

**EFFICIENCY REPORT FOR THE OAK BROOK PARK
DISTRICT**

**APPROVED BY THE PARK DISTRICT'S
COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
EFFICIENCY ON May 15, 2023**



I. Purpose

The Oak Brook Park District (“Park District”) formed its Committee on Local Government Efficiency on March 20, 2023, to study efficiencies and report recommendations regarding those efficiencies and increased accountability pursuant to 50 ILCS 70/1, *et seq.* (the “Committee”).

II. Committee Membership

The Committee consisted of the following individuals:

Dave Thommes, Deputy Director, Committee Chair

Sharon Knitter, President

Lara Suleiman, Vice President

Tom Truedson, Treasurer

Frank Trombetta, Commissioner

Ivana Ivkovic Kelley, Commissioner

Laure Kosey, Executive Director

Kathleen Carson, Resident

Linda Pizzello, Resident

III. Committee Meetings

The Committee met as follows:

Meeting Date	Meeting Time and Place
March 20, 2023	6:00 PM, Oak Brook Park District
April 24, 2023	6:00 PM, Oak Brook Park District
May 3, 2023	2:00 PM, Oak Brook Park District
May 15, 2023	6:00 PM, Oak Brook Park District

Minutes of these meetings are available on the Park District's website or upon request at the Park District's administrative office.

IV. General Overview of Governing Statutes, Ordinances, Rules, Procedures, Powers, Jurisdiction

The Park District was established by a referendum initiated and approved by the voters of the Park District in 1962. All Illinois park districts, including the Park District, are governed by the Park District Code, 70 ILCS 1205/1 *et seq.*

Having a separate and distinct taxing body for parks, recreation, and conservation within the local community, which operates apart from general-purpose governments, is extremely beneficial to the community for many reasons, as detailed further in this report.

- **Elected, non-partisan, non-compensated board.** The Park District is governed by a board of five commissioners. Commissioners must reside within the boundaries of the park district and are elected at the Consolidated Election in odd-numbered years. Pursuant to state law, commissioners are non-partisan and serve without compensation.
- **Accessible and focused representation.** Having a dedicated board to oversee these essential facilities, programs, and services provides the community with increased access to their elected representatives and allows those elected representatives to remain focused solely on those facilities, programs, and services. This is contrasted with general-purpose governments where elected representatives are responsible for broad oversight on a wide range of issues. This special purpose benefit is particularly advantageous when it comes to budget and finance oversight.
- **Increased transparency.** Having a dedicated unit of local government to provide park and recreation services also improves the relationship between the park district and its residents because of the transparency and openness related to the board and park district operations. Having detailed agendas and action items allows taxpayers to be better informed about the inner workings of their local government. When individual units of government are responsible for providing specified services like park districts, transparency is increased because action items and budget procedures are more detailed. Additionally, these items and budgetary decisions are subject to more scrutiny by locally elected officials than is the case with larger, multi-purpose governments with a multitude of departments.
- **Protection of revenues.** Because the Park District is a separate unit of local government, the revenues it generates can only be used for park district purposes. This assurance is contrasted with general-purpose governments like cities, villages, and counties that provide a multitude of services such as fire, police, public works, economic development, etc., where revenues that are generated specifically for parks and recreation can be expended on these other services with limited if any, input from voters.

- **Protection of assets.** Public parks and other real property owned by the park district is held in trust for the residents of the park district, and, subject to very limited exceptions, can only be sold or transferred if residents approve of the sale or transfer by a referendum. This is contrasted with general-purpose units of government, which have authority to sell or dispose of property by a vote of the governing board.
- **Providing the Community More with Less.** The Park District does more with much fewer funding options. Unlike other units of local government that receive direct state funding, and income, sales, use, hotel/motel, motor fuel, and other numerous taxes, the Park District's only tax revenues come from a modest portion of a resident's overall property tax bill. In fact, despite its limited funding options, the Park District's share is only 8% of the local tax bill. Additionally, only 43% of the revenue earned by the Park District, is generated through property taxes. The remaining 57% is generated charges for services, interest income, and other revenue sources.

As part of good governance and implementing best practices in the management of day-to-day operations, the Park District has also adopted the following ordinances, rules, policies, and procedures:

- **Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual**
- **Board Policies and Procedures Manual**
- **General Use Regulations**
- **Safety Manual**
- **Personnel Policy Manual**
- **Comprehensive Master Vision**
- **Strategic Plan**
- **Comprehensive Financial Report**
- **Objectives and Key Results**

V. List of Shared Services and Partnerships

The Park District works diligently to provide the best possible programs, services, and facilities to our community at the least possible cost. One of the many ways the Park District achieves this goal is by partnering with neighboring park districts, school districts, other units of local government within or near the community, the State, non-profit organizations, and for-profit corporations. Below is a comprehensive list of the current partnerships, agreements, and other relationships that assist the Park District's mission of delivering the best possible services at the least possible cost to our community.

1. Membership in SRA

The Park District is part of the Gateway Special Recreation Association ("SRA"). Special recreation associations are a form of intergovernmental cooperation among units of local government that are authorized under the Illinois Constitution, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, the Park District Code, and the Municipal Code. Their formation is rooted in a fundamental belief and recognition that "Recreation is for Everyone." They are shining examples of local government efficiency.

By partnering together, local communities are able to effectively and efficiently deliver more successful program opportunities to community members who have special needs. Furthermore, by participating in the SRA, the Park District networks with eight other local governments to provide many more program opportunities for our community members who have special needs and offers a choice between participating in the SRA's programs or in programs that are provided by the Park District.

The Park District and the SRA also achieve efficiency by utilizing existing facilities that are owned and operated by the SRA's members, including the Park District. Utilizing these existing facilities allows the SRA to deliver services to its member communities at a lower cost. Currently, the Park District provides the SRA access to the following facilities for their program offerings:

- Family Recreation Center
- Tennis Center
- Central Park West
- Evergreen Bank Group Athletic Field
- Central Park Campus athletic fields, walking paths, and playgrounds

The SRA also provides the support needed for participants with special needs who choose to register for the Park District programs or inclusive programming. The SRA collects information on the registered participant and determines what supports are needed for that participant to be successful in this inclusive setting or the Park District program. This could include additional training of the supervisory staff, additional support staff, the use of adaptive equipment, behavior management, and/or other measures that will assist in the successful participation of this individual in the Park District program. Although success may not look the same for everyone, the SRA works with the Park District's staff to ensure the best possible results for all the participants in

the program. The Park District's cost of providing these services would be much greater without its participation and partnership in the SRA.

In 2022 - 2023, the SRA successfully served 220 participants across 469 inclusive programs that were provided in collaboration with the members of the SRA.

The Park District is very proud of the ongoing collaboration with the SRA. By working cooperatively with other local governments, not only are we better able to collectively serve all citizens within our communities, including persons with disabilities, but we are able to do so in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

2. Other intergovernmental agreements with other park districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts, or municipal recreation agencies

- Village of Oak Brook Terrace – Intergovernmental Agreement – Nature Programming

3. Intergovernmental agreements with other units of local government

- Village of Oak Brook – Intergovernmental Agreement – Emergency Services and Disaster Agency – Temporary Shelter Agreement
- Butler School District 53 – Intergovernmental Agreement – ABC Preschool
- Butler School District 53 – Intergovernmental Agreement – Before and After School Care
- Butler School District 53 – Intergovernmental Agreement – School Playground Installation
- Village of Oak Brook – Intergovernmental Agreement – Police Patrol
- Village of Oak Brook – Intergovernmental Agreement – Joint Use of Manpower, Equipment, and Easements
- DuPage County – Intergovernmental Agreement – Participation in Local Government COVID-19 Reimbursement Program
- Transition 99 Center – Community High School District 99 Facility Use Agreement

4. Intergovernmental agreements with the State of Illinois

- Illinois State Highway Authority – Conveyance of Permanent Easements
- Illinois Department of Central Management Services – Federal Surplus Property Program
- State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program
- Source Well – NJPA Cooperative Purchasing Agreement
- The Cooperative Purchasing Network Agreement
- The Interlocal Purchasing System – TIPS Agreement
- US Communities – OMNIA Agreement
- National Purchasing Partners Cooperative Purchasing Program Agreement

5. Partnerships or agreements with athletic or similar affiliate organizations that operate sports or other leagues

- Oak Brook Little League Field Use Agreement

6. Partnerships or other interrelationships with non-profits

- Morton Arboretum Tree Donation Agreement

7. Partnerships with for profit organizations

- License and Use Agreement between the Oak Brook Park District and Breakaway Basketball, LLC to provide basketball skills training, clinics, and camps for an annual fee in exchange for preferred gym space.
- License and Use Agreement between the Oak Brook Park District and Wizard Soccer Club to provide soccer leagues and clinics for an annual usage fee plus capital contributions in exchange for preferred soccer field time and space.
- Agreement between the Oak Brook Park District
- License and Use Agreement between the Oak Brook Park and the Illinois Girls Lacrosse Association to provide lacrosse leagues and clinics for an annual usage fee plus capital contributions in exchange for preferred lacrosse field time and space.
- Ace Hardware Parking Lot License for Special Events
- Evergreen Bank Group Naming Rights Agreement
- Lisa Griffith, DBA LPG Music, Inc. Music Together Program
- Tivity Health Services LLC – Silver Sneakers Health Membership Program
- UCM Advent Sponsorship Agreement
- Humana Sponsorship Agreement
- Wintrust Bank Sponsorship Agreement
- All-State Insurance Sponsorship Agreement
- Zazzo's Pizza Agreement

VI. Other Examples of Efficient Operations

Use of volunteers. One way in which the Park District reduces the burden on taxpayers is through the use of volunteers. Last year, approximately 100 individuals volunteered approximately 50 hours of service to the Park District.

Youth employment. The Park District is a major employer of youth in the community. Last year, the Park District employed 75 youth. Not only is this an efficient way to deliver services, but youth employment serves as a valuable training tool for the future workforce.

Foundation. Last year, the Oak Brook Park District Foundation raised \$22,000 in private donations, which help alleviate the burden on taxpayers. The Foundation also supported the Park District by: providing scholarships for residents who could not otherwise afford programs.

Collaboration with other park districts on best practices. Because park districts are not in competition with one another, they are more willing than the private sector to share best practices. These best practices help to avoid unnecessary costs and deliver services more effectively and efficiently.

Reliance on Non-Tax Revenue. Unlike most local governments that rely on a wide range of sales, use, and income taxes, the Park District is not permitted to assess these types of taxes. Additionally, although the Park District is an economic engine for the community and generates much revenue for the state and our community in the form of hotel/motel, sales, and motor fuel taxes, our Park District does not receive any of these revenues. Also, unlike Illinois cities, villages, counties, and school districts that received billions of dollars in direct financial assistance from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), our Park District did not receive any such direct federal aid. Our Park District also does not receive state funding under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) or General State Aid (GSA) that these same cities, villages, counties, and school districts receive through the State budget.

Instead, the Park District provides all of the programs, facilities, and services to the community with a very modest amount of property taxes and from **non-tax sources** such as memberships, program registrations, and other user fees as well as private donations and grants.

VII. Transparency to the Community

The following information about the Park District may be obtained by citizens in the location listed.

Document	Location(s) Available
Annual Tax Levy	Website, Administrative Offices
Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance	Website, Administrative Offices
Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes	Website, Administrative Offices
Comptroller's Annual Finance Report (CAFR)	Website, Administrative Offices
Annual Audit	Website, Administrative Offices
Monthly Financial Warrant	Website, Administrative Offices
Conduct Ordinances	Website, Administrative Offices
Comprehensive Master Vision	Website, Administrative Offices
Strategic Plan	Website, Administrative Offices
Capital Improvement Plan	Website, Administrative Offices
ADA Transition Plan	Administrative Offices
Attitude and Interest Survey Results	Website, Administrative Offices
Community Survey Results	Website, Administrative Offices
Municipal Directory of Information	Website, Administrative Offices
Bids and Requests for Proposals	Website, Administrative Offices

The Park District offers residents many opportunities to provide feedback. These include:

- The board of commissioners meets once each month. Residents may provide public comment at every meeting.
- The Park District's annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is available in tentative form at least 30 days prior to its adoption at an open meeting of the Park District board. Additionally, at least one public hearing is held prior to final action, and notice of the hearing is published in the newspaper at least one week prior to the hearing.

- The Park District's annual property tax levy is approved at an open meeting of the Park District board in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The Park District follows all public notice and hearing requirements under the Truth in Taxation Law prior to the adoption of this annual tax levy. The Park District's annual levy is also subject to the limitations of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law.
- Residents may contact or request information from the Park District by phone at 630-645-9535 or email at lkosey@obparks.org
- Additionally, the Park District has solicited community input through the following:
 - 2014 Community-Wide Needs Assessment
 - 2017 Comprehensive Attitude and Interest Survey
 - 2021 Comprehensive Attitude and Interest Survey
 - 2021 Membership Customer Satisfaction Survey
 - 2022 – 2023 Winter / Spring STARS Swim Team Survey
 - 2023 Tackle the Tri Survey
 - 2022 Autumn Fest Survey
 - 2022 Move in the Park Series Survey
 - 2022 Walk in the Park Wine Tour Survey
 - The Park District sends surveys out after every program completion and the above is just a sample of recent surveys.

VII. District Awards and Recognition

The District's achievements have been recognized in numerous ways.

2023 Greater Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Award

The Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Award recognizes a Chamber organization that best exemplifies awareness and best practices in creating an inclusive organization.

2022 IPRA Champions for Change Award

The Champions for Change Award recognizes agencies with unique and exemplary practices of increasing access and fostering diversity and inclusion within their community or organization.

2019 Public Relations Society of America - Chicago Chapter – Skyline Award

The Public Relations Society of America awarded the District with a Public Affairs Skyline Award for the Open Space Communications Project. The annual Skyline Award program recognizes projects and programs demonstrating excellence in the field of communications.

2019 Publicity Club of Chicago Golden Trumpet Award

The Publicity Club of Chicago awarded the District with a Golden Trumpet Award in Community Relations for the communications work done during the 2018 Open Space Referendum. This award recognizes exemplary communications programs that understand the audience's needs, careful planning, strategy, effective implementation, and evaluation.

2018 Illinois Park & Recreation Association Outstanding Park & Facility Award

The District was recognized for its use of creative design and ingenuity to bring maximum recreational value to Central Park. The project included connectivity and accessibility improvements to the walking paths, the installation of a universal playground, replaced a portion of the water control system at Ginger Creek, stabilized 1,500 ft. of eroded shoreline, improved parking, improved accessibility and safety of the existing ball fields, replaced old sports lighting with energy-efficient LED lights, and improved the Central Park sled hill.

GFOA Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the District for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The District has received this award every year since 1994.

2017 CAPRA Accreditation (Reaccreditation achieved in 2022)

The District has become the eighth park and recreation agency in Illinois to be accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

2016 Illinois Distinguished Agency Accreditation (Reaccreditation achieved in 2022)

Staff completed a rigorous assessment process that resulted in the District receiving Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency by the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association. The accreditation process focuses on efficient and effective operational practices and the implementation of professional standards.

2016 “Accreditation Award” from the Park District Risk Management Association (“PDRMA”)

Since 2006, PDRMA has awarded Level A recognition to the District for the District’s efforts to maximize safe operations and minimize insurance claims. For this continued high caliber of safe operations, the Oak Brook Park District received the “Accreditation Award” from PDRMA in 2016.

2016 USTA Facility Award Winner

The Tennis Center was one of 12 winners in the 35th annual USTA Facility Awards program, which recognizes excellence in the construction and/or renovation of tennis facilities throughout the country. The Tennis Center was honored in New York City on September 1, 2016.

2015 National Gold Medal Award in Parks and Recreation (Finalist in 2023)

The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), awarded this honor to the District at the NRPA Annual Conference on Sept. 15, 2015, in Las Vegas.

2014 Exceptional Workplace Award

The District was among nine Illinois park districts to be awarded the 2014 Exceptional Workplace Award from the Illinois Park and Recreation Association’s Health and Wellness Committee. The applicants were scored on staff wellness programs, continuing education, team building, community involvement, environmental policy, risk management, and professionalism.

VIII. Benefits and Services

The Park District serves the entire community from the youngest child to the oldest adult and all ages in between. It does so in a variety of ways.

1. Facilities

The Park District offered the following facilities to the community last year:

Family Recreation Center

- 80,000 square feet
- Administration offices
- Two meeting rooms
- Four studio rooms
- Locker rooms: Men/Women with adult-only sections
- Fully accessible, inclusive family locker rooms
- Five preschool and multi-purpose rooms
- Registration and Customer Services area

Aquatic Center

- 15,500 square feet
- The leisure pool features accessible, zero-depth entry, warm water, vortex pool, and a 105-foot water slide
- The lap pool features six 25-yard lanes, accessible via a lift.
- One 10-person capacity whirlpool, fully accessible
- Splash Island features a zero depth-18" pool, four slides, sunshades, deck chairs, and interactive features
- Lifeguard office

Fitness Center

- 5,000 square feet
- Three regulation-sized gymnasiums
- 1/8-mile indoor walking track
- Various cardio and weight equipment

Central Park West

- Open event space; 5,600 square feet
- Full kitchen
- Double-sided wood-burning brick fireplace
- Two covered patios
- Outdoor Koi Pond

Oak Brook Tennis Center

- 87,000 square feet
- Eight indoor USTA blue/green courts with viewing lounges
- Fitness room
- Tennis pro shop

- Male and female locker rooms
- Three racquetball/wallyball courts
- One mini-tennis court
- Athletic training area
- Eight outdoor USTA blue/green courts

Saddle Brook Park

- 11 acres of land
- One mile of paved trail
- Two tennis courts
- Two pickleball courts
- One basketball court
- One playground
- Three fitness stations

Chillem Park

- 1.03 acres of land
- .13 miles of paved trail
- One tennis court
- One pickleball court
- One basketball court
- One playground

Forest Glen Park

- 16.4 acres of land
- 1.97 acres of water in 3 ponds
- Half-mile of paved trail
- Two tennis courts
- Two pickleball courts
- One basketball court
- Two playgrounds
- One gazebo

Dean Nature Sanctuary

- 40 acres of land
- .6 acres of water in one pond
- One half-mile stone trail, one three-quarter-mile nature trail
- One fishing pier
- One stone council ring
- One canoe launch
- Six interpretive gardens
- Two gazebos/shelters
- Unique habitats: oak savanna, wetland, pond, and prairie

Central Park

- 3 miles of paved trails

- Seven natural grass soccer fields
- One artificial turf soccer field
- One seasonal outdoor ice rink
- Two basketball courts
- Four baseball/softball fields
- Eight outdoor tennis courts
- Five playgrounds
- One sledding hill
- One seasonal sand volleyball court
- Three fishing ponds
- One fishing pier
- One nine-hole disc golf course
- Two gazebos/pavilions
- Three outdoor pickleball courts
- 173 acres of land

2. Programs

The Park District offered 3,604 programs with 19,210 participants in 2022. District records also indicate that 3,894 households used the District's parks and facilities.

3. Additional Services

The Park District provided the following additional services to the community.

- Complimentary community-wide COVID-19 testing.
- Substantial donation to Adventist Hinsdale Open Arms foundation from Pink 5K race proceeds.
- Various clothing, food, and supply drives to benefit local charities and food banks.
- Community-wide senior fair
- Complimentary tree-sapling giveaway to the community

4. Other Benefits

While the Park District is a special purpose district, its impact on the community is multi-faceted and far-reaching. For example, the Park District's parks, recreational programming, and other opportunities improve the community's overall physical and mental health and wellness, thereby reducing healthcare costs. Before and after school and summer programs offer safe, convenient, and affordable childcare options for working families during critical times when school is not in session. These opportunities also help reduce juvenile crime. The Park District's open space and trees help improve air and water quality and mitigate flooding.

IX. Recommendations for Increased Accountability and Efficiency

1. Intergovernmental Fees and Charges

One opportunity for efficiency would be the elimination of fees and charges assessed by other units of government. By way of example, below are amounts that other units of local government charge the Park District even though the Park District's taxpayers are also taxpayers of these other units of local government. Such fees and charges, and the bureaucracy that accompanies them, inhibit the park district's ability to deliver programs, facilities, and services at the least possible cost. The Oak Brook Park District routinely pays fees and charges on an annual basis for the following:

- Stormwater Management
- Sewer Taps
- State and local liquor licenses
- Elevator license and inspection
- Fire inspections
- Illinois State Police background checks
- Pool Permits
- County food service inspections
- Illinois Department of Public Health Inspections
- Building Permits

Other units of local government should recognize that intergovernmental fees often lead to inefficiency in the expenditure of taxpayer dollars through extra bureaucracy and administrative costs. In many cases, the unit of government assessing the fee ultimately benefits from the project or event, meaning it can recoup its costs through the extra sales tax or other revenue that will be generated. Where such fees are absolutely necessary, general-purpose units of government should offset the fee by crediting the park district for all benefits they will receive from a project, event, or property. For example, open space that is protected and maintained by the Park District helps mitigate stormwater management costs, so assessing stormwater management fees on the Park District not only leads to inefficiency, but it is also shortsighted.

Governmental units should be discouraged or prohibited from charging more than their out-of-pocket costs associated with the activities covered by a fee that is assessed to another unit of local government with the same taxpayers. Put another way, one unit of local government should not profit by taxing another. Eliminating local permit fees is a way to reduce administrative costs without impacting overall public revenue. Local government best serves the people when it cooperates and works together. Some communities recognize this and do not charge fees to other units. All communities should be encouraged to follow that model to receive the best results for local taxpayers and to promote governmental efficiency.

2. Inefficiency of Other Governments

The Park District is also negatively impacted by the inefficiency of the state and other units of local government.

State grants are often overly complicated to apply for and staff at the state level is not routinely available to answer questions or provide guidance, which causes delays for the Park District attempting to apply for grant funds. Once grant funding is obtained, cumbersome and time-consuming reports are due on a monthly or quarterly basis.

3. Unfunded Mandates

Unfunded state mandates are another cost driver. While the Park District recognizes that there are benefits to some of these mandates, modifications could help alleviate some of the burden to the park district.

a) Non-resident FOIA Requests. Last year, the park district spent numerous hours in staff time and legal fees to fulfill FOIA requests. Often the individuals/businesses submitting the FOIA requests are from outside of the park district boundaries, and they appear to be serving a specific agenda, rather than assuring better local government.

Under current law, resident taxpayers end up footing the bill for these non-resident or commercial requests. In order to help alleviate the burden for these non-resident requests the law could be amended to: (1) add a requirement that non-residents identify/explain the purpose of the request for information; (2) add a time limit on how far back a non-resident can request information; (3) staff time and costs could be included in the amount that is reimbursable for non-resident and commercial requests; (4) move back the deadline for non-resident requests 10 business days so that the park district does not have to delay services to its residents in order to comply with a non-resident request.

Sunshine laws are supposed to protect taxpayers by allowing them to shed light on any issue that is not exempt from FOIA. However, local government can be burdened by having to drop everything to rearrange priorities to meet FOIA deadlines, particularly if it has limited resources. Since local residents ultimately

bear the expense of complying with FOIA, treating resident and non-resident requests differently would be justified.

b) Criminal Background Checks. All park districts are statutorily required to conduct criminal background checks on all employees pursuant to Section 8-23 of the Park District Code. The background checks must be done through the Illinois State Police (ISP). Last year, the park district spent \$2,000 for criminal background checks. The Park District does not recommend eliminating this mandate because it is necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of children and other park district patrons. However, the State should explore ways in which it could improve the current system and make it less costly for park districts to comply with the law.

The mandate also raises the fundamental question as to why one layer of government is forced to charge its taxpayers to comply with a State mandate when the State made the determination to impose the mandate. Put another way, if the State has determined that criminal background checks are necessary for public safety, the State should assist with compliance.

The Park District recommends studying whether there can be a more efficient background check process implemented through the ISP to reduce the time and expense it takes for background checks. Another suggestion is for ISP to waive the fee for checks on minors or waive all fees for name checks. If there is a "hit" from a name check, the fee could be charged for the more costly fingerprint check. Since it is a state mandate, perhaps the fee structure for park districts should also be reviewed to determine whether the fee being charged exceeds the actual cost of doing the check and, if so, perhaps the ISP could consider reducing its cost to local governments.

c) Prevailing Wage. One way to reduce burden on local government staff is to limit the prevailing wage requirement to larger capital contracts. This would free up tracking of the paperwork on small repairs and projects. One reason for creating a threshold requirement is the cost of the administrative burden relative to the cost of the actual project. For example, eliminating prevailing wage on smaller projects, e.g., those less than \$50,000, will result in more local bids and decrease the overall cost for these smaller public works projects.

d) Newspaper Publication. The newspaper is no longer the most effective way to provide notice. Websites are cheaper and reach more people. Permitting the park district to post the information on its website in lieu of newspaper publications would reduce costs.

Dated: May 15, 2023 [INSERT DATE FINAL REPORT APPROVED BY EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE]

Signed: *Dave Thommes* [CHAIR'S SIGNATURE]