



**Wildwood Park District**  
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DECENNIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE  
PRESENTATION MEETING #3 – UPDATE TO AREAS FOR  
INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# Purpose & Committee



The Wildwood Park District formed its Committee on Local Government Efficiency on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2023, to study efficiencies and report recommendations regarding those efficiencies and increased accountability pursuant to 50 ILCS 70/1, *et seq.* (the “Committee”).

## **Committee Membership**

- Rebecca Jante, Board Commissioner and Chairperson
- Matthew Brueck, Board Commissioner
- Daniel Corrigan, Board Commissioner
- Anna Nelson, Board Commissioner
- Mike Semmerling, Resident Member
- Laura Rudow, Resident Member
- Brandon Magnini, Park District Manager & Board Secretary

# General Overview of District



- The Park District was established by a referendum initiated and approved by the voters of the Park District in 1976. All Illinois park districts, including the Wildwood Park District, are governed by the Park District Code.
- The Park District is governed by a board of 5 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 share is only **4.5%** of the local tax bill.

# Transparency to the Community



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

## **Document            Location(s) Available            (Website, Administrative Offices, County Clerk, State Website)**

- Annual Tax Levy: [Website, Administrative office, County Clerk, e-newsletter, Daily Herald](#)
- Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance: [Website, Administrative office, County Clerk, e-newsletter, Daily Herald](#)
- Agenda and Minutes: [WPD Website under Board of Commissioners, Administrative Office](#)
- Annual Treasurer's Report: [WPD Website under Forms and Financials](#)
- Annual Audit/Annual Financial Report: [WPD Website under Forms and Financials](#)
- Statement of Receipts and Disbursements: [WPD Website under Forms and Financials](#)
- Conduct Ordinances: [WPD Website under Parks Rules and Information](#)
- Capital Improvement Plan: [WPD Website under Capital Projects and Planning](#)

# Opportunities for Increased Transparency



**As illustrated previously, the Park District is very transparent in its operations. The following are some areas in which the Park District has already improved in this respect since the February Committee Meeting:**

- I. Letters to Sunset Park residents laying out plans and notice for the LED security lights.**
- II. Old Plank Park/Willow Point Park Playground Replacement/Upgrade needs assessment survey.**
- III. Revamped Board of Park Commissioners webpage**
- IV. Update to GLCC page, bylaws, and publishing their meeting minutes/financials/agendas.**

# Opportunities for Savings such as Energy Efficiency Projects, Joint Purchasing



- I. *District continues to work with ComEd Energy Efficiency Program. **Successfully had ComEd install 3 LED security lights at Sunset Park at no labor cost to the Park District on existing ComEd pole. Will have a modest \$27.00 a month street light fee for these lights which are already computed into FY budget.***
- II. *District continues to seek out and utilize OMNIA/Sourcwell government joint purchasing programs for future capital equipment/facility needs if appropriate/needed to save dollars on those purchases. **Currently exploring through Sourcwell, the approved vendor to complete needed roof repairs to Rule House/Security Shed/Maintenance Shop at a previously bid out price that is set at the jointly contracted rate (below open market rate).***