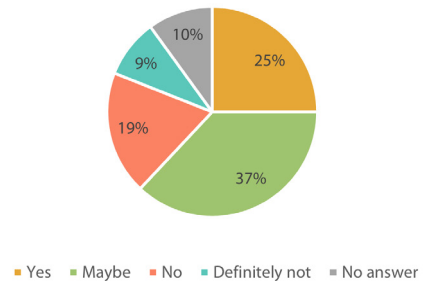
Pickleball: 69% of survey participants support the conversion of one of the District's tennis courts into a pickleball court.

Support Conversion from Tennis Court to Pickleball Little League Field at Sedgwick Park:



Baseball/Softball Field: When asked if they would support the removal of the basketball courts at Sedgwick Park to construct a new baseball/softball field for Little League play, 25% of residents indicated "yes" and 37% indicated "maybe"

Support Conversion from Basketball Court to New Baseball/Softball Field at Sedgwick Park



Online Engagement Survey

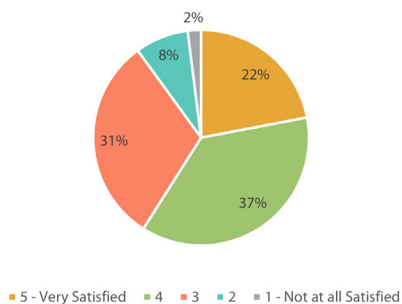
Residents who were not selected to participate in the randomly mailed, statistically valid survey were given the opportunity to participate in an identical, open online engagement survey which received 656 completed responses.

The following pages are a summary of some of the key data points from the online survey results, the full results are provided in a supplementary report.

Overall Satisfaction

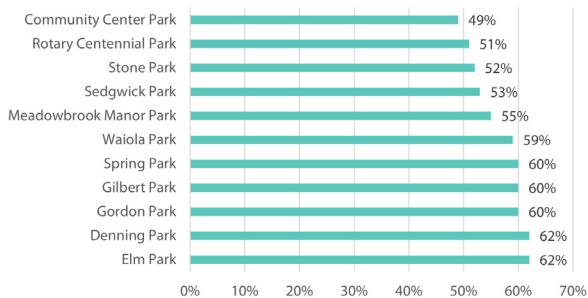
Over half (59%), of respondents were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the value of services provided by the PDLG.

Satisfaction with Value of Services



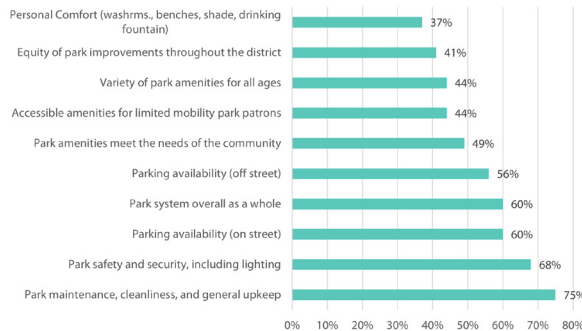
When asked about specific locations, satisfaction with parks was relatively evenly distributed among all locations except Community Center Park which was rated significantly lower. Participants were most satisfied with Denning Park.

Park Satisfaction



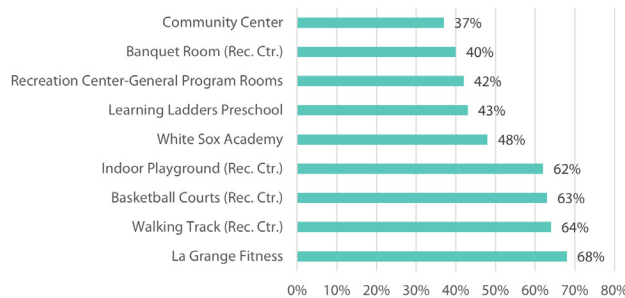
Specifically, survey participants were most satisfied with the “Park Maintenance, Cleanliness, and General Upkeep”, “Park Safety and Security, Including Lighting”, and “Parking Availability (on street)”. Participants were least satisfied with “Personal Comfort”, “Equity of Park Improvements Throughout the District”, and “Variety Park Amenities for All Ages”.

Outdoor Service Satisfaction



Satisfaction with indoor locations varied, with large differences in satisfaction between the highest and lowest ranked facilities. “La Grange Fitness” and the “Walking Track at Recreation Center” were the first and second highest rated facilities respectively, while “Community Center”, followed by “Banquet Room” received the lowest satisfaction ratings.

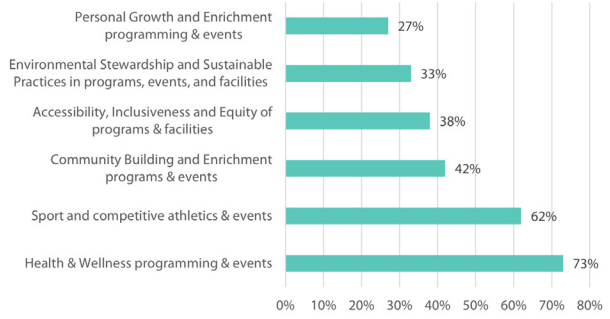
Indoor Services Satisfaction



Top Priorities

Participants rated “Health and Wellness Programming and Events”, followed by “Sport and Competitive Athletics and Events” as the highest and second highest valued offerings among the District’s programming, services, parks, and facilities.

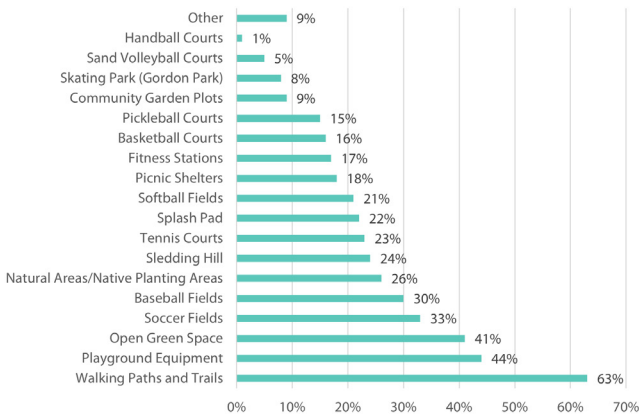
Top Values



Parks and Outdoor Amenities

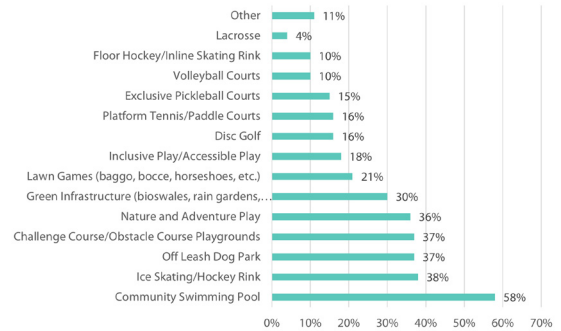
When asked what existing outdoor programs, services, parks, and facilities are most important to their household, participants selected passive activities with “Walking Paths and Trails” and “Open Green Space” as the first and second most important activities respectively. “Baseball fields” were rated as the third most important

Important Outdoor Services



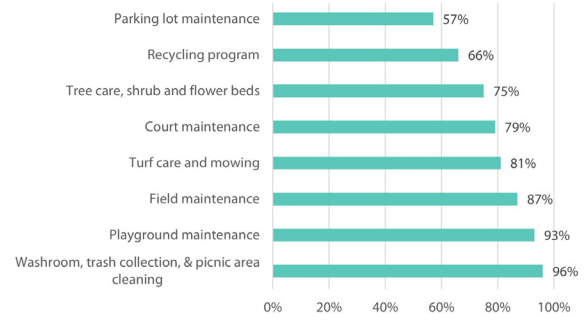
When asked what new outdoor parks, facilities, and amenities their household would like to see, a “Community Swimming Pool” was the most popular selection, followed by “Ice Skating/Hockey Rink”, and “Off Leash Dog Park”.

New Outdoor Facilities



Survey participants were also asked about park and outdoor space maintenance. The top three most important maintenance items were identified as “Washroom, Trash Collection, & Picnic Area Cleaning”, “Playground Maintenance”, and “Field Maintenance”.

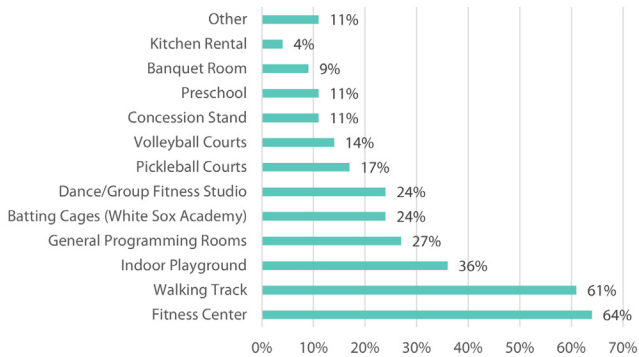
Importance of Maintenance Activities



Facilities and Indoor Amenities

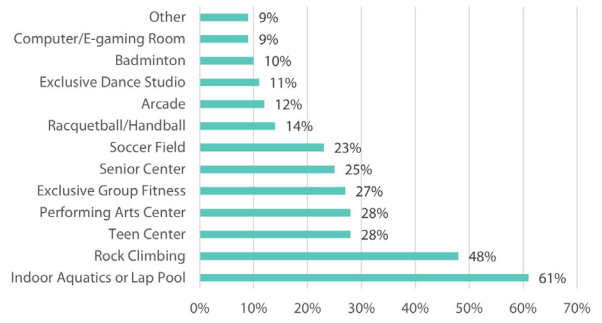
When asked what existing indoor amenities are most important to their households, survey participants rated the “Fitness Center” as the top priority, followed by the “Indoor Walking Track”, then the “Indoor Playground”.

Most Important Current Indoor Amenities



Survey participants were also asked about new indoor amenities they would be interested in. The top three items were “Indoor Aquatics or Lap Pool”, “Rock Climbing”, and “Teen Center”.

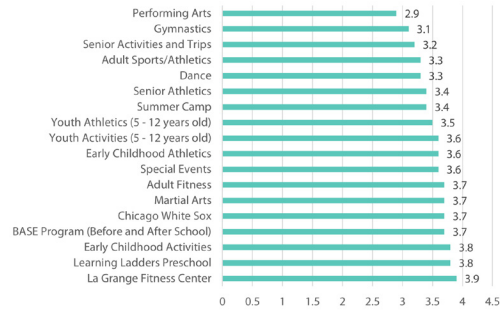
New Indoor Facilities



Programming

Survey participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with existing PDLG programs, facilities, and staff from “not at all satisfied” (1) to “very satisfied” (5). Of the 18 program types offered, all but three were rated at least “neutral” (3) or higher. The top rated activities were “La Grange Fitness Center”, “Learning Ladders Preschool”, and “Early Childhood Activities”. “Performing Arts”, “Gymnastics”, and “Senior Activities and Trips” received the lowest satisfaction ratings.

Satisfaction with Areas of Service, Mean Summary

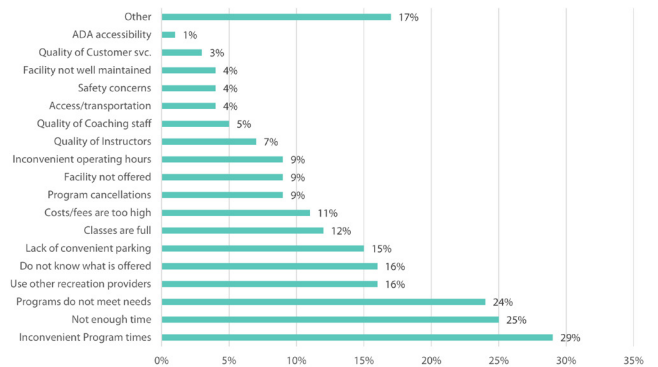


Participation also correlated with satisfaction as the programs with the most frequent participation were generally more highly rated than those with low participation.

Participation

The top reason why survey participants do not use PDLG parks, programs, and facilities was “Inconvenient Program Times” followed by “There is Not Enough Time”. Participants also listed “Programs do not Match Needs” as the third top reason.

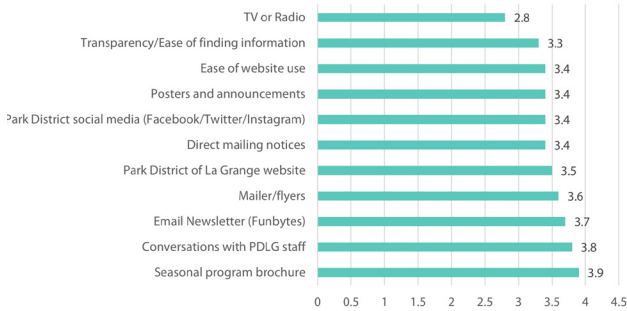
Reasons for Not Using District Programs and Facilities



Park District Communications

Overall, survey participants are satisfied with the PDLG's various communication methods with most formats receiving a rating between "neutral" and "very satisfied". Participants are most satisfied with the "Seasonal Program Brochure" but least satisfied with "TV or Radio advertising".

Satisfaction with District Communications

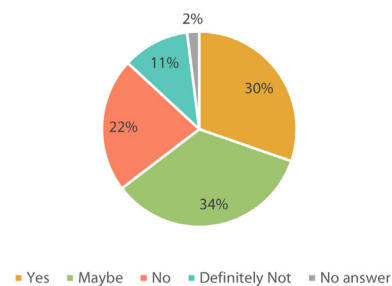


Community Issues

The final section of the Community Needs Survey, asked participants to rate the importance of and willingness to support the development of trending and resource-heavy amenities that are not currently provided by the La Grange Park District.

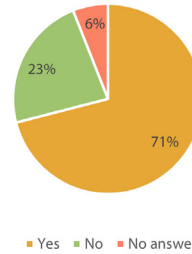
Swimming Pool: 68% of survey respondents think that an outdoor swimming facility is needed in the PDLG. 30% of participants also indicated "yes" when asked if they would support a tax increase to fund this amenity and an additional 34% selected "maybe".

Support for Tax Increase to Fund Outdoor Pool



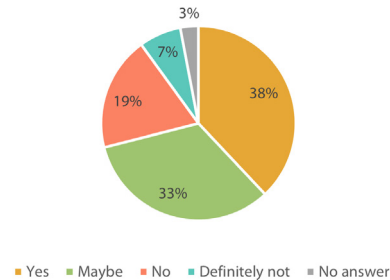
Pickleball: 71% of survey participants support the conversion of one of the District's tennis courts into a pickleball court.

Support Conversion from Tennis Court to Pickleball



Little League Field at Sedgwick Park: When asked if they would support the removal of the basketball courts at Sedgwick Park to construct a new baseball/softball field for Little League play, 38% of residents indicated "yes" and 33% indicated "maybe".

Support Conversion from Basketball Court to New Baseball/Softball Field at Sedgwick Park



Park District Board of Commissioners Workshop

Dates:

August 15, 2022

Purpose:

Generate and prioritize ideas of what the Park District of La Grange should focus on over the next five to ten years.

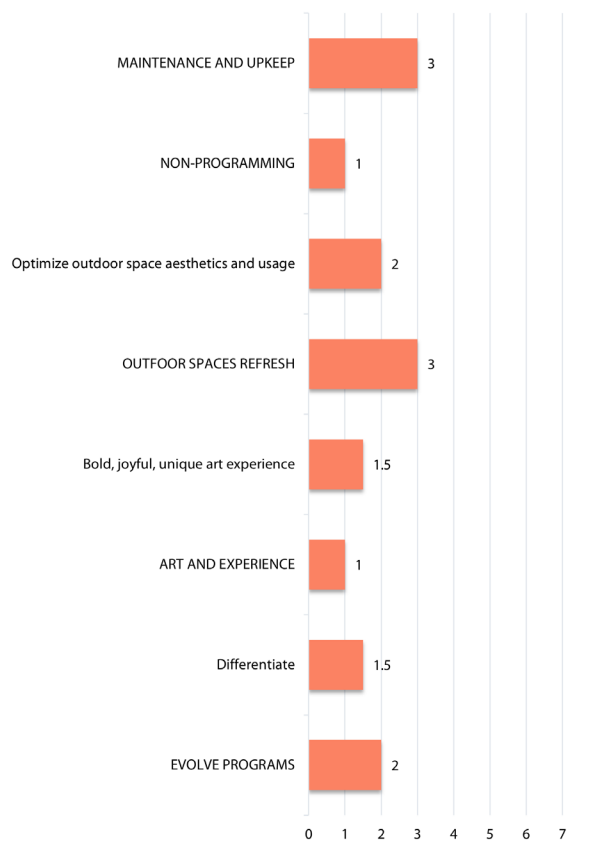
Format and Results

Participants were asked to write down all their comments and suggestions for the Park District's future relating to parks, facilities, programs, and services. They then selected and wrote the three items most important to them on sticky notes and the Planning Team organized the responses into the following categories. Workshop participants provided direction on how each item was organized and provided the name of each category of items:

- **Evolve Programs**
 - Programs to match needs
 - Inclusive, creative
 - Improve community participation
 - Differentiate
 - Communication skills
- **Meet in Demand Programs with Schools**
 - BASE
- **Leverage Existing Resources**
 - Leverage community center
 - Continue leveraging fitness
 - Communication of programs
- **Art and Exercise**
 - Bold, joyful, unique art experience
 - Artist in residence
 - Midnight circus
- **Athletics**
 - Continue/upgrade athletic fields
- **Outdoor Spaces Refresh**
 - Optimize outdoor spaces aesthetics and usage
- **Pool (Out/In)**
- **Non-Programming**
 - Fishing
 - Add outdoor non-programming activities, including for elderly
- **Improve charitable funding with better partnerships and promotions**
- **Maintenance and Upkeep**

After the categories were established, participants were given 2 dots to vote on the items most important to them. They could vote on a category or an item within it and could vote for the same thing multiple times. Since all initial dots were used to vote on categories, an additional dot was given to vote on items within. Items that did not receive any votes are not included below. Categories are shown in CAPS, while items are sentence case.

Board Workshop Priorities



Staff Workshop

Dates:

August 22, 2022

Purpose:

Generate and prioritize ideas of what the Park District of La Grange should focus on over the next five to ten years.

Format and Results

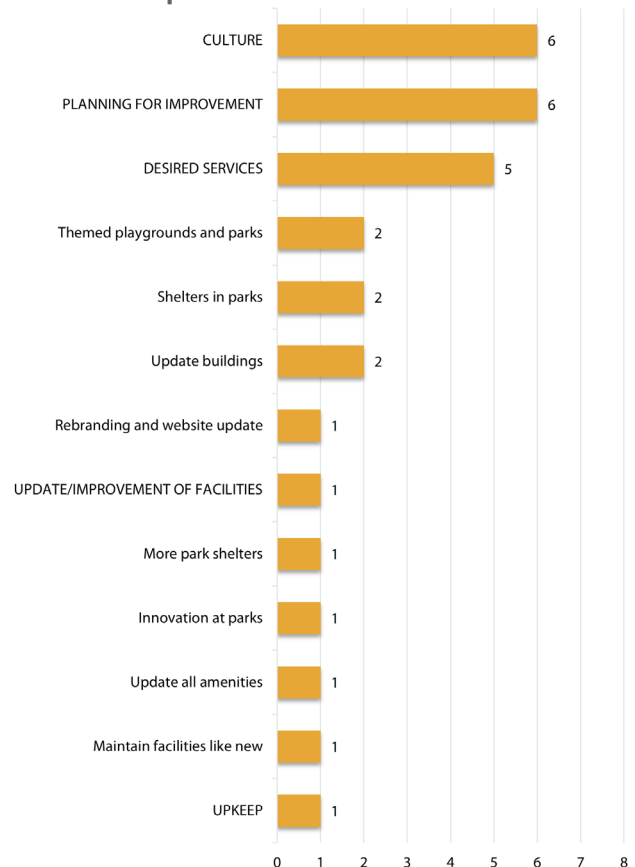
Participants were asked to write down all their comments and suggestions for the Park District's future relating to parks, facilities, programs, and services. They then selected and wrote the three items most important to them on sticky notes and the Planning Team organized the responses into the following categories. Workshop participants provided direction on how each item was organized and provided the name of each category of items:

- **Focus on Strong Mutually Beneficial Partnerships**
- **Planning for Improvements**
 - Capital planning and maintaining current infrastructure
 - Maintain and update current infrastructure
 - Update buildings
 - Fitness center pool and sauna
 - Development of undeveloped space at recreation center
 - Proactive planning for parks facilities and programs
- **Culture**
 - Better communication
 - Improve services by promoting staff teamwork
 - Work as a team
 - HR department (develop)
 - Try new ideas and not settle for the way it has always been done
- **Upkeep**
 - Cleaner bathrooms
 - Maintain facilities "like new"
 - Maintain parks and buildings
 - New playground equipment
 - Update volleyball courts and surrounding area for seating, eating
 - Picnic shelters, water fountains
 - Update all amenities
- **Desired Services**
 - Fall festivities
 - Teen programs
 - Intergenerational programs
 - Youth life skills programs
 - Family events in the park
 - Focus on what the community wants/needs
 - Fitness center vending machine with supplements and healthy snacks
- **Technology**
 - Technology updates
 - Re-branding and website update

- **Update/Improvement of Parks**
 - Innovation at parks (digital courses)
 - Shelters in Parks
 - More park shelters
 - Themed playgrounds and parks
 - Replace old playgrounds with themed playgrounds
 - Shelter at Sedgwick
 - Summer camp space
- **Update/Improvement of Facilities**
 - Add dance floors
 - Fitness center turf
 - Modern spaces
 - Dedicated spaces
 - Storage equipment
- **Competitive Sports**
 - Conversion of Sedgwick to athletic complex

After the categories were established, participants were given 2 dots to vote on the items most important to them. They could vote on a category or an item within it and could vote for the same thing multiple times. Items that did not receive any votes are not included below. Categories are shown in uppercase letters, while items are sentence case.

Staff Workshop Priorities







Chapter 3: Rediscover the Fun

Needs, Goals, and Strategies

The purpose of the needs, goals, and strategies phase is to develop actionable items for the PDLG parks and recreation services to strive to accomplish over the next ten years. Unlike a capital plan, the strategies outlined in this chapter describe projects beyond expected maintenance. These strategies propose major site and facility use changes and the introduction of new amenities and activities

The following items include the six overarching needs identified in the planning process:

1. Parks and Open Space Improvements
2. Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements
3. Aquatics
4. Programs and Events
5. Operations and Management
6. Existing Assets and Maintenance.

Each need includes a description of the background information from the planning process describing the inventory, analysis, and community engagement results justifying the need, and a list of goals and potential strategy options that can be implemented to fulfill these needs.





PARKS AND OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

Background:

The planning process identified several gaps in service of the PDLG existing parks and open space assets as well as parts of the system that are serving residents well. Overall, park sites are well distributed throughout the District and all residents have access to at least one type of active recreation park within the appropriate travel distance of their homes. Walking access to mini and neighborhood parks is more limited and an increase in these smaller sites could benefit the District while also addressing the District-wide deficiency of 104.29 acres compared to NRPA recommendations. As a land-locked community, the Park District may rely on partnership opportunities and other creative strategies to add to available open space as land acquisition will likely be limited. According to national and state reports, interest in outdoor recreation is growing and passive activities such as viewing nature/wildlife and camping are among the favorite outdoor activities for several different age groups. Other trending activities included walking/jogging/running, bicycling, and pickleball.

Within the park sites, many amenities are outdated or lack the support amenities needed to elevate the user experience with small-scale, capital replacement and maintenance items that do not require changes to the land use or amenities offered, but some parks will also require more large-scale improvements and changes to use and layout. Compared to Park Metrics and SCORP benchmarks, the PDLG offers less than the average number of amenities for playgrounds (-1), tennis and pickleball courts (-2), baseball/softball fields (-2), football fields (-1 to -2), and lacrosse fields (-1). Participants in the various meetings and workshops of the community engagement identified outdoor amenities they would most like to be added to the system. The number after each suggested amenity indicates the number of groups who requested each amenity: high quality ballfields and soccer fields (3), a dog park (3), dedicated pickleball courts (2), disc golf (1), paddle tennis (1), updated playgrounds (1), more shelters (1), and ice skating (1). Among the online and statistically valid survey responses, the top requested new outdoor amenities were nature and adventure play, off-leash dog park, challenge course/adventure course playgrounds, ice skating/hockey rink, and green infrastructure.

Goals and Strategies:

- Develop and implement **park improvement plans** for locations in need of small-scale improvements and replacement of amenities in poor condition/beyond their useful life and for large-scale improvements at Community Parks, including:
 - Determine priority Group A, B, and C parks to be improved:
 - Denning Park, considering:
 - New, trending, and in-demand amenities
 - Shelters
 - Splash pad
 - Dog park
 - Innovative and unique playground
 - Consider nature-based playground
 - Provide meaningful passive green space and green infrastructure improvements
 - Improve community garden
 - Provide nature-based recreation opportunities
 - Consider park for improved senior center activities and programming
 - Improve park trail system and provide accessible routes to all locations
 - Coordinate park improvements with Denning Park Activity Building improvements
 - Coordinate park improvements with Denning Park capital improvement and maintenance items
 - Identify potential adjacent land acquisition opportunities
 - Sedgwick Park, considering:
 - New, trending, and in-demand amenities
 - Shelters
 - Sports field improvements
 - Pickleball courts
 - Innovative and unique playground
 - Improve park trail system and provide accessible routes to all locations
 - Coordinate park improvements with Sedgwick Park capital improvement and maintenance items
 - Identify potential, adjacent land acquisition opportunities

- Gordon Park, considering:
 - New, trending, and in-demand amenities
 - Shelters
 - Sports field improvements
 - Pickleball courts
 - Dog park
 - Innovative and unique playground
 - Consider focus on 2-5 age group
 - Enhance splash pad with new features
 - Improve park trail system and provide accessible routes to all locations
 - Coordinate park improvements with Gordon Park capital improvement and maintenance items
 - Identify potential, adjacent land acquisition opportunities
 - 610 East Avenue Property phase II park amenities, considering:
 - Innovative and unique playground
 - Shelters
 - Sport courts
 - Stone Park
 - Spring Park
 - Waiola Park
 - Elm Park
 - Rotary Centennial Park
 - Gilbert Park
 - Meadowbrook Manor Park (playground only)
 - A complete list of the park improvement recommendations can be found in the park inventory and assessment section of chapter 1
- Complete development of **610 East Avenue Property** phase I construction
 - Monitor opportunities for infrastructure funding assistance
 - Provide new, trending, and in-demand amenities** in parks, such as:
 - Shelters
 - Pickleball courts
 - Splash pads
 - Disc golf
 - Innovative and unique playgrounds that attract a regional audience
 - Technology-infused play/electronic play
 - Play for all/inclusive play
 - Nature based play
 - Provide park amenities specific to resident interests and request as heard from ongoing community outreach
 - Identify future need for and potential replacement locations for existing amenities displaced by new land uses
 - Advance state of **acquisition** readiness for future opportunities
 - Set minimum maintenance and upkeep standards to be met before considering new acquisition such as:
 - Existing planned maintenance and improvements to be implemented in the same fiscal year as the purchase
 - Outstanding instances of deferred maintenance, unsatisfactory conditions, and/or non-compliance with code and safety standards
 - Develop acquisition evaluation standards to assess available properties considering property size, land quality and natural features, adjacent recreation potential, geographic location within District, etc.
 - Develop and maintain separate, interest-bearing funding source for land acquisition
 - Identify desirable properties and engage property owners in first right of refusal agreements for potential property purchases
 - Collaborate with Village of La Grange to **provide underground stormwater detention** under the fields in the country club area to reduce localized flooding
 - Consider detention program at Sedgwick Park
 - Conduct feasibility study to **provide dog park access** to residents:
 - Identify potential dog park locations considering
 - Gordon Park (relocated soccer fields)
 - Denning Park
 - Consider reduced rate agreement with other local providers
 - Happy Tails Dog Park/Summit
 - Miller Meadow Off Leash Dog Park/FPDCC
 - Mayslake Forest Preserve and Dog Park/FPDDC
 - Identify partner agency for new dog park development
 - Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve/FPDCC
 - Identify new property acquisition
 - Commercial/industrial property available for sale
 - Prioritize property near the Recreation Center
 - Future decommissioned quarry property

FACILITY AND INDOOR SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

Background:

With six facilities located throughout the Park District, residents have good access to indoor programming spaces but needed improvements to several of the facilities were identified during the planning process. The process also identified some gaps in the types of indoor spaces/uses provided. The Park District of La Grange does not offer several types of common indoor spaces compared to Park Metrics averages including a senior center, a teen center, indoor ice skating, and a nature center. While all of these uses may not be needed in La Grange, the community engagement phase identified several of these types of indoor activity opportunities that could be accommodated in the existing facilities or new indoor space. Some of these included more gym space, a senior center, a teen center, rock climbing, and exclusive/specialized, non-generic rooms. Staff also identified a need for more storage. Several community engagement participants also noted their interest in an indoor playground, even though the Park District does offer one.

The planning process included a detailed facility assessment of the PDLG existing indoor spaces which identified maintenance and replacement items at each location. Aside from the Recreation Center and Community Center, each of these facilities provides a small square footage and offers a limited variety of uses. As upkeep and improvement costs continue to increase, the Park District should compare the costs to value provided to determine the best use of each facility as well as assess the other available indoor recreation options in the PDLG area.

Goals and Strategies:

- **Complete holistic, District-wide cost/benefit analysis of indoor facilities** to determine continued value and highest and best use of each facility, considering
 - Ability of facilities to accommodate existing and anticipated programming, administrative, and operational needs
 - Estimated expenses and maintenance costs
 - Consider applying cost-recovery goals for facilities where programming makes up the primary use
- Develop and implement **facility improvement plans** for locations in need of small-scale improvements and replacement of amenities in poor condition/ beyond their useful life and for long-range facility use changes, including:
 - Determine priority Group A, B, and C facilities to be improved, including:
 - Community Center, considering the results of the District-wide cost/benefit analysis:
 - Option: Continued enhancement for ongoing general recreation use
 - Option: Large-scale renovation plan to improve facility function for defined recreation use considering:
 - Senior center
 - Teen center
 - Specialized recreation spaces such as group exercise studios, art/crafting spaces
 - Option: Divestment of facility to reduce costs and generate funding for new assets
 - Option: Lease agreement for revenue stream
 - Consider facility/land swap agreement to provide PDLG residents access to desired/ in-demand locations
 - Option: Conversion to green space/new park land with new amenities, considering
 - Innovative and unique playground
 - Shelters
 - Gilbert Park Preschool Building, considering the results of the District-wide cost/benefit analysis to meet programming needs
 - Consider additional, complementary open space and park amenities
 - Recreation Center
 - Sedgwick Park Activity Center
 - Sedgwick Park Activity Center
 - Gordon Park Concession Building
 - Recreation Center
 - Denning Park Activity Center
- A complete list of the facility improvement recommendations can be found in the facility inventory and assessment section of chapter 1.

AQUATICS

Background:

Aside from the splash pad at Gordon Park, the Park District of La Grange does not provide any aquatic facilities. Although the District is below the SCORP and Park Metrics benchmarks for aquatics, the District is above for splash pads. Despite the challenges of providing aquatics that include high development and maintenance costs, ongoing staffing shortages, and low availability of suitable space for new aquatic development, both indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities were recorded as a high priority amenity by several of the community engagement groups. Participants at three of the community meetings and workshops identified the lack of a pool as a weakness, and it was also suggested at the Board workshop, although it was not a high priority. In the online and statistically valid survey, aquatics was frequently rated highly as well. A community swimming pool was the top desired new outdoor amenity, and an indoor aquatics or lap pool was the most desired indoor amenity for both survey groups. Despite this popularity, staff, Board members, and the community have also acknowledged the challenges of achieving this goal throughout the engagement process.

Goals and Strategies:

- Explore opportunities to **provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities**
- Determine the need for indoor and/or outdoor aquatics and splash pads, considering:
 - Existing local and regional providers of indoor and outdoor pools, aquatic center complexes, and splash pads
 - At home/backyard pool usage
 - Resident interest in and willingness to support aquatics
- If there is a need for a pool(s) or aquatic facility, evaluate feasibility, considering:
 - Short-term Access, considering:
 - Agency reciprocity agreements for PDLG resident use of existing facilities owned by others
 - Long-term Access, considering:
 - Assess success and feasibility of short-term strategies
 - Assess feasibility of new facility construction, considering:
 - Investment and operation costs vs. revenue generation opportunities
 - Identify and acquire a location for new facility construction considering
 - PDLG owned property
 - Partner-owned property
 - Develop cost-recovery goals
 - Identify funding options, considering:
 - Bonding
 - Referendum
 - Public partners
 - Private partners
 - Location, considering:
 - New property acquisition
 - Partnerships and/or land swaps
 - Maintenance and staffing requirements
- If there is a need for splash pads, evaluate feasibility, considering
 - Location, considering equitable distribution in the District
 - Maintenance Requirements
 - Supplemental amenities such as restrooms, parking, etc.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Background:

The Park District of La Grange's programs and events are constantly changing to meet resident needs and interests and have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The planning process identified several areas of positive growth and stability among the programs but also noted several programs in decline. In order to provide a healthy program menu, industry standards recommend regular re-evaluation of programming with 10-15% of an agency's total offering being considered for cancelation or significant restructuring each year. Staff and Board members also recognize the need for updated offerings to retain resident interest and participation and identified the need for innovative and unique program offerings to set the Park District of La Grange apart from other local recreation providers. Some of the types of programs suggested by these groups included art exhibits and special events, fall festivals, teen programming, multi-generational and family events, and youth skill development opportunities. Among the online and statistically valid survey participants, health and wellness, as well as sport and competitive athletics events and programs were rated as highly valued activities. Other potential programming interests recorded in the community engagement process included adult sports, aerobic classes, fitness classes, senior programming, and classroom programs such as dance, art, and cooking. When considering factors that affect a program's success, staff noted competition from other providers, weather, finding knowledgeable instructors, and getting the word out as consistent challenges. Board members and survey respondents also noted lack of knowledge about programs as common reason for low participation.

Goals and Strategies:

- **Continue to assess and monitor program offerings** to determine programming performance and effectiveness
 - Continue to chart key performance indicators using five-year data to determine trends
 - Continue to utilize program lifecycle assessments on a three- to five-year cycle to determine programs to be restructured, programs to be terminated, and opportunities for growth
 - Offer additional sessions of programs with waiting lists
 - Create spin-offs of popular classes
 - Track fitness center membership retention and survey out-going members and program participants to determine satisfaction

- **Expand opportunities for active adult and senior residents** to accommodate population that is aging in-place and growing trend of adults remaining active
 - Provide a range of programs with differentiated skill levels for multiple age ranges
 - Consider fitness opportunities that focus on areas of concern such as balance, range of motion, relaxation, mental clarity, muscular strength, and cardiovascular endurance

- **Develop a niche and specialty program set** that will differentiate PDLG from its competitors and that can be leveraged into new, regional participation, considering:
 - Artistic hub with specialty events such as the “midnight circus”, art fairs, art displays, classes, and installations at parks and facilities.
 - Skills development such as youth and young adult training programs in life skills and “how do they do that?” video or tour sessions that explore how products are made or services are delivered such as purchasing real estate, cooking, or managing finances
 - Leverage existing assets into unique program types such as mixology classes at the DeSitter Room

- **Provide programs in a variety of times, durations, and formats** to accommodate busy schedules such as:
 - Shorter duration sessions such as 2-4 week increments
 - Online and hybrid programs
 - Consider anticipated participant schedules to determine time of day programs will be offered

- **Consider introductory and trial experiences** at reduced rates or no charge to engage new participants

*Additional, more specific program ideas, funding strategies, and marketing strategies can be found in the appendix.

OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Background:

Several opportunities to improve the PDLG operations emerged during the planning process covering the topics of staffing, communications within the Park District, public messaging, budgeting, funding, and future planning efforts. Overall, several community meeting participants praised Park District staff as well-informed, passionate, and hard-working. Moving forward the Park District wants to maintain this reputation for high-quality service while improving the staff and participant experience.

Goals and Strategies:

Engage residents in regular feedback opportunities

- Conduct annual or biennial general feedback survey
- Develop consistent resident comment procedure to document and respond to resident and participant feedback from comment cards, calls, emails, and other resident/participant-initiated sources
- Conduct exit interview program assessment after program completion and when participant terminate fitness center memberships
 - Consider offering incentives for providing feedback such as a discount on future services or entry into a raffle

Evaluate and restructure Board of Commissioners **Ad Hoc Committees** to explore Park District and community issues and provide input for Board decision making

Improve online presence

- Continue to utilize social media to promote the Park District and improve brand recognition
- Update website for an easier user experience
 - Improve and promote online program registration options
 - Update branding across other platforms as needed to align with website messaging
- Utilize cross-agency promotion with partners to expand the audience

Continue to attract and retain high performing staff

- Prioritize staffing required to fill high priority frontline positions to allow expansion of programming opportunities
- Consider the formation of a dedicated human resources staff member or department
- Prepare for known vacancies in advance of key staff departure to limit disruptions
- Consider engaging contracted employees to fill roles requiring highly specialized skills, fulfilling short-term trends, or as partners in areas with heavy local competition

Complete regular re-evaluation and adjustment partnership terms as needed including:

- Continue to work with sports affiliate groups
- Explore new reciprocal agreements with other agencies to provide amenities and services that the PDLG does not or is unable to offer such as pools, fishing locations, and/or dog parks
 - Consider leveraging new and diverse program offerings to access services provided by others

- Terminate non-beneficial agreements as needed to redirect staff and financial resources to District-owned assets

EXISTING ASSETS AND MAINTENANCE

Background:

The planning process identified several areas where the PDLG assets have fallen below an acceptable standard of care or have aged-out of their useful lives and/or resident interests as well as opportunities to enhance the Park District's overall aesthetic appeal. Across all PDLG parks, 1 trail system, 4 playgrounds, and 3 basketball courts are beyond their useful life and additional items in need of repair or more cohesive design of landscape, signage, and/or lighting were identified in the park and facilities analyses. Among the online and statistically-valid survey participants, personal comfort was rated as the least satisfactory outdoor service followed by accessible amenities and equity throughout the District. Participants in three of the community meetings, the staff workshop and Board workshop noted a need for better maintenance of existing amenities. When asked about the most important maintenance activities, online and statistically valid survey participants prioritized washroom, trash collection, and picnic area cleanliness, playground maintenance, and field maintenance.

Goals and Strategies:

- Continue to update and implement District-wide capital and maintenance plans**
- Continue to track amenity installation and maintenance milestones to budget for anticipated expenses prior to condition degradation
- Track geographic location of improvements to ensure improvements are equitable across the Park District
- Develop PDLG design standards** to guide new development and renovations including planting locations and species, furnishing standards, lighting standards, signage design, art allocation, and green infrastructure best management practices
- Align park planting plans with tree management plan and native and diverse plantings goals
- Improve District-wide accessibility** by making improvements to park path systems, bringing elements to current code requirements, and providing support amenities to increase user comfort and safety such as seating, shade, and lighting.
- Update action plan** annually
- Update comprehensive master plan (CMP)** on a ten-year cycle

Action Plan

This plan is to act as a guide to assist the PDLG in implementing the strategies over the next ten years. The Action Plan is organized by fiscal year into quarters (Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4) to provide a general idea of when each action or action item step might occur within a given year. Each action item is also coded as Parks and Open Space Improvements, Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements, Aquatics, Programs and Events, Operations and Management, and Existing Assets and Maintenance. In addition to action items that will be accomplished once within an anticipated time frame, some items are categorized as Recurring Items. Recurring items should occur on a regular basis to help the Park District maintain its existing Parks and Recreation offerings, make operational decisions, and inform future projects. This recurring self-reflection will help the PDLG stay aware of changing demographics and industry trends and monitor its assets' evolving strengths and weaknesses.

Ordering Criteria

To help determine when each item should be implemented within the ten-year plan, the following criteria were considered:

- **Current Planned Initiative:** It is a project that is already in progress or has recommended CIP funding
- **Meets Recreation Need/Interest:** It provides for a need or interest identified from the Analyze and Connect Phase findings
- **Age/Condition:** A facility or amenity is at or nearing the end of its useful life or is in poor condition
- **Availability/Utilization:** An offering, facility, or amenity has limited availability and/or is highly utilized
- **Attainability:** Considers the Park District's financial and staff resources to accomplish certain projects over a ten-year period
- **Additional Data Required:** More detailed information is needed concerning indoor space, market, or program needs to inform the required investments

This Action plan is flexible and will be periodically re-evaluated and adjusted to reflect completed projects and the community's changing needs. The plan is expected to change to respond to future opportunities such as grants, donations, and partnerships and will continue to evolve as new circumstances and opportunities arise. Additionally, as the plan is accomplished, some goals or strategies may be edited or eliminated if they are determined to not be feasible, no longer have community support, or if they fulfill a need that has since been met by other providers.



GRANGE ENDLESS SUN



2022-2023

Year 1
2023-2024

Year 2
2024-2025

May June July	August Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April	May June July	August Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April	May June July	August Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Complete development of 610 East Avenue Property Phase I										
Coordinate with Village of La Grange to provide underground stormwater detention											
								Determine parks for priority Group A, B, and C to develop park improvement plans	Develop park improvement plans for group A parks	Implement park improvement plans for group A parks	
			Complete Gilbert Park Preschool Building repairs								
				Complete holistic, District-wide cost/benefit analysis of indoor facilities						Determine facilities for priority Group A, B, and C to develop facility improvement plans	
				Identify potential partners to provide access to in-demand indoor amenities							
							Explore short-term opportunities to provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities		Implement short-term opportunities to provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities		
				Expand opportunities for active adult and senior residents							
				Establish and promote fundraising and donation policy							
	Evaluate and restructure Board of Commissioners Ad Hoc Committees							Develop PDIG design standards			Update action plan







Year 3
2025-2026

Year 4
2026-2027

Year 5
2027-2028

May June July	August Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April	May June July	August Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April	May June July	August Sept Oct	Nov Dec Jan	Feb March April
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Conduct feasibility study to provide dog park access										
Develop facility improvement plans for group A facilities				Implement facility improvement plans for group A facilities							
				Explore long-term opportunities to provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities							
				Develop a niche and specialty program set							
Improve online presence											
			Update action plan				Update action plan				Update action plan

Legend

	Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements		Programs and Events
	Facilities and indoor Space Improvements		Operations and Management
	Aquatics		Existing Assets and Maintenance

Years 6-10					Beyond 10 years 2033+			Recurring Items		
Year 6 2028-2029	Year 7 2029-2030	Year 8 2030-2031	Year 9 2031-2032	Year 10 2032-2033						
					Develop and implement park improvement plans for group C parks			Provide new, trending, and in-demand amenities		
				Advance state of acquisition readiness	Define and implement acquisition evaluate standards and policy					
Develop and implement park improvement plans for group B parks										
					Develop and implement facility improvement plans for group C facilities					
Develop facility improvement plans for group B facilities	Implement facility improvement plans for group B facilities							Continue to assess and monitor program offerings	Provide programs in a variety of times, durations, and formats	Consider introductory and trial experiences
			Fund long-term opportunities to provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities		Implement long-term opportunities to provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities					
								Engage residents in regular feedback opportunities	Complete regular re-evaluation and adjustment partnership terms	Improve diversity, equity, and inclusion across PDLG
								Seek grant assistance	Continue to attract and retain high performing staff	
Update action plan	Update action plan	Update action plan	Update action plan	Update CMP				Continue to update and implement District-wide capital and maintenance plans	Improve District-wide accessibility	

Legend

- Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements
- Facilities and indoor Space Improvements
- Aquatics
- Programs and Events
- Operations and Management
- Existing Assets and Maintenance



Current Year (May Through April)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Coordinate with Village of La Grange to **provide underground stormwater detention** in coordination with the Village of La Grange
- Complete development of **610 East Avenue Property** Phase I

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Complete **Gilbert Park Preschool building** repairs

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- Evaluate and restructure Board of Commissioners **Ad Hoc Committees**

Year 1

(May 2023 Through April 2024)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Coordinate with Village of La Grange to **provide underground stormwater detention**
- Complete development of **610 East Avenue Property** Phase I

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- **Complete holistic, District-wide cost/benefit analysis of indoor facilities**
- Identify potential **partners to provide access to in-demand indoor amenities**

Aquatics

- Explore short-term opportunities to **provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities**

Programs and Events

- **Expand opportunities for active adult and senior residents**

Operations and Management

- Establish and promote **Fundraising and Donation Policy**

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- **Develop PDLG design standards**

Year 2

(May 2024 Through April 2025)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Determine parks for priority groups A, B, and C to develop **park improvement plans**
- Develop **park improvement plans** for group A parks
 - Develop park master plans
 - Design and engineer park plans
 - Fund park improvements
 - Bid and construct park improvements

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Determine facilities for priority groups A, B, and C to develop **facility improvement plans**

Aquatics

- Implement short-term opportunities to **provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities**

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- **Update action plan**

Year 3

(May 2024 Through April 2025)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Implement **park improvement plans** for group A parks
 - Develop park master plans
 - Design and engineer park plans
 - Fund park improvements
 - Bid and construct park improvements
- Conduct feasibility study to **provide dog park access**

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Develop and implement **facility improvement plans** for group A facilities
 - Develop facility master plans
 - Design and engineer facility plans
 - Fund facility improvements
 - Bid and construct facility improvements

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- **Improve online presence**
- **Update Action Plan**

Year 4

(May 2026 Through April 2027)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Implement **park improvement plans** for group A parks
 - Develop park master plans
 - Design and engineer park plans
 - Fund park improvements
 - Bid and construct park improvements

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Implement **facility improvement plans** for group A facilities
 - Develop facility master plans
 - Design and engineer facility plans
 - Fund facility improvements
 - Bid and construct facility improvements

Aquatics

- Explore long-term opportunities to **provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities**

Programs and Events

- **Develop a niche and specialty program set**

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- **Update action plan**

Year 5

(May 2027 Through April 2028)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Implement **park improvement plans** for group A parks
 - Develop park master plans
 - Design and engineer park plans
 - Fund park improvements
 - Bid and construct park improvements

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Implement **facility improvement plans** for group A facilities
 - Develop facility master plans
 - Design and engineer facility plans
 - Fund facility improvements
 - Bid and construct facility improvements

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- **Update action plan**

Year 6

(May 2028 Through April 2029)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Develop and implement **park improvement plans** for group B parks
 - Develop park master plans
 - Design and engineer park plans
 - Fund park improvements
 - Bid and construct park improvements

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Develop **facility improvement plans** for group B facilities
 - Develop facility master plans
 - Design and engineer facility plans
 - Fund facility improvements
 - Bid and construct facility improvements

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- **Update action plan**

Year 7

(May 2029 Through April 2030)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Implement **park improvement plans** for group B parks
 - Develop park master plans
 - Design and engineer park plans
 - Fund park improvements
 - Bid and construct park improvements

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Implement **facility improvement plans** for group B facilities
 - Develop facility master plans
 - Design and engineer facility plans
 - Fund facility improvements
 - Bid and construct facility improvements

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- **Update action plan**

Year 8

(May 2030 Through April 2031)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Implement **park improvement plans** for group B parks
 - Develop park master plans
 - Design and engineer park plans
 - Fund park improvements
 - Bid and construct park improvements

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Implement **facility improvement plans** for group B facilities
 - Develop facility master plans
 - Design and engineer facility plans
 - Fund facility improvements
 - Bid and construct facility improvements

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- **Update action plan**

Year 9

(May 2031 Through April 2032)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Implement **park improvement plans** for group B parks
 - Develop park master plans
 - Design and engineer park plans
 - Fund park improvements
 - Bid and construct park improvements

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Implement **facility improvement plans** for group B facilities
 - Develop facility master plans
 - Design and engineer facility plans
 - Fund facility improvements
 - Bid and construct facility improvements

Aquatics

- Fund long-term opportunities to **provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities**

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- **Update action plan**

Year 10

(May 2032 Through April 2033)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Advance state of **acquisition** readiness

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Implement **facility improvement plans** for group B facilities
 - Develop facility master plans
 - Design and engineer facility plans
 - Fund facility improvements
 - Bid and construct facility improvements

Aquatics

- Fund long-term opportunities to **provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities**

Existing Assets and Maintenance

- **Update comprehensive master plan (CMP)**

Beyond 10 Years (May 2033+)

Parks and Outdoor Space Improvements

- Define and implement **acquisition** evaluation standards and policy
- Develop and implement **park improvement plans** for group C parks
 - Develop park master plans
 - Design and engineer park plans
 - Fund park improvements
 - Bid and construct park improvements

Facilities and Indoor Space Improvements

- Develop and implement **facility improvement plans** for group C facilities
 - Develop facility master plans
 - Design and engineer facility plans
 - Fund facility improvements
 - Bid and construct facility improvements

Aquatics

- Implement long-term opportunities to **provide indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities**

Achieving the Plan

This section identifies a variety of tools available to implement the Comprehensive Master Plan goals. The capital improvement recommendations outline and detail a road map for the PDLG for the next ten years. These recommendations are also based on a general understanding of the funding opportunities that may be appropriate for future projects.

Park and Facility Improvement Plans

During the planning process, the public was clear with a message to first “take care of what we have” in order to maintain and upgrade their recreation experience. Upgrading existing facilities to provide a community-wide “equitable” recreational experience is the highest priority. The District’s Capital Asset Replacement Plan (CARP) identifies annual appropriations for playground replacement, court resurfacing, ballfield and soccer field refurbishment, landscaping, and site furnishing upgrades and should be upgraded to reflect the Action & Priority Plan recommendations. The CARP facility improvements and maintenance upgrades represents a series of ongoing enhancements requiring capital dollars. It is critical for the Park District to continue to fund these on an annual basis to protect District resources. A list of improvement and maintenance items and estimated costs for the PDLG parks and facilities can be found in the appendix.

Master Plans and Large Scope Objectives

The long-term, 10-year vision for the Park District of La Grange includes several items within the scope of capital replacement and maintenance. The accomplishment of these projects as outlined in this Plan will require a prolonged and dedicated effort and some may require additional financial resources over and above those which it currently receives from Park District general and capital improvement funds, grants, and other revenues at present. The following section identifies a series of possible funding sources which may be useful in achieving the recommended action items:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administers several grants programs to assist park districts, municipalities, and other public agencies provide public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The programs operate on a cost reimbursement basis to a government or non-for-profit organization. Park districts and local governments can receive one grant per program per year with no restrictions on the number of local governments that can be funded for a given location. IDNR grants available for:

- **Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD):** The OSLAD program awards up to 50 percent of project costs up to a maximum of amount set by the State for acquisition or development/ renovation of recreational facilities such as playgrounds, outdoor

nature interpretive areas, campgrounds and fishing piers, park roads and paths, and beaches.

- **Boat Access Area Development (BAAD):** The BAAD grant program awards funding for boat launches and other water amenity access
- **Illinois Trails Grants Program:** This program awards funding for the new construction, extension, and renovation of non-motorized trail development and related site amenities
- **Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** LWCF Grants are available to park districts, municipalities, county governments, and school districts to be used to acquire new properties for the exclusive use of outdoor recreation projects.
- **Park & Recreational Facility Construction Grant Program (PARC):** Park districts, and municipalities can be awarded funding for the acquisition, development, construction, rehabilitation, architectural planning, and installation of capital parks, recreation, and open space facilities.
- **Public Museum Capital Grant Program:** Public museums and interpretive centers operated by park districts, municipalities and other public agencies can apply for funds to develop new and updated exhibits, expand facilities, renovate buildings, and improve infrastructure related to educational and interpretive exhibits and museum facilities.

Recreational Trails Program – The federal “Recreational Trails Program” (RTP) was created to provide funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails. By law, 30 percent of each grant cycle’s funding is reserved for non-motorized trail projects.

Illinois Bicycle Path Program – The Illinois Bicycle Path program is administered by IDNR to provides funding assistance to acquire and develop land for public bicycle path purposes.

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant Program – Park agencies, municipalities, and local governments can apply for financial assistance for the development of local urban and community forestry programs/ activities to establish, manage, conserve, and preserve the urban and community forests ranging from inner city locations to associated public lands.

DCEO Capital Grants - The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) office provides capital funding grants to assist local units of government in offsetting costs of publicly beneficial projects ranging from infrastructure improvements to recreation amenities.

MWRD – The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) oversees the management of stormwater, clean wastewater, and recovery of valuable resources in the Chicagoland area. As part of this mission, the MWRD provides grants to improve water quality and promote ecological best practices like permeable paving and rain gardens.

ComEd – The private utility company ComEd periodically provides grant funding opportunities for municipalities within their service range. These opportunities provide funding for a range of projects including utility upgrades, rain gardens, native plantings, tree plantings, and arts and culture.

Public-Private Partnership – Public-Private Partnerships are already a key component of the PDLG recreation system. The Park District partners with local non-profits and other community organizations to hold non-profit events in the park, maintain existing parks, or work to develop new parks as is necessary. The non-government entity can provide funding to the District to upkeep and improve specifically designated parks. The District should strive to maintain existing and establish new partnerships to help improve District facilities and programs.

The possible funding scenarios identified in this Plan set up the model for implementation of future capital projects and it is recommended that the Park District continue to apply for such grants to help it implement the Action & Priority Plan and leverage the local matching dollars as far as possible.





**Chapter 4:
Appendix**

Race and Ethnicity Definitions

The minimum categories for data on race and ethnicity for Federal statistics, program administrative reporting, and civil rights compliance reporting are identified and defined below. The latest (Census 2010) definitions and nomenclature are used within this analysis.

Native American – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment

Asian – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam

Black – This includes a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands

White – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa

Hispanic or Latino – This is an ethnic distinction, a subset of a race as defined by the Federal Government; this includes a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race

Benefits of Recreation Facilities

Health

According to the Trust for Public Land and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), parks provide amenities designed to get people active and out of the house away from their sedentary lifestyles (Sedentary lifestyles are directly linked to obesity). “Studies have shown that when people have access to parks, they exercise more, and... individuals living closer to parks are more likely to exercise regularly, leading to weight loss, increased energy, and better overall health.”

The Park District of La Grange provides a variety of park and open space facilities located throughout the community for use by its residents to promote community wellness and support healthy lifestyles.

Social

As identified by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), parks provide safe gathering and meeting places where community members can develop social ties, as well as where healthy behavior is modeled and admired.

Residents within the PDLG gather to share experiences, socialize, and build community bonds in these common open spaces, parks, and facilities within the District. In addition to developing a sense of community and social inclusion, the District parks bring people of different backgrounds, cultures, and religions together. They are often the glue that binds communities like La Grange together while supporting and improving future positive social interactions.

Economic

The NRPA also identifies park and recreation areas as “... economic engines that improve the quality of life making communities more livable and desirable for businesses and homeowners.”

Environmental

Trees buffer and remove a wide variety of pollutants from the air. (U.S. Forest Service estimates trees remove nineteen million pounds of pollutants each year - a service that would cost \$47 million if performed by a company.) Public parks are large contributors to the urban tree canopy. One acre of trees produces enough oxygen for eighteen people while at the same time, absorb enough carbon dioxide to equal emissions from driving a car over 26,000 miles. According to the Trust for Public Land and U.S. Forest Service, “One tree over a 50-year period will provide \$62,000 worth of air pollution control and generate \$31,250 worth of oxygen. Trees have been proven to absorb airborne pollutants, In one year a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange. Trees and grass also provide a more aesthetic and less expensive method of managing stormwater rather than below ground storm sewers and concrete drainage ditches.

PDLG Public - Private Partnerships

Intergovernmental Partnerships

Village of La Grange

The Village of La Grange and the Park District of La Grange both serve the interests of Village residents. Their Cooperative Agreements help ensure the delivery of excellent quality services to the residents of the community while holding costs to a minimum and eliminating duplication. Their agreements underscore the long-standing tradition of the Village and Park District sharing equipment and services

The Park District of La Grange has an agreement with the Village of La Grange to lease the East Side Center, known as Community Center and Park, located at 200 S. Washington Avenue. The one-acre site contains the community center building, a playground, and two full basketball courts. The agreement started on May 1st, 1980, and expires April 30th, 2079, for a fee of \$1.00 per year. The Park District is responsible for paying all utility charges associated with the site.

City of Countryside

The City of Countryside and the Park District of La Grange entered into an agreement in July 2012 to share recreation resources to expand their offerings to community members. Since the Park District is land locked, they have gained 22.5 more acres of park land and athletic fields through this partnership.

Countryside residents benefit from this agreement through access to a recreation center and dedicated park and recreation staff, which includes admission to more programming, camps and special interest classes.

The initial term between the two entities is a five-year period with the option to renew for five successive five-year periods. This term entitles the Park District to use the following facilities owned by the City of Countryside:

- Countryside Playschool tot lot
- Brancato Park
- City Park
- Countryside Park
- Hollands Park
- Ideal School Park
- Woodland Ridge Park
- Memorial Park
- Srjema-Michalek Park
- Andrew Whiting Memorial Park

The use of these facilities is for recreation purposes only and does not include any private or for-profit ventures. The Park District is responsible for scheduling all activities at the City of Countryside's facilities. The schedule must be prepared forty-five days prior to the start of the following month and shall be approved by the City in less than thirty days after submission. The City does have priority to schedule the use of their facilities for certain events.

The term also includes responsibilities that the Park District must execute, which include the following:

- The Park District must allow all residents of the City to participate in Park District facilities, activities, and programs at a resident rate
- The Park District is responsible for handling all registration
- The Park District shall continue to run Ponytail Softball
- The Park District is responsible for printing and distributing the program guide
- The Park District is responsible for running the summer camp program
- The Park District shall not tax or levy any charge on City residents

The City in-turn also agrees to the following items:

- When the City offers recreational activities or programs, residents of the Park District shall get resident rate
- The City must allow the Park District to use the La Grange School District 105 Ideal School
- The City will assist the Park District in exercising any agreements the City has with recreational entities

School - Park Partnerships

School-Park Partnership Sites expand outdoor recreational opportunities and fill-in areas of deficiency within the PDLG service area. These agreements are intended to make more effective use of existing facilities like athletic fields, playgrounds, and indoor gymnasium spaces and expand the year-round recreational opportunities for communities with limited financial resources and lack of available land for new development.

School District 102

The Park District of La Grange entered into agreement with School District 102 in January 2018 to lease the five school buildings to run their BASE (Before & After School Recreational Experience) program. The included facilities are:

- Barnsdale Road School
- Congress Park School
- Cossitt Avenue School
- Forest Road School
- Ogden Avenue School

The lease runs through December 31, 2023, with an option to extend the lease for a five-year period. The BASE program provides before and after school recreational activities for children enrolled in District 102 elementary schools. The Park District operates the before school activities Monday through Friday 7:00am to 8:20am and the after-school activities Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 3:15pm to 6:00pm and Wednesdays 2:30pm to 6:30pm.

St. Francis Xavier Parish

The Park District of La Grange and St. Francis Xavier Parish began an intergovernmental agreement on August 21, 2019, for an amount of \$200.00 per month, utilities are included within this fee. The parish gives the park district the right to use a variety of their facilities, which include:

- Joyce Hall
- Annex Room
- Parking lot (south of the school including pick-up and drop-off area)
- Outdoor play area

Use times include Monday through Friday 6:45am to 8:45am; Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 2:30pm to 6:00pm; Wednesdays from 1:00pm to 6:00pm; and staff is allowed to enter the school at 6:30am on weekdays.

Affiliate Partnerships

South East Association for Special Parks & Recreation (SEASPAR)

The Park District of La Grange is a member of the SEASPAR organization along with eleven other municipalities and park districts. The goal of this group is to provide recreational programs for people with disabilities and to share program costs. Each organization belonging to this group appoints one member to sit on the Board of Directors. Each member entity pays SEASPAR an annual amount of the total cost of operating the organization based on the following formula, not to exceed the statutory limit:

- $(\text{Total amount raised by taxation}) / (\text{Total EAV of each member entity added together}) = \text{Rate applied to the EAV of each entity}$

Assessments are calculated and given to members by November 1st of each year. Members of the SEASPAR organization can terminate their membership in writing, but must do so by September 1st, which is twenty months prior to the effective date.

Chicago White Sox

The Chicago White Sox and the Park District of La Grange have an agreement where the Park District provides the use of a facility and office, located at 536 East Avenue in exchange for White Sox provided expertise in the planning, coaching and supervision of baseball and softball training.

The agreement runs for three consecutive years and started November 1, 2019, through October 31, 2020; from November 1, 2020, through October 31, 2021; and from November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2022. The White Sox have an option to renew the agreement for three consecutive terms, with each renewal for a period of three years. The White Sox pay \$2,080.00 per month during prime months (December through April) for November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2020.

For each term after that, the fee per prime month is the “Adjusted License Fee” based upon the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI for the Chicago area is multiplied by the prior year’s License Fee.

Rotary Club of La Grange

The Park District of La Grange and the Rotary Club of La Grange entered into an agreement allowing the Rotary Club to use approximately 1,500 to 2,200 square feet of storage space to store donated items for its Secret Santa program. The agreement began September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2020. The Rotary Club may choose to extend the agreement for one additional three-year term.

Corporate - Park Partnerships (none)

Other Recreation Providers

Below is a list showing the private local providers.
Other Facilities the Park District Uses to Run Programming:
Western Springs Rec Center
Grand Avenue Community Center, Western Springs
La Grange Park Recreation Center
Hanesworth Park, La Grange Park
Ideal School, Countryside
Yena Park, La Grange Park
Countryside Park, Countryside
City Park, Countryside
The LeaderShop, La Grange

External Providers:

Fitness

- The Local Workout, La Grange
- iLoveKickboxing, La Grange
- Orange Theory, La Grange
- Get In Shape for Women, La Grange
- Absolution CrossFit, Functional Fitness & Strength Academy, La Grange
- CrossFit Posted, Brookfield
- Base, La Grange
- Club Pilates, La Grange
- Strive, La Grange Park
- Charter Fitness, Countryside
- LA Fitness, Countryside
- La Grange Field Club
- Flying High Sports & Rec Center, Countryside
- Gemini Gymnastics, La Grange

Libraries – All offer a reading program

- La Grange Public Library
- La Grange Park Public Library District
- Brookfield Public Library
- Lyons Public Library
- Riverside Public Library
- Thomas Ford Mem. Lib., Western Spring

Churches

- Second Baptist Church, La Grange
- Davis Memorial A.M.E. Church, La Grange
- First Congregational Church of La Grange
- La Grange Bible Church
- First United Methodist Church, La Grange
- First Presbyterian Church, La Grange
 - Noah's Ark Preschool
 - Harmony Music Program
- Emmanuel Episcopal Church of La Grange
- St. John's Lutheran Church, La Grange
 - School – Preschool through 8th Grade
 - Athletics – Volleyball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Track
 - Sewing Club
 - Chess Club

- St. Cletus Parish, La Grange
 - School – Preschool through 8th Grade
 - Athletics – Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Track, Volleyball
 - Ecology Club
 - Girls on the Run
 - Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts
 - Math Club
 - Mission Propelle Yoga
 - National Junior Honor Society
 - Student Council
 - Rainbows Program
 - Technology Club
 - Choir
- Blood of Christ Prophetic, Countryside
- St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, La Grange

School Districts

- School District 102
- School District 105
- School District 204

Preschools

- Ready Teddy Preschool, La Grange Park
- Bright Ideas Preschool, Brookfield
- Little People's County Preschool, La Grange
- Methodist Preschool of La Grange
- Creative World Montessori School, La Grange
- Grand Avenue Preschool and Daycare, Western Springs
- Sunflower Montessori, Western Springs

Club Sports

- La Grange Celtics Soccer Club
- La Grange Field Club
- Newton Health Soccer Club
- Region 300 AYSO Youth Soccer – La Grange, Western Springs, Brookfield, La Grange Park
- La Grange Baseball/Softball All-Stars
- La Grange Little League
- Lyons Township Soccer Club

Dance Studios

- Dance Center of La Grange
- Lively Arts Dance Academy, Countryside
- Elite Dance School, Brookfield
- Impact Dance, La Grange

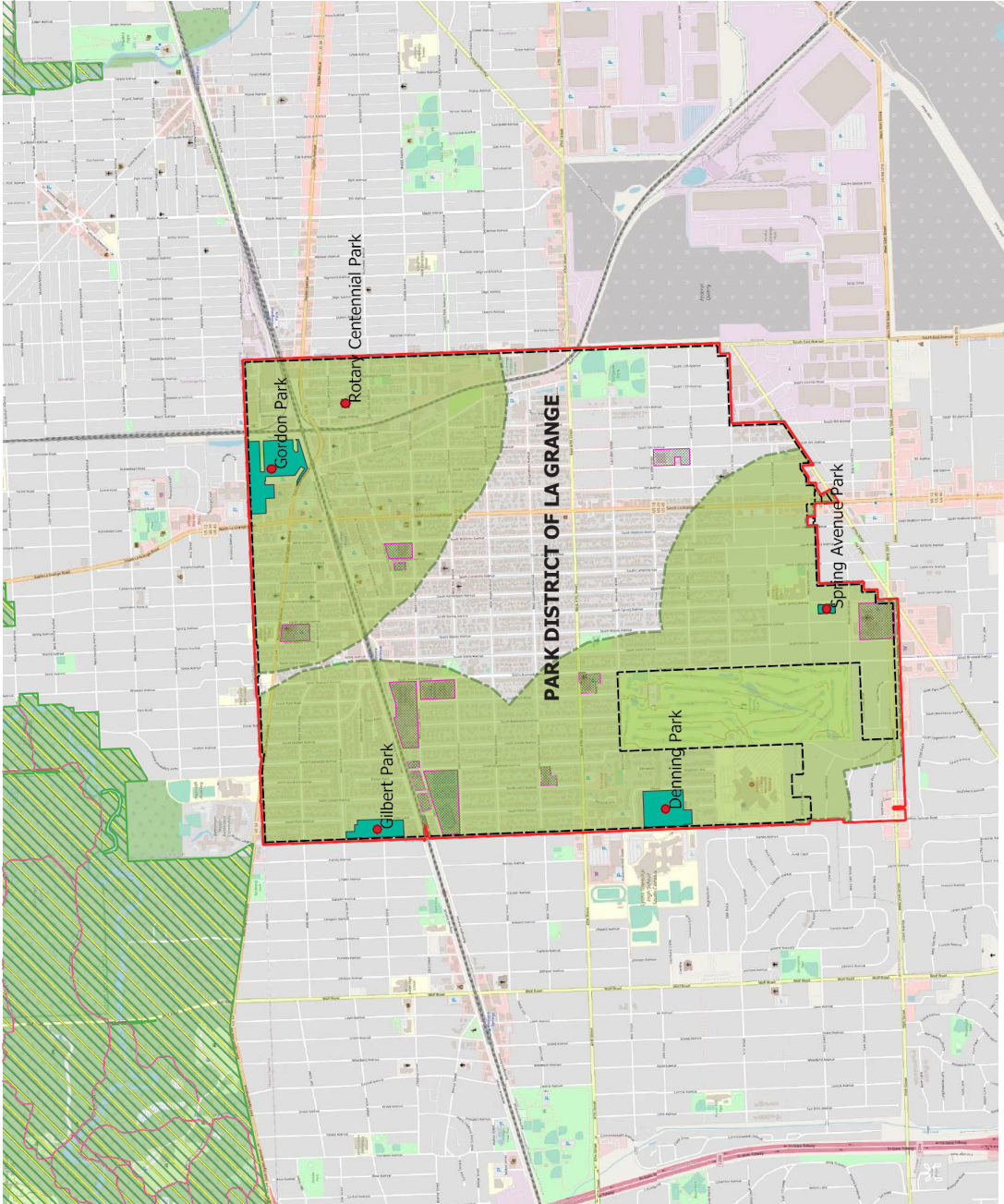


**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

7. Shelter Service Area

- Legend**
- Park District of La Grange
 - La Grange Municipal Boundary
 - Forest Preserve Trail
 - Forest Preserve
 - School
 - Shelter
 - Shelter Service Area
- OpenStreetMap**

Level of Service
 No Required NRPA Guidelines
 PDLG Population: 15,545
 Service Area for Shelter: 5





**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

8. Basketball Court Service Area

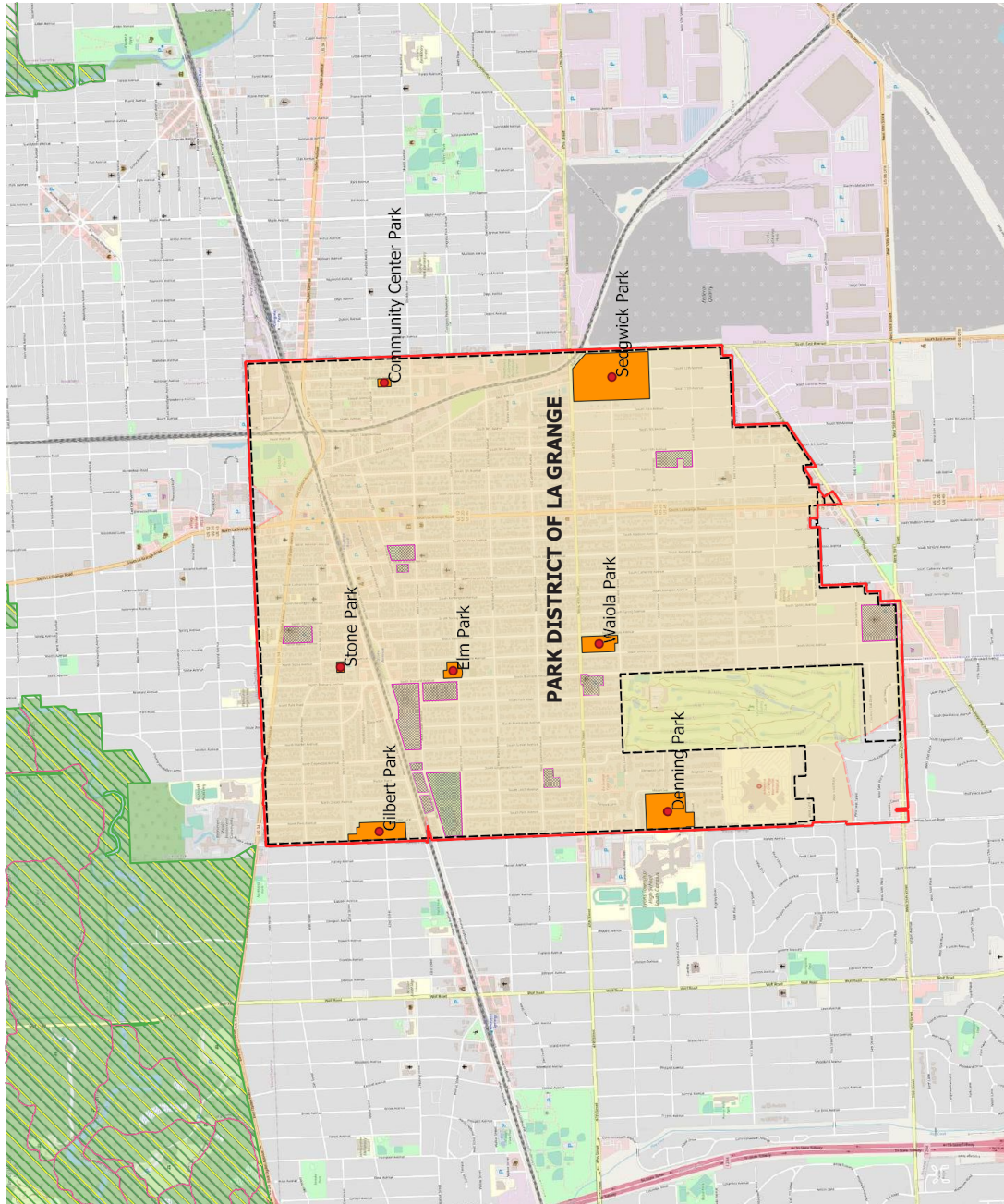
Legend

- Park District of La Grange Forest
- Preserve Trail
- Forest Preserve
- La Grange Municipal Boundary
- School
- Basketball Court
- Basketball Court Service Area

Open Street Map

Level of Service

- NRPA Guidelines: 1 Court Per 5,000 Residents
- PDLG Population: 15,545
- Service Area for Basketball Court: 9
- 1 Basketball Court Per 1,727 Residents





**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

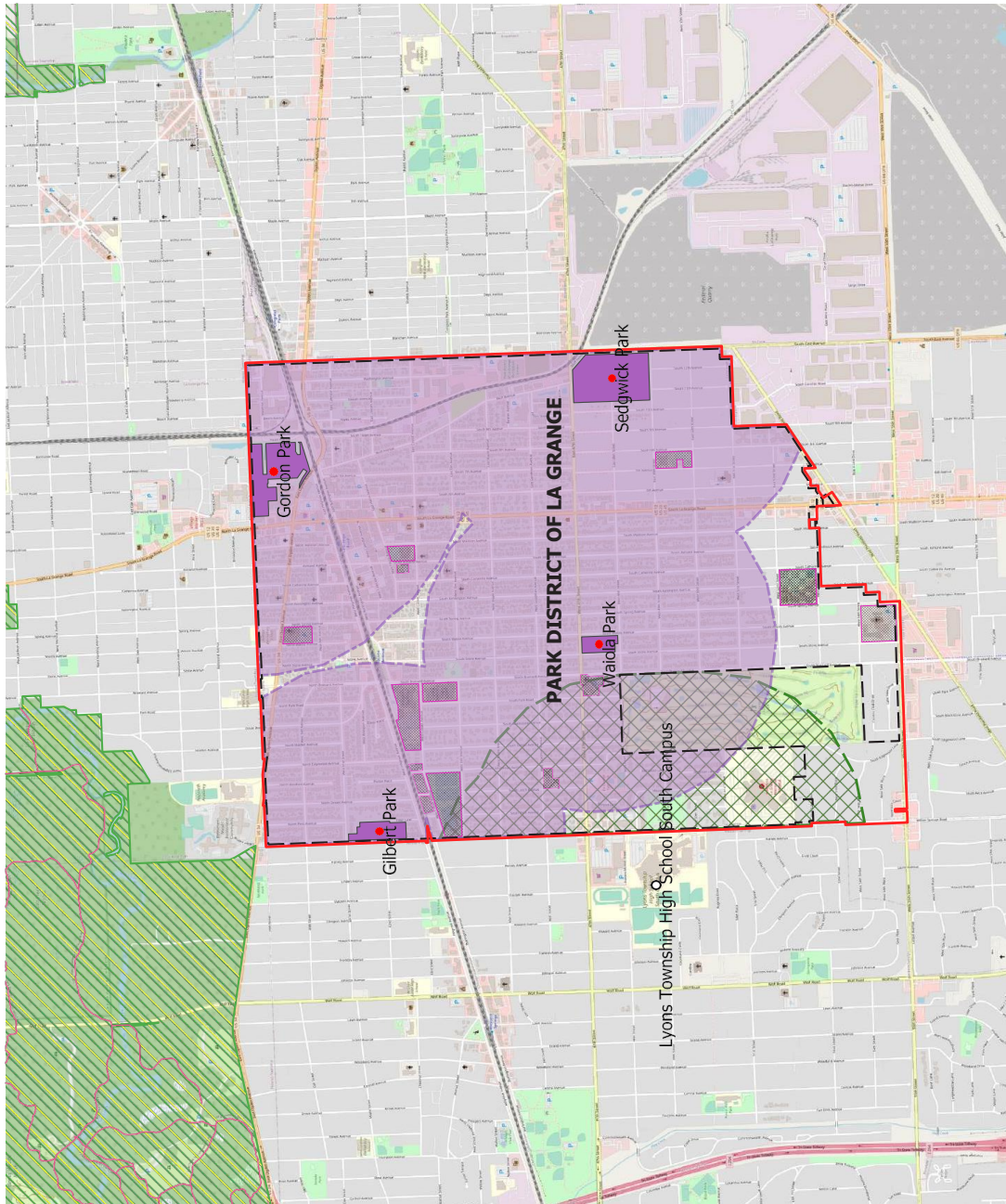
9. Baseball Field Service Area

Legend

- Park District of La Grange
 - La Grange Municipal Boundary
 - Forest Preserve Trail
 - Forest Preserve
 - School
 - Baseball Field Service Area
 - Not PDLG Owned Baseball Field
 - Not PDLG Owned Baseball Field Service Area
- OpenStreetMap**

Level of Service

- NRPA Guidelines: 1 Field Per 2,000 Residents
- PDLG Population: 15,545
- Service Area for Baseball Field: 5
- Baseball Field Per 3,109 Residents





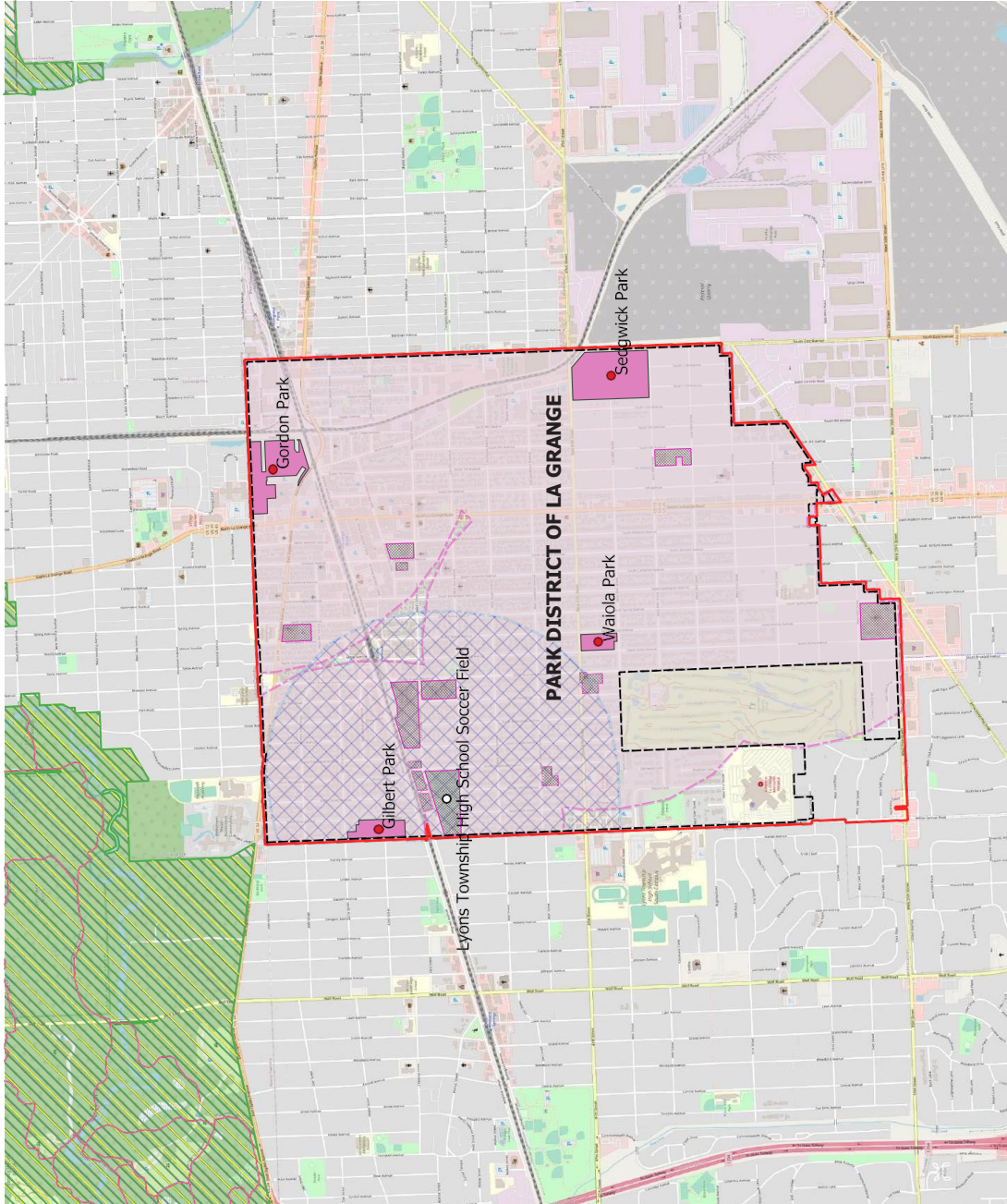
**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

10. Soccer Field Service Area

Legend

- Park District of La Grange
 - La Grange Municipal Boundary
 - Forest Preserve Trail
 - Forest Preserve
 - School
 - Soccer Field
 - Soccer Field Service Area
 - Not PDLG Owned Soccer Field
 - Not PDLG Owned Soccer Field Service Area
- Open Street Map**

Level of Service
 NRPA Guidelines: 1 Field Per 2,000 Residents
 PDLG Population: 15,545
 Service Area for Sports Field: 5
 1 Sports Field Per 2,590 Residents














**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

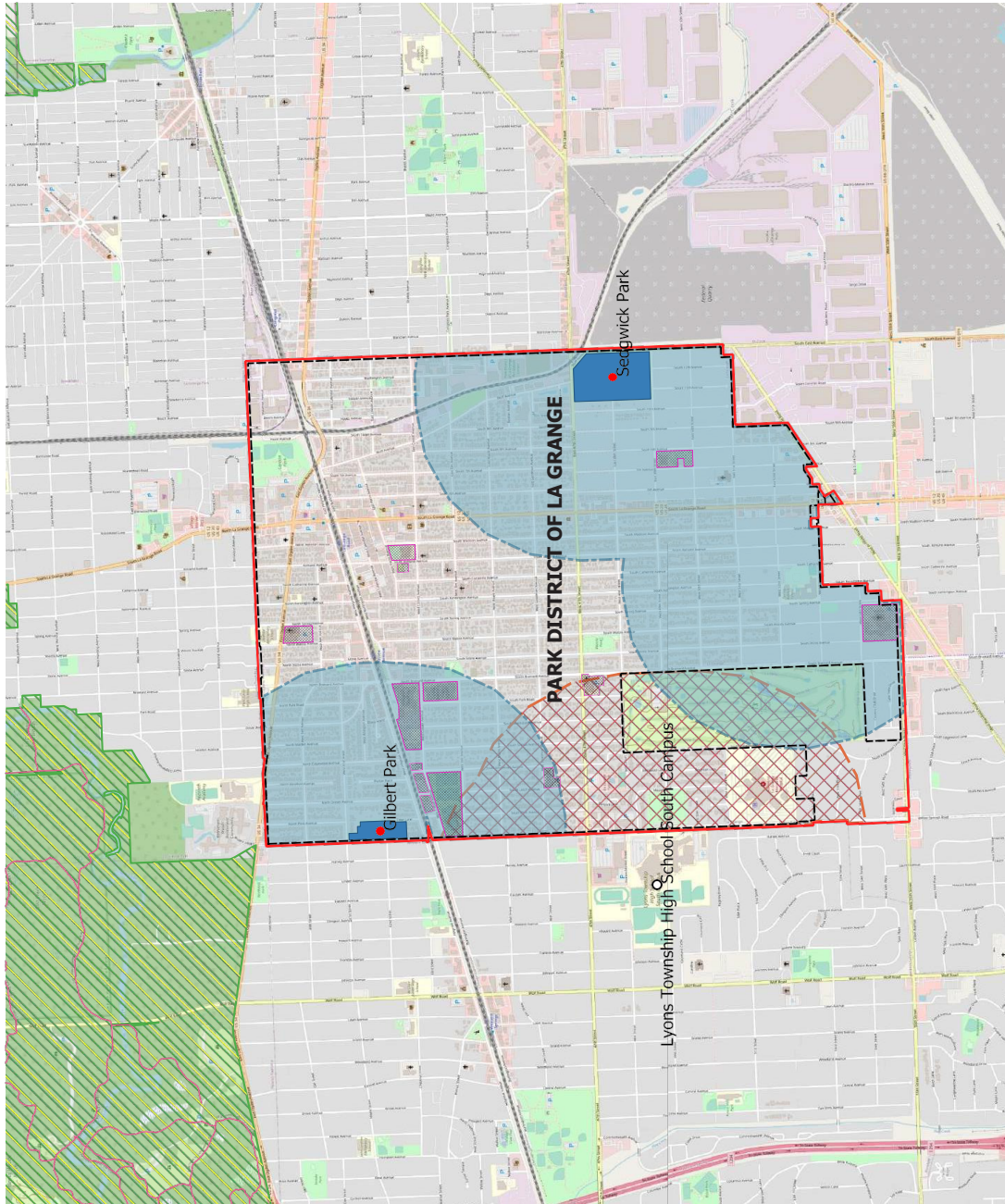
11. Tennis Court Service Area

Legend

-  Park District of La Grange
 -  La Grange Municipal Boundary
 -  Forest Preserve Trail
 -  Forest Preserve
 -  School
 -  Tennis Court
 -  Tennis Court Service Area
 -  Not PDLG Owned Tennis Court
 -  Not PDLG Owned Tennis Court Service Area
- OpenStreetMap**

Level of Service

- NRPA Guidelines: 1 Court Per 2,000 Residents
- PDLG Population: 15,545
- Service Area for Tennis Court: 12
- 1 Tennis Court Per 1,036 Residents



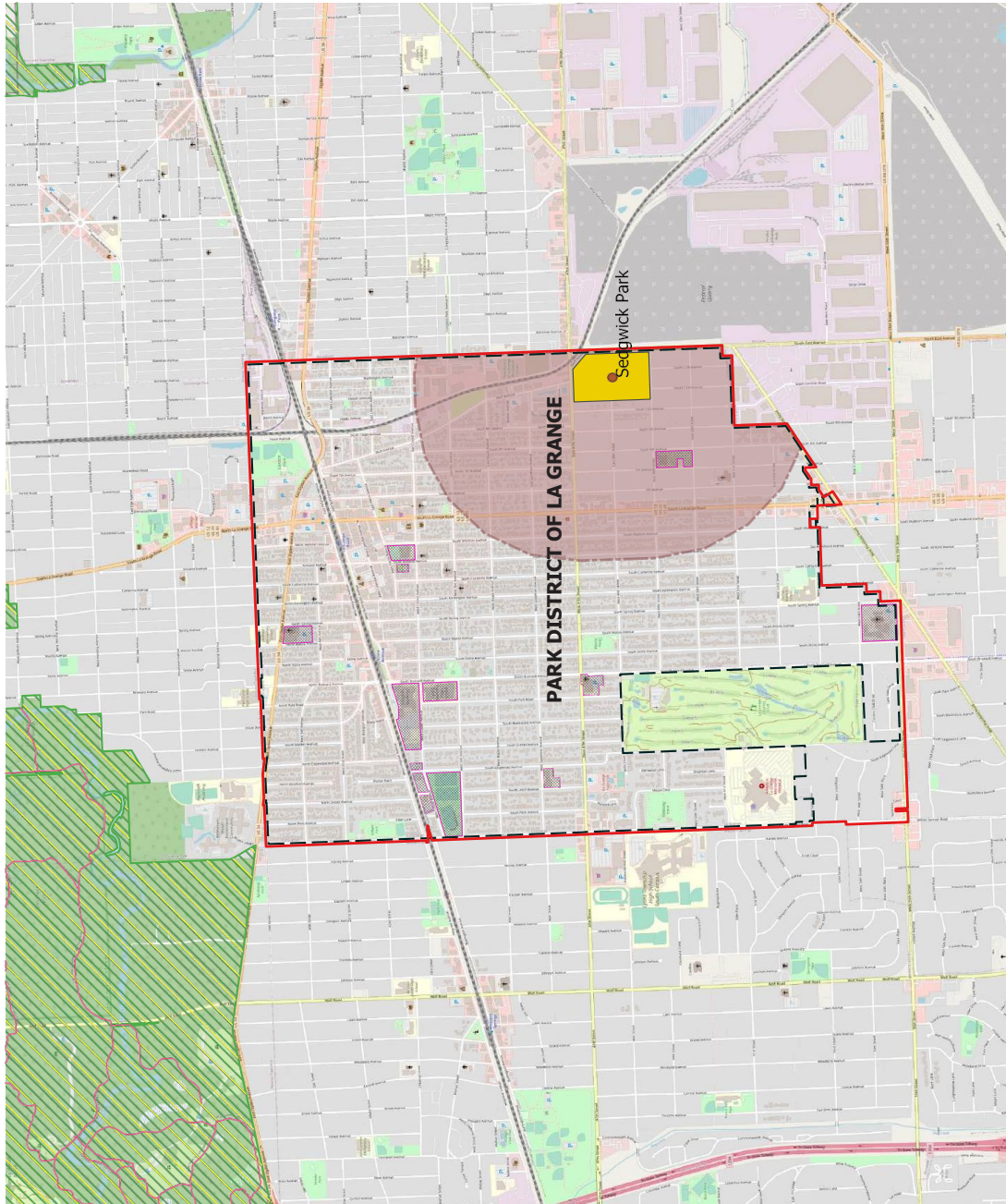


**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**










12. Volleyball Court Service Area

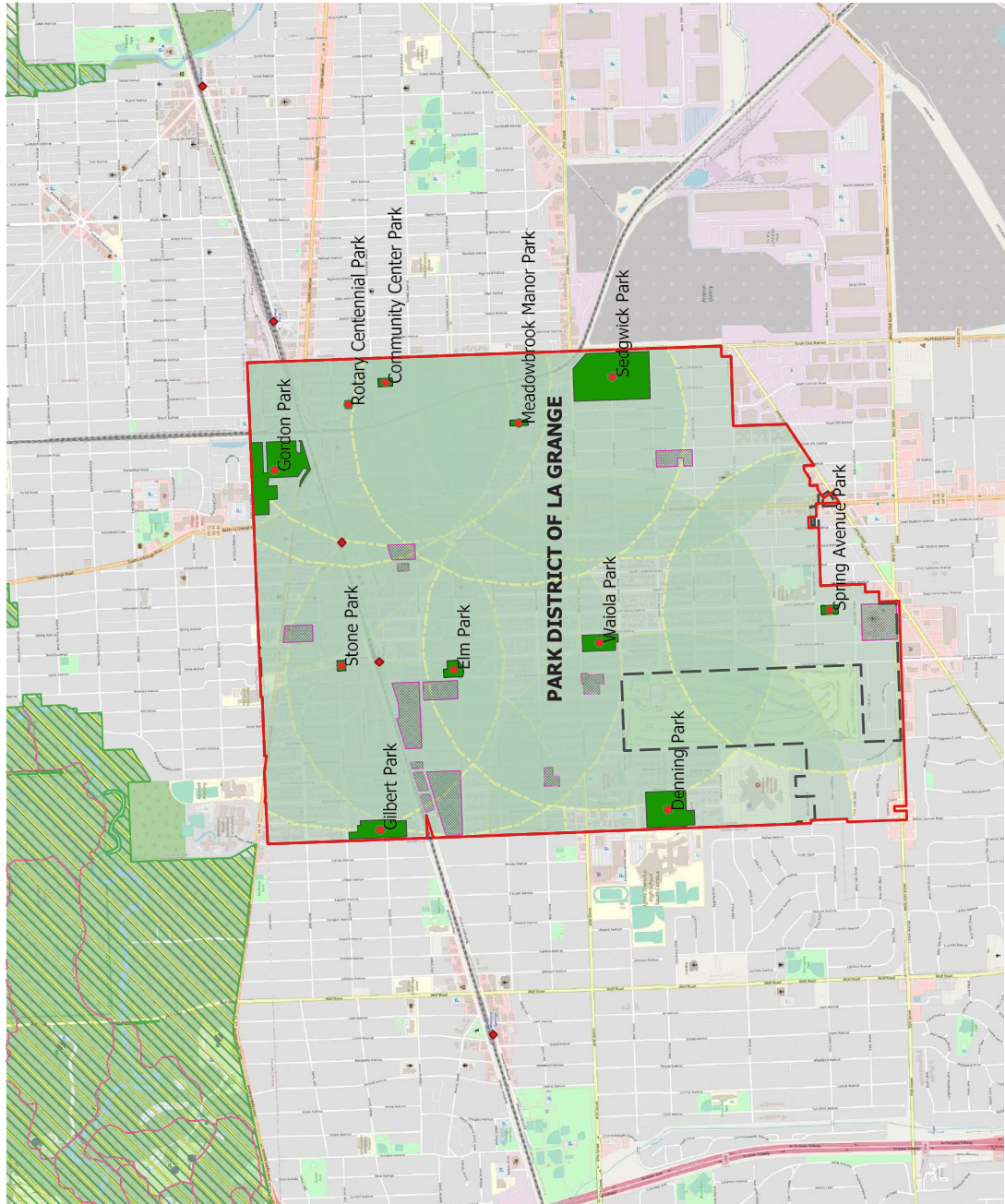
- Legend**
- Park District of La Grange
 - La Grange Municipal Boundary
 - Forest Preserve Trail
 - Forest Preserve
 - School
 - Volleyball Court
 - Volleyball Court Service Area
- Open Street Map**

Level of Service
 No Required NRPA Guidelines PDLG
 Population: 15,545
 Service Area for Volleyball Court: 3



13. Playground Service Area

- Legend**
-  Park District of La Grange
 -  La Grange Municipal Boundary
 -  Forest Preserve Trail
 -  Forest Preserve
 -  Forest Preserve Shelter
 -  Rail Road Station
 -  School
 -  Playground
 -  Playground Service Area
- OpenStreetMap**





**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

14. Spray/ Splash Pad Service Area

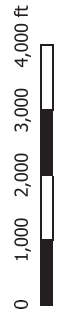
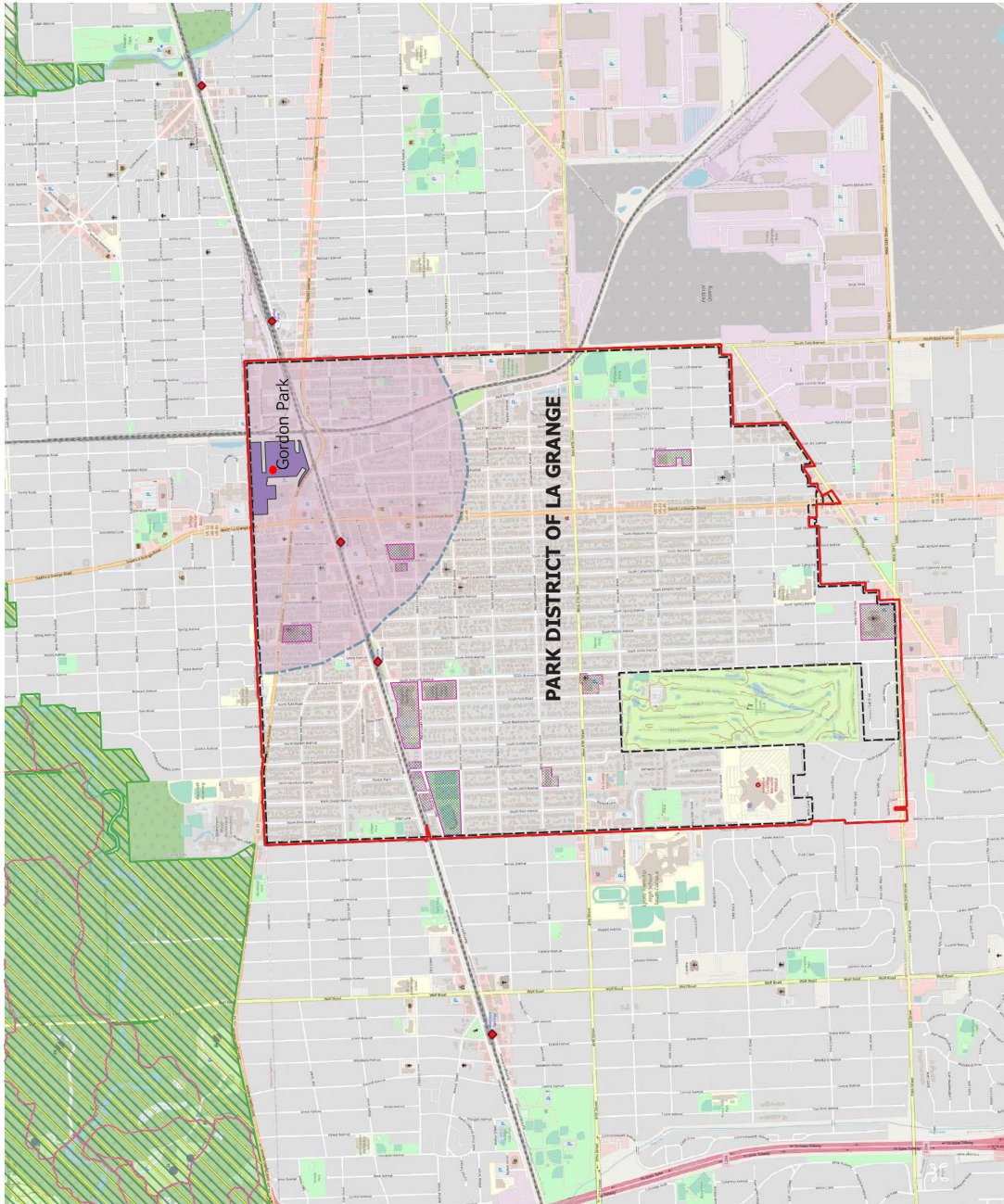
Legend

- Park District of La Grange
- La Grange Municipal Boundary
- Forest Preserve Trail
- Forest Preserve
- Forest Preserve Shelter
- Rail Road Station
- School
- Splash Pad
- Splash Pad Service Area

OpenStreetMap

Level of Service

No Required NRPA Guidelines
PDLG Population: 15,545 Total
Splash Pad: 1





**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

15. Community Garden Service Area

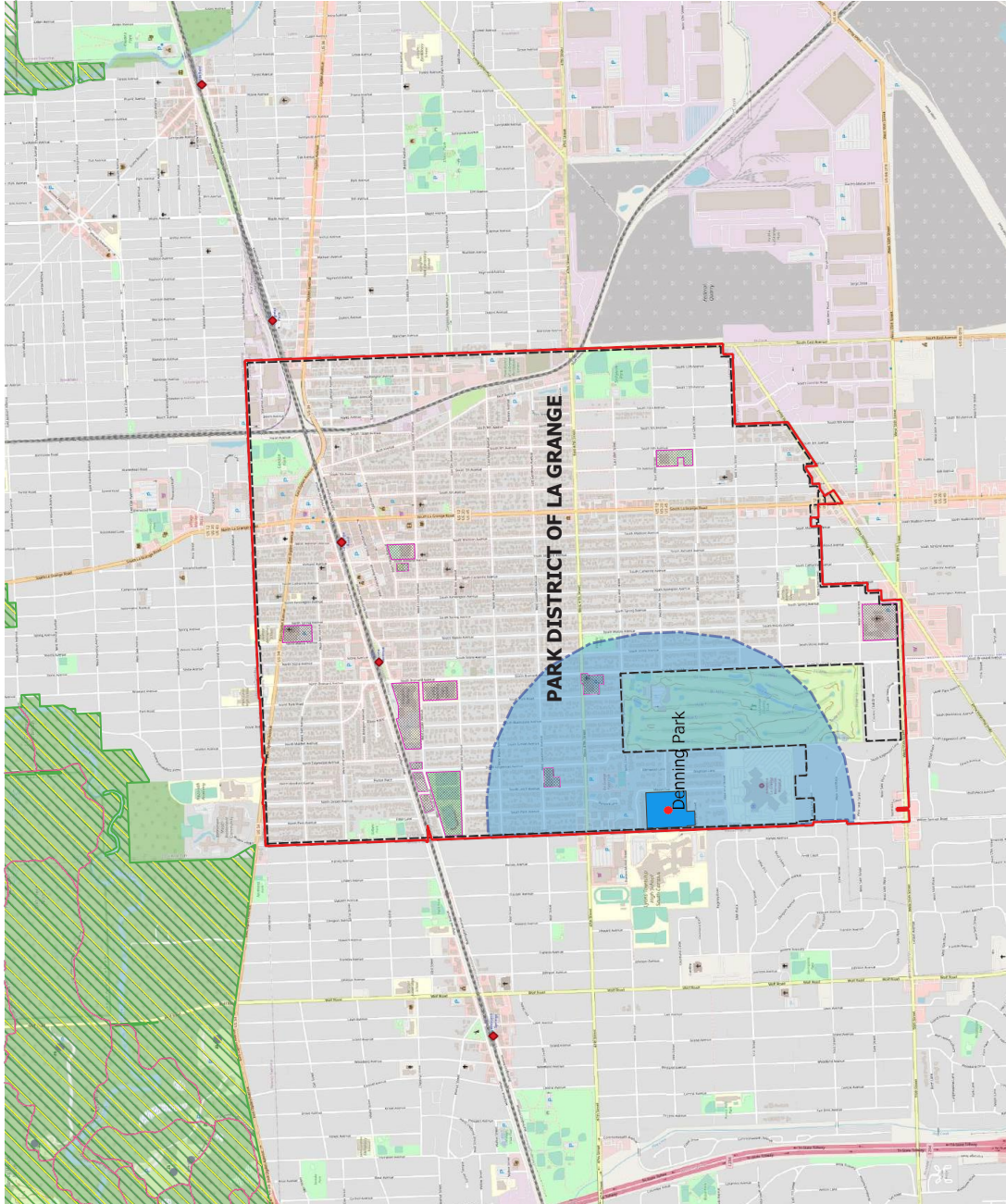
Legend

- Park District of La Grange
- La Grange Municipal Boundary
- Forest Preserve Trail
- Forest Preserve
- Forest Preserve Shelter Railroad
- Station
- School
- Community Garden Community
- Garden Service Area

OpenStreetMap

Level of Service

No Required NRPA Guidelines
 PDLG Population: 15,545 Total
 Community Garden: 1



0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 ft



**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

17. Handball Court Service Area

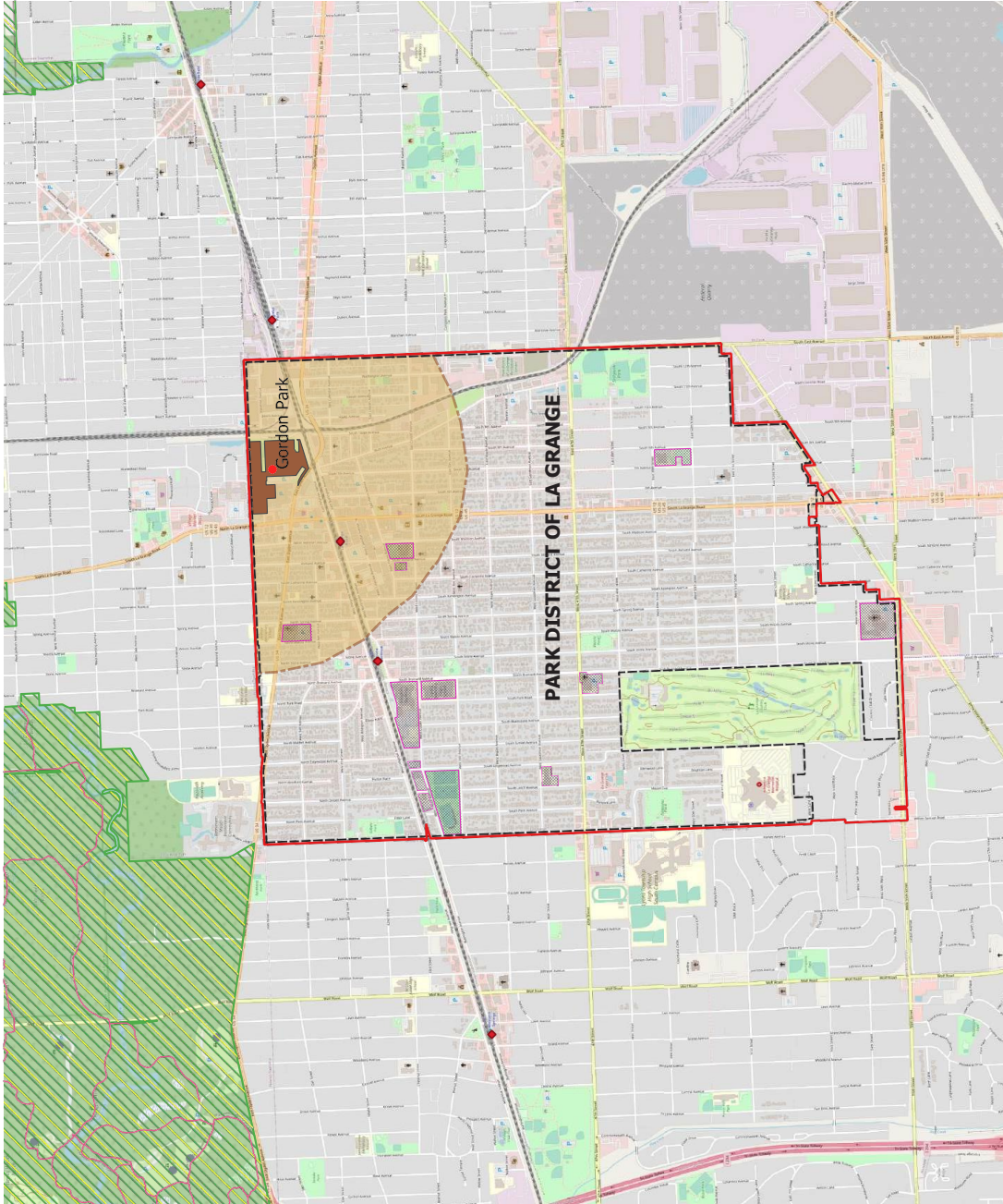
Legend

- Park District of La Grange
- La Grange Municipal Boundary
- Forest Preserve Trail
- Forest Preserve
- Forest Preserve Shelter Railroad
- Station
- School
- Handball Court
- Handball Court Service Area

OpenStreetMap

Level of Service

No Required NRPA Guidelines
 PDLG Population: 15,545 Total
 Wallball Court: 3





**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

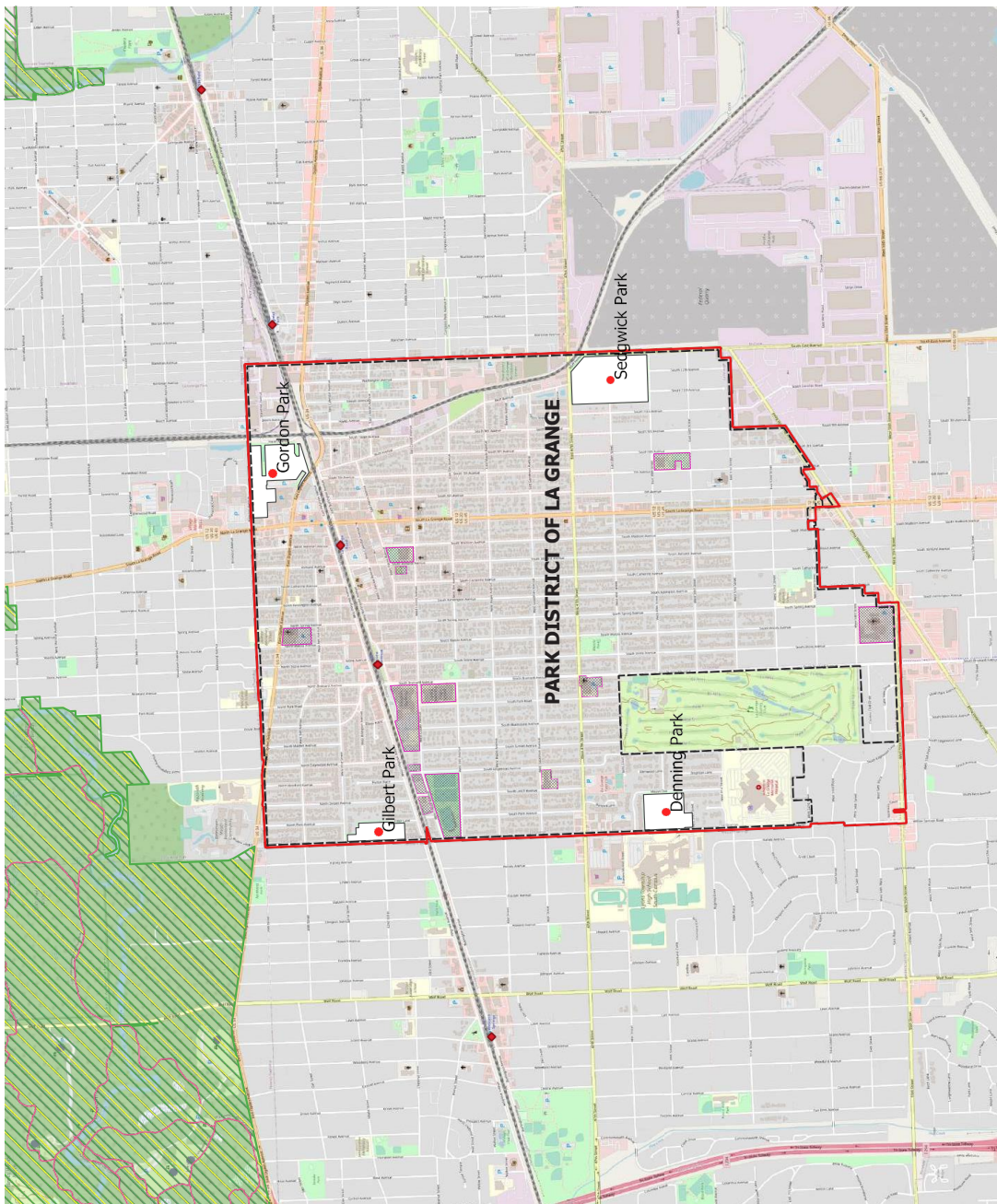
18. On Site Parking Lot

Legend

- Park District of La Grange
 - La Grange Municipal Boundary
 - Forest Preserve Trail
 - Forest Preserve
 - Forest Preserve Shelter Railroad
 - Station
 - School
 - On Site Parking Lot
- OpenStreetMap**

Level of Service

No Required NRPA Guidelines
 PDLG Population: 15,545 Total
 On Site Parking Lot: 7





**PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

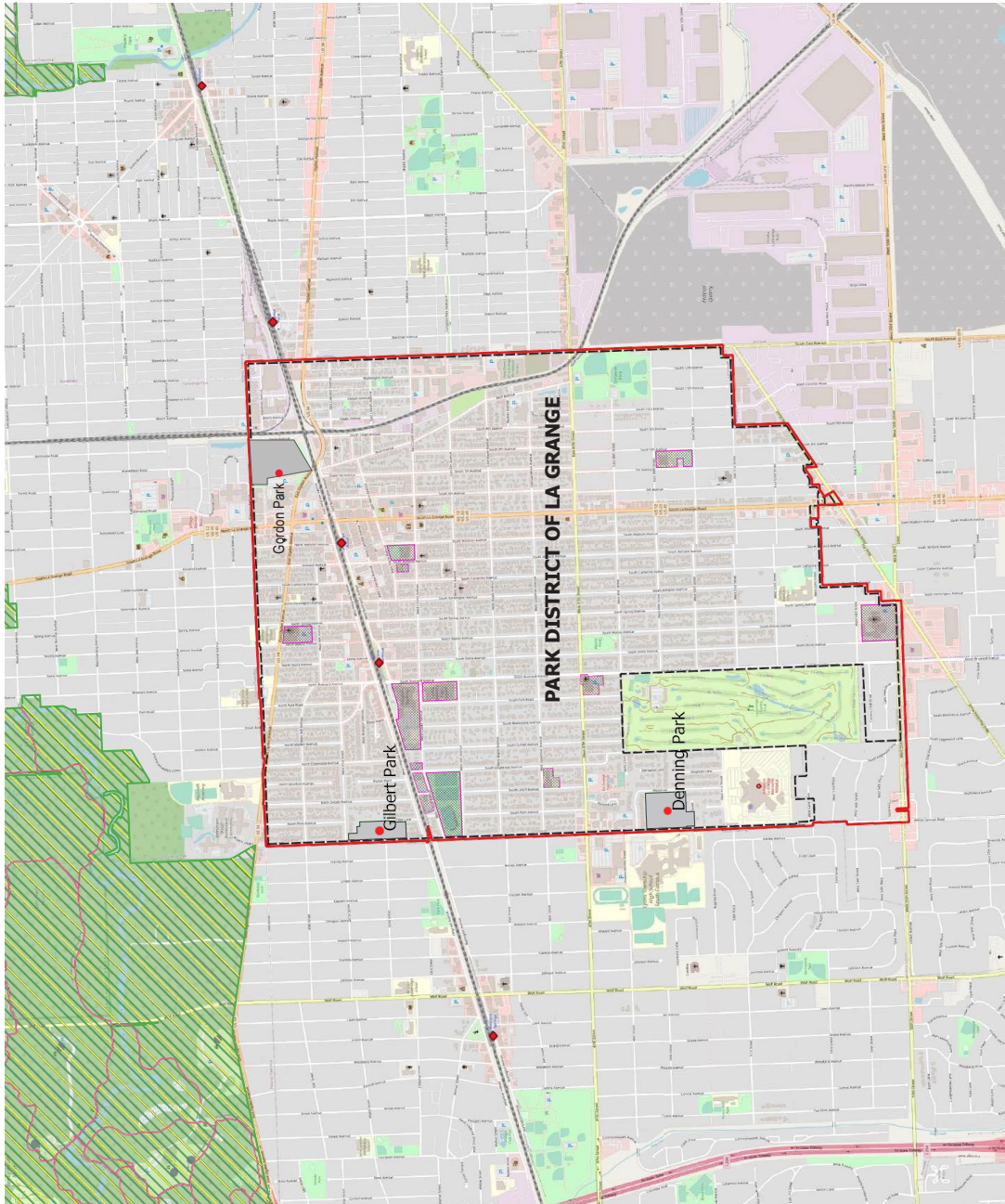
19. Permanent Restroom Facilities

Legend

- Park District of La Grange
 - La Grange Municipal Boundary
 - Forest Preserve Trail
 - Forest Preserve
 - Forest Preserve Shelter Railroad
 - Station
 - School
 - Restroom
- OpenStreetMap**

Level of Service

No Required NRPA Guidelines
 PDLG Population: 15,545 Total
 Restroom Facilities: 2



Program Ideas, Funding Strategies, and Marketing Strategies

General Recreation Program Ideas

1. Host an adult comedy night perhaps once a month in the DeSitter Room. Consider selling beer, wine, and light snacks.
2. Outdoor Adventure Trips (Canoeing, Kayaking, Rock Climbing, Off-Road Vehicles, Trail activities)
3. Wellness and Fitness Programs for Women (the fastest growing segments of fitness programming)
4. Make Better Coffee (or Beer) at Home
5. Craft Your Own Cocktails
6. "The Skin You're In" Facial treatment workshop / classes
7. Class in Improvisational Comedy
8. Handcrafted Scarfs and Blankets
9. The Art of Cartooning
10. Robotics for Kids
11. Drones: Uses, Operation, Legalities
12. Make Your Own 3-D Video Game - Create your own online video game! Games will be available to share on a password-protected website.
13. Entrepreneurship – For adults, how to start and succeed running your own business.
14. Juice and Canvas - Painting on canvas while sipping from the Juicebox! Children be instructed step-by-step how to create very own masterpiece. Ages 4 to 12
15. Change Your Brain workshop - Learn how mindfulness can change your emotional and physical well-being. A mental health therapist will share the science behind mindfulness and the benefits of the practice. Discover tips for incorporating mindfulness into your daily life reducing stress and increasing your overall well-being.
16. Digital Photo Management – Don't know what to do with those photos on your phone? Learn techniques for digital photo management including storage options available with Google photos, Flickr, and iCloud. Create digital space on your phone by moving photos to your computer or print.
17. iPad 101 - How you can maximize the use of your iPad? Find out! Keep up to date with reading books, email, current affairs, music, social media, games, and pictures. Learn how to download an organize apps.
18. Secrets of Awesome Gift Wrapping
19. The Psychic Experience (Psychic readings)
20. Introduction to Magic
21. Introduction to Meditation
22. Small Steps to Health: Diet and Foods to Reduce – Everything you need to know about healthy eating, food safety, stretching your food dollars, meal planning, and five food groups.
23. Wills and Trusts Are Not Spooky Subjects - A workshop about the need for a living trust, power of attorney, and wills. Learn how to write your own or what to ask when seeking professional assistance.
24. Chair Yoga for Seniors
25. Craft Brewery Tour
26. Cyber Crimes: Keep Yourself Safe - A presentation by a detective from the state police discussing cyber-crimes and how you can prevent yourself from being a victim.
27. Photography class
28. Financial security for teenagers
29. How to do your banking / Money Management (youth class or workshop)
30. Time management classes or workshops (for teens and adults)
31. Preparing for College
32. Programs for high schooler age on internships, skill building, exploration, outdoor adventures, tours, ACT prep as well as a Teen Advisory Board.
33. Intergenerational program for teens to provide seniors with computer assistance.
34. Benefits of Essential Oils

Funding Strategies Revenue Enhancement

1. Develop a strategic plan to fill unused space at the Recreation Center. Consider renting to the private sector within and beyond park district/municipal boarders.
2. Strive to offer the best value not the cheapest price. (Value is defined as what one gets for what they pay).
3. Retail stores price at \$2.98, \$4.99, etc. A person's brain tends to register those as \$2 and
4. \$4 not what they really are - a penny away from \$3 and \$5. When pondering price increases, price up to just below the nearest 5 or 0. If you are considering a price increase from \$24 to \$26, raise it to \$29. Avoid prices ending in 0 or 5 as in \$20 or \$25.
5. Value Added. Add greater value to a program that justifies a price increase. Using the example of a Little Shots basketball program for ages 4 to 6 – Give each participant a basketball to keep. If the ball costs \$3 each, raise the price \$5 which adds \$2 to the bottom line. The basketball becomes a keepsake.
6. Consider independent contractor agreements based on a flat rate per participant rather than a percentage. On percentage-based instructor contracts move splits toward 65/35.
7. When possible, employ a “one more” strategy. Certain program capacities are established based on room size or instructor preference. If you have classes reaching capacity consider extending capacity by one, perhaps two participants if quality and safety aren't compromised. Since overhead costs are already covered, most revenue from one or two additional enrollments goes to the bottom-line.
8. Begin program budgeting by estimating revenue first, based on the minimum number of participants. For classroom type programs, limit expenses to 60% to 70% of revenue, leaving 30% to 40% for overhead/ administration and surplus.
9. Once a program fee has been established, compare it to local competition. All things being equal, if the fee is low, raise it marginally keeping it just below the competition. If your price is higher than the competition, make sure you are offering greater value or service.
10. Use zero based program budgets to identify specific costs and quantities. Only then can one make educated decisions on reducing expenses.
11. Seek renters for unused space in the recreation center. Reach out through the Chamber of Commerce, community organizations and schools. Search beyond the immediate boundaries of the District, if necessary.
12. Routinely shop for competitive prices on supplies and services. Do not hesitate to negotiate. Consider your volume of business and ask for a better deal. Can they afford, or do they want to lose your business, or would they rather compromise on the price? Lock in low prices with multi-year contracts.
13. On all marketing materials, social media, and menu boards, follow LERN's recommendation for pricing without zeros right of the decimal point (\$35 instead of
14. \$35.00). Using zeros right of the decimal point subconsciously makes the price seem higher.

Marketing Strategies

1. With input from key staff (recreation programmers and facility managers) develop an annual marketing plan for each District facility and major program/event. Each plan should include marketing activities, timeline, budget, responsible party, and post event evaluation.
2. Technology and social media should dominate the marketing plan. Make sure content is user friendly and relevant. Understand your desired outcome and use a variety of sources to connect with the community.
3. Use testimonials from participants or local authorities/celebrities to give credibility to programs/facilities.
4. Assure your marketing materials (brochures, social media, web site) reflect your community demographics. Illustrate diversity in marketing campaigns to express the all-inclusiveness of the Park District. Similarly, programming should reflect the interests of the diverse population.
5. Enrich your web site with interactive features such as short videos of popular classes, an overhead visual tour of major parks and a welcome address by the Executive Director.
6. Use the web sites, publications and connections of your community programming partners to promote your activities.
7. Grow the local fitness market by co-sponsoring a fitness fair or fitness week with other local health/fitness facilities.
8. Target active adults aged 25 to 54 years old for fitness memberships. They make up the largest segment of gym memberships in the US. Many of these people participate in your adult programs and sports leagues, are members of local walking clubs, customers of health food stores, sports stores, and vitamin shops. Go after them.
9. Work with new members to establish a frequency of two or more visits per week in the first month to develop a fitness routine and connection with the facility.
10. Establish a member-to-member engagement program. New Member welcome parties, member socials, Coffee and... after morning fitness classes, etc.)
11. Continuously seek feedback and follow up to assure your desired outcomes are being met. Giving your participants a voice is vital for growth and customer satisfaction.
12. Develop and market a Park District of La Grange brand tying all facilities and operations to a single recognizable presence. Maintain high quality branding by examining the brand image on an annual basis.
13. Edit program descriptions annually. Whether in print or online opening lines should be dynamic or emotional to capture reader attention. Avoid starting out with "This camp will...", "This program...", "Participants will...", "This is a" Program descriptions should use persuasive language focusing on the benefits of participation.
14. To showcase and inform constituents about your good work, include a half to full page Annual Report to the winter-spring brochure. In bullet point form state the major accomplishments, awards, financial data, and what's to come in the next 12 months.
15. Sprinkle the seasonal brochure and web site with statements about the benefits of parks and recreation. These can be found on the NRPA web site (nrpa.org) Examples: Did you know:
 - Children are at their highest level of development when they are at play?
 - Kids that play outside have better vision than those who play inside.
 - Community play spaces boost positive attitudes toward cultural diversity and feelings of isolation?
 - Fifty percent (50%) of all vigorous exercise happens in parks?
 - Seventy-three percent (73%) of American adults believe parks, trails and open space are an essential part of the healthcare system?
 - More doctors are prescribing spending time in parks and on trails as a remedy for mental, physical, and emotional health.
16. In exchange for a Neighbor Rate negotiate having Park District of La Grange programs in which the neighbor rate applies listed/promoted in the neighboring park and recreation agency brochures and web sites.
17. While printed brochures remain the prime source of information, technology and social media are necessary to systematically reach today's audiences. Employ multiple means of social media to connect with the community.
18. Use testimonials from participants or local authorities/celebrities to give credibility to programs/facilities.

Park Improvement Estimates

Gilbert Park

1	Furnish and install port-a-potty and permanent port-a-potty screen	10,000
1	Repair and resurface existing tennis courts, color coat, and striping	200,000
1	Replace existing tennis court fencing to include ADA required double access.	68,000
2	Reorient basketball standard to eliminate overshoots, resurface and restripe	38,000
2	Prepare accessible path to the basketball court from the internal walking path	3,000
2	Create landforms with shrubs and ornamental vegetation at basketball court	25,000
3	Reconfigure parking lot, resurface, restripe and add concrete perimeter curb	70,000
3	Paver drop-off location for preschool attendees at reconfigured parking lot	38,000
3	Partner with Kids Around the World and replace existing play apparatus	175,000

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 278,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 283,000	\$ 627,000

Elm Park

1	Furnish low growing shrubs, groundcovers and perennials at park sign`	1,800
1	Improve turf conditions on sled hill	20,000
1	Resurface the basketball court surface, color coat, and stripe	48,000
2	Pave accessible path and aprons to all bench locations	10,000
2	Unify bench seating throughout the park	15,000
3	Replace existing, expand and install new “themed” play apparatus	225,000

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 69,800	\$ 25,000	\$ 225,000	\$319,800

Stone Park

1	Furnish and install port-a-potty and permanent port-a-potty screen	10,000
1	Furnish low growing shrubs, groundcovers and perennials at park sign`	2,500
1	Resurface the basketball court surface, color coat, and strip	48,000
2	Work with a professional planner to develop a site master plan for Stone Park	70,000
3	Update and replace playground equipment with “themed” play layout	185,000
3	New playground area to be contained by a concrete barrier curb	40,000
3	Replace the trees that were removed from the park site	30,000
3	Furnish and install new drinking fountain near playground	15,000
3	Install ornamental gazebo with asphalt shingles	50,000
3	Furnish and install new perimeter landscaping to control southern views	25,000

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 60,500	\$ 70,000	\$ 345,000	\$ 513,500

Community Center Park

1	Work with a professional planner to develop a site master plan for the park	70,000
1	Create secondary entrance from the playground to the basketball courts.	40,000
1	Furnish and install port-a-potty and permanent port-a-potty screen	10,000
1	Furnish new park sign with low growing shrubs, groundcovers and perennials	25,000
1	Remove 5' of basketball surface along Washington Ave. add landscaping	55,000
1	Resurface existing basketball court surface, color coat, and stripe	80,000
2	Replace fence along westside of park with new 5' ht ornamental fence	78,000
2	Replace fence along north and east perimeter with 6' ht board on board fence	90,000
3	Coordinate with ComEd-replace Cobra Head fixtures/pole with low profile type	45,000
3	Coordinate with Village to provide striped ADA parking stalls at Washington St.	500

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 280,000	\$ 168,000	\$ 45,500	\$ 493,500

Denning Park

1	Relocate port-a-potty, install permanent port-a-potty screen at play area	10,000
1	Remove dead trees and add more understory deciduous trees	40,000
1	Work with a professional planner to develop a prairie landscape for the ditch	55,000
2	Create a pollinator prairie within Drainage Ditch – install native plants	135,000
2	Create a master plan and redevelop the community garden area	250,000
3	Redesign and reconfigure concrete drop-off – repair and reseal parking lot	185,000

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 105,000	\$ 385,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 675,000

Gordon Park

1	Address soccer field “wear and tear” turf issues	30,000
1	Repair maintenance access cantilever gate	750
2	Install trees throughout the park and at the playground area	50,000
2	Install evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs in the vicinity of the splash pad	15,000
3	Enhance existing butterfly garden – install additional plants and fertilize	8,500

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 30,750	\$ 65,000	\$ 8,500	\$ 104,250

Meadowbrook Manor Park

No Improvements needed at this time.

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 0,000	\$ 0,000	\$ 0,000	\$ 0,000

Rotary Centennial Park

1	Install low growing shrubs, groundcovers and perennials at park sign	2,000
1	Remove and dispose of fence along Sawyer Ave.	3,000
1	Replace perimeter fencing with new 6' black vinyl coated chain link fence	85,000
2	Work with a professional planner to develop a site master plan for the park	70,000
2	Update and replace playground equipment with "themed" play layout	160,000
2	New playground area to be contained by a concrete barrier curb	40,000
2	Furnish and install drinking fountain near playground	15,000
2	Furnish and install ornamental gazebo near park entrance and playground	50,000
2	Furnish and install perimeter landscaping throughout the park	30,000

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 90,000	\$ 365,000	\$ 00,000	\$ 455,000

Sedgwick Park

1	Address soccer field "wear and tear" turf issues	30,000
1	Replace picnic tables, benches and litter receptacles with current standards	25,000
2	Work with a professional planner to redevelop the playground apparatus area	90,000
2	Update and replace playground equipment with "themed" play layout	275,000
3	Pave walking paths throughout park and include specialty paving areas	350,000
3	Add landscape planting islands within the 47 th Street and 48 th Street parking lot	90,000

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 55,000	\$ 365,000	\$ 440,000	\$ 860,000

Spring Avenue Park

1	Install low growing shrubs, groundcovers and perennials at park sign	2,500
1	Remove and dispose of fence along Spring Ave. and 53 rd Street	4,500
1	Replace perimeter fencing with new 6' black vinyl coated chain link fence	125,000
2	Work with a professional planner to develop a site master plan for the park	70,000
2	Update and replace playground equipment with "themed" play layout	175,000
2	New playground area to be contained by a concrete barrier curb	45,000
2	Furnish and install gazebo/pavilion near park entrance and playground	50,000
2	Furnish and install perimeter landscaping throughout the park	30,000

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 132,000	\$ 370,000	\$ 00,000	\$ 502,000

Waiola Park

1	Furnish Porta-potty screen around the port-a-john	10,000
1	Hire a consultant to develop a Master Plan and Bid specs for new Play Area	75,000
2	Replace existing play apparatus with new "themed" play layout	200,000
2	Provide concrete containment curb around the new playground area	12,000
2	Furnish and install gazebo/pavilion near park entrance and playground	60,000
2	Install new half-court basketball surface with new basketball standard	48,000

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 85,000	\$ 320,000	\$ 00,000	\$ 405,000

610 East Ave Property (Undeveloped Park Site)

Currently collaborating with architect consultant and community to develop a plan and budget for the development of this site.

Capital Cost Summary

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ TBD	\$ TBD	\$ TBD	\$ TBD

Summary of Priority Costs:

First Priority – \$1,186,050.00

Short-term Priority – \$2,199,000.00

Long-term Priority - \$1,532,000.00

Facility Improvement Estimates

Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Denning Park March 7, 2022

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
1	Denning Park	Copy Room	Electric	Reinstall loose wiring	2022	\$1,575	1	\$1,575	
2	Denning Park	Office	Electric	Reinstall loose wiring	2022	\$1,575	1	\$1,575	
3	Denning Park	East Elevation	Electrical	Exterior electrical box on east side is loose and does not have GFI outlet - fix and replace outlet	2022	\$210	1	\$210	
4	Denning Park	Corridor	Electrical	Add exit sign/light on East exit door	2022	\$263	1	\$263	
5	Denning Park	Toilet Room	Electrical	Add audio/visual device in toilet room	2022	\$289	2	\$578	
Total 2022 Estimated Cost for Denning Park \$4,200									
14	Denning Park	Basement	Stormwater	Basement floods during some storms	2023	\$0	1	\$0	Requires further investigation beyond the scope of this report
6	Denning Park	East Elevation	Door and Frame	Step down at door is a tripping hazard --rework sidewalk	2023	\$7,875	1	\$7,875	
Total 2023 Estimated Cost for Denning Park \$7,875									
7	Denning Park	North Elevation	Siding	Remove organic growth from siding	2024	\$1,575	1	\$1,575	
8	Denning Park	East Elevation	Siding	Replace damaged trim and refinish worn wood siding	2024	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
9	Denning Park	West Elevation	Soffit and Fascia	Fill hole and touch-up paint at minor soffit damage at northwest corner	2024	\$1,575	1	\$1,575	
10	Denning Park	North Elevation	Siding	Fill hole in siding and touch-up paint	2024	\$1,575	1	\$1,575	
11	Denning Park	East Elevation	Siding	Fill hole in siding and touch-up paint	2024	\$1,575	1	\$1,575	
12	Denning Park	South Elevation	Stairs	Sand_prime and repaint rust on guardrail	2024	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
13	Denning Park	West Elevation	Entry	Sand_prime and repaint rust on guardrail	2024	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
Total 2024 Estimated Cost for Denning Park \$22,050									

Notes:
 1. Report does not reflect future damage to items or finishes beyond normal wear and tear.
 2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
 3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Denning Park
March 7, 2022**

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
15	Denning Park	Corridor	Door and Frame	Modify door from lobby that swings into corridor	2025	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
16	Denning Park	Exterior	Mechanical	Grade mounted RTU is in poor condition. Also potential burn hazard on exposed flue stack. Replace	2025	\$8,400	1	\$8,400	
17	Denning Park	Basement	Structure	Wood column doesn't appear to have a proper foundation	2025	\$0	1	\$0	Requires further investigation beyond the scope of this report.
Total 2025 Estimated Cost for Denning Park \$13,650									
18	Denning Park	Toilet Rooms	Mechanical	Replace or repair exhaust fans in toilet room(s) - not working	2029	\$630	2	\$1,260	
19	Denning Park	Roof	Chimney	Install permanent bird screens on top of chimney	2029	\$2,258	1	\$2,258	
20	Denning Park	East Elevation	Door and Frame	Replace worn door and frame	2029	\$7,875	1	\$7,875	
Total 2029 Estimated Cost for Denning Park \$11,393									
21	Denning Park	Varies	Plumbing	Install TMV's on sink or lavatories	2030	\$420	3	\$1,260	
22	Denning Park	Basement	Plumbing	Cap or remove unused sanitary piping in basement - 4" and 1.5"	2030	\$473	1	\$473	
Total 2030 Estimated Cost for Denning Park \$1,733									
23	Denning Park	All Elevations	Window	Tuckpoint worn mortar joint at windowsills	2031	\$525	10	\$5,250	
24	Denning Park	West Elevation	Door and Frame	Replace damaged stone units at door sill	2031	\$2,625	1	\$2,625	
25	Denning Park	Mechanical Room	Plumbing	Install backflow preventer on water service	2031	\$3,675	1	\$3,675	
Total 2031 Estimated Cost for Denning Park \$11,550									
Total Estimated Cost for Denning Park \$72,450									

Notes:
1. Report does not reflect future damage to items or finishes beyond normal wear and tear.
2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Community Center
March 7, 2022**

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
1	Community Center	West Elevation	Egress	Step at doors presents a tripping hazard in an emergency - rework sidewalk	2023	\$7,875	1	\$7,875	
Total 2023 Estimated Cost for Community Center \$7,875									
2	Community Center	Toilet Rooms	Toilet Partitions	Toilet partitions are worn and damaged - replace	2024	\$10,500	2	\$21,000	
Total 2024 Estimated Cost for Community Center \$21,000									
3	Community Center	North Elevation	Entry	Repair damaged soffit at entry	2025	\$7,875	1	\$7,875	
4	Community Center	Storage Room	Door and Frame	Door hardware has a deadbolt but not pull handle - replace hardware	2025	\$788	1	\$788	
Total 2025 Estimated Cost for Community Center \$8,663									
5	Community Center	South Elevation	Masonry	Masonry mortar joints are loose - tuckpoint	2027	\$2,625	1	\$2,625	
Total 2027 Estimated Cost for Community Center \$2,625									
6	Community Center	North Elevation	Entry	Replace cracked concrete walk at entry	2029	\$13,125	1	\$13,125	
Total 2029 Estimated Cost for Community Center \$13,125									
7	Community Center	Mechanical Room	Pipe Wrap	Test pipe wrap insulation. Abate and replace as needed.	2030	\$7,875	1	\$7,875	
8	Community Center	Varies	Plumbing	Install TMV's on lavatories	2030	\$420	3	\$1,260	
9	Community Center	Mechanical Room	Plumbing	Add backflow preventer on water service	2030	\$3,675	1	\$3,675	
10	Community Center		Plumbing	Replace faucet on sloop sink faucet with one that has a vacuum breaker	2030	\$788	1	\$788	
Total 2030 Estimated Cost for Community Center \$13,598									

Notes:
1. Report does not reflect future damage to items or finishes beyond normal wear and tear.
2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Community Center
March 7, 2022

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
11	Community Center	Toilet Rooms	Accessibility	The toilet rooms are not fully accessible	2031	\$315,000	1	\$315,000	
Total 2031 Estimated Cost for Community Center \$315,000									
Total Estimated Cost for the Community Center \$381,885									

Notes:
 1. Report does not reflect future damage to items or finishes beyond normal wear and tear.
 2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
 3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Sedgwick Park
March 7, 2022**

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
1	Sedgwick Park	Roof	Roof	Clean roof drains	2022	\$0	1	\$0	
2	Sedgwick Park	Roof	Roof	Conduit for lights is loose from junction box	2022	\$788	1	\$788	
3	Sedgwick Park	Entire Building	IDCFS	Cover all outlets in children used spaces	2022	\$210	1	\$210	
Total 2022 Estimated Cost for Sedgwick Park \$998									
4	Sedgwick Park		Electrical	Add two exit sign/lights	2023	\$263	2	\$525	
5	Sedgwick Park	Main Room	Electrical	Replace lights in Main room that have exposed fluorescent lamps with ones that have protective lenses	2023	\$630	1	\$630	
Total 2023 Estimated Cost for Sedgwick Park \$1,155									
6	Sedgwick Park	South Elevation	Door and Frame	Overhead door system is buckling and in need of replacement	2024	\$8,400	1	\$8,400	
7	Sedgwick Park	South Elevation	Door and Frame	Wood frame around overhead door is in need of replacement	2024	\$2,625	1	\$2,625	
8	Sedgwick Park	West Elevation	Window	Steel lintel at window is deformed and rusting - replace lintel	2024	\$7,875	1	\$7,875	
9	Sedgwick Park	East Elevation	Window	Mortar joints on windowsills need to be repaired	2024	\$525	6	\$3,150	
10	Sedgwick Park	North Elevation	Siding	Wood siding is worn and in need of repair/refinishing	2024	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
Total 2024 Estimated Cost for Sedgwick Park \$27,300									
11	Sedgwick Park	Toilet Rooms	Accessibility	Door to accessible stall swings into swing of corridor door	2027	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
12	Sedgwick Park	All Elevations	Metal Fascia	Existing metal fascia is damaged and worn. Needs to be replaced.	2027	\$157,750	1	\$157,750	
Total 2027 Estimated Cost for Sedgwick Park \$21,000									

Notes:
1. Report does not reflect future damage to items or finishes beyond normal wear and tear.
2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Sedgwick Park
March 7, 2022**

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
13	Sedgwick Park	Roof	Roof	Replace built-up roof system	2029	\$78,750	1	\$78,750	
14	Sedgwick Park	Roof	Roof	Remove old security camera and wiring	2029	\$0	1	\$0	
15	Sedgwick Park	Roof	Roof	Exhaust fan curb is too low - extend	2029	\$2,625	1	\$2,625	
16	Sedgwick Park	Roof	Roof	Condensing unit rails not anchored to roof	2029	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
17	Sedgwick Park	Roof	Roof	Replace damaged air intake ductwork	2029	\$1,575	1	\$1,575	
18	Sedgwick Park	Roof	Roof	Coping is rusting and bent	2029	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
Total 2029 Estimated Cost for Sedgwick Park \$93,450									
19	Sedgwick Park	Utility Room	Pipe Wrap	Test pipe wrap insulation. Abate and replace as needed.	2030	\$7,875	1	\$7,875	
20	Sedgwick Park	Storage Room	Pipe Wrap	Test pipe wrap insulation. Abate and replace as needed.	2030	\$7,875	1	\$7,875	
21	Sedgwick Park	Utility Room	Door and Frame	Frame on door is rated but door is not - replace door	2030	\$2,625	1	\$2,625	
22	Sedgwick Park	Varies	Plumbing	Install TMV's on sink or lavatories	2030	\$210	3	\$630	
23	Sedgwick Park		Plumbing	Replace faucet on slop sink faucet with one that has a vacuum breaker	2030	\$788	1	\$788	
24	Sedgwick Park	Mechanical Room	Plumbing	Add backflow preventer on water service	2030	\$3,675	1	\$3,675	
Total 2030 Estimated Cost for Sedgwick Park \$23,468									
Total Estimated Cost for Sedgwick Park \$167,370									

Notes:
1. Report does not reflect future damage to items or finishes beyond normal wear and tear.
2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Recreation Center
March 7, 2022**

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
1	Recreation Center	White Sox Academy	Egress	Clear path to secondary egress door	2022	\$525	1	\$525	
2	Recreation Center	Fitness Center	Egress	Move cardio equipment that is blocking egress door access	2022	\$0	1	\$0	
3	Recreation Center	Pre-School Rooms	IDCFS	Cover all outlets in children used spaces	2022	\$210	1	\$210	
4	Recreation Center	Gymnasium	Electrical	Replace exit sign above doors that is not illuminated	2022	\$263	1	\$263	
5	Recreation Center	Parking Garage	Electrical	Raise exit sign at exterior egress doors	2022	\$1,150	2	\$1,150	
6	Recreation Center	Second Floor	Electrical	Add exit sign/lights Large meeting room	2022	\$263	2	\$525	
7	Recreation Center	Second Floor	Electrical	Add exit sign/light at Kitchen	2022	\$263	1	\$263	
8	Recreation Center	First Floor	Electrical	Add audio visual device at new maintenance office	2022	\$289	1	\$289	
9	Recreation Center	First Floor	Electrical	Add exit lights to Meeting rooms off Children's playroom	2022	\$263	2	\$525	
10	Recreation Center	First Floor	Electrical	Relocate exit sign/lights in Fitness toilet/locker room	2022	\$263	2	\$525	
11	Recreation Center	First Floor	Electrical	Add exit sign/light to South large storage room	2022	\$263	2	\$525	
12	Recreation Center	First Floor	Electrical	Add exit sign/lights to large meeting room	2022	\$263	2	\$525	
13	Recreation Center	First Floor	Electrical	Add heat or smoke detector to Paint storage room	2022	\$289	1	\$289	
14	Recreation Center	Second Floor	Electrical	Add emergency lighting to office space and conference rooms	2022	\$420	3	\$1,260	
15	Recreation Center	Second Floor	Electrical	Add emergency lighting to Large mtg room	2022	\$420	2	\$840	
16	Recreation Center	Second Floor	Electrical	Add emergency lighting at Kitchen	2022	\$420	1	\$420	
17	Recreation Center	Second Floor	Electrical	Add emergency lighting at Main entry foyer stairwell area	2022	\$420	2	\$840	

Notes:
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2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Recreation Center
March 7, 2022**

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
18	Recreation Center	First Floor	Electrical	Add emergency lighting at new maintenance office	2022	\$420	1	\$420	
19	Recreation Center	First Floor	Electrical	Add emergency lights to Meeting rooms off Children's playroom	2022	\$420	2	\$840	
20	Recreation Center	First Floor	Electrical	Add emergency light to South large storage room (only has one currently)	2022	\$420	1	\$420	
21	Recreation Center	First Floor	Electrical	Add emergency lights to large meeting room	2022	\$420	2	\$840	
Total 2022 Estimated Cost for Recreation Center \$13,493									
22	Recreation Center	Shipping Office	Ceiling	Install missing ceiling tiles	2023	\$263	1	\$263	
23	Recreation Center	Receiving Office	Masonry Wall	Repair failing mortar joint at masonry wall	2023	\$2,625	1	\$2,625	
24	Recreation Center	Fitness Center	Mechanical	Provide dedicated cooling to server room	2023	\$15,750	1	\$15,750	
25	Recreation Center	Admin Offices	HVAC	Provide dedicated cooling to server room	2023	\$15,750	1	\$15,750	
26	Recreation Center	Roof	Mechanical	There are twelve RTU's (rooftop units) that are nearing or beyond their average life expectancy - Start replacement plan and replace units that are experiencing more need of repairs or by age	2023	\$43,750	1	\$43,750	Replace 2 units in this year
Total 2023 Estimated Cost for Recreation Center \$76,138									
27	Recreation Center	Roof	Mechanical	There are twelve RTU's (rooftop units) that are nearing or beyond their average life expectancy - Start replacement plan and replace units that are experiencing more need of repairs or by age	2024	\$43,750	1	\$43,750	Replace 2 units in this year
Total 2024 Estimated Cost for Recreation Center \$43,750									
28	Recreation Center	Roof	Mechanical	There are twelve RTU's (rooftop units) that are nearing or beyond their average life expectancy - Start replacement plan and replace units that are experiencing more need of repairs or by age	2025	\$43,750	1	\$43,750	Replace 2 units in this year
Total 2025 Estimated Cost for Recreation Center \$43,750									

Notes:
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3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Recreation Center
March 7, 2022**

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
29	Recreation Center	First Floor	Mechanical	Maintenance and garage CO monitoring system does not have adequate coverage - Upgrade/replace CO monitoring/control system	2026	\$21,000	1	\$21,000	
30	Recreation Center	First Floor	Mechanical	Exhaust/ventilation system for maintenance/garage appears to be undersized/inadequate per code - Upgrade/modify existing exhaust/ventilation system. There are twelve RTUs (rooftop units) that are nearing or beyond their average life expectancy - Start replacement plan and replace units that are experiencing more need of repairs or by age	2026	\$52,500	1	\$52,500	
31	Recreation Center	Roof	Mechanical		2026	\$43,750	1	\$43,750	Replace 2 units in this year
					Total 2026 Estimated Cost for Recreation Center \$117,250				
32	Recreation Center	Roof	Mechanical	There are twelve RTUs (rooftop units) that are nearing or beyond their average life expectancy - Start replacement plan and replace units that are experiencing more need of repairs or by age	2027	\$87,500	1	\$87,500	Replace 4 units in this year
					Total 2027 Estimated Cost for Recreation Center \$87,500				
33	Recreation Center	Roof	Roof	Replace ballasted section of roof	2028	\$21	43,222	\$907,662	
34	Recreation Center	Roof	Roof	Add a second downspout to east gutter at south end	2028	\$525	1	\$525	
35	Recreation Center	Roof	Roof	Add a second downspout to the west gutter at south	2028	\$525	1	\$525	
36	Recreation Center	Roof	Electrical	Electrical service outlets on roof are installed improperly and allow water to enter outlet box - Replace	2028	\$263	3	\$788	
					Total 2028 Estimated Cost for Recreation Center \$909,500				

Notes:
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2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Recreation Center
March 7, 2022

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
37	Recreation Center	Loading Dock	Stairs	Replace handrail at loading dock stair that does not meet code	2030	\$7,875	1	\$7,875	
38	Recreation Center	First Floor	Mechanical	Rec center offices utilize corridor as return plenum which is not to code - Revise return to unit	2030	\$6,825	1	\$6,825	
39	Recreation Center	First Floor	Plumbing	Add TMVs on the lavatories Throughout entire building	2030	\$420	18	\$7,560	
40	Recreation Center	First Floor	Plumbing	Eyewash in maintenance area is cold water only, must be tempered - Pipe hot water to eye wash and install TMV	2030	\$2,100	1	\$2,100	
41	Recreation Center	First Floor	Plumbing	Add backflow preventers to Janitor closet slop sinks	2030	\$788	2	\$1,575	
Total 2030 Estimated Cost for Recreation Center \$25,935									

Total Estimated Cost for the Recreation Center \$1,319,315

Notes:
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2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Gilbert Park
March 7, 2022**

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
1	Gilbert Park	Vestibule	Door and Frame	Interior doors at south vestibule require too much force to open - adjust closers	2022	\$263	2	\$525	
2	Gilbert Park	Classroom	Door and Frame	Exits through toilet rooms are not allowed - remove exit signs	2022	\$1,575	2	\$3,150	
3	Gilbert Park	Entire Building	IDCFS	Cover all outlets in children used spaces	2022	\$210	1	\$210	
4	Gilbert Park	Toilet Room	Electrical	Add audio/visual device in toilet room	2022	\$289	2	\$578	
5	Gilbert Park	Toilet Room	Electrical	Add emergency light in toilet room	2022	\$420	2	\$840	
6	Gilbert Park	Varies	Electrical	Add additional emergency lighting	2022	\$420	2	\$840	
Total 2022 Estimated Cost for Gilbert Park \$6,143									
7	Gilbert Park	East Elevation	Stairs	Sand, prime and paint rust on guardrail	2023	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
Total 2023 Estimated Cost for Gilbert Park \$5,250									
8	Gilbert Park	North elevation	Soffit and Fascia	Patch hole in soffit at electrical service	2025	\$525	1	\$525	
9	Gilbert Park	Roof	Chimney	Mortar joints are falling and require tuckpointing	2025	\$2,625	1	\$2,625	
10	Gilbert Park	South elevation	Siding	Wood siding is worn and in need of repair/refinishing	2025	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
11	Gilbert Park	North elevation	Soffit and Fascia	Wood fascia is worn and in need of repair/refinishing	2025	\$2,625	1	\$2,625	
12	Gilbert Park	North elevation	Soffit and Fascia	Replace missing metal trim at fascia	2025	\$788	1	\$788	
13	Gilbert Park	North elevation	Entry	Refinish worn wood brackets	2025	\$1,575	2	\$3,150	
14	Gilbert Park	East elevation	Stairs	Guardrail is not tall enough - replace	2025	\$10,500	1	\$10,500	
Total 2025 Estimated Cost for Gilbert Park \$25,463									

Notes:
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2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Gilbert Park
March 7, 2022

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
15	Gilbert Park	Women's Toilet	Accessibility	Modify accessible stall to meet ADA requirements	2030	\$7,875	1	\$7,875	
16	Gilbert Park	Main Room	Electrical	Light switches are not located adjacent to entry doors - relocate switches and consider 3-way switching	2030	\$840	1	\$840	
17	Gilbert Park	Varies	Plumbing	Install TMV's on lavatories	2030	\$420	2	\$840	
Total 2030 Estimated Cost for Gilbert Park \$9,555									
Total Estimated Cost for Gilbert Park \$46,410									

Notes:
1. Report does not reflect future damage to items or finishes beyond normal wear and tear.
2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Gordon Park
March 7, 2022**

Item ID	Building	Location	Building System	Component / Description	Anticipated Replacement Year	2022 Unit Cost	Quantity	Estimate of Replacement Cost	Comments
1	Gordon Park	Exterior	Soffit and Fascia	Wood soffit and fascia are worn - repair	2025	\$5,250	1	\$5,250	
Total 2025 Estimated Cost for Gordon Park \$5,250									
2	Gordon Park	Exterior	Door and Frame	Replace door to have ADA compliant pulls	2030	\$2,625	2	\$5,250	If flush mounted pulls were approved as ADA accessible by door manufacturer at time of installation, this can be removed
Total 2030 Estimated Cost for Gordon Park \$5,250									
Total Estimated Cost for Gordon Park \$10,500									

Notes:
 1. Report does not reflect future damage to items or finishes beyond normal wear and tear.
 2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
 3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Cost Summary
March 7, 2022

Year	Building	Total Cost for the Year	Comments
2022	Denning Park	\$4,200	0
2022	Community Center	\$0	
2022	Sedgwick Park	\$998	0
2022	Recreation Center	\$13,493	0
2022	Gilbert Park	\$6,143	0
2022	Gordon Park	\$0	
2022 Total Estimated Cost		\$24,833	

2024	Denning Park	\$22,050	0
2024	Community Center	\$21,000	0
2024	Sedgwick Park	\$27,300	0
2024	Recreation Center	\$43,750	0
2024	Gilbert Park	\$0	0
2024	Gordon Park	\$0	
2024 Total Estimated Cost		\$114,100	

Year	Building	Total Cost for the Year	Comments
2023	Denning Park	\$7,875	0
2023	Community Center	\$7,875	0
2023	Sedgwick Park	\$1,155	0
2023	Recreation Center	\$78,138	0
2023	Gilbert Park	\$5,250	0
2023	Gordon Park	\$0	
2023 Total Estimated Cost		\$100,293	

2025	Denning Park	\$13,650	0
2025	Community Center	\$8,663	0
2025	Sedgwick Park	\$0	
2025	Recreation Center	\$43,750	0
2025	Gilbert Park	\$25,463	0
2025	Gordon Park	\$5,250	0
2025 Total Estimated Cost		\$96,775	

Notes:
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2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Cost Summary
March 7, 2022**

Year	Building	Total Cost for the Year	Comments
2026	Denning Park	\$0	
2026	Community Center	\$0	
2026	Sedgwick Park	\$0	
2026	Recreation Center	\$117,250	0
2026	Gilbert Park	\$0	
2026	Gordon Park	\$0	
2026 Total Estimated Cost		\$117,250	

2028	Denning Park	\$0	
2028	Community Center	\$0	
2028	Sedgwick Park	\$0	
2028	Recreation Center	\$909,500	
2028	Gilbert Park	\$0	
2028	Gordon Park	\$0	
2028 Total Estimated Cost		\$909,500	

Year	Building	Total Cost for the Year	Comments
2027	Denning Park	\$0	
2027	Community Center	\$2,625	0
2027	Sedgwick Park	\$21,000	0
2027	Recreation Center	\$87,500	0
2027	Gilbert Park	\$0	
2027	Gordon Park	\$0	
2027 Total Estimated Cost		\$111,125	

2029	Denning Park	\$11,393	0
2029	Community Center	\$13,125	0
2029	Sedgwick Park	\$93,450	0
2029	Recreation Center	\$0	
2029	Gilbert Park	\$0	
2029	Gordon Park	\$0	
2029 Total Estimated Cost		\$117,968	

Notes:
 1. Report does not reflect future damage to items or finishes beyond normal wear and tear.
 2. Estimated costs do not include A/E Fees.
 3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

**Park District of La Grange - Building Assessment - Cost Summary
March 7, 2022**

Year	Building	Total Cost for the Year	Comments
2030	Denning Park	\$1,733	0
2030	Community Center	\$13,598	0
2030	Sedgwick Park	\$23,468	0
2030	Recreation Center	\$25,935	0
2030	Gilbert Park	\$9,555	0
2030	Gordon Park	\$5,250	0
2030 Total Estimated Cost		\$79,538	

Year	Building	Total Cost for the Year	Comments
2031	Denning Park	\$11,550	0
2031	Community Center	\$315,000	0
2031	Sedgwick Park	\$0	
2031	Recreation Center	\$0	
2031	Gilbert Park	\$0	
2031	Gordon Park	\$0	
2031 Total Estimated Cost		\$326,550	

Total Estimated Cost \$1,997,930

Notes:
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 3. Estimated costs are in 2022 dollars.

Sources

In addition to the sources referenced throughout the Comprehensive Master Plan process, the Planning Team utilized the following resources:

- Park District of La Grange
- Village of La Grange
- National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA)
- Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA)
- Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD)
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
- Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI)
- ArcGIS Business Analyst
- U.S. Census Bureau
- UCLA School of Law Williams Institute
- Council of American Survey Research Organizations
- Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Forest Service
- La Grange Daily News
- Patch
- Cook County
- Oak Brook Park District
- Westchester Park District
- Community Park District of La Grange Park
- Burr Ridge Park District
- Elmhurst Park District
- ReadEx Research
- Wikipedia

Additional Programming Assessment Sources

- Program Registration Data
- Learning Resource Network
- Sports & Fitness Industry Association
- American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM)
- Outdoor Industry Foundation
- Recreation Management
- The Outdoor Foundation
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- The American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA)
- The Benefits of Branding by Marcia Yudkin, 2002
- Benefits for Children of Play in Nature by Randy White
- Getting Outside is a Prescription for Better Health by Adam Werner 2017
- Boomer Basics, Jeffery Ziegler
- What's Next? Staying Ahead of Trends



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