

Dear friend of the Naperville Park District:

It seems that we hear more and more about signs that the economy is improving. However, the reality is that there's a long road of recovery ahead. As an organization that relies on both tax dollars and program fees to fund our operations, the current economic situation undoubtedly presents a challenge for us. Yet, regardless of the current situation, the Naperville Park District prides itself on striving for excellence in stewardship with regard to all of our resources, tax dollars included.

In 2009, the District challenged itself to a higher degree to find efficiencies and implement cost-cutting measures where feasible, and the results were tremendous. Here are some of the highlights:

- Construction contracts for park development/maintenance were secured at 16% under budget resulting in a savings of approximately \$900,000

- One of our community partners, Wheatland Athletic Association (WAA), contributed \$80,000 for the development of a ball field at Commissioners Park

- Our Business Services Department was able to refinance a 2001 bond issue at significantly lower interest rates, saving the District \$159,000

- Efforts to identify and engage "green" practices in our operations resulted in a savings of nearly \$60,000 in 2009 alone

- Our vibrant volunteer program, which is essential to the success of our sports offerings, park projects and events, saves us more than \$1 million each year

In 2010, we will strive to achieve more of the same kinds of savings while continuing to provide our community with recreation programs and amenities that emphasize quality and value.

A key component to our continued success this year is the recently adopted 5-year Strategic Plan. This plan will serve as a roadmap for the District in the achievement of twelve core goals that focus on: facilities and equipment, financials, image, partnerships, programs, customer service, land, people and culture, and operational excellence. Most notably, one of the goals under operational excellence will be driving the District's progress as it relates to continuous improvement. One of the ways we will measure our success in this area is through the identification of cost-savings and increased efficiencies, just as we did last year.

Another great example of how we offset operating costs while providing a value added experience for our participants is through our partnerships with area businesses. I want to take a moment to acknowledge Buffalo Wild Wings for their support of our Naperville Youth Soccer program. Please be sure to watch for information in the near future regarding a restaurant fundraiser to benefit the NYS program to help fund the purchase of much needed new equipment.

In these still challenging times, I speak for the entire Park District staff and Park Board when I say that we are committed to providing the best value in recreation for you, your family and friends. We recognize that time and money are valuable resources, and we are honored when you choose to spend those resources with the Naperville Park District. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to serving you and enriching your life this year.

Sincerely,

Ray McGury  
Executive Director