

**SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2026
6:30 P.M.**



*SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
9300 WEBER PARK PLACE
SKOKIE, IL 60077-4200*





**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 - 6:30 P.M.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

AGENDA

- I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. APPROVAL OF REMOTE PARTICIPATION, IF REQUESTED
- V. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS
- VI. STAFF RECOGNITION
Lee Hansen Emily Oaks Nature Center Manager
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL
- VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
*A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 16, 2025
- *IX. BILLS PAYABLE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026
- X. TREASURER'S ACTION ITEMS
A. 2026 Bond Financing Timeline
- XI. TREASURER'S REPORT
- XII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – NO REPORT
- XIII. STAFF ACTION ITEMS
A. Comprehensive Plan Update
B. Approval of Referendum Consultant Agreement
- *XIV. STAFF REPORTS
A. Parks Division Report
B. Recreation and Facility Divisions Report
C. Marketing and Sponsorship Report
D. Information Technology Report
E. Community Committee Report

XV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
- B. Commissioner Comments
- C. Director Comments

XVI. OLD BUSINESS

XVII. NEW BUSINESS

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, pursuant to 5 ILCS120/2(c)(21).
- B. Discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
- C. Discussion of the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6).

XIX. ACTION TO BE TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of November 8, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

XX. *Consent Agenda

Vision Statement

The Skokie Park District envisions a community where all of its residents enjoy a high quality of life through leisure time pursuits, beautiful open spaces, and first rate facilities.

Mission Statement

The Skokie Park District will realize its vision through teamwork, community partnerships, sound fiscal management, and creativity in every area of its operation.

Core Values

The Skokie Park District will fulfill its mission through:

•Commitment•Integrity•Innovation•Service •Openness •Environmental Stewardship •Inclusiveness

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
DECEMBER 16, 2025
6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

Board Members Present: Vice President Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Elsa Fisher
Commissioner Courtney Williams

Remote Attendance: President Susan Aberman

Absent: Commissioner Antonia Kasalo-Terihaj

Others Present: Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn
Superintendent of Recreation & Facilities Breanne Labus
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Mary Amato
H.R. Director Stephenie Gualano
Marketing and Communications Director Jim Bottorff
Skokie Heritage Museum Facility Manager Emily England
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Jaffe called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 6:30 p.m. Vice President Jaffe called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President Jaffe confirmed that President Aberman who was attending remotely was able to hear, as well as ensuring the board could hear her clearly.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Ms. Tuft expressed that it is important to acknowledge staff members when they receive an award, are praised in correspondence, or demonstrate exceptional performance. Ms. Tuft received an email from Dick Witry, President of the Historical Society, complimenting Emily England who is the Facility Manager of the Skokie Heritage Museum.

Mr. Dick Witry, President of the Skokie Historical Society, stated that in 1991 the mayor transferred ownership of the engine house to the park district, which is now known as

the Skokie Heritage Museum. Since 1991 there have been several supervisors at the Museum and Emily England is one of the finest museum supervisors that he has had the pleasure of working with. She has the credentials and has an avid interest in history and developing the history of the Village that we live in. If the park district ever loses her, they would have lost a gem.

Ms. Labus met with Mr. and Mrs. Witry, and they reminded her how special Emily is. Ms. Labus said revenues are hard to come by at the Museum, but under Emily's leadership revenue has increased, and she has recruited 33 volunteers.

Vice President Jaffe offered congratulations to Emily and expressed happiness at honoring her.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 18, 2025, bills payable for the month of November /December 2025, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATES

Human Resource Director Stephenie Gualano reviewed the personnel policy updates explaining each of the following items: Exit Interview Updates, Veterans Holiday, Paid Personal Leave Update, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Leave, Organ Donation and Victim's Economic Security and Safety Act Updates.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the policies as proposed effective January 1, 2026. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

Ms. Gualano reminded the board that she is leaving the park district for another position and expressed her gratitude for the board's support regarding the policies she has proposed over the past three years.

APPROVAL OF IMRF AUTHORIZED AGENT

Ms. Gualano is the current IMRF authorized agent. Because she is leaving the park district a new authorized agent must be appointed. Laura Le, Business Services Manager, will serve as the IMRF authorized agent until a new Human Resources Manager is hired.

Commissioner Fischer moved to appoint Laura Le as the IMRF Authorized Agent. President Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR BUSINESS RELATED TRAVEL FOR PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Schmidt requested authorization for business-related travel for park board Commissioners. President Aberman, and Commissioners Fischer, Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams are attending the IAPD Conference in January 2026.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve business related travel for President Aberman, and Commissioners Fischer, Williams, and Kasalo-Terihaj to the IAPD Conference in January 2026. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

REVIEW STATUS OF 2025-2026 DISTRICT GOALS

Each year, district goals are formally presented to the board and are subsequently reviewed at mid-year to provide an update on progress. The board raised questions regarding certain goals, and the staff provided responses.

No motion is required for informational purposes only.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next Regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. President Aberman asked if the date could be changed and Executive Director Tuft will coordinate.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Fischer said she was thankful for being invited to the Skokie Chamber Holiday Party on December 11, it was fun.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft reported on the meeting with the referendum consultant on Friday. The main priority is to form a task force focused on planning, development, and gathering feedback. The task force will hold two meetings to review the proposals and should consist of thirty to thirty-five members.

Ms. Tuft will invite the groups that participated in developing the proposed plans. The goal is to ensure a diverse group of stakeholders participate, representing various community interests. Updates from these meetings will be shared with the board, and input from all members is encouraged to help shape the direction of the project.

Vice President Jaffe said there are many taxing bodies in the area contemplating raising taxes. Commissioner Fischer stated that should the district proceed with a referendum in November 2026, it is essential to confirm that no other entity is pursuing a referendum at the same time.

Mr. Guynn and Ms. Tuft met with the Assyrian Church of the East. They are interested in adding an exit lane from their parking lot which borders Emerson Park. They wanted

the park district's perspective, and both Ms. Tuft and Mr. Guynn indicated that they had no concerns.

Vice President Jaffe asked about the H.R. Director interviews. Ms. Tuft said she has had first round interviews with candidates for the H.R. Director position and there are good candidates. Eighty applicants applied for the position.

OLD BUSINESS

Safety in the Parks was reviewed to update Commissioner Williams, who missed the previous board meeting. Ms. Tuft reported an incident in Shawnee Park that raised concerns about park safety.

A task force was formed through the Safety Committee, including Ms. Tuft and Mr. Guynn, who will discuss and suggest ways to improve park safety. Possible measures include new signage, cameras, more park monitors, and a village wide safety campaign with the Village of Skokie.

The Park District has 302 cameras, 107 of which are outdoors. Ms. Tuft reached out to neighboring park districts to assess their use of cameras. Most districts install cameras and operate them in much the same way we do. Some districts have cameras in their larger parks with shelters.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Fischer moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Ezra Jaffe
Vice President

Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

January 2026



**SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2025
SIGN IN SHEET**



**SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
TREASURERS REPORT
January 20, 2026**

The status of the cash balances and investments as of December 31, 2025, is in the board packet.

The summary of these funds is attached.

There is a CD coming due from North Shore Community Bank on January 23, 2026, which will be renewed when the date gets closer.

As of December 31, 2025, \$8,355,453 of levy year 2024 money has been collected. There were two collections of \$770,655 in December 2025 from the County representing a portion of the corporate fund distribution. The County is still struggling with distributions which they blame on their financial software.

The details of the accounts are available on request.

At the bottom of the Cash Balances and Investments list is the listing of tax collections per year.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

William G. Schmidt
Treasurer, Skokie Park District

**SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
TREASURER'S REPORT
CASH BALANCES AND INVESTMENTS**
January 20, 2026
(As of 12/31/2025)

GENERAL FUND

CASH CHECKING ACCOUNTS CHASE/BANK ONE: 2.10/1.90% \$3,580,412.78

INVESTMENTS WITH JPMORGAN CHASE/BANK ONE

Savings: 0.6%	208,993.78
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: Renewal due 4/6/26 - 4.1% MV	245,201.49
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: Renewal due 5/26/26 - 4.25% MV	245,518.20

INVESTMENT WITH NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT: Due 1/23/26 – 3.75%	642,352.50
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INVESTMENT WITH FIRST BANK CHICAGO

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT RENEWAL DUE 6/20/26 4.10%	280,324.73
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CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT RENEWAL DUE 6/20/26 4.10%	267,578.18
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TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS:	\$5,470,381.66
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TAX COLLECTIONS BY TAX YEAR (AT 12/31/2025)

YEAR	\$ COLLECTED	% OF LEVY
2019	10,876,000.39	96.67%
2020	11,041,668.75	97.23%
2021	11,465,631.66	98.19%
2022	12,413,775.40	99.02%
2023	12,674,871.62	98.16%
2024	8,355,453.88	61.02%



Skokie Park District BOARD SUMMARY



Date: January 20, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: W.G. Schmidt, Superintendent of Business Services

RE: 2026 Bond Financing Timeline

Summary: Calendar 2026 calls for the issuance of one (1) bond issue.

The annual refunding issue is in October to pay for the Series 2007B Capital Appreciation Bonds principal and interest of \$2.3 million. Estimated issue size is \$2,900,000.

I have attached a timeline of this issue from Speer Financial.

Recommendation: Informational only.

Motion: No motion required, informational only.

MEMORANDUM

To: Bill Schmidt, Skokie Park District

From: Mark Jeretina, Speer Financial, Inc.

Date: January 7, 2026

Subject: Calendar Year 2026 Bond Issues

The purpose of this memo is to summarize the District's bond financing options in calendar year 2026. The one proposed issue is (1) Series 2026 Limited Tax Bonds to pay off the outstanding Series 2007B December 1, 2026 debt service payment and to provide for capital projects. The District will also pass an abatement ordinance at its February board meeting to abate the property tax levy on its outstanding alternate revenue source bonds.

General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2026

- **Purpose:** To pay off the outstanding Series 2007B December 1, 2026 debt service payment and to provide for capital projects.
- **Timing:** The Series 2026 Bonds will be sold competitively on October 19th and adopted by the Board on October 20th, the date of a regular October meeting of the Board. See Exhibit A for a proposed timetable of the issuance.
- **Estimated Issue Size:** \$2,900,000.
- **Comments:** A term sheet will be prepared by Speer. A BINA Hearing will be required.

SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT

Cook County, Illinois
General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2026

Preliminary Timetable (January 7, 2026)

Task	Party Responsible	Date
Publication of BINA Hearing Notice	District	Between August 16-September 8
BINA Hearing	District	September 15
Distribute draft Term Sheet	Speer	Week of September 21
Comments Due on draft Term Sheet	All Parties	Week of September 28
Finalize Term Sheet and Distribute to Investors	Speer	October 5
Distribute Draft Bond Ordinance	Bond Counsel	Week of October 12
Bids Due/Bond Sale	All Parties	October 19
Bond Ordinance Adopted	District	October 20
Bond Closing	All Parties	November 3
Pay Series 2007B Debt Service	District	By December 1

All Board Actions are Highlighted in BLUE

All Newspaper Publication Events are Highlighted in GRAY



Skokie Park District BOARD SUMMARY



Date: January 20, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Michelle Tuft, Executive Director

RE: Comprehensive Plan Update

Summary: Hitchcock Design Group will attend the board meeting to present the "envision" and "prioritize" phases of the comprehensive plan update, and to solicit feedback from the board. The presentation is provided as an attachment.

Recommendation: Informational only.

Motion: Informational only.

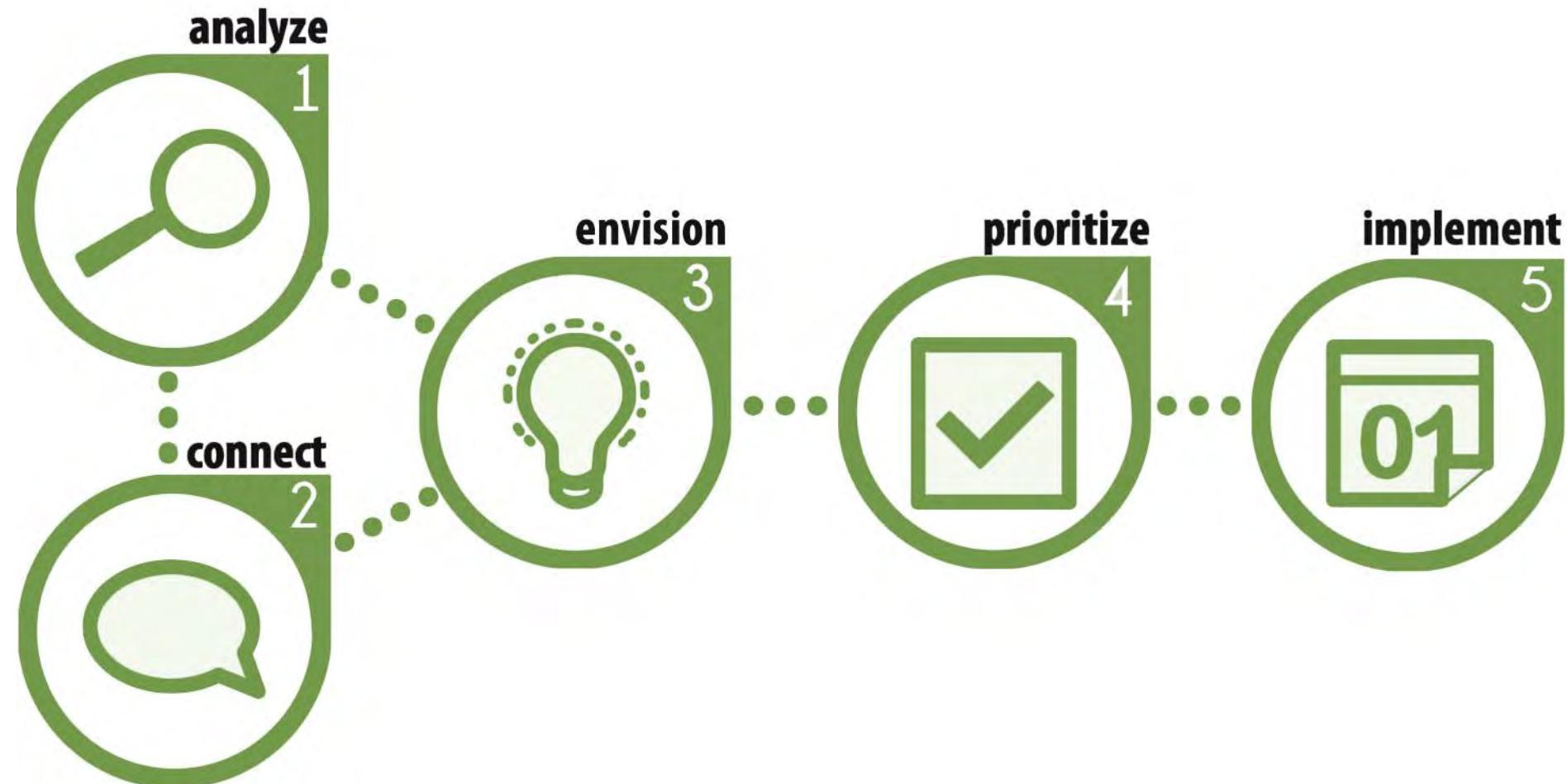


Skokie Park District Comprehensive Master Plan: Park District Board Meeting

Envision Phase and
Prioritize Phase
Review

planning process update
envision phase update
prioritize phase and action plan
next steps
discussion

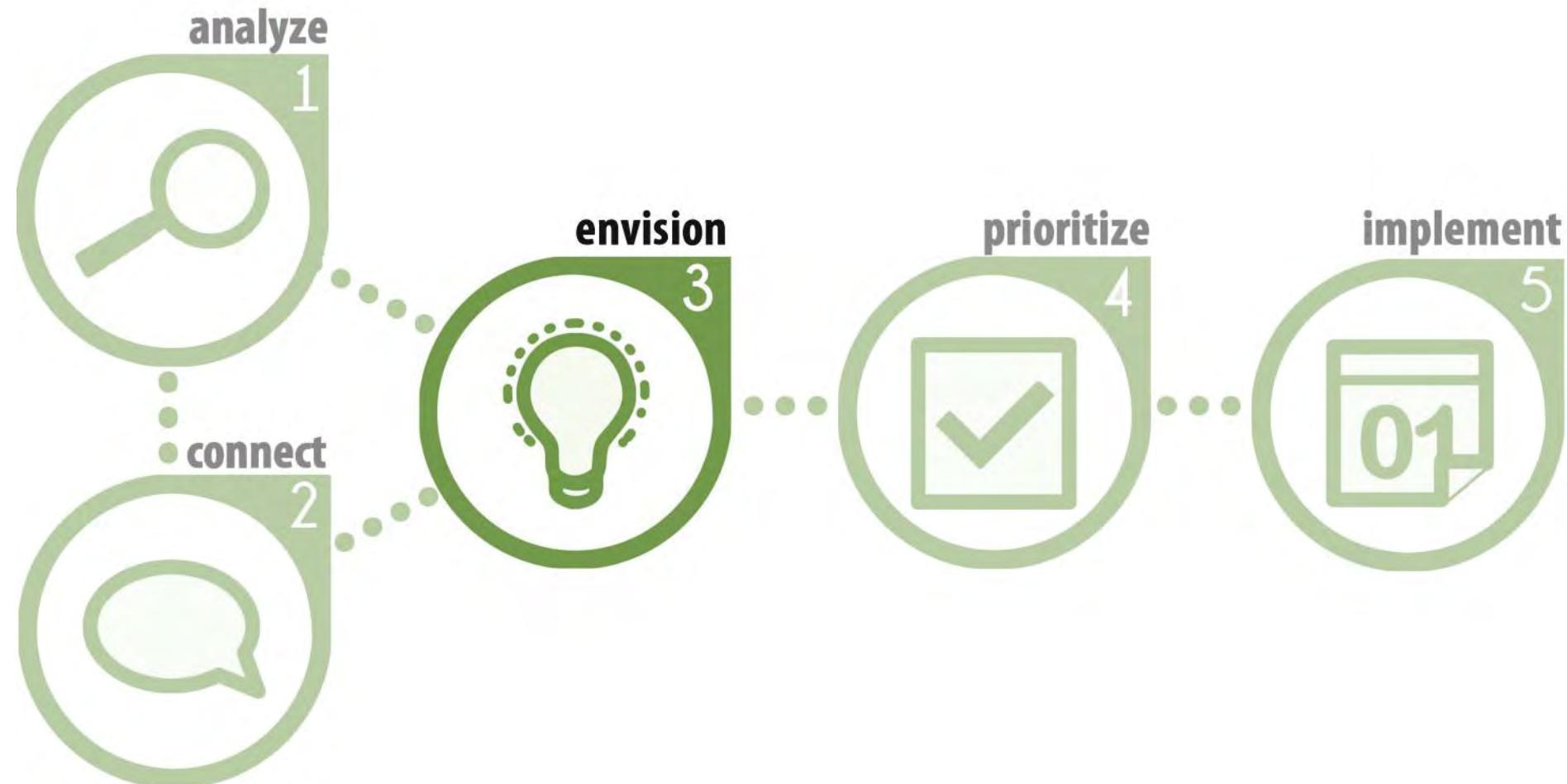
agenda



the process

- **analyze phase** (January – March 2025)
 - demographic & data collection
 - park inventory & analysis
 - inventory & analysis maps prepared
 - inventory and analysis review
- **connect phase** (April – September 2025)
 - staff workshop
 - stakeholder interviews
 - community outreach
 - board input
- **envision and prioritize phase** (September 2025 – January 2026)
 - **board input**
- **implement phase** (August 2025 – February 2026)
 - board review
- **booklet complete / board adoption at March meeting**

planning process



envision

- internal planning and visioning session
- developed preliminary needs
- developed preliminary strategies
 - facilities
 - parks and open spaces
 - programs and events
 - policy and operations
- prepared preliminary strategies summary
- staff coordination and review
- finalized strategies

envision phase

- **Statistically Valid Survey (SVS):** Scientifically representative survey which consisted of input from Park District residents through randomly sampled households throughout the Skokie Park District facilitated by aQity Research & Insights.
- **Prior Plans (PP):** Relevant prior facility, park, District-wide, and regional plans and studies for reference in future planning as well as relevant District history and current initiatives.
- **Inventory/Analysis (IA):** Park, amenity, facility, and program information including condition and location, used to identify gaps and deficiencies in the existing recreation service. Amenities were also benchmarked against state and national standards to determine possible gaps in services.
- **Staff Workshop (SW):** District staff members participated in a visioning and prioritization workshop to determine their top priorities for SPD for the next five to ten years.
- **Stakeholder Interviews (SI):** One-on-one or small group interviews representing specific interest groups within the District.
- **Community Event (CE):** Event participants who visited the booth participated in satisfaction and interest polls, provided written comments, and shared input directly with planning team members.
- **Rec Program Analysis (RA):** Analysis by Recreation Results
- **Staff Program Assessment (SP):** Assessment by Recreation Results

justification sources

preliminary needs:

- There is a desire to improve utilization of existing facilities from both an operational standpoint as well as through programming
- There is a desire to expand indoor fitness/recreational opportunities
- There is a desire for indoor aquatics (pool) in Skokie
- There is a desire for facility pricing to be evaluated and adjusted from an overall standpoint
- There is a desire to increase safety and security measures throughout Park District parks and facilities
- There is a desire for the continued maintenance of Park District parks and facilities

facilities

objectives:

- #1 – Evaluate program facility needs to support a variety of programs (SVS)
- #2 – Evaluate existing facility utilization to identify operational and programming gaps (SW, CE)
- #3 – Identify and address challenges related to indoor programming by optimizing use of existing indoor spaces (SVS, SW, CE)
- #4 – Continue enforcement of environmental stewardship and sustainability practices throughout facilities (PP, IA)
- #5 – Continue 5-Year Project Plan for long-term facility modernization and capital reinvestment (SVS, PP)

justification key:

- SVS – Statistically Valid Survey
- PP – Prior Plans
- IA – Inventory/Analysis
- SW – Staff Workshop
- SI – Stakeholder Interviews
- CE – Community Event
- RA – Rec Program Analysis
- SP – Staff Program Assessment

23
facilities

objective 1:

Evaluate program facility needs to support a variety of programs (SVS)

Strategies:

- Evaluate facility needs for high-impact programs such as camps and identify underused or adaptable spaces to help relieve seasonal crowding and increase capacity.
- Strengthen coordination and communication between facilities and programming operations.
- Consider peak usage times, indoor/outdoor needs, locker room and restroom capacity, and staffing.
- Evaluate ancillary needs such as storage for camp materials.
- Leverage planned capital improvements to meet program demands.

facilities

objective 2:

Evaluate existing facility utilization to identify operational and programming gaps (SW, CE)

Strategies:

- Map program schedules by age group and program type, using data tools such as RecTrac to visualize utilization patterns, identify inefficiencies, and support more equitable access.
- Identify short-term storage solutions and long-term expansion opportunities for facilities experiencing operational strain.
- Incorporate heatmap analyses or utilization tracking at high-demand facilities such as Fitness First, Weber Leisure Center, and Devonshire Aquatic Center.

facilities

objective 3:

Identify and address challenges related to indoor programming by optimizing use of existing indoor spaces (SVS, SW, CE)

Strategies:

- Assess each indoor facility (Weber, Devonshire, Oakton, etc.) for potential reconfiguration or expansion to meet growing fitness and recreation demand.
- Explore feasibility of adaptive reuse or small-scale additions to support specialized activities (e.g., walking track, multi-purpose studio, gymnasium expansion, cultural programs, or music rooms).
- Continue shared-use agreements or partnerships with schools or private facilities to increase indoor access during peak demand periods.

facilities

objective 4:

Continue enforcement of environmental stewardship and sustainability practices throughout facilities (PP, IA)

Strategies:

- Deepen facility-level energy and resource efficiency and ensure facilities operate with minimal environmental impact.
- Ensure facilities operate with minimal environmental impact.
- Continue/Expand building retrofits, targeting HVAC upgrades, lighting improvements, and smart building systems as noted in SPD 5 Year Projects Plan (e.g., Devonshire Cultural Center chiller replacement, Emily Oaks HVAC repairs).
- Implement green purchasing policies for all materials and equipment.
- Aim for LEED or equivalent green certification on major renovations or new construction.

facilities

objective 4, cont.:

Continue enforcement of environmental stewardship and sustainability practices throughout facilities (PP, IA)

Strategies:

- Minimize waste generation and expand recycling and reuse efforts across facilities.
- Explore feasibility of reusable dishware programs at major facilities, including dishwashing and storage considerations.
- Incorporate sustainability considerations into long-term facility planning and renovations, such as roofing replacements, flooring upgrades, and energy-efficient retrofits included in the 5-year plan.

facilities

objective 5:

Continue 5-Year Project Plan for long-term facility modernization and capital reinvestment (SVS, PP)

Strategies:

- Prioritize renovation of aging buildings and invest in infrastructure upgrades that extend facility lifespan and improve accessibility.
- Align the 5-Year Capital Plan with evolving community priorities and sustainability goals.

facilities

preliminary needs:

- SPD is deficient in several amenities per IAPD/NRPA recommendations
- SPD is deficient in all park types, SPD/public open space, and total active recreation areas per IAPD/NRPA recommendations
- There are park distribution service gaps, particularly at the Mini and Neighborhood park levels
- There is a desire for improved accessibility and increased inclusivity at all parks

parks and open space

objectives:

- #1 – Continue to maintain and upgrade park facilities to ensure safe, accessible, and high-quality recreational spaces maintenance and upgrading parks amenities (SVS, PP, IA, SW, SI)
- #2 – Evaluate underutilized parks to identify opportunities for improvement, repurposing, or amenity enhancement (SVS, PP, IA)
- #3 – Identify and evaluate opportunities for land acquisition to enhance park access, connectivity, and future recreational development (SVS, IA, SI)
- #4 – Continue environmental stewardship and sustainability practices throughout parks (PP, IA)
- #5 – Strengthen safety and security measures across all parks and facilities (SVS, SI, CE)

justification key:

○ SVS – Statistically Valid Survey	○ IA – Inventory/Analysis	○ SI – Stakeholder Interviews	○ RA – Rec Program Analysis
○ PP – Prior Plans	○ SW – Staff Workshop	○ CE – Community Event	○ SP – Staff Program Assessment

parks and open space

objective 1:

Continue to maintain and upgrade park facilities to ensure safe, accessible, and high-quality recreational spaces maintenance and upgrading parks amenities (SVS, PP, IA, SW, SI)

Strategies:

- Continue to evaluate, refine, and implement the Park District's 5-Year Capital plan.
- Evaluate and prioritize park amenity renovation and replacement based on community need, industry recommended need (SCORP and Park Metrics), and budget.
 - Continue to renovate or add walking/biking trails and pathway priorities:
 - Channelside Park (2026)
 - Skokie Sports Park East (2026 Referendum)
 - Channelside South (2026 Referendum)
 - Evaluate locations for additional open space with amenities priorities:
 - Skokie Sports Park East
 - Channelside South

parks and open space

objective 1, cont.:

Continue to maintain and modernize park facilities and amenities to ensure they remain accessible and provide high-quality recreational experiences for all users (SVS, PP, IA, SW, SI)

Strategies:

- Evaluate locations for additional rectangular field priorities:
 - Skokie Sports Park East
 - Evaluate future locations for an additional dog park.
- Evaluate the need for new amenity types and trends.

parks and open space

objective 2:

Evaluate underutilized parks to identify opportunities for improvement, repurposing, or amenity enhancement (SVS, PP, IA)

Strategies:

- Review park classifications and service area coverage to ensure equitable access, balanced park types, and efficient resource distribution.
 - Potential parks with room to grow, add amenities, and /or change classification.
 - Channelside South is classified as undeveloped and has potential to become a community park with added proposed amenities
 - Skokie Sports Park East is classified as undeveloped and has potential to become a community park with added proposed amenities

parks and open space

objective 2, cont.:

Evaluate underutilized parks to identify opportunities for improvement, repurposing, or amenity enhancement (SVS, PP, IA)

Strategies:

- Prepare and implement redevelopment/master plans for specific parks.
 - Skokie Sports Park East
 - Channelside South

parks and open space

objective 3:

Identify and evaluate opportunities for land acquisition to enhance park access, connectivity, and future recreational development (SVS, IA, SI)

Strategies:

- Continue monitoring land availability and partnership opportunities to expand park access or enhance connectivity.
- Prioritize incremental or strategic acquisitions that fill identified gaps in underserved areas. Consider enablement of trail linkages, park frontage, or redevelopment of underused parcels.
 - Acquire Channelside South.
- Coordinate with Village and regional partners to pursue incremental parcels that fill service or connectivity gaps.

parks and open space

objective 4:

Continue environmental stewardship and sustainability practices throughout all parks (PP, IA)

Strategies:

- Integrate sustainable transportation into park planning.
 - Add EV charging stations at key parks and community centers.
 - Implement green parking lot designs (bioswales, native landscaping).
- Identify key areas for continued integration of resilience planning and green infrastructure expansion.
 - Integrate green infrastructure and adaptive design to reduce climate risks and protect natural resources.
 - Implement stormwater management projects (rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs) when and where possible.
- Make sustainability more visible and participatory.
 - Develop a “Green Parks” signage or labeling program that explains sustainable features to visitors.

parks and open space

objective 5:

Strengthen safety and security measures across all parks and facilities (SVS, SI, CE)

Strategies:

- Investigate and implement ways to improve safety in parks and facilities.
 - Pilot park security camera program.
 - Community campaign promoting safety.
 - Revisit signage in parks.
 - Develop policy for eBikes.
 - Reinforce staff training on safety procedures and emergency response to ensure consistent standards districtwide.

parks and open space

preliminary needs:

- There is a desire for more inclusivity within programs/events, regarding culture/ethnicity, gender, age, etc.
- SPD should evaluate programs that are nearing end of life to allow for new program development
- There is a desire for the continuation of special events/programming
- There is a desire for more space to coordinate programming

programs and events

objectives:

- #1 – Expand overall programming reach in the community, especially with special attention towards increasing adult participation (SVS, SW, SI, CE, RA)
- #2 – Increase program retention and participant engagement (RA)
- #3 – Develop and maintain a consistent recreation program and service evaluation process to identify opportunities for improvement, expansion, or retirement (SVS, IA, CE, SP, SW, RA)
- #4 – Enhance inclusivity across all parks to ensure welcoming and equitable experiences for all community members (SVS, CE)

justification key:

- SVS – Statistically Valid Survey
- PP – Prior Plans
- IA – Inventory/Analysis
- SW – Staff Workshop
- SI – Stakeholder Interviews
- CE – Community Event
- RA – Rec Program Analysis
- SP – Staff Program Assessment

programs and events⁴⁰

objective 1:

Expand overall programming reach in the community, especially with special attention towards increasing adult participation (SVS, SW, SI, CE, RA)

Strategies:

- Use touchpoints within facilities, memberships, and special events (which reach a wider audience than programs) as an opportunity for cross-promoting programs to a broader audience.
- Identify opportunities to increase program participation by male(-identifying) members of the community in the areas of "Exercise and Fitness," "Cultural Arts," and "Active Adults."
- Conduct additional outreach to better understand how to serve adults in the community through programs and events.
- Evaluate current programs and events for opportunities to better reflect the needs and potential conflicts community members may have concerning holidays, dietary needs, and cultural representation.
- Continue to identify new program and event options that celebrate the community's diversity.

programs⁴¹ and events

objective 2:

Increase program retention and participant engagement (RA)

Strategies:

- Identify opportunities to conduct just-in-time marketing and / or streamline re-enrollment processes for key program areas where you expect repeat users (such as summer camp, leagues, fitness classes, etc.).
- Conduct targeted outreach at or immediately following programs and events known to attract new users to the District.
- Consider loyalty or engagement incentives, rewards, or special offers for programs where repeat participation is low.
- Create a process to reach out to lost customers to learn why they have opted not to return.

programs and events

objective 2, cont.:

Increase program retention and participant engagement (RA)

Strategies:

- Collect and promote stories or testimonials that showcase long-term participants and the benefits of on-going / steady participation.
- Ensure that training provided to program staff, instructors, and volunteers includes opportunities to strengthen relationships with participants through improved communication, recognition (even the importance of learning names), and ensuring every participant feels welcomed and encouraged to return.
- Where it makes sense, identify and develop bundled or sequenced programs so that participants can more easily transition into the next opportunity.

programs⁴³ and events

objective 3:

Develop and maintain a consistent recreation program and service evaluation process to identify opportunities for improvement, expansion, or retirement (SVS, IA, CE, SP, SW, RA)

Strategies:

- Identify and monitor key recreation programs and service metrics aligned with organizational priorities.
- Build staff capacity and expectations regarding the responsibilities for program and service evaluation, documentation of findings, and use of results to support decision-making.
- Review programs identified as being at or near the end of their lifecycle to determine whether to adapt, retire, or refresh them.

programs and events

objective 3, cont.:

Develop and maintain a consistent recreation program and service evaluation process to identify opportunities for improvement, expansion, or retirement (SVS, IA, CE, SP, SW, RA)

Strategies:

- For those programs rated as being well-aligned with the park district's mission, but requiring a high number of resources, explore opportunities to improve operational outcomes such as enhancing revenue generation, building partnerships, or utilizing volunteers to reduce expenses or staff time.
- Conduct a review and clean-up of the current RecTrac database, beginning with customer contact and demographic information.

programs⁴⁵ and events

objective 4:

Enhance inclusivity across all parks to ensure welcoming and equitable experiences for all community members (SVS, CE)

Strategies:

- Leverage emerging and evolving technologies to improve communication and access for residents of diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.
 - Continue to add translation kiosks

programs⁴⁶ and events

preliminary needs:

- There is a desire for improved communication/awareness to the community regarding available activities/programs and resources provided by the Park District
- There is a desire for improved partnerships and coordination between the Park District and surrounding agencies

policy and operations

objectives:

- #1 – Continue to strengthen communication, awareness, and access to information (SVS, SW, CE)
- #2 – Continue to evaluate and enhance partnerships and coordination with community organizations (SW, SI)
- #3 – Continue to advance sustainability and resilience practices across operations (PP, IA)
- #4 – Evaluate pricing and access models to balance affordability, inclusivity, and sustainability (SVS, SI, CE)

justification key:

- SVS – Statistically Valid Survey
- PP – Prior Plans
- IA – Inventory/Analysis
- SW – Staff Workshop
- SI – Stakeholder Interviews
- CE – Community Event
- RA – Rec Program Analysis
- SP – Staff Program Assessment

policy and operations

objective 1:

Continue to strengthen communication, awareness, and access to information (SVS, SW, CE)

Strategies:

- Continue evaluating communication channels to improve clarity, consistency, and reach across all platforms (social media, website, e-newsletters, print).
- Enhance promotion of community events, programs and environmental initiatives through unified marketing campaigns and cross-departmental coordination.
- Create tailored outreach for new participants to increase awareness of District amenities and opportunities.
- Review and improve the program registration process to ensure user-friendliness, transparency, and equitable access to high-demand programs.

policy and operations

objective 1, cont.:

Continue to strengthen communication, awareness, and access to information (SVS, SW, CE)

Strategies:

- Continue development of staff training and service standards that reinforce responsive, courteous, and consistent customer interactions.
- Continue managing online business and social media profiles to ensure accuracy, alignment with District standards, and positive engagement.

policy and operations

objective 2:

Continue to evaluate and enhance partnerships and coordination with community organizations (SW, SI)

Strategies:

- Review current partnership agreements—particularly with school districts—to ensure consistency, coordination, and shared benefit.
- Strengthen collaboration with the Village and surrounding agencies through joint planning, programming, and facility use coordination.
- Explore partnerships with local nonprofits and civic groups to improve outreach to underrepresented or underserved community segments.
- Identify opportunities for cross-promotion and co-hosted events that highlight shared resources.
- Evaluate staff capacity for partnership management and consider dedicated roles or liaisons for interagency coordination.

policy and operations

objective 3:

Continue to advance sustainability and resilience practices across operations (PP, IA)

Strategies:

- Broaden renewable energy use and storage capacity across District facilities to reduce environmental impacts and operational costs.
- Consider a redeveloped approach to public communication / transparency of sustainability metrics.
- Adopt adaptive design and management measures.
- Evaluate and apply findings to inform capital projects.

policy and operations

objective 3, cont.:

Continue to advance sustainability and resilience practices across operations (PP, IA)

Strategies:

- Consider increasing renewable energy capacity and improve energy efficiency (solar retrofits, battery storage systems, LED lighting upgrades, energy monitoring).
- Consider collaborative green-driven events with Village and other partners (Earth Day, International Day of Forests, Arbor Day, Compost Awareness Week, etc.).
- Consider interpretive signage design and installation within park improvements for the next 5 years.

policy and operations

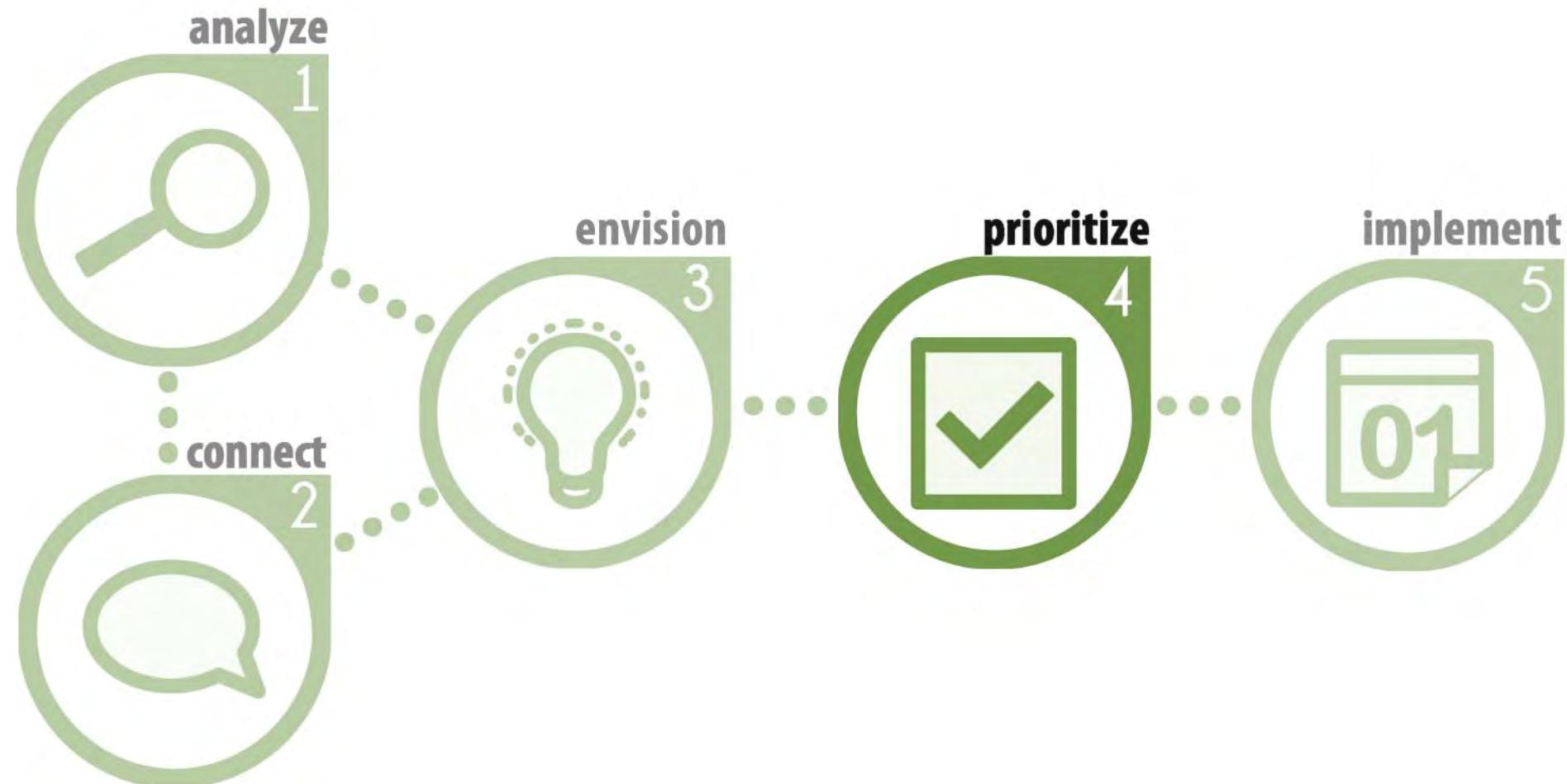
objective 4:

Evaluate pricing and access models to balance affordability, inclusivity, and sustainability (SVS, SI, CE)

Strategies:

- Review current facility fee structures to ensure consistency, transparency, and equitable access across demographics.
- Explore reduced-rate or flexible pricing options for low-income families and underserved populations.
- Improve public communication around facility costs, membership benefits, and available discounts to strengthen awareness and trust.
- Continue community outreach to continue evaluation of pricing and specificity of programs and facilities.

policy and operations

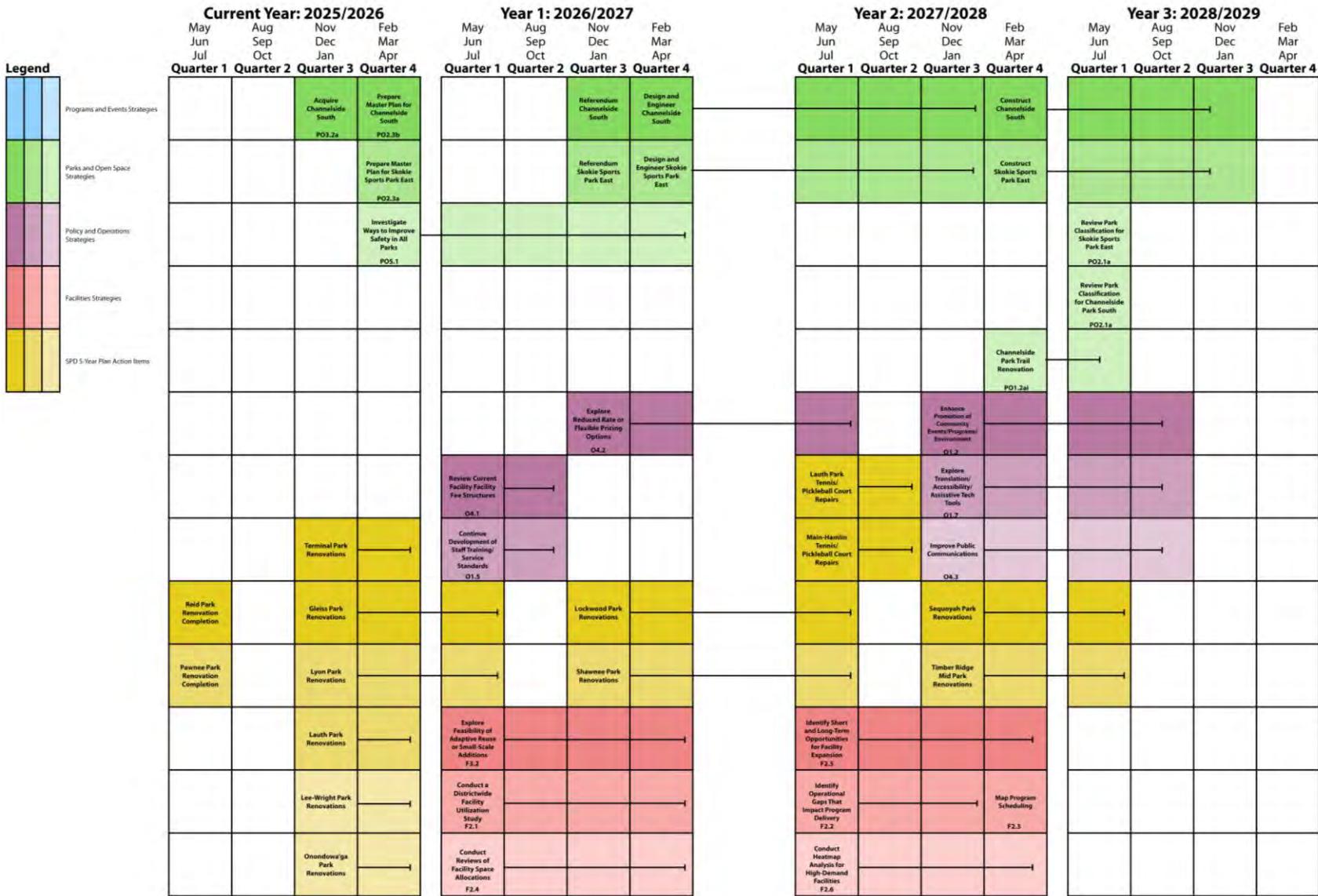


prioritize

preliminary action plan - workshop

HIGH PRIORITY (0-5 YEARS)				LOW-MEDIUM PRIORITY (5+ YEARS)				ONGOING INITIATIVES																	
F3.1	Identify Indoor Aquatics Facility Utilization Study	PE1.1	Investigate Ways to Improve Safety in all Parks	PO1.2a	Stable Sports Park East	PO3.2a	Provide On-site Restrooms	F4.1	Assess Indoor Facilities for Renovation or Expansion	PE2.1	Identity App to conduct Outreach Marketing	PE2.7	Develop Bilingual Sequenced Programs	03.2	Strengthen Collaboration with Parks and Recreation	F1.2	Strengthen On-site Behavior Policies and Programs	PO5.3	Priority Renovation of Aging Buildings	01.3	Make Sustainability More Visible	04.4	Create Tailored Outreach for New Residents	01.4	Broaden Renewable Energy Use
F3.2	Identify Opportunity Areas to Improve Program Delivery	PO1.2a	Develop Park Trail Renovation South	PO1.2	Assess Needs of Community Events/Programs Environment	F4.2	Explore Feasibility of Adaptive Rec or Small-Scale Additions	PE1.2	Explore Feasibility of Adaptive Rec or Small-Scale Additions	PE2.2	Conduct Targeted Outreach	PE2.8	Explore Staff Capacity/Expectations	03.3	Establish Partnerships with Community Groups	F1.3	Identify Parks/Historic Buildings & Program Needs	PO5.3	Priority Renovation of Aging Buildings	01.1	Use Department's Outreach Materials/Special Events	01.4	Review/Improve Program Registration		
F3.3	Map Program Scheduling	PO1.2a	Stable Sports Park East Trail Additions	PO1.2b	Review Park Classification Criteria	PO1.2a	Continue Training of Staff	PO1.2a	Explore Locations for Dog Park	PE2.3	Conduct Loyalty/Affiliation Incentives/Rewards Special Offer	PE2.4	Review App for On-site Promotions/Co-hosted Events	03.4	Identity App for On-site Promotions/Co-hosted Events	F1.4	Identify Underserved Facilities	PO1.1	Continue to Assess and Implement and Refine 5-Year Plan	01.1	Continue Additional Outreach	01.6	Continue Managing Online Business/Social Media Profiles		
F3.4	Conduct Review of Facility Space Allocations	PO1.2a	Cherrydale Park Trail Additions	PO2.1a	Explore Reservation Necessary/Proactive Tech Tools	PO1.2a	Perform a Field and Court Assessment	PO1.2a	Perform a Field and Court Assessment	PE2.5	Explore Process to Reach Out to Lost Customers	PE2.6	Explore App for Operational Partnership Impact	03.5	Develop Healing and Wellness Utilization Patterns	F1.5	Identify Underserved Facilities	PO3.1	Monitor Local Sustainability and Climate Action Framework	01.1	Establish Local Sustainability and Climate Action Framework	01.2	Develop Measurable Sustainability Metrics		
Encourage Collaboration Between Rec. Staff and Facility Staff	PO1.2a	Cherrydale Park Trail Open Space with Amenities Addition	PO2.2a	Produce and Implement Master Plan for Stable Sports Park East	PO1.2a	Add More Language Signage	PO1.2a	Collect and Share Stories or Testimonials	PE2.7	Conduct Clean-up of Restrooms	PE2.8	Review Current Partnership Agreements	03.6	Consider Share the Agreements or Partnerships	F1.6	Develop Healing and Wellness Utilization Patterns	PO5.2	Identify Key Partners for Continued Integration of Resilience Planning	01.1	Continue Evaluating Communication Channels	04.3	Conduct Climate Vulnerability Assessments			
F3.5	Review Current Facility Fee Structures	PO1.2a	Stable Sports Park East Renovations with New Addition	PO1.3	Review and Implement Master Plan for Cherrydale Park South	PO1.2a	Integrate Stable Sports Park South into Park Planning	PO1.2a	Integrate Stable Sports Park South into Park Planning	PE3.1	Identify/Monitor Key Rec. Program Aligned w/ org. Priorities	PE3.1	Identify/Monitor Key Rec. Program Aligned w/ org. Priorities	03.7	Coordinate with Village and Regional Partners	F1.7	Develop Healing and Wellness Utilization Patterns	PO5.3	Priority Renovation of Aging Buildings	01.1	Continue Evaluating Communication Channels	04.2	Conduct Climate Vulnerability Assessments		
F2.1	Conduct a Feasibility Study for Indoor Aquatics Center	PO1.3	Evaluate Locations or Perform Feasibility Study for Syn. Turf	PE1.2	Identify Opp. To Reduce Gender Disparities	PE3.1	Identify/Monitor Key Rec. Program Aligned w/ org. Priorities	PE1.2	Identify Opp. To Reduce Gender Disparities	PE3.1	Identify/Monitor Key Rec. Program Aligned w/ org. Priorities	PE3.1	Identify/Monitor Key Rec. Program Aligned w/ org. Priorities	03.8	Coordinate with Village and Regional Partners	F1.8	Develop Healing and Wellness Utilization Patterns	PO5.2	Identify Key Partners for Continued Integration of Resilience Planning	01.1	Continue Evaluating Communication Channels	04.3	Conduct Climate Vulnerability Assessments		

prioritize



57 action plan

Year 4: 2029/2030

	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4						
Programs and Events Strategies										
Parks and Open Space Strategies										
Policy and Operations Strategies										
Facilities Strategies										
SPD 5-Year Plan Action Items										
Review Current Partnership Agreements Q2.1										
Evaluate Staff Capacity for Partnership Management Q2.5										
Build Staff Capacity Regarding Role Responsibilities PE2.2										
Assess Each Indoor Facility for Potential Renovation or Expansion F3.3										
Explore Internal Training Initiatives Relationship Strengthening Opportunities PE2.6										
Consider Loyalty Incentives for Programs with Low Repeat Participation PE2.3										
Explore Feasibility of Adaptive Reuse of Small-Scale Additions F4.5										

Year 5: 2030/2031

	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4						
Programs and Events Strategies										
Parks and Open Space Strategies										
Policy and Operations Strategies										
Facilities Strategies										
SPD 5-Year Plan Action Items										
Strengthen Collaborations with Villages and Surrounding Agencies Q2.2										
Evaluate Need for New Amenity Types and Trends PO1.3										
Integrate Sustainable Transportation Into Park Programming PO4.1										
Explore Partnership with Local Nonprofits and Civic Groups Q2.3										
Identify Opportunities for Cross-Promotion and Co-Hosted Events Q2.4										
Conduct Climate Vulnerability Assessments for Parks and Facilities Q3.3										
Continue to Implement Park District's 5-Year Plan PO1.1										
Coordinate With Village and Regional Partners to Promote Opportunities PO2.3										
Identify Key Areas for Continued Integration of Program Planning PO4.2										
Make Sustainability More Visible and Participatory PO4.3										
Continue to Monitor Land Availability and Partnership Opportunities PO2.1										
Create Tailored Outreach for New Participants Q1.3										
Review and Revise Program Registration Process Q1.4										
Assess Critical Infrastructure Q3.7										
Develop Measurable Sustainability Metrics Q3.2										
Broaden Renewable Energy Use and Storage Capacity Q3.4										
Continue to Hold Sustainability and Climate Action Workshops Q1.6										
Continue to Hold Sustainability and Climate Action Workshops Q3.1										
Map Hazard Exposure Q3.6										
Adopt Adaptive Design and Management Measures Q3.8										
Evaluate and Apply Findings to Inform Capital Projects Q3.9										
Consider Increasing Renewable Energy Capacity and Efficiency Q3.10										
Consider Collaborative Green-Driven Events with Village and Regional Partners Q3.11										
Consider Interpretive Signage Design and Installation Within Park Improvements Q3.12										
Continue Pricing Evaluation Through Community Outreach Q4.4										
Use Touchpoints to Broaden Cross-Promotion of Programs PE1.1										
Identify Opportunities to Reduce Gender Participation Disparity PE1.2										
Conduct Additional Outreach to Understand How to Better Serve All Participants PE1.3										
Evaluate Opportunities to Better Address Representationality Needs and Potential Conflicts PE1.4										
Continue to Identify New Program and Event Options Celebrating Diversity PE1.5										
Identify and Monitor Key Recreation Program and Facility Metrics PE3.1										
Continue to Add Program and Facility Metrics PE4.1										
Evaluate Facility Needs for High-Impact Programs F1.1										
Strengthen Coordination Between Facilities and Programming Operations F1.2										
Identify Potential Matches Between Program Needs and Available Facility Space F1.3										
Apply Camp Registration Knowledge to Internal Programs F1.4										
Consider Peak Use Times, Facility Needs, and Staffing F1.5										
Evaluate Ancillary Needs F1.6										
Leverage Planned Capital Investments to Meet Program Demands F1.7										
Continue Shared Use Agreements or Partnerships During Peak Demand Periods F3.4										
Support Planned Facility Enhancements F3.5										
Minimize Waste Generation and Expand Recycling and Reuse Efforts F4.7										
Incorporate Sustainability Considerations Into Long-Term Facility Planning and Renovations F4.9										
Continue Building Retracts, Upgrades, and Smaller Changes as Noted in 5-Year Plan F4.3										
Align 5-Year Plan with Evolving Community Priorities and Sustainability Goals F5.2										

Beyond 5 Years: 2031+

Evaluate Need for New Amenity Types and Trends PO1.3	Integrate Sustainable Transportation Into Park Programming PO4.1		
Explore Partnership with Local Nonprofits and Civic Groups Q2.3	Identify Opportunities for Cross-Promotion and Co-Hosted Events Q2.4		
Conduct Climate Vulnerability Assessments for Parks and Facilities Q3.3			
Continue to Implement Park District's 5-Year Plan PO1.1			
Coordinate With Village and Regional Partners to Promote Opportunities PO2.3			
Identify Key Areas for Continued Integration of Program Planning PO4.2			
Make Sustainability More Visible and Participatory PO4.3			
Continue to Monitor Land Availability and Partnership Opportunities PO2.1			
Create Tailored Outreach for New Participants Q1.3			
Review and Revise Program Registration Process Q1.4			
Assess Critical Infrastructure Q3.7			
Develop Measurable Sustainability Metrics Q3.2			
Broaden Renewable Energy Use and Storage Capacity Q3.4			
Continue Management of Online Business and Social Media Platforms Q1.6			
Continue to Hold Sustainability and Climate Action Workshops Q3.1			
Map Hazard Exposure Q3.6			
Adopt Adaptive Design and Management Measures Q3.8			
Evaluate and Apply Findings to Inform Capital Projects Q3.9			
Consider Increasing Renewable Energy Capacity and Efficiency Q3.10			
Consider Collaborative Green-Driven Events with Village and Regional Partners Q3.11			
Consider Interpretive Signage Design and Installation Within Park Improvements Q3.12			
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Incorporate Sustainability Considerations Into Long-Term Facility Planning and Renovations F4.9			
Continue Building Retracts, Upgrades, and Smaller Changes as Noted in 5-Year Plan F4.3			
Align 5-Year Plan with Evolving Community Priorities and Sustainability Goals F5.2			

Reoccurring Items

Assess Each Indoor Facility for Potential Renovation or Expansion F3.3			
Explore Feasibility of Adaptive Reuse of Small-Scale Additions F4.5			
Implement Green Purchasing Policies for Materials and Equipment F4.4			
Priority Renovation of Aging Buildings and Invest in Infrastructure Upgrades F5.1			
Align 5-Year Plan with Evolving Community Priorities and Sustainability Goals F5.2			

Legend

Programs and Events Strategies	
Parks and Open Space Strategies	
Policy and Operations Strategies	
Facilities Strategies	
SPD 5-Year Plan Action Items	

action plan

An aerial photograph of a well-maintained golf course. The course features several green fairways, a large sand bunker on the right, and a variety of mature trees. In the background, a dense urban area with numerous buildings and skyscrapers is visible under a clear sky.

next steps

Schedule

- Analyze Phase - complete
- Connect Phase - complete
- Envision Phase – September 2025 – January 2026
 - **Board Review #2 – January 20, 2026**
 - Envision Phase review
- Prioritize Phase – November 2025 – January 2026
- Implement Phase – August 2025 – February 2026
- *Booklet complete & Board adoption – March 2026*

next steps

discussion



thank you!



Skokie Park District

BOARD SUMMARY



Date: January 20, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Michelle Tuft, Executive Director

RE: Referendum Consultant Agreement

Summary: Attached is an agreement from Beyond Your Base (BYB) to continue their consulting services as the district moves towards making a decision regarding a referendum in 2026. BYB will help the district create a frequently-asked-questions document and fact sheet, hold a task force meeting, help develop an informational mailer, create a presentation deck, review press releases, create social media content, coordinate text messages, provide guidance on a website landing page and design and administer a public opinion survey. The first contract included a thorough analysis of voter statistics and indicated that a referendum could be successful, thus the desire to move forward with the next phase. The cost of the consultant, \$64,000, will come from the capital budget professional fees line item and will be split over this fiscal year and FY 2026-27.

Recommendation: Staff recommends approving the agreement with Beyond Your Base for consulting services.

Motion: Move to approve the agreement with Beyond Your Base, a consulting group of Wight & Company, for \$64,000 plus travel expenses.

January 7, 2026

Ms. Michelle Tuft, CPRE
Executive Director
Skokie Park District
9300 Weber Park Place
Skokie, IL 60077

Skokie Park District
Public Engagement and Public Opinion Research Services Agreement

Dear Mrs. Tuft:

Beyond Your Base ("BYB"), a consulting group of Wight & Company, is pleased to submit this Public Engagement and Public Opinion Research Services Agreement ("Agreement") to Skokie Park District ("District").

The Agreement is presented in five parts:

- UNDERSTANDING
- SCOPE OF SERVICES
- SCHEDULE
- COMPENSATION
- OTHER TERMS

UNDERSTANDING

BYB understands that the District is considering options for funding capital facility improvements, including the potential to seek additional local funding in 2026. As part of its planning efforts, the District seeks to engage BYB to help share information with residents regarding a potential funding proposal and assist in seeking community input specific to a possible funding proposal. BYB understands that no final decisions would be made by the District regarding a funding proposal until after a comprehensive public engagement effort is completed, including conducting a public opinion survey.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

BYB will provide the District with the following services and deliverables:

- **Frequently-Asked-Questions Document and Fact Sheets.** Prepare an FAQ document and fact sheet to be posted on the District's website to help inform residents about the funding proposal.
- **Task Force Meetings.** Prepare an invitation letter, agenda, and PowerPoint presentation for a Task Force meeting. Support facilitation of a maximum of two in-person meetings to gather feedback on the proposed improvements and financing plan before implementing a districtwide public information program.
- **Informational Mailer.** Work closely with the District and its architect to develop an informational mailer for registered voters within the District, highlighting the planning efforts completed to date, identified needs, and proposed solutions. Services include issue framing, messaging, copywriting, graphic design, and coordination of printing and mailing.
- **Presentation Deck.** Assist in developing a presentation for the District to use at in-person community meetings and webinars.
- **Earned Media.** Review press releases pertaining to the District's planning efforts and potential proposal.
- **Social Media.** Create social media graphics and draft post content for use by the District at its discretion across existing platforms and other relevant accounts.
- **Text Messages.** Develop and coordinate the execution of text messages to promote public information meetings and/or related engagements.
- **Website Landing Page.** Provide guidance on the content and layout of a District-run website landing page where residents, media, and other stakeholders can access information about the possible funding proposal.
- **Informational Videos.** If pursued, review drafts of informational videos. The District would engage a videographer to develop the videos.
- **Public Opinion Survey.** Design and administer a mail/online/text survey to gather input from all registered voter households within the District regarding the potential funding proposal. Services include developing the survey and an accompanying fact sheet, providing graphic design, coordinating printing and mailing, creating and implementing a text message with a link to the online survey to encourage participation, managing data entry, analyzing results, and presenting findings to the District's Board of

Commissioners, either virtually or in person.

- **Digital Communications.** Develop and implement a digital communications plan aimed at increasing community awareness of and engagement with the District's website landing page. If pursued, digital communications would also focus on increasing viewership of the informational video.
- **Final Proposal.** Provide input on the composition of the final proposal, if pursued.
- **Ballot Question.** Assist in reviewing the final ballot question language, if pursued.
- **Additional Informational Mailers.** Prepare up to two additional informational mailers if the Board of Commissioners decides to adopt the election resolution. Services include issue framing, messaging, copywriting, graphic design, and coordination of printing and mailing.

SCHEDULE

BYB is prepared to start work on this engagement as soon as January 27, 2026.

COMPENSATION

BYB proposes to conduct the above scope of services at a fixed cost of Sixty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$64,000), with said fee billed in four invoices of Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000) each. The invoices would be billed on/about February 27, 2026, April 30, 2026, June 30, 2026, and August 31, 2026, with said invoices to be paid within 30 days of receipt.

Reimbursable Expenses

The District would be responsible for all expenses related to the Public Engagement and Public Opinion Research Services, including printing, mailing, and postage costs of direct mailers to registered voter households; printing, mailing, and postage costs associated with the mail survey, including postage and postal fees for reply envelopes; numbering, scanning, and uploading of completed mail surveys; crosstabs; and implementing text messages.

Other Consultants

The District would directly engage a videographer, if one or more informational videos are pursued.

Travel Expenses

The District would be responsible for BYB's travel-related expenses, including airfare at coach rate, parking, local transportation, and lodging for Paul Hanley and/or Skylar White in connection with in-person meetings. All travel would be pre-approved by the District.

Digital Communications

BYB would separately invoice the District for digital communications, if pursued. All digital communications would be pre-approved by the District.

OTHER TERMS

1. **No Advocacy-Related Services.** The parties expressly understand and agree that this Agreement is not intended to and does not encompass or include any advocacy-related services in connection with any future campaigns. Accordingly, as part of the Agreement, BYB will not provide any such advocacy services to, or for the benefit of, the District under or pursuant to this Agreement.
2. **Related Professional Services.** This Agreement is separate and apart from any other professional services the District may deem necessary. The District retains flexibility in working with other planning/design firms, engineering firms, construction contractors/professionals, financial advisors, or other professional consultants.
3. **Termination.** The District, at its sole discretion, may terminate this Agreement at any time by providing a written notice of termination. At the termination of this Agreement, the District shall provide earned compensation and reimburse BYB such reasonable costs and expenses incurred to the date of such termination, which payment shall be in full satisfaction of all claims against the District under this Agreement.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist Skokie Park District with this important initiative. Upon signature of this Agreement, please return one original signed copy to Wight & Company, c/o John Flodin, 2500 North Frontage Road, Darien, IL 60561.

(This space is intentionally left blank.)

Respectfully submitted,

**BEYOND YOUR BASE
A CONSULTING GROUP OF
WIGHT & COMPANY**



Paul Hanley
Managing Director
Beyond Your Base

On behalf of Skokie Park District:

Accepted/Signature

Printed Name

Title

Date



Skokie Park District

Parks Board Report

January 2026



PARK SERVICES

Corrie Guynn

Superintendent of Parks, Planning and Facilities

- Jim Hallm was promoted from the Horticultural Supervisor to the Landscape and Horticultural Supervisor position that was created. This new position is the beginning of a reorganization within the parks department that will create new responsibilities for staff to take on more of an administrative role as well as make the department more efficient.
- Work begin in full on the Devonshire Cultural Center flooring and painting project. Several halls, including the main lobby entrance area and west preschool hallway are complete. The second-floor bathroom renovations are also complete and have been reopened. The first-floor bathroom renovations are underway.
- The playgrounds at Gleiss Park and Lyon Park have been removed. A fair portion of the play surfacing at Gleiss has also been removed and demolition at both sites will progress as weather permits.
- Several closeout items have been finished in the pickleball room including the installation of the new lights and painting in the bathrooms. The room has been rented a handful of times with positive reviews.
- All staff have been involved with snow and ice removal as needed.
- Budgeting continues and several meetings have been held to finalize operating budgets. Meetings with contractors have taken place to obtain quotes for upcoming projects, initiating the process of assembling the capital plan.
- All staff attended a forklift certification training.
- The horticulture staff have been processing native seeds for next season's plantings.
- The landscape staff have been painting shelter picnic tables and garbage barrels.

Skokie Park District
Recreation and Facilities Board Report
January 2026

Superintendent of Recreation and Facilities – Breanne Labus

Assistant Superintendent of Recreation - Mary Amato

Superintendent of Parks, Planning and Facilities – Corrie Guynn

Facility Rentals and Birthday Parties

Devonshire

	2024	2025
Room Rental	9	6
Birthday Parties	6	7

Emily Oaks Nature Center

	2024	2025
Room Rental	6	6
Birthday Parties	1	2

Park Services

	2024	2025
Birthday Parties	N/A	6

Oakton/Exploritorium

	2024	2025
Room Rental	15	15
Exploritorium Birthday Parties	44	54
Exploritorium Group Visits	1	0
Rally Room	n/a	1

Skatium

	2024	2025
Room Rental	0	0
Birthday Parties	31	24*

*Includes an additional 14 family/group skate rentals that were not full birthday parties.

Skokie Heritage Museum

	2024	2025
Room Rental	3	1

Weber Center

	2024	2025
Room Rental	4	4
Birthday Parties	6	6

Admissions and Visits

Exploritorium

	2024	2025
Admissions	3,089	4,198

Skokie Heritage Museum

	2024	2025
Visits	191	321

Skokie Sports Park

	2024	2025
Range	\$28,480	\$20,230
Simulator	\$7,390	\$9,627
Grass Tees	closed	closed
Mini Golf	\$926	\$625
Batting Cages	closed	closed
Concessions	\$394	\$367
Alcohol	\$1,240	\$1,113
Total	\$38,430	\$31,962

Weber/Athletics

	2024	2025
Open Gym	476	276
Late Night	210	583
Table Tennis	64	28
Open Pickleball	141	28
Men's 40 and Over Basketball	78	64
Private Tennis/Pickleball	18	6

Childcare Enrollment

Devonshire Preschool

	24/2025	25/2026
2's	15	14
3's	33	29
4's	30	35
Enrichment	36	41
Total	114	119

Emily Oak's Growing Sprouts

	24/2025	25/2026
Half and Full + Lunch Bunch	25 + 2	25 + 3

SPACE

	24/2025	25/2026
AM	181	206
PM	569	589
Total	750	795

Athletics- Curt Evans

Updates and Highlights

Winter 2026 Leagues	2025	2026
NBL (Basketball)	5 teams	7 teams
Alumni (Basketball)	12 teams	12 teams
Romanian Ministry (Basketball)	10 teams	10 teams
Romanian (Volleyball)	n/a	8 teams

Aquatics – Scott Runkle

Devonshire Aquatic Center

- A contractor has completed the office floors and is working on the locker room floors.

Skokie Water Playground

- The new “Big Red Bucket” was delivered and is ready for installation.

Winter Indoor Programming

	2025	2026
Group Lessons	127	121
Private Lessons	N/A	N/A
Semi-Private Lessons	N/A	N/A
Open Swim	N/A	N/A

Devonshire Cultural Center – Robin Horwitz

Facility Updates and Highlights

- Facility flooring, painting, and bathroom renovations, including painting and new flooring, are underway and will finish by the end of January.
- The Music Division presented the adult *Music Recital*, December 6 with youth performing on December 21. Together they hosted audiences of 65.
- The Holiday Carolers completed seven performances around Skokie for approximately 100 individuals.
- The Dance Division performed *The Nutcracker* on December 7 at Loyola Academy with 500 in attendance.

- *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by Thin Ice Ensemble Theatre completed three performances in December with 374 in attendance.
- The Speakeasy Theatre and the Script Reading Happy Hour were held in December with a total of 23 attending.
- *8 Nights 8 Lights* welcomed 37 guests and seven volunteers on December 17.
- The *Skokie Through the Years* art exhibit continues through January with a closing reception February 1 from 2-4 p.m.
- Devonshire Preschool hosted winter recitals on December 17 and 19 with approximately 350 in attendance.
- The Cultural Arts and Cultural Arts Mini Holiday Camps were held for two weeks with a total of 68 participants compared to 62 in 2024.

Emily Oaks Nature Center – Lee Hansen

Facility Updates and Highlights

- The Gnome Hunt at Emily Oaks attracted over 1,000 people from December 12 – January 4 with over 200 gnome kits sold. Emily Oaks was also featured in the news as a fun family outdoor activity.
- Staff worked with the Childcare Network of Evanston on a family rental event and provided leader-guided hikes, a campfire with s'mores, and indoor activities.
- Staff prepared annual parking permit applications for the Emily Oaks neighbors on Brummel Street who are permitted to park in the lot overnight.

Drop-in Programming	Groups
Scout/Youth Group Activities	2
Gnome Hunt – December 12 - January 4	1,000 individuals (estimate)
Gnome Kit Sales (\$3.00 each)	210 kits

Volunteer Workdays	Hours
Weekday Crafters	64.25
Land Management	5
Seed Processing	21.75
At-Home Projects (sewing)	5
Total Hours (December)	96

Volunteers helped staff process seeds from native flowers and grasses to separate the seeds from the chaff and prepare them for propagation in the greenhouse and planting on the grounds.

Oakton Community Center – Aryn Fletcher

Facility Updates and Highlights

- Rick Sawdon was promoted to the vacant full-time Oakton Custodian Supervisor position.
- The Exploritorium hosted the annual Itty-Bitty New Year on December 31. The event was sold out with 551 participants.

- Paint and Play at the Exploritorium had 109 participants: the most participation to date for the Exploritorium's monthly events.
- Active Adults Holiday Sweater Bingo - 86 participants
- Breakfast with Santa - 136 guests
- Gingerbread House Decorating - 47 participants
- Parent/Tot Yoga at the Exploritorium - 28 participants
- Playdough Playtime at the Exploritorium - 28 participants
- Kids Night Out at the Exploritorium - 20 participants

Skatium Ice Arena – Kurt von Helms

Facility Updates and Highlights

- Holiday Season Public Skates at the Skatium were well attended with 161 skaters at Skate with Santa, 242 skaters at Noon Year's Eve Skate & Balloon Drop, and a total of 2,317 skaters at the various public skating sessions over the two-week holiday break.

Hockey

- Winter Hockey Camp had 106 participants over the course of the seven days of camp.

Figure Skating

- The Holiday Skating Exhibition on December 22 featured 30 skaters including solos, duets, and other groups with 250 spectators.

Skokie Heritage Museum– Emily England

Facility Updates and Highlights

- The Museum held its second annual Firehouse Winterfest, for the first time in conjunction with the Downtown Skokie Holiday Cookie Walk, on December 13. One hundred-seven visitors stopped by for the Cookie Walk and 76 people attended Winterfest (including 13 carolers from Devonshire Cultural Center and two volunteers).
- Museum staff onboarded nine new regular volunteers and received 85 service hours (including training) from 20 total volunteers.
- The museum received and completed nine research requests and continued collaboration with Westfield-Old Orchard on plans for the 70th anniversary of Old Orchard Mall in 2026.

Skokie Sports Park – Tom Hejnowski

Facility Updates and Highlights

- The first winter Bunker League is underway and is at full capacity with 16 participants.
- Over 6.3 million golf balls were hit utilizing Trackman Range in 2025.
- The Bunker recorded 164,400 strokes in 5,186 player sessions in 2025.

Weber Golf Course – Tom Hejnowski

Facility Updates and Highlights

- The golf course is closed for the season.

Weber Center/Fitness First – Ethan Bontly

Facility Updates and Highlights

- The Community Basketball League has begun, with higher participation in the younger age groups. This year introduces a co-ed Pre-K/Kindergarten division, replacing the previous kindergarten - 2nd grade group. The 1st and 2nd grade girls' division has also expanded from two to four teams.

Fitness First

Facility Updates and Highlights

- The Mini Marshmallow 3K took place on December 6 with 10 participants.
- The 30 Days for \$30 student/teacher special began on December 15. Fifty-five memberships have been sold.

Memberships

	2024	2025
Active Members	4,204	4,315

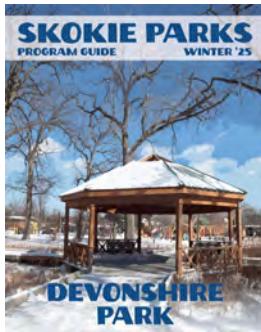


Communications, Marketing & Sponsorship

January 2026 Board Report

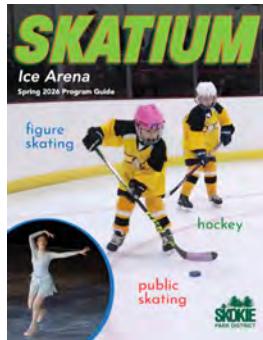
January Publications Profile

Two Winter Program Guides



A 110-page online guide and an abbreviated 24-page Spotlight Guide, (which were mailed to 25,000 Skokie homes) were both completed. Both are now available. The Spring Guides are in production this month.

Spring Skatium Guide



Now in production, a 16-page spring guide will be produced and mailed to 15,000 homes within 5 miles, to the annually purchased mail list targeting families with children under age 10.

Spring Prime Times



Now in production, an 8-page spring guide will be mailed to more than 4,000 Skokie homes with residents over age 60.

Summer Camp Guide



The now 40-page Summer Camp Guide was produced and was mailed to all 25,000 Skokie homes for customer review for February 8 camp registration.

Monthly Happenings



The C&M department produces a digital monthly happenings guide, featuring new and unique ways to have fun, including special events, one day classes, workshops, outings and pop-up events.

Coming next month: Spring Program Guides +

District News Highlight



New stories are posted on the website and sent to local news organizations.

December 11 — Announcing the newest district rental space! Designed with a modern speakeasy vibe, this flexible 35-person room is ideal for meetings, parties, and social events. The Rally Room is conveniently located at Oakton Park, adjacent to pickleball courts and softball fields.

District E-News



The district e-news is sent every Friday to more than 18,000 mostly Skokie emails.

National average open rate – 33%

SPD December open rate – 55%

Weekly e-news includes special events, and district news. Past month: Top 5 News Stories of 2025, release of Summer Camp Guide, Itty Bitty New Year, Gnome Hunt, winter fun in the parks, and the release of the Winter Guide.



The district sends news releases to, and is covered by, the *Skokie Review*, *The Record North Shore*, *Patch* and the *Chicago Tribune*..

Photos

The social media coordinator is tasked with taking district photos, with help from the entire C&M staff, and with the occasional assistance of SPD staff and a freelance photographer. A few photos from the past month:



After-School Nature Club



*Skokie Heritage Museum in the snow
Public skating session at the Skatium Ice Arena*

Sponsorship

The sponsorship coordinator is currently working on sponsorships for spring 2026. In 2025 she secured \$137,303 in sponsorships and \$37,247 in in-kind, budget-relieving donations, for a total of \$174,550.

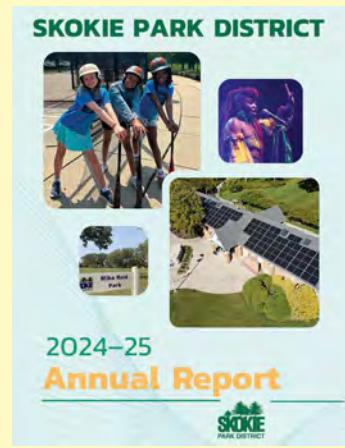
Social Media

— See the following pages for the full social media report.

The C&M department executes the bulk of its advertising now through Facebook boosts, targeting unique demographics with each post, depending on the program, event or facility/park. The social media coordinator takes photos, creates posts and advertising boosts on Facebook, as well as posts on Instagram, X, TikTok and Bluesky. The coordinator also shoots and produces videos for the website, social media and staff use, this month including the 2025 year in review video.

Projects

- Designed and published the online FY 2024-25 Annual Report
- Designed and completed installation of all facility 'Welcome' signs
- Trained facility staff newly-assigned to make web calendar updates
- Beginning the creation of a new Oakton Park interpretive sign
- With IT and CentralParks.net., developing an SPD app



Websites

Staff designed, built and maintain five websites, including five major special event sites. Skokieparks.org continues to evolve, this month featuring a new summer camp page. The site is also translatable to 250 languages. (See it in Spanish at right.)

December '25 skokieparks.org analytics

- Active Users – 38,365
- Total Page Views – 93,924
- User Interactions – 188,463

December Top 10 web pages by visits

1. Homepage
2. Skatium Ice Arena
3. The Exploritorium
4. Weber Leisure Center
5. Fitness First
6. Skokie Sports Park
7. Figure Skating
8. Rally Room
9. Events Calendar
10. Winter Program Guide



Facility Digital Advertising

In addition to a select few special event ads run in the Pioneer Press and dozens of Facebook ads, the district runs advertising on three outdoor lighted signs. Two double-sided signs, one at Weber and one at Oakton, and a sign facing the Edens Expressway at Park Services. (This one features major events and revenue facility promo only, as Skokie resident traffic is less than 15% of drive-by viewership.)

The district also places ads on indoor TV lobby monitors at the Skatium, Weber (2), Devonshire, Oakton, and TLC.





SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

December 2025





NOTES & INSIGHTS

Social Media Follow Totals:

- Facebook: 71 new follows, 23 unfollows, 9444 total
- Instagram: 102 new follows, 18 unfollows, 4591 total
- X is down 3 followers. 2161 total followers.
- Bluesky is down 2 followers. 171 total followers.
- TikTok is up 14 followers. 826 total followers.

Higher Frequency Posts (FB): Devonshire Preschool Open House Boost (2.86), Resident Registration Reminder (2.62), Fitness First Boost (2.49).

Frequency is how often one unique person saw a post.

High Engagement Posts (FB): Staff Recognition: Emily (135), Rally Room Boost (132), District Rolls Out Translation Services (105).

These are the sum of comments, reactions and shares.

FACEBOOK OVERVIEW

Facebook Reach is the number of people who saw any Facebook content from your organic or paid distribution, including posts, stories and ads. It also includes reach from other sources, such as tags, check-ins and Page or profile visits. This number also includes reach from posts and stories that were boosted. Reach is only counted once if it occurs from both organic and paid distribution. This metric is estimated.

Instagram Reach is the number of people who saw any Instagram content from your organic or paid distribution, including posts and stories that were boosted. Reach is only counted once if it occurs from both organic and paid distribution. This metric is estimated.

Page visits are the number of times our page or profile was visited. **Follows** are the number of times accounts followed us in the selected time period.



- As we wrap up 2025, we've seen an explosion of User-Generated Content (UGC) the last few months, boosting our numbers, specifically on Instagram.
- Users like @Chicagoparkmom and @busybeeburbs have been tagging us in some awesome content they've created, and @citykidsoutdoors even gave us shoutouts on several publications and media outlets like Block Club Chicago and WGN!
- This type of content is important to our strategy as people look for authenticity in messaging. According to Billo, a social media analytics company, "UGC influences the purchase choices of 70% of Gen Z and 78% of Millennials." ([Billo](#))
- Billo says that recommendations from friends and family are trusted 92% more than any form of advertising. Word of mouth is still very important when trusting a brand or product, or in our case, a park district.
- In turn, what we give these creators is authority and credibility, as we reshare their content. We turn them from content creators into industry leaders, as we give them a stamp of approval from the Skokie Park District, a trusted institution and community hub just outside of Chicago.
- It's important we continue to choose who we reshare as this builds our own credibility and fosters the type of community we like to develop here. You must give love to receive love.



Top 5 FACEBOOK POSTS

Impressions are the number of times your content was on screen. Content can include formats like posts, stories, reels, videos and more. Now known as “views”.

Interactions are the number of post likes or reactions, saves, comments and shares minus the number of deleted interactions.

Link clicks are the number of clicks on links within posts that led to destinations or experiences, on or off Facebook.

Reactions are the number of reactions on your post. The reactions button on a post allows people to share different reactions to its content.



Reach: 6,849

Impressions: 9,717

Interactions: 21

Link Clicks: 0

Reactions: 13

Comments: 0

Shares: 5

Saves: 3



Reach: 6,730

Impressions: 10,008

Interactions: 58

Link Clicks: 37

Reactions: 53

Comments: 1

Shares: 3

Saves: 1



Reach: 6,297

Impressions: 8,770

Interactions: 91

Link Clicks: 0

Reactions: 81

Comments: 9

Shares: 1

Saves: 0



Reach: 3,471

Impressions: 5,317

Interactions: 15

Link Clicks: 32

Reactions: 12

Comments: 1

Shares: 1

Saves: 1



Reach: 3,284

Impressions: 4,602

Interactions: 17

Link Clicks: 0

Reactions: 16

Comments: 1

Shares: 0

Saves: 0

Top 5 INSTAGRAM POSTS

Impressions are the number of times your content was on screen. Content can include formats like posts, stories, reels, videos and more. Now known as “views”.

Interactions are the number of post likes or reactions, saves, comments and shares minus the number of deleted interactions.

Link clicks are the number of clicks on links within posts that led to destinations or experiences, on or off Facebook.

Reactions are the number of reactions on your post. The reactions button on a post allows people to share different reactions to its content.



Reach: 1,312

Impressions: 1,763

Interactions: 116

Likes: 54

Comments: 1

Shares: 49

Saves: 12



Reach: 1,187

Impressions: 2,562

Interactions: 50

Likes: 29

Comments: 0

Shares: 19

Saves: 2



Reach: 926

Impressions: 2,057

Interactions: 48

Likes: 30

Comments: 0

Shares: 10

Saves: 8



Reach: 816

Impressions: 1,852

Interactions: 24

Likes: 20

Comments: 1

Shares: 2

Saves: 1



Reach: 764

Impressions: 1,441

Interactions: 17

Likes: 14

Comments: 1

Shares: 0

Saves: 2

BOOSTED POSTS

Impressions are the number of times your content was on screen. Content can include formats like posts, stories, reels, videos and more. Now known as “views”.

Interactions are the number of post likes or reactions, saves, comments and shares minus the number of deleted interactions.

Link clicks are the number of clicks on links within posts that led to destinations or experiences, on or off Facebook.

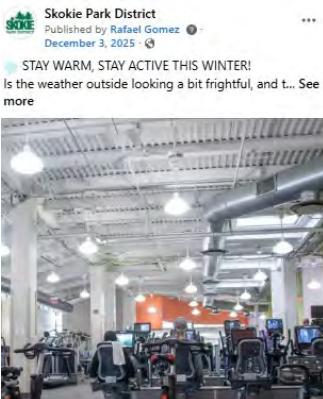
Reactions are the number of reactions on your post. The reactions button on a post allows people to share different reactions to its content.



Reach: 22,993
Impressions: 46,682
Interactions: 79
Likes: 59
Comments: 0
Shares: 13
Saves: 7
Link Clicks: 785



Reach: 22,048
Impressions: 47,363
Interactions: 141
Likes: 112
Comments: 4
Shares: 8
Saves: 17
Link Clicks: 2,085



Reach: 15,930
Impressions: 39,740
Interactions: 91
Likes: 84
Comments: 1
Shares: 3
Saves: 3
Link Clicks: 857



Reach: 8,529
Impressions: 24,420
Interactions: 23
Likes: 17
Comments: 0
Shares: 5
Saves: 1
Link Clicks: 281



Reach: 7,455
Impressions: 17,049
Interactions: 24
Likes: 20
Comments: 1
Shares: 2
Saves: 1
Link Clicks: 308

Reach: Number of unique people who saw your post. Counted Only Once.

Views: Number of times your post was seen.

Views / Reach = Frequency

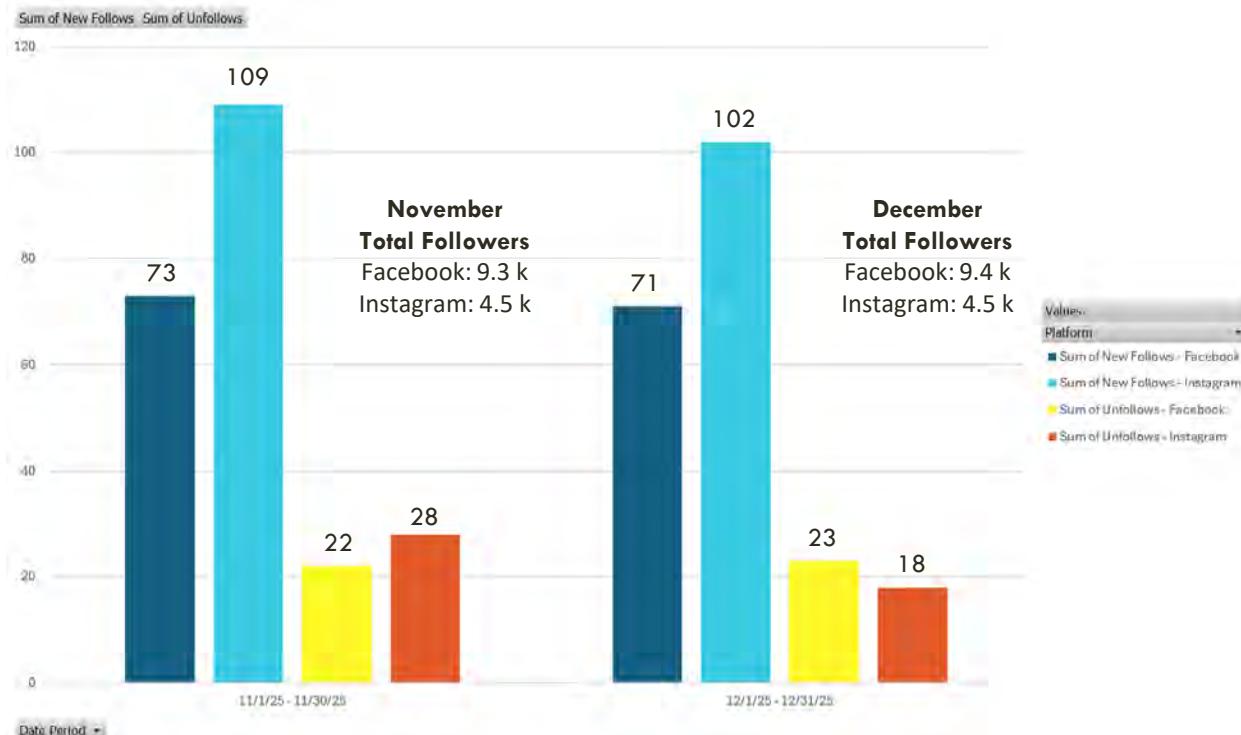
Frequency: How often a unique person saw a post.

Green: Performing well or exceeds, based on column averages.

Facebook Reach vs. Impressions

Row Labels	Sum of Views	Sum of Reach	Sum of Reactions, Comments and Shares	Frequency
CHECK OUT FIGURE SKATING CLASSES THIS WINTER! The Skatium Ice Arena offers figure skating classes for all ages, taught by our talented professional staff instructors! Winter				
MEET THE RALLY ROOM! Oakton Park's new speakeasy-style rental room is open and ready to host your next event! Pair it with our pickleball courts or ball field for the ultimate combo.	46882	22993	75	2.03
✿ STAY WARM, STAY ACTIVE THIS WINTER! Is the weather outside looking a bit frigid, and the idea of running on ice sounding a little less than delightful? Head indoors to Fitness Fit (blank)	47366	22048	132	2.15
DEVONSHIRE PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE! Meet the teachers, see the classrooms, receive registration and ask questions. The schedules and tuition tables for the 2026-27 school year are available online.	39740	15930	92	2.49
FIND YOUR SOUND AT THE DEVONSHIRE CULTURAL CENTER! From piano to violin, drums and more—we offer lessons for a wide variety of instruments and even music theory! Whether you're a beginner or an experienced player, we have something for everyone.	23544	14140	117	1.67
THIN ICE ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS: THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE! Step through the wardrobe and into the magical world of Narnia! This faithful stage adaptation continues through December 24.	24420	8529	26	2.86
✿ HOLIDAY SKATING EXHIBITION 2026! Come see our amazing skaters perform to holiday music, as well as their competition programs. Free for spectators! Monday, December 25.	17091	7466	25	2.29
DISTRICT ROLLS OUT TRANSLATION SERVICES! Skokie is known throughout Chicagoland for the more than 90 languages spoken in its 25,000-plus homes. To better support that rich cultural diversity, the Skokie Park District has launched a new translation service.	15305	7228	27	2.12
STAFF RECOGNITION! Nominally England, Skokie Heritage Museum manager, was honored at tonight's Board of Commissioners meeting, by members of the Skokie Historical Society. Richa	9014	6549	51	1.43
LITTLE LEARNERS AT DEVONSHIRE! This class will help your child make an easy transition into preschool, including circle time, stories, music, art projects, free play, seasonal themes, and more.	8770	6297	105	1.49
TINY TOT OPEN GYM THIS FRIDAY! Let's Move! Little ones will love exploring in a gym filled with balls, hoops, bowling, mats, tunnels and tricycles. Kids will run, jump, and play under adult supervision.	9139	5327	135	1.39
THANKS TO RED ROBIN GOURMET BURGERS & BURRITO! Yesterday our sponsor, Red Robin at Village Crossing, held a "Frozen" fundraiser for the Devonshire Cultural Center. Thanks to all who participated!	5317	3471	22	1.72
EMILY OAKS NATURE CENTER FEATURED! Thank you City Kids Outdoors and Emily Oaks Nature Center's Groms Hunt on WGN's Spotlight Chicago TV. Join the hunt from now until March 31.	4692	3284	15	1.53
✿ HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT! As we hope you all have spent quality time with your family and friends this holiday season! Check out our holiday schedule below.	4167	2863	17	1.40
YOUR WINTER PROGRAM GUIDE IS HERE! Winter programs (January-March) are now available online — and with them the district's Winter Program Guide '26. The winter guide includes a full calendar of events, including skating, snowshoeing, and more.	2610	1912	27	1.46
PUBLIC SKATE AT THE SKATIUM ICE ARENA! Hit the ice this winter with plenty of skating fun! ✨ Ugly Sweater Skate! Dec. 13 • 7:15 p.m. ✨ Skate with Santa! Dec. 20 • 2 p.m. ✨	1573	1066	9	1.37
THIN ICE ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS: THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK! The powerful true story of a young girl whose voice continues to inspire generations. Adapted from Anne's own writings, this production is perfect for young audiences.	1476	1023	8	1.44
EXPLORE NEW EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & OUTINGS IN DECEMBER! If you are looking for new and unique ways to have fun in December, the Skokie Park District offers great one-day events, including the annual Turkey Toss Basketball Open Gym.	1401	925	7	1.51
ADULT LATE NIGHT BASKETBALL OPEN GYM! Looking for a place to hoop on the later side? We've got you. Ages 18+ only. Thursdays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18. No session on 12/25. 9-11:45 p.m.	1488	898	8	1.66
THANKS TO OUR TURKEY TOSS SPONSOR! Red, the mascot from the Red Robin Restaurant in Skokie, made an appearance at the Turkey Toss basketball tournament last Wednesday.	1354	864	4	1.57
EMILY OAKS WINTER BREAK CAMPWINTER is a wonderful time to get outside and explore nature! Each day your child will spend time exploring and learning new outdoor skills. Activities include snowshoeing, sledding, and more.	1218	819	5	1.49
✿ WINTER BREAK CAMPS AT WEBER! Keep the kids active, creative, and having fun this winter! From sports to art camps, there's something for every young athlete and artist at the Skokie Park District.	1217	783	3	1.55
SEE YOUR SUMMER CAMP '26 PROGRAM GUIDE NOW! The park district's summer camps are now online and with them the district's Summer Camp Guide 2026. This guide offers you a wealth of information about summer camps, including descriptions, fees, and registration details.	1173	711	3	1.65
DISCOVER NEW EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & OUTINGS IN DECEMBER! If you are looking for new and unique ways to have fun in December, the Skokie Park District offers great one-day events, including the annual Turkey Toss Basketball Open Gym.	1454	671	9	2.18
HOLIDAY HOOPS BASKETBALL SHOOTOUT AT WEBER! Bring the whole family and show off your basketball shooting skills in this Holiday Hoops Shootout! You will shoot shots from spot to spot to earn points and win prizes.	974	639	7	1.44
ABOUT THIS YEAR'S SEASONAL GUIDE COVERS! Did you know that the last four Skokie Park District seasonal program guide covers, Spring '25 through Winter '26, were inspired by the iconic painting "The Starry Night" by Vincent van Gogh?	790	530	4	1.49
PAINT & PLAY AT THE EXPLORITORIUM! This sensory art class will allow you and your little artist to explore and create together. Process-based art projects and creative activities will focus on the five senses.	847	520	2	1.63
WHY WAIT FOR SUMMER TO LEARN HOW TO SWIM? Winter Swim Lessons are open for kids and adults, with supportive instructors and progressive skill levels so you're confident in the water.	715	490	1	1.48
Register here: https://www.skokieparks.org/summer-tennis/	799	489	0	1.63
SEEUPER STEM VARIETY CAMP AT THE SKOKIE HERITAGE MUSEUM! Explore different STEM areas through experiments and open-ended design projects. This camp is filled with fun, hands-on activities and opportunities for discovery.	685	479	0	1.43
RESIDENTIAL REGISTRATION BEGINS THIS MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 8:30 A.M. Register in-person at the Devonshire Cultural Center, Emily Oaks Nature Center, Oakton Community Center, Skokie Park District, and more.	571	362	1	1.58
Two team spots left! Register here: https://bit.ly/49H9tWm Season begins on January 8. Questions? Email Curt at cavens@skokieparks.org	948	362	0	2.62
TABLE TENNIS CLASSES AT THE WEBER LEISURE CENTER! This introductory class welcomes both youth and adult beginners to learn the fundamentals of table tennis in a fun, supportive environment.	623	350	6	1.78
SUPPORT OUR SPONSOR! On Monday and Tuesday, December 8-9 from 9 a.m. to noon, Help At Home will be giving out treats and raffling off great prizes in the Weber Leisure Center. Join us tomorrow for some Adult Late Night Basketball Open Gym at 9 p.m.!	508	337	0	1.51
Times running out! Register here by Dec. 15 for a letter from Santa: https://bit.ly/4oOVpjj	514	315	4	1.63
Skokie Park District updated their cover photo.	319	165	0	1.93
Gymnastics classes in Skokie! Taiga Gymnastics Winter season starts in January, and registration is now open through Skokie Park District. Taiga Gymnastics offers fun, high-quality gymnastics classes for all ages and skill levels.	287	158	0	1.82
Itty Bitty New Year	2	1	12	2.00
Grand Total	291801	149110	949	
Averages	7285.03	3823.33	24.33	1.73

Follows vs. Unfollows: Nov. – Dec.





Skokie Park District

Information Technology

Board Report

January 2026



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Camera Upgrade

Staff are in the final steps of upgrading the entire camera system environment. The upgrade has made significant improvements in the playback of events as well as overall healthier video footage. The final changes should be completed by early Spring.

Budget Meetings

IT completed budget meetings with all facilities for the new fiscal year.



Skokie Park District Staff and Community Committee Reports January 2026



Backlot Bash Committee

Breanne Labus

The committee is working on securing entertainment for 2026. Also, marketing is revamping the website.

Community Schools Steering Committee

Breanne Labus

Breanne attended District 69 Strategic Planning Meeting as a community member on January 16.

DEI Committee

Mary Amato

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 14 at 2 p.m. to discuss annual staff training.

Environmental Action Team

Lee Hansen

The EA-Team kicked a new schedule of meetings on December 17 from 1-2 p.m. at EONC. Those attending discussed recycling issues at their facilities and possible projects to focus on in 2026. The next meeting is on January 20.

4th of July Parade Committee

Jim Hallm

An email was sent by the new committee chairs, establishing a new meeting format. A kickoff meeting is being scheduled for end of February.

Festival of Cultures Committee

Aryn Fletcher

No Report.

Juneteenth

Mary Amato

The Committee will resume meetings in February to prepare for this summer's event on June 13, 1-5 p.m. at Oakton Park.

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation

Michelle Tuft

The board met on December 16 and approved the budget and awarded the President's Award to Keli Stonitsch, who is our new Human Resource Manager (starts on January 20).

Niles Township Youth Coalition

Mary Amato

The last meeting was held Tuesday, January 6. Everyone shared upcoming events. The Skokie Park District is working on collaborating with No Shame On U Mental Health Workshops, <https://www.noshameonu.org/signature-nsou-workshops/#staff> for camp staff and teen youth for summer 2026.

Safety Committee

Amanda Green

The committee met on January 7 to discuss park and building safety and reminded staff of upcoming emergency alert system test. The next meeting will discuss Park District Risk Management goals and the three-year Risk Management Review completed in 2025.

Skokie Chamber of Commerce

Michelle Tuft

The board meets next on Monday, January 26.

Skokie Pride

Cassie Schaeffer

The event is scheduled for June 28, 2026, at Oakton Park.

Skokie's Spring Greening

Lee Hansen

A planning team meeting is scheduled for the third week in January (date TBD) at Niles North to review traffic patterns and recycling stations. The 2026 Skokie's Spring Greening is scheduled for April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Westmoreland lot and the Niles North High School north lot.

Staff Appreciation Committee

The winter Staff Appreciation outing is scheduled for January 22 at Edison Park Inn for bowling.