



2026-2031 Comprehensive Master Plan

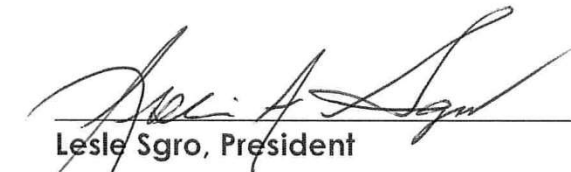




2026-2031 Comprehensive Master Plan

Springfield Park District

Springfield Park District 2026-2031 Comprehensive Master Plan is hereby adopted by the Park District Board of Trustees on the 19th day of November in the year 2025.


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Park District Staff, Stakeholder and the Community

Thank you to the many Park District staff, stakeholders, partners and residents whose participation gave valuable input and feedback throughout the planning process.

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Executive Summary

In 2024, the Springfield Park District initiated the update of its Comprehensive Master Plan. This plan serves as a guiding framework for establishing realistic goals and objectives, along with strategic recommendations to support future decision-making. Through this planning process, the Park District has engaged in meaningful discussions about its future direction and the importance of advancing improvements across core service areas. These efforts aim to strengthen and expand connections to parks and recreation opportunities throughout the community.

Mission:

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

Vision:

“As a leading provider of parks, recreation and open space within our region, the Springfield Park District aspires to provide quality community driven leisure experiences through innovative practices.”



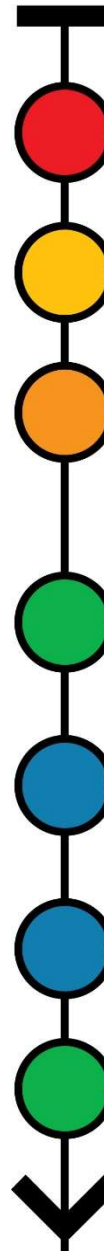
TIMELINE

Purpose

The purpose of this master plan is the continuation of a strong vision through achievable strategies to guide the development of a park and recreation agency based on community needs, interests and trends. The process provided significant community input opportunities that led to thousands of collected data points that were analyzed and used in this plan update. The plan identifies the roles the Park District fills as both a regional leisure service provider as well as a community one. The plan includes recommendations to assist the staff in making decisions based on leadership from the Park Board.

Planning Process

In 2024, the Park District engaged the services of a team of consultants with park and recreation master planning experience to assist in developing this master plan which updates the previously expired one. The process covered a year and a half with time dedicated to the collaboration between agency staff, board and the consultant team that provided a pleasing experience for all those involved in the development of the master plan.



Winter 2024

Master Plan process begun with a Park District staff kick-off meeting

Spring 2024

Parks inventory begun and the Stakeholder process started

Summer 2024

Community survey was started, Board Retreat was held, Recreation program evaluation, Park inventory completed and Level of Service mapping started

Fall 2024

Community survey completed, Public hearing held, Public facilitation input was analyzed, Capital improvement planning started and Goals and objectives started

Spring 2025

Goals, objectives and outcomes reviewed and finalized, Development of an action plan for Implementation and Delivery of draft plan document

Summer 2025

Review of Master Plan

Fall 2025

Approval of Master Plan



Outcomes

In the very beginning of the planning process, several questions were identified to be important in the master plan:

- Which facilities, equipment and vehicles need to be addressed?
- Can we identify and discuss closure of non-use or low use areas?
- What does a desirable workplace look like, that is attractive for recruitment and secures retention for staff?

Answers to these questions can be found throughout the Master Plan.

The goals for this planning effort are divided into 3 organizational categories ranked in order of importance that include:

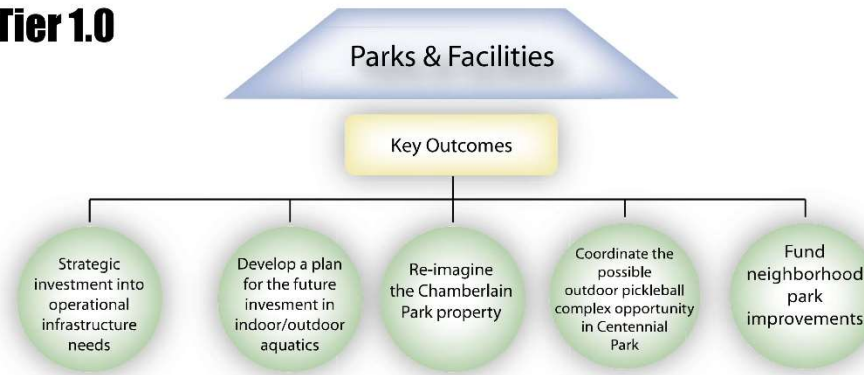
- Parks & Facilities
- Administration
- Recreation

The Master Plan allowed for an analysis to define the level of importance regarding the agency's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats which are illustrated in the following table:

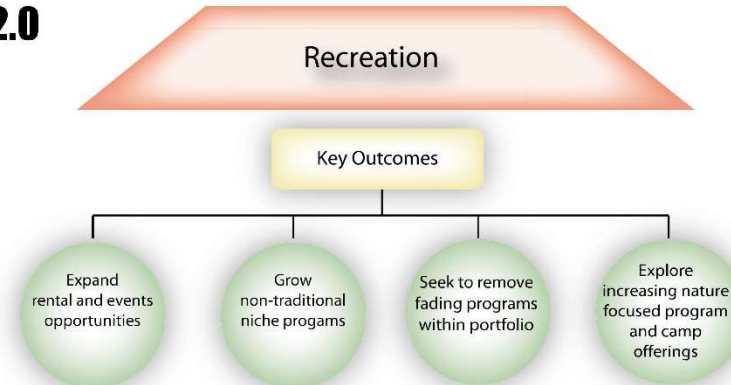
The strategic atlas illustrates the major outcomes based on strategic goals and objectives that this planning effort has generated, laid out based on the three core function areas of the agency.



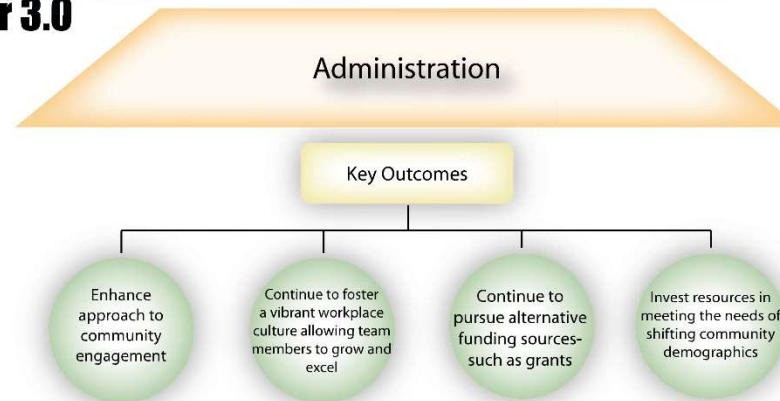
Tier 1.0



Tier 2.0



Tier 3.0





Conclusion

The Springfield Park District values the community it serves. It recognizes that the community enjoys many forms of recreation, including leisure services that are slightly different than the norm. The Park District has for 125 years increased the quality of life in the local community. However, as with all organizations, it must evolve and embrace the changes needed to make it relevant in an ever-changing future.

The master plan has been developed to be a resource for decision making and provide the understanding to change as the community changes. To make meaningful changes, cooperation and leadership will need to continue in the years to come. The master plan will guide improvements to the current parks and facilities, work to create a vibrant workplace culture and continue efforts to connect with the Springfield community.





Chapter 1: Introduction

'True to our Community'

These are the words that the Springfield Park District knows well and deeply understands its importance. The Park District is home to our state capital with a rich history dating back to the days of Lincoln. The Park District has seen changes over the past 125 years but always circles back to being true to the community. The last Master Plan was completed in 2017 with the community experiencing a stabilizing period, slowing growth allowing extra time in development of strategies for future direction during that time.

The Park District clearly plays a significant role within the greater Springfield area with hundreds of thousands of user experiences in 2024 and 2025. The Park District could be viewed as a large agency in terms of size and population served when compared with its peers within the state, but the agency feels small and personable wanting to provide those unique experiences for as much of the community it can.

PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORT

The Parks District's last Master Plan was adopted in 2017. The Park District opted not to undertake a new master plan during the global pandemic and instead, waited for a post-pandemic environment to move forward with a master plan update. Many of the goals of the past planning effort were accomplished.

Executive Summary

Since 2017, the Springfield Park District has successfully executed an extensive array of transformative initiatives from the previous Master Plan, dramatically enhancing the community's recreational infrastructure and experiences. Comprehensive improvements have touched nearly every aspect of the park system, including facility renovations, accessibility upgrades, and large-scale park redevelopment projects. Significant projects have included the renovation of seven community parks and playgrounds, the modernization of aging recreational facilities, and the addition of state-of-the-art amenities that address the evolving needs of our diverse community. Through strategic financial management and innovative partnerships, the Park District has completed over \$15 million in capital improvements, building a strong foundation for sustainable growth while responding to evolving community needs.



Major Accomplishments

Capital Improvements to Parks and Facilities

- Developed a short-term capital plan based on public priorities
- Completed major renovations and improvements to parks and facilities through successful leveraging of partnerships
- Maximized impact of taxpayer dollars by securing matching grants and donations
- Executed facility upgrades through innovative public-private partnerships
- Enhanced recreational amenities through strategic use of secured outside funding
- Modernized facilities while maintaining fiscal responsibility through creative funding solutions
- Finalized a long-term vision for the Nelson Center

Design Excellence & Community Engagement

- Prioritized neighborhood park improvements
- Integrated community input into project design
- Launched a 4-year legacy campaign across geographic zones

Data-Driven Program Expansion

- Conducted annual Lifecycle recreation program analysis
- Developed strategies for growing recreation programs
- Ensured competitive pricing of our programs and services

- Created adaptive sports programs for participants with disabilities
- Established IGA with Lincoln Park District for joint recreation programming for people with special needs
- Expanded summer camp capacity to meet growing demand
- Implemented rich 125-year anniversary celebration programs and events
- Formed internal trends committee

Golf Programming

- Reimagined golf programming with social themes
- Introduced youth league play
- Focused marketing on customer enjoyment
- Expanded non-golf events at golf facilities

Financial Excellence & Resource Development

- Achieved and maintained strong financial stability through strategic budgeting
- Earned highest credit rating of any municipal agency in Sangamon County
- Reallocated subsidies to support capital investment
- Secured millions of dollars through state and federal grants
- Created dedicated reserve funds ensuring long-term sustainability
- Leveraged Parks Foundation for capital campaigns
- Explored sponsorships and rentals
- Developed sustainable financial policies



Organizational Development

- Realigned Recreation Department staffing
- Implemented strategic IT assessment

Governance & Board Engagement

- Institutionalized annual Park Board retreats
- Scheduled quarterly Master Plan updates
- Established onboarding for new board members

Marketing & Outreach

- Continued digital marketing investment
- Established collaborative agreements and IGA with local school district for shared facilities and improvements to community assets
- Partnered with City of Springfield to secure CDBG, DCEO and TIF funds to improve parks and programs
- Southwest Baseball Association converted three youth baseball diamonds to artificial turf
- Partnered with local donors to fund the construction of three playgrounds
- Partnered with numerous foundations and societies to provide funding to improve parks and facilities

- Created successful business partnership program with numerous local companies
- Developed strong relationships with healthcare providers for wellness programming
- Built sustainable relationships with local youth sports organizations and community groups
- Implemented successful volunteer engagement programs

Environmental Stewardship

- Protected 113 acres of critical habitat through land and water reserve status designation
- Implemented comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades across parks and facilities, including LED lighting systems
- Advanced conservation initiatives through zoo programs and habitat preservation
- Expanded the recycling program
- Developed community garden programs promoting sustainable practices
- Implemented butterfly pollinator gardens at eleven parks



Developing a Plan

This Master Plan for the Springfield Park District was developed through a community input planning process that led into collaborative discussions in the development of a vision for the future of the Park District. The Master Plan will provide the Park District with clear goals and objectives with the needed steps to implement noticeable change. The goals and objectives were generated from evaluations of the existing conditions of parks, facilities, programs, finances & operations, community input, industry trends, demographic projections, and the identification of gaps as well as overlaps in levels of service. This planning initiative provides direction and guidance to keep being unique in meeting the leisure service needs of over 120,000 residents.

Purpose of Planning

The Master Plan's primary purpose is to create a sustainable vision with obtainable outcomes over the next five years to address community needs, interests, and trends. The planning process provided significant community input opportunities with hundreds of touch points that yielded over thousands of pieces of data that were analyzed and used in the development of this plan.

Comprehensive planning should always be viewed as a practical tool to assign priorities for the allocation of limited resources of an agency. This plan should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the goals and objectives accurately reflect the current political environment the Park District faces. If significant changes occur over this planning period, the plan should be updated.



Planning Process

In 2024, the Park District engaged the services of Design Perspectives with a small team of specialized consultants with park and recreation master planning experience to assist in developing this master plan which updates the previously expired one. The process covered a year and an half with time dedicated to the collaboration between agency staff, board and the consultant team that provided a pleasing experience for all those involved in the development of the master plan.

TIMELINE





Park District Mission & Vision

The Springfield Park District has defined the Park District mission, vision and values during the Comprehensive Master Plan process.

Mission

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

Vision

“As a leading provider of parks, recreation and open space within our region, the Springfield Park District aspires to provide quality community driven leisure experiences through innovative practices.”

Strategic Initiatives:

The Strategic Initiatives were developed in 2024 to provide a direction for the organization for the next 5 years that includes:

- Stability of Park District leadership for operational excellence
- Renewal of the vast Park District capital resources
- Continuation of the transformation of parks and facilities that no longer meet the community needs
- Creation of an organizational culture with dedication of service to the Springfield community



HISTORY

The Beginning

The Springfield Park District was organized on February 8, 1900. It was the second Park District organized in the state of Illinois with Peoria being the first. Its boundaries encompass the greater portion of the Springfield metropolitan area, covering approximately 60 square miles, 2,500 acres, 13 miles of bike trails, and four golf courses.

Providing for the Community

The Springfield Park District offers a variety of educational and recreational programs, classes and events for people ranging in age from 6 months to seniors. The Park District partners with several local organizations and clubs to provide athletic programming such as youth baseball/softball, men's soccer, disc golf leagues, cricket, youth football, bicycling clubs and related clubs/groups. Additionally, the Springfield Park District also maintains intergovernmental/cooperative agreements with six local Police Departments, School District and local colleges.

Board of Trustees

The Springfield Park District is managed by an elected board of Trustees. The governing board is composed of an elected President and six additional elected Trustees all serving four-year terms. The Park District employs an Executive Director to execute Board policies, manage the agency's affairs, implement strategies for park and recreation development and develop goals to accomplish the agency mission.





Chapter 2: Engagement

Introduction

The master planning process involved a series of data gathering tools to examine the internal and external feelings of the Park District's community. The following section of this report addresses community demographics, survey responses and a summary of public input.

Community Profile & Demographics

Data Gathering

The demographics data used in this Comprehensive Master Plan was obtained (except where noted) through Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) business analyst online. A summary of the current demographic highlights is provided on the following pages. The five key areas include overall population, age distribution, race/ethnicity, household income and education. The current demographics will be compared to the 2017 data for trend analysis.

Demographic Analysis

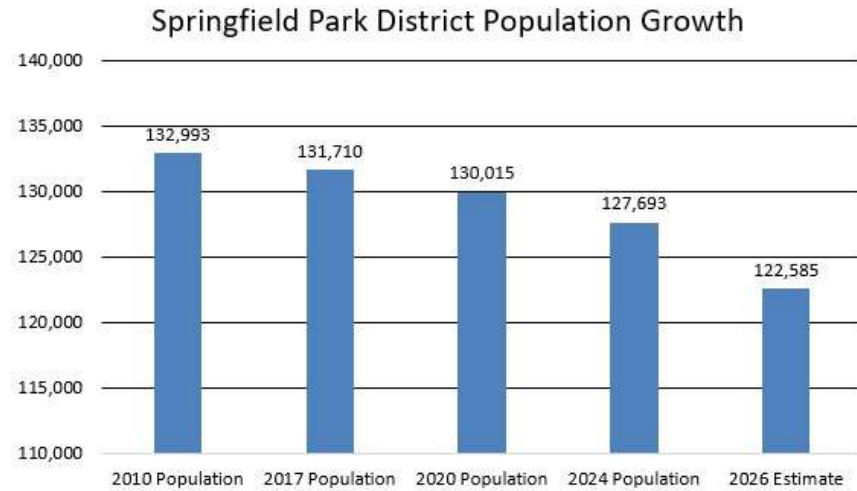
The following table provides an overall of the Springfield Park District's demographic profile for the year 2024.

2024 Springfield Park District Demographic Summary

| Summary of Park District Demographics | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Population | 127,693 |
| Number of Households | 58,050 |
| Avg. Household Size | 2.10 |
| Median Age | 41.4 |
| Median Household Income | \$66,222 |



Springfield Park District Population Growth Trend



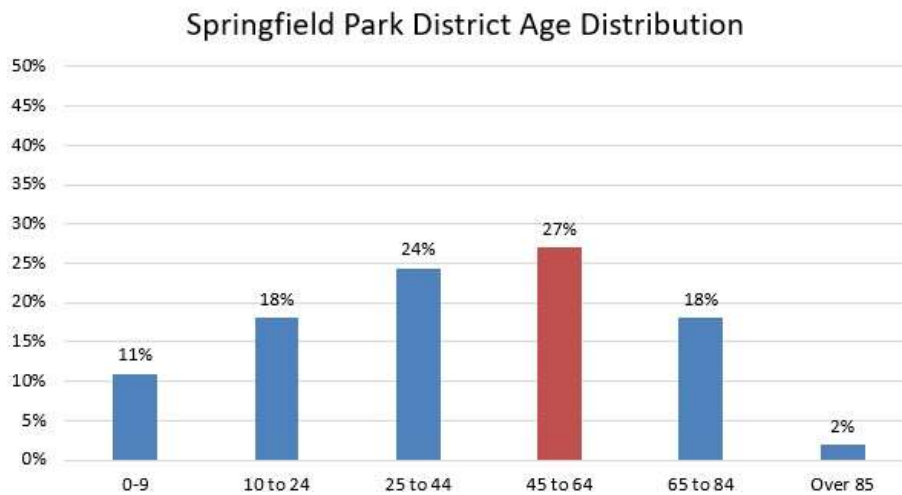
The slowly declining growth rate would indicate a moderately stable demand for the recreational needs of the community.



Gender & Age Distribution

Gender distribution within the Springfield Park District in 2024 was 48.4% male to 51.6% female with the median age in 2024 41.4 years old.

Springfield Park District Population Age Distribution, 2024



With 51% of the population, nearly evenly split between the 25-44 and 45-64 age groups, the Park District will need to address younger residents with children that will favor a more active lifestyle as well as an active adult population that might prefer a blend of less active and more passive options such as walking and social events.



Household Information

As reflected in the table below, in 2024, the Springfield Park District had 58,050 housing units with a 64.5% owner-occupied housing rate, compared to 35.5% renter-occupied rate. The fact that nearly one out of four households rent is an important consideration in future planning. The prevalence of renting has economic implications as this larger portion of the population is vulnerable to fluctuations in rental prices. This can affect consumer spending, especially discretionary spending on parks, recreation and entertainment, and overall economic stability.

Springfield Park District Household Statistics, 2024

| Household Summary | 2017 | 2024 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| Total households | 57,523 | 58,050 |
| Average household size | 2.23 | 2.10 |
| Families | 31,714 | 30,575 |
| Total housing units | 56,416 | 57,591 |
| Percent owner occupied | 54.8% | 64.5% |
| Percent renter occupied | 35.2% | 35.5% |
| Percent Occupied | 90.0% | 89.2% |
| Percent vacant | 10.0% | 10.8% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2024



Conclusion

The conclusion regarding the Springfield Park District's demographic profile over the next five years will be one of marginal changes in key demographic indicators. The growth rate is forecasted to be flat and possible a small yearly decrease. The trends for population, age, race/ethnicity and households all are forecasted with very little movement up or down, except for median home values which have seen a sharp 20% plus increase over the past 10 years.

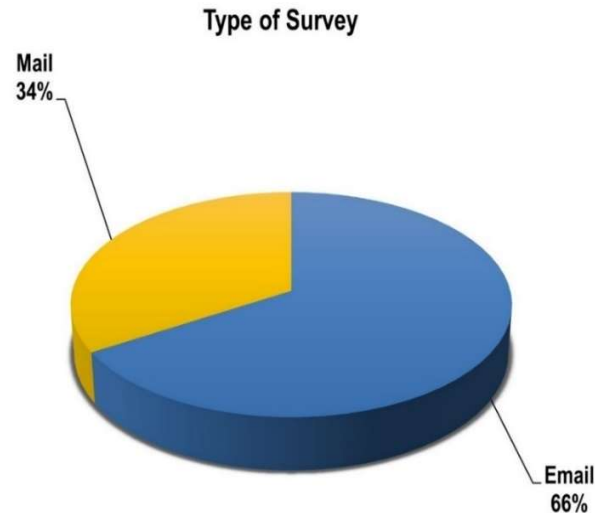




Community Survey Highlights

The Public Research Group LLC provides a variety of data gathering techniques and types of analysis to help park and recreation agencies identify the needs of their residents. The data gathering techniques used for this study included a random sample survey using mail and email delivery methods.

The Public Research Group compiled 147 mail and 289 email surveys. The sample of 436 households provides a margin of error of plus or minus 5% at a 95% confidence level. The survey was distributed to a random sample of households within the boundaries of the Springfield Park District.



Survey respondents were asked to complete a five-page survey with a total of 31 questions. Within those questions, there were approximately 360 variables, leading to over 11,000 data points, most of which were statistically quantifiable with only a limited number of open-ended questions. The open-ended questions were summarized.

Results from key questions from the Community Survey can be found on the next pages.

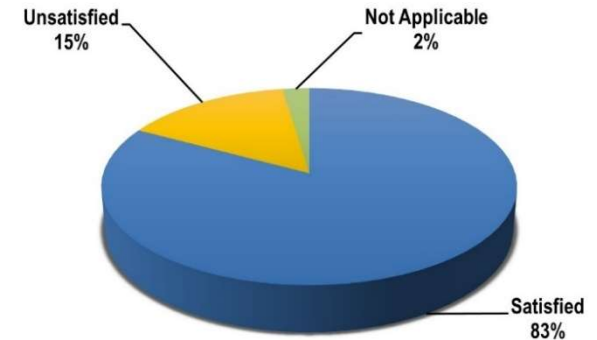


Experiences & Satisfaction

Q2. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the Springfield Park District?

83% of respondents said they were satisfied overall with the Springfield Park District. A follow up question was asked to explore why respondents were unsatisfied.

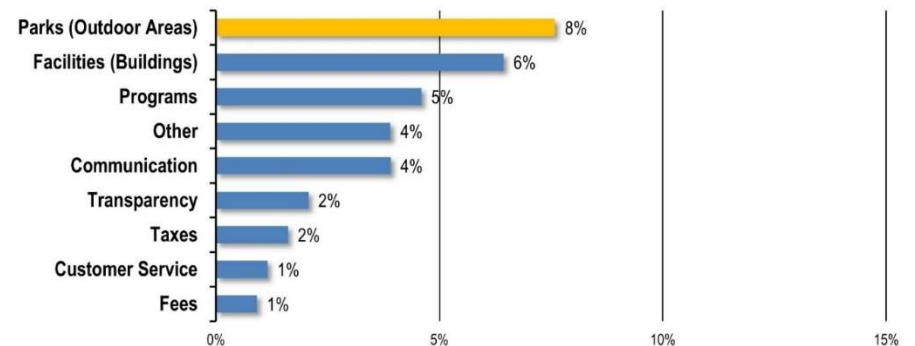
Q2. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the Springfield Park District?



Q2a. If you answered unsatisfied with the Springfield Park District, please tell us which area(s) you are displeased with? (Choose all that apply)

Question 2A then asked the 15% unsatisfied respondents to explain why they answered “Unsatisfied”. “Parks” (8%) and “Facilities” (6%) received the most selections.

Q2a. Please tell us which area(s) you are displeased with? (Choose all that apply)

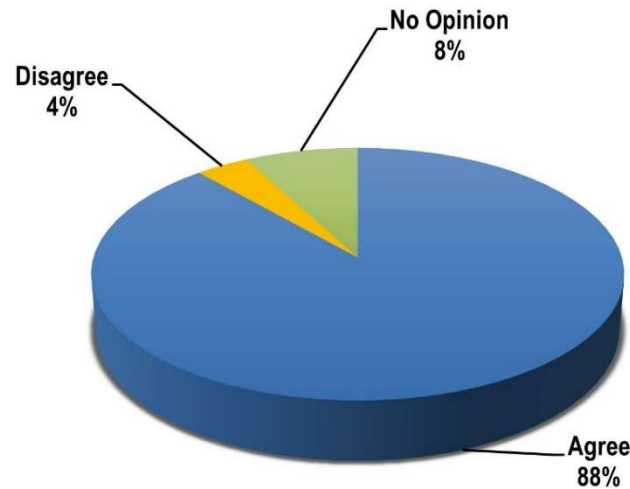




Q3. The Springfield Park District aims to enhance residents' quality of life through its programs, events, parks, trails, and facilities. Do you agree that it contributes to your quality of life?

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the statement that the Springfield Park District contributes to their quality of life. The graph below shows the responses. Overall, responses were very favorable for the Park District. 88% said they "Agree".

Q3. The Springfield Park District aims to enhance residents' quality of life through its programs, events, parks, trails, and facilities. Do you agree that it contributes to your quality of life?

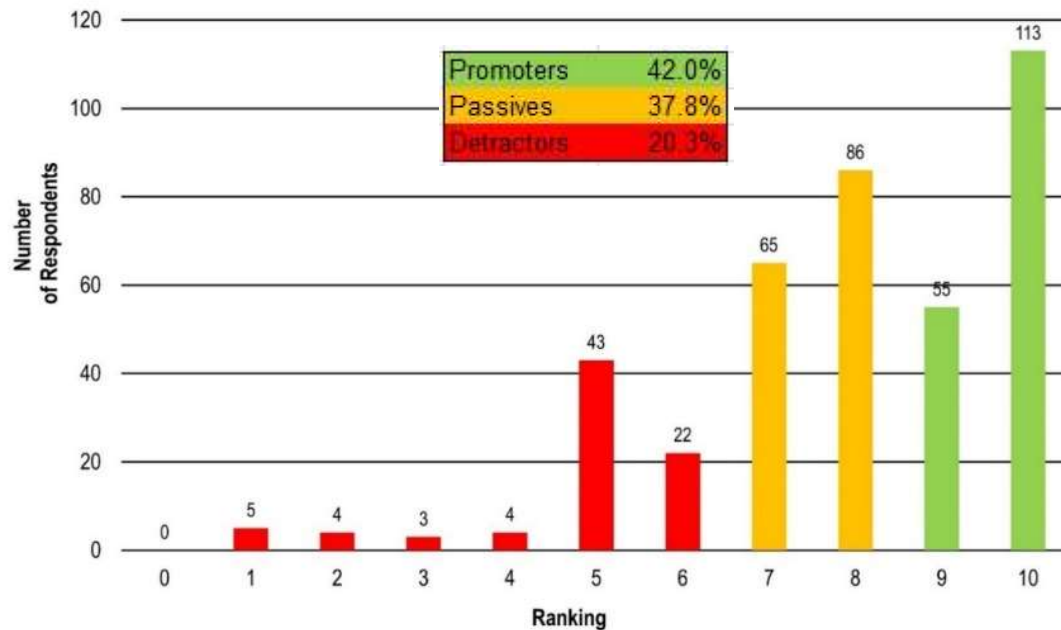




Q4. How likely would you be to recommend the Springfield Park District to a friend, family member or neighbor? (0 being not at all and 10 being very likely)

Another approach to gauge brand loyalty to the Park District is the use of The Net Promoter Score. It is linked to customer loyalty and positive word-of-mouth, in which a high NPS suggests the potential for greater retention and more opportunities for growth. This question had an overall score of 21.7 (Promoters 42-Detractors 20.3). For reference, a Net Promoter Score that is below 0 would be an indication that the organization has significant issues to address. A score between 0 and 30 is a good range to be in, however, there is room for progress. If the NPS is higher than 30, that would indicate that the organization is doing great and has far more happy customers than unhappy ones.

Q4. How likely would you be to recommend the Springfield Park District to a friend, family member or neighbor? (0 being not at all and 10 being very likely)



Promoters: 168
Passives: 151
Detractors: 81
Total: 400



Communication

Q5. How do you learn about the Springfield Park District?

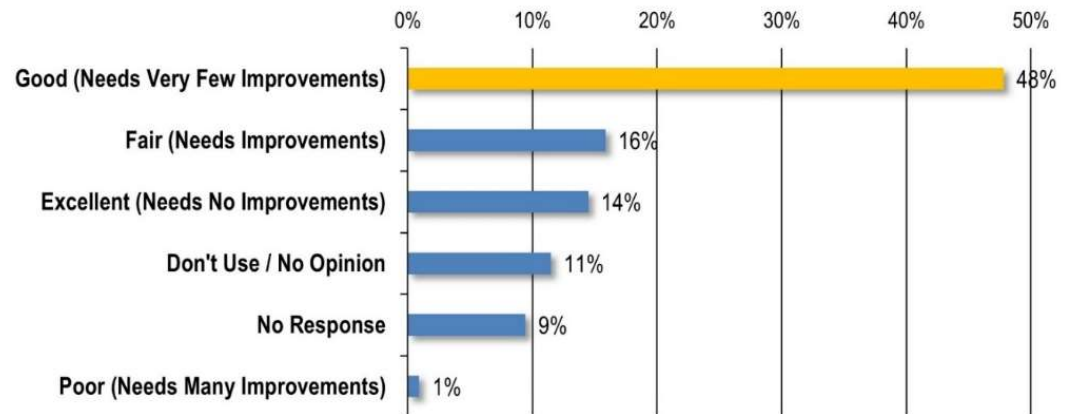
The top three responses were Friends and neighbors (45%), Park District website (39%) and social media (32%). The program guide scores somewhat low at 26%.

Recreation

Q6. How would you rate the overall quality of the programs you and members of your household have participated in?

62% of respondents rated the quality of the programs as excellent or good with little to no improvements needed. In review of previous research in the field, the Park District is slightly below average in terms of rating of excellent or good.

Q6. How would you rate the overall quality of the programs you and members of your household have participated in?

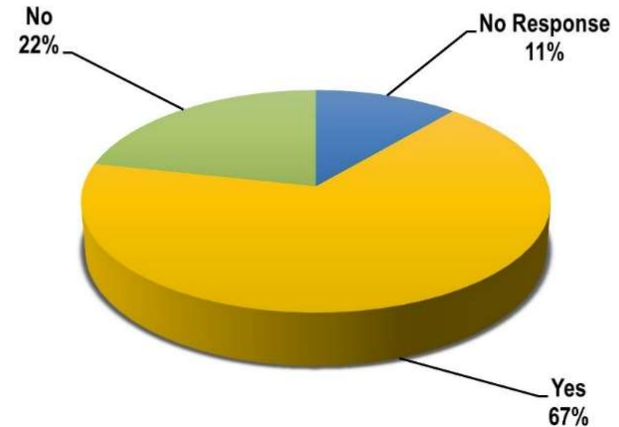




Q8. Do you go outside the Springfield Park District for recreational services?

67% of respondents go outside the Park District for recreational services.

Q8. Do you go outside the Springfield Park District for recreational services?



Q8b. Where else do you or members of your household go for recreation programs and/or services?

The top three responses of why they went somewhere else than the park district included the Park District does not offer the program (31%), other providers have better facilities (22%), and our friends go there, so we go there (14%). In terms of the places they went besides the Park District, the top three responses included state parks (31%), the YMCA (30%) and nearby communities (28%).

Q9. Please indicate if YOU or ANY MEMBER of your HOUSEHOLD uses any of the following program categories at the Springfield Park District or within the community

The top three recreation categories that were used included Outdoor Fitness (Hiking, running, walking, biking, golf, sports, etc.), 62%, Special Events (One- or two-day events, concerts, festivals, shows, etc.), 45% and Environmental (Gardening, natural landscaping, nature study, nature walks, etc.) 38%.

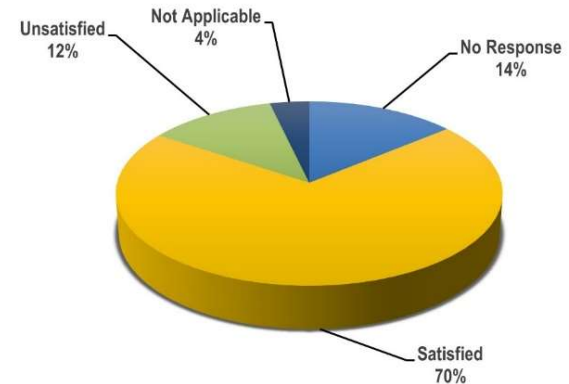


Parks & Facilities Satisfaction

Q11. How would you rate your satisfaction with the parks of the Springfield Park District?

Many respondents (70%) said they were satisfied with the parks of the Springfield Park District. A follow-up question explored why respondents were dissatisfied with the parks of the Park District.

Q11. How would you rate your satisfaction with the parks of the Springfield Park District?



Q12. If you answered Unsatisfied, please tell us why you are displeased.

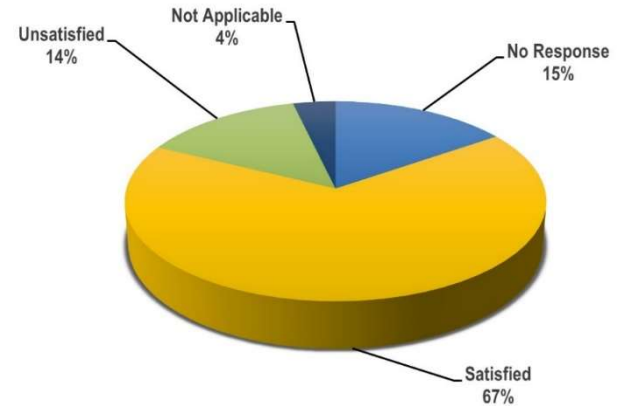
Multiple respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the maintenance and condition of various parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities. Several overall issues include deteriorating playground equipment, poor maintenance of sports facilities, aging public pools, lack of youth programming, and communication about available services. Several responses highlighted the need for better facility maintenance, updated equipment, and expanded programming, particularly for youth and inclusive activities. The feedback suggests the continued need for the Park District to invest significant resources in park & facility improvements, short- & long-term maintenance, program offerings and public communication.



Q13. How would you rate your satisfaction with the facilities of the Springfield Park District?

Most respondents (67%) said they were satisfied with the facilities of the Springfield Park District. A follow-up question explored why respondents were dissatisfied with the facilities of the Park District.

Q13. How would you rate your satisfaction with the facilities of the Springfield Park District?



Q14. If you answered Unsatisfied, please tell us why you are displeased.

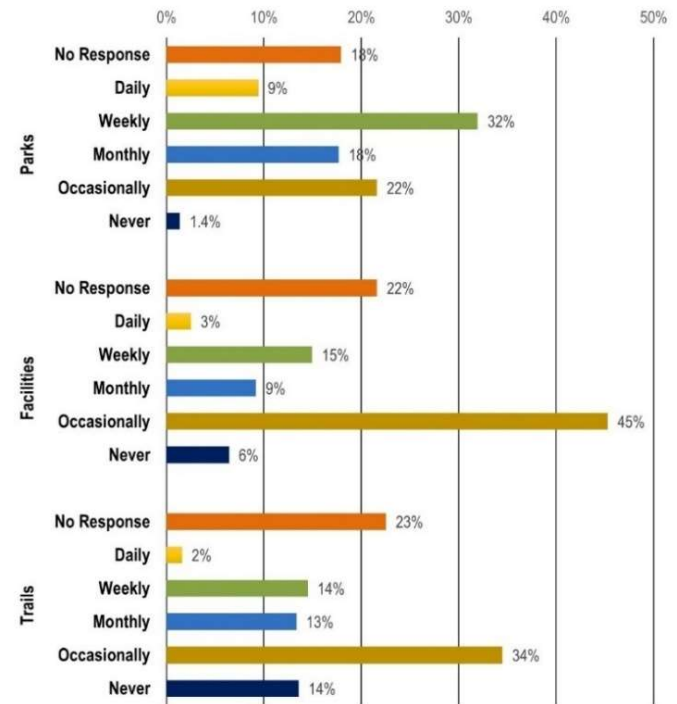
The comments highlighted issues with aging infrastructure, maintenance concerns and a desire to update & modernize dated facilities. General concerns include outdated restrooms, maintenance, and a desire to update recreational facilities like pickleball courts and swimming pools.



Q15. How often do you or members of your household use the parks, facilities and trails provided by the Springfield Park District?

Most respondents used the parks more often than compared to the facilities and trails. When asked how often respondents use the parks, facilities and trails, most of the use in all three categories was “Occasionally”, except for the parks being used the most on a weekly basis. Of the three categories, Parks have the highest overall use at nearly 81% of those surveyed, with facilities being second and trails third.

Q15. How often do you or members of your household use the parks, facilities and trails provided by the Springfield Park District?



Respondents were asked to indicate all the parks they have visited in a 12-month period. There is little surprise regarding the most used parks including “Washington” (69%), “Southwind” (50%), “Lincoln” (43%). Not only are these some of the largest parks offered by the Springfield Park District, but they also contain many park amenities. The top three facilities visited were Washington Park Botanical Garden, Henson Robinson Zoo. Thomas Rees Memorial Carillion and Erin’s Pavilion.

The most prevalent factors that prevented respondents from using the parks, facilities and trails included a lack of restrooms (17%), Did not feel safe (16%) and Distance from home (14%).

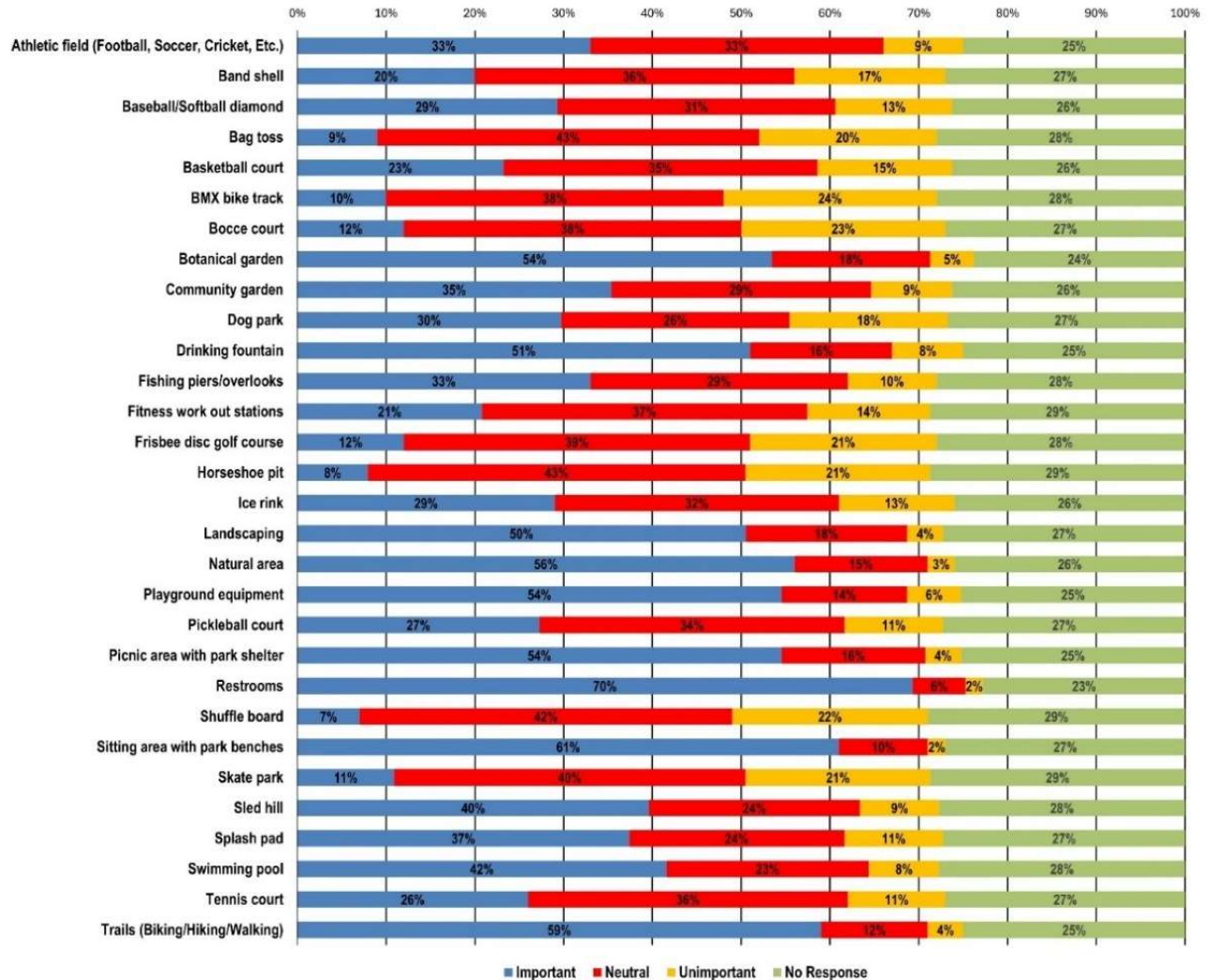


Park Amenities

Q22. Please select from the current offerings at the Springfield Park District, the following park amenities that are important for you and your household. Please select neutral if you and your household have no opinion of that item.

The top choices included restrooms, sitting areas with benches, trails, natural areas, a picnic area with park shelter and playground equipment.

Q22. Please select, from the current offerings at the Springfield Park District, the following park amenities that are important for you and your household. Please select neutral if you and your household have no opinion of that item.



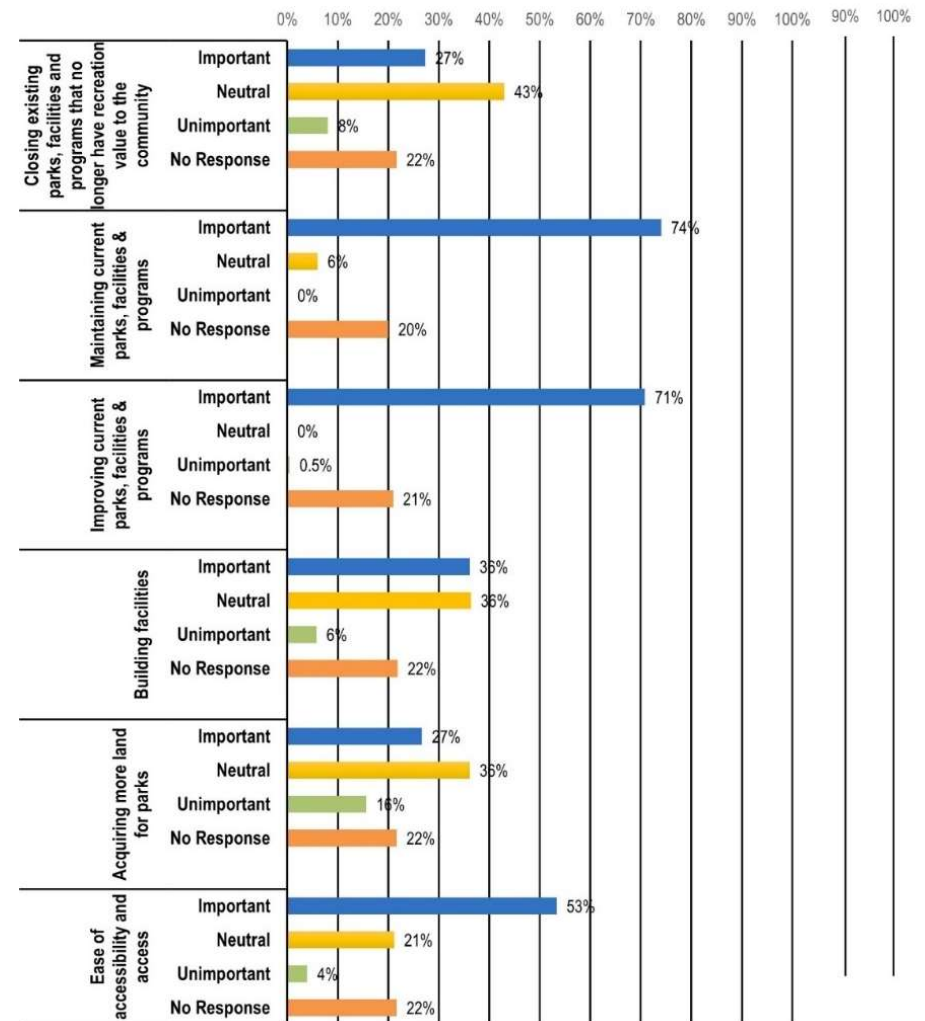


Park District Priorities

Q25. Please rate each of the following Springfield Park District priorities which would be important to you and your household.

The responses placed an importance on maintaining (74%) and improving (71%) current parks, facilities and programs.

Q25. Please rate each of the following Springfield Park District priorities which would be important to you and your household. Please select neutral if you and your household have no opinion of that item.





Summary of Public Input

Public Hearing

A public hearing was held on October 16, 2024, to allow the community to provide comments on the future of the Park District. During the time it was active there were 108 views leading to 26 different interactions with the information posted. The following is a summary of the information collected.

What do you like about the Park District?

The number of parks which are clean and feature a diverse number of amenities. They have walking paths, free water play areas, swimming opportunities, pickleball courts, ice skating and nature areas.

What should the Park District focus on in the Future?

There were several themes that included keeping recreational activities free or cheap and plenty of places to enjoy nature. The website needs to be improved. Lastly, continued facility maintenance and improvements with a focus on fair distribution of services throughout the community.

Staff Input

The Public Research Group created an on-line organizational culture & workplace environment digital platform for all full-time employees of the Park District. The purpose was to lend a voice to the important issues pertaining to the staff of the Park District. Out of 125 total views, 27 participants completed the survey. All of the data collected was analyzed. Most of the responses illustrated that the Park District is a good place to work and feel the need to be engaged and motivated for the future. Most also feel a sense of value at the job. There were areas of concern mainly centering on improving workplace culture, remote/hybrid work opportunities, pay, communication and moving towards a more modern work environment seeking flexibility and job freedom.



Board Retreat

The Springfield Park District Board of Trustees held a board retreat in the summer of 2024. The retreat was facilitated by Tod J. Stanton of Design Perspectives & The Public Research Group with assistance from Derek Harms, Executive Director. A total of six Park Board members participated in the retreat with one Park Board member completing the retreat materials remotely. A series of activities were conducted and completed that morning that included the following:

Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)

The retreat participants were broken into two groups, each with three members, to conduct this evaluation in preparation of defining the Park District's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) activity. A series of Important Pieces (IP) were identified and then a focused identification of the Very Important Piece (VIP) for each of the four SWOT areas which would also be considered the most important piece of the four areas.

The following table is a summary of the Very Important Piece from the analysis. The general notion of seeking alternative forms of revenue, communication with the community and capital improvements to older, aging parks and facilities were of a particular focus.

| SWOT Analysis | Strength | Weakness | Opportunity | Threat |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Very Important | The Park District staff are the most important assets in service to the community. | The lack of financial resources and low tax rate impact the Park District upkeep and modernization of parks and facilities. | Develop communication strategies to increase public knowledge base and participation from the community. | Outdated facilities that may impact the operations of the Park District. |



Summary of Analysis & Outcomes

Through a combination of session data and survey insights gathered during the master planning process, key themes and common threads were identified. These themes generated throughout the visioning and input sessions come together to define the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in administration, recreation and parks & facilities. This analysis will provide strategic direction and implementation in the master plan.

| | Strengths | Weakness | Opportunity | Threats |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Administration | Staff committed to serving the community | Modernizing workplace policies & procedures | Improving Website | Lack of new communication & marketing efforts to increase public knowledge base and participation from the community |
| Recreation | Offering unique programming beyond typical basic types of recreation | Lack of programs for all age groups | Creating new programs and events | New competition |
| Parks & Facilities | Parks are clean and maintained | Outdated parks & facilities that require on-going capital investment that impact the operations of the Park District | Expand grant & community partnerships opportunities to assist in park and facility improvements | Lack of financial resources and low tax rate impact the Park District upkeep and modernization of parks and facilities |





Chapter 3: Environment

Administration & Operations

The operational system of any organization sets the direction of how well that organization will function. The goal of any agency that is striving for excellence is a continual effort to improve. The fundamental core operational resource areas for the Park District are its administrative and financial system. These two areas will receive attention in this chapter, seeking positive improvement to Park District operations.

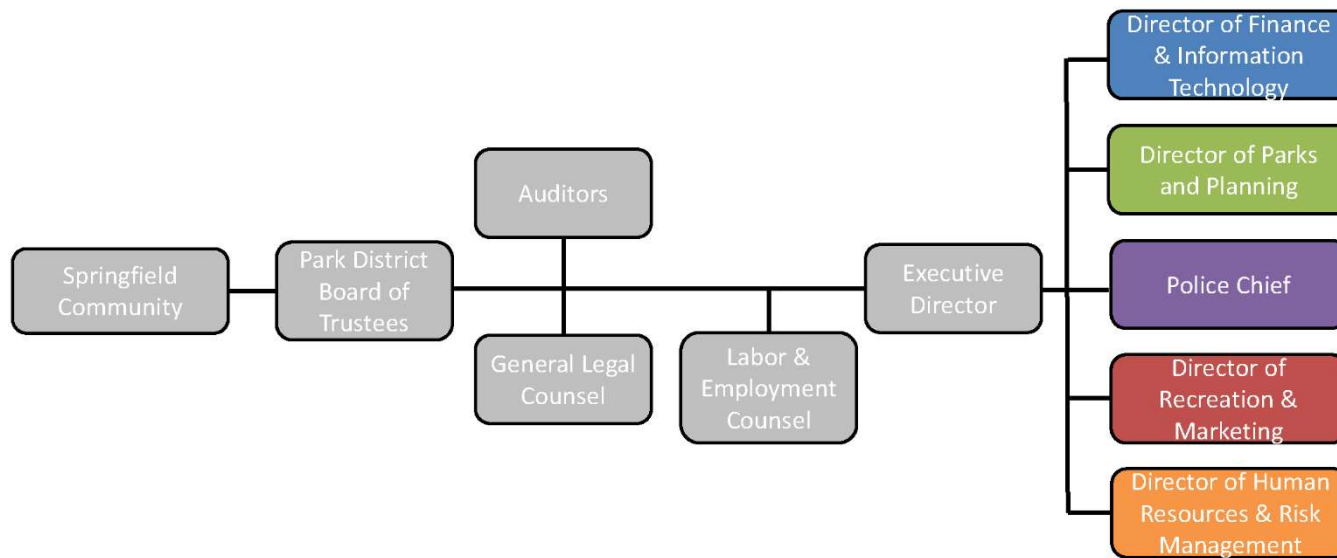




Administrative System & Organizational Culture

The core of the Park District operations is comprised of two critically important interrelated entities, which are the Park Trustees and the senior leadership team. The elected officials provide the overall governance of the Park District which includes setting policies and managing the financial position. The senior leadership team is responsible for the day-to-day operations which include implementing District policies under the leadership of the Executive Director. The operations of any Park District functioning at a high level are a direct result of clear communication between the two entities with the Park Trustees focusing on the right things from a policy standpoint and the effectiveness of the senior leadership team in implementing that direction.

The organization chart for the Park District shows how the administrative system functions and provides a clear view of the span of control for the Executive Director.



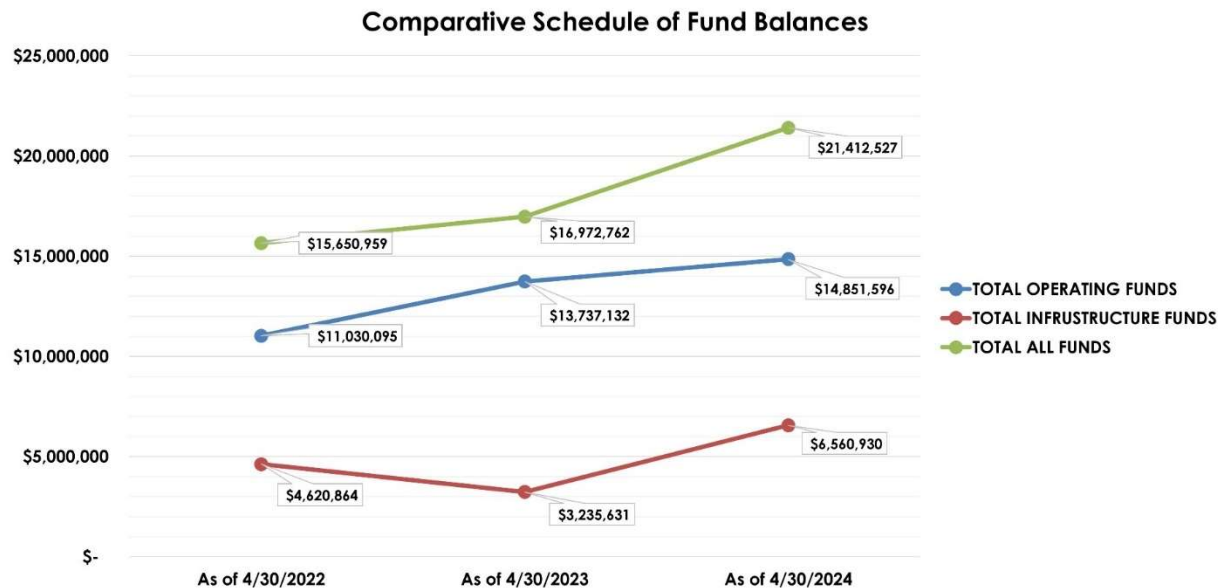
The organization is a multi-culture of both control and collaborative in nature which values standards & defined structure while valuing unity and teamwork.



Financial System

The Springfield Park District's financial system is under the direct supervision of the Director of Finance and is an essential part of the Park District's operation. The financial system fully interacts with all the other Park District systems and Department responsibilities.

The financial health of any agency plays an important role in what the agency can accomplish in providing the type of recreational experience the community expects it to deliver. The cost of maintaining such a large and diverse District is only made more challenging by the lack of additional revenue sources while operating costs continue to increase each year. The fund balances continue to show growth at a modest pace, which reflects a more concerted effort to effectively manage the current financial house in which the Park District lives. The Park District has placed a high level of importance in terms of compliance with the fund balance policy. This provides a direction for financial stability, cash flow operations, the ability to respond to emergencies, maintain and improve credit ratings etc. The Park District has experienced significant growth in a positive direction in the overall financial position of the agency in recent years.





Recreation Programs

In the summer of 2024, a recreation program analysis was completed of the existing offerings for the Springfield Park District. This analysis attempts to highlight the level of success of the program portfolio. The analysis is based on program registration data from the years 2021, 2022 and 2023.

A series of specialty recreation programs focusing on Tennis and Golf offerings was also evaluated as they play an important role in niche programming with a significant facility footprint within the Park District system.

LifeCycle Analysis

A metric has been established to gauge the success of the individual program offerings by the Springfield Park District. By looking at the individual program registrations versus the number of open spaces available for each program, a success level, or "heat index", was established. Programs with a high percentage of spots filled were classified as "hot", programs that were slightly less successful, but still received a reasonable number of registrations were classified as "medium", and programs that had very few registrations were classified as "cold".



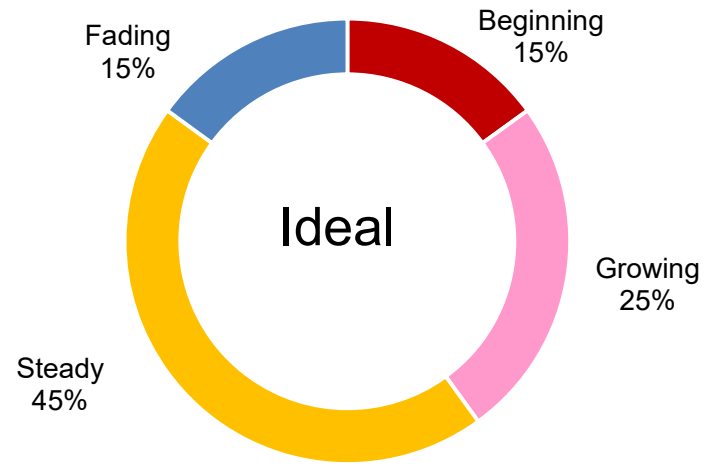


The milestones illustrated in this analysis are defined by four categories:

- Beginning: Require cultivating efforts to advance and grow.
- Growing: Possess momentum and demand from the community.
- Steady: Perform consistently and include core programs.
- Fading: Need attention to either be re-invented or removed.

Every Park District has a different matrix of lifespan expectations for a successful mix of programs, but an ideal distribution for a healthy portfolio include:

- Beginning: 15%
- Growing: 25%
- Steady: 45%
- Fading: 15%



Programs were arranged into one of the four milestones based on the length of time the program has been offered compared to the relative success of the program. Enrollment information, as well as program duration, was provided by the Springfield Park District for each program. The graphs presented on the following pages illustrate the life cycle of programs that have been broken down for the program years of 2021, 2022 and 2023. They were then analyzed for each category based on the "ideal" matrix of life cycle stages. The volume of traditional recreation programs that a large recreation agency would typically offer is not common with the Springfield Park District. However, the Park District has a strong and successful presence in niche recreation that includes ice sports, aquatics, zoo/animal centric, tennis, golf, summer camps, special events, early childhood and after school programs and activities.



The Recreation Programming Lifecycle analysis highlights shifting trends in the Springfield Park District's program performance from 2021 through 2023. While general recreation programming continues to show a percentage of offerings in the fading stage, there are signs of renewed growth emerging in 2023 following a transitional period in 2022 marked by an influx of new programs. In contrast, Tennis and Golf programs experienced a strong resurgence beginning in 2022, maintaining a healthy balance of growing and steady activities through 2023. Overall, the findings suggest a need to focus on program renewal and strategic development to achieve a more balanced distribution across lifecycle stages and better align with the ideal program mix.



Parks & Facility Inventory

The parks & facility inventory and level of service analysis are key components of the Park District's service to the community. These critical areas must be assessed to provide an accurate understanding of the Comprehensive Master Plan's purpose. After determining the inventory, a Level of Service (LOS) analysis is created for a basic understanding of which park elements are being provided to the community. Further analysis illustrates where these elements provide services and whether there are any areas either needing additional services or that have redundancy of any service. The Type, Condition & Quantity (TCQ) scoring system was developed by Design Perspectives to analyze the overall condition of each park in the entire system. These tools aid in determining which parks may require higher attention to providing elevated services and opportunities to the community.

Before each park is given an overall TCQ score each individual park element is classified into the following categories:

Type:

- Basic - Small Elements essential to most parks.
- Standard - Elements found in many parks.
- Advanced - Elements unique to certain parks.

Condition:

- Poor - May be unusable/needs replaced.
- Fair - Not well maintained but still usable.
- Good - Well maintained and very usable.
- Excellent - Top condition/just like new.

The intended use of those park amenities is then grouped and scored into one of three categories:

Use:

- General – Amenity that is standard and typical to most parks.
- Active – Amenity that allows for physical activity in most parks.
- Passive - Amenity that allows for relaxation activity in most parks.



Parks TCQ Scores

The following table illustrates all the total TCQ scores for each park based on rating of “poor” to “excellent”. The total TCQ score is calculated based on the park or facility classification, with each classification having a different point system to define a rating of “poor” to “excellent”.

| Park or Facility | Classification | General Score | | Active Score | | Passive Score | | Total TCQ Score | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Bergen Golf Course | OS | 9.0 | Excellent | 6.5 | Excellent | 12.5 | Excellent | 28.0 | Excellent |
| Bergen Park | NP | 16.0 | Excellent | 4.0 | Poor | 6.5 | Fair | 27.0 | Fair |
| Bunn Golf Course | OS | 1.0 | Poor | 4.5 | Good | 16.5 | Excellent | 22.0 | Excellent |
| Bunn Park | NP | 13.5 | Good | 3.0 | Poor | 2.5 | Poor | 19.0 | Fair |
| Carpenter Park | OS/NP | 8.5 | Excellent | 0.0 | Poor | 6.5 | Excellent | 15.0 | Excellent |
| Centennial Park | CP | 24.0 | Good | 39.0 | Excellent | 18.0 | Good | 81.0 | Excellent |
| Chamberlain Park | NP | 0.5 | Poor | 1.0 | Poor | 1.0 | Poor | 2.5 | Poor |
| Comer Cox Park | NP | 23.0 | Excellent | 21.0 | Excellent | 8.0 | Fair | 52.0 | Excellent |
| Duncan Park | CP | 32.5 | Excellent | 18.0 | Fair | 19.0 | Good | 69.5 | Good |
| Dreamland Park | NP | 19.0 | Excellent | 2.0 | Poor | 14.0 | Good | 35.0 | Good |
| Eisenhower Park | NP | 13.5 | Good | 10.0 | Fair | 5.0 | Fair | 28.5 | Fair |
| Enos Park | NP | 25.5 | Excellent | 4.0 | Poor | 23.5 | Excellent | 53.0 | Excellent |
| Fairview Park | NP | 18.5 | Excellent | 8.5 | Fair | 3.0 | Poor | 30.0 | Good |
| Gehrmann Park | NP | 15.0 | Excellent | 4.0 | Poor | 10.0 | Good | 29.0 | Fair |
| Gietl Park | NP | 18.0 | Excellent | 9.0 | Fair | 7.0 | Fair | 34.5 | Good |
| Gurgens Park | OS/NP | 0.0 | Poor | 0.0 | Poor | 5.0 | Good | 5.0 | Fair |
| Henson Robinson Zoo | SU | 27.0 | Excellent | 3.0 | Poor | 38.0 | Excellent | 68.0 | Excellent |
| Hobbs Park | NP | 12.0 | Good | 6.0 | Fair | 1.0 | Poor | 19.0 | Fair |
| Iles Park | CP | 24.5 | Excellent | 21.5 | Excellent | 12.5 | Good | 58.5 | Excellent |
| Indian Hills Park | NP | 13.0 | Good | 7.0 | Fair | 6.0 | Fair | 26.0 | Fair |



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| Park or Facility | Classification | General Score | | Active Score | | Passive Score | | Total TCQ Score | |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Jaycee Park | NP | 16.0 | Excellent | 9.0 | Fair | 9.0 | Fair | 34.0 | Good |
| Jefferson Park | NP | 8.0 | Fair | 5.0 | Poor | 8.5 | Fair | 21.5 | Fair |
| Kennedy Park | NP | 18.0 | Excellent | 13.0 | Good | 2.0 | Poor | 33.0 | Good |
| Kiwanis Park | NP | 35.0 | Excellent | 11.5 | Fair | 12.5 | Good | 59.0 | Excellent |
| Lake Victoria Park | NP | 9.5 | Good | 3.0 | Poor | 12.0 | Good | 24.5 | Fair |
| Lanphier Park | NP | 6.0 | Fair | 6.0 | Fair | 4.0 | Poor | 16.0 | Fair |
| Lawless Park | NP | 13.5 | Good | 3.0 | Poor | 1.0 | Poor | 17.5 | Fair |
| Lincoln Park | CP | 25.5 | Excellent | 26.0 | Good | 36.0 | Excellent | 87.5 | Excellent |
| Lincoln Greens Golf Course | OS | 16.0 | Excellent | 4.5 | Good | 25.5 | Excellent | 46.0 | Excellent |
| Lindbergh Park | NP | 9.5 | Good | 17.0 | Good | 4.0 | Poor | 30.5 | Good |
| Pasfield Golf Course | OS | 16.0 | Excellent | 10.5 | Excellent | 14.0 | Excellent | 40.5 | Excellent |
| Patrick J. Cadigan Park | NP | 8.0 | Fair | 2.0 | Poor | 5.0 | Fair | 15.0 | Fair |
| Paul A. Barker Park | NP | 22.5 | Excellent | 6.0 | Fair | 11.0 | Good | 39.5 | Good |
| Riverside Park | CP | 20.5 | Good | 13.5 | Fair | 26.0 | Excellent | 60.0 | Good |
| Rotary Park | NP | 26.0 | Excellent | 22.5 | Good | 10.0 | Fair | 58.5 | Good |
| Schlitt Park | NP | 18.5 | Excellent | 11.5 | Fair | 3.5 | Poor | 33.5 | Good |
| Southwind Park | CP | 37.5 | Excellent | 16.0 | Fair | 47.0 | Excellent | 100.5 | Excellent |
| Stuart Park | CP | 21.5 | Good | 5.0 | Poor | 12.0 | Fair | 38.5 | Fair |
| Timberbrooke Park | NP | 7.5 | Fair | 1.0 | Poor | 4.5 | Poor | 13.0 | Fair |
| Vredenburg Park | NP | 11.0 | Good | 8.0 | Fair | 3.0 | Poor | 22.0 | Fair |
| Washington Park | CP | 36.5 | Excellent | 13.0 | Fair | 42.5 | Excellent | 92.0 | Excellent |
| Westchester Park | NP | 7.5 | Fair | 2.0 | Poor | 7.0 | Fair | 16.5 | Fair |



The summary table below highlights the rating classification for the overall park system. The continuation of capital investment for park improvements across the Park District is evident to improve the scoring over the coming years, particularly within the neighborhood parks.

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Excellent | 33% |
| Good | 26% |
| Fair | 38% |
| Poor | 3% |





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Parks Inventory

| Springfield Park District Park Matrix | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|----------|------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|--------|----|---|---|
| Park Name | Classification | Acres | Aquatics (Pool) | Baseball Field | Basketball Court | Bocce Court | Building | Campground | Community Garden | Dog Park/Run | Education Experience | Fishing | Fitness Station | Football Field | Frisbee Golf Course | Golf Course (9 Holes) | Golf Course (18 Holes) | Horseshoe Pit | Skate Rink | Multi-Purpose Fields | Open Space | Park Shelter | Parking Lot | Pickleball Court | Picnic Area | Playground | Ponds, Basins & Open Water Bodies | Pump Track | Restroom (Portable or Permanent) | Sand Volleyball Court | Skate Park | Sled Hill | Soccer Field | Sorbball Field | Splash Pad | Tennis Court | Trails | | | |
| Bergen Golf Course | SU | 50 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Bergen Park | NP | 12.98 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Bunn Golf Course | SU | 112 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Bunn East Park | NP | 2.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bunn West Park | NP | 2.1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carpenter Park | OS/NP | 424 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Centennial Park | CP | 190 | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | 3 | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | | | 2 | 1 | | |
| Chamberlain Park | NP | 7.1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comer Cox Park | NP | 13 | | 4 | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| Duncan Park | CP | 25 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Dreamland Park | NP | 10 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Eisenhower Park | NP | 21 | 3 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Enos Park | NP | 3.1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Fairview Park | NP | 8.3 | 3 | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gehrmann Park | NP | 2.5 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Giell Park | NP | 15 | 3 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | |
| Gurgens Park | OS/NP | 270 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Henson Robinson Zoo | SU | 12 | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Hobbs Park | NP | 9.6 | 3 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Iles Park | CP | 13 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Indian Hills Park | NP | 8 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| Jaycee Park | NP | 12 | 2 | 0.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Jefferson Park | NP | 21 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Kennedy Park | NP | 29 | 3 | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| Kiwanis Park | NP | 9.9 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 3 | | | 1 | |
| Lake Victoria Park | NP | 7.6 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Lanphier Park | NP | 2.5 | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Lawless Park | NP | 7.2 | 4 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Lincoln Park | CP | 83 | 1 | 4 | | | 4 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 21 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Lincoln Greens Golf Course | SU | 185 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Lindbergh Park | NP | 18 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 |
| Pasfield Golf Course | SU | 42 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Patrick J. Cadigan Park | NP | 3.9 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Paul A. Barker Park | NP | 25 | | 0.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Riverside Campground | SU | 275 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 5 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Rotary Park | NP | 37 | 3 | 0.5 | | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | |
| Schlitt Park | NP | 5 | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southwind Park | CP | 80 | | | | 2 | 3 | | 5 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 10 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | |
| Stuart Park | CP | 29 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Timberbrooke Park | NP | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vredenburg Park | NP | 8.5 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Washington Park | CP | 142 | | | | | 3 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 5 | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 16 | 1 | |
| Westchester Park | NP | 13 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Totals | | 2266.78 | 1 | 39 | 8.5 | 4 | 35 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 1 | 0 | 38 | 44 | 53 | 15 | 30 | 32 | 14 | 2 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 0 | 3 | 25 | 33 | | | |

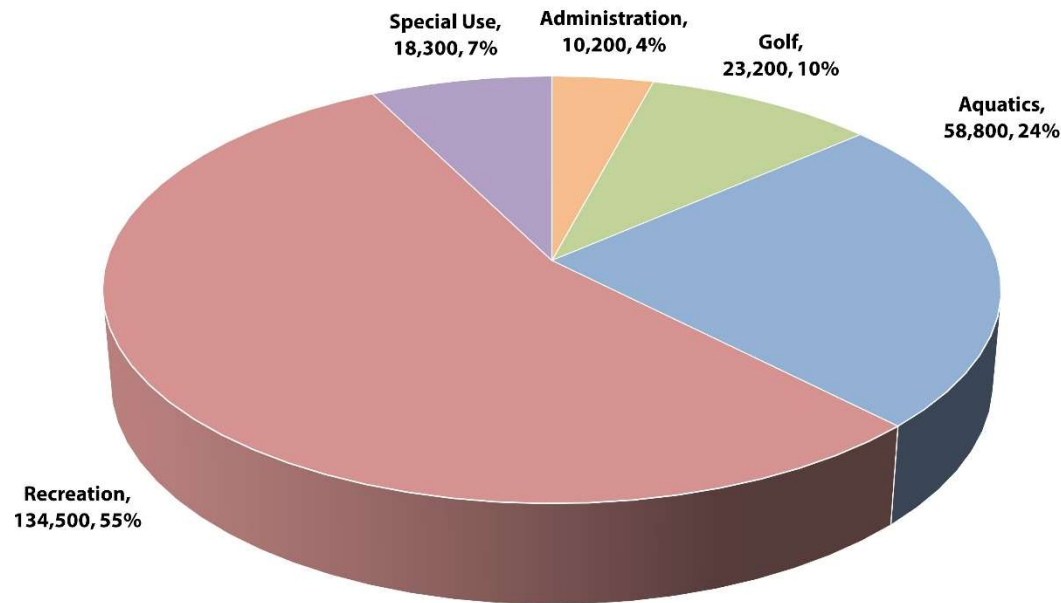
Key
 NP = Mini Park
 NP = Neighborhood Park
 CP = Community Park
 OS = Open Space
 SU = Special Use



Facility Inventory

The Park District has a variety of indoor recreational opportunities with approximately 245,000 square feet of indoor space. This equates to roughly 1.65 square feet per person. The typical square feet per person based on developing research on this topic is around 3 square feet per person in Illinois. The difference in the case of the Springfield Park District is the lack of a community sized multi-use recreation center. The chart below illustrates the overall indoor square footage of the Park District, broken down into types of usage. The indoor facility matrix shown on the following page reflects the current inventory of the Park District's indoor square footage, uses and amenities.

Indoor Facilities by Type (Square Feet)





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| Facilities Overview Matrix | | Total Square Footage | Aquatics/Pool | Art Room | Auditorium | Banquet/Community | Classroom | Concessions | Dance | Fitness Room | Gymnasium | Ice Rink | Indoor Activity Courts | Kitchen | Locker Rooms | Mechanical | Multipurpose | Office | Other | Indoor Play Space | Reception Desk | Restrooms | Stables | Storage | Teen Room | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|---------------|----------|------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|--------------|-----------|----------|------------------------|---------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------|-------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|--|
| Facility | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bunn Golf Course Administrative Office | 5,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Lanphier Park Office Building | 5,200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | X | | | | | X | | | X | |
| Administration Total | 10,200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bergen Golf Course Pro Shop | 5,000 | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Bunn Golf Course Clubhouse | 6,000 | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Lincoln Greens Clubhouse | 8,800 | | | | X | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Pasfield Golf Course Pro Shop | 3,400 | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Golf Total | 23,200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Henson Robinson Zoo | 13,600 | | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon | 1,600 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | X | X | | | X | |
| Washington Park Botanical Gardens | 3,100 | | | | X | X | X | | | | | | | X | | X | X | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Special Use Total | 18,300 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eisenhower Pool | 18,800 | X | | | | | | X | | | | | | X | X | X | | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Nelson Center Outdoor Pool | 40,000 | X | | | | | | X | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | X | | | X | |
| Aquatics Total | 58,800 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chamberlain Ballfield (Closed) | 3,100 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erin's Pavilion | 15,000 | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Lincoln Park Funshop | 5,300 | | | | | X | | | | | | | | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | | X | |
| Lincoln Park Nelson Center | 89,600 | | | | X | | X | | | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Lincoln Park Pavilion | 5,400 | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | X | | X | | X | | | | X | | | X | |
| Robin Roberts Stadium | 4,500 | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | X | X | | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Velasco Tennis Center | 2,600 | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Washington Park Pavilion | 9,000 | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | X | | X | | X | | | X | X | | | X | |
| Recreation Total | 134,500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Facility Inventory Observation

To keep information up-to-date and to always be prepared, it is wise to have all facility information readily available including drawings of major building components. This information would be helpful regarding future maintenance, renovations or expansions. No significant observations have been made but the following were obtained from the Park District:

- **Erin's Pavilion:** The facility opened its doors in May of 2010 as a fully accessible multi-use facility. It is the welcome and visitors center for Southwind Park. Erin's Pavilion is a 15,000 square foot indoor building which facilitates recreational, interpretive and educational programs, services and special events. It has quickly become Springfield's newest premiere rental facility for weddings, banquets, social galas, business meetings and expos. It has been built with environmentally conscious features with sustainability at the forefront and has achieved the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Platinum status.

The Pavilion's 5,000 square foot main hall can be arranged to accommodate up to 300 guests and has all the tables and chairs you would need to host a successful event. It can be sectioned off into four separate meeting rooms, each hosting access to the beautiful terrace with a panoramic lakeside view. As the facility ages, new demand for capital resources will increase.

- **Chamberlain Ballpark:** The Ballpark was opened in the summer of 1977 and the Park District took over the ballpark in 2002 from the City of Springfield. The Ballpark has seen a steady decline in use over recent years and now has an opportunity for re-development. As the nature of youth & adult sports has changed over the years, there is no longer demand for this facility.
- **Lincoln Park Pavilion:** Lincoln Park is home to the historic Lincoln Park Pavilion, a magnificent building that has remained a cornerstone of the park for over a century. Perched upon a hilltop, the Pavilion offers scenic views of beautiful Lincoln Park including the newly renovated Lincoln Park Lagoon. Original woodwork welcomes guests into the Pavilion where large chandeliers and eight-foot windows light the open floor plan of the grand banquet hall. The Pavilion offers community members an ideal setting to host a variety of events and parties such as meetings, banquets, bridal showers, baby showers, dances and much more. The historic facility is 100 plus years old which requires resources to maintain. As the facility ages, on-going remedial work will be required.



- **Robin Roberts Stadium:** The stadium opened in 1925 and is in the southern part of Lanphier Park on the north side of Springfield. The 5,200-seat baseball stadium is served by a 100-vehicle parking lot, an office and maintenance building and a players' club house. This irrigated ball field is the home of one collegiate level baseball program and several well know annual baseball tournaments. Since the Park District took over the stadium from the city in 2002, it has invested millions of dollars to maintain & update the stadium. The Park District will continue to seek outside resources to fund improvements requested by the current tenant.
- **Washington Park Pavilion:** The Washington Park Pavilion was built around 1900 as an elegant cobble stone event lodge complete with a grand ballroom, kitchen and dining room. Originally, there was an oval balcony upstairs that overlooked the ballroom complete with finished wood railings and beautiful wood floors. The two-story pavilion has an open, oversized portico with a scenic view of a duck pond.

It's home to pre-school in the park during the day and serves as a banquet hall/ rental center at night. A drop-ceiling has been installed in the overlook of the balcony to provide florescent lighting for pre-school children and visiting patrons. This is a historic structure that requires financial resources to maintain.

- **Washington Park Carillon:** The Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon is the gift of Senator Thomas Rees, publisher of Illinois State Register from 1881 until his death in 1933. Rees provided a \$200,000 bequest to build the Carillon. While the Rees Carillon is one of the world's largest carillons with 67 bells, more importantly, the quality of the bells coupled with the tower's location in Washington Park distinguishes the Rees Carillon as one of the world's finest instruments. Potential improvements include items in the structural report as well as elevator improvements.
- **Washington Park Botanical Gardens:** The Springfield Park District's Washington Park Botanical Garden is a place for enjoyment and education. It is open year-round and one of Central Illinois' major horticultural attractions with 20 acres of land featuring more than 1,200 species of plants in 10 specific garden areas and the Conservatory. The Conservatory is a 50-ft diameter glass dome containing over 150 species of plants with exotic and economically important plants that are arranged by regions to which they are native. Discover tropical Africa, the jungles of Asia and the rainforests of South America.

The Park District has recently replaced the Conservatory Dome and the cooling walls. Future improvements could include transitioning the rose garden into a three-season floral display.



- **Bunn Administration Center:** The overall efficiency of the space is lacking, which may be the cause of poor layout and storage. The Park District has recently replaced the roof and replaced several windows. Overall, the facility should be updated to provide a more efficient and comfortable work environment.
- **Eisenhower Aquatic Center:** This facility needs locker room and bathroom renovations, with poor accessibility, storage organization and poor thermal comfort for all visitors. The improper heating/cooling of the facility also leads to energy efficiency concerns which may be leading to unnecessary costs.
- **Fun Shop:** This facility has the strongest opportunity to be expanded for potential pre-school relocation and consolidation. This would allow for better social interaction, sharing of resources and central management. With this expansion comes the possibility for instructional space for parents along with larger workshops.
- **Golf Courses:** There is an opportunity for a higher end driving range which would function more as a social space and revenue provider for the Park District. This could also help make more use of the golf course itself by attracting a new or expanded user market. The instructional area within the clubhouses is very limited and obstructs the potential retail opportunities. The back-of-house areas are limited, which could pose challenges for the expansion of revenue generating opportunities.
- **Nelson Center:** There is a poor function of facility layout leading to lack of efficiency for user experience. There is an underutilization of the Franklin Room for events and program opportunities. The Park District installed radiant heat in Rink 2 to address visitor thermal comfort. A large-scale replacement of the refrigeration system and concrete floors for the ice rinks is scheduled for completion in 2025. Future capital projects may include roof replacement.



Standards Development

It is a common practice in the development of a Comprehensive Master Plan to explore the comparison of the agency's existing outdoor recreation area features and the total land acres versus national guidelines and statewide standards. These guidelines and standards have become less relevant over the years and in many older, built-out communities, it is not feasible to obtain. The basis of standards development for obtaining park acreage and/or new and improved outdoor park features is first and foremost developed by data gathering from community surveys, public meetings, special interest groups and other types of constructive public input to provide a reasonable basis for local planning. To address any significant level of service deficiencies or to meet growing future programming needs, the agency could explore the feasibility of acquiring the additional land where applicable.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed guidelines that have not been updated in recent years. The need to understand local conditions and those community preferences are becoming more important to planning studies than arbitrary standards.

The statewide average for community outdoor recreation lands is 11.33 acres per 1,000 population. The Park District currently provides 19 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. **The Master Plan sets the standard at 15 acres per 1,000 residents which exceeds the statewide average putting the Park District in a surplus position.** The Park District can evaluate current land holdings to remove excess or non-essential inventory from its park system. In the short term, without future growth, the Park District does not need to acquire any additional park parcels.



Population of Jurisdiction Agency Comparison

In review of the 2025 NRPA Agency Performance, the Park District falls to the 100,000 to 249,999 population category and the following are the median number of residents per amenity.

| Outdoor Amenities | Springfield Park District Averages | NRPA Population of Jurisdiction Category (100,000 to 249,999) Averages |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Swimming Pools | 1 per 127,693 | 1 per 59,897 |
| Baseball Fields | 1 per 3,274 | 1 per 6,821 |
| Basketball Courts | 1 per 15,022 | 1 per 9,742 |
| Dog Parks | 1 per 42,564 | 1 per 76,509 |
| Football Fields | 1 per 9,823 | 1 per 7,993 |
| Frisbee Golf Courses | 1 per 127,693 | 1 per 113,800 |
| Nine Hole Golf Courses | 1 per 63,846 | 1 per 121,492 |
| Pickleball Courts | 1 per 8,512 | 1 per 19,822 |
| Playgrounds | 1 per 3,990 | 1 per 5,000 |
| Skate Parks | 1 per 63,846 | 1 per 109,934 |
| Soccer Fields | 1 per 9,823 | 1 per 7,993 |
| Eighteen Hole Golf Course | 1 per 63,846 | 1 per 114,877 |
| Spray Grounds | 1 per 42,564 | 1 per 61,418 |
| Tennis Courts | 1 per 5,108 | 1 per 8,587 |
| Volleyball Courts | 1 per 127,693 | 1 per 39,166 |



State Trends

The 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) continues to identify Illinois with a low ranking of per capita supply of outdoor recreational land and facilities as compared to the rest of the nation. Local parks are used as critical, close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities and provide a variety of activities for events, sports, trails systems and play. The importance of providing outdoor recreation opportunities close to homes and neighborhoods will only increase as recreation is taking a more localized form. Priorities identified in the 2021-2025 SCORP include improving health and wellness, access to parks and recreation, natural resources and conservation management and lastly funding and economic development align with the needs of the Springfield Park District.



Level of Service Area Analysis

The Level of Service analysis illustrates the success of the parks system regarding the services the Park District provides to the community. Each service provided by the parks or facility has a different geographic reach. In general, the Park District provides a wide range of services that cover a large area of the community. Most of the park amenities provide enough coverage for the total population, including trending elements like skate parks, splash pads, pickleball courts and dog parks (runs).

The park system does not include any Mini-Parks within its current inventory. The Park District's classifications focus on Neighborhood, Community, and Special Use Parks, ensuring resources are directed toward spaces that provide a wider range of recreational opportunities and community benefit.

The summary table below highlights the rating classification for the overall park system.

| Classification | Springfield Park District Acreage | Springfield Park District 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) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Neighborhood Park | 604.78 | 4.74 | 255.38 | 2.00 | 349.40 |
| Community Park | 837 | 6.55 | 957.67 | 7.50 | (120.67) |
| Open Space/Natural Areas | 424 | 3.32 | 0.0 | 0.00 | 424 |
| Special Use | 401 | 3.14 | 0.0 | 0.00 | 401 |

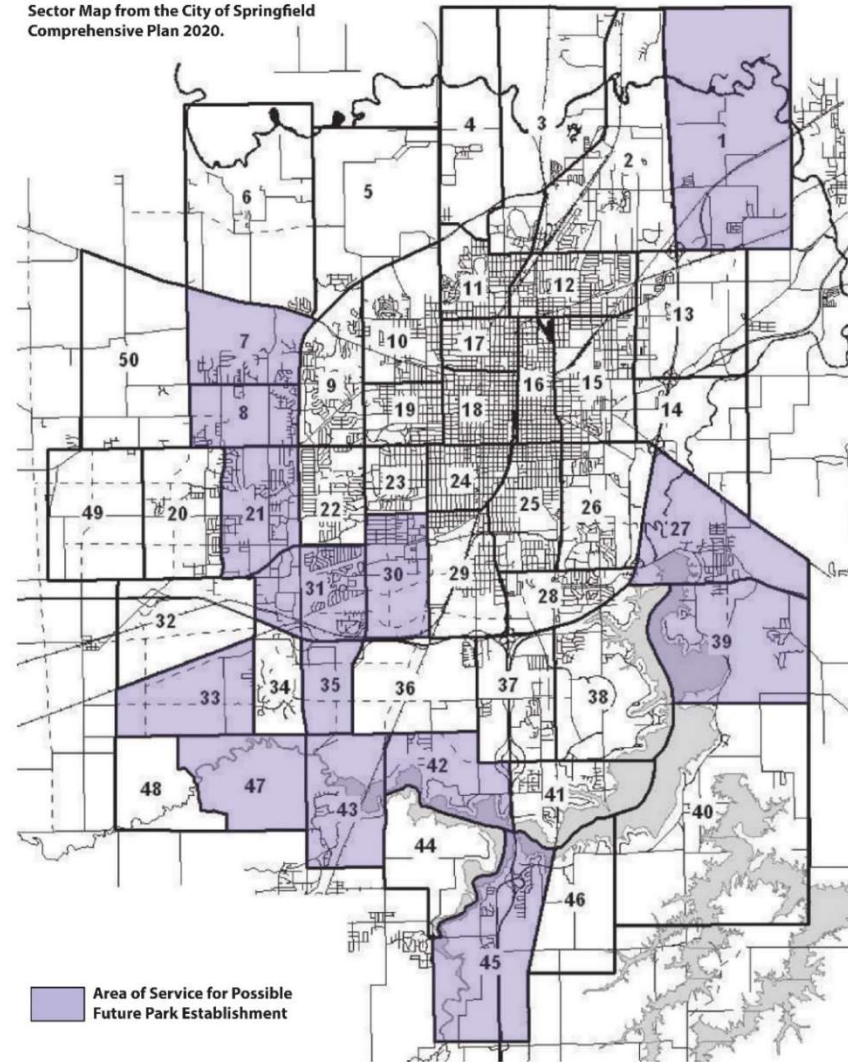
Calculations Based on Population of 127,693



Local Area of Service for Future Parks

The City of Springfield's 2020 plan was reviewed for the need to acquire future park parcels in the sectors of the future land planning initiative for the city. There were several sectors that would need future park space to meet future residential growth. The sectors are identified in the adjacent map.

Sector Map from the City of Springfield
Comprehensive Plan 2020.





Park Planning Quadrants

The Park District boundaries encompass the greater portion of the Springfield metropolitan area including portions of Sherman, Grandview, Leland Grove and Southern View and can be seen on the right, divided into **Four Quadrants**, covering -

- Approximately 60 square miles
- 2,200 acres of parkland
- Hundreds of acres of Open Space & Natural Areas
- 36 Parks
- 23 miles of bike trails
- Over 20+ unique recreation facilities and outdoor amenities

Park Location Maps (Overall, North & South)





Park Amenity Level of Service Table

| Amenities | Park District Average | General NRPA Guideline |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Basketball | 1 Court per 15,022 Res. | 1 Court per 5,000 Res. |
| Baseball/Softball | 1 Field per 3,274 Res. | 1 Field per 3,000 Res. |
| Bocce | 1 Court per 31,923 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Community Garden | 1 Garden Spot per 14,188 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Cricket Pitch | 1 Cricket Pitch per 127,693 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Dog Run | 1 Dog Run per 42,564 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Fishing | 1 Fishing Area per 14,188 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Fitness Station | 1 Fitness Station per 25,538 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Football/Soccer | 1 Field per 7,511 Res. | 1 Field per 20,000 Res. |
| Golf | 1 Golf Course per 31,923 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Outdoor Pool | 1 Outdoor Pool per 127,693 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Park Shelter | 1 Park Shelter per 2,902 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Playground | 1 Playground per 3,990 Res. | 1 Playground per 3,750 Res. |
| Sand Volleyball | 1 Outdoor Sand Volleyball Court per 127,693 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Sled Hills | 1 Sled Hill per 42,564 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Skate Park | 1 Skate Park per 63,846 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Splash Pad | 1 Splash Pad per 42,564 Res. | No NRPA Guideline |
| Tennis | 1 Tennis Court per 5,108 Res. | 1 Tennis Court per 2,000 Res. |





Chapter 4: Envision

The purpose of Master Planning is to define a future vision through a set of realistic goals for the agency to seek improvement. The initial phase of the planning process centered on gathering meaningful information from a variety of sources to both analyze and then interpret. Upon review of all the stakeholder input collected from the public, trusted partners, Trustees and Park District staff, themes began to emerge, many of which are interrelated to each other.





Strategic Atlas

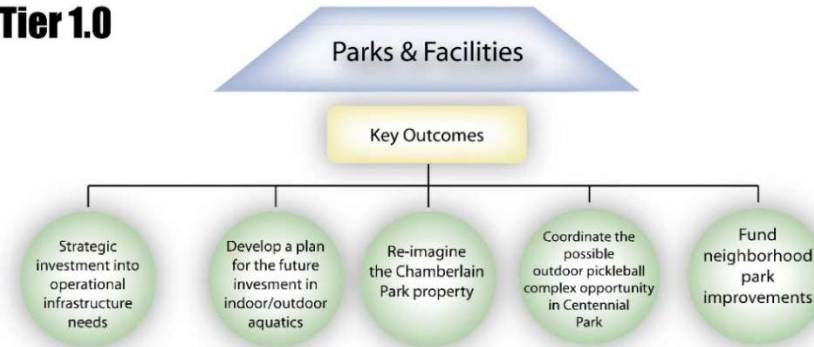
All these sources have been taken into consideration to determine the overall needs for the Park District. The goals and objectives are the cornerstone of this plan that will address those needs. The goals for this planning effort were developed into three core function categories of the Park District that focus on the following:

Administration
Parks & Facilities
Recreation

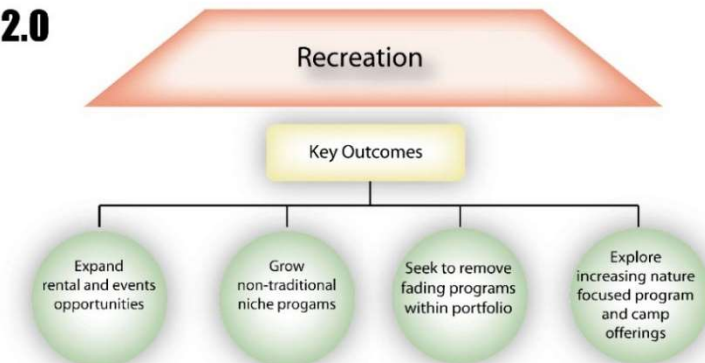
The strategic atlas illustrates the overview of the anticipated major outcomes of the master plan. This is accomplished by assigning a level of importance to these three categories from the plan's goals and objectives, based on their level of importance which are;

(High Priority) Tier 1 – Parks & Facilities
(Mid Priority) Tier 2 - Recreation
(Low Priority) Tier 3 - Administration

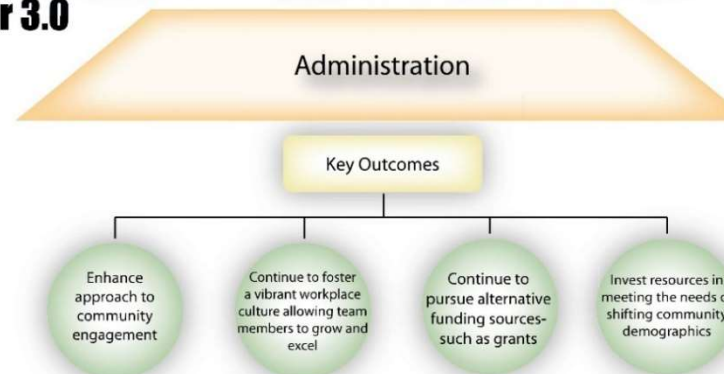
Tier 1.0



Tier 2.0



Tier 3.0





Goals & Objectives Development

The goals of the Park District should be viewed as a series of interrelated activities with respect to programming and finance as each will have a significant and direct effect on each other.

Ultimately, this Master Plan should be viewed as a guide to the future and needs to be evaluated on a regular basis in order to stay relevant. The community as well as the agency environment will change as the plan goes through the implementation process. Updates will be required to address unknown opportunities that will present themselves over the next five years.





Park & Facility Goals & Objectives

The ability to access recreational spaces is important to the overall quality of life of any community. To fulfill this civic need, parks and facilities play a critical role. The costs of developing and maintaining parks and facilities are dramatically increasing. These goals and objectives provide enough direction to get targeted capital investments started within the next five years.

Summary of Park & Facility Topics facing the Park District

The Park District has an abundance of parks and facilities located throughout the community. It is one of the Park District's greatest strengths. The system has a rich history that needs to be valued as it moves forward. This includes strategic investment in capital improvements for legacy related community projects. The Park District should also continue the conversation to define the future of its aquatic facilities. The outcomes from the Park Board of Trustees capital planning exercise showcased projects that had an emphasis on maintaining and upgrading aging parks and facilities with the need to prioritize capital investment. The master planning effort also opened the door for the Park District to continue its community driven planning and design process to make sure everyone gets a voice in significant investments.

Goal 1: Define the future investment in the current District indoor/outdoor aquatics facilities.

Objectives:

- Invest in a straightforward maintenance plan over the next three years that requires a capital funding commitment to improve the basic functions of Park District aquatic facilities.
- Provide modest refreshment of the Park District aquatic facilities years for enhanced user experience.



Goal 2: Envision fresh possibilities for the property currently occupied by Chamberlain Ball Park that thoughtfully enhance recreational experiences.

- Assemble a vision to transform the aged Chamberlain Ball Park into a vibrant community recreation space.
- Engage the local community in an immersive planning process to ensure the park meets their needs and desires and is accessible to people of all ages and abilities.
- Work proactively to vet the vision of the new park space and secure first phase funding to transform the park into a vibrant community hub with diverse recreational offerings.

Goal 3: Coordinate the potential opportunity for the outdoor Pickleball complex in Centennial Park.

- Work proactively with the local Springfield Pickleball Club on the final site planning, design and detailing of a multi-court pickleball complex at Centennial Park.
- Evaluate the financial costs to both design, construct and maintain such a facility with partner commitments.
- As the pickleball complex advances, ensure high quality detailing and construction for longevity and market the complex for a wide variety of local play and large-scale tournaments opportunities.

Goal 4: Review capital allocation for neighborhood park improvements.

- Describe the most pressing capital needs within the neighborhood parks to the community that include prioritization based on the current parks inventory.
- Examine design opportunities to create and expand a strong connection with neighborhoods and their local park space.
- Advance the improvements that seek a blend of active and passive uses servicing diverse age groups.

Goal 5: Invest into the not so visible, behind the scenes infrastructure needs of the Park District.

- Continue to address aging infrastructure in the near term.
- Be proactive in performing regular inspections with preventative maintenance measures that minimize costly repairs and replacements which will reduce costly downtime.
- Invest in well-trained maintenance staff with the skills and equipment needed to effectively maintain Park District infrastructure.



Goal 6: Strategically invest in the Park District's operational equipment needs, including systematic replacement and upgrades.

- Continue to maintain a thorough inventory of existing operational equipment.
- Assess the condition of meaningful equipment, calculate remaining useful life and rank equipment needs based on urgency, safety, impact on park operations, and budget constraints.
- Fund the top-ranking short-term needs and establish a systematic replacement schedule for equipment for future funding priorities.



Recreation Goals & Objectives

The ability to develop programs that are timely and affordable while providing a variety of options is a key challenge for every recreational agency. The development of offerings should allow the Park District to meet the program needs of the community.

Summary of Recreation Topics facing the Park District

The agency takes pride in its distinctive approach to programming, offering an alternative to traditional park and recreation services in Illinois. By emphasizing specialized programs such as golf, ice skating, aquatics, and special recreation, the agency has carved out a unique niche in community engagement. With significant investments in specialized facilities like pickleball courts, tennis courts, golf courses, and ice-skating rinks, the agency is committed to creating meaningful educational opportunities that help the community make the most of these valuable resources. Nonetheless, the agency sees great value in carefully collecting and analyzing program data to refine and enhance its offerings.

Goal 1: Explore the removal of the fading recreation programs within the portfolio.

- The elimination of fading programs can create space for new, innovative offerings that better meet the evolving needs and interests of the community.
- Eliminating long-standing programs, even those with declining participation, can generate negative feedback from some community members who have fond memories or relied on those programs.
- Consider phasing out those fading programs gradually to minimize disruption and allow for adjustments.

Goal 2: Build non-traditional niche recreation programs and events.

- Identify ideal participants for niche program growth and tailor programs to their interests and needs.
- Find qualified and passionate instructors who can deliver high-quality instruction.
- Effectively promote your programs through social media, local partnerships, and of course community outreach.



Goal 3: Expand rental and event opportunities across the Park District.

- Identify and recognize underutilized spaces for rentals and events.
- Collaborate with local organizations to offer unique programs and events within rental spaces.
- Evaluate current rental policies and fees and adjust as needed.

Goal 4: Increase nature-based programs and camps.

- Market the unique benefits of nature-oriented activities such as improved physical health, enhanced mental well-being and an increased appreciation for the environment.
- Allocate more resources to support the development and expansion of nature-based programs and camps.
- Develop programs focused on families in partnerships with local stakeholders that surround the Springfield area that allow families to become more environmentally conscious in a fun setting.

Goal 5: Re-connect program classes with shifting industry trends.

- Regularly review peer and industry publications and attend or participate in industry events to gain insights into emerging trends.
- Evaluate existing program curricula to identify gaps with current industry trends for possible realignment depending on community input.
- Determine which trends can be incorporated into classes with small changes allowing for flexible program enhancements that can easily be adjusted or modified.



Administrative Goals & Objectives

Administrative goals always provide a strong foundation for any organization. The operation of the Park District is broken down into two primary functions. The Executive Director provides day-to-day operational oversight while the elected officials are responsible for policy matters facing the Park District. The community should notice an organizational culture seeking improvements ranging from operations to targeted capital spending in the coming years.

Summary of Administrative Topics facing the Park District

The Park District has made noteworthy progress in recent years, particularly in enhancing workplace dynamics and financial strategies. By continuing to build on its current marketing and community engagement efforts, the organization has seen encouraging results in public visibility and community connection. There may be opportunities to further refine the organizational structure to optimize communication and operational effectiveness, ensuring the district remains responsive and efficient.

Goal 1: Enhance community engagement.

- Leverage technology by utilizing online platforms and social media to connect with residents, share information, and facilitate meaningful discussions.

Goal 2: Actively cultivate open dialogue with staff, board members, and community partners to celebrate progress and shape the future of our Master Plan initiatives together.

- Continue to foster organizational transparency by proactively sharing relevant information and demonstrating consistent, open communication.
- Establish clear communication channels among user groups.



Goal 3: Foster a vibrant workplace culture that celebrates innovation, embraces diversity, and empowers all team members to excel.

- Create continuing education opportunities and staff only special events for bonding and camaraderie.
- Continue to modernize business procedures and processes.

Goal 4: Evaluate potential investments to meet the needs of shifting community demographics.

- Based on the identified demographic shifts, partially in population decline as well as age-related changes, organize an internal taskforce to conduct an honest assessment of operations, amenities and programs to determine social and recreational needs.
- Explore a range of potential investment options that make sense.
- Evaluate the potential impact of each investment on the community, considering how it will address the identified needs and improve the quality of life for residents.

Goal 5: Continue to pursue alternate fundings sources like grants, sponsorships, partnerships and donations.

- Identify and apply for grants that can assist in park and facility improvements.
- Potential projects should be internally vetted and prioritized with community input opportunities.
- Seek out other revenue sources that include sponsorships and/or partnerships that match Park District planning initiatives.



Chapter 5: Implementation

Plan Implementation

There are goals and objectives that have longer commitments to implement and others that do not. Depending on the timing of when the Comprehensive Master Plan is adopted, there are also grant opportunities available that may take priority over the implementation of other goals and objectives.

This section of the Comprehensive Master Plan presents the goals and objectives and their milestones in the order in which they need to be accomplished over the next 5 years. While the Park Board and staff always have flexibility in achieving them some of the dates are important in the order in which they are presented.

Overall, most of the goals and objectives should begin to be implemented during the 2026 calendar year, but it is the hope and desire of the plan that the goals and objectives be reviewed at least on an annual basis and any of them not implemented be re-evaluated for their appropriateness. The capital improvement plan has a straightforward scenario that will be implemented based on the current fund balances.

Any type of planning that wishes to be successful must have good background information as the foundation to build solid goals and objectives. The overall success of the plan truly lies with the agency's desire to execute it. The previous chapter outlined specific strategic goals and objectives that can continue to make progress in creating recognition of the Park District within the community in the coming years. It will allow the agency the opportunity to plan for capital needs, but just as critical, elevating the workplace and operating environment and creating additional opportunities to expand programs and events in the community.

This chapter is organized into a simple to follow action plan and timeframes that should be implemented to achieve the goals and objectives as stated in this plan. It is the culmination of all the research, meetings, responses and discussions that have transpired during the planning process. The overarching end goal of this plan is to set a direction that can be implemented allowing for a positive impact to the overall environment surrounding the Springfield Park District. The action plan in the following pages illustrates the necessary objectives in strategic steps to achieve the goals. The table illustrates the timeline to accomplish the goals of this plan during the planning horizon. The goals and objectives are laid out by tier to mimic the importance highlighted by the strategic atlas.



Action Plan

Park & Facility Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Define the future investment in the current District indoor/outdoor aquatic facilities.

Initial Action

Invest in a straightforward maintenance plan over the next three years.

Next Step

Capital funding to improve the basic functions of Park District aquatic facilities.

Completion Target

Provide modest refreshment of the Park District aquatic facilities years for enhanced user experience.

Goal 2: Envision fresh possibilities for the property currently occupied by Chamberlain Ball Park that thoughtfully enhance recreational experiences.

Initial Action

Assemble a vision to transform the aged Chamberlain Ball Park into a vibrant community recreation space.

Next Step

Engage the local community in an immersive planning process to ensure the park meets their needs and desires and is accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

Completion Target

Work proactively to vet the vision of the new park space and secure first phase funding to transform the park into a vibrant community hub with diverse recreational offerings.



Goal 3: Coordinate the potential opportunity for the outdoor Pickleball complex in Centennial Park.

Initial Action

Work proactively with the local Springfield Pickleball Club on the final site planning, design and detailing of a multi-court pickleball complex at Centennial Park.

Next Step

Evaluate the financial costs to both design, construct and maintain such a facility with partner commitments.

Completion Target

As the pickleball complex advances, ensure high quality detailing and construction for longevity and market the complex for a wide variety of local play and large-scale tournaments opportunities.

Goal 4: Review capital allocation for neighborhood park improvements.

Initial Action

Describe the most pressing capital needs within the neighborhood parks to the community that include prioritization based on the current parks inventory.

Next Step

Examine design opportunities to create and expand a strong connection with neighborhoods and their local park space.

Completion Target

Advance the improvements that seek a blend of active and passive uses servicing diverse age groups.

Goal 5: Invest into the not so visible, behind the scenes infrastructure needs of the Park District.

Initial Action

Continue to address aging infrastructure in the near term.

Next Step

Be proactive in performing regular inspections with preventative maintenance measures that minimize costly repairs and replacements which will reduce costly downtime.

Completion Target

Invest in well-trained maintenance staff with the skills and equipment needed to effectively maintain Park District infrastructure.



Goal 6: Strategically invest in the Park District's operational equipment needs, including systematic replacement and upgrades.

Initial Action

Continue to maintain a thorough inventory of existing operational equipment.

Next Step

Assess the condition of meaningful equipment, calculate remaining useful life and rank equipment needs based on urgency, safety, impact on park operations, and budget constraints.

Completion Target

Fund the top-ranking short-term needs and establish a systematic replacement schedule for equipment for future funding priorities.

Recreation Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Explore the removal of the fading recreation programs within the portfolio.

Initial Action

The elimination of fading programs can create space for new, innovative offerings that better meet the evolving needs and interests of the community.

Next Step

Eliminating long-standing programs, even those with declining participation, can generate negative feedback from some community members who have fond memories or relied on those programs.

Completion Target

Consider phasing out those fading programs gradually to minimize disruption and allow for adjustments.

Goal 2: Build non-traditional niche recreation programs and events.

Initial Action

Identify ideal participants for niche program growth and tailor programs to their interests and needs.

Next Step

Find qualified and passionate instructors who can deliver high-quality instruction.

Completion Target

Effectively promote your programs through social media, local partnerships, and of course community outreach.



Goal 3: Expand rental and event opportunities across the Park District.

Initial Action

Identify and recognize underutilized spaces for rentals and events.

Next Step

Collaborate with local organizations to offer unique programs and events within rental spaces.

Completion Target

Evaluate current rental policies and fees and adjust as needed.

Goal 4: Increase nature-based programs and camps.

Initial Action

Market the unique benefits of nature-oriented activities such as improved physical health, enhanced mental well-being and an increased appreciation for the environment.

Next Step

Allocate more resources to support the development and expansion of nature-based programs and camps.

Completion Target

Develop programs focused on families in partnerships with local stakeholders that surround the Springfield area that allow families to become more environmentally conscious in a fun setting.

Goal 5: Re-connect program classes with shifting industry trends.

Initial Action

Regularly review peer and industry publications and attend or participate in industry events to gain insights into emerging trends.

Next Step

Evaluate existing program curricula to identify gaps with current industry trends for possible realignment depending on community input .

Completion Target

Determine which trends can be incorporated into classes with small changes allowing for flexible program enhancements that can easily be adjusted or modified.



Administrative Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Enhance community engagement.

Initial Action

Explore utilizing community mapping tools that create a visual representation of the community input process.

Next Step

Leverage technology by utilizing online platforms and social media to connect with residents, share information, and facilitate meaningful discussions.

Completion Target

N/A

Goal 2: Actively cultivate open dialogue with staff, board members, and community partners to celebrate progress and shape the future of our Master Plan initiatives together.

Initial Action

Create a culture of trust by being transparent and sharing information openly.

Next Step

Establish clear communication channels among user groups.

Completion Target

N/A

Goal 3: Foster a vibrant workplace culture that celebrates innovation, embraces diversity, and empowers all team members to excel.

Initial Action

Create continuing education opportunities and staff only special events for bonding and camaraderie.

Next Step

Modernize business procedures and processes.

Completion Target

N/A



Goal 4: Evaluate potential investments to meet the needs of shifting community demographics.

Initial Action

Based on the identified demographic shifts, partially in population decline as well as age-related changes, organize an internal taskforce to conduct an honest assessment of operations, amenities and programs to determine social and recreational needs.

Next Step

Explore a range of potential investment options that make sense.

Completion Target

Evaluate the potential impact of each investment on the community, considering how it will address the identified needs and improve the quality of life for residents.

Goal 5: Continue to pursue alternate fundings sources like grants, sponsorships, partnerships and donations.

Initial Action

Identify and apply for grants that can assist in park and facility improvements.

Next Step

Potential projects should be internally vetted and prioritized with community input opportunities.

Completion Target

Seek out other revenue sources that include sponsorships and/or partnerships that match Park District planning initiatives.



Timeline

| Goal | Tier | Objective | Type | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031+ |
|--|------|---|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Define the future investment in the current District indoor/outdoor aquatics facilities. | High | Invest in a straightforward maintenance plan over the next three years that requires a capital funding commitment to improve the basic functions of Park District aquatic facilities. | Parks & Facilities | | X | X | X | | |
| | | Provide modest refreshment of the Park District aquatic facilities beyond maintenance over the next five plus years for enhanced user experience. | Parks & Facilities | | | X | X | X | X |
| Envision fresh possibilities for the property currently occupied by Chamberlain Ball Park that thoughtfully enhance recreational experiences. | High | Assemble a vision to transform the aged Chamberlain Ball Park into a vibrant community recreation space. | Parks & Facilities | X | X | | | | |
| | | Engage the local community in an immersive planning process to ensure the park meets their needs and desires and is accessible to people of all ages and abilities. | Parks & Facilities | X | X | | | | |
| | | Work proactively to vet the vision of the new park space and secure first phase funding to transform the park into a vibrant community hub with diverse recreational offerings. | Parks & Facilities | | X | X | | | |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Goal | Tier | Objective | Type | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031+ |
|--|------|---|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Coordinate the potential opportunity for the outdoor Pickleball complex in Centennial Park. | High | Work proactively with the local Springfield Pickleball Club on the final site planning, design and detailing of a multi-court pickleball complex at Centennial Park. | Parks & Facilities | | X | | | | |
| | | Evaluate the financial costs to both design, construct and maintain such a facility with partner commitments. | Parks & Facilities | | X | X | | | |
| | | As the pickleball complex advances, ensure high quality detailing and construction for longevity and market the complex for a wide variety of local play and large-scale tournaments opportunities. | Parks & Facilities | | | | | X | |
| Review capital allocation for neighborhood park improvements. | High | Describe the most pressing capital needs within the neighborhood parks to the community that include prioritization based on the current parks inventory. | Parks & Facilities | X | | X | | X | |
| | | Examine design opportunities to create and expand a strong connection with neighborhoods and their local park space | Parks & Facilities | X | | X | | X | |
| | | Advance the improvements that seek a blend of active and passive uses servicing diverse age groups. | Parks & Facilities | X | X | X | X | X | X |



| Goal | Tier | Objective | Type | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031+ |
|---|------|---|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Invest into the not so visible, behind the scenes infrastructure needs of the Park District. | High | Continue to address aging infrastructure in the near term. | Parks & Facilities | X | X | | | | |
| | | Be proactive in performing regular inspections with preventative maintenance measures that minimize costly repairs and replacements which will reduce costly downtime. | Parks & Facilities | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | | Parks & Facilities | | | | | | |
| | | Invest in well-trained maintenance staff with the skills and equipment needed to effectively maintain Park District infrastructure. | Parks & Facilities | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Strategically invest in the Park District's operational equipment needs, including systematic replacement and upgrades. | High | Continue to maintain a thorough inventory of existing operational equipment and update frequently. | Parks & Facilities | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Assess the condition of meaningful equipment, calculate remaining useful life and rank equipment needs based on urgency, safety, impact on park operations, and budget constraints. | Parks & Facilities | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | | Parks & Facilities | X | X | X | X | X | X |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Goal | Tier | Objective | Type | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031+ |
|--|--------|---|------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Explore the removal of the fading recreation programs within the portfolio. | Medium | The elimination of fading programs can create space for new, innovative offerings that better meet the evolving needs and interests of the community. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Eliminating long-standing programs, even those with declining participation, can generate negative feedback from some community members who have fond memories or relied on those programs. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Consider phasing out those fading programs gradually to minimize disruption and allow for adjustments. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Build non-traditional niche recreation programs and events. | Medium | Identify ideal participants for niche program growth and tailor programs to their interests and needs. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Find qualified and passionate instructors who can deliver high-quality instruction. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Effectively promote your programs through social media, local partnerships, and of course community outreach. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |



| Goal | Tier | Objective | Type | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031+ |
|--|--------|--|------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Expand rental and event opportunities across the Park District. | Medium | Identify and recognize underutilized spaces for rentals and events. | Recreation | X | | | X | | |
| | | Collaborate with local organizations to offer unique programs and events within rental spaces. | Recreation | | X | | | X | |
| | | Evaluate current rental policies and fees and adjust as needed. | Recreation | | | X | | | X |
| Increase nature-based programs and camps. | Medium | Market the unique benefits of nature-oriented activities such as improved physical health, enhanced mental well-being and an increased appreciation for the environment. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Allocate more resources to support the development and expansion of nature-based programs and camps. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Develop programs focused on families in partnerships with local stakeholders that surround the Springfield area that allow families to become more environmentally conscious in a fun setting. | Recreation | | X | | X | | X |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Goal | Tier | Objective | Type | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031+ |
|--|--------|--|------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Re-connect program classes with shifting industry trends. | Medium | Regularly review peer and industry publications and attend or participate in industry events to gain insights into emerging trends. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Evaluate existing program curricula to identify gaps with current industry trends for possible realignment. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Determine which trends can be incorporated into classes with small changes allowing for flexible program enhancements that can easily be adjusted or modified. | Recreation | X | X | X | X | X | X |



| Goal | Tier | Objective | Type | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031+ |
|--|--------|---|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Enhance community engagement. | Medium | Leverage technology by utilizing online platforms and social media to connect with residents, share information, and facilitate meaningful discussions. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Actively cultivate open dialogue with staff, board members, and community partners to celebrate progress and shape the future of our Master Plan initiatives together. | High | Continue to foster organizational transparency by proactively sharing relevant information and demonstrating consistent, open communication. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Establish clear communication channels among user groups. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Foster a vibrant workplace culture that celebrates innovation, embraces diversity, and empowers all team members to excel. | High | Perform a workplace culture survey on an on-going basis, review the findings and implement logical and beneficial suggestions. | Administration | X | | X | | X | |
| | | Create continuing education opportunities and staff only special events for bonding and camaraderie. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Modernize business procedures and processes. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Goal | Tier | Objective | Type | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031+ |
|--|------|--|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Evaluate potential investments to meet the needs of shifting community demographics. | Low | Based on the identified demographic shifts, partially in population decline as well as age-related changes, organize an internal taskforce to conduct an honest assessment of operations, amenities and programs to determine social and recreational needs. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Explore a range of potential investment options that make sense. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Evaluate the potential impact of each investment on the community, considering how it will address the identified needs and improve the quality of life for residents. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |



| Goal | Tier | Objective | Type | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031+ |
|--|------|---|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Continue to pursue alternate fundings sources like grants, sponsorships, partnerships and donations. | Low | Identify and apply for grants that can assist in park and facility improvements. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Potential projects should be internally vetted and prioritized with community input opportunities. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| | | Seek out other revenue sources that include sponsorships and/or partnerships that match Park District planning initiatives. | Administration | X | X | X | X | X | X |



| Park or Facility | Use | Capital Investment | Level of Service | Projected Impact | QOS Score |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Henson Robinson Zoo | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 12 |
| Lincoln Park | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 12 |
| Nelson Center & Outdoor Pool | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 12 |
| Southwind Park | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 |
| Centennial Park | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| Eisenhower Indoor Pool | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| Washington Park | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| Velasco Tennis Center | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| Rotary Park | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Chamberlain Park | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| Iles Park | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Park or Facility | Use | Capital Investment | Level of Service | Projected Impact | QOS Score |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Pasfield Golf Course | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| Jefferson Park | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| Riverside Park Campground | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Comer Cox Park | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Indian Hills Park | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Robin Roberts Stadium | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Dreamland Park | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Stuart Park | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Bunn Park East | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Lawless Park | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Gietl Park | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Hobbs Park | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Jaycee Park | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Kennedy Park | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| | 1 - Low | 1 - Low (\$200,000 & Under) | 1 - Low (Neighborhood Park) | 1 - Low | |
| | 2 - Medium | 2 - Medium (\$200,000-\$400,000) | 2 - Medium (Community Park) | 2 - Medium | |
| | 3 - High | 3 - High (\$400,000 & Up) | 3 - High (Special Use) | 3 - High | |



Neighborhood Parks

These parks are generally under 10 acres in size and serve a fairly large portion of the community through their sheer numbers as they are spread throughout the Park District. Neighborhood parks are mainly focused on amenities that can be utilized within walking distance. They can provide a combination of active and passive uses, along with occasional special-use amenities. The neighborhood park improvements have been broken down into the target year of project and capital cost.

| Neighborhood Parks | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|-------------------------|--|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------|-----------|
| Bergen Park | No Improvements | - | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | - | | | | | |
| Bunn West Park | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$25,000 | | | | | |
| Chamberlain Park | Phase 1 Re-Development | \$1,300,000 | | | \$1,300,000 | | |
| | Sub-Total | \$1,300,000 | | | | | |
| Comer Cox Park | Tennis Court Conversion to Parking Lot | \$85,000 | | \$85,000 | | | |
| | Walking Path | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | | | | |
| | Picnic Shelter | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | | | | |
| | Site Amenities | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | | | | |
| | Playground/Other Park Improvements | \$90,000 | | \$90,000 | | | |
| | Sub-Total | \$500,000 | | | | | |
| Dreamland Park | Playground Replacement | \$250,000 | | \$250,000 | | | |
| | Picnic Shelter | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Parking Lot Overlay | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Fishing Pier Replacement | \$65,000 | | | | | \$65,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$465,000 | | | | | |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Neighborhood Parks | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Eisenhower Park | Playground Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Parking Lot Paving | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Baseball Field Improvements | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Maintenance Shop Improvements | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$825,000 | | | | | |
| Enos Park | No Improvements | - | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | - | | | | | |
| Fairview Park | Playground Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Paring Lot Overlay | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Baseball Field Improvements | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Sports Lighting Upgrades | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Replace Bathrooms/Concessions | \$250,000 | | | | | \$250,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$775,000 | | | | | |
| Gehrman Park | Bathroom Removal | \$10,000 | | | | | |
| | Picnic Shelter | \$40,000 | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | \$50,000 | | | | | |
| Giefl Park | Ballfield Removal | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Playground Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Replace Bathrooms/Concessions | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$550,000 | | | | | |

2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN



| Neighborhood Parks | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|---------|------|----------|------|-----------|
| Hobbs Park | Concession Stand Removal | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Playground Removal | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | | | | |
| | Parking Lot Overlay | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$105,000 | | | | | |
| Indian Hills Park | Tennis Court (Fencing, Paving Improvements & Color Coating) | \$125,000 | | | | | \$125,000 |
| | Parking Lot Overlay | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Baseball Field Improvements | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$250,000 | | | | | |
| Jaycee Park | Monroe Parking Lot Paving | \$75,000 | | | \$75,000 | | |
| | Cressey Road Parking Lot Paving | \$75,000 | | | \$75,000 | | |
| | Playground Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Shelter Improvements | \$75,000 | | | | | \$75,000 |
| | Basketball Court Improvements | \$30,000 | | | | | \$30,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$480,000 | | | | | |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Neighborhood Parks | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------|------|------|-----------|-----------|
| Jefferson Park | Playground Replacement | \$250,000 | | | | \$250,000 | |
| | Parking Lot Paving | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Walking Path | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Picnic Shelter | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$550,000 | | | | | |
| Kennedy Park | Concession Stand Removal | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Playground Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Parking Lot Overlay | \$250,000 | | | | | \$250,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Baseball Field Improvements | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| Sub-Total | \$625,000 | | | | | | |
| Kiwanis Park | Parking Lot Overlay | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$100,000 | | | | | |
| Lake Victoria Park | Remove Sidewalk & Add Walking Path | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Parking Lot Overlay | \$15,000 | | | | | \$15,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Bridge Replacement | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$240,000 | | | | | |
| Lanphier Park | New Basketball Goals | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Walking Path Renovation | \$10,000 | | | | | \$10,000 |
| | New Picnic Shelter | \$20,000 | | | | | \$20,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$80,000 | | | | | |

2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN



| Neighborhood Parks | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------|------|------|-----------|------|-----------|
| Lindbergh Park | Parking Lot Overlay | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Tennis Court Renovation | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Walking Paths | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Picnic Shelter by Playground | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Picnic Shelter by Baseball | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$475,000 | | | | | |
| Lawless Park | Ballfield Removal | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Paved Parking Lot Development | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$275,000 | | | | | |
| Patrick J. Cadigan Park | Playground Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$225,000 | | | | | |
| Paul A. Barker Park | LED Lighting | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$25,000 | | | | | |
| Rotary Park | Parking Lot Paving & Potential Expansion | \$400,000 | | | \$400,000 | | |
| | Tennis Court Repair (Paving Improvements & Color Coating) | \$85,000 | | | \$85,000 | | |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Sports Lighting Upgrades | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Walking Path Renovation | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$710,000 | | | | | |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Neighborhood Parks | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Schlitt Park | Parking Lot Overlay & Expansion | \$125,000 | | | | | \$125,000 |
| | Replace Bathrooms/Concessions | \$250,000 | | | | | \$250,000 |
| | Pave Field Access/Viewing Areas | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | Sport Court Upgrades | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Sub-Total | | \$650,000 | | | | |
| Timberbrooke Park | No Improvements | - | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | - | | | | | |
| Vredenburgh Park | Playground Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | New Walking Path | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| | New Picnic Shelter | \$75,000 | | | | | \$75,000 |
| | Sub-Total | | \$450,000 | | | | |
| Westchester Park | Drainage Improvements | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | Playground Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Sub-Total | | \$700,000 | | | | |



Community Parks

Community parks are larger than 10 acres in size and serve the largest area of the community with more substantial and varied services and recreation opportunities than neighborhood parks. These parks provide many opportunities to the Park District for both active and passive uses as well as high potential for community gathering spaces, events, sports programs, facilities and special use. Due to their larger size, they often provide easy access from long distances with proximity to major roads, trails, public transportation and adequate parking spaces. The community park improvements have been broken down into the target year of project and capital cost.

| Community Parks | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------|------|-------------|------|-------------|
| Centennial Park | Pickleball Complex | \$1,500,000 | | | \$1,500,000 | | |
| | Bathroom Facility/Shelter/Concession | \$2,000,000 | | | | | \$2,000,000 |
| | Ball Field Improvements | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Sport Court Lighting | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | LED Lights Throughout Park | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Parking Lot Overlay | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Parking Lot Expansion | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Main Playground Replacement | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Neighborhood Playground Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Remove Tennis Court | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Maintenance Shop Upgrades | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Remove Bocce Courts | \$20,000 | | | | | \$20,000 |
| | Replace Walking Paths | \$400,000 | | | | | \$400,000 |
| | Skate Park/Bike Park Addition | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$6,470,000 | | | | | |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Community Parks | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Duncan Park | Renovate Bandshell & Seating | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | Remove and Replace West Shelter | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Renovate Walking Paths | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Pickleball Courts Renovation | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$1,050,000 | | | | | |
| Iles Park | Shelter Replacement | \$45,000 | | | | | \$45,000 |
| | Historic Stone Shelter Restoration | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Pickleball Courts Resurfacing | \$125,000 | | | | | \$125,000 |
| | Bathroom Facility Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$570,000 | | | | | |
| Lincoln Park | OSLAD Grant (Playground, Shelter, Etc.) | \$600,000 | \$600,000 | | | | |
| | Ballfield Removal | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | | | | |
| | Repaving of Park Road | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Walking Path Renovation | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Replace Maintenance shop | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Replace Baseball Field Bathroom /Concession | \$250,000 | | | | | \$250,000 |
| | Baseball LED Spots Lighting Upgrade | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Baseball Field Improvements | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | LED Lighting Upgrades | \$75,000 | | | | | \$75,000 |
| | Baseball Field Removal | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 |
| Sub-Total | \$2,800,000 | | | | | | |

2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN



| Community Parks | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------|------|-----------|
| Riverside Park-Campground | Road Work | \$300,000 | | \$300,000 | | | |
| | Camp Signs | \$20,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | | | |
| | Camp Electric Upgrades | \$10,000 | | | | | \$10,000 |
| | Replace Bathroom/Shower House | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | Camp - Pave Sites | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Camp - Led Upgrades | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Camp - New Playground | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Camp - Upgrade Water Hookup | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | BMX/ Concessions Upgrades | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Replace Maintenance Shop | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | Boat Launch Renovation | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | | Sub-Total | \$2,030,000 | | | | |
| Southwind Park | Walking Path Replacement | \$1,000,000 | | | \$1,000,000 | | |
| | Replace Retaining Wall around Pond | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | | Sub-Total | \$1,150,000 | | | | |
| Stuart Park | Playground Replacement | \$80,000 | | | \$80,000 | | |
| | Disc Golf Course | \$40,000 | | | | | \$40,000 |
| | Dog Park Renovation | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | | Sub-Total | \$220,000 | | | | |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Community Parks | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|------|------|------|-----------|-------------|
| Washington Park | Playground Replacement & Site Improvements | \$500,000 | | | | \$500,000 | |
| | Road Renovations | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Pond Dredging | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 |
| | New Shelters | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | New Maintenance Shop | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | New Police HQ | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$3,900,000 | | | | | |



Open Space/Special Use

These sites provide unique outdoor recreation opportunities that include wildlife viewing, golf and tennis.

| Open Space/Special Use | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Bergen Golf Course | Repave Parking Lot | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | New Maintenance Building | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | Irrigation Renovation | \$2,000,000 | | | | | \$2,000,000 |
| | Renovate Cart Paths | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 |
| | Turf Renovation | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | New Shelters/Bathrooms | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 |
| | New Pro Shop | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | New Cart Storage Building | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$6,100,000 | | | | | |
| Bunn Golf Course | New Maintenance Building | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | Bridge Renovations | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 |
| | Dredge Pond | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 |
| | Irrigation Renovation | \$2,000,000 | | | | | \$2,000,000 |
| | Renovate Cart Paths | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 |
| | Bunker Replacement | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Grass Renovation | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | New Shelters/Bathrooms | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$7,000,000 | | | | | |
| Carpenter Park/Gurgens | Access Road Renovation | \$250,000 | | | | | \$250,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$250,000 | | | | | |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Open Space/Special Use | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------|------|-------------|-------------|--|
| H.R. Zoo | Holding Building | \$1,000,000 | | | | \$1,000,000 | | |
| | New Animal Exhibits | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 | |
| | New Walking Paths | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 | |
| | Perimeter Fence | \$250,000 | | | | | \$250,000 | |
| | New Entrance Sign | \$25,000 | | | | | \$25,000 | |
| | Pond Dredging | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 | |
| | Replace Playground | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 | |
| | Replace Barn | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 | |
| | New Train/Amusement Ride | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 | |
| | New Maintenance Building | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 | |
| | Parking Lot Improvements/Expansion | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 | |
| | | Sub-Total | \$4,875,000 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Lincoln Greens Golf Course | New Maintenance Building | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 | |
| | Dredge Pond | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 | |
| | Irrigation Renovation | \$2,000,000 | | | | | \$2,000,000 | |
| | Renovate Cart Paths | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 | |
| | Bunker Replacement | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 | |
| | Grass Renovation | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 | |
| | New Shelters/Bathrooms | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 | |
| | Drainage | \$2,000,000 | | | | | \$2,000,000 | |
| | Sub-Total | \$7,650,000 | | | | | | |

2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN



| Open Space/Special Use | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Nelson Center Outdoor Pool | Kiddie Pool Conversion to Splash Pad | \$1,000,000 | | | | \$1,000,000 | |
| | General Pool Repairs & Remodel | \$150,000 | | | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | |
| | Slide Replacement | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Shade Structures | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$1,400,000 | | | | | |
| Pasfield Golf Course | Roof Replace | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | | | | |
| | New Maintenance Building | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | Bridge Renovations | \$600,000 | | | | | \$600,000 |
| | Creek Stabilization | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Irrigation Renovation | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Renovate Cart Paths | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$3,950,000 | | | | | |
| Velasco Tennis Complex | Platform Tennis Courts Resurfacing | \$45,000 | | \$45,000 | | | |
| | Rebuild Tennis Courts | \$5,000,000 | | | | | \$5,000,000 |
| | Parking | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$5,195,000 | | | | | |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

Facilities

The Park District has an abundance of parks, trails and open spaces that provide wonderful opportunities for the community to enjoy outdoor recreation. The Park District does have several indoor facilities with many of them geared to specific recreation use such as aquatics, music and ice skating just to name a few. These facilities provide a unique touch to the off the beaten path recreation opportunities but also come with significant changes to meet mainstream community expatiations.

A general overview of the Springfield Park District Facilities operations was completed and is intended to help the Park District meet the needs of current and future residents by positioning the Springfield Park District to build on the community's unique parks and recreation assets and to identify new opportunities in planning, funding and operations. A transition of ownership should be pursued for Robin Roberts Stadium that would provide a long-term benefit to the Springfield baseball community.

| Facilities | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Botanical Gardens | Greenhouse Improvements | \$200,000 | | | | | \$200,000 |
| | Replace sidewalks | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Replace Garage doors | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$550,000 | | | | | |
| Bunn Admin Office | General Upgrades | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$100,000 | | | | | |
| Eastdale Maintenance Facility | General Upgrades | \$750,000 | | | | | \$750,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$750,000 | | | | | |

2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN



| Facilities | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------|------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Eisenhower Aquatic Center | General Pool Repairs | \$400,000 | | | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | |
| | Replace Air Handlers | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Roof Replacement | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | Change Depth of Pool | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Replace Bleachers | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Locker Room Improvements | \$75,000 | | | | | \$75,000 |
| | Add Locker Room on Ground Floor | \$250,000 | | | | | \$250,000 |
| | Aquatics Audit | - | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | \$2,675,000 | | | | | |
| Erin's Pavilion | Replace carpet | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Repave Parking lot | \$400,000 | | | | | \$400,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$450,000 | | | | | |
| Lincoln Park Pavilion | Replace Roof, Soffit, Gutters | \$300,000 | | | | | \$300,000 |
| | Av Improvements | \$30,000 | | | | | \$30,000 |
| | Porch Renovation | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Window Replacement | \$75,000 | | | | | \$75,000 |
| | Repave Parking Lot | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$705,000 | | | | | |



2026-2031 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

| Facilities | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------|-------------|
| Nelson Center | Refrigerants Replacement | \$6,000,000 | \$6,000,000 | | | | \$6,000,000 |
| | Roof Replacement | \$1,500,000 | | \$1,500,000 | | | \$1,500,000 |
| | General Building Repairs | \$200,000 | | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | | \$200,000 |
| | New Bleachers/Locker Rooms | \$500,000 | | | | | \$500,000 |
| | Replace Lobby HVAC | \$40,000 | | | | | \$40,000 |
| | Balcony Repairs | \$250,000 | | | | | \$250,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$8,490,000 | | | | | |
| Robin Roberts Stadium | Artificial Turf | \$1,200,000 | | | | | \$1,200,000 |
| | LED Field lights | \$600,000 | | | | | \$600,000 |
| | Facility updates | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Asbestos Abatement | - | | | | | |
| | Sub-Total | \$2,800,000 | | | | | |
| Thomas Rees Carillon | Elevator Refurbishment | \$500,000 | | | \$500,000 | | |
| | Transmission work in upper belfry | \$175,000 | | | | | \$175,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$675,000 | | | | | |
| Washington Park Pavilion | Porch Renovation | \$150,000 | | | | | \$150,000 |
| | Replace Preschool Playground | \$100,000 | | | | | \$100,000 |
| | Kitchen Renovation | \$50,000 | | | | | \$50,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$300,000 | | | | | |



Trails

The Springfield Park District manages an extensive trail system that connects Springfield to several surrounding communities. The trails are open to walkers, runners, bicyclists, roller-bladers, strollers, wheelchairs, and cross-country skiers. The trails are open the entire year, from sunrise to sunset.

| Trails | Item | Cost | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030+ |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------|------|------|------|--------------------|
| Lost Bridge Trail | Repave Trail | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Replace Bridge | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$2,000,000 | | | | | \$2,000,000 |
| Wabash Trail | Repave Trail | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Replace Bridge | \$4,000,000 | | | | | \$4,000,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$5,000,000 | | | | | \$5,000,000 |
| Interurban Trail | Repave Trail | \$1,000,000 | | | | | \$1,000,000 |
| | Replace Bridge | \$4,000,000 | | | | | \$4,000,000 |
| | Sub-Total | \$5,000,000 | | | | | \$5,000,000 |



District-Wide

| Item | Location | Annual Cost |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Equipment & Vehicles | District Wide | \$750,000 |
| Paving & Lighting Upgrades | District Wide | \$150,000 |
| Park Signs | District Wide | \$25,000 |
| Information Technology | District Wide | \$50,000 |
| Fencing | District Wide | \$25,000 |
| Playground Components Replacement | District Wide | \$50,000 |
| Bathroom Repairs & Renovations | District Wide | \$250,000 |
| Paving Bike Paths | District Wide | \$100,000 |



Conclusion

The Springfield Park District is true to the local community being a place for recreation since 1900. It recognizes that the community it serves enjoys many traditional forms of recreation but values leisure services that are slightly different in nature. The Park District has a long history of increasing the quality of life in Springfield and the surrounding areas. However, as with all organizations, it needs to evolve and embrace the changes needed to continue to make it an important place within the fabric of the community.

The master plan has been developed to be a resource for decision making and provide the understanding for transformation as the community changes over time. The pandemic has reminded many agencies of the treasured value of outdoor recreation. The lessons learned during those years have helped shape newfound leisure pursuits and agencies can fulfill the mission of meeting those changing needs.

To make meaningful changes, the need for cooperation and collaboration will be more urgent than ever. These partnerships will motivate and shape the change over the next several years.

In review of the questions posed in the very beginning of the planning process, they have been answered through the master plan update process with a summary response that follows:

- Which facilities, equipment and vehicles need to be addressed? *The Park District should be working toward the renewal of existing parks, facilities and equipment. This includes an emphasis on improvements of neighborhood parks, path and pavement repairs, renovations of facilities and internal equipment replacement.*
- Can we identify and discuss closure of non-use or low use areas? *The answer is yes by reviewing two key matrix items that include the importance of that amenity from the survey and the level of service calculations.*



- What does a desirable workplace look like, that is attractive for recruitment and secures retention for staff? *A desirable workplace culture can be defined very differently depending on your point of view, but is generally characterized by open communication, mutual respect, a strong sense of collaboration, a focus on employee well-being, opportunities for growth, recognition for achievements and a healthy work-life balance. The entire organization, including employees, needs to have a shared commitment to the agencies' core values and the common mission of service to the community. A great culture goes much deeper than workplace perks and benefits to attract and retain the best talent. The Park District should continue to address the goal of fostering a vibrant workplace culture that celebrates innovation, embraces diversity, and empowers all team members to excel.*

So, the Park District knows the importance to be “true and connected to our community” and this Comprehensive Master Plan provides a map to continue to thrive in this area. The Park District will continue shaping plans for new connections to be made in the future.

