The Springfield Park District is pleased to present this report to the Board of Trustees and interested citizens of our community. This report is intended to summarize the operational activity of the Springfield Park District through December 2018 and the financial activity and results of the Springfield Park District for period ending April 30, 2018. This report also illustrates ways in which the Park District’s strategic initiatives have helped fulfill the organization’s mission. An electronic copy of this report is available at www.springfieldparks.org. Paper copies are available at the Bunn Administrative Offices.

Mission
To provide accessible and memorable recreation opportunities that enrich the community and improve the quality of life for generations as well as conserve our natural resources.

Board of Trustees

The Springfield Park District is governed by a publicly elected board. The governing board is composed of an elected President and six elected Trustees all serving four year terms. These men and women volunteer their time, energy and expertise because they genuinely care about providing high quality recreation programs, facilities and open space to our citizens. The Board employs an Executive Director to manage the day to day operations of the organization and meet the goals and objectives of the Board.

Executive Staff

2500 S. 11th St., Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-544-1751 www.springfieldparks.org
Size and Scope of Services

- **Total Area Served**: 60 Square Miles (includes Springfield, parts of Grandview, Jerome, Leland Grove, Sherman, and Southern View)
- **Population Served**: Approximately 135,000 residents
- **Owned/Leased Property**: The District provides public stewardship of approximately 2,500 acres of land
- **Parks and Amenities**: 35 Parks, Playground Systems, 2 Splash Pads, BMX Bike track, Fishing Piers, Stocked Fishing Ponds, Outdoor Ice Skating, Sledding Hills, Outdoor Exercise Areas, Hiking Trails, Pedestrian Paths, Open Air Shelters, Picnic Areas, Restroom Facilities
- **Recreation Facilities**: 4 Golf Courses, 2 Indoor Ice Rinks, 2 Outdoor Pools, Indoor Pool, 3 Dog Runs, 3 Disc Golf Courses, 2 Baseball Stadiums, 1 Preschool Facility, 2 Historic Pavilions, Special Needs Facility, Carillon, Tennis Complex, Band Shell, Skate Park
- **Environmental Facilities**: Zoo, Botanical Garden, Nature Trails, Nature Preserve, Land and Water Reserve, Campgrounds, Community Gardens
- **Athletic Facilities**: 60+ Baseball/Softball Fields, Basketball Courts, Soccer Fields, Football Fields, Pickleball Courts, Tennis Courts, Platform Tennis Courts, Horseshoe Pits, Bocce Ball, Shuffle Board, Cricket Field, Rugby Field
- **Nature Preserves**: 322 acre Nature Preserve located in Carpenter Park
- **Land & Water Reserves**: 113 acre Land and Water Reserve located in Riverside Park
- **Trails**: 4 Bicycle Trails (17 miles), numerous Nature/Hiking trails
- **Recreation Programs**: Offer over 400 programs from Early Childhood to Seniors and Special Recreation

Supporting the Springfield Community

- Employed 469 people, providing $6.8 million total compensation to personnel.
- Engaged 39 contractors, for a total of $209,103 in fees.
- Significant employer of youth and older adults.
- Supported fundraising efforts of 52 local not-for-profit organizations by providing 104 donations.
- Provided financial assistance to multiple underprivileged families.
- The following Strategic Initiatives have been developed to channel resources in a direction that yields the greatest benefit to Park District resident taxpayers and other guests, focusing efforts on what is truly important for the organization.
  i. Establish long-term financial stability
  ii. Implement facility and maintenance upgrades
  iii. Update technology
  iv. Update equipment through a rotation purchase plan
  v. To achieve world-class customer service
- Previously approved 10yr comprehensive master plan.
HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Governmental funds reported FY 2018 ending fund balances of $6.3 million as compared to $5.0 Million in FY 2017, further highlighting the District's commitment to improving financial stability.
- The FY 2018 audit is being handled by Sikich. The Park District accomplished moving from a cash reporting to accrual basis which will be a welcome change by the financial community. Adjustments to the financial statements are expected, supporting the accuracy being reported to the board on a monthly basis. Current full audit report is available at www.springfieldparks.org/budget.
- 63% drop in workers compensation claims over the past five years.
- Reduced negative fund balances by $76K over previous year.
- Completed approximately $1.4 million in improvements and repairs to building, infrastructure, and equipment needs including finishing a $400,000 multi-year project replacing the penguin exhibit at the Henson Robinson Zoo.
- Over 90% of funds allocated in the Capital Improvement budget were devoted to repair and replace existing assets including needed equipment and facility improvements.
- Improved fiscal year-end Fund Balance by over $6 Million since 2013.

PROPERTY TAXES

Where Your Tax Dollars Go

Less than 6% of the average Springfield resident's total tax bill is attributed to the Springfield Park District. For a $100,000 homeowner, taxes paid to the Park District were approximately $127

Tax Rate Comparison

The Springfield Park District's tax rate is nearly one third of the rate assessed by other Park Districts in Central Illinois resulting in lower taxes for property owners.

*Financial reporting includes fiscal activity and results for period ending April 30, 2017.
How the Park District is Funded

Total Revenue FY 18 $16.4 Million

- Tax Levies: 75%
- Contributions, Interest & Other: 16%
- Grants: 4%
- Other Taxes: 4%
- Guest Fees: 1%

Community’s Return on Investment

Total Expenditures FY 18 $17.1 Million

- Recreation: 30%
- General Operations: 25%
- Capital Improvements: 18%
- Police: 16%
- Museum: 9%
- Park Maintenance: 2%
OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

Investing in Your Facilities

Athletics
- Repair Kiwanis soccer field
- Maintained fields & facilities for 8 different user groups
- Installed new vents in concession stands at Robin Roberts Stadium

Aquatics (Eisenhower Pool)
- New entrance carpet, chairs, & tables
- Replaced stair treads & matting by locker rooms
- Landscaped the eastside of the facility
- Replaced 4 doors by pool pump & double doors at the westside exterior
- Installed 15 new pool filter elements
- Replaced diving well tile
- Repaired floor tile in women's shower
- Replaced missing tile & grout in lap pool
- Painted locker room heater covers & shower pipe enclosures

Botanical Garden
- New ADA compliant kitchen, lobby counter & signage
- Replaced/installed new ceiling tiles in lobby, conference room, front offices & bathrooms
- Set to be complete Spring 2019: Replacement & installation of new cooling wall system

Carillon
- Carillon Society donated permanent outdoor monitor screen; Park District updated camera & video equipment for the “live feed”
- Wooden frame of Carillon Keyboard was refinshed
- Professional risers-stage purchased for guest acts
- Carillon Society funded the update of Level 5 & 12 color flood lights on tower
- Speakers in playing cabin were replaced

Funshop
- New ADA compliant kitchen cabinets; repurposed old cabinets for storage
- New countertops
- Installation/Upgrade of new smoke alarms & fire monitoring system

Golf
- New beer cooler at Bergen & New ice machine at Lincoln Greens

Nelson Center
- Restored/renovated the 108’ large flume slide
- New stair treads & rubber floors in Rink 1 & 2 locker rooms
- Updated metal halide lighting to LED in Rink 2
- Installed sensors & high limit controls on pool heating system
- Outdoor wayfinding signage to Rink 1 & Rink 2 to be updated

Southwind Park
- New large interactive musical flowers & xylophone donated & installed in the Children’s Garden
- Babbling Brook & Graison’s Path completed & ribbon cut

Zoo
- New Penguin building complete & dedicated
- Opened & put in new fencing in the walkthrough exhibit
- Lime substrate placed in goat & barn yard
- New fountain in pond, paint on outdoor sign, & gutters on train depot
- New shift doors in Otter & Cougar & New exterior steel doors in Otter
- New electric fencing in Wolverine exhibit
- New caging for Educational animals

Recreation Highlights

Athletics - The Cricket Club reached the final of the Midwest Cricket Conference for the first time in three decades
Athletics - Partnered with STL Cardinals, Challenger Sports, Springfield Pickleball Club, IL Senior Olympics, Troxell Insurance and Springfield Sliders to host camps and events
Athletics - Hosted “A Beach Boys” concert, NCAA D2 Regional Championship Tournament, and 30 Sliders games and 40+ High School level games at Robin Roberts Stadium
Aquatics - 11 American Red Cross Lifeguard Classes were offered (9 were taught)- 55 participants
Carillon - Guild of Carillonneurs in North America (GCNA) national congress was hosted at the Springfield Park District's Carillon with approximately 130 visiting carillonists from North America and abroad
Erin’s Pavilion- Added large interactive musical flowers and xylophone pieces to Southwind Park
Funshop - celebrated 42 years of parent and child play-based learning programming
Golf - Provided numerous instructional golf lessons, and tournaments such as: Veterans Golf League at Bergen Golf Course, Two PGA Jr. League Teams out of Bergen and Pasfield Golf Courses, and Drysdale Tournament with 256 participants
Special Recreation - Springfield Park District swim teammate was selected to compete within the Special Olympics USA Games and won a Gold in 400m Freestyle, 4 x 100m relay and received silver in the 100m backstroke
Nelson Center Ice Sports- 13 new programs were created
Nelson Center Ice Sports- Ice Jamz was converted from a teen based program to a family event with a dj and light show
Zoo- Movie at the Zoo
Zoo- Revamped Dr. Doolittle
**Investing in Your Parks**

- Bunn Golf Course – Installed new bridges on #1 and #10
- Bunn – Overlay of employee parking lot
- Comer Cox – Resurfaced basketball courts and added 8 new goals
- Electrical/Lighting – Upgrade park lighting to LED
- Fencing – New fencing installed throughout the district
- Lincoln Greens GC – Added asphalt cart paths on holes #9 and #10
- Lincoln Park – Horseshoe court upgrades
- Painting Projects - Painted countless Benches, Dugouts, Fences, Shelters, Satellite Bathrooms, and Facilities through the Park System.
- Parking Lots – Brought handicap parking spots up to code with additional spots
- Picnic Tables - Constructed Dozens of Picnic Tables to be used for Special Events
- Playground Pieces – Installed numerous new playground pieces
- Playground Surfacing – Adding ADA compliant playground surfacing to numerous playgrounds
- Restroom/Concession Upgrades – New hand washing stations, new toilets, new sinks, paint, mechanicals, dispensers, faucets, etc.
- Riverside Park – Bathroom upgrades, new signage, new electric to sites
- Roofing Projects - Installed Numerous Metal and Shingle Roofs on Park District Facilities, shelters and dugouts
- Sidewalks – Construction of numerous ADA compliant sidewalks throughout the district
- Signage – New ADA compliant signs installed throughout parks and facilities
- Schlitt – Press Box upgrades, ADA walkway install and synthetic turf install
- Washington Park – Renovated park bathrooms, new parking lot paving

**Natural Resource Conservation & Wildlife Preservation Efforts**

- Manage and provide over 2,500 acres of the most important concentration of natural habitats and green space for public use in Sangamon County.
- Entered into a Conservation Easement and Registration Agreement as well as the management plan for the newly established Sangamon Bottoms Land and Water Reserve on 113 acres of property at Riverside Park.
- Tool Wagon – Facilitated Numerous Volunteer Park and Community Cleanup Projects.
- Tree Plantings – Planted 503 Trees in your Parks.
- Trout Stocking at Washington and Southwind Park.
- Nearly 900 volunteers performing 5000 hours of volunteer time from schools, churches, business and clubs.
- Prescribed burns – Managed prescribed burn on over 40 acres of public land to safely reduce excessive amounts of brush, shrubs, and trees, encourage the new growth of native vegetation, to maintain the many plant and animal species whose habitats depend on periodic fire.
- Ground Squirrel – Continued management of habitat restoration project at Centennial Park to protect the endangered Franklin Ground Squirrel.
- Accepted donation of .38 acres of property adjacent Centennial Park to further protect Franklin Ground Squirrel Habitat.
- Birth of two critically endangered red-ruffed lemurs at Henson Robinson Zoo.
- Recycled over 20 tons of paper, plastic, cardboard, aluminum and glass every year.
- Maintain 322 acres of nature preserve.
Enriching Lives through High Quality Programs & Services

The Springfield Park District hosted

433,263
unique user experiences in programs and facilities.
(Not including the hundreds of thousands of people who visited parks, nature preserves and trails).

- 47,832 guests recreationally swam in the Park District’s pools this summer
- 63,283 rounds of golf
- 1,570 athletes at Eisenhower pool
- 1,970 individuals participated in youth adult athletic programming
- 140,227 participants and visitors to the Nelson Center Ice Rinks and Skating Programs
- 1,926 swim lessons taught
- 75,014 visitors to the Henson Robinson Zoo
- 6,447 students benefited from zoo outreach programs
- 59,808 visitors to the Washington Park Botanical Garden
- 6,575 summer camp participants
- 1,934 wedding guests enjoyed our beautiful park vistas during Weddings
- 230 Concerts
- 12,000 participated in the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular
- 1,462 participants in the Henson Robinson Zoo education classes & camps
- 285 weddings & events at Erin’s Pavilion
- 3,500 participated in the Art Spectacular
- 128,227 participants and visitors to the Nelson Center Ice Rinks and Skating Programs
- 59,808 visitors to the Washington Park Botanical Garden
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Grew Facebook to 9,170 Followers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Host over 8,629 interested parties who receive our seasonal Constant Contact e-blasts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Created a new marketing partnership with springfieldmoms.org.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Launched the new updated branding identity which focused on a new logo, colors and font. The fresh look reinforces our mission statement while the oak leaves symbolizes strength, endurance and longevity which are rooted since our established date of 1900.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Partnered with Comcast and Crowdson Creative to create a new commercial focusing on the benefits of spending your day at the Henson Robinson Zoo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Partnered with SCHEELS on their annual family friendly events; helping to create new marketing efforts for the District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hosted and facilitated a variety of Ribbon Cuttings throughout the District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>In-House Graphic Designer creates thousands of eye-catching, call-to-action marketing pieces to promote Programs, Facilities and Special Events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tailored social media efforts based on analytics to increase audience engagement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Created a new campaign for the Great Bear Migration at the Henson Robinson Zoo which told the story of our two new bear’s journey to the District. T-shirts were made and a bear VIP and Member’s Night event was held.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Partnered with REACH at the Nelson Center to help with District marketing efforts along with creating a state of the art digital sign ice schedule display.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Worked with Primo Designs to create new District employee merchandise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Improving Our Parks and Facilities through Broad Based Community Partnerships

The Springfield Park District has developed numerous partnerships, affiliations, and agreements with individuals, business, organizations, and other government agencies that help to make our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. The Springfield Park District would like to extend a warm thank you to all of our community partners who have dedicated time resources and expertise to make improvements in our parks and facilities.

## Partnerships & Affiliations

- Franklin Park Neighborhood Association - Barker Park Development
- Comer Cox Park – Resurfaced basketball courts and installed 8 new goals
- IDNR - Stock nearly 3,000 pounds of trout in Southwind and Washington Park Ponds
- Rochester, Chatham, & Sang County Highway Dept – IGA for Emergency response, sponsorship and signage on trails
- Springfield Pickleball Club - Iles Park Pickleball Court Resurfacing
- Lincoln Park – Horseshoe court renovation
- Springfield Airport Authority – Established ongoing partnership with to lease Kennedy and Stuart Parks
- Sangamon County Election Office – Provided three Polling Places
- Winterland Inc. - Winter Holiday Zoo Lights
- Fifth St Renaissance/SARA Center – AIDS memorial and labyrinth in Lincoln Park
- Master Gardeners – Established Pollinator Garden in Washington Park
- Sang County Circuit Clerk – developed and implemented Electronic Citation System
- Spfld Disc Golf Club – funded construction of 18 hole Disc Golf Course at Stuart Park
- Spfld Pickleball Club - funded 20K to resurface Iles Park pickleball Courts (Spring 2018)
- Carillon Society – funded $11K for landscaping Plan at base of Carillon
- Carillon Society – funded Digital sign at base of Carillon

## Projects

- Springfield Airport Authority – Kennedy and Stuart Parks
- Village of Rochester – IGA for Shared Law Enforcement Services
- Village of Chatham – IGA for Shared Law Enforcement Services
- Village of Leland Grove – IGA for Shared Law Enforcement Services
- Village of Southern View – IGA for Shared Law Enforcement Services
- Sangamon County – IGA for Electronic Citation Services
- City of Spfld – IGA for Stanford Ave. Improvements & Ash Street underpass
- Zoo Society – Funded Education Signage at Zoo
- Sang Valley Collections – Transferred historic materials for preservation and public inspection
- Blue Ridge Club - sublease agreement to provide camping and baseball
- Supported dozens of local not-for-profit organizations by providing service donations
- Spfld Parks Foundation funded District wide park improvements
• Mid-American Collegiate Hockey Association (MACHA) Division 2 & 3 hockey tournament – Bradley University
• High School Hockey-High School Hockey League hosted at Nelson Center – Lincoln Land High School Hockey Association
• Hockey skills clinics, and a hockey camp for youth of Springfield and surrounding areas – Elite Hockey
• Spirit Hockey Camp-Spirit Hockey Camp with Christian faith services – Spirit Hockey
• PGA HOPE League for Veterans (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) – PGA of America
• Hosted New children’s baseball camp at Lincoln Park – St. Louis Cardinals Org.
• Annual British Soccer Camp at Lincoln Park – Challenger Sports

• Annual Springfield Pickleball Tournament with over 250 competitors – Springfield Pickleball Club
• Senior Olympics to host over 2000 participants in many of our facilities – Senior Services of Central IL & IL Senior Olympics
• Beach Boys Concert at Robin Roberts Stadium - Springfield Sliders
• NCAA D2 Regional Championship Tournament at Robin Roberts Stadium – University of Illinois Springfield & NCAA
• 30 Sliders Games and over 40 High School Level Baseball Games at Robin Roberts Stadium – Springfield Sliders & District 186
• MLB Kids Camp attended by over 250 kids at Robin Roberts Stadium – Troxell Insurance & Springfield Sliders
Manage all your **FUN** and *recreational* needs online with our **NEW** online registration portal!

WWW.SPRINGFIELDPARKSFUN.ORG

Sign up and see for yourself!
*Register for your next activity online!*