STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

To ensure that the very best facilities are available to our constituents.

To provide the very best in park and open space to our constituents and to be a community leader in environmental conservation and stewardship.

To provide a diverse range of the very best passive and active recreational programs and opportunities to our entire community, regardless of age or ability.

To foster a work environment that encourages collaborative teamwork and the development of the very best in park and recreation professionals.

To prioritize the fiscally responsible use of resources in all aspects of our operations.

Fit Central

The north end of Fit Central was renovated to include green turf flooring, expanding the designated stretching area and creating a new zone for body weight and functional training featuring equipment such as medicine balls, kettlebells, and a battle rope. This enhancement aligns with current fitness preferences and supports a more dynamic, flexible workout for members.

Central Park

Trail work in Central Park included a pavement replacement project to improve surface quality and accessibility.

Improvements at the Family Recreation Center

Two meeting rooms at the Family Recreation Center were upgraded with enhanced AV features, including HDMI and PC connectivity.

Shred Success

The Sustainability Team hosted the 4th annual Community Shredding Event in June!

Creating a GREEN Legacy

Residents received free Shumard and Chinkapin Oak trees, as well as oak saplings, to help expand Oak Brook's tree canopy and promote long-term environmental health.

Buzzing Growth

In partnership with volunteer Dale Kleber, the Oak Brook Park District grew its Dean Nature Sanctuary apiary from 3 to 9 hives to boost native pollination and ecological health.

Harmony in the Park

The Oak Brook Park District hosted its first Harmony in the Park, a free community event at Ginger Creek Pavilion featuring music, art, and wellness activities to promote connection and harmony in nature.

Recreation for ALL

The Park District expanded and enhanced summer camp options to give more residents convenient access to engaging, age-appropriate recreation and learning opportunities.

EXPANDED Swim Access

With support from a DuPage County Health Department Protect Swimmers grant, the Park District offered free swim lessons for children ages 3–5 to build early water safety and confidence.

National Gold Medal Award

The Park District earned gold in September, recognizing excellence, innovation, and dedication to delivering top-quality community experiences.

A Vision in Motion!

Staff have launched the 2025–2029 Strategic Plan, setting a clear path for continued growth, innovation, and community engagement over the next five years.

Listening to Our Community

Survey and focus groups gathered input from residents and staff to strengthen collaboration and guide future improvements.

GFOA Award

The Park District was awarded the Certificate of Acheivement from the GFOA for our 23/24 FY audit report for the twenty-nineth consecutive year. Great job, team!

Busy Bees, BIG Impact

Every honey harvest contributes to the community through honey sales, which help fund open-land preservation and programming.

Going for the Grants!

Oak Brook Park District was awarded a $5,000 matching grant from Landmarks Illinois to perform roof repairs on the Saddle Brook Barn located in Saddle Brook Park.

Oak Brook Park District

A National Gold Medal Agency

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Download the plan at www.obparks.org

NOVEMBER, 2025

BEING THE VERY BEST

Every now and then, staff is reminded that the dedication and commitment they demonstrate, does not go unnoticed. Here are just a few of the "thank you's" we have received over the last six months!

VOICES OF OAK BROOK

Providing the very best...

Great, local opportunity for kids to try a triathlon. Well run, organized, and fun!

Tom's Try-athlon parent

Welcoming all....

I have done a few wine walks in my day and this one was by far the best- the wine and food were great but also all the people were very welcoming- and fun to have the concert after- Oak Brook knocked it out of the park- we had a blast!

Walk in the Park Wine Tour participant

Shaping our future...

My son did not have one day that he didn't want to go to school. He was so excited to see his teachers (pony room 3's) and friends everyday! It made me so happy!

Preschool parent

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Preschool Hallway Updates

The Preschool Hallway window was enclosed as part of the larger Fit Central renovation project, improving functionality of the space.

Park & Facility Water Fountain Upgrades

The Park District upgraded three water fountains at the Family Recreation Center and two park fountains to be ADA accessible, including the addition of a dog bowl filler in the park.

Accessible Picnic Table Installations

Nine ADA accessible picnic tables were installed at Central Park along with three at Swim Central, improving accessibility for all users.

Central Park West Renovation

Park District staff renovated Central Park West with upgrades to the kitchen and flooring, enhancing the overall user experience.

Expanding Natural Spaces

The Park District converted one acre of turf grass into natural area space, supporting biodiversity, enhancing habitat health.

Earth Month Initiatives

The Sustainability Team hosted a month long Earth Day celebration in April, offering 400 tree saplings and 100 wildflower seed packets for community to pick up at the Family Recreation Center.

Environmental Stewardship Education

Staff participated in a lunch and learn focused on pollinators and strategies for supporting healthy local ecosystems and biodiversity.

Swim Central Inclusive Duck Derby

The Park District hosted a Duck Derby at Swim Central in partnership with Gateway Special Recreation Association, bringing the community together for a fun and inclusive event supporting recreation programming.

Enhanced Open Gym Communication

A dedicated Basketball Open Gym schedule was implemented to improve communication and better respond to community feedback, ensuring more consistent availability.

Creative Fitness Classes for a Cause

Kitten Pilates at Central Park West combined a lighthearted Pilates session with playful kittens interacting with participants throughout the workout. Two sessions were held in support of local kitten shelters.

IPRA Leadership Representation

Two staff members assumed leadership roles within the IPRA this year, with one serving as Chair of the Board of Directors and another serving as Park and Natural Resource Management (PNRM) Section Director.

Digital Workspace Enhancement

The move to SharePoint and OneDrive created a centralized, cloud based system that supports real time collaboration, version control, and easier access to shared documents across teams.

Staff Professional Development

Two staff members earned their Certified Park and Recreation Executive (CPRE) certifications, demonstrating a continued commitment to professional growth and leadership in the field. This achievement strengthens the District's overall leadership capacity and expertise.

Winter Lights Sponsorship Success

Winter Lights secured more than $29,000 in sponsorship support, helping enhance the event experience and offset program costs.

GFOA Budget Award

The Park District received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The FY 2025/2026 budget was the District's first submission and was recognized for meeting the GFOA's high standards for budget presentation.

OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION

More than $4,000 was raised through the Cocoa Cabin Brews & Views Fundraiser to benefit the Oak Brook Park District Foundation and its ongoing community efforts.

Oak Brook Park District

A National Gold Medal Agency

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

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MAY, 2026

BEING THE VERY BEST

The dedication and commitment demonstrated by staff is regularly recognized and appreciated by community members. Here are just a few of the "thank you's" we have received over the last six months!

VOICES OF OAK BROOK

Making Memories...

"A new way to experience an Egg Hunt. My daughter thought it was really cool!"
-Aqua Egg Hunt Participant

"Great coaches and foundational items being taught. We've noticed how quickly and much improved our son is at the game with your teaching"
-Get Better League Basketball Family

"Really accessible and fun for the whole family to do together. Fun to see it grow from previous years. Please keep it going as we look forward to next year."
-Winter Lights Display Attendee

Appreciation from Members...

"Besides being a great place to work out, Oak Brook Park District provides all kinds of activities, events, marathons, and even hosts charitable drives. The park district is the reason we moved to Oak Brook and we're happy and proud to be members. It's become our second home away from home."
-Alice S., Member

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STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

To ensure that the very best facilities are available to our constituents.

Fit Central Flooring

Fit Central flooring was replaced, providing a refreshed, durable surface that improves functionality and supports the facility's ongoing fitness use.

Exterior Building Maintenance

The exterior of the Family Recreation Center building was repaired and painted.

Central Park West Siding Replacement

Siding was replaced at Central Park West to improve the building's exterior, provide protection from weather-related damage, and support long-term facility maintenance.

Baseball Field Parking

The baseball field parking lot was expanded by 12 parking spaces and resurfaced to increase parking capacity and improve the condition of the lot.



To provide the very best in park and open space to our constituents and to be a community leader in environmental conservation and stewardship.

Wildlife Wednesday

Launched a social media campaign highlighting wildlife found in our parks, sharing fun facts and ecological insights to encourage environmental awareness and appreciation for local wildlife.

Shred Success

The Sustainability Team hosted the 5th annual Community Shredding Event in June!

Oaktober

Celebrated Oaktober with the return of the popular interactive oak tree mural at the Family Recreation Center and the distribution of 40 Red Oak trees to the community.

To provide a diverse range of the very best passive and active recreational programs and opportunities to our entire community, regardless of age or ability.

Outdoor Movie Series Enhancement

Introduced LED screens to allow movies to start at 6 p.m. to not have to wait until dark, making outdoor movie experiences more accessible and enjoyable for community members of all ages.

World's Largest Swimming Lesson

Oak Brook Park District participated in the World's Largest Swimming Lesson, providing community members with an opportunity to learn essential swimming and water safety skills.

Inclusive Pumpkin Patch

Redesigned the Trick-or-Treat Trail pumpkin patch to better accommodate participants of all abilities.

Explore Oak Brook

Introduced a self-guided bike tour trifold featuring seven historic sites over a six-mile route, offering a new way for the community to explore Oak Brook's history through outdoor recreation.

To foster a work environment that encourages collaborative teamwork and the development of the very best in park and recreation professionals.



Team Spotlight

Launched quarterly team spotlights to help staff better understand each department's role, strengthen collaboration and build connections across the organization.

Celebrating Park Professionals

Hosted the Illinois Park Professionals Yearly Soirée (IPPYS) at Central Park West, bringing together parks and recreation professionals to celebrate excellence in leadership and contributions to the industry.

Expanding Shared Resources

Launched a shared photo library to improve access to program and event photography and encourage collaboration across departments.

To prioritize the fiscally responsible use of resources in all aspects of our operations.

GFOA Budget Award

Received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the second consecutive year, recognizing excellence in budget transparency, financial planning and responsible stewardship of public resources.

Grant Support for Tennis Center

Received a $150,000 grant from the United States Tennis Association (USTA), the maximum funding available, to help rebuild the outdoor tennis courts and support continued growth of community tennis programming.

The Pink 5K

The annual Pink 5K event raised over $28,000 for the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation Open Arms Breast Cancer Outreach Fund.

BEING THE VERY BEST

Every now and then, staff is reminded that the dedication and commitment they demonstrate, does not go unnoticed. Here are just a few of the "thank you's" we have received over the last six months!

VOICES OF OAK BROOK

Making Memories...

"My child came home each day happy, and he never once said he didn't want to go to camp. He made great friends and all of the activities were great!"
-Playground Summer Camp Family

"A very pleasant way to spend an evening. The event was well planned and organized so all I had to do was enjoy!"
-A Walk in the Park Wine Tour Participant

"The teachers provided wonderful mentorship both during their school adaptation period and their language learning process. We are grateful to each and every one of them for their support. They are so full of love."
-ABC Preschool Family

We love this event--I only wish I had discovered it earlier. My kids are definitely on the "older" side for this event, but they absolutely look forward to it and love it. I also have a daughter with special needs and the booths and volunteers were very kind to her. We also liked the inclusion of the pumpkins for the kids this year, too.
-Trick-or-Treat Trail Family

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NOVEMBER, 2026