

Dear friend of the Naperville Park District:

After what felt like a long winter, summer is nearly here and it's time to get outside and enjoy some activities. While you're outside enjoying our parks, special events, camps and our other summertime programs, the Naperville Park District is busy focusing on improving some of its facilities. These improvements are identified through the District's Open Space and Recreation Master Plan and funded through the annual capital budget. The benefits of completing these projects now include a current competitive bidding climate and lending support to our local economy. Additionally, these improvements are projected to cost much less now than if we were to wait a few years when construction and material costs are likely to increase.

In the Community Interest and Opinion Survey, which was conducted last year, we discovered that the majority of our respondents asked us to take care of the resources we have. We've listened to that feedback and have embarked upon several renovation projects throughout the community that are in various stages of completion. From late summer of last year through early spring of this year, the Alfred Rubin Riverwalk Community Center has undergone a transformation. That project began with the complete renovation of our Community Hall, and expanded to the upper level entryway and corridors. The work completed to date makes the facility much more inviting and contemporary, and we plan to continue making renovations to the facility throughout this year to improve its function and aesthetics.

In 2008, we began looking at renovations to Centennial Beach's historic bathhouse. This initiative involved extensive community and patron input, review of several versions of architectural plans and a lengthy permitting process. Although patrons will not see any changes to the Beach this year, they can look forward to many significant ones that will coincide with the start of the 2011 season. Examples of improvements include new locker rooms, the addition of family changing rooms, a new concessions building and an improved drop-off/pick-up area and front entry. The project will maintain the historical integrity of the bathhouse while improving the overall operations and customer experience.

Nike Sports Complex, bounded by Mill Street and Diehl and Bauer Roads, is another location that is seeing some important changes. In 2007, the Park District acquired the land adjacent to the current sports complex with the intention of expanding our inventory of sports fields and courts while including other passive recreation amenities like trails and a playground. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer with completion planned in 2011.

A project that's just getting started is one that's taking a look at the Barn and Central Shop. Earlier this year, we asked residents to express their interest in participating on a community review team to look at the recreation space in addition to the adjacent maintenance facility, to determine what its best use will be for the future. We look forward to seeing how this initiative continues to develop and we'll keep the community informed regarding our progress. Also, please watch for more of these opportunities to get involved with the Park District and help shape our future. We recognize the importance of input from our residents.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to discuss our golf courses. In 2008, both Springbrook and Naperbrook completed some significant renovations to the courses and clubhouses. However, 2008 also was a tough year with the golf department experiencing a loss. We recognize that several elements factored into this "perfect storm," but it forced us to take an even closer look at our golf operations. Operating as an Enterprise Fund, both courses are self-supporting and neither course receives any tax support. In order to continue to maintain the courses at a level that our patrons expect, a price increase for the 2010 season is necessary. I recognize that with the economy it's hardly the ideal time, but it's also a matter of being able to fund golf course operations. I hope that our golfers will continue to support our courses, because we count on their patronage. Please visit our websites at napervilleparks.org, springbrookgolfcourse.org and naperbrookgolfcourse.org for more information on the reasons behind the price increase.

I hope you will take the opportunity to get outside and enjoy the summer season and all we have to offer the community. Take a jog through one of our parks, attend a playground opening, or head to one of our outdoor concerts. And, speaking of outdoor concerts, I want to express my thanks to Continental Motors of Naperville, (including Acura, Audi and Mazda), for their support of our annual Concerts in Your Park event.

Wishing you a safe and memorable summer season!

Sincerely,
Ray McGury
Executive Director