



# **2022 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

*GROWING GREATEST*



**MORTON GROVE  
PARK DISTRICT**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the many citizens, stakeholders, district staff, Park Board of Commissioners, and community groups who participated in the development of the Morton Grove Park District Comprehensive Master Plan. The efforts of this community will continue to ensure the success of the Morton Grove Park District.

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### IN ASSOCIATION WITH

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### MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT RESIDENTS:

A special thank you goes out to the public who participated in the Virtual Town Hall engagement sessions and provided survey responses – both mail-in and online.



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## Chapter 1

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Morton Grove Park District (MGPD) provides a comprehensive system of public parks, fieldhouses, two outdoor pools, a museum, a 50,000 square foot community center, and recreation amenities that greatly contribute to the quality of life for residents and visitors of Morton Grove, Illinois. MGPD prides itself on providing diverse and affordable recreation opportunities for people of all ages, interests, and abilities. To plan for the future of this valuable system, the Park District commissioned the Planning Resources Team (Planning Team) to develop this dynamic Comprehensive Master Plan to identify the values of the community; provide a community driven vision for parks, open space, and facilities; and provide strategies for the planning, development, and administration of parks and recreation programming for the district.

The Planning Team was led by Planning Resources Inc and consisted of a comprehensive team of park and recreation experts strategically assembled to meet the Comprehensive Master Plan's criteria and scope. The outdoor park assessments were completed by Planning Resources Inc., the facility study and architectural expertise

was performed by 845 Design Group and community survey knowledge and analysis were conducted by AQty Research & Insights, Inc. Each team member brought valuable insight to the Plan by contributing in-depth knowledge on key issues, influences, opportunities, and conditions affecting the future of the Morton Grove Park District.

The "Growing Greatest" Comprehensive Master Planning process was created to incorporate public views on how the park system should be balanced in the future. The MGPD Comprehensive Master Plan objectives include the following:

- Collect and analyze data relevant to park and recreation resources in Morton Grove to better understand the park system within a local context;
- Work with the community to ascertain public attitudes and preferences with regard to the existing park system; identify issues and develop strategies for sustaining the resources of the park system; and identify changes needed to meet future needs, preferences and demographic shifts;

- Tie together previously established MGPD objectives, policies, standards, and priorities for the protection and stewardship of natural and cultural resources and the development and management of recreation resources; and
- Create a comprehensive long range park system plan that provides recommendations and priorities for balancing the park system to meet existing and future park needs and serves as an overarching plan to guide park planning efforts at the individual park master plan level.

### *Pandemic Impact*

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in over 2.5 million confirmed cases and over 32 thousand deaths and climbing within the State of Illinois as of January 2022. During the lockdown and restrictions placed on public activities and gatherings, public parks and open spaces have become one of the only sources of resilience as residents continue navigating through the coronavirus pandemic, because of their positive effects on an individual's psychological, physical and social need and spiritual wellness. Nationwide, park visitation has increased since March 2020 compared to visitor numbers prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Restrictions on social gathering, movement, and the closure of offices, commercial and indoor recreational places, are correlated with more visits to parks. Demand from residents

for parks and open spaces has increased since the outbreak began and has highlighted the important role and benefits parks and open spaces provide.

While the pandemic did not impact the results and recommendations of this Comprehensive Master Plan directly, the long-term effects of this crisis will continue to be seen within MGPD and on parks and recreation systems in communities across the country for years to come. Communities like Morton Grove have developed a newfound appreciation for the outdoors while local park districts and recreation agencies face budget cuts resulting from the economic downfall. From the community engagement perspective, the virtual engagement sessions held during the planning phase proved successful with regards to resident participation far exceeding the traditional in-person engagement meetings. The community survey provided an opportunity for non-park users and residents who may not have access to internet to mail in their survey responses. Park design and recreation system strategies in response to the pandemic illustrate in a nutshell some of the core challenges of healthy community planning – specifically the recognition of park equity as a health priority and to revisit strategies to increase or reallocate park resources for parks and open spaces within deprived communities during the pandemic and beyond. This plan has considered COVID impacts on the parks and recreation system throughout the document as it relates to parks, open spaces, facilities, and programming.





# Introduction

Great Communities have Great Parks and Facilities. With more than 70 acres in 14 parks, the Morton Grove Park District (MGPD) parks and facilities are well used and highly regarded. The park and recreation facilities are an essential element of life to residents of Morton Grove. Accredited and recognized for excellence as an Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency by the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA), the Morton Grove Park District provides exceptional park and recreation services to the community.

The MGPD is proud of their accomplishments in delivering quality parks and services to its residents. However, they also recognize they must constantly strive to make sure they meet the changing needs of their uniquely diverse community. As the District looks to the future, Morton Grove will continue to grow and change:

- Growing employment centers will attract a varied workforce
- More people with diverse backgrounds will move into district boundaries making Morton Grove their home
- Lifestyles and recreational preferences will continue to change

The Comprehensive Master Plan outlines an ambitious action plan that will guide District investments and strategies to meet the needs of the community over the next five to ten years. The Plan is also reflection of Park District staff and the Board's commitment to serving the community by providing an excellent, enjoyable, and accessible park system to the residents of Morton Grove. The Comprehensive Master Plan will strategically help the Morton Grove Park District continue "Growing Greatest".

This Comprehensive Master Plan is an update to the District's 2013 Plan and will:

- Update the standards for parks and recreation level of service to be more reflective of emerging trends.
- Acknowledge the District's current situation and the opinions of residents on recreational and park activities.
- Identify development priorities and recommendations on capital improvement projects, and
- Guide the Park Board in effective decision making and equitable allocation of services to address needs and shortfalls in the parks system.

Morton Grove Park District is committed to complementing the community's quality of life, economic capacity, health and wellness through recreational opportunities while protecting natural resources. And by providing recreational infrastructure and space which promotes community activity.

The COVID-19 Pandemic brought more and more residents into the District's parks with the forced government shutdown of business and face-to-face programs. Residents flocked to these outdoor spaces to recreate instead of gyms and fitness centers resulting in a renewed interest in how their tax dollars are being used and distributed within their local parks and district open spaces. The Comprehensive Master Plan was guided by resident opinion, based on a community survey of 172 households, 261 online participants, and 1 phone interview within the Village of Morton Grove. The Park District feels confident that the community has had a strong voice in the planning process as the Plan reflects the community's vision for recreation programming and park activities.

The timing of this Comprehensive Master Plan takes advantage of several factors:

- Many of the recommendation of the previous 2013 Master Plan have been



implemented, and these investments and accomplishments have generated new opportunities.

- While the population has remained stable, the subtle demographic changes within the Morton Grove's population requires an adjustment of park services in order to meet a variety of needs. For example, many seniors within the community have an increased interest in different types of recreation activities and amenities than those currently provided – more senior recreation, mid-day programs, and volunteer opportunities
- Community interest in new trends in outdoor recreation and sports has changed with time and facilities. Park programming and management of these programs and facilities need to adjust to take this into account.
- The MGPD as with other park districts, suffered financially due to the pandemic. The cancellation of revenue-generating programs, events, and inability to receive user fees required adjustments to park service delivery. As funding stabilizes, it is important to evaluate life-cycle cost considerations and how operations changes have impacted performance resulting in the development of alternatives and creative solutions for future operations.

# Benefits Of Recreation Facilities

## Quality of Life

As identified by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), parks provide safe gathering and meeting places where community members can develop social ties, as well as where healthy behavior is modeled and admired. Residents within the MGPD gather to share experiences, socialize, and build community bonds in these common open spaces, parks, and facilities within the District. In addition to developing a sense of community and social inclusion, the District parks bring people of different backgrounds, cultures, and religions together. They are often the glue that binds communities like Morton Grove together while maintaining and improving future positive social interactions.

## Economic Capacity

The NRPA also identifies park and recreation areas as “.... economic engines that improve the quality of life making communities more livable and desirable for businesses and homeowners.”



## Health and Wellness

According to the Trust for Public Land and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), parks provide amenities designed to get people active and out of the house away from their sedentary lifestyles (Sedentary lifestyles are directly linked to obesity). “Studies have shown that when people have access to parks, they exercise more, and...individuals living closer to parks are more likely to exercise regularly, leading to weight loss, increased energy, and better overall health.” The Morton Grove Park District provides a variety of park and open space facilities located throughout the community for use by its residents to promote community wellness and support healthy lifestyles.

## Natural Resources

Trees buffer and remove a wide variety of pollutants from the air. (U.S. Forest Service estimates trees remove 19 million pounds of pollutants each year - a service that would cost \$47 million if performed by a company.) Public parks are large contributors to the urban tree canopy. One acre of trees produces enough oxygen for 18 people while at the same time, absorb enough carbon dioxide to equal emissions from driving a car over 26,000 miles. According to the Trust for Public Land and U.S. Forest Service, “One tree over a 50-year period will provide \$62,000 worth of air pollution control and generate \$31,250 worth of oxygen. Trees have been proven to absorb airborne pollutants, as an average 12/5” diameter tree stores 897 pounds of carbon per year.” Trees and grass also provide a more aesthetic and less expensive method of managing stormwater rather than below ground storm sewers and concrete drainage ditches.

## ABOUT... The Village of Morton Grove

### Village of Morton Grove

The Village of Morton Grove is a progressive, family-oriented community in suburban Cook County. According to the 2010 census, the Village of Morton Grove totals 5.09 square miles. The North Branch of the Chicago River runs through the middle of the Village; land along both banks of the River is owned and managed by the Cook County Forest Preserve.

Geographically, the Village is located approximately 15 miles northwest of downtown Chicago. It is centrally located to destinations of significance, with O'Hare Airport to the southwest, the Edens Expressway Spur (I-94) to the east, and the Tri-State Tollway (Interstate 294) to the west. Additionally, rail transportation is available via Metra's Milwaukee District / North Line. Combined with its commitment and dedication to providing the highest level of services to its residents, quality schools, and abundance of parks, green spaces, and forest preserve land, make the Village of Morton Grove the ideal place in

suburban Chicago to live and work. Nearly 20% of the land in Morton Grove is owned by the Cook County Forest Preserve District and is dedicated to passive and active open space and recreation. The Village of Morton Grove is considered a "bedroom" community due to its predominant residential makeup and profile. However, within the Village's 5.09 square mile area, it includes a thriving commercial and industrial base. Morton Grove is bordered by Glenview and the Village of Golf to the north, Skokie on the east, and the Village of Niles on the south and west.

The founding families of The Village were of English descent, named Beckwith, Curtis, White, Weldon, Dewes, and Jefferson. In the early 1830s, they moved to what is now the Lehigh-Beckwith area. When they arrived, there were no connections by road. Instead, the families utilized trails established by the indigenous peoples of the area, the Blackhawk, Kickapoo, Miami, and Potawatomi tribes. The families settled, cultivating farms in the rich black prairie soils of the area. A remnant of the mesic and wet mesic tallgrass prairie they domesticized can still be found at the Morton Grove Prairie Nature Preserve Area (IDNR, 2021). After a decade passed farming the fertile soils, the community began to grow. Other German and Prussian descent colonists arrived. The present-day population of The Village still includes descendants of these early settlers (Webrary®, 1998).

The settlement of the "West" continued, with the first Transcontinental Railroad completed in 1869. In 1872, the Milwaukee Railroad constructed a single track from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Chicago, Illinois. The transportation of the region rapidly changed with the purchase of the Millers Mill property for a right of way. At the time, approximately 100 people resided in the area.



1916, the Haupt-Yehl family pictured on the porch of their farmhouse. This farmhouse was moved to Harrer Park in 1984 and now serves as the Morton Grove Historical Museum.



## ABOUT... The Village of Morton Grove *(continued)*

The region became a flag stop for the railroad community. The Village of Morton Grove takes its name from the surrounding groves of trees bordering the settlement at the time, and for Levi Parsons Morton, the Vice President of the United States from 1889-1893, and a director of the Milwaukee Railroad in 1872 (Webrary®, 1998). As The Village's population began to grow, Bingham and Fernald built the first housing subdivision in 1891. Four years later, the Village of Morton Grove was incorporated on December 24, 1895. George Harrer was elected the Village's first mayor. He was of German descent, and the District's 22-acre flagship park is named in honor of him.

As the Village of Morton Grove continued to grow throughout the 1900s, many important organizations and elements in the Village were established. Historic moments of note include: 1897 the first village school is built, 1904 the local Volunteer Fire Department is formed, 1919 Morton Grove's first paved street

is completed, 1921 the Doughboy Statue is unveiled by the Women's War Working Circle, 1938 the Public Library is built, 1951 the Morton Grove Park District is established, 1970 the Morton Grove Historical Society was formed, and in 1984 the Haupt-Yehl house was moved to its present site in Harrer Park. The Village celebrated the centennial of Morton Grove's founding in 1995.



1921, Morton Grove's Doughboy Statue is unveiled by the Women's War Working Circle, a tribute to Morton Grove men who had fought in WWI. The festival organized for the event became the first of what is now known as Morton Grove Days.



2017, Morton Grove's Doughboy Statue refurbished after 96 years. Fundraising was done in the community, through American Legion Post 134 and its auxiliary as well as through a crowdfunding campaign.



# ABOUT... Morton Grove Park District

## **Morton Grove Park District**

Created by referendum in 1951, the Morton Grove Park District is an independent municipal governing agency serving the recreation needs of its residents' providing parks, facilities and recreational programs for the Morton Grove community. An Illinois Distinguished Agency since 2017, the District is one of only 46 park districts, forest preserves and special recreation associations to be recognized by the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) as such.

**Mission:** The MGPD is committed to complementing our community's quality of life, economic capacity, health, and wellness through recreational opportunities while protecting natural resources.

The District currently maintains over 70 acres of public amenities: fourteen park sites and ten public facilities including a museum, four field houses, a 50,000 square foot community center, and two relatively new outdoor community swimming pools – one of which was recently reconstructed as a “State-of-the-Art” facility by referendum. Completed in the Fall of 2021, the 12 million dollar newly reconstructed Harrer Pool includes a new six-lane, 50-meter lap pool, a “plunge pool” with two water slides, a diving pool, a wading pool for small children with splash features, and a 6370 SF bathhouse and concessions facility.

## **Organizational Structure**

Policy-making and legislative authority are vested in the Morton Grove Park District Board of Commissioners, which consists of five Commissioners. The Board is elected on a nonpartisan, at-large basis. Commissioners are elected to staggered six-year terms without compensation. This governing body is responsible, among other things, for passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing committees, and hiring the Park District Executive Director.

The Executive Director is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the Board, for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Park District, and for hiring qualified and professional employees. The Executive Director is supported by four divisions: Administration, Recreation, Finance, and Parks and Facilities. Most administrative positions are housed in the Prairie View Community Center. Parks and Facilities supervisory and support staff are based out of the MGPD Maintenance Garage located at 6250 Dempster Avenue, Morton Grove Illinois.

In addition to the leadership of the five elected Commissioners and the Executive Director, MGPD parks, facilities, and recreation amenities are made possible through the assistance and support of 24 full-time staff members, and nearly 200 seasonal and part time employees.

The MGPD is a member of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) and the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD). Through a contractual agreement, the District in conjunction with the Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation provides recreational services to individuals with special needs within the community.

## **Important Accomplishments and Milestones**

In recent years, the District has worked toward maintaining and creating new recreational opportunities within its parks. In 2020, Austin Park, one of the more heavily used parks in the MGPD, was approved for improvements including a new playground for ages 2-12, creation of a rock garden and butterfly garden, and a new 16 by 20-foot shelter. The District has also rebuilt Harrer Pool, a staple in the Morton Grove community since the early 1960s. The MGPD also participated in the Sustainability Expo in September of 2021 exploring over 30 exhibits from eco-friendly retailers and suppliers.

## ABOUT... Morton Grove Park District *(continued)*

In the 70 years, MGPD has been operational, considerable awards and honors have resulted from their commitment to the resources the MGPD provides. These awards and honors include:

- Finalist for the 1994 Gold Medal Award in Class IV in Parks and Recreation by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- Award of Excellence from Illinois Department of Natural Resources in recognition of exemplary efforts in community involvement and project administration in the development of Harrer Park, 1997
- Award for Financial Reporting Achievement for 2010-11 from the Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The District has received this award for the past 20 years.
- Park District Risk Management Association (PDRMA) "Excellence-Level A" rating for Safety Program, 2006-2011
- Accredited Member of the PDRMA "Excellence- Level A" rating for Safety Program, 2018-2022
- Accredited and recognized for excellence as an Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency by the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA)
- The MGPD's boundaries generally align with the borders of the Village of Morton Grove, excepting an area south of Oakton Street, north of Mulford Street between Central Avenue and Long Avenue, and a small area on the Kraft® Foods campus north of Golf Road. The Park Districts' boundaries encompass approximately five square miles.





## Natural Resources

### **Protecting Natural Resources**

Prairie View Park contains a prairie remnant that is part of the less than 0.1% left of the State's natural heritage. The Morton Grove Prairie Preserve is a vital habitat for endangered species like the prairie white-fringed orchid, the Prairie Chicken, and the Illinois Chorus Frog. Currently, this preserve, and nature preserves like it, contain more than 20% of all Illinois endangered species. The Morton Grove Prairie is 1.3 acres and contains over 56 species of prairie grass, with Big bluestem and Indian grass dominating. Other notable forms include Indian plantain, Rattlesnake master, Shooting star, Prairie rose, and Golden alexanders (IDNR, 2021). The preserve provides educational opportunities to those in the Chicago area who might otherwise never experience a remnant prairie. MGPD cherishes its prairie remnant areas and native vegetation of the Illinois region present within their 70 acres of public land.

In addition to a focus on prairie education, the Village of Morton Grove has been recognized as a Tree City in the USA for over 20 years. Being a tree city in the USA means having a wide local forest management. This management requires the knowledge to provide an urban canopy in ways that provide benefits for erosion control, pollution reduction, storm water management, air quality, energy savings, and beauty. Morton

Grove is one of 61 cities in Illinois out of over 1200 municipalities in Illinois to have been recognized as a Tree City for over 20 years (IDNR 2021). The Park District is one of the main providers of access to memorable experiences through recreational programs, trails, and public lakes. Approximately 20% of the 5 square miles within the Village of Morton Grove is used for parks, nature preserves, or trails (Cook County GIS, 2021). This robust riparian zone running through the forest preserves establishes a higher biodiversity. This biodiversity in turn sequesters carbon, improves water quality, and stabilizes the ecosystem distress that accompanies the continuous conflict resulting from replacing native plant communities with ornamental landscaping practices. The Village of Morton Grove and the Park District, utilize their city's land composition to promote environmental education and provide quality of life resources to the residents of the region.

One significant resource MGPD provides is access to the Illinois North Branch Trail. The North Branch Trail runs along the Chicago River for over 20 miles through Cook County. This trail was originally an unpaved dirt path used as an equestrian pathway. Now, it is paved in its entirety. The section of North Branch Trail inside the MGPD boundaries traverses the Linne Woods Forest Preserve, running directly adjacent to Harrer Park. Other trails in Morton Grove Park District include: a connection between Morton Grove Prairie Nature Preserve and Prairie View Park, 2.6 miles of hiking trails through Linne Woods



## ABOUT... Morton Grove Park District *(continued)*

Forest Preserve, and 1 mile of hiking trail through Freedom Woods.

### **Programming**

Throughout the global pandemic, the Morton Grove Park District provided and continues to provide programming and services targeting toddlers and adults. Their programming runs year-round with activity guides released three times per year. The programs traditionally run as follows: Winter/Spring activities from December to April, Summer activities from May to August, and Fall activities from August to November.

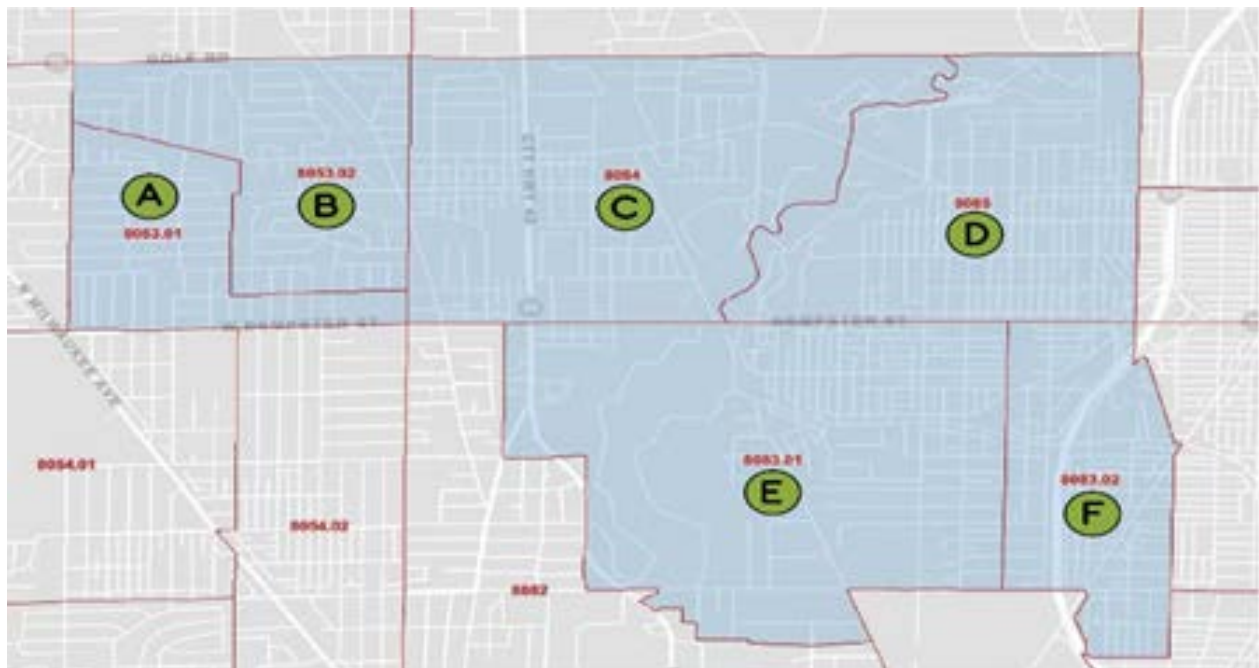
The Park District facilitates Fitness classes, Early Childhood, Youth, and Adult activities from nutrition education to Pickleball leagues through every season. The Park District seasonal programming is largely event based. In 2020, the Winter/Spring programming included 26 different events generating community spirit. Of the 26 events, 11 were new, evolving as a result of COVID-19 Safety regulations. These events included Mario

Kart Madness, Santa Stocking Delivery, and a Morton Grove Scavenger Hunt among others. The 2021 Summer Activity Guide included outdoor concert series in Harrer Park, a car show, and a back-to-school bash. The Fall 2021 programming includes Family Kite Day, Bark in the Park, and yoga in the park. The MGPD provides these enriching programs intended to benefit all who attend while providing a sense of community.

### **Planning Areas**

Planning areas are used to analyze park distribution, land acquisition and park facility redevelopment needs. The geographic area addressed by the Comprehensive Master Plan includes the municipal boundaries of the Village which is closely contiguous with the Park District boundaries.

The individual Planning Areas are delineated by the census tracts established by the United States Census Bureau. A census tract is defined as "small statistical subdivisions of a county, with 1,200 to 8,000 residents typically.



Planning Areas A, B, C, D, E and F include census tracts 8053.01, 8053.02, 8084, 8085, 8083.01 and 8083.02.



The boundaries are usually delineated and defined by local participants as part of the Census Participation Program, and do not cross county or state lines. Tracts are identified by a six-digit code, with an implied decimal between the fourth and fifth digit. Boundary changes and code restructuring are reflected in the Census 2010 release.

There are 73,057 tracts in the 2010 Census geography.” (Esri Demographics, 2021)

The Park District is very proud of its history, its parks, its stewardship of natural heritage, and its recreational programs. The District’s continuing mission is to serve the community through providing exceptional recreation, parks, and open space opportunities.

## **Trail Corridors**

### **Regional Trails and Bikeways**

Bicycling is a very popular activity that provides a moderate form of exercise within reach of the physical capabilities of most people. For many, bicycling is recreation. A bike-friendly town is associated with a higher quality of life and a sense of community.

Bicycling can be a local asset as well as a development tool. The demand for trails and other bikeways continues to grow around the country. Nationally, 52% of bike travel is for recreation and exercise, but 43% is destination-based. Much planning focuses on bicycling as alternative transportation for short, local trips throughout towns and suburban areas. When considering that 27% of all car trips are one mile or shorter; 40% are less than two miles – these become practical distances to bike if reasonably safe and convenient trails and bikeways are available.

With 20 percent of its land set aside for open space, Morton Grove residents have access to an abundance of recreational amenities including a historic bike trail as part of the Cook County Forest Preserves’ trail corridor network. The North Branch Trail System runs north and south through the center of the community and offers paved and unpaved trails along approx. 20 miles of the North Branch of the Chicago River. Morton Grove residents access this premier biking route through Harms Woods, Miami Woods, St. Paul Woods, Wayside Woods, and Linne Woods Forest Preserves. The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, biking, running, and nature trips.





## Chapter 2

# GROWING GREATEST: THE PLANNING CONTEXT

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# Growing Greatest: The Planning Context

## Purpose Of This Plan

It is important for Morton Grove Park District (MGPD) Park Board and staff to understand the relationship between parks and recreation services, capital improvement, and quality of life. The comprehensive master planning process enables the District to assess recreation needs and interests of the community. It enables decision makers to prioritize resource allocation decisions for new facilities and rehabilitation projects, programs, and services in a manner that is fiscally responsible, environmentally sound, publicly supported, and politically sensible.

The Morton Grove Park District engaged in this effort to identify the recreation needs in the community, predict future demand, and state policies for physical and social planning. In essence, the purpose of Morton Grove Park District's Comprehensive Master Plan is to develop a comprehensive vision for the District's park system, individual park, recreation facility, and/or programs in context of its location, natural resources, and visions of the community. This vision will serve as the framework for long-term use and best management practices in maintaining and enhancing the District's parks and public recreation opportunities for the benefit of residents and visitors over a multi-year planning period. The Plan incorporates extensive public input, stakeholder and focus group interaction, detailed inventory and analysis of existing recreation programs and assets, to create a roadmap for success.

The Comprehensive Master Plan provides direction on park programs, facility maintenance, general capital improvements, park amenities, park redevelopment, budgets, and funding opportunities. The nation-wide "Stay-at-Home" order restricting movement and social gathering, and the closure of many entertainment venues, forced MGPD Park Board, staff, and community residents to recognize the positive impact their local parks, open spaces, and recreation services have on their community's quality of life. MGPD's parks provide much needed opportunities for residents to play outdoors; participate in fitness, leisure, and wellness activities; be social; and enjoy a small break from the built environment.

The previous Comprehensive Master Plan was adopted in 2013. Many conditions have changed since the 2013. Morton Grove's demographics have not dramatically changed despite the State's statistics. However, the District's "Active Senior" population is continually increasing. The COVID-19 pandemic, nation-wide civil unrest, supply-chain issues, and world events have contributed to a down turned economy and unprecedented unemployment – all of which are key societal, cultural and environmental factors to be considered in the development of this 2022 Plan. This 2022 Comprehensive Master Plan builds upon, while at the same time, replaces the 2013 Plan.

## Key Issues

Key issues were identified using a number of tools, including a review of existing plans and documents, focus groups, town hall/ community-wide public meeting presentations, a community survey, and inventory and level of service analysis. The information gathered was evaluated, and recommendations were developed that address these key issues:

- Continue to maintain and improve existing parks, facilities, and amenities
- Make improvements to or replace some existing facilities and amenities
- Continue to improve programming and service delivery
- Continue to increase marketing, branding, and awareness
- Pursue additional funding sources and opportunities





## Related Planning Efforts and Integration

The following plans were reviewed for relevance, used as background information, and supporting studies to this master planning effort to ensure that all planning efforts are aligned and integrated.

- Morton Grove Park District: 2013 Comprehensive Master Plan
- Morton Grove Park District, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY2020
- Morton Grove Park District Strategic Plan 2017-2022
- Comprehensive Plan Update: Village of Morton Grove, Illinois (October 1999)





# Methodology Of This Planning Process

The process guiding the development of this Master Plan included the formation of an integrated project team comprised of staff and Park Board, a review of institutional history, analysis of existing conditions, and engagement with members of the MGPD community. The development of this plan included the following key tasks:

- Data gathering and review
- Existing Parks, Facilities, and Programs Inventory
- Level of Service analysis with alternative service providers identified
- Community Engagement – Community Interest and Opinion Survey
- Needs Assessment
- Park, Facility and Program analysis
- Recommendations: Action Plan and Funding Options

## **Existing Parks & Facility Inventory**

The Existing Parks & Facility Inventory consisted of a detailed comprehensive assessment of each of the District's services including parks, open space, and recreation facilities to determine current conditions, use patterns, environmental issues and economic impacts. Included within the assessment is a comparative analysis to local agencies of similar size and density using nationally accepted standards.

The existing parks and facility inventory included:

- An inventory of parks and facilities using existing mapping, staff interviews, and on-site visits to verify amenities and assess the condition of the facilities and grounds

- An inventory, mapping, and analysis of recreation amenities

## **Level of Service Analysis**

The Level of Service Analysis includes the evaluation of the facility's recreation components relative to the size of the facility per 1000 population (capacity analysis). Additionally, analysis included those services provided by other agencies that may impact the MGPD.

- The review of previous planning studies and staff discussions provided information about the district's parks and recreation facilities and services, in addition to insight regarding the current practices and experiences in serving residents and visitors.
- Identification of alternative providers of recreation services provided insight regarding the market opportunities in the area for potential new facilities and services.
- The Level of Service Analysis provided an accurate measurement of the current delivery of service for parks and recreation facilities.
- The analysis targeted a level of service that is both feasible and aligned with the community vision expressed through the Community Survey and other public outreach methods

## **Community Engagement**

To help guide the planning process, the Public Involvement Phase of the Plan consisted of an in-depth, efficient, open, and resident-focused all virtual community process.

Park Board members, staff, user groups, associations, and other stakeholders were assured that their voices were important, and they would be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of this Plan through an appropriate number of virtual community participation meetings. A variety of methods for the Morton Grove community to participate resulted in valuable data for analysis. The following methods were used:

- Town Hall Meetings/Community-wide Public Meetings (Virtual)
- Community Survey (Mailed)
- Online-Open link survey
- Phone Interview (Survey)

### **Needs Assessment**

A Community Survey is crucial to getting reliable information about District facilities, programs, and services from the community to establish a baseline for setting realistic and achievable goals in the Comprehensive Master Plan. As a component of the community engagement process, a Community Survey was completed to provide statistical information regarding community needs for parks and recreation services. Data Collection took place between October 6 and November 3, 2021. Based on the population of Morton Grove being roughly 23,256 according to the US Census projections, surveys were mailed to 9,340 households with options to complete the survey by mail, online, or phone.

#### **The Needs Assessment:**

- Based on the profile of the community and demographics
- Identified community interests and opinions through the results gathered from the mailed questionnaire, online-open link, and phone (interview) survey

- Researched cultural, societal, and technology trends related to recreation and the delivery of service to help guide the district's efforts to improve the delivery of parks and recreation services.

### **Park, Facility, and Program Analysis**

To ensure the Comprehensive Master Plan is responsive to the needs and wants of the community it serves, the analysis included:

- Park and facility analysis - a review of inventory data collected
- Program analysis - a review of the District's recreation programs, events, and practices

### **Recommendations: Action Plan**

Goals and recommendations for enhancing MGPD's parks and recreation amenities are rooted in the Key Issues of the master planning process. The goals developed focus on improving recreation amenities the District currently operates and enhancing service delivery. The recommendations identified describe ways to enhance the level of service and the quality of life through organizational efficiencies, financial opportunities, improved programming, service delivery and maintenance, and improvements to facilities and amenities.

#### **The Summary of Recommended Actions:**

- Identified and categorized recommendations into an Action Plan for implementation
- Presents specific actions, time frame, as well as potential funding sources the District should pursue to successfully implement the recommendations of the Plan.

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## Chapter 3

# DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS & TRENDS

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# Demographic Analysis & Trends

## Summary

The focus of this master plan is to gather both qualitative and quantitative information from which strategies will be developed to guide the future management of the parks and recreation system. A key component of the MGPD Comprehensive Master Plan is a demographics and recreational trends analysis which helps provide a thorough understanding of the demographic makeup of residents within the park district, assesses key economic factors, as well as identifies national, regional, and local recreational trends.

The MGPD Comprehensive Master Plan is supported by a comprehensive analysis of existing conditions within the Park District. This includes demographic trends and analysis, a complete inventory of the recreation and parks system, analysis of service areas, comparisons to peer communities, and national trends in the recreation in the recreation industry. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and current trends in parks and recreation programming were also analyzed. These analyses act as a foundation upon which future projections (goals and objectives) are constructed, ensuring that the recommendations and policies of the Plan are feasible, obtainable, and based in reality. (It is important to note that future projections are based on historical patterns and unforeseen circumstances during or after the time of the analysis of which could have a significant bearing on the validity of the projected figures.

## Methodology

Demographic trends inform those persons who utilize the parks and recreation system and how it could impact the utilization and demand for future parks and recreation programming. A complete analysis of demographics was completed, taking into account population, age, ethnicity, and income. This data was used to provide a foundation for the recommendations and policy within the Plan

and ensured that the established vision is reflective of demographic trends and shifts that may impact the MGPD, now and in the future. Demographic data used for the analysis was obtained from U.S. Census Bureau and from Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI), the largest research and development organization dedicated to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and specializing in population projections and market trends. All data was acquired in July 2021 and reflects actual numbers as reported in the 2010 Census as well as estimates for 2021 and 2026 as obtained by ESRI. *(It's important to note the COVID-19 pandemic posed numerous challenges to collecting the typical ACS data and census information in 2020 therefore at the time of this writing, the standard census data had not been released and made available to the public for review. Also, it's important to understand that future projects are based on historical patterns and unforeseen circumstances during or after the time of the analysis could have a significant bearing on the validity of the projected figures.*

The Park District's demographic profile can be utilized as a tool to focus their decision-making process and planning for their agency. The demographics may influence recreation trends, programs offered, amenities, services, and locations for new park spaces.

## Race and Ethnicity Definitions

The minimum categories for data on race and ethnicity for Federal statistics, program administrative reporting and civil rights compliance reporting are identified and defined below. The latest (Census 2010) definitions and nomenclature are used within this analysis.

- American Indian – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

## Demographic Analysis & Trends *(Continued)*

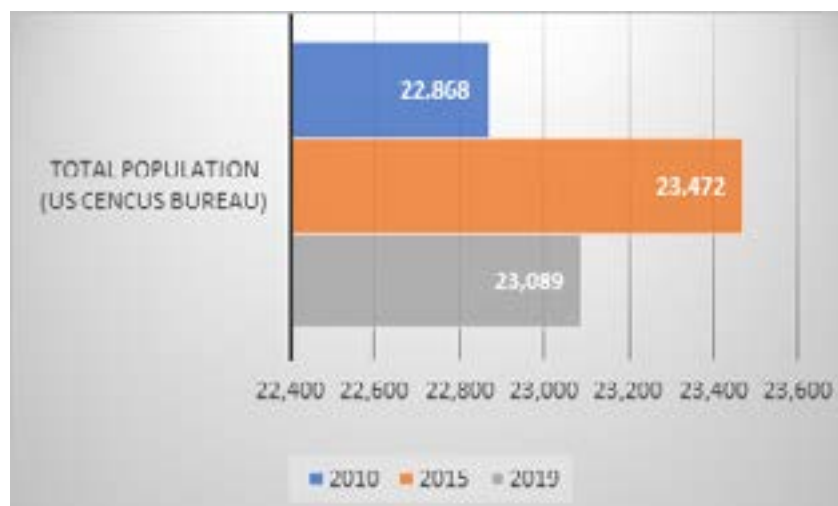
- **Asian** – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand and Vietnam
- **Black** – *This includes a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa*
- **White** – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa
- **Hispanic or Latino** – This is an ethnic distinction, a subset of a race as defined by the Federal Government; this includes a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race
- The median household income has increased since 2010;
- The unemployment rate has dropped significantly from 2012, but may see an increase due to the pandemic;
- The Village has seen a decrease in population below poverty level;
- There has been a decrease in the 18-24-year age group obtaining a high school diploma yet an increase in those receiving a bachelor's degree or higher;
- Morton Grove has a median age of 47.8, which is much higher than the State of Illinois (38), which reflects an increase in the population with a disability, especially those 65 years or older.

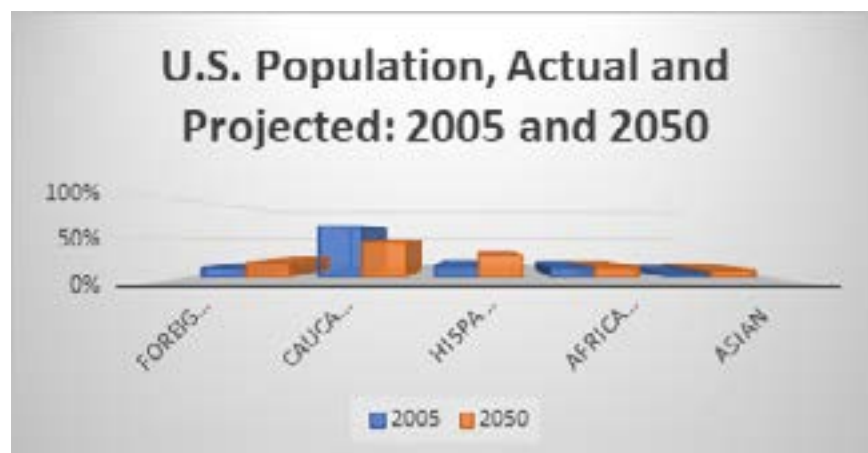
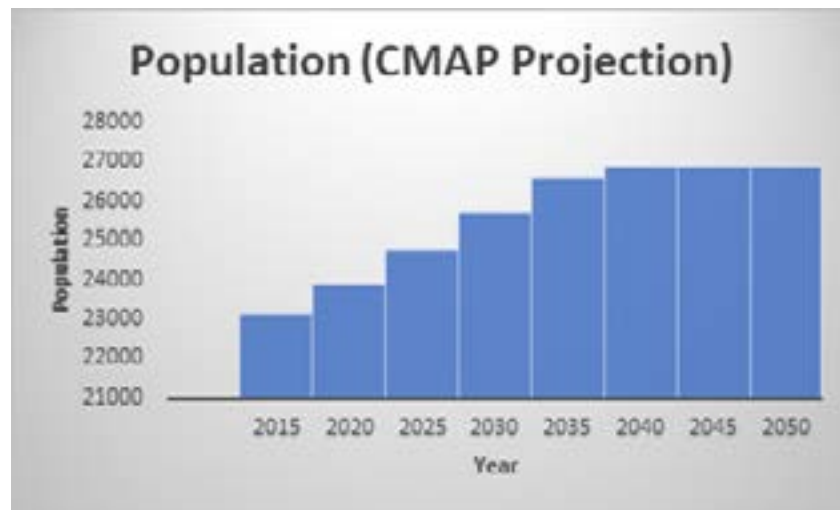
### Population

The current population of the Village of Morton Grove according to the U.S. Census Bureau is 23,089. This is a slight increase from 2010, although this number has decreased since 2015. Population decline indicates destabilization and the potential of fewer park users.

### Key Findings:

- The Asian population has seen the greatest increase;
- The age segment from 55 to 84 years old is growing rapidly while 0-25 years of age is declining;





However, according to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the Village population is projected to increase until 2040 and then it will remain steady for a 10-year period.

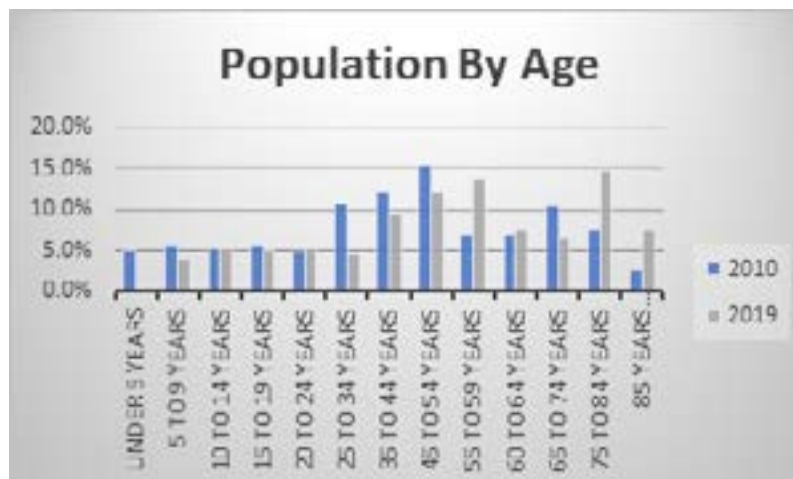
## Race

Many social scientists note that innovative or potentially innovative communities are culturally, ethnically, and racially diverse.

The current majority of the population is Caucasian (60.1%), followed by Asian (31.1%), Hispanic or Latino (6.8%), Other (3.4%) and Black (2.6%). Morton Grove is one of the most ethnic and culturally diverse towns in Illinois having the largest percentage

of Asian-Americans in the surrounding area including Cook County and the State of Illinois. In addition to Morton Grove having a large Asian-American demographic, this Asian population has had the largest increase since 2010 at 4.2%. Nationally, the Hispanic or Latino population has grown the fastest, which is not the case in Morton Grove. Culturally, Morton Grove has 53.3% of their residents that speak a language other than English – over 931 different languages/dialects are spoken within the local school district (Patch, 2011). Of these non-English speaking languages, Chinese, Tagalong, Korean and Other Asian Languages make up one of the largest groups (13.7%) along with Other Indo-European languages (18.8%).

## Demographic Analysis & Trends *(Continued)*

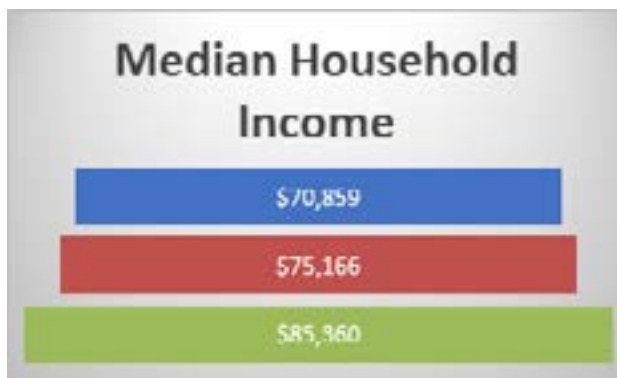
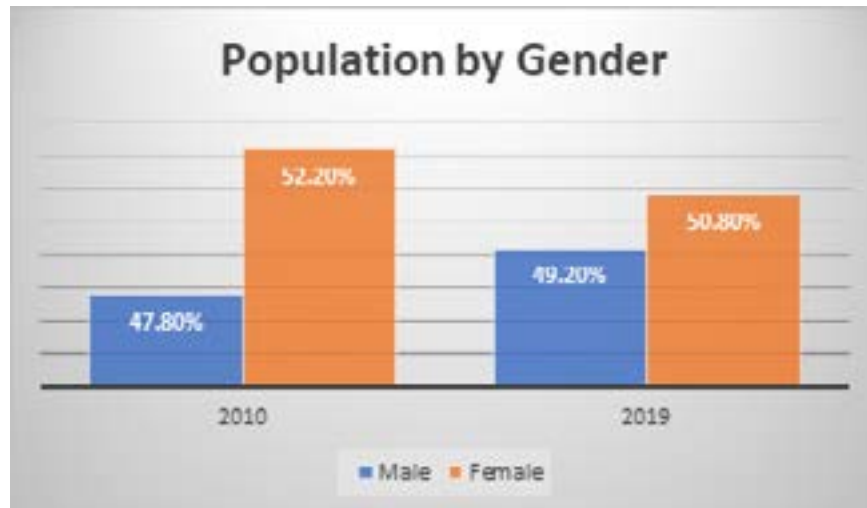


### Age Distribution

The Village of Morton Grove has seen a large increase within Baby Boomer generation age ranges 55 to 59 (6.9%) and within the Seniors segment, 75 to 84 (6.9%) years of age. These two cohorts are the only age groups showing an increase through 2019. Under 5-years old through 34 years of age has tapered off greatly from 2010 to 2019. All other groups either decreased or remained unchanged.

Should this trend and declining pattern within the population continue, these declines may impact the amount and types of park programming the MGPD undertakes, such as how the demand for recreation programming for boomers and seniors may be more than for the latter generations that follow.



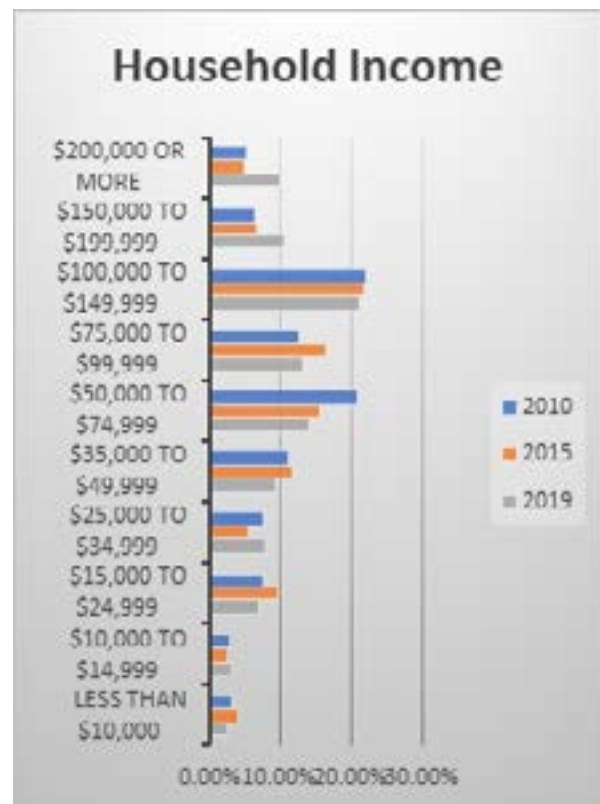


From 2010 to 2019 the female population has declined while the male population has increased.

### Households, Income & Employment

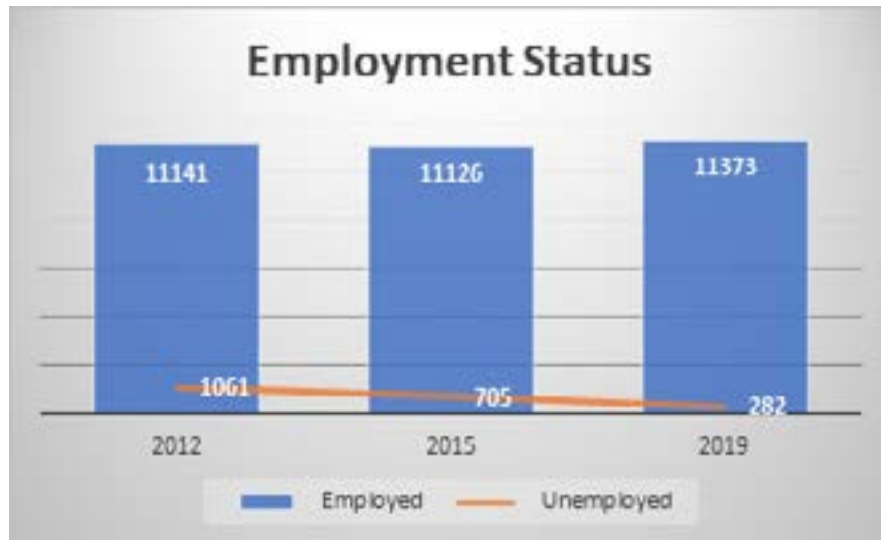
Household income directly relates to the community's ability to participate in fee-based activities like recreational sports programs or visiting Oriole Pool and Bathhouse or the District's new Harrer Park Pool. The Village of Morton Grove median household income has increased since 2010 and is currently \$85,360. This figure is well above the state average (\$65,886) and national average (\$68,703) which may be due to the largest increases in those making \$150,000 and greater.

The Village of Morton Grove has seen an increase in employment and a significant



decrease in unemployment. As the 2020 census data becomes available there is a possibility household income, employment, and poverty levels could be slightly different as much of the population was greatly affected by the pandemic. Morton Grove's unemployment rate of 2.4% according to CMAP is much lower than Cook County (7.0%) and the CMAP Region (6.0%).

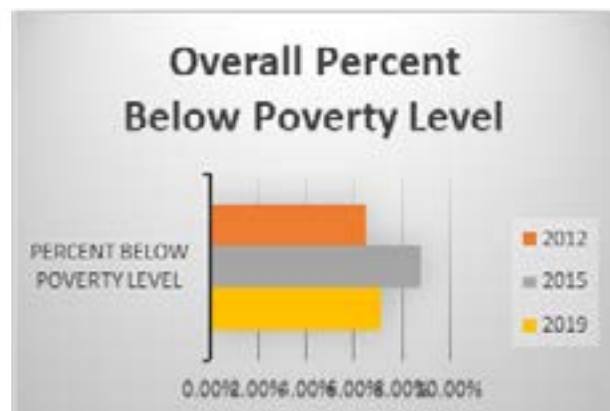
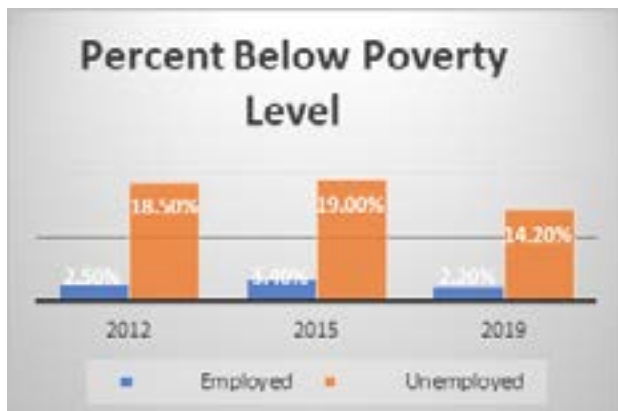
## Demographic Analysis & Trends *(Continued)*



The top industry sectors available to the population in Morton Grove are manufacturing (25.3%), retail trade (13.5%), health care (12.7%), wholesale trade (8.3%) and accommodation and food service (6.8%). Most of the residents are employed in health care, retail trade and education. For those employed in education they may be traveling outside of Morton Grove for these opportunities, which may account for more households owning two or more vehicles (42.2%) as well as driving alone to work (74.4%) rather than carpooling, transit, walking or biking.

MGPD should provide more choices in active and passive recreation to keep this segment of the population involved and plugged into a more active lifestyle.

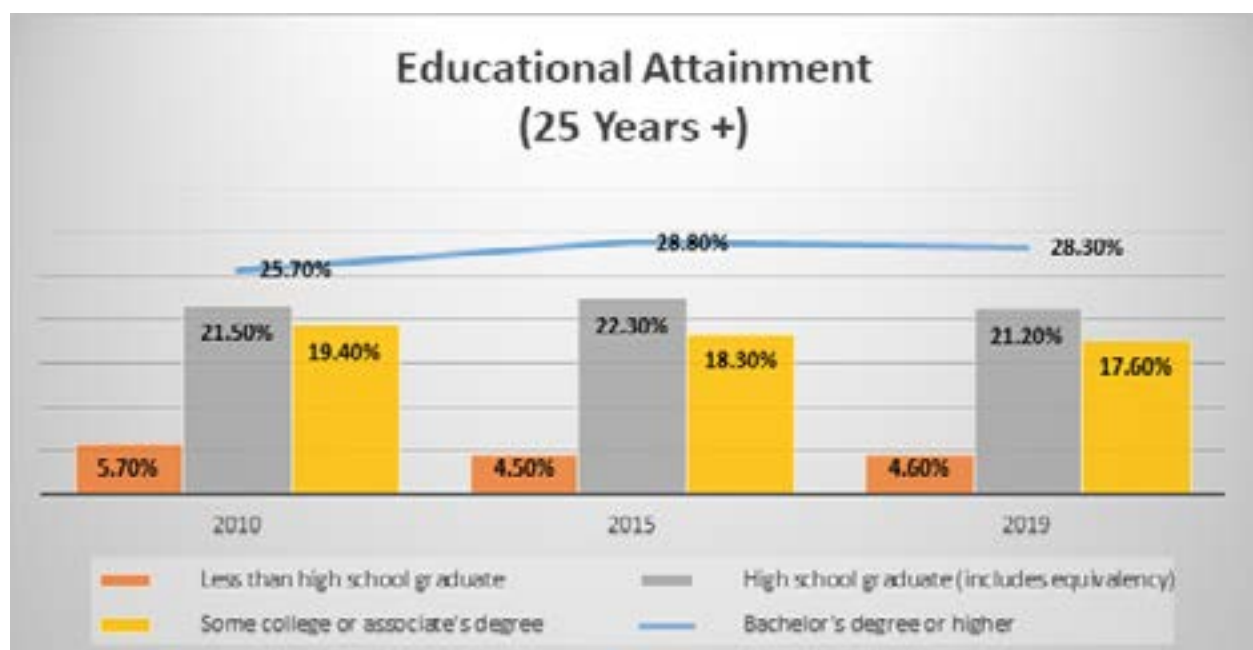
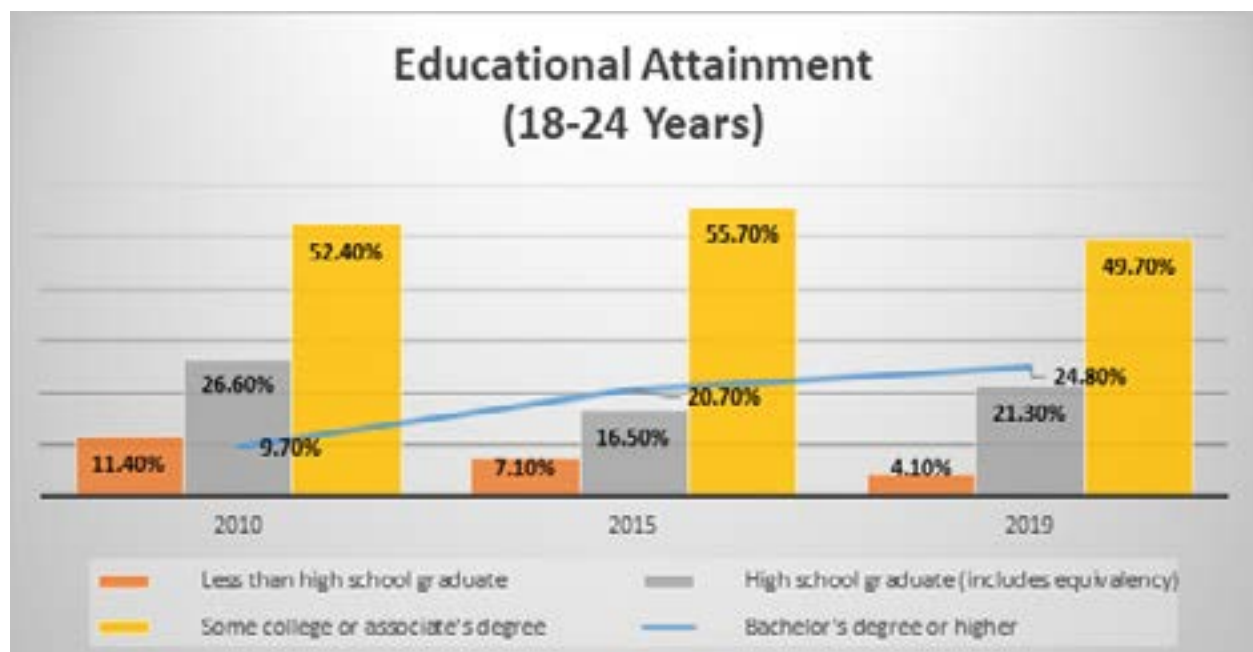
Of the population that are employed in 2019, 14.2% are below the poverty level, which has decreased from 2010. Overall, the Village of Morton Grove has seen a decrease in the amount of people below the poverty level. According to national trends, this segment of the population represents the lowest percentage of participation in parks and recreations services.



## Education

A person's education level is often related to other demographic information such as income and employment. Places with more educated residents tend to have better employment, higher median incomes, and higher valued homes. Based on available educational attainment information gathered

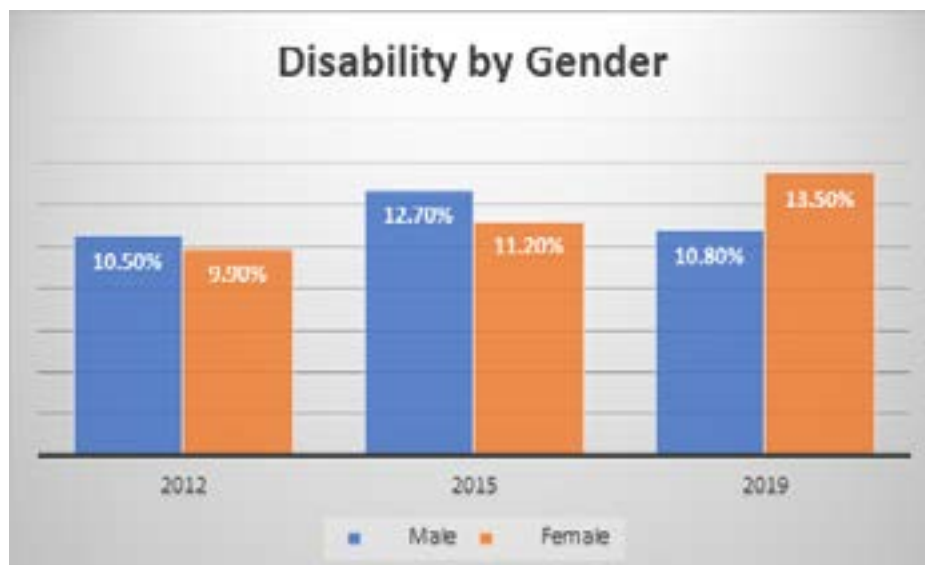
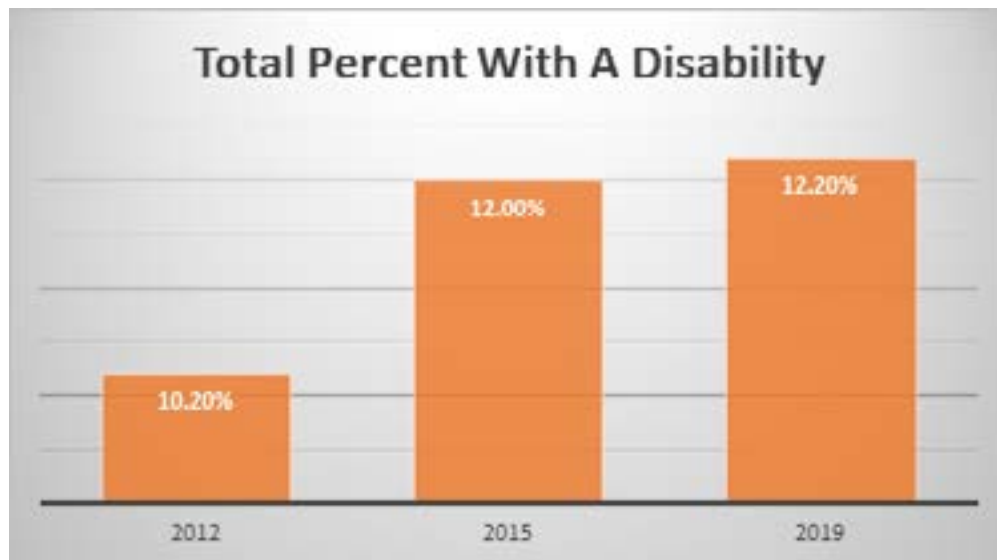
from 2010-2019, in the 18-24-year age group the Village of Morton Grove has seen a decrease in those receiving a high school diploma (5.3%) yet an increase in obtaining a bachelor's degree or higher (15.1%). After 25 years of age, most categories of educational attainment plateau from 2010 to 2019.



## Demographic Analysis & Trends *(Continued)*

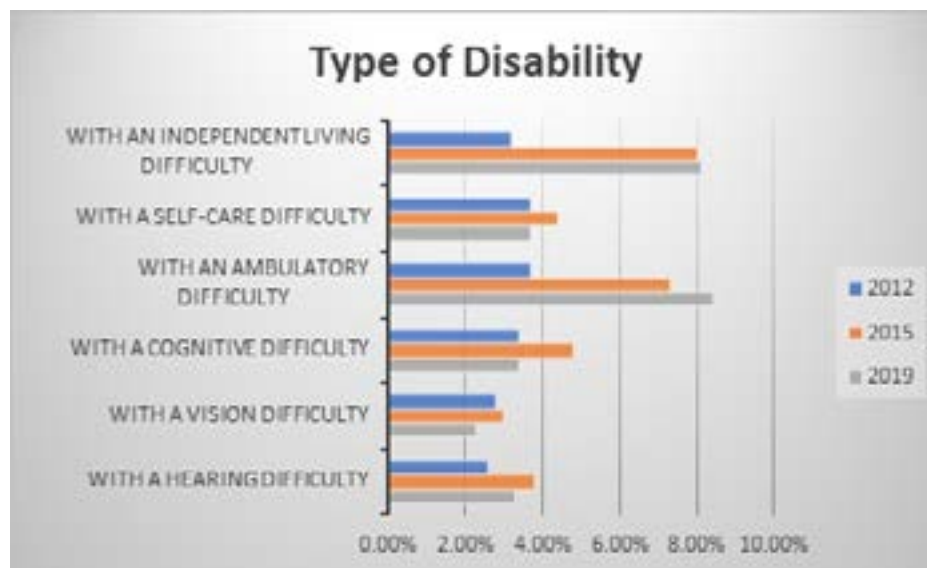
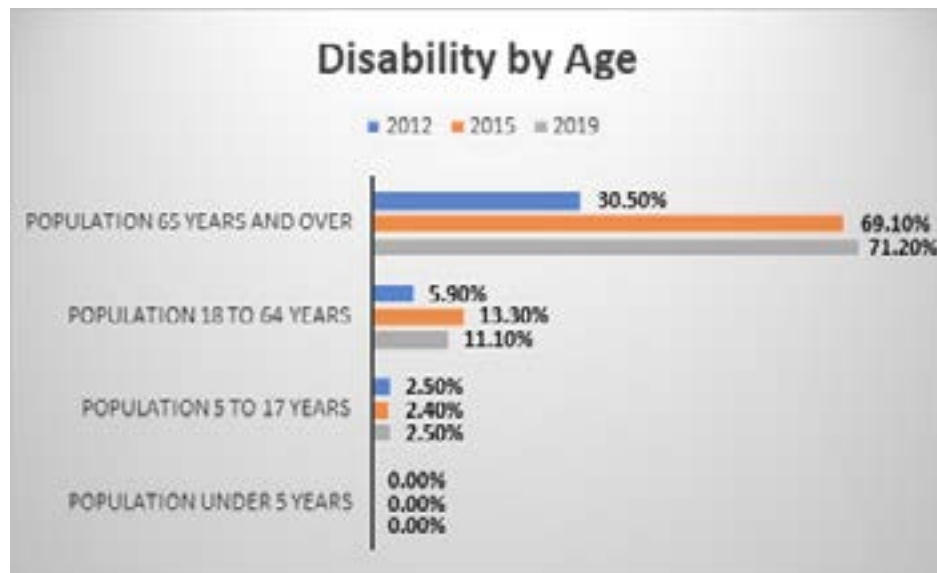
### Disability

The Village of Morton Grove has seen a general increase in the overall population with a disability, most of those being in the 65 years or older age group. The female population has also increased while the male population with a disability has decreased. The most common types of disability include difficulty with independent living and ambulatory (struggle with walking).





This trend indicates there is a demand for the MGPD to provide more opportunities for active adults and seniors with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and perhaps some sporting activities.



# Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2021-2025



The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is the foundation for Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) in Illinois. It identifies the State's major outdoor recreation priorities and describes how it utilizes funding from the Federal, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). In the OSLAD and LWCF evaluation instruments, SCORP Priorities and Project Need comprises 60% of the evaluation. SCORP outlines six priorities for Illinois through 2025:

- **Health and Wellness** – Provide, encourage, and promote opportunities for people to be physically active in parks, advancing healthy lifestyles, and physical fitness.
- **Access to Outdoor Recreation** – Expand opportunities on new lands and develop/revitalize facilities, including increasing access for people of all abilities and income levels.
- **Natural Resource Stewardship** – Respond to recreational needs and preferences by adapting and re-purposing lands for open space and parks ensuring resource conservation and protection.
- **Conservation Education** – Promote environmental ethics and provide resource education opportunities, engaging youth, and adults in the outdoors.
- **Trails and Greenways** – Protect and/or develop for conservation and recreational purposes linear green spaces in metropolitan and community areas.
- **Cooperative Partnerships** – Coordinate to share costs and leverage additional funds to use grant money most effectively.

# The Emerging Parks And Recreation Industry Trends In 2021 (And Beyond)

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) predicts new trends for parks and recreation programming every year. However, due primarily to the coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic, things are much different for the recreation industry – land use patterns in our urban environments have drastically changed creating a renewed interest in parks, trails, and the walkable environment all of which are very positive for park and recreation agencies. While there are several trends predicted, only those trends relevant to MGPD and in the realm of possibilities for the district are analyzed below:

- **Utilizing Parks and Recreation Spaces Everywhere** – innovative locations for public parks are being proposed everywhere. Agencies/authorities are trying to convert every available space in dense urban areas to parks and open spaces. New types are emerging with the expansion of pedestrian spaces i.e. outdoor dining on urban streets, the conversion of streets to bike lanes and trails, and the installation of parklets in parking spaces and travel lanes have opened all kinds of possibilities for a new types of urban parks.
- **Health Equity and Social Services** – One of the strongest emerging trends for 2021 is the focus on health and health equity. Parks and recreation will play a greater role in supporting mental health and well-being. This movement toward health and well-being has been magnified by COVID-19, but it will continue well beyond the pandemic, and will intertwine with a greater focus on meeting the social needs of communities.
- **Technology in Parks and Recreation** – As cities and towns are becoming smarter, so are parks. Residents and park patrons expect quality Wi-Fi access in parks and appreciate access to charging stations and downloadable content such as augmented-reality walks, games, and exhibits. Likewise, parks and recreation systems are implementing new technologies such as automatic mowing equipment, self-maintained toilets, robotic cleaning systems, and semi-autonomous drones for various tasks.
- **Growth Of Esports** – As a result of the pandemic, youth team activities came to a halt. Esports have brought in a welcome shift by playing a larger role in park and recreation establishments.





# The Emerging Parks And Recreation Industry Trends In 2021 (And Beyond) *(Continued)*

- As indoor sports were banned, esports were being conducted in parks and webcast live. Now, more agencies are getting ready to conduct esports competitions involving teams. Agencies are also on a mission to design facilities with dedicated spaces for esports in parks across the country.
- **Re-imagining Parks and Recreation Offerings** – The world is moving, working, and surviving differently since the onset of the pandemic. A detailed report on Park and Recreation Trends for 2021 suggests new additions to park programs that were not common in previous years. According to park respondents, educational programs (62.2%), holiday and other special events (up to 81.6%), adult sports teams (59.1%) are the trends to look out for, and these have replaced day camps and summer camps, arts and crafts programs, and performing arts programs. These additions, however, are not new but more likely to have the edge over others in the coming years.

A list of the 10 top-most planned programs within the parks and recreation industry are listed below:

- Group exercise programs
- Teen programming
- Fitness programs
- Mind-body balance programs such as yoga
- Programs for active older adults
- Educational programs
- Environmental education programs
- Holidays and other special events
- Adult sports teams
- Special needs programs



## Societal, Cultural And Conditional Trends Affecting Recreation And Parks

**The American Population** - America is a country of constant change and recent trends include becoming an older society with different definitions of what constitutes a family, who works outside the home and when we retire. Understanding these changes in the population creates new challenges for park districts. Societal trends that affect the MGPD include Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) were the largest birth generation and are now reaching the golden years, while the middle class is shrinking, with more young people considering themselves lower or lower-middle class. Hispanics are the fastest growing minority, and the Millennials and Generations X and Y (born since the mid-1960s) are the most ethnically diverse in history. They are also less involved in traditional social structures, such as church membership and political affiliation, relying instead on social media to create networks. Park districts and recreation agencies are expanding their reach to include the use of social media for connecting to the general public, and ethnic populations. This includes using methods such as the incorporation of diversity training for staff and cultural materials into programs such as ethnic-targeted music in fitness classes and bilingual signage.

**The Changing Family** – Due in part to the economic stresses facing many families today, children are staying at home longer and the elderly are moving in with their adult children, who are waiting longer to marry. More and more mothers are staying at home, military personnel are returning to civilian life, and pet ownership is increasing. Park and recreation agencies have now begun to focus on developing family membership deals, offering programs geared towards veterans and multi-generational participation, meeting the need for childcare, and considering the addition of off-leash pet areas within park sites.

**Rising Crime** - People are less likely to visit parks when they don't feel safe going to them and while spending time there. Safety efforts might include ensuring well-lit parks, the presence of uniformed park security, offering transportation, and reviewing the safety of routes to and from parks and facilities.

**Wellness** – Poorly managed diets, lifestyle choices, and metabolic risk factors, can lead to premature death which the availability and access to parks and recreational programs may help to address. The obvious beneficial impact of parks includes helping to





## Societal, Cultural And Conditional Trends Affecting Recreation And Parks *(Continued)*

increase physical activity, with the result of improved weight and overall wellness. Park management can also improve individual behaviors such as alcohol use and tobacco smoking by offering substance-free parks and providing educational programs on tobacco and alcohol dependency.

**Childhood and Nature** – Preschool and school-age children are spending less time in recess and Physical Education classes, leaving the need to exercise independently. Therefore, park districts and recreation agencies should continue to focus on strenuous activities for children during after school hours. Video games and other indoor activities have resulted in reduced physical activity and decreased appreciation for nature. This suggests that in addition to athletic programs, children would benefit from programs that introduce nature and elements of our outside world. As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, park agencies should also consider offering programs to address the recreational needs of the growing number of home-schooled children and those who elect a remote form of education.

**Fitness Equipment and Technology** - New ways to stay fit are being continuously developed and modifications of proven techniques and equipment emerge daily. Office and workplace fitness is being encouraged through wellness programs, which include physical activity, and information on nutrition and tobacco use. Park district and recreation agencies might consider partnering with local businesses to design and implement professionally lead quality wellness programs. They might also consider installing “free outdoor gyms”, which are clusters of traditional fitness equipment ranging from elliptical machines to leg press apparatuses.

Bicycling continues to be a popular inexpensive outdoor activity, although commuting by bike is often perceived as risky or undesirable because of weather and the lack of bathing and private bathing facilities within the workplace.

Fitness trends are constantly changing, and park organizations should balance offering popular new programs with the continuation of programs that the community enjoys, perhaps by regularly polling community members via survey monkey or other.

More and more technology is being incorporated into fitness in many ways: software is available to lead and guide workouts, record results, and monitor heart rate and steps; social media offers support and challenges from fellow participants and provides interactive communication with the community.

**Trends Conclusion** – Park and recreation agencies are continually faced with new challenges in meeting the needs of a changing society, but also have a wide range of research, new techniques, and equipment to address those needs. An understanding of recreation trends as well as patterns of demographic change is important to the continued success of a park and recreation agency. Recreation programming and plans need to be comprehensive enough to address the multi-faceted challenges that communities face, while also focusing on the need to connect with diverse park users to ensure healthy, active communities.

## Comparative Assessment

The comparative assessment is a benchmarking tool that provides an understanding of how Morton Grove Park District compares to other area park & recreation agencies in meeting the recreation and programming needs of its residents. A benchmark analysis is very useful in establishing planning standards and guidelines. To help determine the quality of service of MGPD's parks and recreation system, it was analyzed against several other communities. All five communities are located within the State of Illinois. Likewise, the benchmark agencies selected for analysis include jurisdictions with geographic and demographic characteristics similar to the Morton Grove Park District.

The Park District was benchmarked against four nearby and similar districts.

- Des Plaines Park District
- Niles Park District
- Park Ridge Park District
- Prospect Heights Park District

It is very challenging to find exact comparable park districts because each has its own

unique character. However, the communities were chosen due to the perceived similarities and proximity to Morton Grove. While several other park and recreation agencies were considered for the comparison, most were not included due to their population numbers being too low or too high, and some because their amenity offering was not readily available information.

While some of the adjacent nearby districts are somewhat large when compared to MGPD, their inclusion is still valid when comparing the amenity offerings based on population ratios. This approach is consistent with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) recommendations.

The comparative assessment includes the quantification of recreation amenities that are traditionally found in park and recreation agencies and common to most of those agencies included in the analysis. It also includes a few specialty amenities that are often found in park agencies in the region. The population of each park agency and the number of total acres of park lands are



## Comparative Assessment *(Continued)*

key components to the assessment in being able to provide a viable analysis based on comparable elements,

For this analysis, the key benchmarking data sought included:

- Population
- Median household income
- Total number of parks/facilities
- Total park acres
- Acres per 1,000 residents
- Number of athletic fields
- Number of playgrounds
- Total expenditures
- Capital Expenditures
- Equalized assessed value

It should be noted that the information obtained for the other park districts was not always based on the same criteria; efforts were made to make the information provided as analogous as possible and analysis relied only on the data that appeared to be similar in comparison.

### **Population-Based Analysis**

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conducts a study every year to analyze the amount of parkland dedicated per 1,000 population for communities across the country. The study found that the median national standard for parkland is 9.9 acres per 1,000 residents. Currently, the Morton Grove Park District manages 3.19 acres of parkland for every 1,000 people. A population-based analysis suggests that MGPD residents are underserved by the district's total acreage of parkland.



The Morton Grove Park District serves a population of 23,256. The other park districts included in the comparison range in population from 15,887 to 58,364. with an average of approximately 35,946. Of those park districts included in the comparison, Niles Park District and Prospect Heights District have populations closest to Morton Grove, with 25,143 and 15,887 respectively. Its important to note the reported populations through the U.S. Census Bureau consist of village populations, not park district service areas. However, the difference between municipal and park district populations should not substantially affect the review of population trends or amenities.

### **Parks and Facilities Analysis**

The total acres of land are used for this comparison, including land that is owned and leased by the park districts. The park districts being compared range from 73.64 acres to 863.0 acres.

The following table indicates that the present supply of park land owned by the Morton Grove Park District is the lowest among the peer entities included in the benchmark analysis. However, the Park District's supply of 3.17 acres per 1,000 population is only slightly lower than the supply of land provided by Park Ridge Park District (3.73 acres/1,000 population) and Niles Park District (3.77 acres/1,000). In the Chicagoland area, there are numerous park districts that provide less than 6.25 acres per 1000 because of their history of land development and open space acquisition. The residents of Morton Grove, despite low acres per 1,000, have access to multiple Cook County Forest Preserves. The North Branch Trail System runs north-south through the center of the community and includes Linne Woods, Miami Woods, St. Paul Woods, and Wayside Woods. The residents can engage in recreational opportunities such as biking, hiking, picnicking, canoeing, cross country skiing and equestrian activities available in the forest preserves.

The National Recreation & Park Association

PLANNING RESOURCES INC.

(NRPA) standard for park systems relates to acres per 1,000 population, with a guideline of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. The Illinois average statewide is 11.35 acres per 1,000 population per the 2021-2025 Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The MGPD's acres per 1,000 residents is well below the NRPA and State of Illinois guidelines ratio. It's important to note NRPA standards serve as a guideline and should be adjusted locally based upon demographic factors, available land, and other impacts that may skew numbers higher or lower. In addition, NRPA Park Metrics are the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for park and recreation agencies to compare themselves and their standards with other departments and agencies in their state or region.

MGPD has the lowest number of parks and facilities (14) compared to the other districts. However, they are third highest for number of athletic fields and playgrounds, after Des Plaines Park District, which has a significantly higher population. Playgrounds are a very important part of any park district, providing many residents with their first park experiences as children. The MGPD ratio provides one (1) playground for every 1,550 residents.

Morton Gove Park District's Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) is \$920,082. The MGPD's fiscal year begins January 1 and ends December 31. The Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) for the four park districts varies from \$386,873 to \$3,199,279. The average EAV for these same districts is \$1,536,833. The lowest EAV is the Prospect Heights Park District at \$386,873.

An analysis of the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) is a tool to compare park districts. Equalized Assess Valuation is set by the County Assessor annually and serves as the basis for real estate property taxes. Property taxes generally are a significant portion of



## Comparative Assessment *(Continued)*

each District's revenues. An analysis of the changes or trends identified by historical Equalized Assessed Valuation identify the fiscal health of the local economy.

Historically the region experienced a significant economic downturn in the period 2008 to 2010. This reflected a significant real estate recession. Many Districts' tax base (Equalized Assessed Value [EAV]) significantly reducing the real estate property tax dollar revenues provided to the District. Despite past declines in property values, and most recent decline in overall revenues as a result of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, MGPD's financial position remains strong.

### **Capital Improvement Expenditures**

Benchmark agencies reported a wide range of total operating expenditures, from \$19.7 million (Des Plaines Park District) to \$3.7 million (Niles Park District). Investment in capital is critical to the vitality of park districts and the scale of capital spending within a system has lasting implications for the future of each agency and its residents.

Dividing the annual operational budget to the service area's population allows for a comparison of how much each agency is spending per resident. MGPD is ranked the highest among the benchmark agencies for spending per resident at \$114.58.

The average annual capital outlay among

the six park districts is \$1,592.002. The MGPD ranked on the highest for spending for capital improvement projects at \$1,664,656. The effects of the COVID pandemic on park agencies needs to be considered when comparing Park Districts such as the Niles Park District with spending of \$460,010, and Prospect Heights Park District at \$559,693. Comparing the total expenditures for each agency and the percent of dollars used towards capital improvements, Morton Grove Park District's percentage of 60.70% is the highest, with the remaining four park districts averaging 14.20%. The recent redevelopment of Harrer Pool and Austin Park Renovation are contributing capital projects affecting MGPD's increase in capital expenditures.

In October of 2020, the MGPD Board of Commissioners issued a contract to redevelop Harrer Park Pool and Bathhouse at a cost of \$14 million dollars. (to be paid for with a new bond issue) A referendum to raise the corporate fund levy by .105 percent was passed by the residents of Morton Grove to pay the principal and interest on that bond. Additionally, MGPD was the recipient of an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant to redevelop Austin Park Playground. This redevelopment was projected to cost \$447,000 with 50% of this cost to be financed by the grant.





## Chapter 4

# WHAT WE HAVE NOW - INVENTORY & LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

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# Asset Inventory



## Overview

It is important to assess the current inventory of parks and amenities within the Park District and analyze their Levels of Service (LOS) within the community. Many amenities within park and recreation agencies are measured by levels of service, certain acres of open space, or number of amenities per 1,000 people, to determine the quality and quantity of facilities and parks based on guidelines to meet the community's needs and wants. When park and recreation agencies establish service area criteria, this improves their ability to develop quality park developments, implement essential park facilities and recreation amenities, while at the same time, increasing their chances for grant funding.

The NRPA established the "Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" in the 1990s for agencies to reference and ensure they were meeting the needs and demands of the community. In recent years the NRPA established a new program called Park Metrics (formerly PRORAGIS). This is an online database for park and recreation agencies to enter their organization's park and recreation data, budget, staffing, etc., to easily benchmark with other park agencies in the same region, state, and/or across the

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country; this data will replace the 1995 Levels of Service Guidelines as participation grows and data becomes refined. For this plan, this report will utilize the former NRPA Guidelines.

NRPA Guidelines recommend creating a park classification system to serve as a guide for organizing an agency's parks. Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, School-Park, Community Park, and Large Urban Park are the five classifications for parks recognized by the NRPA. Commonly, School-Parks are included in the Neighborhood Park category and Large Urban Parks are included in the Community Park category. Other open space categories recognized by the NRPA are Natural Resource Areas, Greenways, Sports Complexes, Special Use, and Private Park / Recreation Facility. NRPA also identifies a Level of Service (LOS) analysis as part of the classification system which is a "systems approach" to facility planning. The NRPA guidelines and LOS together with input received from the community provides for an ongoing, dynamic planning process. However, NRPA recognizes that these numbers do not take into account the unique qualities and needs of all communities across the country. Local trends, demographics, climate, and the popularity of certain activities over others often dictate a greater need for certain facilities.



# Classification of Parks

NRPA states “A park system, at a minimum, should be composed of a ‘core’ system of park lands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population.” In addition, as a means of organizing the open space facilities found in the Morton Grove Park District, the park sites are classified according to an NRPA hierarchy that provides for a comprehensive system of interrelated parks. These NRPA guidelines and definitions serve as a good baseline for determining a minimum standard for park districts; however, they are refined to address the needs of the users of Morton Grove Park District.

MGPD has a variety of parks and recreation areas including Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Community Parks.

## **Mini Park**

(1/4 Mile “Walk-to” Service Area; 2,500 sf-1.5 Acres)

The smallest type of park, mini-parks are mainly designed to serve a concentrated population or a specific age group or function, but they can serve persons of all ages located in the immediate area.

Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, stop-in recreation experience. The amenities provided can center on play apparatus for young children; however, some include passive activities for adults and seniors depending on the needs of the surrounding neighborhood. Other amenities typically include gazebos, benches, scenic overlooks, picnic tables, and ornamental landscaping. These parks usually do not provide on-site parking. Another term “pocket park” has also been used to identify mini-parks in recent years.

Successful mini-parks/pocket parks have four key qualities: they are accessible, allow people to engage in activities, are comfortable spaces that are inviting, and are sociable places. In general, mini-parks offer minimal amenities on-site and are not designed to support organized

recreation services. The service area for mini-parks is usually less than a quarter mile and are 1.5 acres or less in size. Mini parks are intended for users within close walking distance of the park. Their primary purpose is to provide recreation to residents where major roads do not have to be crossed.

Currently, MGPD, excluding school-park sites, contains four mini-parks (28.5% of total parks) totaling 1.54 acres (2.0% of all park acreage):

- Arnum Park – 0.26 acres
- Jacobs Park – 0.50 acres
- Overhill Park – 0.52 acres
- Pioneer Park – 0.26 acres

## Mini Park/Pocket Park Development Guidelines:

- Size of park: Mini Parks/Pocket Parks are between 2,500ft and 1.5 acres in size. Anything larger would typically be considered a neighborhood park
- Service radius: Several city blocks or less than 1/4 mile in a residential setting
- Site selection: Servicing a specific recreation need, ease of access from the surrounding area, and linkage to a community pathway system are key concerns when selecting a site. Ideally, it will be adjacent to other park system components, most notably greenways, and the trail system. Location is determined by the needs of the neighborhood, partnership opportunities, and the availability and accessibility of land
- Length of stay: One-hour experience or less
- Site features: Community input through the public meeting process needs to be the primary determinant of the development program for this type of park. Mini Parks/Pocket Parks are designed

## Classification of Parks *(Continued)*

to accommodate very limited recreation uses. They are typically able to provide recreation use for one user group such as a playground or splash pad for youth, benches for walkers, landscape and trails for the enjoyment of the natural environment, or display of artwork for the local neighborhood. Amenities are ADA compliant.

- Although demographics and population density play a role in location, the justification for a Mini Park/Pocket Park lies more in servicing a specific recreation need or taking advantage of a unique opportunity. Given the potential variety of Mini Park activities and locations, services can vary
- Landscape design: Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience
- Revenue facilities: None
- Land usage: 90% active/10% passive. The character may be one of intensive use or aesthetic enjoyment. Area businesses and residents should be encouraged to assist in policing the day-to-day maintenance of this type of park, as they are located in residential/downtown retail areas. The primary function of such a park is to provide recreation space to those areas of the community where population densities limit the available open space
- User experiences: Predominately self-directed, but a signature amenity may be included which provides opportunities for leader-directed programs. Depending on the size and location, special events could be activated
- Maintenance standards: Dependent on-site features, landscape design, and park visitation
- Signage: Directional signage and facility/





amenity regulations to enhance user experience

- Parking: Parking is typically not required
- Lighting: Site lighting is typically used for security and safety
- Naming: Consistent with the Park District's naming policy for naming of parks, such as being named after a prominent or historic person, event, or natural landmark

### **NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**

(1/4 to 1/2 Mile "Walk-to" Service Area; 2.0 – 10.0 Acres)

Neighborhood parks form the foundation of the park district and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood and contribute to the identity of that neighborhood. Neighborhood parks should have safe pedestrian access for surrounding residents; parking may or may not be included but if included accounts for less than ten cars and provides for ADA access. They generally range in size from 5 to 10 acres; however, due to the available land within the park district as well as the amenities provided sites as small as two acres in size can be appropriate for a neighborhood park as in the case with MGPD. Neighborhood parks are designed for a ¼ to ½ mile radius of service. Concentrated intense informal recreation activities are common in these parks and usually designed within a limited amount of space. These parks serve residents in a variety of age groups. The park should be easily accessible and access should be uninterrupted by major roads or other barriers.

These parks preserve the unique landscape and often serve the community as gathering places and general athletics. Neighborhood park features include aesthetically designed play areas, picnic areas, splash pads, ball fields, skating, open space for field games, shelters, and walking paths. Neighborhood parks should serve between 10,000 to 20,000

residents, or 1.0 to 2.0 acres per thousand people.

Currently, MGPD contains eight neighborhood parks (57.2% of total parks) totaling 34.1 acres (46% of all park acreage):

- Austin Park – 5.0 acres
- Frank Hren Park – 8.0 acres
- Mansfield Park – 3.5 acres
- National Park – 7.0 acres
- Oketo Park – 3.1 acres
- Oriole Park – 3.5 acres
- Palma Lane Park – 2.0 acres
- Shermer Park – 2.0 acres

### Neighborhood Park Development Guidelines:

- Size of park: 2 to 10 acres (usable area measured). Preferred size is eight acres
- Service radius: 0.5-mile radius
- Site selection: On a local or collector street. If near an arterial street, provide a natural or artificial barrier. Where possible, next to a school. Encourage location to link subdivisions and linked by trails to other parks.
- Length of stay: One-hour experience or less
- Site features: One signature amenity (e.g., playground, splash pad, sport court, gazebo); no restrooms unless necessary for a signature amenity; may include one non-programmed sports field; playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with some shaded elements; no reservable shelters; loop trails; one type of sport court; no non-producing/unused amenities; benches, small picnic shelter(s) next to play areas. Amenities are ADA compliant.
- Landscape design: Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Customized to demographics of the

## Classification of Parks *(Continued)*

neighborhood; safety design meets established Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards; integrated color scheme throughout

- Revenue facilities: None
- Land usage: 85% active/15% passive
- User experiences: Typically, self-directed, but a signature amenity may be included which provides opportunities for leader-directed programs
- Maintenance standards: Dependent on-site features, landscape design, and park visitation
- Signage: Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience
- Parking: Design should include widened on-street parking area adjacent to the park, when feasible. The goal is to maximize usable park space. As necessary, provide

5-10 spaces within the park including accessible parking spaces. Traffic calming devices encouraged next to the park

- Lighting: Security only. Lighting on all night for security
- Naming: Consistent with the agency's naming policy for naming of parks, such as being named after a prominent or historic person, event, or natural landmark

### **COMMUNITY PARK**

(1 Mile "Drive-to" Service Area; 10 - 50 acres)

Community parks are diverse in nature, serving a broader purpose than the neighborhood or mini-parks. Community Parks focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. These include active and passive recreation, as well as self-directed and organized recreation opportunities for individuals, families, and small groups. Community Parks are intended to serve several neighborhoods. Community parks



usually have both day and evening activities which can result in lighted fields and amenities. Community parks include a mix of active and passive activities and attract users of all ages. Large play structures, baseball fields, football fields, soccer fields, hiking trails, sled hills, and swimming pools can all be part of a community park. These sites also include natural areas, emphasizing public access to important natural features. Since community parks may attract people from a wide geographic area, support facilities are required, such as parking and restrooms. Self-directed recreation activities such as meditation, quiet reflection, and wildlife watching also take place at community parks.

Community parks generally range in size from 15 to 50 acres. However, due to available land area, sites over 10 acres in size can be appropriate to accommodate such activities. Community Parks are viewed as destinations and typically require travel by automobile for programmed recreation. These parks generally include adequate parking. Community Parks have a 1 to 3-mile service area and 5 – 8 acres of Community Park open space is preferred per every 1,000 people

Currently, MGPD contains two community parks (14.3% of total parks) totaling 38 acres (52.0% of all park acreage):

- Harrer Park – 22.0 acres
- Prairie View Park – 16.0 acres

Community Park Recommended Development Guidelines:

- Size of park: 10 to 100 acres, but ideally 20 to 40 acres
- Service radius: One to three-mile radius
- Site selection: On two collector streets minimum and preferably one arterial street. If near arterial street, provide a natural or artificial barrier. Minimal number of residences abutting site. Preference for

adjacent or nearby proximity with school or other municipal use. Encourage trail linkage to other parks

- Length of stay: Two to three hours experience
- Site features: Four signature amenities at a minimum: (e.g., trails, sports fields, large shelters/ pavilions, community playground for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with some shaded elements, recreation center, pool or family aquatic center, sports courts, water feature); public restrooms with drinking fountains, ample parking, and security lighting. Amenities are ADA compliant. Multi-purpose fields are appropriate in this type of park
- Landscape design: Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Enhanced landscaping at park entrances and throughout the park.
- Revenue facilities: One or more (e.g., picnic shelters, program pavilion, dog park)
- Land usage: 65% active and 35% passive
- User experiences: Mostly self-directed experiences but may have opportunities for leader directed programs based on available site features and community demand
- Maintenance standards: Dependent on-site features, landscape design, and park visitation
- Signage: Directional signage and facility/ amenity regulations to enhance user experience. May include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility
- Parking: Sufficient to support the amenities; occupies no more than 10% of the park. Design should include widened on-street parking area adjacent to the park. The goal is to maximize usable park

## Classification of Parks *(Continued)*

space. Traffic calming devices encouraged within and next to the park

- Lighting: Security lighting and lighting appropriate for signature amenities
- Naming: Consistent with the agency's naming policy for naming of parks, such as being named after a prominent or historic person, event, or natural landmark
- Other: Strong appeal to surrounding neighborhoods; integrated color scheme throughout the park; partnerships developed with support groups, schools, and other organizations; loop trail connectivity; linked to trail or recreation facility; safety design meets established Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards

### **SPECIAL USE PARK**

Special use parks are those spaces that do not fall within a typical park classification. A major difference between a special use park and other parks is that they usually serve a single purpose whereas other park classifications are designed to offer multiple recreation opportunities. It is possible for a special use facility to be located inside another park.

Special use parks generally contain one facility or amenity that falls into the following categories:

Historic/Cultural/Social Sites – Unique local resources offering historical, educational, and cultural opportunities. Examples include memorials, historic downtown areas, commercial zones, arboretums, display gardens, and amphitheaters. Frequently these are located in community or regional parks.

Golf Courses – 9- and 18-hole complexes with ancillary facilities such as clubhouses,

driving ranges, program space, and learning centers. These facilities are highly maintained and support a wide age level of males and females. Programs are targeted for daily use play, tournaments, leagues, clinics, and special events. Operational costs come from daily play, season pass holders, concessions, driving range fees, earned income opportunities, and the sale of pro shop items.

Indoor Recreation Facilities – specialized or single-purpose facilities. Examples include community centers, senior centers, performing arts facilities, and community theaters. Frequently these are located in community or regional parks.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities – Examples include aquatic parks, disk golf, skateboard, BMX, and dog parks, which may be located in a park

While MGPD does not classify any of its facilities as “special use” sites within its current inventory, the Morton Grove Park District's inventory includes

- Oriole Park Pool
- Harrer Park Pool,
- Morton Grove Historical Museum,
- Morton Grove Historical Museum Annex, and
- Prairie View Community Center.

Additionally, MGPD has 5 fieldhouses and 1 Bathroom w/Storage facility that serve as single-purpose facilities for the District

- Mansfield Fieldhouse,
- Austin Fieldhouse,
- Harrer Park Fieldhouse,
- National Park Fieldhouse,
- Oketo Fieldhouse, and
- Frank Hren Bathroom/Storage Facility

Special Use Park Recommended Guidelines:

- Size of park: Depends upon facilities and activities included. The diverse character of these parks makes it difficult to apply acreage standards
- Service radius: Depends upon facilities and activities included. Typically serves special user groups while a few serve the entire population
- Site selection: Given the variety of potential uses, no specific standards are defined for site selection. As with all park types, the site itself should be located where it is appropriate for its use
- Length of stay: Varies by facility • Site Features: Varies by facility
- Revenue facilities: Due to the nature of certain facilities, revenue may be required for construction and/or annual maintenance. This should be determined at a policy level before the facility is planned and constructed
- Land usage: Varies by facility
- User experiences: Varies by facility
- Maintenance standards: Dependent on-site features, landscape design, and park visitation
- Signage: Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience
- Parking: On-street or off-street parking is provided as appropriate for the facility
- Lighting: Security lighting and lighting appropriate for the facility
- Landscape design: Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience
- Naming: Consistent with the agency's naming policy for naming of parks, such as being named after a prominent or historic person, event, or natural landmark
- Other: Integrated color scheme throughout the park; safety design meets established CPTED standards





## Classification of Parks *(Continued)*

### **FOREST PRESERVES/NATURE PRESERVES/OPEN SPACE**

Nature preserves/open space are undeveloped but may include natural or paved trails. Grasslands under power line corridors are one example and creek areas are another. Nature preserves/open spaces contain natural resources that can be managed for recreation and natural resource conservation values such as a desire to protect wildlife habitat, water quality, and endangered species. Nature preserves/open space also can provide opportunities for nature-based, self-directed, low-impact recreational opportunities such as walking and nature viewing.

These lands consist of:

- Individual sites exhibiting natural resources
- Lands that are unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential
- Parcels with steep slopes and natural vegetation, drainage ways and ravines, surface water management areas (man-made ponding areas), and utility easements
- Protected lands, such as wetlands/lowlands and shorelines along waterways, lakes, and ponds

The intent of nature preserves/open space is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities as possible. Integration of the human element with that of the natural environment that surrounds them enhances the overall experience.

Residents of Morton Grove enjoy the benefits of being able to access more than 400 acres of Cook County Forest Preserves that bisect and surround the Village. Approximately twenty percent (20%) of the Village of Morton Grove's land area is Cook County Forest Preserve (CCFP) property. CCFP offers many unique nature preserves and open space parks specifically:

- Linne Woods,
- Harms Woods,
- Miami Woods,
- Wayside Woods, and
- Glen Grove Equestrian Center.

Morton Grove Residents enjoy the passive recreational and scenic amenities provided by the CCFP including paved or natural trails, wildlife viewing areas, mountain biking, disc golf, nature interpretation, and education facilities

### **Morton Grove Park District Parks and Facilities**

The MGPDP oversees 14 park sites with a total of 73.64 acres. The system of parks and facilities are well-maintained and feature a wide variety of outdoor and indoor components. Based on the 2021 inventory, the Morton Grove Park District Park Matrix reflects the current inventory of parks, their acreage, classification, and amenities as shown. See Recreation Area Features Matrix.

# Recreation Area Features Matrix

Parks	Acreage	Park Classification	Baseball Field	Basketball Court	Club Fitness	Fieldhouse/Shelter	Ice Rink	Gymnasium	Football Field	Playground Equipment	Prairie Nature Preserve	Roller Hockey	Sand Volleyball	Soccer Field	Softball Field	Swimming Pool	Tennis Court	Walking Path
Arnum Park	0.26	M								1								0.26
Austin Park	5.00	N	1	2		1				1			1		1			0.40
Frank Hren Discovery Park	8.00	N				1				1	1			2				0.53
Harrer Park	22.00	C	5	1		1				2					1	1	3	
Jacobs Park	0.50	M		1						1								0.29
Mansfield Park	3.50	N	2	2		1				1								0.30
National Park	7.00	N	2	2		1				1		1	1		1		1	
Oketo Park	3.10	N	1	1		1				1								
Oriole Park	3.50	N		2						1			1			1	2	
Overhill Park	0.52	M								1								
Palma Lane Park	2.00	M	1	1						1								
Pioneer Park	0.26	M								1								
Prairie View Park	16.00	C	2	2	1	1	1	1		1	1		1	1			4	0.52
Shermer Park	2.00	M		1						1								
Park District Totals	73.64		14	15	1	7	1	1	0	15	2	1	4	3	3	2	10	2.30

# Park Inventory And Assessment

An inventory of the entire MGPD parks and recreation system was completed to analyze existing parks and facilities throughout the community. The Park inventory and assessments also aim to obtain a comprehensive and accurate picture of the available recreation opportunities and community connections to the residents. The system includes 14 parks and facilities comprising 73.64 acres of parkland. This on-site inventory assessed the existing conditions of each park facility as well as the overall design and ambiance.

The aerial photographs for each park are from Google Earth 2021 and the photographs prepared for each individual park inventory are taken of each site.

## Park Evaluation Criteria

To determine an appraisal score of each park, an assessment matrix has been developed including the 20 rated factors: Curb Appeal, Pedestrian Access, Internal Access, Park Sign, Parking, Site Furnishings, Sitting Area, Shelter/Stage, Restroom, Playground, Sand Play, Ball & Play Fields, Court Play/Hard Courts, Winter Sports, Athletic Turf, Lawns, Landscaping, Paths/Trails, Natural Area, Maintenance. Each factor has been weighted with scores ranging from 1 to 3 based on its condition of below average, average, or above average. After summing up the scores and dividing by 14, each park would have an appraisal score identifying its condition. The criteria used for evaluating parks' elements in the matrix are illustrated below.

- **Curb Appeal**

The curb appeal of a park is mainly measured by its character, such as a first impression of whether the park looks inviting and is aesthetically delightful.

- **Pedestrian Access**

Pedestrian accessibility is reviewed by the functional ability to access the park from the surrounding neighborhoods. Generally, the Village sidewalks, crosswalks, and regional

biking trails provide the accessibility while single-family's backyard fences reduce and control access.

- **Internal Access**

Internal accessibility is reviewed and evaluated by the functional ability to access each amenity and park facilities, and if the amenity meets the latest edition of the Federal ADA guidelines.

- **Park Sign**

Park signs are assessed by their visibility, location, condition, landscaping, and whether it is consistent with the Morton Grove Park District standard signage.

- **Parking**

Parking is reviewed and evaluated by on street and off-street parking availability, quantity, existing surface and striping condition, and ADA Stalls availability.

- **Site Furnishings**

Site furnishings include bench, picnic table, bike racks, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, and other similar elements, which are appraised by quality, quantity, existing condition, and use of consistent style and brand.

- **Sitting Areas**

Sitting Areas are evaluated according to the existing condition, quantity of benches and picnic tables relative to the park size and classification, shade availability, accessibility, locations related to other amenities.

- **Shelter/Pavilions**

Shelter or Pavilions are assessed based on the existing condition, quantity related to the park size and classification, and accessibility to the park path and other amenities

- **Restroom**

Both portable and permanent restrooms are reviewed by their condition, quantity relative to the park size and classification, accessibility, and the location to other amenities.

- **Playground**

Playgrounds are evaluated based on a variety of components including the overall condition, appearance, and diversity of equipment, surfacing condition, type and quality of play area border, shade availability, and whether the playground meets ADA accessibility guidelines. The playground evaluation also considers the design/composition of the play area and its contextual surrounding.

- **Sand Play**

Sand play areas are reviewed by the condition, quality, accessibility, and shade availability.

- **Ball & Play Fields**

Ball & play fields include baseball / softball, soccer, and football fields, which are evaluated by quantity, field condition, infield erosion, fencing/backstops material and condition, team bench condition, spectator seating condition and accessibility, shade availability, quality of weed control, overall turf condition, irrigation, and lighting.

- **Court Play / Hard Courts**

Hard Courts include basketball, tennis, pickle ball, volleyball, bocci, and shuffleboard courts, as well as skate park and in-line skate / rollerblade areas, which are assessed by quantity, surface condition, fencing condition, equipment quality, seating availability and accessibility to the courts. The tennis court

evaluation also looks at such things as net adjustability, play backdrop and lighting, when available.

- **Winter Sports**

Winter Sports area include free outdoor skating, hockey, toboggan, and sledding areas, which are reviewed by quantity, surface and facing condition, accessibility, and lighting.

- **Athletic Turf**

Athletic turf is reviewed by type and condition.

- **Lawn**

Lawns are evaluated by weed control, maintenance, general condition considering barren areas, and irrigation. *(This evaluation covers only the non-athletic field areas of the parks and facilities where lawns provide open space for active or passive recreation.)*

- **Landscaping**

Landscaping reviews are based on the quality, quantity, and diversity of plants, seasonal interest, shade provided, and appropriate scale to the surroundings.

- **Path/Trails**

Path or trails include pedestrian, bicycle, and regional trails which are reviewed by condition, connection, signage, and accessibility.

- **Natural Areas/Conservation Areas**

Natural areas/Conservation areas are reviewed by plant materials, quality, quantity, and variety.

- **Maintenance**

The general maintenance of the park facility is evaluated by the standard maintenance practices used within the park impacting the park's aesthetic and physical health condition.

The ratings developed during the inventory and assessment of each park and facility serve as the basis for many of the Capital improvement recommendations presented later in this report.



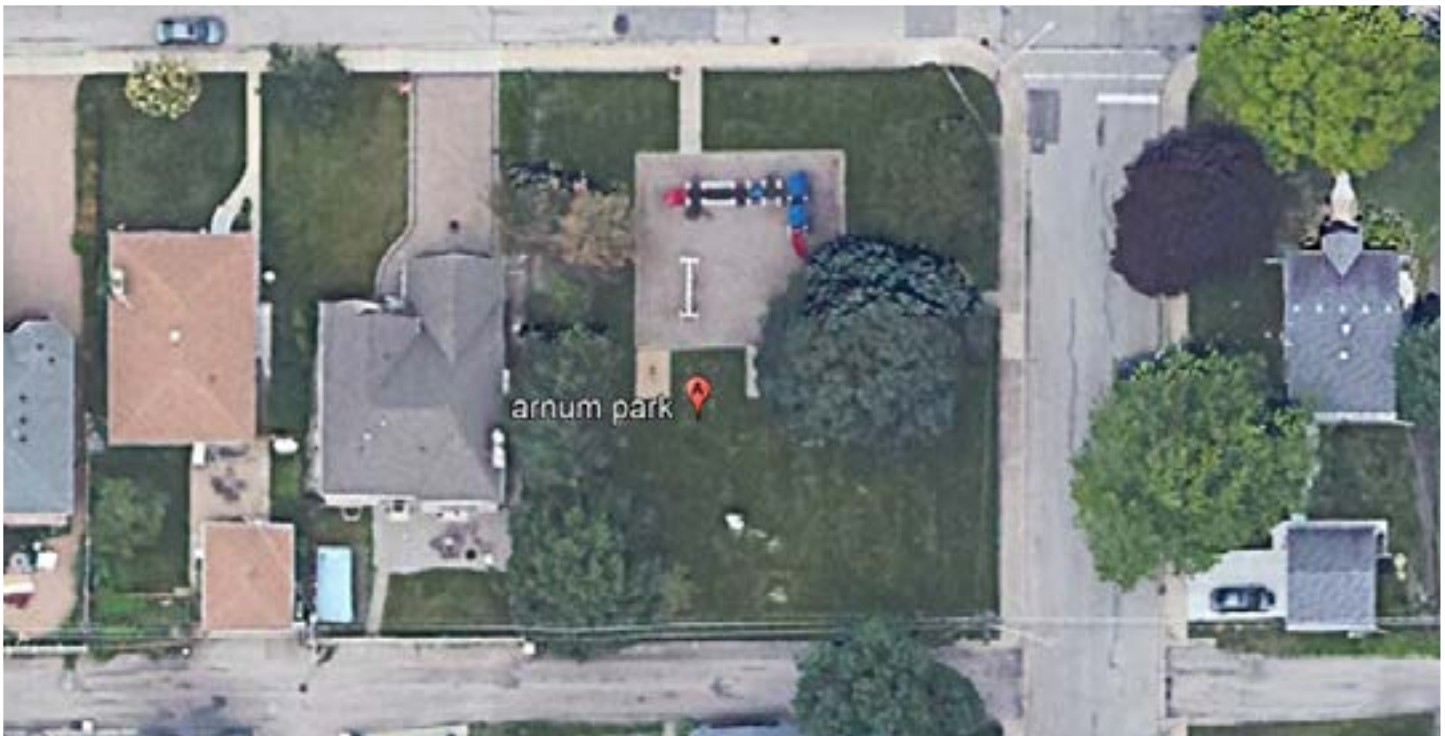
# 1. Arnum Park

Site Address: 7035 Church Street, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 0.26 Acre

Classification: Mini Park

1.3



## CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal		•	
Pedestrian Access		•	
Internal Access			•
Park Sign		•	
Parking		•	
Site Furnishings		•	
Sitting Area		•	
Shelter / Stage			
Restroom			
Playground	•		
Sand Play		•	
Ball & Play Fields			
Court Play/Hard Courts			
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf			
Lawns	•		
Landscaping		•	
Paths/Trails			
Natural Area			
Maintenance	•		

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Arnum Park is located at the corner of Church Street and National Avenue. Single-family residential development surrounds the park on all sides. This play lot contains a traditional composite structure for ages 5-12 years of age and a single-bay swingset both manufactured by Landscape Structures. The apparatus structure appears to be in fair condition while the swingset has been painted over numerous times and doesn't meet the current CPSC guidelines. The play area surface is comprised of loose fill woodchips that, if laid to proper depth, can meet current CPSC guidelines.

The loose fill play area is surrounded/contained by a concrete barrier curb that appeared to be in good condition. The play area also consists of a ground level sand play area. The sand play area contains a super scoop (sand digger) independent play piece surrounded by at grade Tough Timbers plastic containment curb. While sand is not an accessible surface, the activity of sand digging should be enjoyed by persons with all abilities as well as disabilities. No ADA accessible route is provided nor an ADA sand digger to allow for integrated play. The equipment appears to meet the CPSC fall safety zone requirements.





The park is fully enclosed by a split rail fence on the Church Street and National Avenue sides of the park and is in reasonably good condition with weed whip damage at the base several of the fence posts. The remaining two sides of the park are enclosed by a 4' ht. chain link fence whose fabric is good, but the posts are chipped and peeling and the footings have heaved.

No gates or other physical "deterrent" exists at either of the two entrances to keep small children from running out of the park and possibly into the street. There is one attractive very large mature tree within the play area fence providing shade cover to more than two-thirds of the play lot. An embedded bench and 4 seat picnic table are located adjacent to the apparatus area. The bench and the picnic table are in good condition although the inclusion of the 4th seat makes the table inaccessible. Both are only accessible by walking through the woodchip play surface as no paved walkway surrounding the apparatus area exists to create the required "accessible route" to these site furnishings. Likewise, no ADA ramp into the play area exists.

Overall, Arnum Park is fairly clean with some minor issues. The turf overall is in good condition with some areas that are thin and worn and other areas with broad leaf weed intrusion. The landscaping is clean and well maintained with large shrubs and trees. The site also consists of one drinking fountain at the park entrance and appears dated and in need of an upgrade.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a new park master plan for the park site with updated playground equipment and a "themed" play layout. Replace, expand and diversify "themed" playground equipment to meet the needs of the young neighborhood demographic
- New playground area to be ADA accessible
- Provide a new updated drinking fountain at the playground
- Add deciduous low growing shrubs, groundcover and perennial landscaping at the park sign for visual and seasonal interest.
- Add perimeter landscaping to control views from within the park while remaining a good neighbor to the adjacent residences.

## 2. Austin Park

Site Address: 8336 Marmora Avenue, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 5 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

# 2.3



### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal	•		
Pedestrian Access	•		
Internal Access	•		
Park Sign		•	
Parking		•	
Site Furnishings	•		
Sitting Area	•		
Shelter / Stage	•		
Restroom	•		
Playground	•		
Sand Play			
Ball & Play Fields	•		
Court Play/Hard Courts			•
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf	•		
Lawns	•		
Landscaping	•		
Paths/Trails	•		
Natural Area			
Maintenance		•	

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Austin Park is a 5 acre neighborhood park located in the southeast of the district bordered at the intersection of Main Street and Marmora Avenue. The site is elongated rectangle shaped park site aligned on an east-west axis. The Park is well integrated within the surrounding neighborhood, as it is bordered on three sides by single-family homes. Neighboring houses along the north, east, and south sides of the park overlook the park.

Austin Park was recently redeveloped with funding assistance from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The MGPD was awarded a \$223,700 OSLAD Grant to provide upgrades to the park including a new non-traditional play apparatus area for ages 2-5 and 5-12 years of age, a 2-bay swing area, a net climber node, redeveloped trike track, organic shaped shade structure, a native pollinator area with education node, a nature exploration play area, and a gaga ball court. The park also includes a sand volleyball court and two half court basketball courts. An internal path system provides good circulation throughout the park, connecting these new park elements.

Sidewalks and clearly marked crossings at stop signs





provide good access to the park. Off-street parking is provided for 12 cars.

The ball field fence is too short at 6 feet. Behind home plate and at the 'dugout' areas the fabric is bowed. The post and rail finish is chipped and peeling. The infield margin is undefined, the infield mix having migrated out and/or the turf migrating in. The benches and bleachers are in fair condition. The outfield areas are in good condition and used by AYSO for practice soccer.

The volleyball court margin is also poor. There is significant sand migration and/or turf encroachment. There is no containment edge around court. The two half-court basketball court surface is cracking but the color coat is in good condition as is the player bench.

The turf is in good condition. The landscaping consists mostly of shrubs and trees. The shrubs have become overgrown in areas, notably around one of the park signs. A good portion of the trees have bare soil at the base instead of mulch rings.

No major issues were noted for Austin Park. The turf is in good condition. The landscaping consists mostly of shrubs and trees. The shrubs have become overgrown in areas, notably around one of the park signs. A good portion of the trees have bare soil at the base instead of mulch rings.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Provide concrete containment curb around the sand volleyball court to mitigate migration of the sand material. Also, provide a paved concrete ADA walk to the sand court as well as around the court's perimeter for access and areas for seating.
- No additional repairs or improvements are needed at this time.



### 3. Harrer Park

Site Address: 6250 W. Dempster St, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 22 Acres

Classification: Community Park

1.5



#### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal		•	
Pedestrian Access		•	
Internal Access		•	
Park Sign		•	
Parking		•	
Site Furnishings	•		
Sitting Area		•	
Shelter / Stage		•	
Restroom			
Playground		•	
Sand Play			
Ball & Play Fields	•		
Court Play/Hard Courts		•	
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf			
Lawns		•	
Landscaping		•	
Paths/Trails			
Natural Area			
Maintenance		•	

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Harrer Park is a 22-acre community park in central Morton Grove. Harrer Park is the most popular community park within the district providing athletic facilities to meet the growing sports needs of the community. Harrer Park is the largest of the “sports parks” within the MGPD system. The park site is highly popular among athletes and affiliate groups and is also well-used by community residents. It is located on Dempster Avenue east of the Linne Woods Forest Preserve of Cook County.

Harrer Park is considered a “Destination” site within the community- the “Crown Jewel” as it is also the location of the Morton Grove Harrer Park Pool – the district’s newest aquatic pool and bathhouse. The site also houses the district’s maintenance building, the Morton Grove Historical Museum, - Home of the John and Mary Helen Slater Education Center.

The site consists of five ballfields, two of which are lighted. The fields are all in very good overall condition, with isolated instances of bowed or damaged fence fabric and chipped and peeling finish on the posts and rails. Some infield mix has been transferred by wind and





foot traffic onto the concrete surrounding the fields. Some fields have minor turf encroachment into the infield. The lighted walking path encircling the park is 0.53 miles and in good condition.

Harrer Park's playground is located north in the park for shared use with Park View Elementary School. The play equipment is oriented towards the 2-5- and 5-12-year-old children. The equipment is manufactured by Landscape Structures - non-traditional apparatus and brightly colored with diverse amenities and play features offering an array of play value to play area users. The safety surface consists of a combination of engineered wood fiber (EWF) and cast-in-place rubber surfacing providing added play value to the play environment. The basketball court surface is free of cracks, but the color coat is peeling. The three tennis courts surfacing needs repair. The color coat has some minor peeling and evident staining from standing water. A few chain link fence posts show minor heaving.

The site furnishings including benches and litter receptacles are in good conditions. The bike racks and drinking fountains are in good condition.

The turf is in fair condition, with some bare or thin areas which may be a result of the harsh season. The park has many large trees which provide good shade. However, more trees are needed within the concrete area where trees were removed. Not all trees have mulch rings. At the time of the Planning team's visit there were several large beds without mulch.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Repair and resurface the existing tennis courts in 2022
- Replace tennis court existing fencing and gates with new black vinyl coated chain link
- Develop a landscape plan to replace the trees that were removed, as well as additional shade.





## 4. Frank Hren Discovery Park

Site Address: 9500 Oak Park Avenue, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 8 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

1.9



### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal		•	
Pedestrian Access		•	
Internal Access		•	
Park Sign		•	
Parking			•
Site Furnishings		•	
Sitting Area	•		
Shelter / Stage	•		
Restroom	•		
Playground			
Sand Play			
Ball & Play Fields	•		
Court Play/Hard Courts			
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf			•
Lawns	•		
Landscaping		•	
Paths/Trails	•		
Natural Area			•
Maintenance	•		

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Frank Hren Park is an 8 acre “soccer park” leased from Golf School District 67, located in the north central portion of the district providing athletic facilities to meet the growing soccer needs of the community. The park is bordered on two sides by single-family homes. The homes east of the park overlook the complex while the residences south of the park share property lines of their rear yard with the park.

The park serves as the District’s premier soccer complex used by Morton Grove AYSO. The site consists of two full size fields and one micro field oriented north and south on the site. Additionally, the site consists of two mid-sized fields oriented east-west on the site. The east-west orientation of these mid-sized fields is not ideal for competitive games due to the location of the sun during early morning or late afternoon game times. The fields are an open natural grass non-irrigated surface that are not lit with athletic field lighting considering the park’s proximity to the adjacent residential area. Without athletic field lighting, the programmed usage for any of the fields is limited. The natural grass for these fields was in poor condition for its current programmed usage. Since these fields are used as a competitive



sports venue, the maintenance regimen for this site should be considered a priority for the Park District, Golf Middle School, and the Morton Grove AYSO.

No onsite parking exists on the site with limited on-street permitted parking along Oak Park Avenue. Additional parking is also accommodated by using the adjacent Golf Middle School's lot.

The park has a good paved path network encircling the athletic fields that connects all of the individual park elements. In three strategically placed locations along this paved path are three fitness stations/nodes that are in good condition. Other amenities within the park include a restroom, storage, and shelter building that is in excellent condition with an attractive architecturally attractive veneer that adds character to the park site. The shelter building also has an under-roof area for picnicking or a place for patrons to get out of the sun. Near the shelter are two 'Baggo' courts on concrete pads with turf centers creating a plaza like appearance to the shelter area.

The site also consists of a three-panel chain link backstop used for pick-up baseball or softball practice or non-programmed games. The backstop is in fair condition. The site's benches, litter receptacles, and recycling receptacles are in good condition and are uniform in style. Many of the site furnishing's footings have heaved and need to be reset plumb.

An attractive interpretive sign is located by the prairie area. The prairie area appears to have been taken over by weeds and in need of attention to become the green infrastructure demonstration area it was intended to be.

The site is moderately landscaped, with many of the trees in need of a mulch ring to minimize tree damage during maintenance operations as well as add to the curb appeal of the park.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider conducting an athletic field lighting audit for the full sized fields to determine if lighting would improve playability and the play experience of the fields while demonstrating modern technology and high cut off shields and how they can control light spill lessening the impact onto the neighborhood.
- Reset and repair any site furnishing footings that have heaved.
- Provide weed maintenance and the addition of more prairie plants and plugs choked out by weeds and other aggressive plants to the demonstration prairie garden area.
- Add a spade edge mulch ring to all trees in the park.



## 5. Jacobs Park

Site Address: 9226 Natchez Avenue, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 0.5 Acre

Classification: Mini Park

1.4



### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal		•	
Pedestrian Access		•	
Internal Access		•	
Park Sign		•	
Parking		•	
Site Furnishings		•	
Sitting Area		•	
Shelter / Stage		•	
Restroom			
Playground		•	
Sand Play			•
Ball & Play Fields			
Court Play/Hard Courts			•
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf			
Lawns			•
Landscaping		•	
Paths/Trails			
Natural Area			
Maintenance		•	

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Jacobs Park is a uniquely designed 0.5-acre site within the Morton Grove Park District system that provides active recreation areas in the form of a playground and basketball court but has the feel of a passive park with seating. Due to the barriers created by Beckwith Road and the rail line, the park only serves one small neighborhood. Jacob's Park is well integrated within the community it serves as it is bordered on all sides by single-family homes. The neighboring homes along Albert Street and Natchez Avenue overlook the park.

The playground has one tradition composite structured manufactured by Landscape Structures. The apparatus structure lacks site features that stimulate the varied senses of the children and park patrons (color, activity panes., etc.) and has exceeded its useful life. The apparatus structure should be replaced with a play equipment that reflects the neighborhood it serves. The safety surface consists of rubber tiles that have begun to heave and create uneven surfaces creating trip hazards for park patrons. These tiles should be replaced with a more sustainable accessible safety surface. A small sand table/play area appears to have been a very popular play piece when initially installed. However, the sand



area appears to get minimal if any use these days. The sand area and sand components should be removed and replaced with a more colorful sensory activity.

Concrete walks through the site are structurally in good condition with only minor cracking. However, the walks throughout the site need to be power washed to remove stains and soil that has eroded from the landform south side of the park. The masonry unit retaining walls have begun to show signs of stress and age in various areas throughout the park site. The retaining walls need to be removed and replaced with a lower more aesthetic structural material. Paver areas in the park have faded and

lost their vivid color conveying an unsightly image of the neighborhood to park users. Replace the paver areas with a new accessible specialty paving.

The basketball court is in poor condition with major cracks and water-stained color coat surface. There is major cracking where the basketball court meets the concrete walk. The basketball standard footing has heaved and is leaning possibly from users hanging on the rim. The park also lacks sufficient accessible site furniture and quality furnishings i.e., bike racks, benches, kiosk, etc. for park patrons and care givers. The existing benches, tables, and litter receptacles have begun to show their age and wear and need to be replaced with updated furnishings consistent with the District's brand. The drinking fountain is a dated style. The shelter is in decent condition – the shelter post need repainting for aesthetic purposes to brighten the park environment.

The turf has many large areas of bare soil, and around the walls the bare soil is eroding. The burning bush hedge vegetation within the park and some of the deciduous vegetation surrounding the site is overgrown and hides the beauty of the design of the park. This vegetation needs to be removed and replaced with new lower profiled low maintenance plant material. Mulch is needed in many areas.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Update playground equipment and include “themed” play layout. Replace, expand, and diversify “themed” playground equipment to meet the needs of the young neighborhood demographic
- Remove and/or adjust the heights of the existing planter walls within the playground area with a lower more aesthetic permanent material.
- Remove the overgrown burning bush hedge that bisects the park physically and obstructs site lines into and from within the park.
- Consider providing new a drinking fountain in the playground area
- The berm surrounding the swing apparatus area and containment curb need to be reconstructed to prohibit stormwater runoff into the playground safety surface.
- Perform select root pruning of evergreens and river birch plantings as needed to rid the playground surface area of tree roots.
- Replace the existing safety surface with new loose fill surface at min. 12” depth or as specified by the equipment manufacturer.



## 6. Prairie View Park

Site Address: 6834 Dempster Rd, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 16.0 Acres

Classification: Community Park

1.7



### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal		•	
Pedestrian Access	•		
Internal Access		•	
Park Sign			
Parking		•	
Site Furnishings		•	
Sitting Area		•	
Shelter / Stage			
Restroom			
Playground		•	
Sand Play			
Ball & Play Fields	•		
Court Play/Hard Courts		•	
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf		•	
Lawns		•	
Landscaping		•	
Paths/Trails	•		
Natural Area		•	
Maintenance		•	

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Prairie View Park is the central hub of the Morton Grove Park District and is geared almost entirely toward offering amenities and facilities common to the entire community, with a little on a neighborhood park level. Prairie View Park is a 16.0-acre active recreation park that is also home to the Morton Grove Park District Administration & Club Fitness facility. The park is partially bordered by single-family homes on the east, and commercial businesses west of the property. Prairie View Park borders Dempster Street, the Village's primary retail corridor on the south with Commonwealth Edison's Utility easement along the north property boarder.

The park offers a 0.52 mile walking path that is a combination of asphalt and concrete. Both are in good condition. The park includes two ballfields four tennis courts, and two half-court basketball hardcourt areas. The ballfields are generally in excellent condition. The tennis courts and the half-court basketball court surface areas need repair and replacement. The fence posts and fabric surrounding the tennis courts show signs of age and needs to be replaced at the time the court surface is reconstructed.as many posts have heaved, some signifi-



cantly. Covers at old light pole locations pose a significant safety risk. The turf area adjacent to the accessible ramp at the basketball court needs to be regraded to stop the erosion and the volleyball court area needs to have redefined edges and added sand base.

The play area is centrally located within the park and is highly used. Located amid mature trees that offer shade to park patrons, the play equipment is colorful and offers diverse play features for both pre-school and school age children, and is free of damage and wear. A 4 seat swing is included within the playground space with 2 accessible seats. The safety surface is a combination of loose fill Engineered Wood Fiber material (EWF) and cast-in-place rubber surfacing both in fair condition.

Site furnishing include benches, picnic tables, and litter receptacles are a mix match of manufacturer type and style, and don't reflect a consistent MGPD standard.

The park can be accessed off Dempster Street and New England Avenue both of which connect to Waukegan Road. Parking is sized to accommodate multi-game use as well as administration, program, and fitness center use. The parking lot surface was repaired and replaced in the fall of 2020. A secondary parking lot is also located on the east side of the property at Churchill Street

The landscape condition overall is fair. The turf is fair, with many areas thinning. Plant material within the park is in fair to good condition; the trees need mulch rings, and where trees are near walks a small strip of turf was left making maintenance around the trees difficult.

Prairie View Park is also home to the Morton Grove Prairie Nature Preserve. Located in the north end of the park, this prairie remnant covers approx. 1.3 acres of the park and contains over 56 species of native plants. This Prairie Nature Preserve has been protected since 1975 and was designated as an Illinois State Nature Preserve in 1979.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider removing the parking lot at Churchill street and develop a dog park.
- Repair and reseal parking lot per Village standards
- Repair and resurface the existing tennis courts and color coat
- Replace the existing tennis court fencing, gates, and transoms with new black vinyl coated chain link fence fabric.



## 7. Mansfield Park

Site Address: 5830 Church Street, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 3.5 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

# 2.1



### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal	•		
Pedestrian Access	•		
Internal Access	•		
Park Sign		•	
Parking			•
Site Furnishings	•		
Sitting Area	•		
Shelter / Stage			
Restroom			
Playground	•		
Sand Play	•		
Ball & Play Fields			
Court Play/Hard Courts			•
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf	•		
Lawns	•		
Landscaping	•		
Paths/Trails	•		
Natural Area			
Maintenance		•	

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Mansfield Park is one of the MGPD's most popular parks. Mansfield Park is used for intense as well as passive recreation purposes and is a 3.5-acre elongated rectangular shaped neighborhood park site aligned on a north-south axis between Church Street and Lyons Street. The Park is well integrated within the surrounding neighborhood, as it is bordered on all four sides by single-family homes. Neighboring houses along Church Street and Lyons Street overlook the park while the residences on the east and west sides of the park share their rear property lines with the park. Mansfield Park is approximately 1/4-mile distance from nearby Linne Woods Forest Preserve. Site amenities include an interior walk/jog trail system in the park, walkway lighting, a playground area, a two half-court basketball courts, two ballfields, an open turf area used by AYSO for practice soccer, and a fieldhouse for programmed activities.

Most of the problems identified in Mansfield Park relate to vehicular facilities. The parking situation is the primary concern at Mansfield Park. The Park has no onsite dedicated parking lot. Parking is allowed on the streets north and south of the park to accommodate park pa-



trons and program users utilizing the ballfields or visiting the park's Fieldhouse. However, there often is not enough street parking to accommodate demand. Another issue is that two of the three paved entry walks into the park from Church Street (closest to the Park's Fieldhouse) are not ADA accessible.

The playground area was recently upgraded. The playground at Mansfield Park is one of the newest play area within the District. One playground consists of 2 treehouse themed structures for both pre-school and schoolage children. The larger structure has a 14' tall tunnel slide and a variety of climbing options manufactured by Little Tikes. The apparatus is fully accessible and universally designed to meet ADA guidelines and accommodate youth ages 2-12 years old. The play equipment is nestled amidst mature trees on the site making this site a comfortable place for playground users. The play area includes a sand play area surrounded by a concrete containment curb and an accessible sand digging play feature. An eight-seat single post swing set is included within the playground space including a two-person swing. The play area surface is comprised of loose fill woodchips that, if laid to proper depth, can meet current CPSC guidelines. The loose fill woodchip play surface is surrounded/contained by a concrete barrier curb that appeared to be in good condition.

The assessment found an assortment of minor problems with the park's two skinned ballfields as both have

significant turf/infield migration. The ballfields are in fair condition and require minor repairs and maintenance. The backstops are painted, and sideline fences are in fair condition with some minor paint chipping of the post finish. The condition of the benches and bleachers are in good condition although moss was observed growing beneath the bleachers and the 5-row spectator bleachers do not have side rails and rear protective fence rail, therefore, do not meet current safety standards. Infield mix has washed or blown over the concrete and ponding occur at concrete edges where soil level is higher than concrete and in the spectator seating areas. Despite these minor field issues, Mansfield Park continues to be a popular location for Little League games and American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) practices.

The two center-goal half-court basketball courts are in poor condition, with longitudinal cracking, settling of the surface near the court edges, and heaving of the dual backstop foundation/footing within the center of the courts. The needs to be re-surfaced, color coated and restriped. No barrier or buffer exists between the courts and the interior walk/jog path resulting in activity conflict between the walkers/joggers and the basketball players.

The site furnishings overall throughout the park are in good condition. There is a mix of bench types as well as manufactured receptacles and 55-gallon drums on site. The landscape around the park Fieldhouse is overgrown and needs to be replaced with newer and smaller plants that don't obstruct visibility into the park. Trees throughout the site provide great shade coverage throughout the park while providing a green curtain around the park containing interior views within the park. Most of the large deciduous trees on site need mulch rings as well as many of the planting beds need routine maintenance.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- No repairs or improvements are needed within the playground area at this time.
- Remove the overgrown plant material at the Fieldhouse that bisects the park obstructs site lines into and from within the park and replace with smaller low maintenance options.
- Regrade and install ADA accessible park entrances at Church Street
- Replace the existing two half-court basketball court surface with new surfacing and color coating.
- Make minor repairs to ballfield infield areas and upgrade ballfield fencing and backstop areas. (completed Fall 2021)



## 8. National Park

Site Address: 9325 Marion Avenue, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 7 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

# 2.2



### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal		•	
Pedestrian Access	•		
Internal Access	•		
Park Sign		•	
Parking		•	
Site Furnishings		•	
Sitting Area	•		
Shelter / Stage		•	
Restroom		•	
Playground	•		
Sand Play		•	
Ball & Play Fields		•	
Court Play/Hard Courts			•
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf	•		
Lawns	•		
Landscaping		•	
Paths/Trails	•		
Natural Area			
Maintenance	•		

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The 7-acre park elongated rectangle shaped park site aligned on an east-west axis between Marion Avenue and National Avenue. The Park is well integrated within the surrounding neighborhood, as it is bordered on all four sides by single-family homes. Neighboring houses along Marion Avenue and National Avenue overlook the park while the residences on the north and south sides of the park share their rear property lines with the park. The park includes a small amount of off-street parking to accommodate park patrons and program users visiting the park's Fieldhouse.

This play lot contains two separate play areas for ages pre-school age 2-5 years and 5-12 years of age. Both areas consist of traditional composite structures and a single bay swingset both manufactured by Landscape Structures. The apparatus structures appear to be in good condition while the swingset has faded posts and appears to have been painted over numerous times and doesn't meet the current CPSC guidelines. The play area surface is comprised of loose fill woodchips that, if laid to proper depth, can meet current CPSC guidelines. The loose fill play surface elevation appears to be lower



than the apparatus post markers indicate and has grass and weed growth at the surface in various areas. The loose fill woodchip play surface is surrounded/contained by a concrete barrier curb that appeared to be in good condition. The play areas have free standing pre-cast retaining walls that create vertical interest within the play areas but over-time, have experienced settling in areas and are leaning in several area. Behind the walls, the soil is eroding and needs to be restored. The two play areas are connected to a concrete plaza and shelter area serving as the park's "Central Control" area for caregivers. Concrete sections within this plaza area have heaved and create tripping hazards to park patrons. These areas need to ground smooth to eliminate this issue or these sections removed entirely and replaced. Other site amenities include a tennis court, roller hockey court, two half-court basketball courts, sand volleyball court, and two ball fields.



The park's two skinned ballfields, both have significant turf/infield migration. The backstops are painted, and sideline fences are in good to fair condition with some minor paint chipping of the post finish and leaning in an area. The condition of the benches and bleachers are in good condition although moss was observed growing beneath the bleachers and the 5-row spectator bleachers do not have side rails and rear protective fence rail, therefore, do not meet current safety standards. Infield mix has washed or blown over the concrete and ponding occur at concrete edges where soil level is higher than concrete and in the spectator seating areas. The outfield areas are in good condition and used by AYSO for soccer practice.



The two half-court basketball courts are overall in good condition, with some cracking and settling of the surface near the edges. The tennis court surface and the roller hockey surface areas are in bad condition and need to be removed and replaced. The roller hockey surface has a modular tile overlay that has not withstood the environmental conditions nor park patron usage. Several tiles have lifted and are missing create tripping hazards at the court entrance as well as other areas throughout the court. The fence surround both the tennis court and the roller hockey court needs replacing. The court fencing is worn, rusted, as well as has not withstood patron abuse.



The volleyball court has no edge containment resulting in sand migrating into the turf surrounding the court. Likewise, the volleyball court surface has grass and weeds growing in various areas in the sand surface. There is no walk connecting the court to the main walking path.





The site furnishings overall are in good condition. There is a mix of manufactured receptacles and 55 gallon drums. There are two picnic tables on concrete pads free floating in the turf, one connected to the walk system that is handicap accessible and one under the Shelter. The site's drinking fountain was inoperable and need to be replaced.9

The landscape around the park Fieldhouse is overgrown and needs to be replaced with newer and smaller plants that don't obstruct visibility into the park. Trees throughout the site need mulch rings and many of the planting beds need maintenance.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Update swing sets in the play area. Replace with new ADA compliant swings.
- Remove and/or adjust the heights of the existing free standing precast retaining walls within the playground area with a lower more aesthetic permanent material.
- Remove the overgrown plant material at the Fieldhouse that bisects the park obstructs site lines into and from within the park and replace with smaller low maintenance options.
- Replace the existing safety surface with new loose fill surface at min. 12" depth or as specified by the equipment manufacturer. (completed Fall 2021)
- Replace the existing tennis court and roller hockey surface with new surfacing and color coating.
- Replace the fencing and gates at both tennis and roller hockey courts with new black vinyl coated fence material and posts.
- Consider replacing the basketball surface due to its minor cracking and settling at the court's edges.
- Provide new updated drinking fountain to the play area.
- Remove the weed growth from within the sand volleyball surface and top dress with new sand surface material.









## 9. Oketo Park

Site Address: 8950 Oketo Avenue, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 3.1 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

1.5



### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal		•	
Pedestrian Access	•		
Internal Access	•		
Park Sign		•	
Parking			
Site Furnishings		•	
Sitting Area			•
Shelter / Stage			
Restroom		•	
Playground		•	
Sand Play			•
Ball & Play Fields		•	
Court Play/Hard Courts			•
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf		•	
Lawns		•	
Landscaping			•
Paths/Trails		•	
Natural Area			
Maintenance		•	

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The 3.1 acre neighborhood park site is located within in a densely populated neighborhood north of Dempster Street and west of Harlem Avenue. The park is surrounded by single-family residential on all sides of the park. No off-street parking is provided, however, on street parking is available along Oketo Avenue, Churchill Street, and Osceola Avenue. The park is mainly used by neighborhood residents who come to enjoy the amenities openness of the park.

Site amenities include a playground area, basketball court, ballfield, walking path, Fieldhouse, and open turf area used by AYSO for practice soccer. There is a network of public sidewalks to access the park, with concrete paths through the park providing access to the playground area, basketball court, and ballfield. The walking path throughout the park is in good condition and provides good circulation.

The playground area contains one large composite structure for ages pre-school age 2-12 years of age. The apparatus is a traditional composite structure with minimal play features. Bisected by a walking path, the playground has a two bay swingset. Both structures

are manufactured by Landscape Structures. The apparatus structures appear to be in good condition while the swingset has faded posts and appears to have been painted over numerous times and doesn't meet the current CPSC guidelines. Neither the apparatus area structure nor the swing set area have ADA ramp access into the play areas. Both play area surfaces are comprised of loose fill woodchips that, if laid to proper depth, can meet current CPSC guidelines. The loose fill woodchip play surface in both areas are surrounded/contained by a concrete barrier curb that appear to be in good condition.

The playground area has two benches for caregivers and



park patrons. No large shade trees nor shade structures exist in and around the play area.

The ballfield has a very poor infield edge resulting in weeds growing on the surface at the backstop area. The vinyl coated side wing fencing and painted backstop are in fair condition, though the 6' fence should be higher. The player benches and 3-row bleacher are in good condition. There is no bleacher on the third base side.

The small full court basketball court is in poor condition and in need of repair. There is major cracking of the surface throughout the court. The standards and backboards are old and faded, but otherwise sound. Although there aren't a lot of seating areas and bench locations in the park, there is a variety of bench styles and colors in the park. The litter and recycling receptacles also vary in style, with some 55 gallon drums around the site. Information signs are randomly located throughout the park instead of being conveniently grouped and made of multiple signpost types. The park has one old, weathered picnic table set in turf and chained to a sign post. There is no handicap accessible route to the table from the main paved access walk. The water fountain appears very dated and is not centrally located.

The turf throughout the park is very weedy, as well as having some bare spots. The park is very open and could benefit quality from the addition of shade trees. As in other parks there is no mulch ring around trees. More landscaping is needed at the foundation of the Activity Building and the base of the park sign for curb appeal. Two dead trees on the site need to be removed.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Update swing sets in the play area. Replace with new ADA compliant swings.
- Replace the existing safety surface with new loose fill surface at min. 12" depth or as specified by the equipment manufacturer.
- Replace basketball surface due to its cracking and settling within the court.
- Provide new updated drinking fountain –locate in the vicinity of the play area.
- Enhance the park sign and Fieldhouse landscape with the addition of low maintenance plant material with seasonal color and interest.
- Replace picnic tables, benches, and litter receptacles with current District standards
- Shade trees are needed to provide out of sun areas to park patrons.



## 10. Oriole Park

Site Address: 9200 Oriole Avenue, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 3.5 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

# 2.0



### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal	•		
Pedestrian Access		•	
Internal Access		•	
Park Sign		•	
Parking			•
Site Furnishings	•		
Sitting Area	•		
Shelter / Stage			
Restroom		•	
Playground	•		
Sand Play			
Ball & Play Fields			
Court Play/Hard Courts		•	
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf		•	
Lawns		•	
Landscaping	•		
Paths/Trails	•		
Natural Area		•	
Maintenance		•	

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Oriole Park is dominated by Oriole Pool, One of two recreational outdoor pools within the District. Oriole Pool takes up almost half of the park site. The 3.5-acre Oriole Park is a triangular pie-shaped site that shares borders with Commonwealth Edison's Utility Corridor along the longest side of the triangle (hypotenuse), and single-family residential homes surrounding the other two sides (legs) of the triangle. The site can be accessed from Oriole Ave and Church Street from the West, and Osceola Ave and Church Street from the east. A previously vacated R.O.W. (Church Street) houses two paved surface lots provide parking for both the park and pool facility – approx. 20 cars total. The parking lots surface is in fair condition. In the west lot, there is no access route from the handicap parking stall. Given the linear nature of the activity areas of the park, the circulation and condition of the walks throughout the park are in good condition and well placed.

Site amenities include a playground area, two half-court basketball courts, two tennis courts, walking path, and open turf area for unprogrammed play.

Upon entering the park site from the east, park patrons are greeted by a non-screened ADA porta-potty. The





volleyball court has no edge containment resulting in sand migrating into the turf surrounding the court. Likewise, the volleyball court surface has grass and weeds growing in various areas in the sand surface. There is no walk connecting the court to the main walking path.

The two half-court basketball courts were converted from a tennis court. The surface consists of longitudinal cracks with several rutted-out areas causing depressions and bird baths within the pavement. The tennis courts surface is in bad condition needs replacing to eliminate the upward movement in the pavement due to swelling of the subgrade in areas as well as various longitudinal surface cracks. The chain link fencing surrounding the tennis courts need to be replaced as many of the fence posts footings, as with the net posts, and net tie downs, have begun to heave.

The playground area contains one large composite structure for ages pre-school age 2-12 years of age with several independent play components by Landscape Structures. The apparatus structures and play components appear to be a recent installation within the park and is in good condition. The play area surface is comprised of loose fill woodchips and cast-in-place (CIP) rubber surfacing. The CIP surface adds to the play experience of the park and vertical interest within the play area. The loose fill woodchip play surface and CIP areas are surrounded/contained by a concrete barrier curb that appears to be in good condition.

The site furnishing condition ranges from fair to good on

the site. Multiple styles of benches exist in various areas on the site, but all are in good condition. The fabric shade structure posts are set just outside the concrete pad - set within the turf area creating a maintenance issue for park staff. Likewise, the concrete surface should extend beyond the shade structure to create area for rainwater runoff.

The turf is in fair condition; near the building entrance it is fair to poor. There are many areas that are heavily worn. Landscaping around the building is fair; the shrubs are overgrown. The new fence along the pool has begun to rust creating a stain on adjacent surface areas. Trees throughout lack mulch rings. The split rail fence at Church Street is fair; many of the posts are leaning. Entrance drive at Church Street from the east parallels the rear fences of the neighboring homes – each fence varies in style, color, age, etc. resulting in an unsightly entrance. The Park District should densely landscape this area to provide a more uniform green backdrop along the park's access road creating a more aesthetic entry experience to the site from Church Street.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Oriole Pool's presence on this park makes this a "destination" site for the District. To increase recreation opportunities of the site, MGPD should consider renovating the tennis courts into a multi-sport tennis/pickleball play or try a new use such as futsal (a football game played on a hard surface).
- Replace the fencing and gates at the tennis courts with black vinyl coated chain link fencing.
- Replace the basketball surface due to its minor cracking and settling at the court's edges.
- Provide concrete containment curb around the sand volleyball court to mitigate migration of the sand material. Also, provide a paved concrete ADA walk to the sand court as well as around the court's perimeter for access and areas for seating.
- Provide a Porta-potty screen around the porta-john to enhance the aesthetic of the park
- Remove the overgrown plant material on the site.
- Remove the weed growth from within the sand volleyball surface and top dress with new sand surface material.
- Re-establish turf grass throughout the park
- Consider densely planting the area along the south side of the access drive at the Church Street entrance to provide a more uniform green backdrop along the park's access road to create a more aesthetic entry experience to the site.

# 11. Overhill Park

Site Address: 9345 Overhill Avenue Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 0.52 Acre

Classification: Mini Park

1.9



## CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal	•		
Pedestrian Access	•		
Internal Access	•		
Park Sign	•		
Parking	•		
Site Furnishings	•		
Sitting Area	•		
Shelter / Stage			
Restroom			
Playground	•		
Sand Play			
Ball & Play Fields			
Court Play/Hard Courts			
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf			
Lawns	•		
Landscaping	•		
Paths/Trails		•	
Natural Area		•	
Maintenance	•		

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Overhill Park is a 0.52 acre mini park located north of Beckwith Road and west of Oriole Avenue. The park also backs up to Melzer School sharing a common east property border allowing a convenient and pedestrian friendly connection to the school. Overhill Park is surrounded by single-family residential homes on three sides. Although a mini-hedge row has been planted long the park's eastern board, located adjacent to Melzer School's playground, the openness of the green space creates a sense of a much larger park.

On-street parking is available, though the park is used mainly by neighborhood residents who come to enjoy the parks amenities. The walkability of the neighborhood allows the park to serve a greater number of residents. The concrete in and around the park is in good condition and provides good circulation, though there is a missed connection to the school, as there is no walk connecting the two. A cow path has begun to emerge as residents and park patrons' traverse between the two sites.

Overhill Park is one of the few park sites within the District that was designed with a theme for the apparatus





and overall environment. A primary focal element of the park is a red-toned pagoda bridge over a “demonstration” swale southwest of the play area. This Asian-themed aesthetic bridge feature adds a classic charm to the park. An exposed corrugated metal culvert passes under one side

of the bridge structure. This culvert is both unattractive and potentially creates a trip hazard to park users. The culvert also has sharp edges that potentially puts park users at risk. The play area is relatively new and in overall good condition. The “tree house nature themed” Landscape Structures play apparatus serves ages 2–5-year-old and is centrally located within the park with whimsical musical chimes and other musical play components at the play area perimeter. Cast-in-place rubber surface provides the required safety surfacing as recommended by CPSC for impact attenuation. The rubber surface contributes to the promotion of the park’s theme while adding additional play experience of the park.

The benches, drinking fountain, and receptacles are in good condition. The drinking fountain style is dated and doesn’t appear to be consistent with the general theme of the park and should be replaced with a color and style that compliments the parks design.

Overhill Park’s general appearance is clean with some minor issues. The landscaping and turf are in good condition with only minor problems, and a few bare patches in the turf. The turf at the south entrance has a few bare spots that reflect negatively towards the maintenance of the park – these bare areas should be re-established to enhance the curb appeal of the park. The landscape beds appear to be bare and in need of additional low profile, shade tolerant plants. The existing mature shade trees provide nice overhead cover for park users. The trees not located within the planting beds need a 6’ diameter mulch ring with spade edge to add to the curb appeal of the park and assist with the general maintenance of the park.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Coordinate with Melzer School Administration and Maintenance staff to develop a hard accessible walking path to connect Overhill Park Playground to the School’s Playground to eliminate the cow path from park users utilizing both sites.
- Remove the corrugated metal culvert pipe and replace with a more aesthetic material that will perform the same function while adding to the curb appeal of the park.
- Replace the existing drinking fountain with a more contemporary model whose color and style compliment the design of the park.
- Re-establish bare turfgrass areas at the park’s south entrance.
- Consider developing a landscape planting plan to provide infill low-profile shade tolerant landscape plants within the existing planting beds throughout the park.



## 12. Palma Lane Park

Site Address: 99509 Nashville, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 2 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

# 2.1



### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal		•	
Pedestrian Access		•	
Internal Access	•		
Park Sign			•
Parking		•	
Site Furnishings		•	
Sitting Area		•	
Shelter / Stage			
Restroom		•	
Playground		•	
Sand Play		•	
Ball & Play Fields		•	
Court Play/Hard Courts			•
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf	•		
Lawns	•		
Landscaping		•	
Paths/Trails		•	
Natural Area			
Maintenance		•	

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Palma Lane Park is a 2-acre park where access to the park is limited. Access through the park is fair as it has a 5' wide concrete paved walkway beginning at Palma Lane, and meanders in and around the parks amenities and recreational components to Nashville Avenue. The park is bordered on 2.5 sides by local arterial streets.

Site amenities include a playground area, a full-court basketball court, walking path, a ballfield, and an open turf area used by AYSO for practice soccer.

Upon entering the park site from Palma Lane, park patrons are greeted by a non-screened ADA porta-potty. The full court basketball court is in poor condition. The surface consists of longitudinal cracks with several areas of depressions and bird baths within the pavement. The posts and backboards are old but sound, and the post footings have heaved.

The playground apparatus area offers a good mix of features for the preschool age 2-5-year-old with a tire swing and bucket swings provided for toddlers each manufactured by Landscape Structures. The playground apparatus is at the end of its useful life and doesn't meet the



current CPSC guidelines, therefore, in need of replacement. The color on the apparatus posts have faded and lost its vibrancy.

The play area surface is comprised of loose fill woodchips that, if laid to proper depth, can meet current CPSC guidelines. The loose fill play surface elevation appears to be lower than the apparatus post markers indicate and need to be replenished with supplemental material to meet the recommended surface elevation. The loose fill woodchip play surface also has weed growth in various areas along the perimeter of the play area. The loose fill woodchip play surface is surrounded/contained in part by a concrete barrier curb and plastic timber curb where the play area meets turf areas.



The concrete containment curb/pavement appears to be in good condition. The plastic timber barrier curb is recessed to allow the top of the plastic curb to meet the top of the adjacent finish grade elevation. The plastic timber barrier curb should be replaced with a more permanent material i.e. concrete to match the remaining barrier/containment curb surrounding the playground.

A sand play area with two accessible sand tables is clearly defined with a combination of plastic timber containment/barrier curb and concrete curbing, however, sand still spills onto surrounding surfaces. The apparatus area and swing areas are connected by a concrete paved plaza/control area.

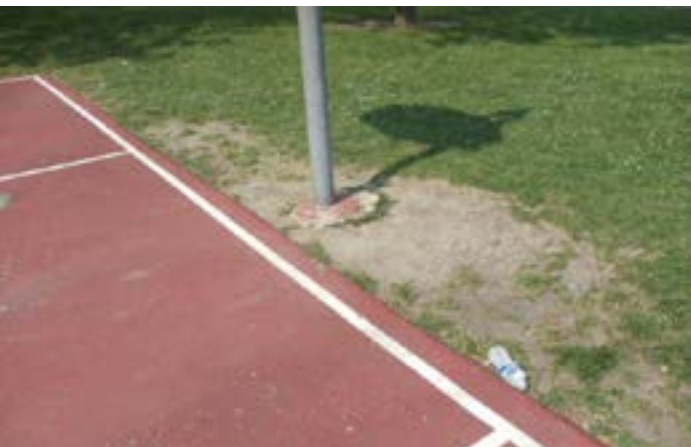


The plaza consists of two accessible picnic tables made of recycled lumber with embedded steel frames. The picnic tables are in fair condition although it is evident the tables are dated and need to be upgraded. The plaza sits in direct sun the entire day. An empty tree well is indicative of where a shade tree once existed. A shade structure is needed to provide an under roof covered area to provide the playground users and care givers a respite from the harsh summer sun.



The ballfield condition is in fair condition. The infield skin appears to be graded appropriately to accommodate proper field runoff, and the edge is good, with only minor turf encroachment. The fence is leaning in many areas and the post finish is chipped and peeling. Many footings have heaved and need to be reset. There is significant turf wear and noticeable bare areas around the fence openings. Evidence of ponding areas suggests the concrete is low in relation to the surrounding turf. The furnishings





around the ball field include player benches, storage box, and bike rack that need to be upgraded. The 4-row spectator bleacher does not comply with Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines and doesn't provide side and rear railings. Railings generally keep park user safer, especially rambunctious children who might be a danger to themselves without them. A secondary non-screened porta-potty is located in the vicinity of the ballfield for use by ball players and spectators.

At the time of this site inventory, a massive tree clearing project had begun along the site's eastern border to remove the site's Siberian Elm and Ash species between the east property line and the main walkway beginning at Nashville Avenue. It is presumed that once all remaining stumps have been ground smooth and cleared, a landscape planting plan will be developed to provide a native landscape buffer and aesthetic sound baffle to the neighboring residence to the east.

The park's overall appearance is pretty good, though could use some attention. There are concerns with pedestrian safety because there are no sidewalks adjacent to the park road.

### Recommendations

- Update playground equipment and include "themed" play layout. Replace, expand and diversify "themed" playground equipment to meet the needs of the young neighborhood demographic.
- New playground area to be contained by a more aesthetic permanent material - concrete barrier curb.
- Provide concrete containment curb around the sand play area to better contain and control the migration of the sand material.
- Consider providing a new updated drinking fountain within the plaza area at the playground.
- Consider providing a shelter/gazebo structure with asphalt shingles and electrical service within a newly designed plaza area to provide shade and out of sun areas for park patrons and play area users while enhancing the character of the park.
- Replace the fencing and backstop with new black vinyl coated chain link fencing.
- Replace the basketball surface due to its longitudinal cracking, ponding and settling in various areas of the court's surface.
- Provide Porta-potty screens around both porta-johns to enhance the aesthetic of the park.
- Remove the weed growth from within the loose-fill wood-





chip surface and top dress with new woodchip surface material. (completed Fall 2021)

- Re-establish turf grass throughout the park especially in the areas of the ballfield.
- Consider the development of a native landscape planting plan for the east property line to provide a more uniform green backdrop along the park's access walk to create a more aesthetic entry experience to the site from Nashville Avenue.

## 13. Pioneer Park

Site Address: 8617 Georgiana, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 0.26 Acre

Classification: Mini Park

1.4



### CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal	•		
Pedestrian Access	•		
Internal Access	•		
Park Sign		•	
Parking		•	
Site Furnishings	•		
Sitting Area	•		
Shelter / Stage			
Restroom			
Playground	•		
Sand Play			
Ball & Play Fields			
Court Play/Hard Courts			
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf			
Lawns		•	
Landscaping		•	
Paths/Trails			
Natural Area			
Maintenance		•	

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

This small 0.26-acre mini park has quickly become a favorite stop for neighborhood residents to enjoy on their walks. Pioneer Park is nestled in among single family homes and is easily accessible by a network of public sidewalks at Carolina and Georgiana Avenues providing direct access to the park. On-street parking makes the park accessible to other users.

The park appears to be recently redeveloped to include new concrete sidewalks, landscaped precast block entrance development, nature themed apparatus for users 5-12 years of age, a cantilevered tot swing, and an independent play piece by PlayWorld Manufacturer. Each play component is set in a loose fill woodchip play surface. The park also includes a contemporary metal "porch" swing set on a concrete surface.

The benches are the standard recycled plastic models and in good condition strategically placed throughout the park. Within the entrance plaza, is a circular accessible picnic table. There is one litter receptacle of the new style in the park which is in good condition.





A turf strip exists between the play area curb and the R.O.W. walk. The turf is stressed from a combination of salt damage, foot traffic, heavy shade, and root zone competition. This turf strip needs to be replaced with decomposed granite material to enhance the curb appeal and play experience of park patrons. The decomposed granite will provide the crunchy sound to foot traffic, while providing a soft natural appearance and good drainage.

The landscape is in good condition. The existing trees provide good shade canopy to the playlot. Overall, the park is in good condition and no major issue or problems were noted in the park assessment.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider replacing the turf strip along the north side of the park with decomposed granite material to enhance the curb appeal and play experience of park patrons.
- No other repairs or improvements are needed at this time.



# 14. Shermer Park

Site Address: 9500 Shermer, Morton Grove, IL

Total Area: 2.0 Acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

1.3



## CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

	3: Above Average	2: Average	1: Below Average
Curb Appeal			•
Pedestrian Access		•	
Internal Access			•
Park Sign		•	
Parking		•	
Site Furnishings		•	
Sitting Area			•
Shelter / Stage			
Restroom		•	
Playground		•	
Sand Play		•	
Ball & Play Fields			
Court Play/Hard Courts		•	
Winter Sports			
Athletic Turf			
Lawns		•	
Landscaping		•	
Paths/Trails			
Natural Area			
Maintenance		•	

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Shermer Park is a 2.0-acre neighborhood park with open green space, a walking path, full-court basketball surface with half court key amenity, bench seating, a drinking fountain, and an ADA porta-potty. The park is located in the northwest sector of the district and has good access for both pedestrians and park patrons who visit the site via automobile. On-street parking is available on each of the bordering streets – Foster, Shermer Road, and Wilson Terrace. The concrete throughout the park is in good condition, however, a connection is missed at the southernmost fencing opening on Shermer Rd. where no R.O.W. sidewalk connects to the play area and there is no walk from the basketball court to the play area.

The basketball courts consisting of one small full court and additional half court key feature are in poor condition. Fixtures are old and faded. The faded color coated surface consists of longitudinal cracks and depressed/ponding areas. During the assessment, it was noted that outside the court playing area is a vast amount of unused/unprogrammed impervious paving contributing to “wasted” valuable park space. (At the time of our assessment, approx. 3’ core samples had been taken at



the court for future profile examination.)

The playground area contains one large composite structure for ages pre-school age 2-12 years of age. (Although, the manufacturer's label on the vertical posts of the structure indicates the apparatus was designed for children 5-12 years of age only – given the play components on the structure, the industry standard for this structure accommodates children 2-12 years of age). The apparatus is a traditional composite structure with minimal play features. The playground has a two-bay swing set. Both structures are manufactured by Landscape Structures. The apparatus structures appear to be in fair condition while the swing set appears to have faded posts and has been painted over numerous times and doesn't meet the current CPSC guidelines. Neither the apparatus area structure nor the swing set area has ADA ramp access into the play areas. The play area surface is comprised of loose fill woodchips that, if laid to proper depth, can meet current CPSC guidelines. The loose fill woodchip play surface has weeds and turf growing in areas beneath the apparatus structure. The loose fill woodchip surface is also surrounded/contained by a non-permanent plastic timber barrier curb that appears to be in fair condition. The elevation of plastic timber barrier curb no longer meets the adjacent concrete surface elevation at the play area's seating court and should be removed as a safety precaution. Within the playground is a small sand play area. The sand area is bordered by a recycled plastic tuff timber barrier curb. The sand elevation appears to be higher than the surrounding plastic barrier curb causing a containment problem. The recycled plastic tuff timbers are generally level and consistent. The sand play area is only accessible by walking through the active playground area as no access walk is provided around the playground's perimeter to allow for ADA access to this play area. Likewise, no accessible play toys/amenities i.e., accessible sand table or other, installed within the vicinity of the sand play area to allow for universal integrated play. Upon entering the park site from Wilson Terrace, park patrons are greeted by a non-screened ADA porta-potty and a myriad of information signs of varying heights and type styles.

The turf is fair overall. It is relatively weed free but has many bare spots; some appear to be areas where herbicide was applied. The beds at park signs are good; they are well maintained though lightly planted. These planting beds could benefit from the addition of supplemental low-profile native landscape plants for seasonal interests. The trees overall are in fair to good condition although the





exposed root structure on one or more large mature trees can potentially be problematic to young park patrons. The existing apparatus area is nestled beneath an existing stand of mature trees creating much desired shade to playground users.

Overall, the park is in fair to good condition with a few problematic areas in need of immediate attention. The site furnishings are fair. The picnic table is in the turf and not accessible. The litter receptacle is a 55-gallon drum. The drinking fountain while in good condition is a dated style. The park signs are fair to good. The rules sign is not located near and entrance.



#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Update playground equipment and include “themed” play layout. Replace, expand and diversify “themed” playground equipment to meet the needs of the young neighborhood demographic.
- New playground area to be contained by a more aesthetic permanent material - concrete barrier curb sensitive to the mature trees on the site.
- Provide concrete access walk and containment curb around the sand play area to better contain the sand material.
- Replace the basketball surface due to its longitudinal cracking, ponding and settling in various areas of the court’s surface. Consider replacing only the full-court surface area and install landscape berms with limestone boulder slabs strategically placed within the landform for tees or on-deck player seating.
- Provide a porta-potty screen around the porta-john to enhance the aesthetic of the park
- Remove the weed growth from within the loose-fill woodchip surface and top dress with new woodchip surface material. (completed Fall 2021)
- Re-establish turf grass throughout the park where needed.
- Consider unifying the park information signage within the park to reduce the visual clutter at the park’s entrance.







# General Park Recommendations

System-wide, there are problems facing the MGPD parks. These problems include insufficient depth of loose-fill play surfacing in play areas which the MGPD addresses every year, inaccessible play areas (non-ADA compliant), play equipment and apparatus structures beyond useful life cycle and not meeting CPSC guidelines, and deteriorating courts and surfaces. It is recommended that the MGPD create a set of design standards for repair and improvements so that park amenities can be improved and developed consistently and efficiently. It is recommended that the Park District take a phased approach to repairs and refurbishment by immediately addressing issues of safety and code-deficiency and then proceeding to address less pressing and longer-term concerns. For example, most playground equipment was installed more than 15 years ago, and plans need to be made to systematically replace playgrounds and play equipment throughout the park system. This same approach applies to existing basketball courts, tennis courts, in-line hockey courts, and athletic fields in order to update the oldest and/or most heavily used facilities.

Other specific issues and deficiencies observed that were consistent throughout the park system and require action District-wide are as follows:

- In general, as indicated above, all the parks have ADA issues, including access to benches, drinking fountains, etc.
- The drinking fountains and litter receptacles were a mix of styles, and not standardized with the other District site furnishings
- Ballfield fence heights below eight feet near the spectator and player bench areas which is a safety issue.
- Encroachment of infield mix into the outfield turf.
- Areas of the vinyl coated fence posts and fabric are chipping or peeling.
- The playground surfacing is currently loose fill wood fiber mulch in the majority of the park sites. Some of these surfaces have compacted to less than safe levels and are no longer accessible or level with adjacent sidewalks.
- The ballfield 5-row bleachers do not meet current safety standards which require a guardrail around the seats when the height is over 30" to meet safety codes.
- The sand volleyball courts do not have containment edging leading to sand migration.
- The trees lack mulch rings. Mulch rings help lower maintenance, reduce weed whip damage, retain moisture, and control weeds.
- The turf has worn patches and the presence of weeds.
- More shade trees are needed in the parks.
- Consider the development of a dog park within the district to meet the need of the county.

In addition, all of the park sites are recommended to undergo the master planning process to make modifications and upgrades to properties. These initiatives will be addressed in the Recommendations Chapter.

## FACILITY ASSESSMENT

The Park District is located in the west suburbs of Chicago and Cook County. It accesses two major expressways, one to the East and one to the West, rail transportation splits the Village East and West and is geographically located near O'Hare Airport. Des Plaines and Park Ridge border the Village on the West, Niles on the South, Skokie on the East, and Glenview to the North.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the existing facilities with regard to the current code requirements and the condition of the spaces. This report reviews the current conditions of the existing construction, including building envelope and the age of the existing Mechanical equipment.

This assessment reviews thirteen facilities within the District. The report will evaluate each facility highlighting the existing functions and findings of the facility. Within this evaluation, there is a classification of priority attached to each item. The ranking of each item in priority level is based upon life safety and required immediacy that each item should be addressed.

Following the evaluation of the facilities, there is a District wide evaluation and summary. The purpose of this report is to serve as a reference and guideline for the status, function, and needs of the District.



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## MANSFIELD FIELDHOUSE

Mansfield Fieldhouse is located at 5830 Church Street in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053.

The Fieldhouse was originally built in 1963. There was a renovation to the facility completed in 1993 in which much of the interior space was renovated and updated to meet ADA needs.

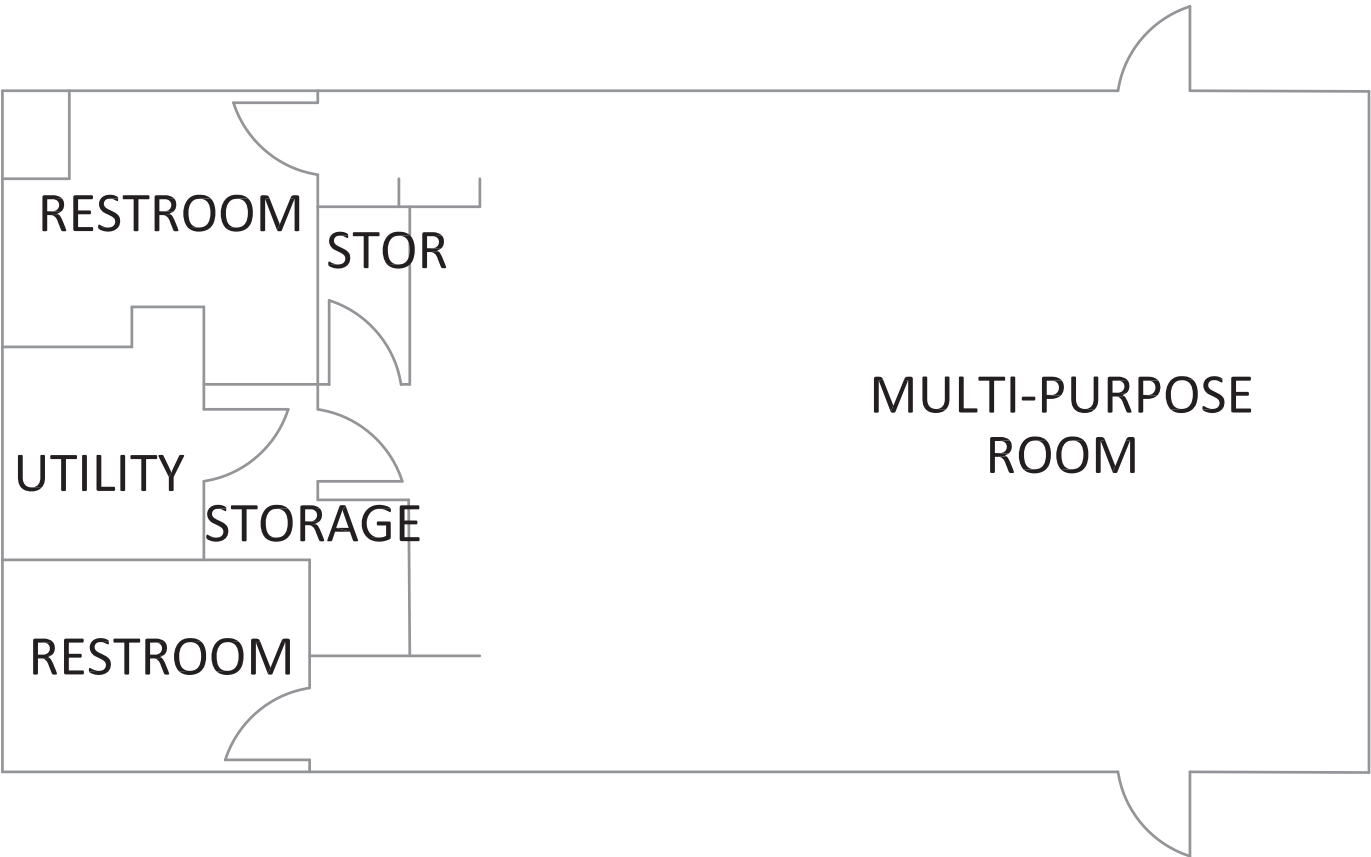
The facility is mainly constructed of CMU (concrete masonry units) bearing walls with face brick as the exterior cladding. The roof of the facility is a wood structure with asphalt shingles. The interior walls are typically exposed CMU.

The facility has a community room utilized by the District. Several programs use the facility; including preschool. The facility is also rented out after hours by the public.



MANSFIELD FIELDHOUSE

EXISTING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1,715 S.F.



MANSFIELD FIELDHOUSE COMMUNITY BUILDING FLOOR PLAN





## MANSFIELD FIELDHOUSE EXTERIOR

The existing roof was replaced over twelve years ago but appears to be holding up well. Some of fascia appears to be failing, which can lead to water infiltration over time. Portions of the fascia appear to have weather damage and are dented. The fascia should be replaced in the next three years, or sooner.

The existing ramp at the main entrance does not meet ADA requirements. The single railing does not meet the guardrail and handrail requirement of ADA. A handrail should be provided at the ramp.

The existing brackets at the soffit have peeling paint and need to be scraped and repainted.

The exposed foundation wall was painted at one time, this paint is also peeling.

The existing face brick is in good condition. There are many locations that have unsightly white streaks on the brick. It appears paint has dripped. A missing brick, possibly the location of a previous outlet was not properly sealed or caulked.

The existing windows appear to be in acceptable condition. Several existing windows have been sealed up to prevent operation. The South windows in the multi-purpose room are single pane glazing. It is recommended that all the windows be replaced at the same time. Due to orientation and size of the existing multi-purpose windows a commercial style window is recommended for the entire building. Single pane glazing can cause condensation, expediting the decay of the existing frames. Old window caulk should be replaced and re-caulked.

The existing masonry wing wall is failing. Brick is falling off the wall. The wall should be repaired or if possible be removed, as it appears to be decorative.

The secondary exit from the building is a stoop with one step. This stoop is not large enough for a wheelchair and does not exit flush with the surrounding grade. This exit should be flush with grade or at a minimum the concrete exit pad should be large enough to open the door and allow for a wheelchair to sit safely next to the door. A sidewalk should be provided that connects the stoop to a public walkway.

EXISTING FASCIA



EXISTING GLAZING



EXISTING MASONRY WING WALL

EXISTING EXIT



## MANSFIELD FIELDHOUSE INTERIOR

The multi-purpose room is the largest portion of the floor plan. The floor plan includes two restrooms, a utility room that houses the mechanical equipment and storage spaces. The existing interiors are in good condition.

The existing ceiling in the multi-purpose space is a spline ceiling. There are portions of the ceiling that are sagging. The ceiling tile is original and may be asbestos. If this has not been completed, the District should hire an environmental materials testing company to test the existing ceiling tile. With the tile sagging this should be done in the near future. If the ceiling tile is not addressed this could be problematic if the tile falls and cracks.

The building does not have a fire suppression system or a fire detection system. Based on when the facility was constructed this was not a code requirement, as it is now. The facility is utilized by the public and at a minimum should have a fire detection system in place.

The existing utility room/mechanical room walls do not extend to the underside of the existing roof structure. Based on the equipment in this space the walls should extend further creating a barrier between the storage spaces and the mechanical room. Any penetrations into this rooms must be properly sealed.

The toilet rooms' exhaust fan is very loud and is not utilized because of this. Verify if there is an issue with the fan(s) that requires replacement.

The existing sink in the multipurpose room does not meet ADA requirements. There is no clear space below the sink and the height of the top of the counter should be 2'-10". Based on the use of the sink an additional sink is often installed at a lower height for younger children.

The water heater was replaced in 2013 and appears to be in good working condition.

### MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE WITH NO FIRE SUPPRESSION



EXISTING SPLINE



MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM  
SINK

## MANSFIELD FIELDHOUSE ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

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THE ASSESSMENT REVIEWS THE EXISTING BUILDING SYSTEMS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FACILITIES. ITEMS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH CURRENT BUILDING CODES AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE FACILITY ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DISTRICT.

1. SYSTEMS, EQUIPMENT, AND SPACES AT THE PARKS FACILITY COMPLYING WITH APPLICABLE BUILDING CODES IN EFFECT WHEN THE FACILITY WAS LAST CONSTRUCTED OR REMODELED.
2. SPACE NEEDS FOR CURRENT BUILDING.
3. RELATIONSHIPS WITH DEPARTMENTS.
4. ISSUES THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE CURRENT BUILDING CODE.
5. BEST PRACTICES, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.

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A. URGENT – ITEMS THAT PRESENT AN IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO THE SAFETY OF THE OCCUPANTS. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AND CORRECTED IN THE NEXT 1-2 YEARS IF NOT SOONER.

B. REQUIRED – ITEMS THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT BUT PRESENT LESS OF AN IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO THE SAFETY OF THE OCCUPANTS. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE CORRECTED WITH A 2-4 YEAR PERIOD OF TIME.

C. RECOMMENDED – ITEMS THAT DO NOT PRESENT ANY IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO THE OCCUPANTS. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN A 4-10 YEAR PERIOD OF TIME AND CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT'S MASTER PLAN.



# MANSFIELD FIELDHOUSE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Replace fascia and soffit	5	B	\$7,500.00
Improve front entry ADA access	1	B	\$12,500.00
Replace all windows	5	B	\$26,000.00
Provide flush landing and access at rear exit	1	B	\$8,000.00
Commission an environmental report for the facility	5	B	\$2,200.00
Change sink in multi-purpose room to ADA	4	B	\$4,500.00
Provide fire rated storage room and mechanical rm	4	C	\$20,000.00
Provide Fire Detection	4	B	\$6,000.00
Rebuild the exterior masonry wall	5	B	\$2,500.00
	Total		\$89,200.00

## AUSTIN FIELDHOUSE

The Austin Fieldhouse is located at 8336 Marmora Avenue in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053.

The Austin Fieldhouse was originally built in 1961. The Fieldhouse interior was renovated in 1993 in order to accommodate ADA requirements.

The facility is constructed of bearing CMU (concrete masonry units) with a face brick exterior. The roof of the facility is wood structure with asphalt shingles. Interior walls are typically CMU masonry.

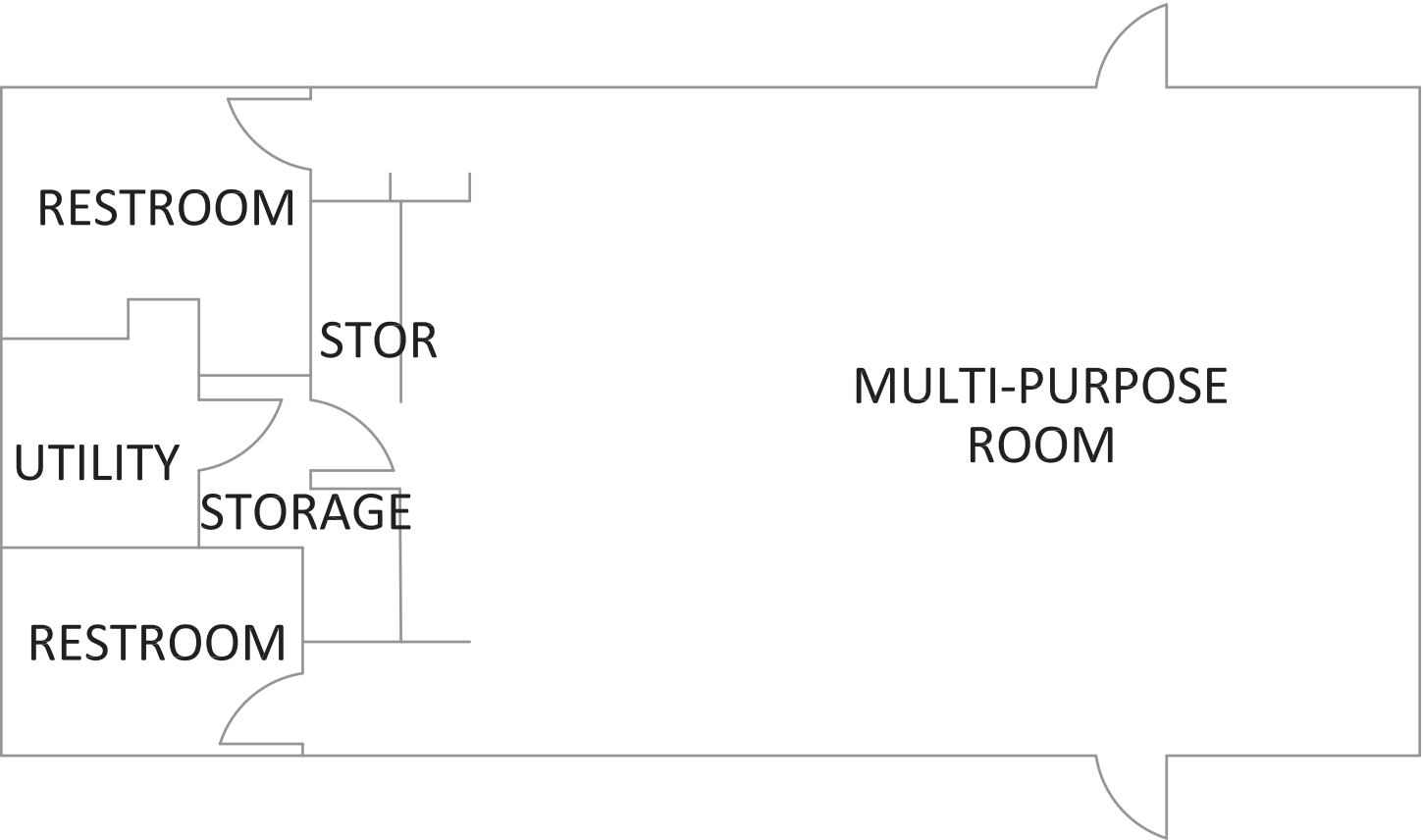
The facility has a community room that is used by the District. Several programs use the facility, including pre-school. The facility is also rented out after hours to the public.

Parking is limited on site.



AUSTIN FIELDHOUSE

EXISTING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1,715 S.F.



AUSTIN FIELDHOUSE COMMUNITY BUILDING FLOOR





## AUSTIN FIELDHOUSE EXTERIOR

The existing roof was replaced over twelve years ago but appears to be holding up well.

The building does not have gutters; water diverters were installed over the exterior doors. This is not a long term-solution. No gutters on the building will result in large icicles during the winter months. This can be a safety hazard to occupants. Gutters should be added to the building when the fascia is replaced. The existing fascia has not been replaced recently. The fascia is worn with exposed seams.

A light fixture is missing over the entrance door. For safety purposes a fixture should be added here that meets the Village's code requirement.

The existing brackets at the soffit have peeling paint and need to be scraped and repainted.

The existing face brick is in good condition. The rear of the building has outlines of graffiti. Once the graffiti is fully removed a graffiti resistant coating should be applied to the brick. Areas of the brick have been tuck pointed using a different mortar color and joint shape. These areas should be properly tuck pointed.

The existing windows appear to be in acceptable condition. Several existing windows have been sealed up to prevent operation. The South windows in the multi-purpose room are single pane glazing. It is recommended that all the windows be replaced at the same time. Due to orientation and size of the existing multi-purpose windows a commercial style window is recommended for the entire building. Single pane glazing can cause condensation, expediting the decay of the existing frames. Old window caulk should be replaced and re-caulked.

NO GUTTERS, EXISTING  
WEATHERED FASCIA



LIGHT FIXTURE



EXISTING SOUTH  
WINDOWS

## AUSTIN FIELDHOUSE INTERIOR

The multi-purpose room compiles the largest portion of the floor plan. The floor plan includes two restrooms, a utility room that houses the mechanical equipment and storage spaces. The existing interiors are in good condition.

The existing ceiling in the multi-purpose space is an acoustical ceiling tile that is fully attached and cannot be moved.

The building does not have a fire suppression system or a fire detection system. Based on when the facility was constructed this was not a code requirement, as it is now. The facility is utilized by the public and at a minimum should have a fire detection system in place.

The existing utility room/mechanical room walls do not extend to the underside of the existing roof structure. Based on the equipment in this space the walls should extend further creating a barrier between the storage spaces and the mechanical room. Any penetrations into this room must be properly sealed.

The existing sink in the multipurpose room does not meet ADA requirements. There is no space below that sink and the height of the top of the counter should be 2'-10". Based on the use of the sink an additional sink is often installed at a lower height for younger children.

The restroom exhaust fans are not functioning. The fans should be replaced and the existing duct work needs to be reviewed for efficiency.

The existing electrical panels do not meet the code required clearance of 3'-0" due to the location of the existing furnace.

The water heater was installed in 1994 this is well beyond the expected lifespan and should be replaced in the next 12 months.

The furnace was installed in 2016 and appears to be in good working condition.

MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE WITH NO FIRE  
SUPPRESSION



EXISTING UTILITY  
ROOM



MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM  
SINK

## AUSTIN FIELDHOUSE ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

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## AUSTIN FIELDHOUSE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Install gutters and downspouts on building	5	C	\$7,500.00
Add light fixture at entrance	1	B	\$800.00
Paint brackets	5	C	\$1,000.00
Remove graffiti and install anti-graffiti coating	5	C	\$2,000.00
Replace existing windows	5	B	\$26,000.00
Provide Fire Detection	4	B	\$6,000.00
Provide fire rated storage room and mechanical rm	4	C	\$20,000.00
Change sink in multi-purpose room to ADA	4	B	\$4,500.00
Replace existing exhaust fans	4	C	\$2,000.00
Provide access to electrical panels in mech room	2	B	\$10,000.00
Replace existing water heater	5	A	\$2,000.00
Total			\$81,800.00

## HARRER PARK FIELDHOUSE

Harrer Park Fieldhouse is located at 6250 Dempster Street in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. The building was built in 1992.

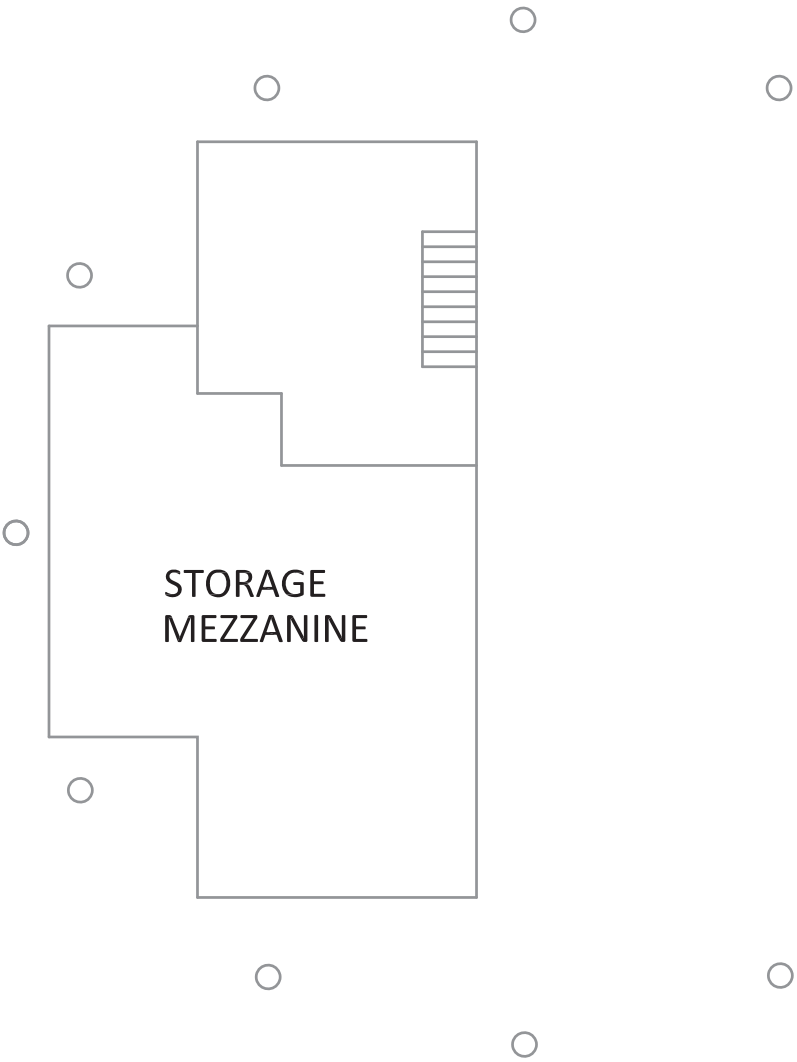
The Fieldhouse is constructed of load bearing CMU (concrete masonry units) with exterior face brick and wood siding. The roof is a wood timber structure with asphalt shingles. The roof serves as the covering for the open-air pavilion and encloses the interior building. The building is supported by twelve concrete columns. The interior walls are CMU, while the second-floor framing and roof structure is wood.

The facility has public restrooms that are utilized by those in the park. The building provides storage for park services and has concessions space in the building. The open-air portion of the building offers shelter for those that use the picnic tables. The venue accommodates day camps and evening music for the public. There is an adequate amount of parking available due to the Fieldhouse's proximity to a nearby school. The school and the park share parking.

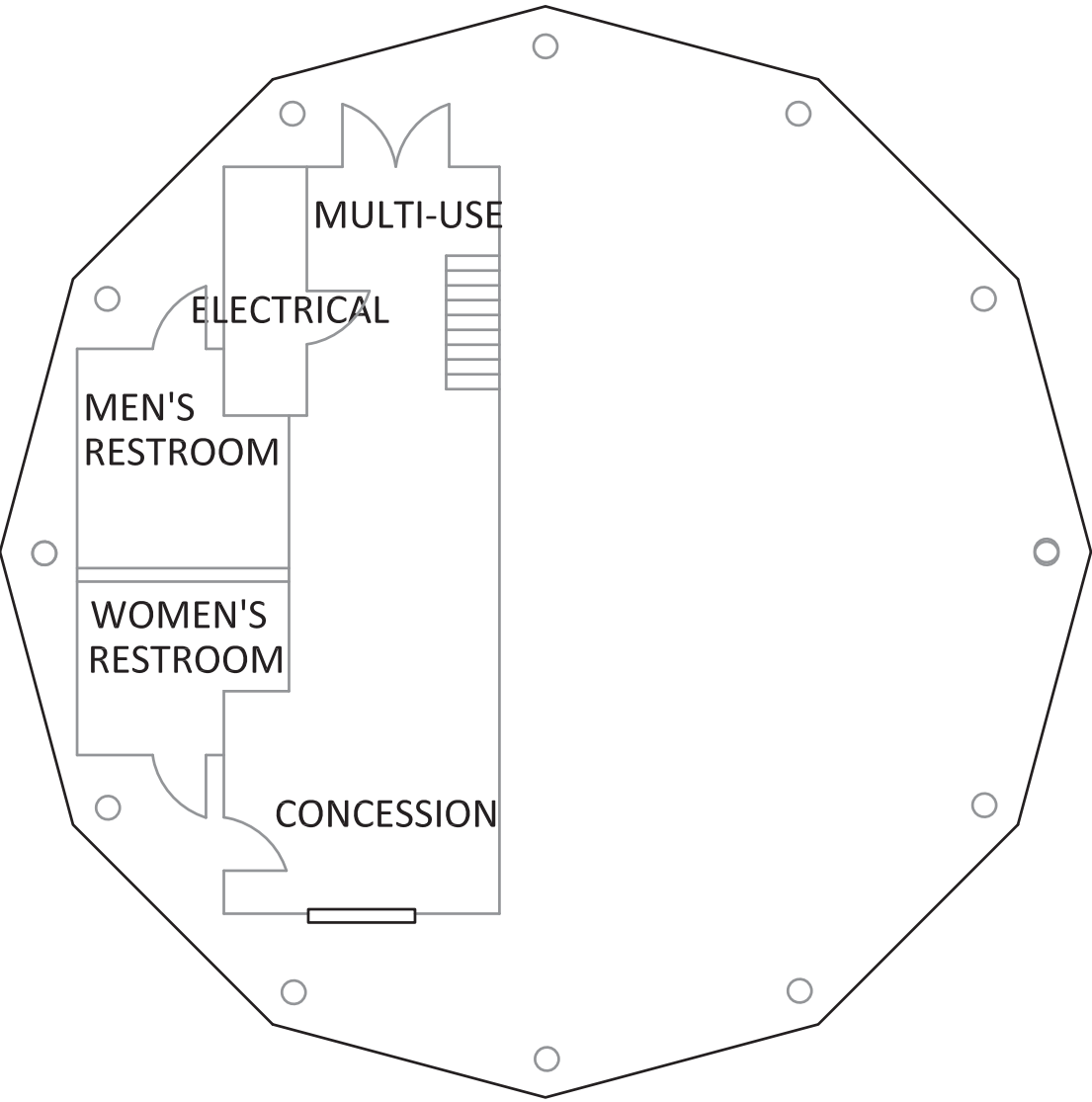


HARRER PARK FIELDHOUSE

FIRST FLOOR: 865 S.F.  
SECOND FLOOR: 610 S.F.  
TOTAL EXISTING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1,475 S.F.



MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



## HARRER PARK FIELDHOUSE EXTERIOR

The existing roof appears to be original, based on this installation date the roof should be replaced in the next five years. The existing wood fascia is peeling and cracking in some areas.

The building does not have gutters. This is not a long term-solution. No gutters on the building will result in large icicles during the winter months. This can be a safety hazard to occupants. Gutters should be added to the building when the fascia is replaced. The existing fascia has not been replaced recently and is showing wear. The fascia is worn with exposed seams.

The existing exterior brick is in good condition. The existing concrete piers are showing wear at their base, the concrete is spalling in some areas. The siding is visibly worn and needs to be refinished. The metal flashing between the masonry and the siding is not visible in some areas and appears to be damaged. When the siding is refinished, the flashing should be replaced with a higher gauge metal.

NO GUTTERS, EXISTING  
WEATHERED FASCIA



CONDITION OF FASCIA  
AND ROOF



BASE AT CONCRETE  
COLUMNS

## HARRER PARK FIELDHOUSE INTERIOR

The interior of the Fieldhouse is mainly utilized for concessions and storage. The public restrooms are accessed from the exterior of the building. The second-floor area is used for storage. An electrical closet is located on the first floor of the facility. The second-floor framing is wood and exposed, the second floor rafters are also wood and are exposed.

The building does not have a fire suppression system or a fire detection system. Based on when the facility was constructed this was not a code requirement, as it is now. The facility is utilized by the public and at a minimum should have a fire detection system in place.

The facility is winterized during the off season, all water is drained and shut off. Plumbing is accessible within the storage area for service.

The existing concession gate paint is peeling and needs to be repainted. The painted wall base in the restrooms is peeling. The exterior doors to the facility show signs of rust and visible wear. The facility needs a fresh coat of paint.

The existing water heater was replaced in 2013 and is still in working order. The winterization of the facility may cause additional stress on the water heater and may reduce the life of the unit. The water heater may need to be replaced in the next five to eight years. The water heater is located on the second floor of the building. There is no drain pan or floor drain provided under the unit. A drain pan and overflow drain should be installed to prevent damage to the wood structure.

The second floor of the facility is not heated and has minimal ventilation. The existing through wall exhaust fan is operated with a switch. A larger exhaust fan with a thermostat is recommended. The existing exhaust fan is filled with birds and nests. The birds need to be removed from this fan and mesh netting should be installed to prevent future nests.

The existing stairs do not have code required handrails. While the stairs are not utilized by the public, proper handrails are code required.

The electrical closet is locked and located on the first floor. The closet is open from above.

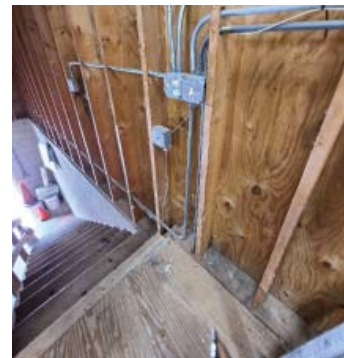
FIRST FLOOR STORAGE



EXHAUST FAN



WATER HEATER  
WITHOUT PAN AND



STAIRS WITHOUT RAILING

## HARRER PARK FIELDHOUSE ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

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# HARRER PARK FIELDHOUSE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Provide gutters on the building	5	C	\$4,000.00
Repair the existing concrete piers	5	C	\$1,500.00
Provide fire detection	4	B	\$5,000.00
Replace the existing roof	5	C	\$22,000.00
Repainting areas that are peeling	5	C	\$1,500.00
Provide overflow pan and drain for water heater	5	C	\$1,200.00
Provide a new exhaust fan for the second floor	5	C	\$3,500.00
Provide handrails for the stairs	1	B	\$3,000.00
Total			\$41,700.00

## NATIONAL PARK FIELDHOUSE

National Park Fieldhouse is located at 9325 Marion Avenue in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053.

The Fieldhouse was originally built in 1966. In 1993 the facility was renovated updating the interior spaces to accommodate ADA requirements.

The facility is constructed of load bearing CMU (Concrete Masonry Units) with face brick as the exterior finish. The roof of the facility is a wood structure with asphalt shingles. The interior is typically CMU.

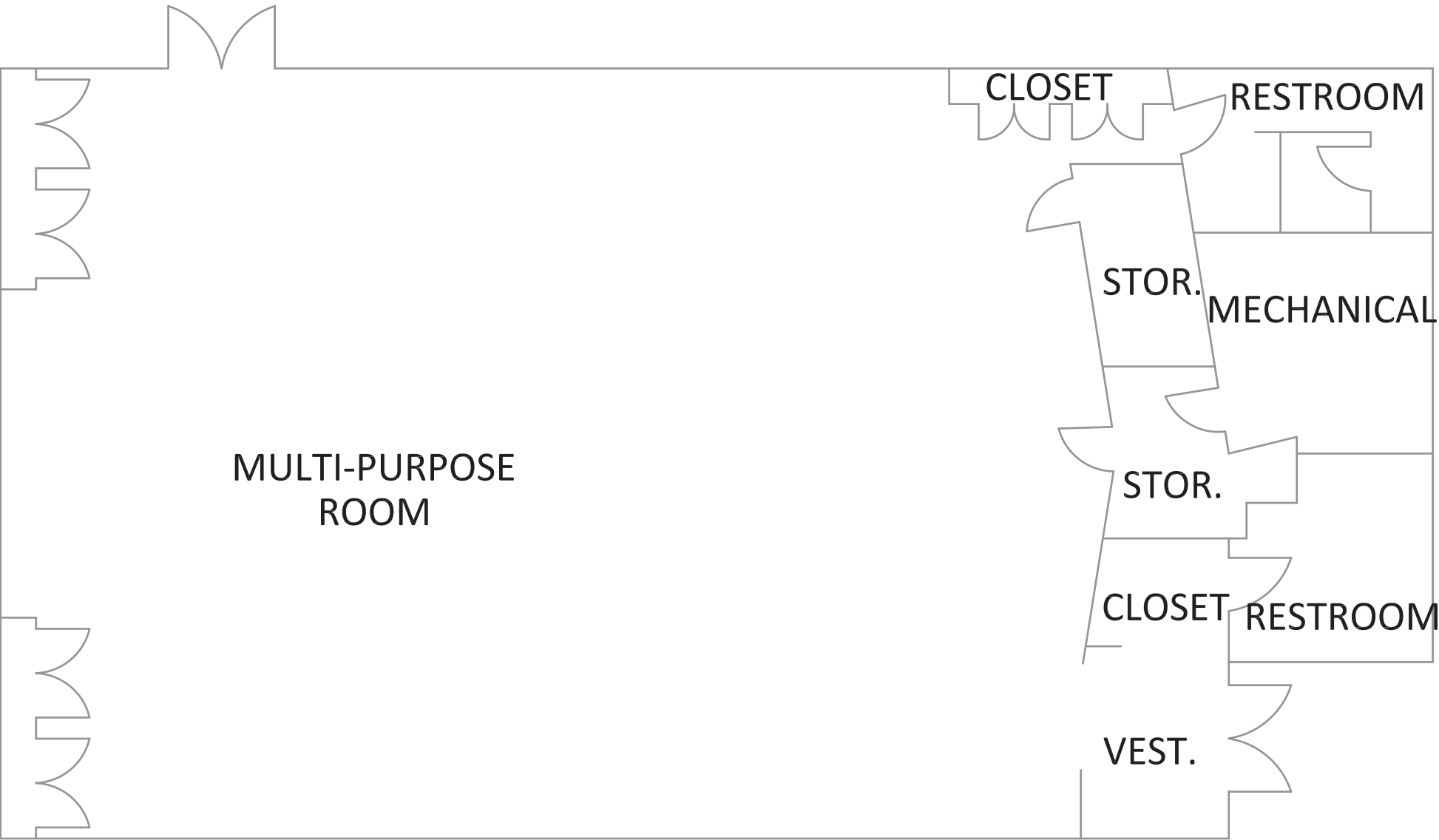
A large portion of the building is dedicated to a multi-purpose room that is used by the District. The facility is used for programs and rented after hours to the public. The facility has several storage closets and two restrooms.

There is limited parking on site. The building is located within a neighborhood which allows street parking



NATIONAL PARK FIELDHOUSE

TOTAL EXISTING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 3,360 S.F.



NATIONAL PARK FIELDHOUSE FLOOR PLAN 



## NATIONAL PARK FIELDHOUSE EXTERIOR

The existing roof was replaced over twelve years ago but appears to be holding up well.

The existing fascia and soffits are worn and dented in some areas. It is recommended that the fascia and soffits be replaced in the next five years.

The building has gutters on portions of the building. No gutters on the building will result in large icicles during the winter months. This can be a safety hazard to occupants. Gutters should be added to the building when the fascia is replaced.

The existing face brick is in good condition. There are several areas that have white paint lines on the brick with broken brackets hanging off the building. There are a couple of locations that have been caulked very poorly. The caulk should be removed and properly tucked pointed.

The existing windows appear to be in acceptable condition. The North windows in the multi-purpose room are single pane glazing. It is recommended that all the windows be replaced at the same time. Due to orientation and size of the existing multi-purpose windows a commercial style window is recommended for the entire building. Single pane glazing can cause condensation, expediting the decay of the existing frames. Old window caulk should be replaced and re-caulked.

NO GUTTERS, EXISTING  
WEATHERED FASCIA



WHITE PAINT ON  
THE BUILDING WITH



POORLY CAULKED BRICK

## NATIONAL PARK FIELDHOUSE INTERIOR

The multi-purpose room compiles the largest portion of the floor plan. The floor plan includes two restrooms, a utility room that houses the mechanical equipment and several storage spaces. The existing interiors are in good condition.

The existing ceiling in the entry near the coat rack is a spline ceiling. The ceiling tile is original and may be asbestos. If this has not been completed, the District should hire an environmental materials testing company to test the existing ceiling tile. The ceiling tile is in good condition, if the tile is positive for asbestos there is no need to remove it at this time. If in the future, work occurs in this space a positive result must be disclosed.

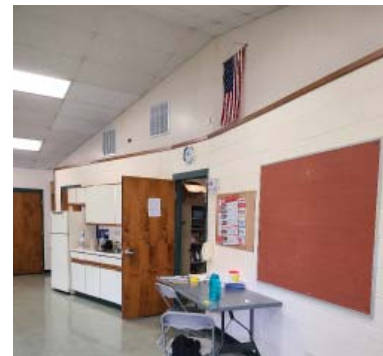
The building does not have a fire suppression system or a fire detection system. Based on when the facility was constructed this was not a code requirement, as it is now. The facility is utilized by the public and at a minimum should have a fire detection system in place.

The existing sink in the multipurpose room does not meet ADA requirements. There is no space below that sink and the height of the top of the counter should be 2'-10". Based on the use of the sink an additional sink is often installed at a lower height for younger children.

The water heater was installed in 2003 the unit will need to be replaced in the next 5 years. A direct vent, high efficiency unit should be considered upon replacement.

The Women's restroom has an ADA stall. Although the stall has grab bars it does not meet the 5'-0" turning radius required in an accessible stall. In addition, the restroom door swings into the required floor clearance at the lavatories. The Women's restroom does not meet ADA code requirements and should be renovated to do so.

EXISTING SPLINE CEILING AT



EXISTING MULTI-  
PURPOSE SINK



WOMEN'S RESTROOM  
LACK OF LAV CLEARANCE

## NATIONAL PARK FIELDHOUSE ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

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## NATIONAL PARK FIELDHOUSE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Replace the existing fascia and soffit	5	B	\$6,500.00
Provide gutters around the entire building	5	C	\$6,000.00
Clean the existing brick in areas needed	5	C	\$2,000.00
Replace the existing windows	5	B	\$26,000.00
Commission a testing company to test ceiling	5	C	\$1,000.00
Provide Fire Detection	4	B	\$6,000.00
Change sink in multi-purpose room to ADA	4	B	\$4,500.00
Replace existing water heater	5	B	\$2,000.00
Provide ADA stall in women's restroom	1	A	\$25,000.00
Total			\$79,000.00

## OKETO FIELDHOUSE

Oketo Fieldhouse is located at 8950 Oketo Avenue in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053.

The Fieldhouse was originally built in 1961. There was a renovation to the facility completed in 1993 in which much of the interior space was renovated and updated to meet ADA needs.

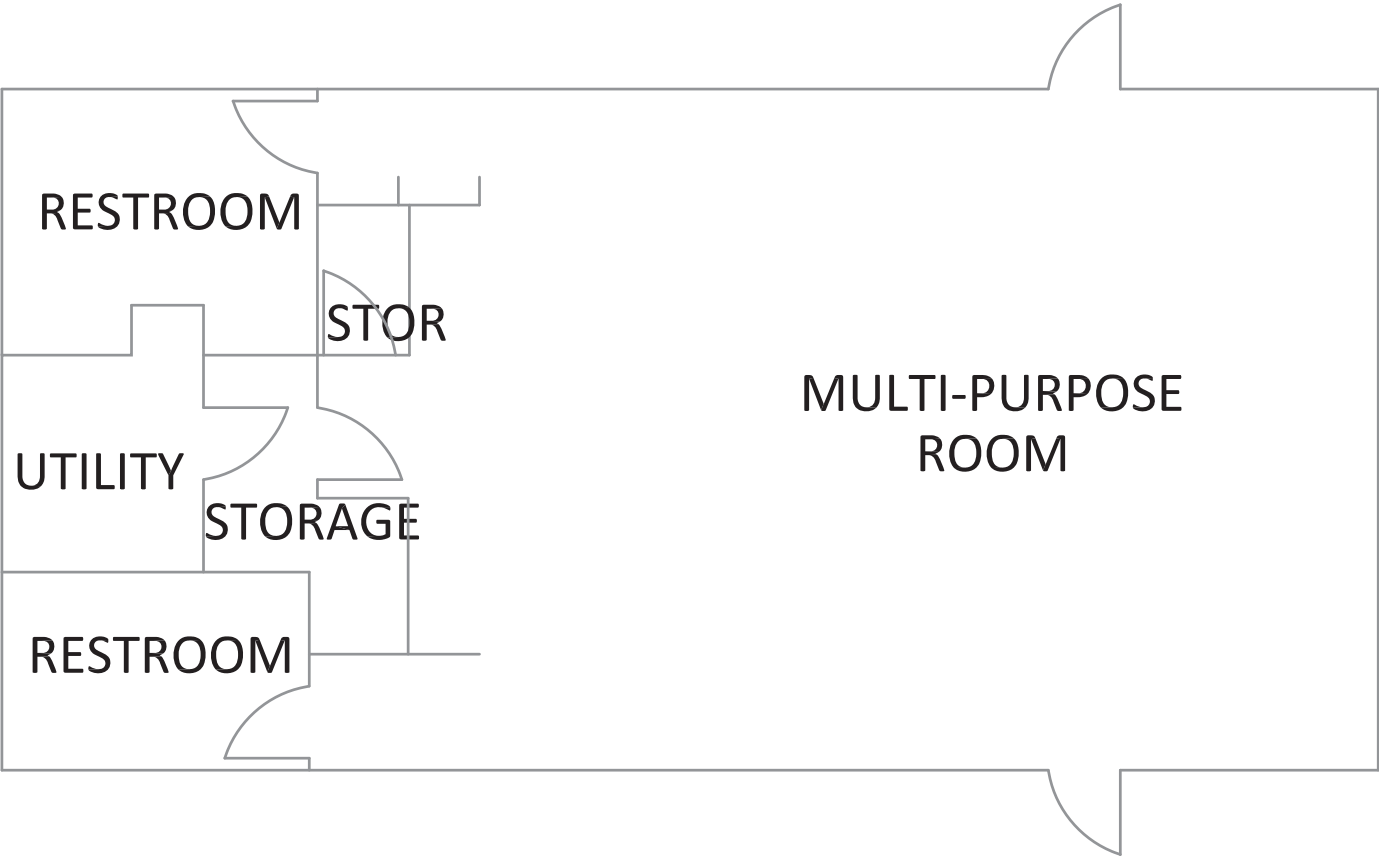
The facility is mainly constructed of CMU (concrete masonry units) bearing walls with face brick as the exterior cladding. The roof of the facility is a wood structure with asphalt shingles. The interior walls are typically exposed CMU.

The facility has a community room utilized by the District. Several programs use the facility; including preschool. The facility is also rented out after hours to the public.



OKETO FIELDHOUSE

EXISTING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1,750 S.F.



OKETO FIELDHOUSE COMMUNITY BUILDING FLOOR PLAN





## OKETO FIELDHOUSE EXTERIOR

The existing roof was replaced over twelve years ago but appears to be holding up well.

The building does not have gutters on the rear of the building; a water diverter was installed over the exterior door. This is not a long term-solution. No gutters on the building will result in large icicles during the winter months. This can be a safety hazard to occupants. Gutters should be added to the building when the fascia is replaced. The existing fascia has not been replaced recently. The fascia is dented and worn with exposed seams.

The downspout at the main entrance (Southeast corner) is draining to a splash pad that is not pitched away from the building but directly at the edge of the building. The water is hitting the top of the foundation wall, overtime the water can seep into the building. The end of the downspout should be relocated away from the building.

The existing face brick is in good condition. Areas with cracked mortar require tuckpointing. The southeast corner of the building has a cracked brick at the foundation wall that should be repaired. There are several locations with vertical white paint marks on the brick. The paint should be cleaned and removed. Limestone sills have gaps, this needs to be properly caulked to prevent water infiltration into the building.

The condensing unit piping that penetrates the building is not sealed; debris is coming out of the penetration. The grouting around the pipe is sloppy, and does not match the existing mortar and should be cleaned.

The existing windows appear to be in acceptable condition. The North windows in the multi-purpose room are single pane glazing. It is recommended that all the windows be replaced at the same time. Due to orientation and size of the existing multi-purpose windows a commercial style window is recommended for the entire building. Single pane glazing can cause condensation, expediting the decay of the existing frames. Old window caulk should be replaced and re-caulked.

NO DOWNSPOUTS AT THE REAR  
EXIT DOOR



DOWNSPOUT  
DRAINING AT BUILDING



NOT PROPERLY SEALED  
PENETRATIONS INTO THE BUILDING

## OKETO FIELDHOUSE INTERIOR

The multi-purpose room is the largest portion of the floor plan. The floor plan includes two restrooms, a utility room that houses the mechanical equipment and storage spaces. The existing interiors are in good condition.

The existing ceiling in the multi-purpose space is an acoustical ceiling tile that is fully attached and cannot be moved.

The building does not have a fire suppression system or a fire detection system. Based on when the facility was constructed this was not a code requirement, as it is now. The facility is utilized by the public and at a minimum should have a fire detection system in place.

The existing utility room/mechanical room walls do not extend to the underside of the existing roof structure. Based on the equipment in this space the walls should extend further creating a barrier between the storage spaces and the mechanical room. Any penetrations into this rooms must be properly sealed.

The toilet rooms' exhaust fan is very loud and is not utilized because of this. Verify if there is an issue with the fan(s) that requires replacement.

The existing sink in the multipurpose room does not meet ADA requirements. There is no space below the sink and the height of the top of the counter should be 2'-10". Based on the use of the sink an additional sink is often installed at a lower height for younger children.

The existing exhaust fan unit for the toilet rooms is centrally located with flexible lined ducts. The duct length exceeds the allowed run. The ducts are inefficient and should be replaced with metal ducts.

The water heater was replaced in 2005 and is beyond expected life. The unit needs to be replaced in the next 1-3 years. A direct vent high-efficiency unit should be considered when replacing the unit.

MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE WITH NO FIRE  
SUPPRESSION



MECHANICAL ROOM  
WITH NO CEILING



MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM  
SINK

## OKETO FIELDHOUSE ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

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# OKETO FIELDHOUSE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Provide gutters on the entire building	5	C	\$6,000.00
Reroute existing gutter at SE corner	5	B	\$800.00
Tuck Pointing	5	B	\$5,000.00
Caulk open penetrations	5	B	\$500.00
Replace the existing windows	5	B	\$26,000.00
Provide Fire Detection	4	B	\$6,000.00
Provide fire rated storage and mechanical room	4	C	\$20,000.00
Replace the existing restroom exhaust fan	5	B	\$2,000.00
Change sink in multi-purpose room to ADA	4	B	\$4,500.00
Replace the existing water heater	4	A	\$2,000.00
	Total		\$72,800.00

## FRANK HREN FIELDHOUSE

Frank HREN FIELDHOUSE is located at 9500 Oak Park Avenue in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053.

The Fieldhouse was originally built in 2010.

The facility is mainly constructed of wood with siding and stone veneer. The roof structure is wood with asphalt shingles. The interior walls are typically wood with plywood or FRP as the finished surface.

The facility is mainly used for storage with public toilets. A portion of the building is a covered pavilion.

There is limited parking on the site, additional parking is provided at a neighboring school.

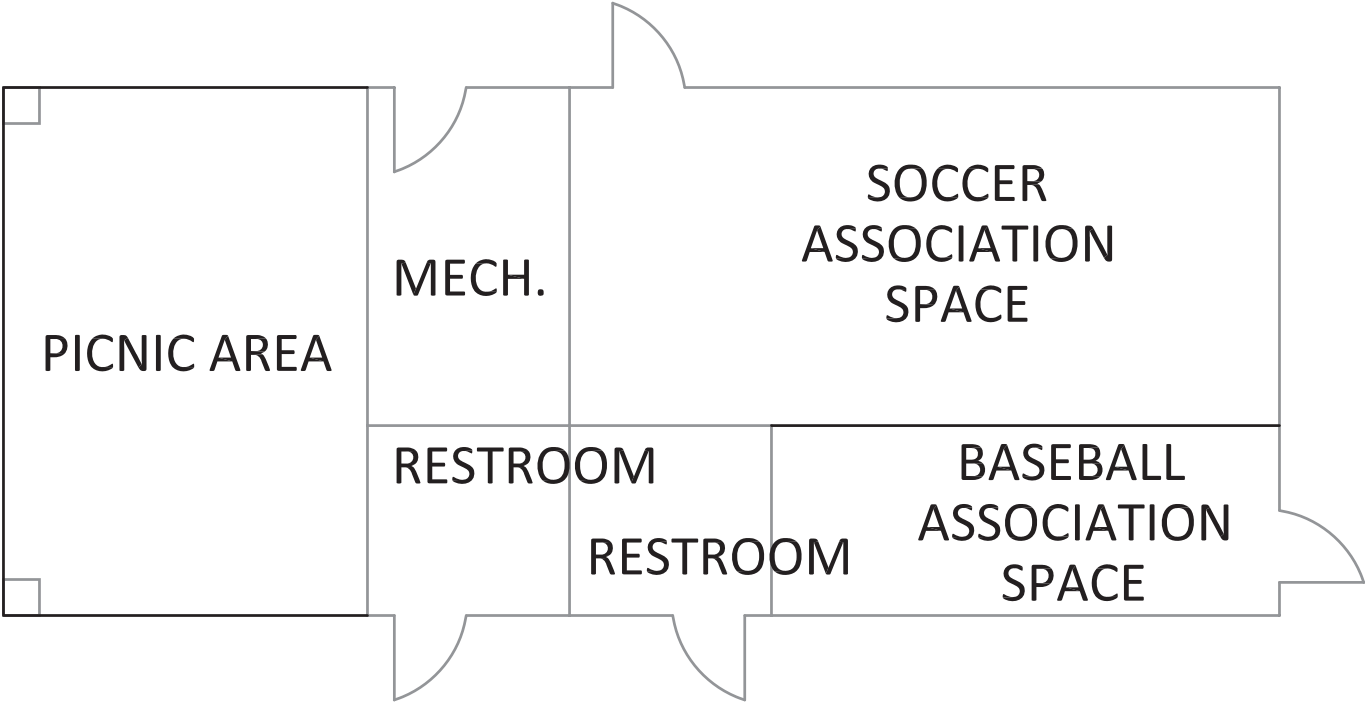


FRANK HREN FIELDHOUSE

EXISTING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 870 S.F.

COVERED PICNIC AREA: 330 S.F.

TOTAL: 1,200 S.F.



FRANK HREN FIELDHOUSE FLOOR PLAN <sup>n</sup>  




# FRANK HREN FIELDHOUSE EXTERIOR

The fieldhouse was constructed in the last eleven years and is in very good condition.

This facility does not have gutters. This increases the likelihood of icicles forming during the winter months and could pose as a threat to occupants. Gutters should be a consideration for the building.

The pavilion ceiling is a panel system and the seams are visible. This could become problematic and separate further overtime. Additional screws maybe necessary to hold the ceiling in place and prevent insects from creeping in.

Caulk at the intersection of the pavilion beam and the building are missing or cracking. Re-caulk the intersections.

## INTERIOR

The interior of the building includes several storage spaces, two restrooms, and a mechanical space. A portion of the fieldhouse is an open-air pavilion with seating.

The building does not have a fire suppression system or a fire detection system. More than half of the interior space is not public space. A portion of the facility is utilized by the public and at a minimum should have a fire detection system in place.

PAVILION CEILING



FAILING CAULK



STORAGE AREA

## FRANK HREN FIELDHOUSE ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

---

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FRANK HREN FIELDHOUSE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Provide gutters on the entire building	5	C	\$4,500.00
Touch up and secure pavilion ceiling	5	C	\$1,000.00
Caulk areas where caulk has failed	5	C	\$1,500.00
Provide fire detection	4	B	\$6,000.00
Total			\$13,000.00

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## MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Morton Grove Historical Museum is located at 6240 Dempster Street in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. The museum was once a home originally built in 1888. In 1984 the house was moved to the current location and the basement was built.

The building is mainly constructed of a wood bearing structure with exterior wood siding. The roof of the building is wood with asphalt shingles. The interior walls are plaster.

The building is mainly used for educational purposes for the community and students.

The building is located adjacent to the Historical Museum Annex on the Harrer Park grounds. There is ample parking for this building.



MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

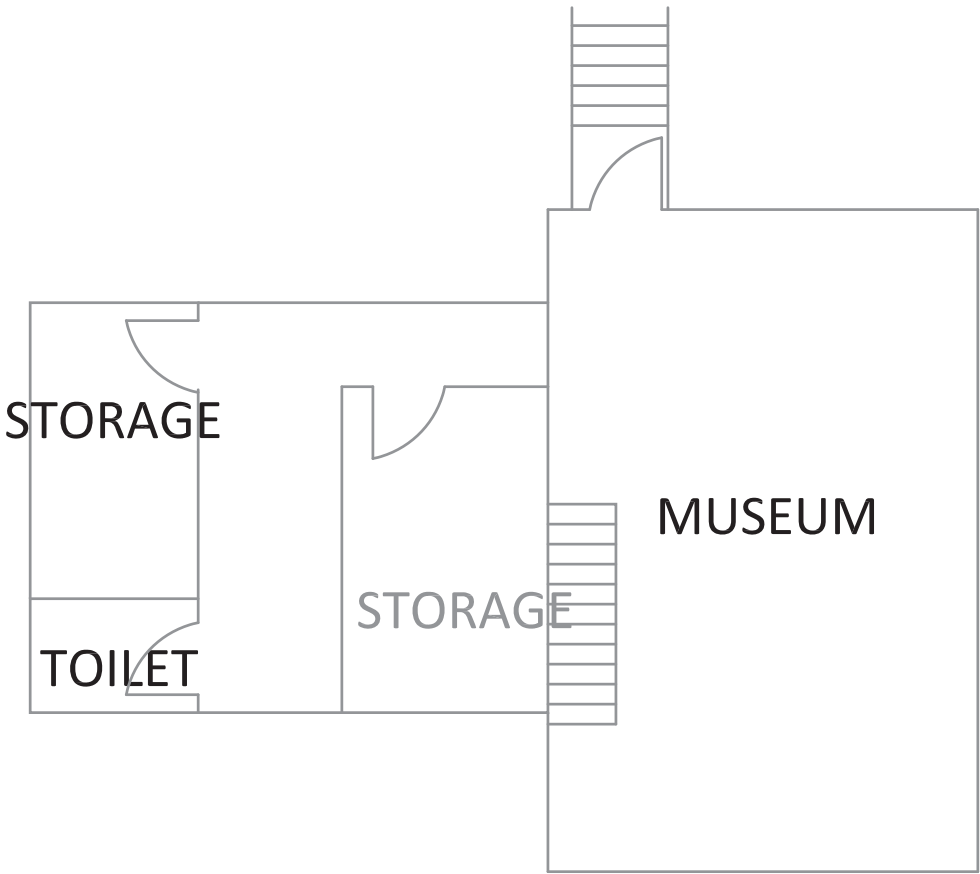
EXISTING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2,230 S.F.

BASEMENT FLOOR: 880 S.F.

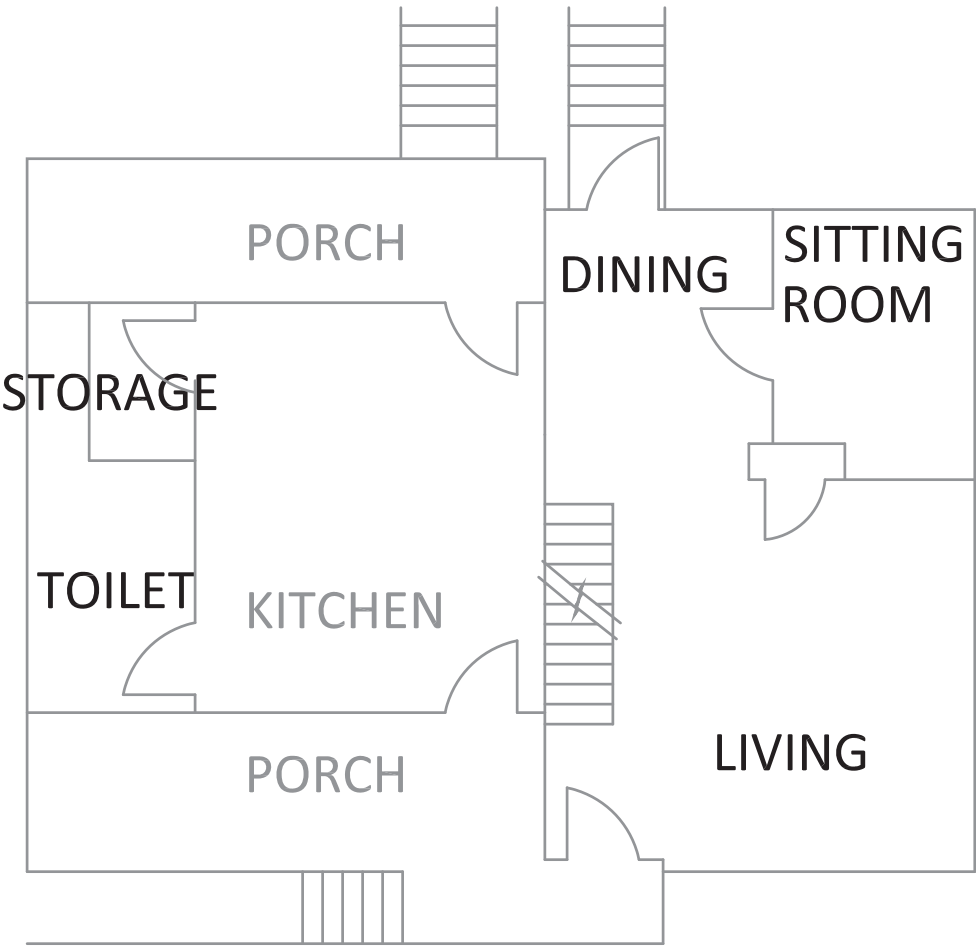
FIRST FLOOR: 880 S.F.

SECOND FLOOR: 560 S.F.

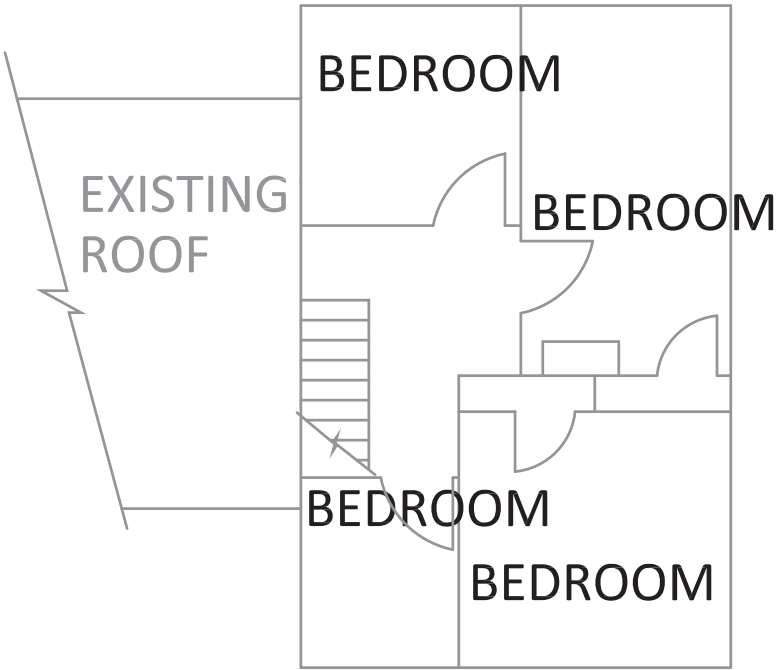
TOTAL: 2,230 S.F.



HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN



HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



# MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM EXTERIOR

The asphalt shingle roof was replaced within the last twelve years. The roof is in good condition.

The exterior trim around the rear door and main entrance door is showing wear. The wood jambs and trim should be replaced or painted at the minimum. The screen door at the entrance is broken and has been removed. The concrete sidewalk at the rear door is uneven and could be a tripping hazard.

The newel post at the main entrance railing is cracked and is showing its' age. The handrail paint is peeling and needs to be repainted.

The trim separating the masonry at the basement level and the wood siding is peeling and needs to be scraped and repainted. Several horizontal pediments over the windows on the East elevation show visible decay. These pediments should be replaced. A column cover at the main entrance has a large crack in it. This should be repaired and repainted.

The wood porch at the entrance is not pitched properly. Water sits on the porch and does not drain. This will reduce the life expectancy of the porch if it is not corrected.

The sconce outside the door has a bee's nest in it. This should be removed, cleaned, and sealed properly to prevent future nests.

The glazing on an East basement window is cracked and in need of repair. Energy efficient double pane glazing with gas insert should replace the existing broken glazing.

The exterior stair to the basement has a single drain. This drain needs to remain clear of debris at all times to prevent any blockage.

UNEVEN SIDEWALK



ROTTEN PEDIMENT



BROKEN BASEMENT WINDOW



WOOD ROTTING



CRACKED COLUMN COVER

# MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM INTERIOR

The interior layout of the museum remains as it originally was for educational purposes. Due to the age of the facility, it is not accessible to those in a wheelchair. This is allowed due to the designation of historical museum. The building has a fire suppression system and sprinkler heads can be found in every room. Limited fire detection has been installed.

The first and second floor spaces function as they would have in the historical home. The basement layout is intended for the museum and archival storage.

An accessible restroom was installed in the basement for occupant use.

The basement has one direct exit to the exterior of the building. The drain at the basement exterior stair must be clear at all times. If the drain is not functioning properly water will infiltrate into the basement.

The water heater installation date is 2000, this unit has exceeded the expected lifespan and should be replaced within the next three years.

FIRST FLOOR SPACE



BASEMENT



BASEMENT RESTROOM



## MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

---

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# MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Replace exterior door trim and other failing trim	5	C	\$3,000.00
Replace existing screen door	5	C	\$1,500.00
Replace cracked newel post	5	C	\$1,000.00
Repaint the exterior railing	5	C	\$1,000.00
Replace exterior wood porch and pitch away from bldg	5	C	\$12,000.00
Clean out sconce and prevent bees from reentering	5	C	\$100.00
Repair cracked basement window	1	A	\$500.00
Address drain at basement exterior stair	5	B	\$20,000.00
Replace the existing water heater	5	B	\$2,000.00
Total			\$41,100.00

## MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ANNEX

Morton Grove Historical Museum Annex is located at 6148 Dempster Street in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. The building was built in 2008.

The facility is constructed of wood, the exterior is clad with siding and face brick. The roof of the facility is wood structure and asphalt shingles. The interior walls are typically gypsum board partitions.

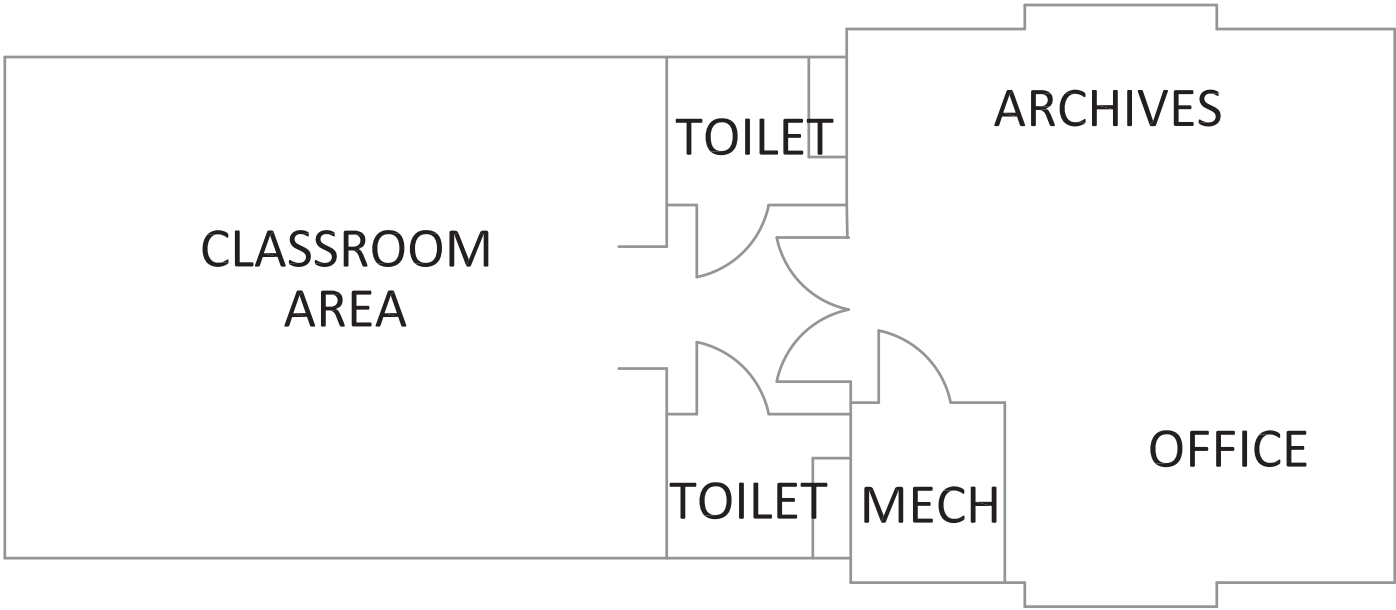
The facility is utilized as an educational space and meeting space by the District. Several programs utilize the facility. The East portion of the facility houses artifacts and record storage for the Historical Society.

The facility is located adjacent to the Museum on the Harrer Park grounds. Abundant parking is provided on the grounds.



MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ANNEX

EXISTING SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1,340 S.F.



HISTORICAL MUSEUM ANNEX FLOOR PLAN <sup>n</sup>  




# MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ANNEX EXTERIOR

The facility is thirteen years old. It is in good condition but requires some maintenance to keep up aesthetics.

The Southern facing façade requires repainting, touching up the wood sill and painting the siding. The wood sill dividing the brick and wood siding is peeling in several locations and requires new paint.

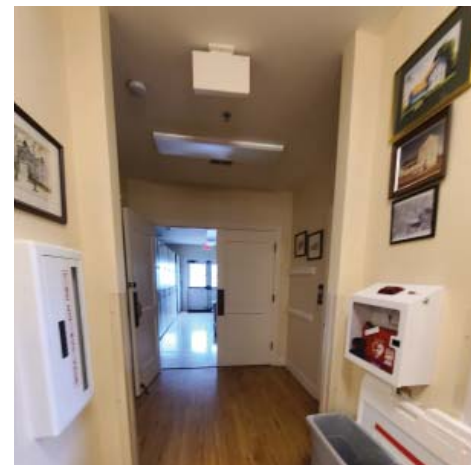
Bee hives were located in the gables, these should be removed.

## INTERIOR

Being that the facility was recently constructed it is in good condition. The interior of the annex is divided by a classroom space to be utilized for teaching or meetings. The two toilet rooms are in the middle of the building and spilt the two main spaces. The East half of the building houses the archive storage and the records for the historical society.

The toilet room doors swing into secondary exit egress from the archive space. These doors should not be held open into the path of egress. The toilet doors should have closers on them and the existing kick stops should be removed to allow the doors to automatically close.

EXTERIOR WOOD SILL



ARCHIVE DOORS

## MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ANNEX ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

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MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM ANNEX

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Sand and repaint trim that is peeling	5	C	\$1,500.00
Remove bee hives	5	B	\$300.00
Maintain a clear path of egress	3	A	N/A
Total			\$1,800.00

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## PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

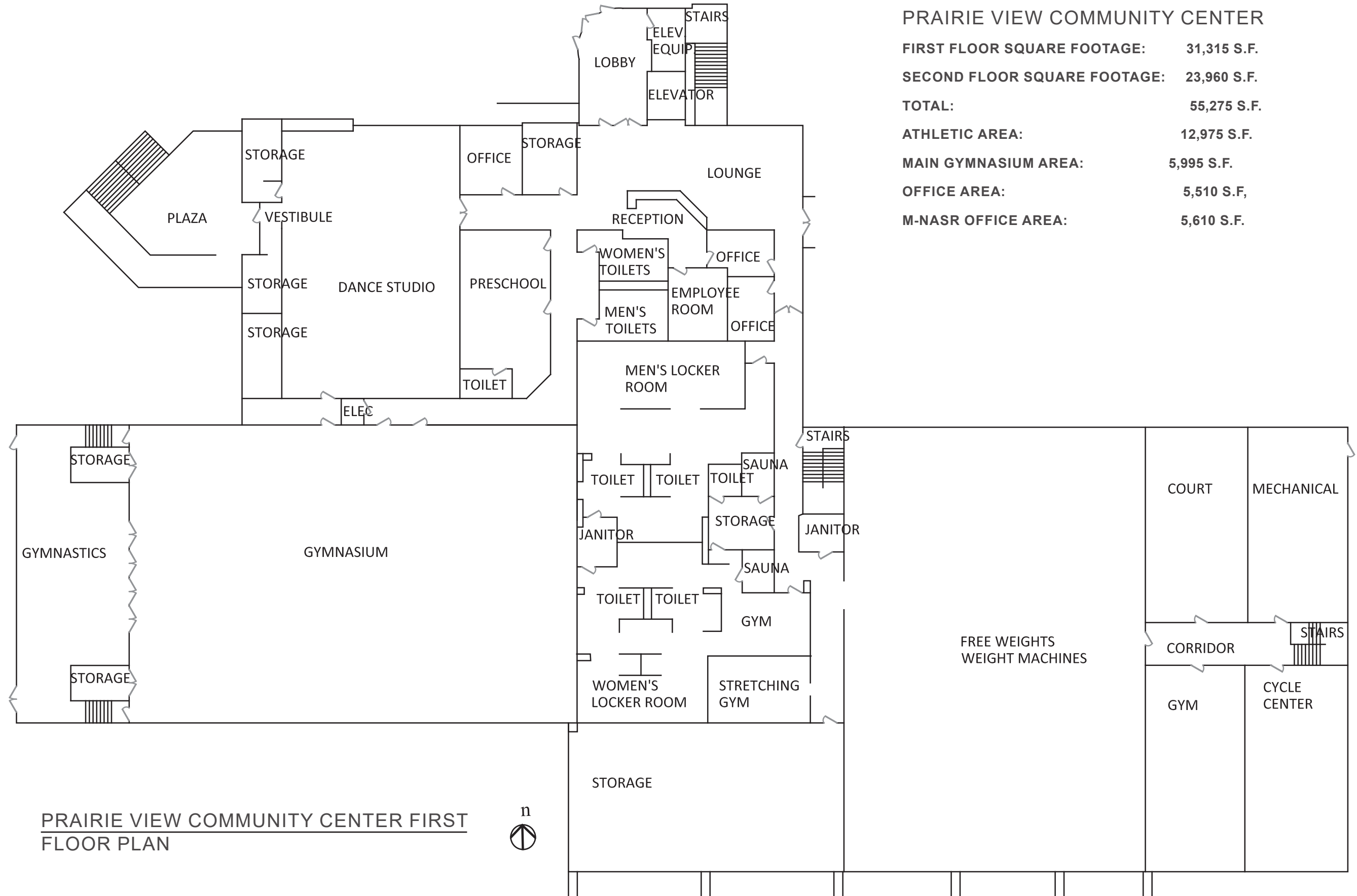
The Prairie View Community Center is located at 6834 Dempster Street in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. The Community Center was originally built in 1976. There was an addition and renovation to the facility completed in 1997. A second renovation was completed in 2011.

The building is mainly constructed of a load bearing CMU (Concrete Masonry Unit) structure with exterior face brick. The roof is a metal joist structure with a TPO (Thermoplastic Olefin) roof membrane. The interior walls are CMU or gypsum partitions.

The building is the main programming space for the District. The building includes athletic, program space, preschool, administration, and M-NASR administration.

Parking is provided in the parking lot.





PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER FIRST FLOOR PLAN

PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

FIRST FLOOR SQUARE FOOTAGE: 31,315 S.F.

SECOND FLOOR SQUARE FOOTAGE: 23,960 S.F.

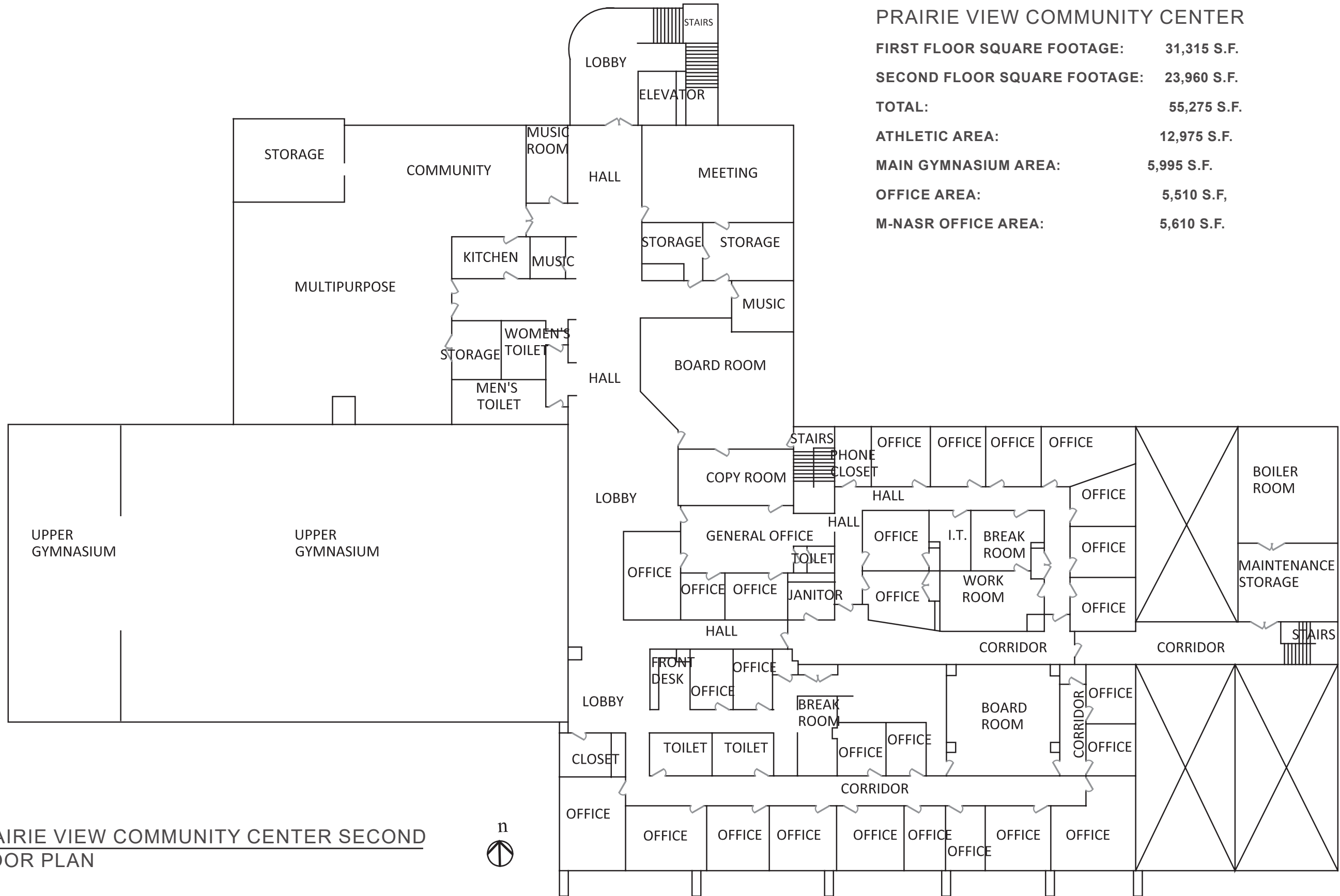
TOTAL: 55,275 S.F.

ATHLETIC AREA: 12,975 S.F.

MAIN GYMNASIUM AREA: 5,995 S.F.

OFFICE AREA: 5,510 S.F.

M-NASR OFFICE AREA: 5,610 S.F.



PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER SECOND FLOOR PLAN

# PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER EXTERIOR

The existing roof was replaced over nine years ago. There are visible areas of water ponding demonstrating that the pitch of the roof is not sufficient. Rust and discoloration can be found on the roof below the metal bench seating that is on the roof. It is unclear why the bench seating is on the roof and if there is no use for metal benches they need to be removed as soon as possible. A portion of the roof was removed and replaced recently due to unusual wearing patterns in the roof. The two-part metal coping is showing signs of separation and should be caulked at the seams. The existing metal roof has chips in it and the paint at the edges of the roof is peeling or has been completely removed. Lighting on the roof is secured using small sand bags. Lighting must be properly secured, based on the current conditions strong winds can uplift the lights potentially injuring a pedestrian below.

Several exterior metal doors are deteriorating due to age and weather conditions. The doors need to be repainted if possible or replaced if they are too damaged.

The existing masonry on the building and on the roof appears to be in good condition.

There are several doors that exit the building that are not accessible. Some exits have multiple stairs with inadequate handrails. This includes the secondary exit from the lobby, and the exits near the gymnastics area. Each of these exits should be corrected. The west exit in the dance studio was maintained after a previous renovation. The connection to the public way was removed, this should be reinstalled.

There have been several instances of leaks in the main lobby. The existing lobby roof drain has been thoroughly analyzed, the roof has been reviewed, and leak tests have been implemented. The leak continues to occur. We recommend hiring a Forensic Architect to analyze the situation and provide feedback on potential solutions.

EXISTING ROOF DISCOLORATION



METAL BENCH SEATS





# PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER INTERIOR

Fire Detection is missing from the storage areas in the building, the first-floor mechanical room, the cycling center, and the second-floor multipurpose room. Exit signage is missing from the first-floor mechanical room, the cycling center, the M-NASR office space, and the two Board Rooms on the second floor. There is no fire suppression system in the first-floor mechanical room at the north east corner of the building, the second-floor maintenance room and storage room at the north east end of the building. Fire detection and suppression are code required and critical in a public building. These deficiencies must be corrected.

There are several cracks in the walls in the dance studio. The cracks appear over door openings, there are no expansion joints in the gypsum which could be the reason behind the cracks. When these are repaired a joint should be installed in the gypsum to prevent future cracking.

The first-floor gymnasium stairs do not provide an area of rescue, which is an accessibility requirement. The exterior doors at these exits are rusting and in need of replacement. The upper storage spaces in the gymnastic area are open to the room and do not have code required railings to prevent falling. A toe-kick guard must be installed to prevent storage items from rolling off the upper storage areas.

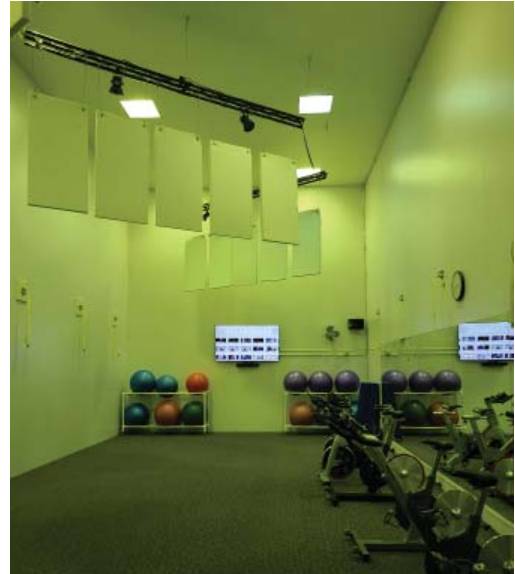
The gymnasium doors are in poor condition. There is visible rust on the doors, they should be replaced.

The gymnasium floor is separating, floor separation is not uncommon with an aging floor but should be addressed by a flooring contractor.

The main entrance to the gymnasium creates a dead-end corridor. In an emergency there is potential for someone to be confused and become trapped. This condition should be looked into further to determine how to eliminate the dead-end corridor.

The corridor feeding the gym spaces at the east end of the first-floor is a dead-end corridor that does not allow for a second means of egress. This condition needs to be addressed.

NO FIRE SUPPRESSION



GYPSUM CRACKS IN  
THE DANCE STUDIO



HAND SANITIZER STATION  
SECURED WITH FREE

# PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER INTERIOR

The stair at the east end of the building near the gyms is used as a main exit egress for the building. The stair is smaller than required, not located properly, and does not have a fire separation. The stair needs to be reviewed and a code compliant stair should be provided.

The exterior doors off of the east first-floor mechanical room are in poor condition. Water is seeping under the doors and rust is visible, the doors need to be replaced.

The first-floor and second-floor boiler room equipment appear to be in good condition.

The existing stair near the second-floor Board Room is still used by Board members. This stair is utilized as an additional storage space, restricting access. There are no exit signs over the stair door, the stair should not be utilized for emergency exiting. The stairwell needs to maintain 36" wide clearance at all times.

The ceiling tiles in the second-floor meeting room were removed, there is no mention of a leak. If there is a leak in the roof this could be the reason for the mildew smell in the adjacent storage spaces. This requires additional review by the District.

The storage room located southwest of the second-floor meeting room has a mildew odor. If there is a moisture or humidity issue in this room, this needs to be addressed by the District's HVAC contractor. If a leak is present this needs to be addressed promptly and sealed. The adjacent storage space wall paper is peeling off the wall.

The corridor that leads to the free weight gym has a free-standing hand sanitizer station supported by a free weight. The hand sanitizer should be permanently mounted and not supported by a weight that can be moved.

EXISTING DOORS ARE RUSTED



CEILING TILES MOVED,  
STAINS ON CEILING



BREAK ROOM SINK

## PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER INTERIOR

The second-floor corridor above the east gyms is open to the stair. The stair should be enclosed to provide a safe means of egress to the first-floor. The second-floor corridor to the stairs is not regularly utilized and houses storage. The storage should be removed to allow for proper exit widths. A dead-end corridor is created at the door by the offices.

The second-floor community room does not have an accessible sink. There is no access for a wheelchair below the sink and the counter height is more than the required 2'-10". The toilet room in the administration area is not accessible and does not have fire alarm devices.

The Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation (M-NASR) utilizes the administration offices on the second-floor. As previously stated, there are no exit signs from the M-NASR space or in the M-NASR Board Room.

The two main stairs in the building are problematic. The east stair near the gyms needs to be kept clear at all times. The main stair on the north end of the building does not allow for clear access to the stair and creates a dead-end corridor.

### EXIT DEVICES MISSING AT M-NASR SPACE



## PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

---

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## PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Remove rusted bench seating on the roof	5	A	N/A
Secure lighting on the roof	4	A	\$300.00
Caulk coping	5	B	\$800.00
Paint or replace existing metal doors and frames	5	B	\$8,000.00
Repair or replace gymnastics doors	5	B	\$4,500.00
Hire a forensic Architect to review lobby leak	5	A	\$2,000.00
Address inaccessible entrances/exits (2nd stair, gymnastics, danceroom)	5	A	\$175,000.00
Maintain clear path at Board Room stair	1	A	N/A
Provide fire detection in missing rooms	4	B	\$18,000.00
Provide exit signage in missing rooms	4	A	\$4,000.00
Review condition of gymnasium floor repair as needed	5	C	\$6,000.00
Repair the gypsum cracks in the dance studio	5	C	\$4,000.00
Address the dead end corridor at the gymnasium corridor	4	C	\$20,000.00 TBD
Properly mount hand sanitizer	5	C	N/A
Address the dead end corridor at the FF east gyms	4	C	\$6,000.00
Review the moisture issues in the SW storage rm	5	A	\$1,000.00
Address the second floor dead end corridor over the gyms	4	C	\$6,000.00
Provide ADA sink in Administration break room	4	B	\$3,000.00
Provide an exit sign in M-NASR space	1	A	\$600.00
Address dead end corridor from the 2nd floor to the main lobby stair	4	C	\$15,000.00 TBD
Provide proper guards on mezzanine storage	5	B	\$1,500.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$275,700.00</b>

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## ORIOLE PARK AQUATIC CENTER

The Oriole Park Aquatic Center is located at 9200 Oriole Avenue in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. The building was recently completed in 2015.

The building is constructed of concrete masonry units (CMU) and brick veneer. The interior of the building is mainly CMU with gypsum in some areas. The roof is a flat thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) roof.

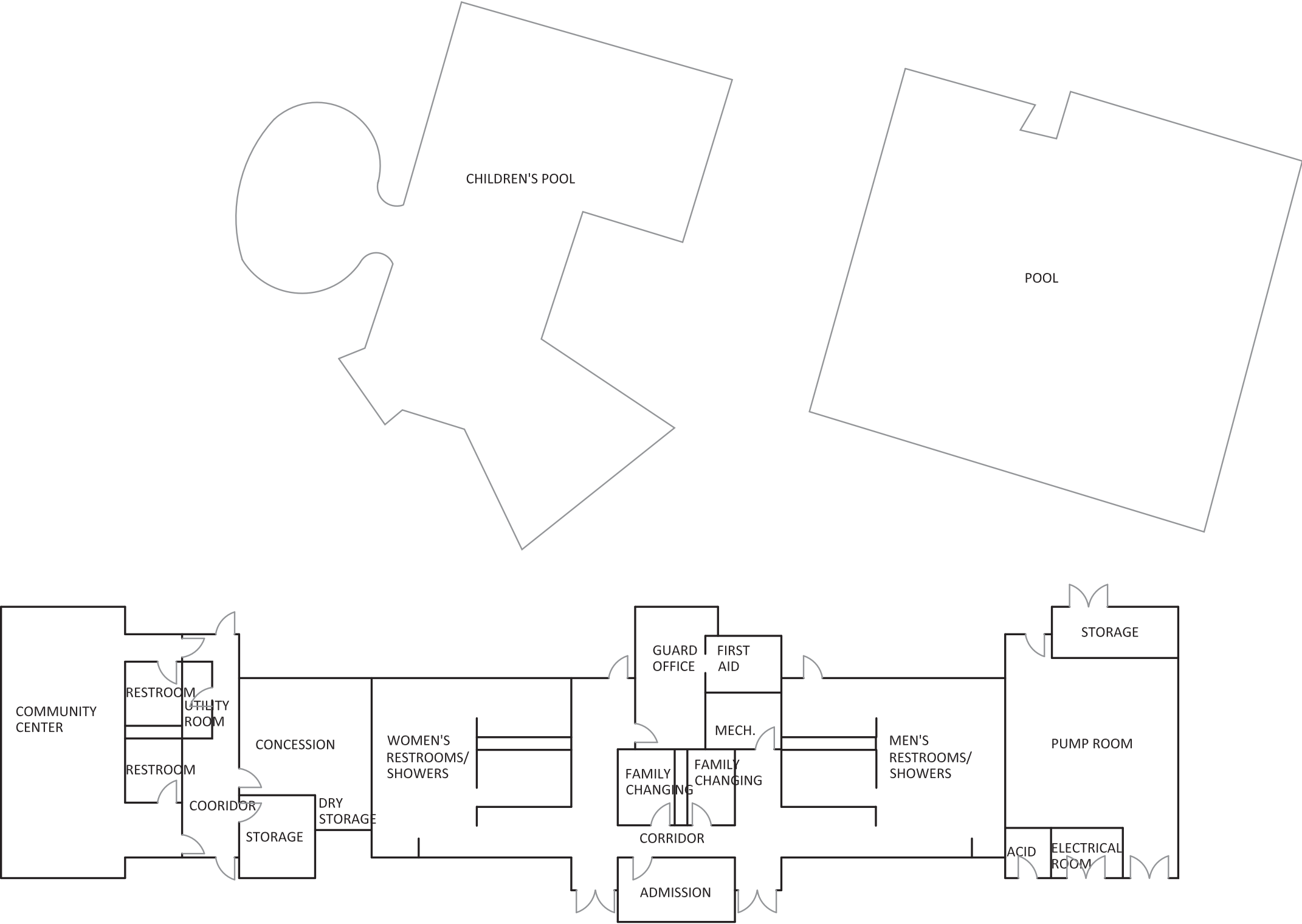
The facility has two large pools one designated for children. The building houses a Community Room that can be rented by the public. Locker rooms and showers are also available inside.

A small parking lot is adjacent to the building, parking is available at the East end of the park, and street parking is also available.



ORIOLE PARK AQUATIC CENTER

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 6,500 S.F.



ORIOLE PARK AQUATIC CENTER FLOOR PLAN





## ORIOLE PARK AQUATIC CENTER EXTERIOR

Although the facility was recently constructed in the last six years there are items that need to be addressed or have already been addressed soon after opening.

The exterior bollards near the pump room need to be repainted.

The threshold of the ACID room has deteriorated. The existing threshold should be removed and replaced to prevent seepage and vermin from getting into the room.

The metal railing at the pool is showing rust and needs to be addressed.

Concrete on the pool deck has started spalling, small chunks of concrete have cracked and been removed. This condition should be monitored and addressed if it becomes worse.

The original paint at the bottom of both pools has been reinstalled. This is visible in the children's pool where the paint is two different colors.

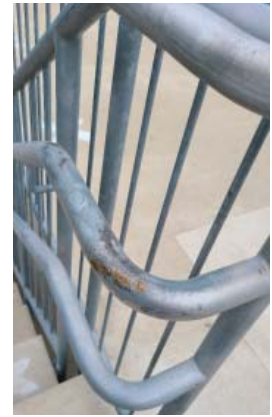
There is cracking occurring at some of the trench drains adjacent to the pool. These cracks should be monitored.

The detectable warnings at the entrance of the building are failing. The District has replaced several of them. The detectable warning strips that have not been replaced and are failing must be replaced. The failing detectable warnings are discoloring the adjacent sidewalk.

BOLLARDS NEED



RUSTED RAILING



DETECTABLE WARNING  
FAILING



SPALLING  
CONCRETE



THRESHOLD HAS  
DETERIORATED



POOL FLOOR  
REPAINTED

## ORIOLE PARK AQUATIC CENTER INTERIOR

The interior of the building is somewhat symmetrical. The West end of the building houses the Community Room that can be rented by the Public. There is a concessions area, separate male/female changing rooms, and showers that exit to the pools. The East end of the building houses the pool equipment and storage space. Based on the young age of the building the interior spaces are holding up well.

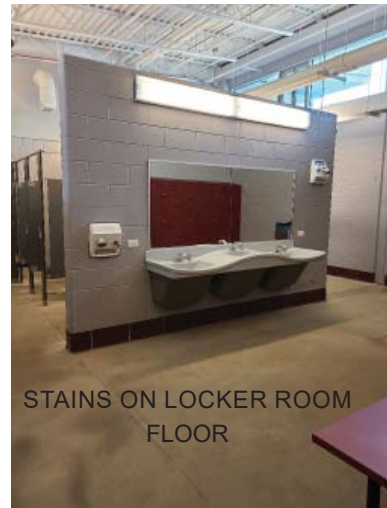
The flooring color in the Community Room is lighter and does not hide dirt well, there are several stains that cannot be removed. There are several locations where the rubber wall base was not installed flush with the wall and paint touch ups are visible on the wall base.

The locker room's brushed concrete floors have several stains that cannot be removed. It is possible that the floors were not sealed after installation. An epoxy flooring would cover the existing stains and prevent new stains from forming.

There are paint touch ups under the soap dispenser. A wall guard can be installed on the wall below the soap dispenser to prevent discoloring the wall.



RUBBER FLOORING IN  
COMMUNITY ROOM



STAINS ON LOCKER ROOM  
FLOOR



TOUCH UPS BELOW  
SOAP DISPENSER

## ORIOLE PARK AQUATIC CENTER ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

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2. SPACE NEEDS FOR CURRENT BUILDING.
3. RELATIONSHIPS WITH DEPARTMENTS.
4. ISSUES THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE CURRENT BUILDING CODE.
5. BEST PRACTICES, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.

EACH ITEM HAS BEEN EVALUATED FOR LIFE SAFETY CONCERNS. ITEMS HAVE BEEN EVALUATED BASED ON URGENCY DUE TO IMPACTS OF OCCUPANTS, EMPLOYEES, OR THE PUBLIC.

A. URGENT – ITEMS THAT PRESENT AN IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO THE SAFETY OF THE OCCUPANTS. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AND CORRECTED IN THE NEXT 1-2 YEARS IF NOT SOONER.

B. REQUIRED – ITEMS THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT BUT PRESENT LESS OF AN IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO THE SAFETY OF THE OCCUPANTS. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE CORRECTED WITH A 2-4 YEAR PERIOD OF TIME.

C. RECOMMENDED – ITEMS THAT DO NOT PRESENT ANY IMMEDIATE HAZARD TO THE OCCUPANTS. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN A 4-10 YEAR PERIOD OF TIME AND CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT'S MASTER PLAN.

ORIOLE PARK AQUATIC CENTER

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Repaint existing rusted bollards	5	C	\$300.00
Repaint rusted railings	5	C	\$1,500.00
Replace the deteriorated threshold	4	B	\$500.00
Monitor spalling concrete	5	C	N/A
Sand and repaint the bottom of the pools	5	B	\$5,000.00
Monitor cracking at trench drains	5	C	N/A
Replace failing detectable warnings	4	B	\$1,500.00
Monitor flooring in Community Room	5	C	N/A
Mount wall guard below soap dispensers	5	C	\$300.00
Total			\$9,100.00



## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #1

Park District Garage #1 is located at 6250 Dempster Street in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. The building was built in 1957.

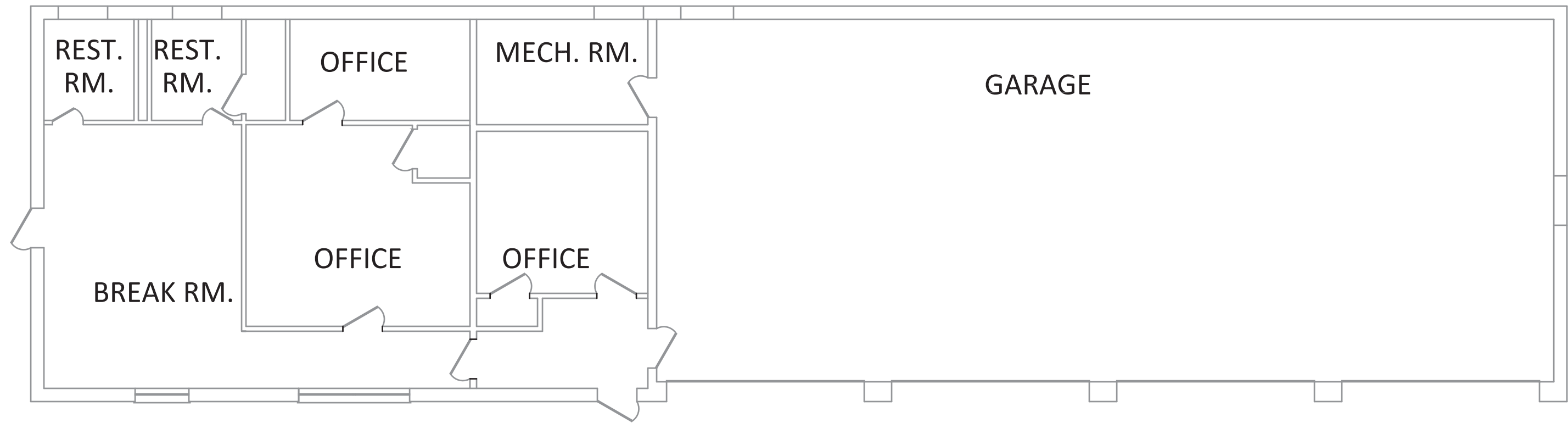
The building is constructed of concrete masonry units (CMU) and brick veneer. The interior of the building is mainly CMU with gypsum in the office areas. The roof was replaced in 2013 with a granular surface modified membrane. The roof is in average condition.

There is a parking lot on site that is shared by several facilities.



PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #1

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 3,497 S.F.



PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #1 FLOOR PLAN 

## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #1 EXTERIOR

The existing roof was replaced less than ten years ago and has several visible patched areas. The gutters, downspouts, roof edge flashing were replaced when the roof was replaced. The previous system was failing prior to replacement.

Behind the building the existing trees are overgrown and are beginning to encroach the building. The foliage is climbing on the roof and can be found in the gutters. The plant life needs to be removed from the building and the gutters need to be cleared. During severe weather the proximity of the trees can damage the building.

The existing brick needs to be tuck pointed. Broken bricks have been poorly repaired, masonry joints have cracks. Joints on the north elevation are dirty.

Paint on the existing overhead doors is fading due to age and exposure.

The West façade is less than twelve inches from the metal fence. It is impossible to get behind the building to verify existing conditions.

### ROOF REPAIRS



FOLIAGE ON THE ROOF

### IN NEED OF TUCK POINTING



FENCE LOCATION

## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #1 INTERIOR

The four-bay garage is over half of the floor plan. The south side of the building contains the restrooms, break room, and office spaces. The building has been renovated since it was initially constructed. Due to the age of the building, there are several accessibility deficiencies.

An additional door should be added to the north side of the garage for egress purposes.

The garage space has extensive efflorescence on the west wall of the space. It is suspected that this is from water infiltration that occurred before the roof was replaced. The existing paint should be tested for lead prior to being sanded and repainted.

Step cracks can be found in the existing CMU walls, no control joints were installed in the existing CMU. Control joints should be installed every 40 feet at a maximum. The existing cracking could be due to settling or lack of control joints. Providing proper control joints can prevent cracking.

The existing slop sink adjacent to the washing machine does not meet accessibility requirements. A nearby floor drain is not visible.

The concrete slab in the garage has several cracks and spalling. Joints were not installed in the floor causing the cracks. There are no trench drains in the floor. If the slab were to be replaced trench drains should be installed in the center of each door for a total of four.

The existing heating system for the building is forced air. The existing two furnances have been repaired several times and need to be replaced. The garage does not have a vehicle exhaust extraction system. This should be installed in the two bays that work on vehicles frequently. In addition, a toxic alert monitoring and alarm system should be installed as an additional means of removing exhaust from the air.

The building does not have a fire suppression system or a fire detection system. Based on when the facility was constructed this was not a code requirement, as it is now. The facility is utilized by vehicles and employees, a fire suppression and fire detection system should be installed to meet code.

DUCTED HEAT



EFFLORESCENCE



SPALLING  
CONCRETE



SLOP SINK



STEP CRACKS  
IN WALL



## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #1 INTERIOR

Exit signs and emergency lighting are found sparingly throughout the office space. Each door that exits to a corridor or an emergency exit should have signage.

Visual strobe devices need to be installed in every office and restroom.

There is not an accessible restroom in the building. The two restrooms located at the south end of the building must meet accessibility code. One of the restrooms is currently used for storage. The room is completely filled and not accessible. Code requires a minimum of two restrooms for this facility.

The break room sink does not meet accessibility requirements. There is no space below that sink and the height of the top of the counter should be 2'-10".

The outlet below the electric water cooler is not a WP GFI. There are visible water stains below the water cooler and near the outlet. This is not a code compliant location for an outlet. The bottle filler over the electric water cooler is not accessible. An accessible water cooler with a bottle filler should be installed.

Doors do not meet the accessibility code required push and pull. The pull side of the door should have 18" of clearance at the wall and the push side of the door should have 12" of clearance at the wall. The corridor doors do not meet these requirements. Office doors have furniture next to the jamb preventing the code requirements from being met.

Additional storage is required for this facility. An existing restroom is utilized as a storage space due to the lack of storage.

An existing office exits through another office to exit the building, one cannot exit through an intervening space, this violates code. Increased office space in this building will require an addition to the building.

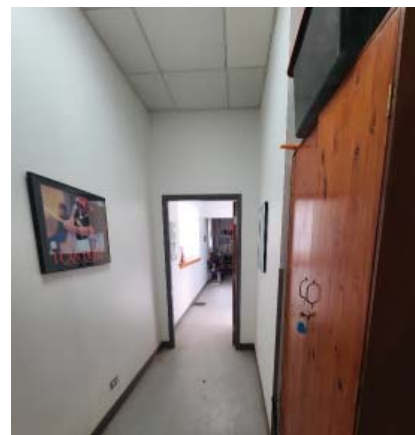


BREAK ROOM SINK  
AND WATER COOLER

FREE STANDING TOILET



INACCESSIBLE  
RESTROOM USED AS  
STORAGE



PUSH/PULL FOR DOORS

## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #1 ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

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## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #1

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Clearing items off roof	5	A	\$100.00
Cutting adjacent trees	5	A	\$1,000.00
Tuck Pointing	5	B	\$15,000.00
Paint existing OH Doors	5	B	\$3,000.00
Repair efflorescence and test of lead	5	A	\$5,000.00
Repair step cracks and add control joints	5	A	\$8,000.00
Provide accessible slop sink	4	C	\$1,000.00
Install new slab with trench drains	5	C	\$100,000.00
Replace the existing (2) furnaces	4	A	\$12,000.00
Provide vehicle exhaust extraction (2 bays)	4	A	\$50,000.00
Provide CO toxic alert system	4	A	\$6,000.00
Provide Fire Suppression System	4	A	\$30,000.00
Provide Fire Detection	4	B	\$6,000.00
Provide illuminated exit signs	4	C	\$3,000.00
Provide a second means of egress in garage	4	A	\$10,000.00
Provide accessible restrooms	4	B	\$45,000.00
Provide accessible break room sink	4	B	\$3,500.00
Provide accessible water cooler	4	B	\$1,800.00
Provide WP GFI in a new location	4	A	\$1,000.00
Move doors to meet accessibility req.	4	C	\$4,000.00
Provide additional storage (this requires an addition to the building)	2	C	TBD
Provide an additional office that meets code (this requires an addition to the building)	1	B	TBD
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$305,400.00</b>

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## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #2

The Park District Garage #2 is located at 6250 Dempster Street in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. The building was built in 1968.

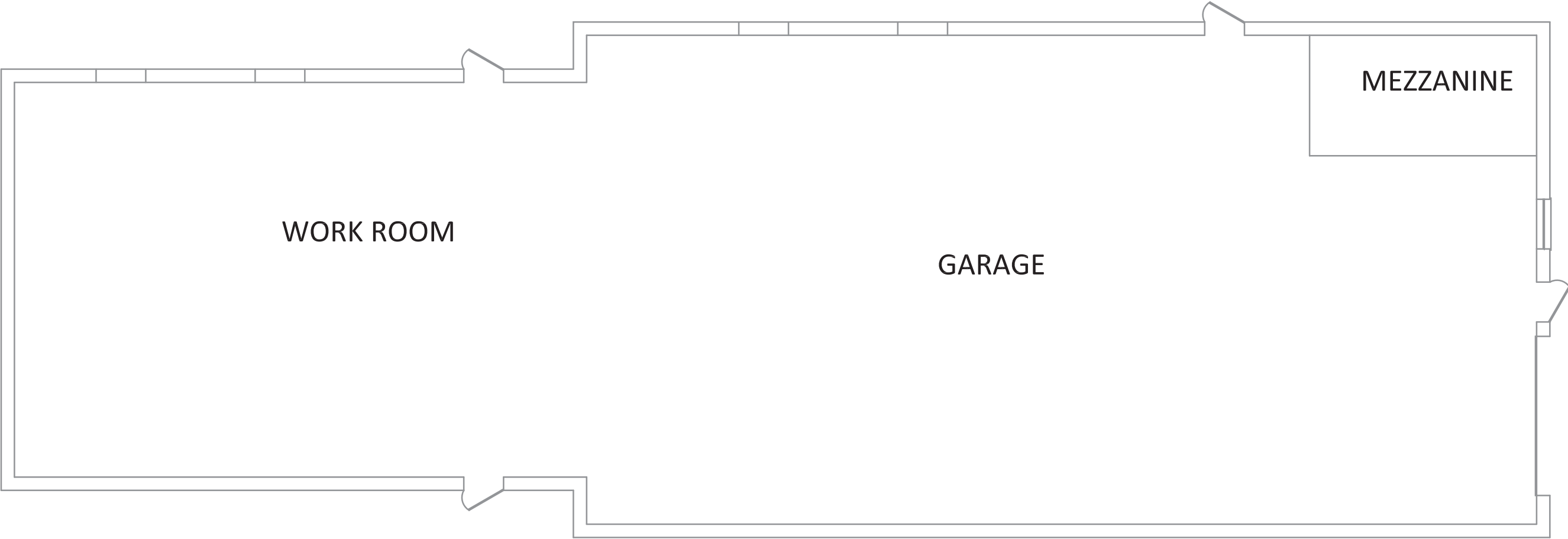
The building is a prefabricated metal building with a pitched metal roof. The interior steel trusses are supported by steel columns.

There is a parking lot on site that is shared by several facilities.



PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #2

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 4,234 S.F.



PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #2 FLOOR PLAN



## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #2 EXTERIOR

The existing metal roof appears to be in good condition.

Behind the building the existing trees are overgrown and are beginning to encroach the building. During severe weather the proximity of the trees can damage the building.

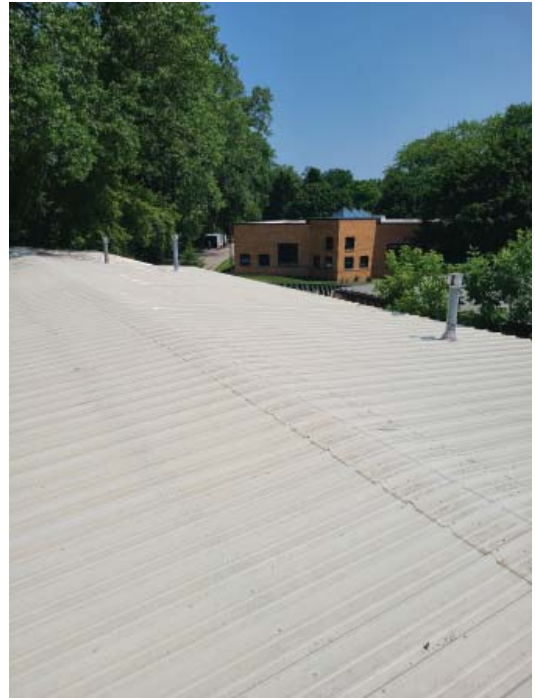
The building does not have gutters, no gutters on the building will result in large icicles during the winter months. This can be a safety hazard to occupants. Gutters should be added to the building.

The rear means of egress is not flush with grade. Deteriorated plywood is laid over the earth. This should be replaced with a slab and an area of rescue if a ramp to grade is not possible.



DOOR EXIT

EXISTING METAL ROOF



FOLIAGE ON THE ROOF

## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #2 INTERIOR

The facility is utilized as a storage garage with a mezzanine that was added after the building was built. Vehicles are parked in tandem in the building and equipment is stored in the garage. There are no restrooms in the facility. Unit heaters are used to heat the space, there is not a system to provide cool air.

The building does not have a fire suppression system or a fire detection system. Based on when the facility was constructed this was not a code requirement, as it is now. The facility is utilized by vehicles and employees, a fire suppression and fire detection system should be installed to meet code.

Painting occurs in the rear of the garage, a toxic alert monitoring and alarm system should be installed as an additional means of removing toxic fumes from the air.

The concrete slab in the garage has several cracks and spalling. Joints were not installed in the floor causing the cracks.

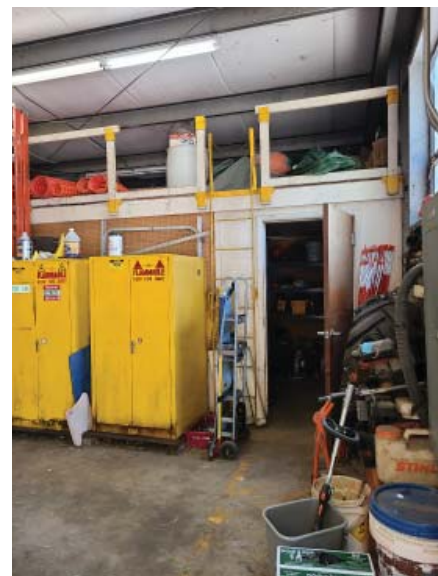
The existing floor drain in the concrete slab is no longer functional. It was decommissioned because it was draining off-site. New drains are recommended to be installed in the existing slab with the proper plumbing and discharge on site.

The mezzanine does not have code required railings. At a minimum a toe-kick guard should be installed to prevent any equipment from rolling off the mezzanine onto occupants below.

GARAGE SPACE WITHOUT  
FIRE SUPPRESSION OR  
CONTAINED EXHAUST



UNIT HEATERS



MEZZANINE



## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #2 ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

---

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PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #2

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Remove overgrown trees from roof	5	A	\$800.00
Provide gutters on the building	5	C	\$7,500.00
Provide accessible means of egress	4	B	\$2,500.00
Provide a fire detection system	4	B	\$3,000.00
Provide toxic alert system with exhaust	4	A	\$6,000.00
Provide new floor drains in existing slab	1	B	\$10,000.00
Install new slab	5	C	\$65,000.00
Provide guards on the mezzanine	5	B	\$1,500.00
Add additional door for egress	4	A	\$6,000.00
Total			\$102,300.00

## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #3

The Park District Garage #3 is located at 6250 Dempster Street in Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. The building was built in 2005.

The building is constructed of metal stud and brick veneer.

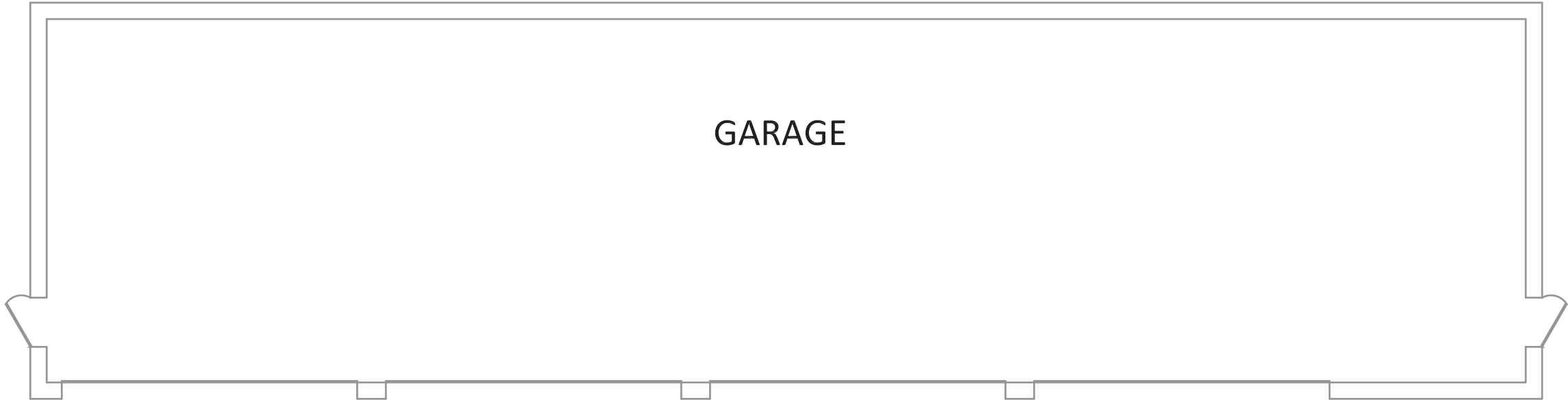
The interior of the building is gypsum. The roof structure is wood, the roof is pitched with asphalt shingles.

There is a parking lot on site that is shared by several facilities.



PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #3

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2,223 S.F.



PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #3 FLOOR PLAN





## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #3 EXTERIOR

The facility is mainly utilized for storage, there are four bays that house a range of vehicles.

The existing shingle roof is original to the building and needs to be replaced in the next five years. There are visible signs of the shingles buckling. The fascia, gutters and downspouts appear to be in good condition.

The brick is in good condition. There are no vertical control joints in the brick, this may lead to expansion and contraction overtime causing cracks in the masonry. Joints, in the brick, should be placed every 20-25 feet to prevent cracking. Control joints should be added to the masonry to prevent cracking overtime.

The metal at the door jambs is wavy. It appears they may have been hit at some point. The metal should be replaced if it has been damaged.

## INTERIOR

The building was recently constructed and is in good condition. The interior of the garage houses equipment and storage. The structure has a fire suppression system and the required marked exits. The building is heated with unit heaters, there is no cooling system.

A small exhaust fan is located on the rear wall of the garage to help alleviate the toxic fumes in the space.

EXISTING SHINGLE ROOF IN  
NEED OF REPLACEMENT



NO CONTROL JOINTS

## PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #3 ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

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PARK DISTRICT GARAGE #3

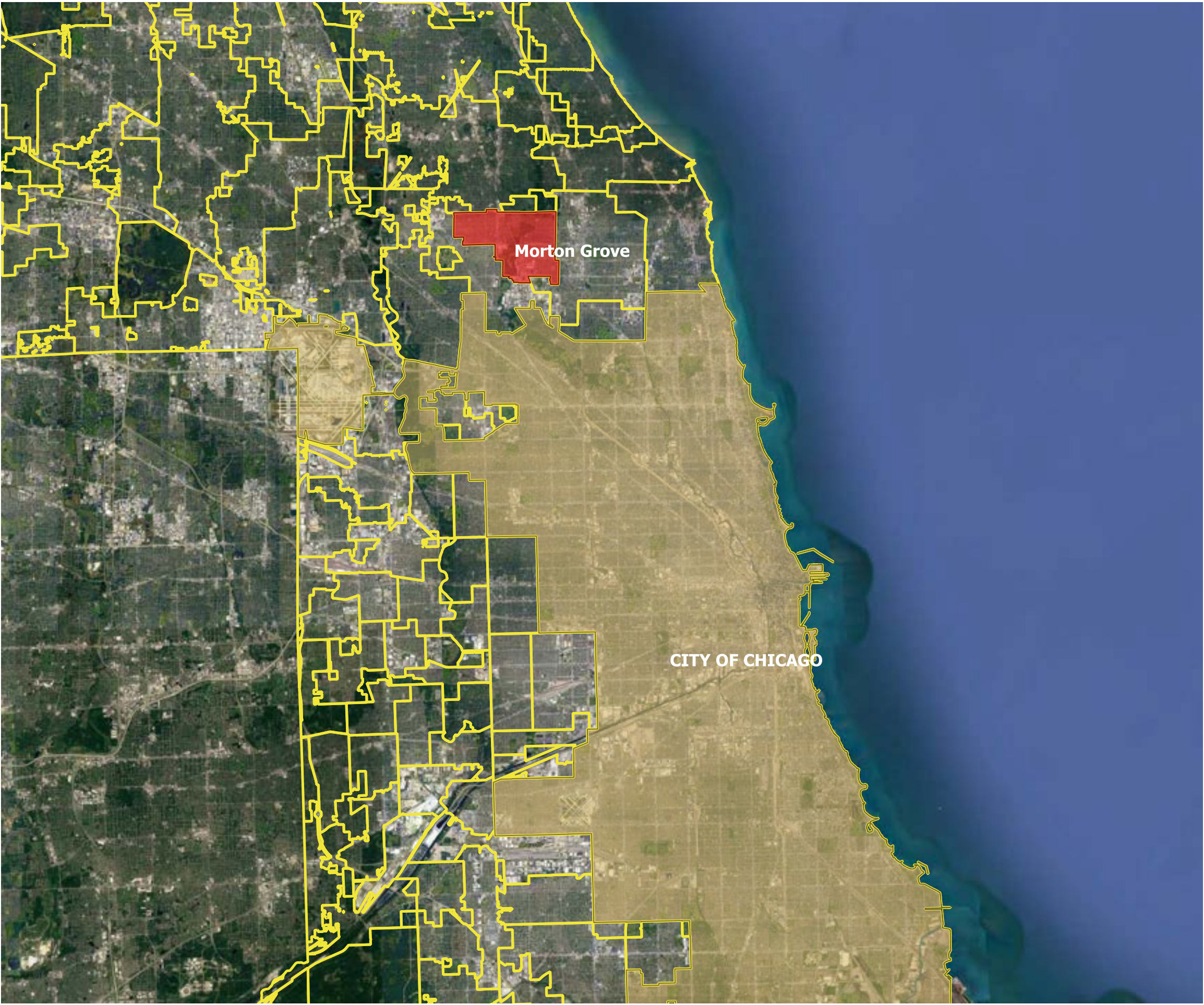
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>TYPE OF ITEM</u>	<u>URGENCY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>
Replace existing shingle roof	5	C	\$30,000.00
Install vertical control joints	5	C	\$5,000.00
Replace damaged metal door jambs	5	C	\$1,500.00
	Total		\$36,500.00

## SUMMARY

The intention of this document is to evaluate the existing Morton Grove Park District facilities in regard to current guidelines, code requirements, industry standards, best practices, current space needs, future growth, and relationships of areas within the facilities.

The items that need to be addressed are listed in priority. The items listed as (A) need to be addressed first. Items range in their complexity, our team can assist in any concerns the Park District have in moving forward and planning for the future. The Park District will need to evaluate each facility and determine ideal operation. Please use this document as a guide to determine the items that should be addressed by the Park District.








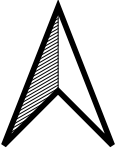
**Morton Grove  
Park District**  
*Quality Parks & Recreation*

# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

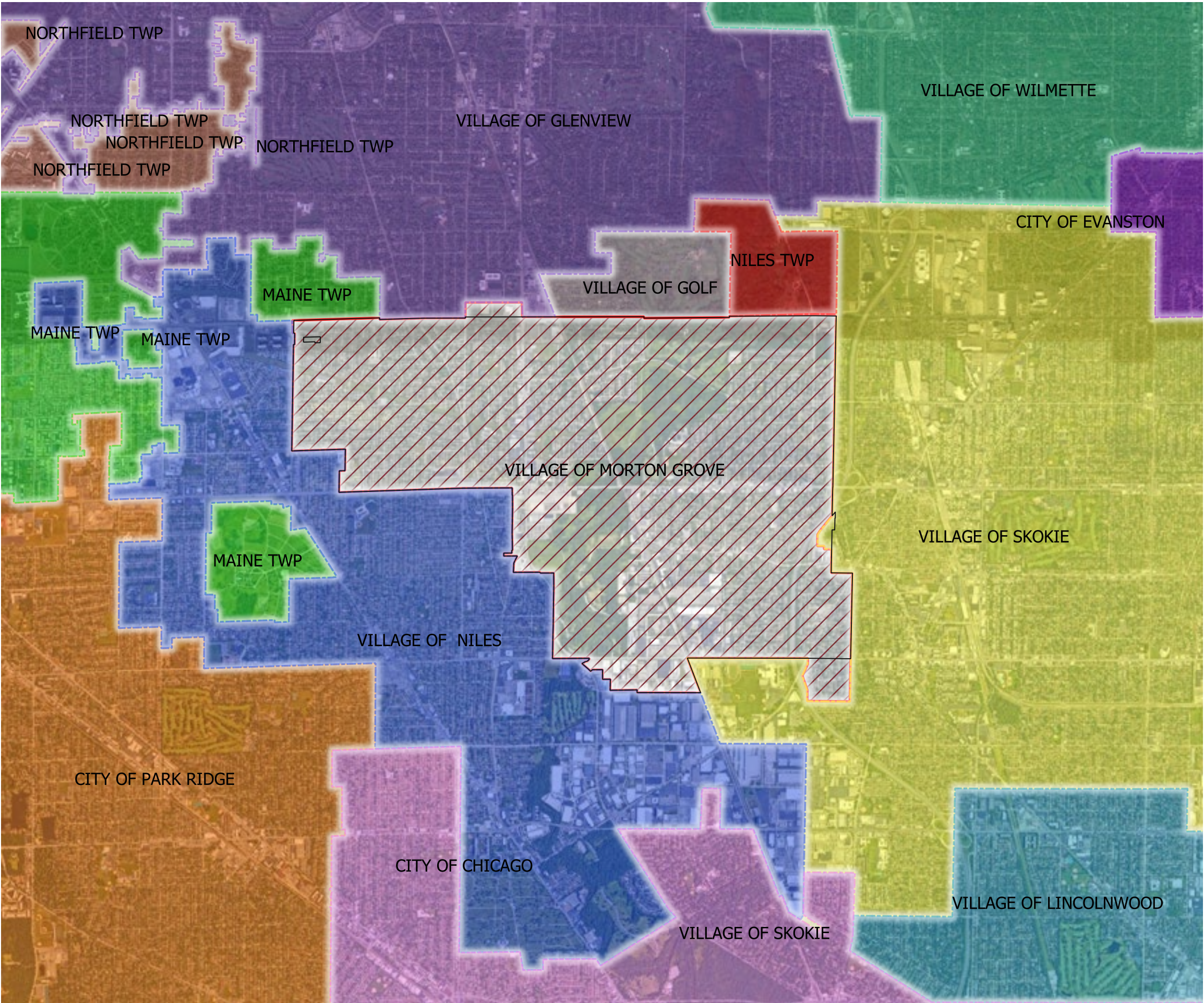
## 1. Location

### Legend

-  Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
-  Chicago Municipal Boundary
-  Cook County Municipal Boundary
- Google Satellite







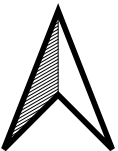
# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 2. Municipal Boundary

### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Cook County Municipal Boundary**
- City of Chicago
- City of Evanston
- City of Park Ridge
- Maine TWP
- Niles TWP
- Northfield TWP
- Villahe of Niles
- Village of Glenview
- Village of Golf
- Village of Lincolnwood
- Village of Morton Grove
- Village of Skokie
- Village of Wilmette

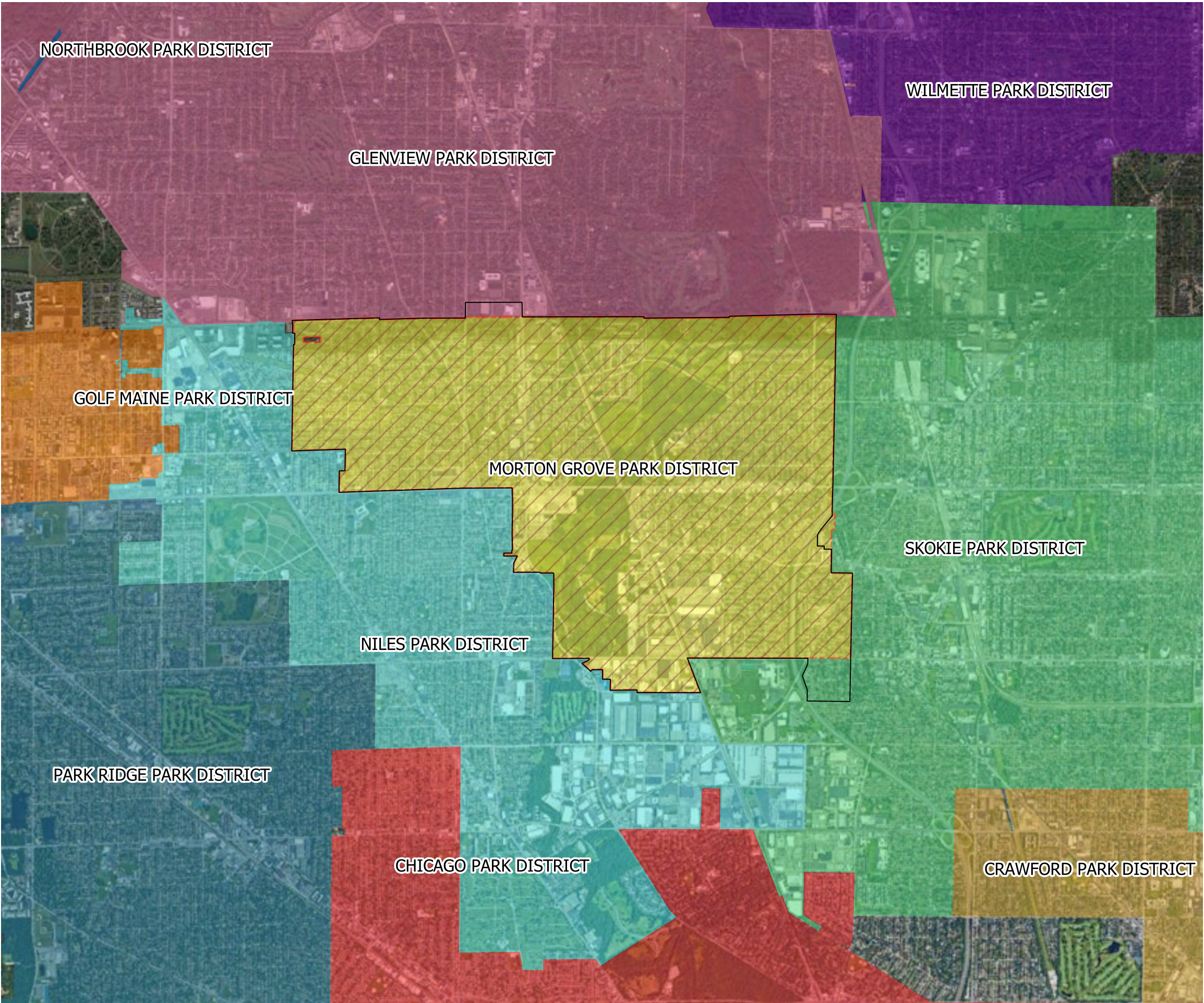
Google Satellite



0 2,500 5,000 7,500 ft

A horizontal scale bar with alternating black and white segments, corresponding to the distances 0, 2,500, 5,000, and 7,500 feet.



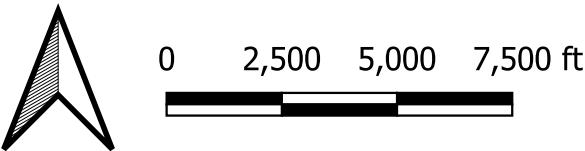


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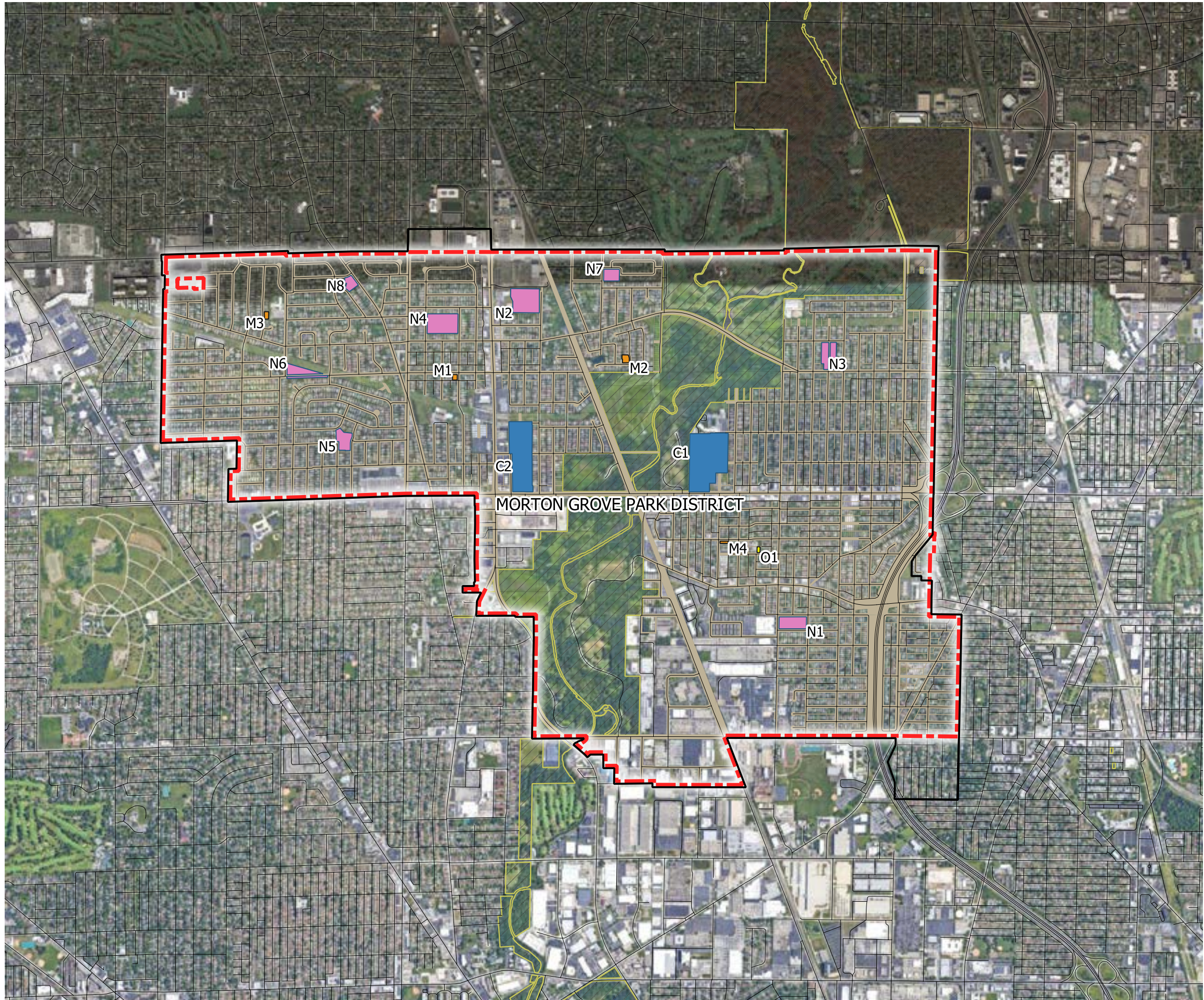
## 3. Park District Boundary

### Legend

- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Park District Boundary**
- Chicago Park District
- Crawford Park District
- Glenview Park District
- Golf Maine Park District
- Morton Grove Park District
- Niles Park District
- Northbrook Park District
- Park Ridge Park District
- Skokie Park District
- Wilmette Park District
- Google Satellite







**Morton Grove  
Park District**  
*Quality Parks & Recreation*

# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 4. Parks

### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Mini Park
- Park Owned by Others
- Forest Preserve Boundary

Google Satellite

### **Community Park**

- C1 Harrer Park
- C2 Prairie View Park

### **Neighborhood Park**

- N1 Austin Park
- N2 Frank Hren Discovery Park
- N3 Mansfield Park
- N4 National Park
- N5 Oketo Park
- N6 Oriole Park
- N7 Palma Lane Park
- N8 Shermer Park

### **Mini Park**

- M1 Arnum Park
- M2 Jacobs Park
- M3 Overhill Park
- M4 Pioneer Park

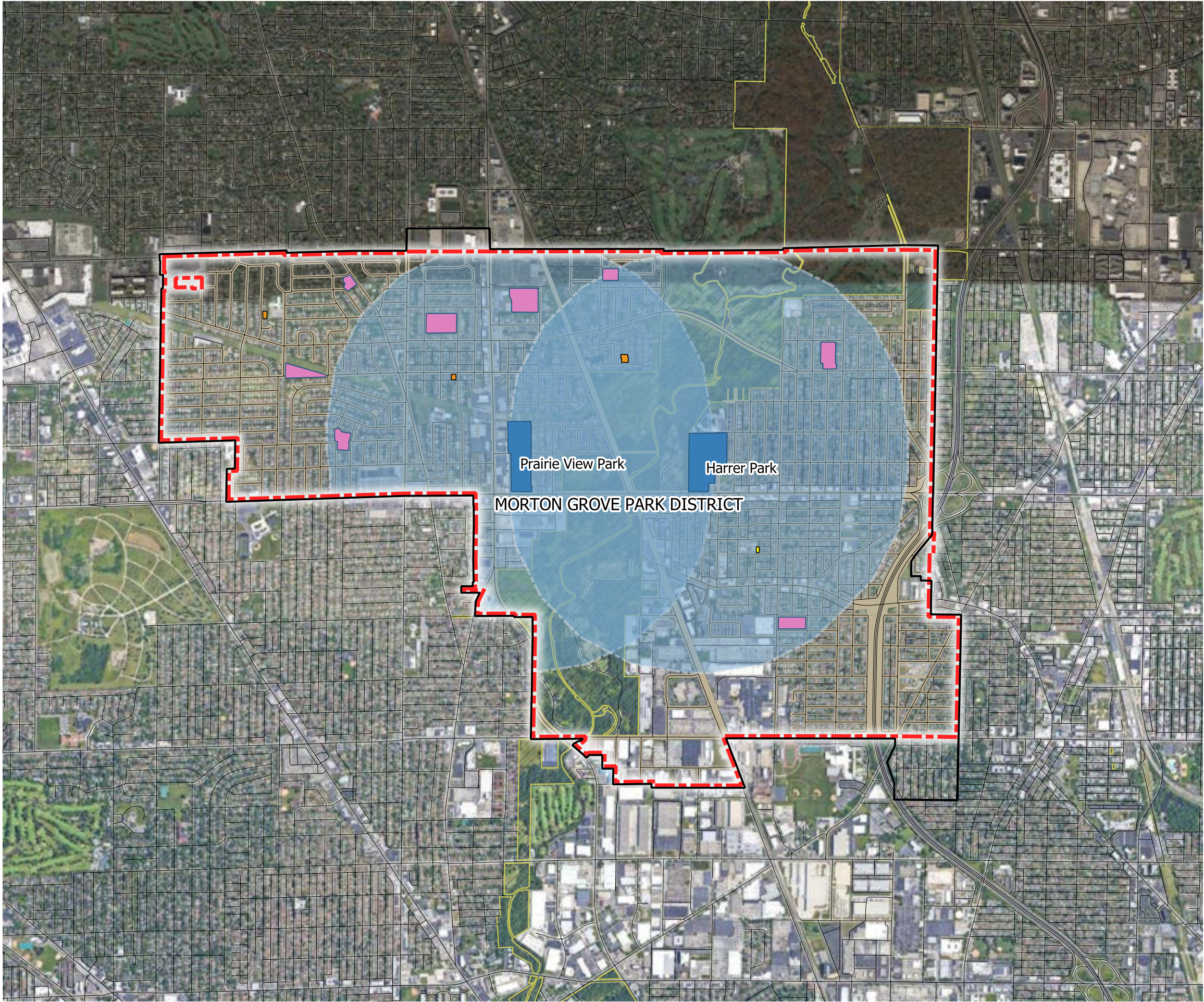
### **Other Park(not owned by Park District)**

- O1 Shalin Park












0 2,500 5,000 7,500 ft

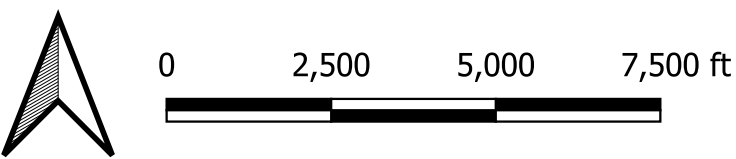




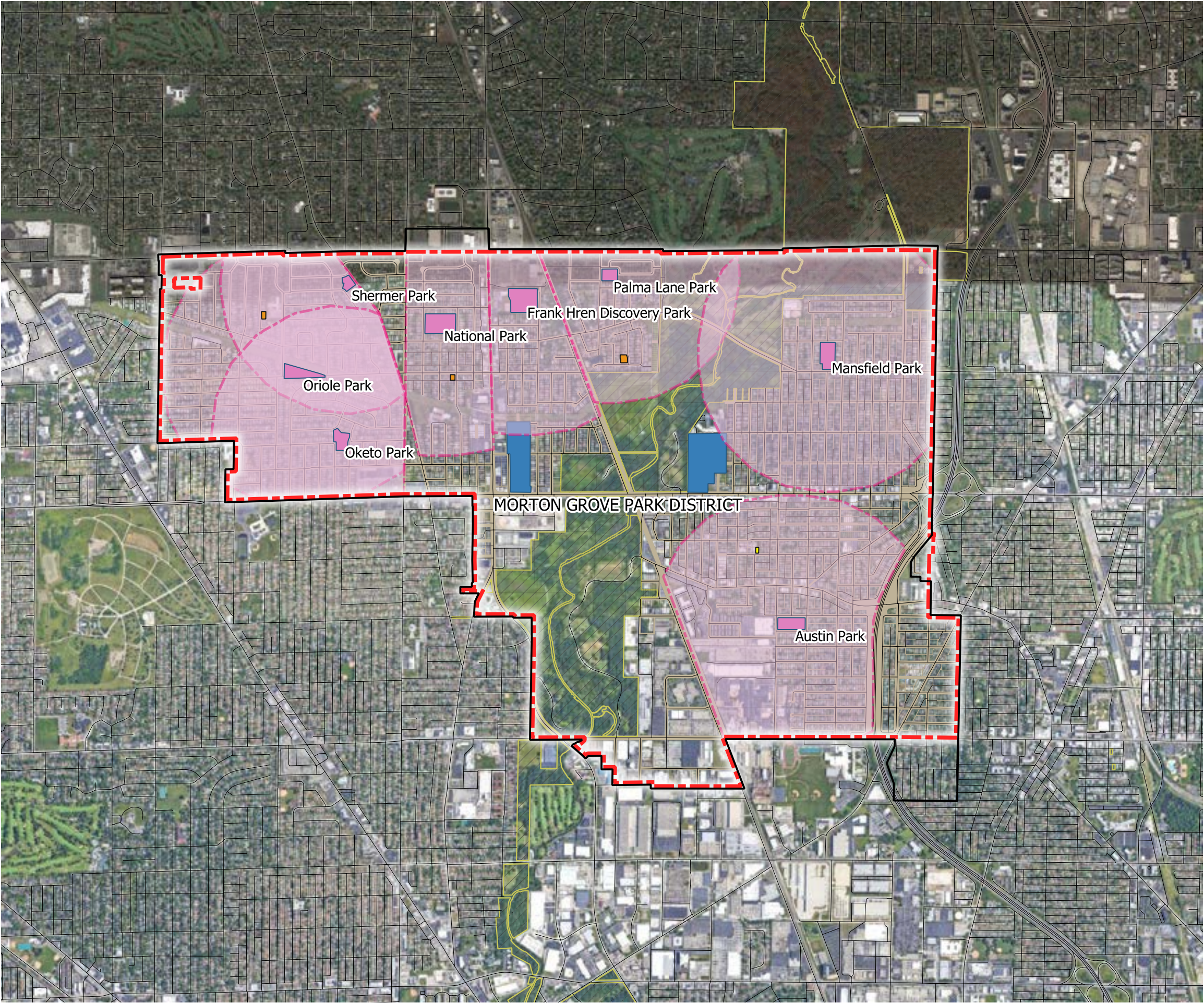
# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 5. Community Park Service Area

- Legend
-  Morton Grove Park District Boundary
  -  Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
  -  Street Centerline
  -  Lotline
  -  Right of Way
  -  Community Park
  -  Community Park Service Area
  -  Neighborhood Park
  -  Mini Park
  -  Park Owned by Others
  -  Forest Preserve
- Google Satellite



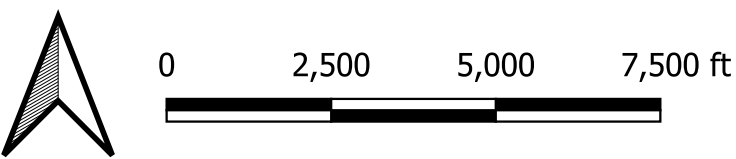




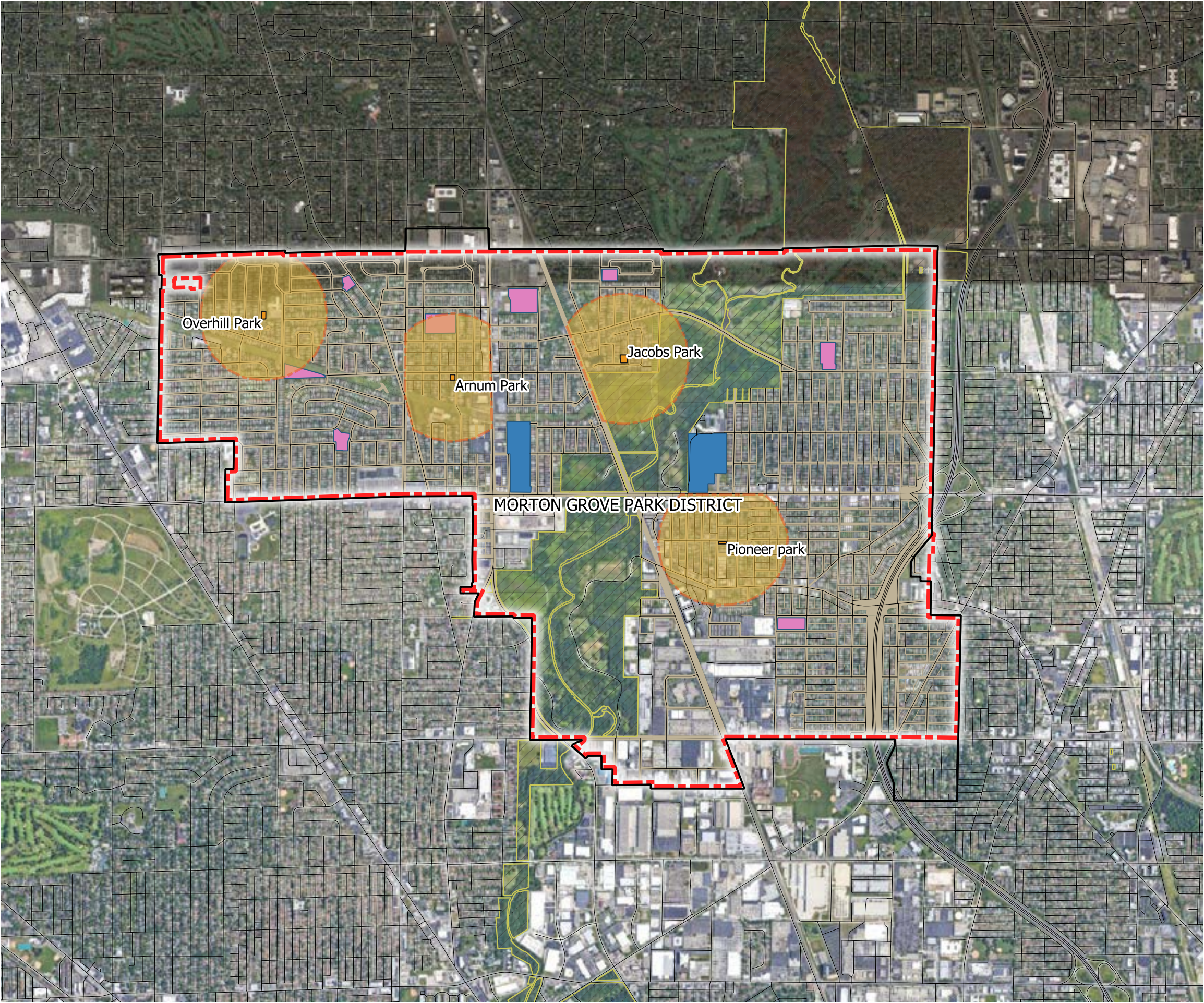
# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 6. Neighborhood Park Service Area

- Legend
- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
  - Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
  - Street Centerline
  - Lotline
  - Right of Way
  - Community Park
  - Neighborhood Park
  - Neighborhood Park Service Area
  - Mini Park
  - Park Owned by Others
  - Forest Preserve
  - Google Satellite
















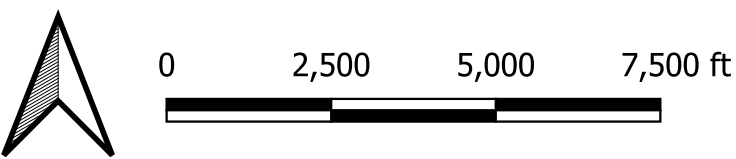


# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

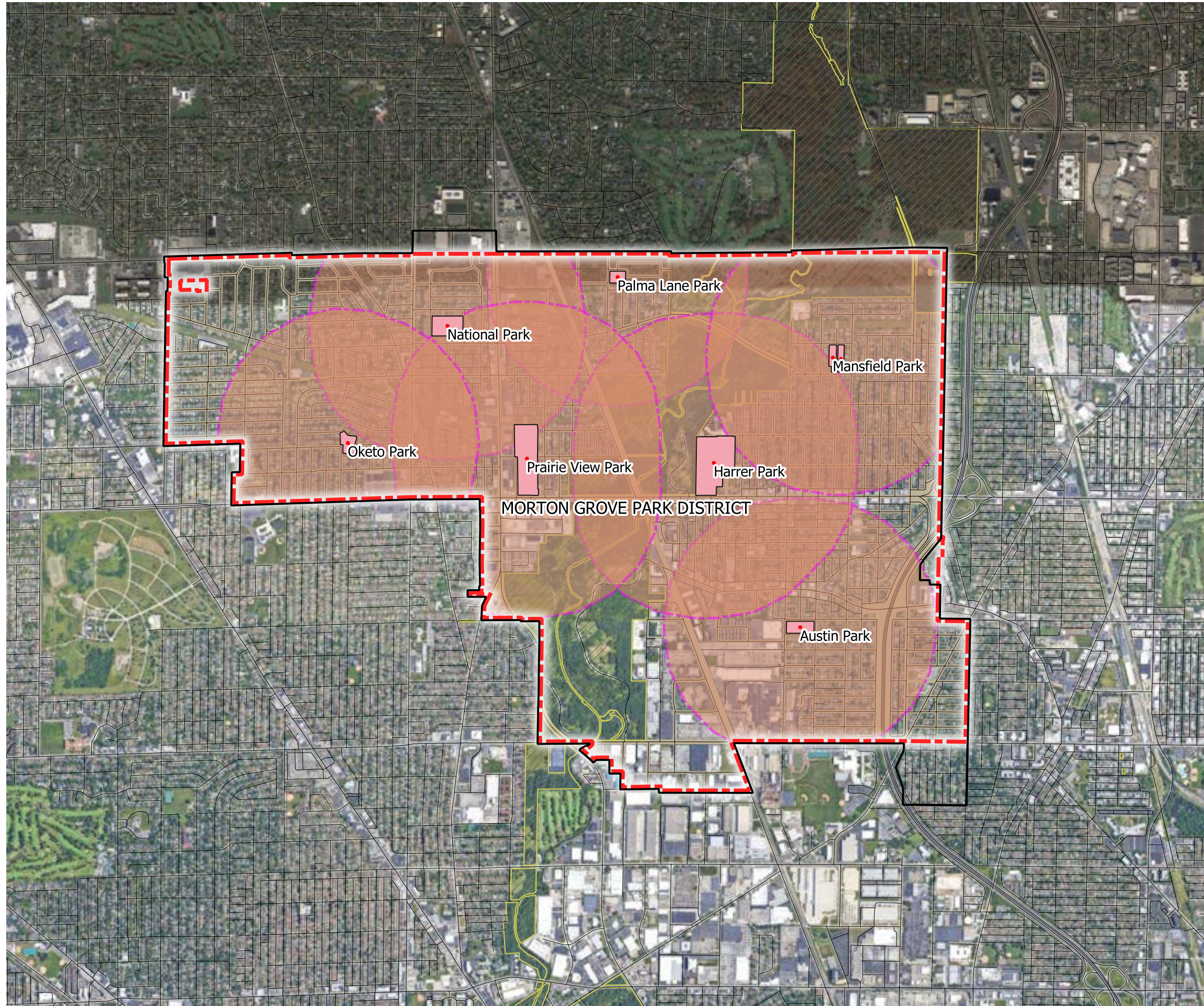
## 7. Mini Park Service Area

### Legend

-  Morton Grove Park District Boundary
-  Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
-  Street Centerline
-  Lotline
-  Right of Way
-  Community Park
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Mini Park
-  Mini Park Service Area
-  Park Owned by Others
-  Forest Preserve
- Google Satellite







**Morton Grove  
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## MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

### 8. Softball/ Youth Baseball Field Service Area

#### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Softball/Youth Baseball Field
- Softball/Youth Baseball Field Service Area
- Forest Preserve

Google Satellite

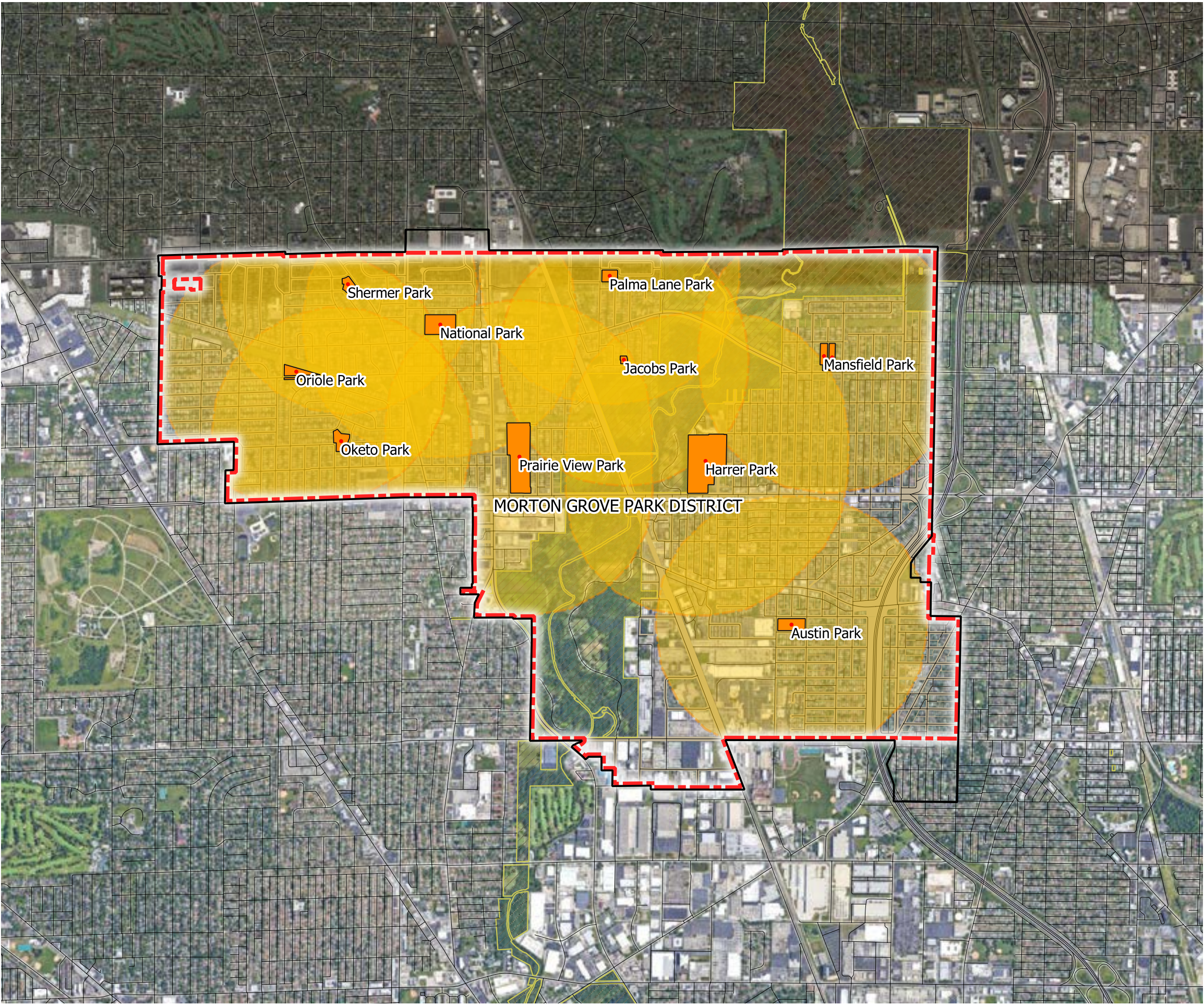
#### Level of Service

NRPA Guidelines: 1 Field Per 2,000 Residents  
 MGPD Population(2019): 23,089  
 Service Area for Softball/Youth Baseball Field: 17  
 1 Softball/Youth Baseball Field Per 1,358 Residents



0 2,500 5,000 7,500 ft





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# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 9. Basketball Court Service Area

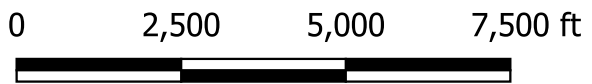
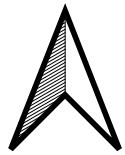
### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Forest Preserve
- Basketball Court
- Basketball Court Service Area

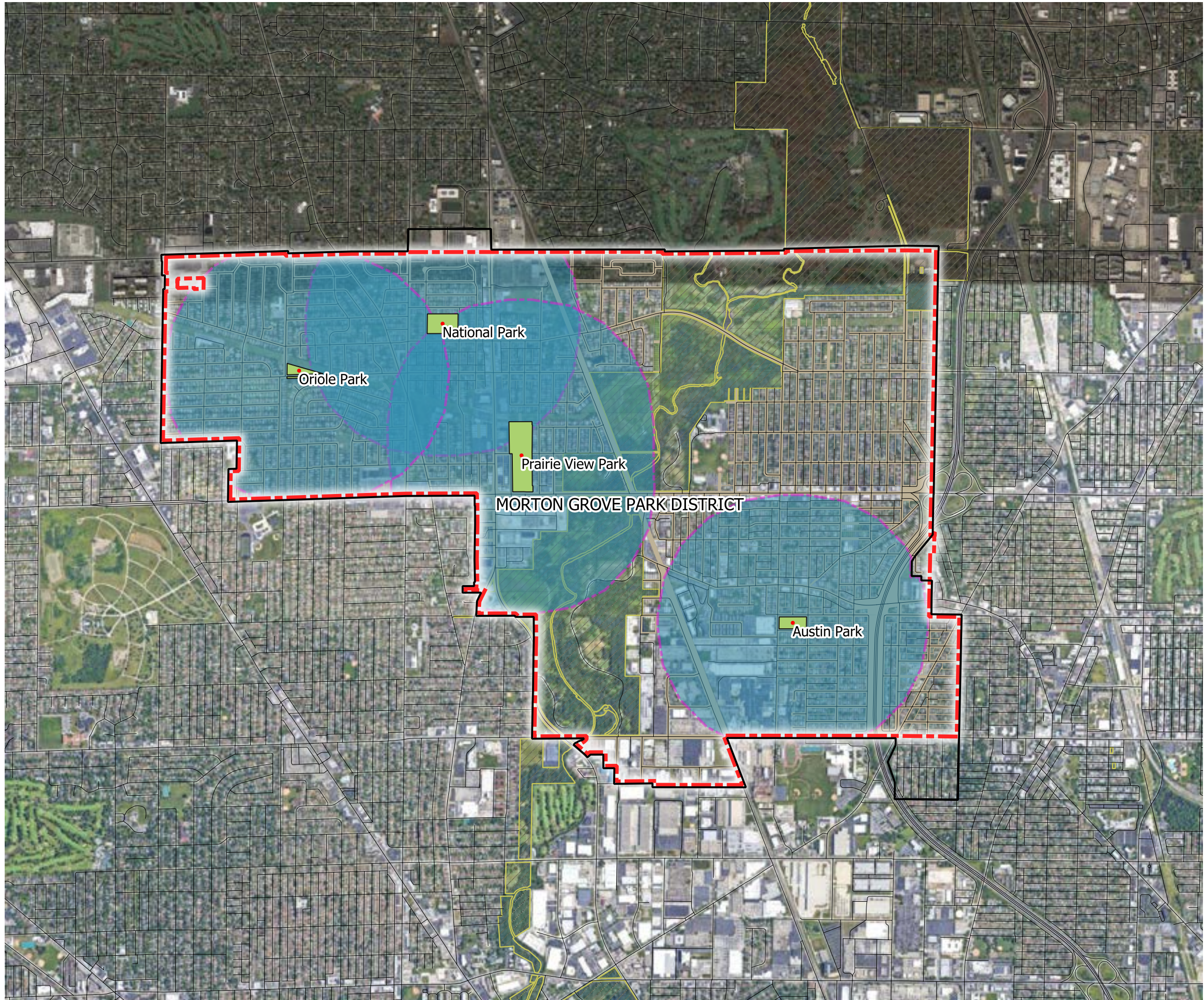
Google Satellite

### Level of Service

NRPA Guidelines: 1 Court Per 5,000 Residents  
MGPD Population(2019): 23,089  
Service Area for Basketball Court: 15  
1 Basketball Court Per 1,540 Residents







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# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 10. Volleyball Court Service Area

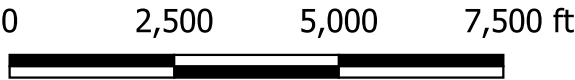
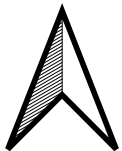
### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Volleyball Court Location
- Volleyball Court Service Area
- Forest Preserve

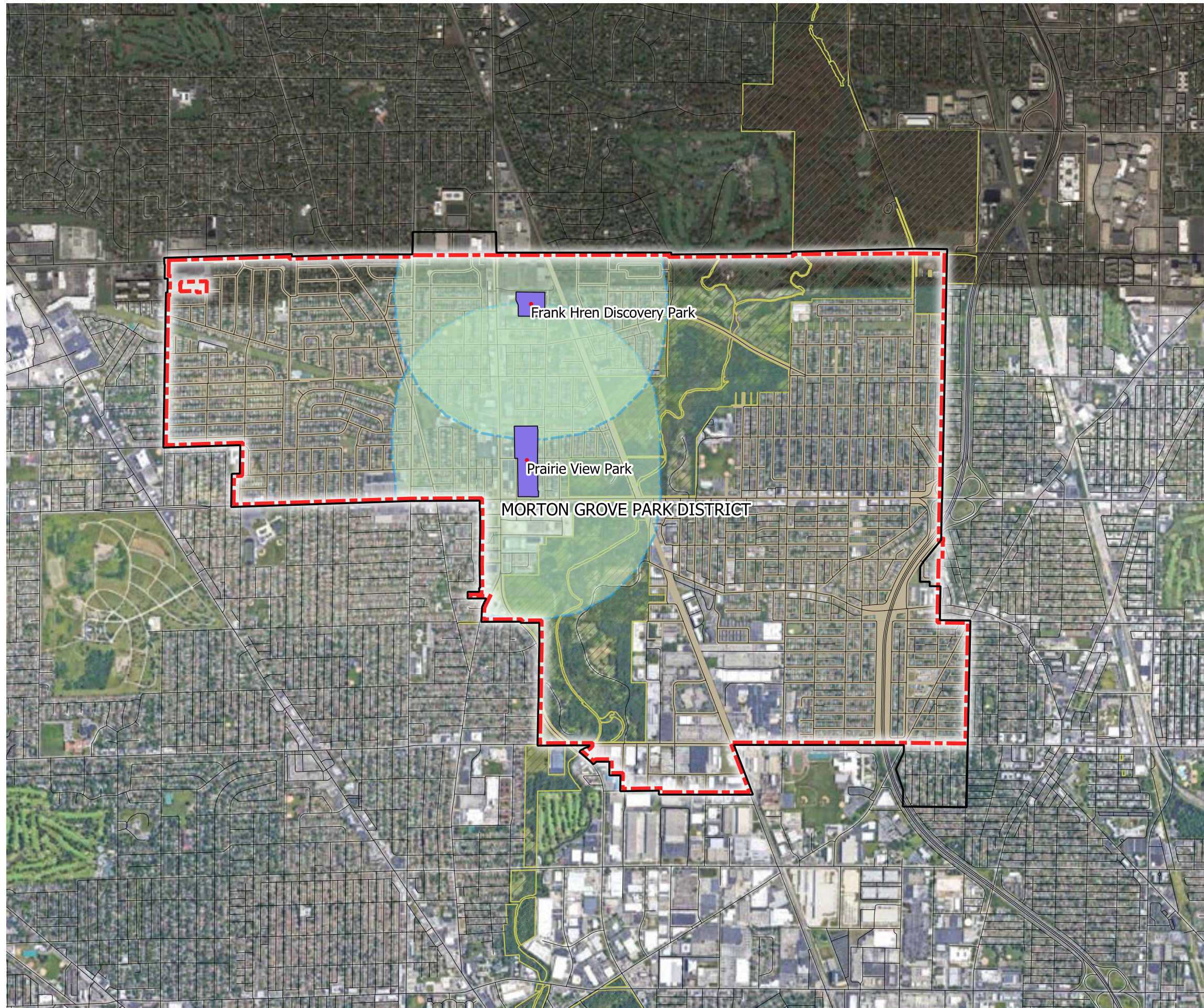
Google Satellite

### Level of Service

No Required NRPA Guidelines  
MGPD Population(2019): 23,089  
Service Area for Volleyball Court: 4  
1 Volleyball Court Per 5,772 Residents







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## MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

### 11. Sports Field (Football/Soccer) Service Area

#### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Sports Field
- Sports Field Service Area
- Forest Preserve

Google Satellite

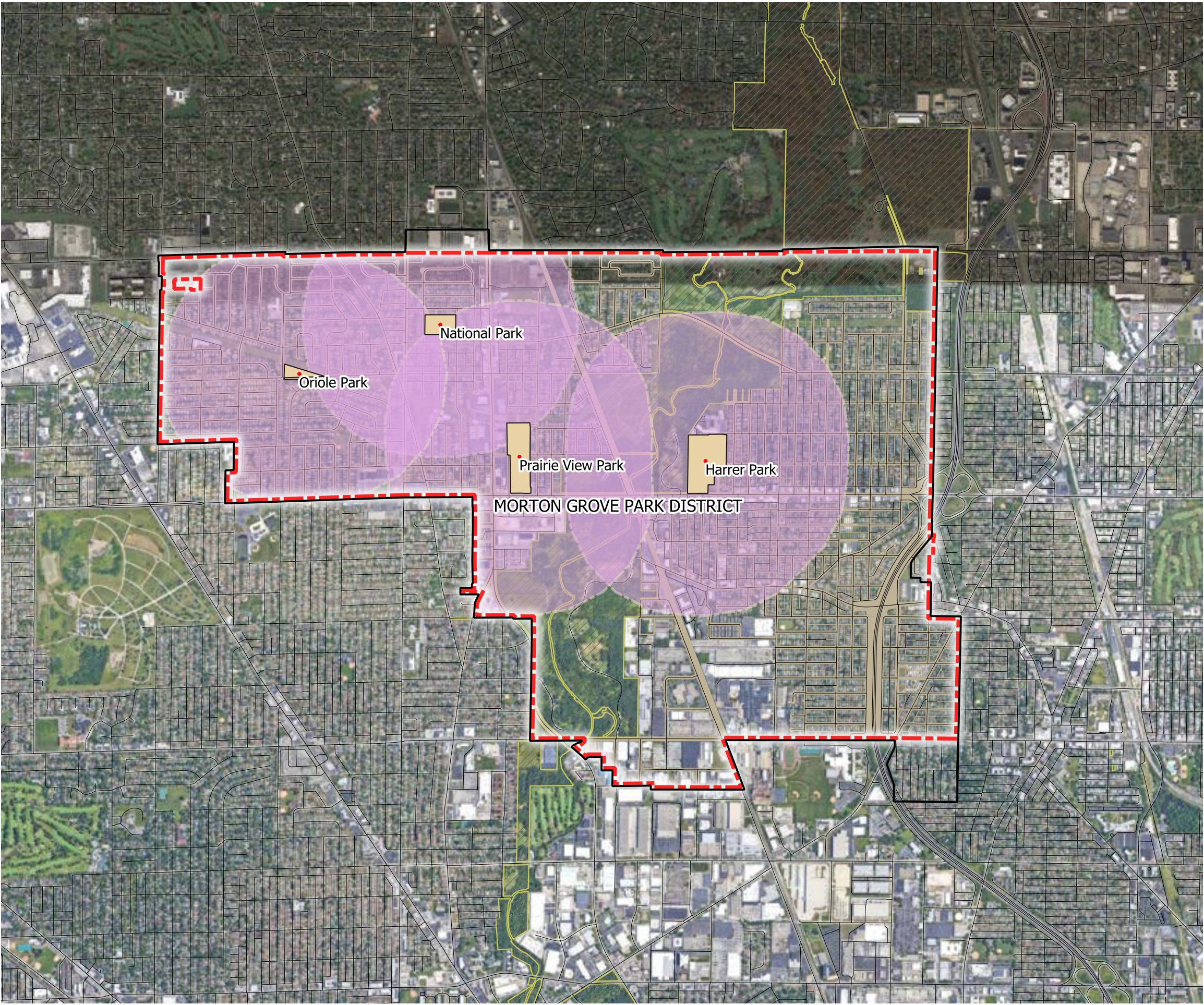
#### Level of Service

NRPA Guidelines: 1 Field Per 2,000 Residents  
 MGPD Population(2019): 23,089  
 Service Area for Sports Field: 11  
 1 Sports Field Per 2,099 Residents  
 National Park, Austin Park, Mansfield Park,  
 Oketo Park and Palma Lane Park could have  
 practice fields.



0 2,500 5,000 7,500 ft





# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 12. Tennis Court Service Area

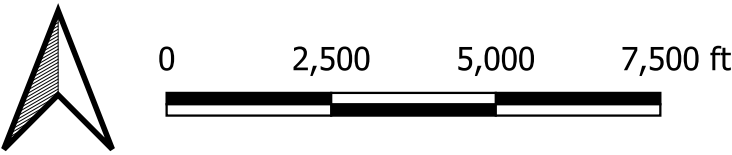
### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Tennis Court
- Tennis Court Service Area
- Forest Preserve

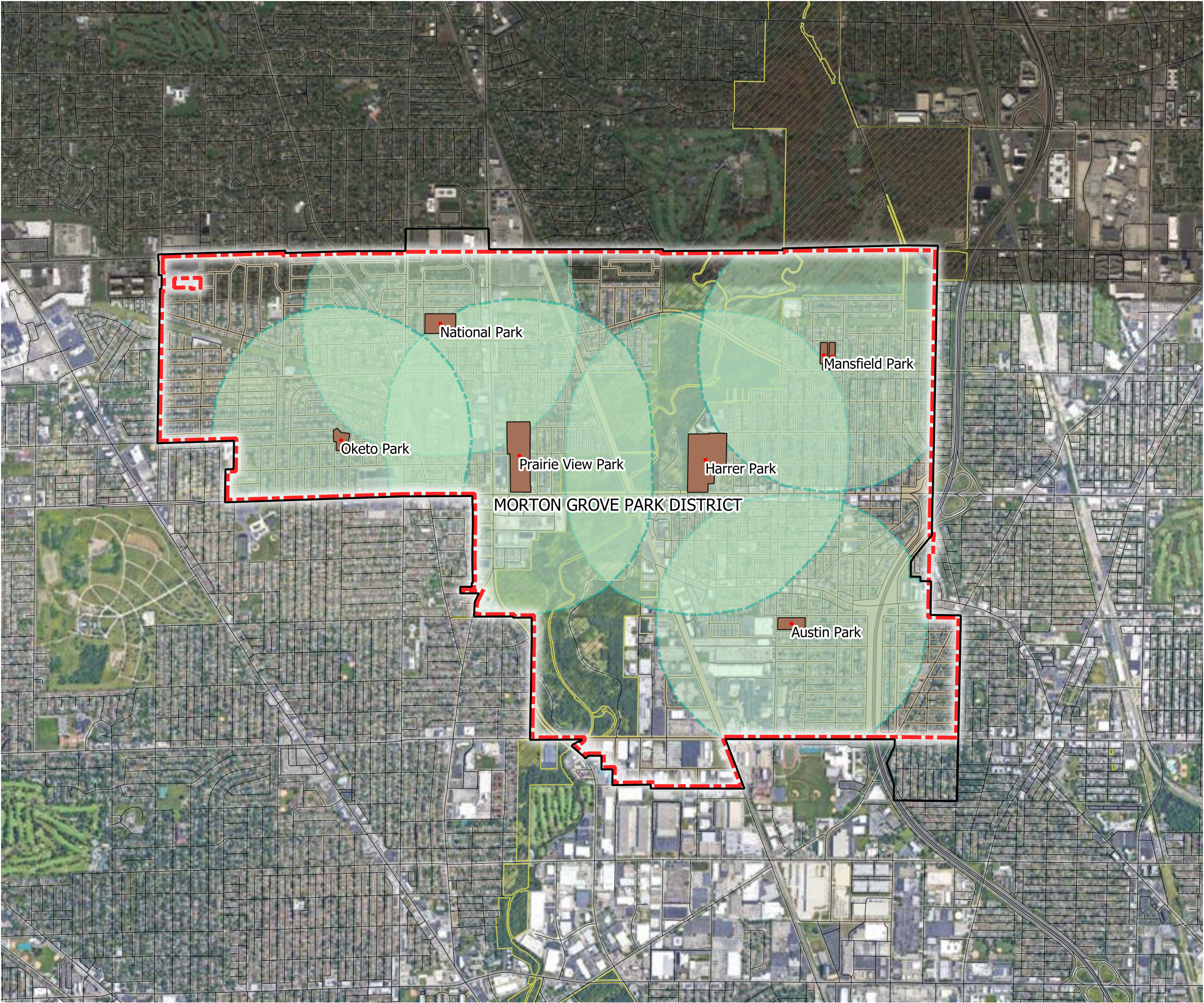
Google Satellite

### Level of Service

NRPA Guidelines: 1 Court Per 2,000 Residents  
MGPD Population(2019): 23,089  
Service Area for Tennis Court: 10  
1 Tennis Court Per 2,309 Residents







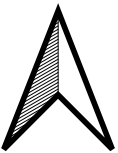
**Morton Grove  
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# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 13. Fieldhouse/Shelter Service Area

### Legend

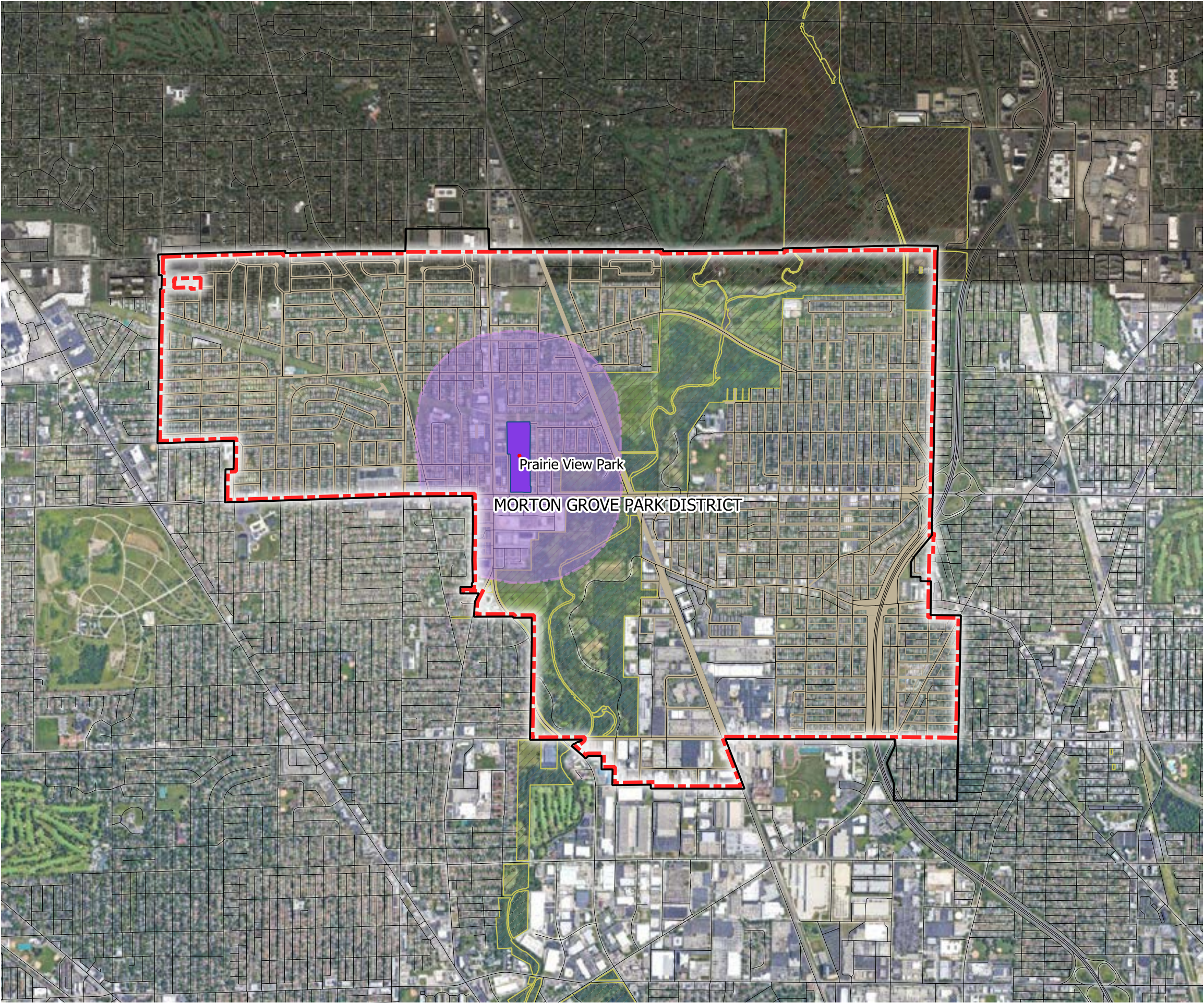
- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Shelter
- Shelter Service Area clipped
- Forest Preserve
- Google Satellite



0 2,500 5,000 7,500 ft

A scale bar with markings for 0, 2,500, 5,000, and 7,500 feet.





# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 14. Outdoor Ice Rink Service Area

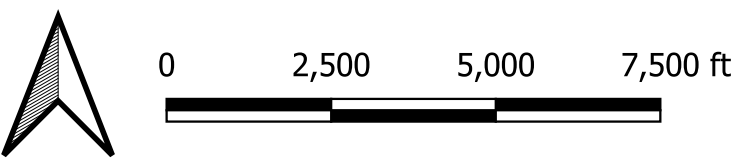
### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Forest Preserve
- Ice Rink
- Ice Rink Service Area

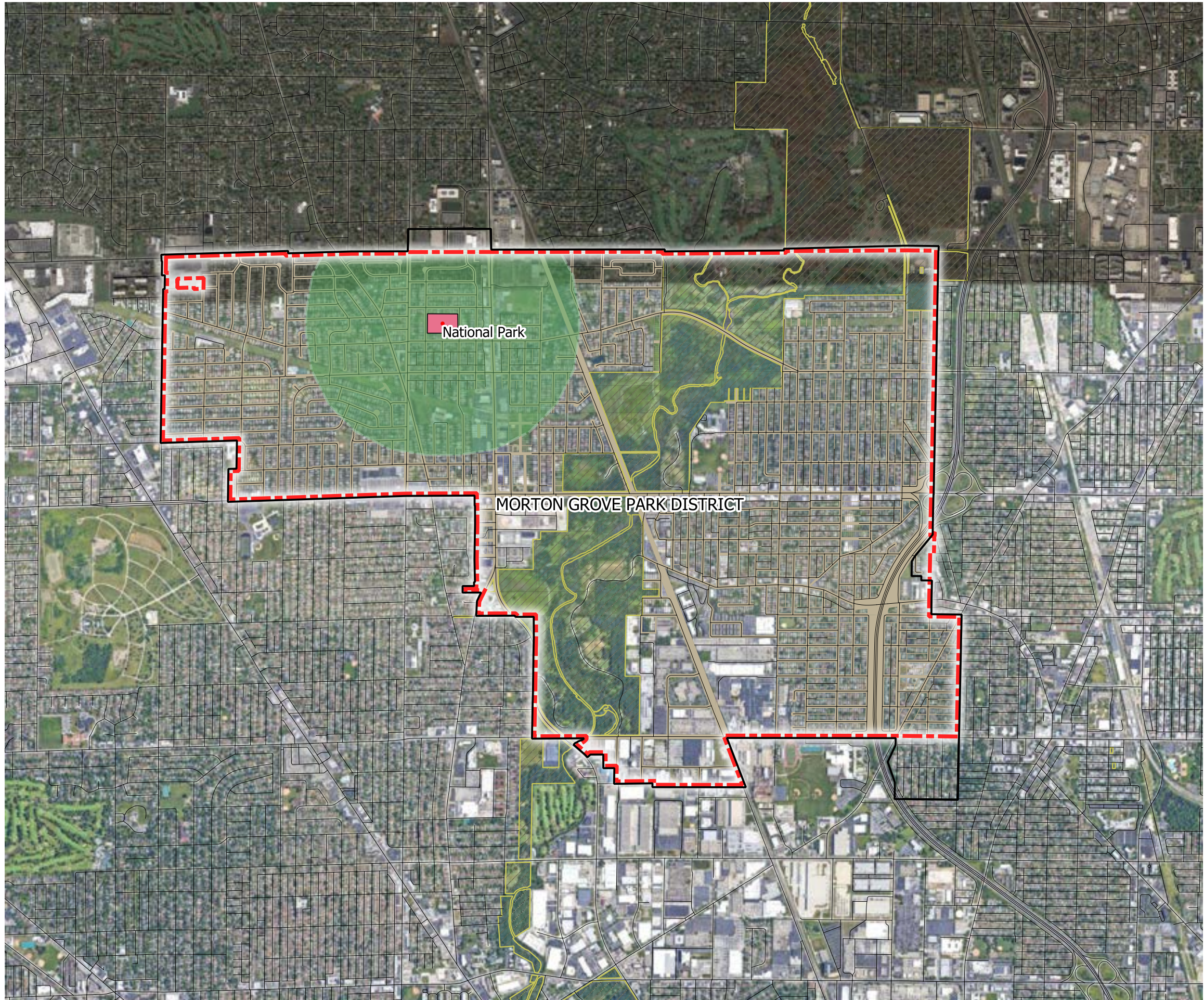
Google Satellite

### Level of Service

No Required NRPA Guidelines  
MGPD Population(2019): 23,089  
Service Area for Ice Rink: 1  
1 Ice Rink Per 23,089 Residents







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# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 15. Roller Hockey Court Service Area

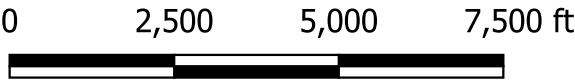
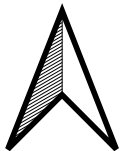
### Legend

- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Forest Preserve
- Roller Hockey Court
- Roller Hockey Court Service Area

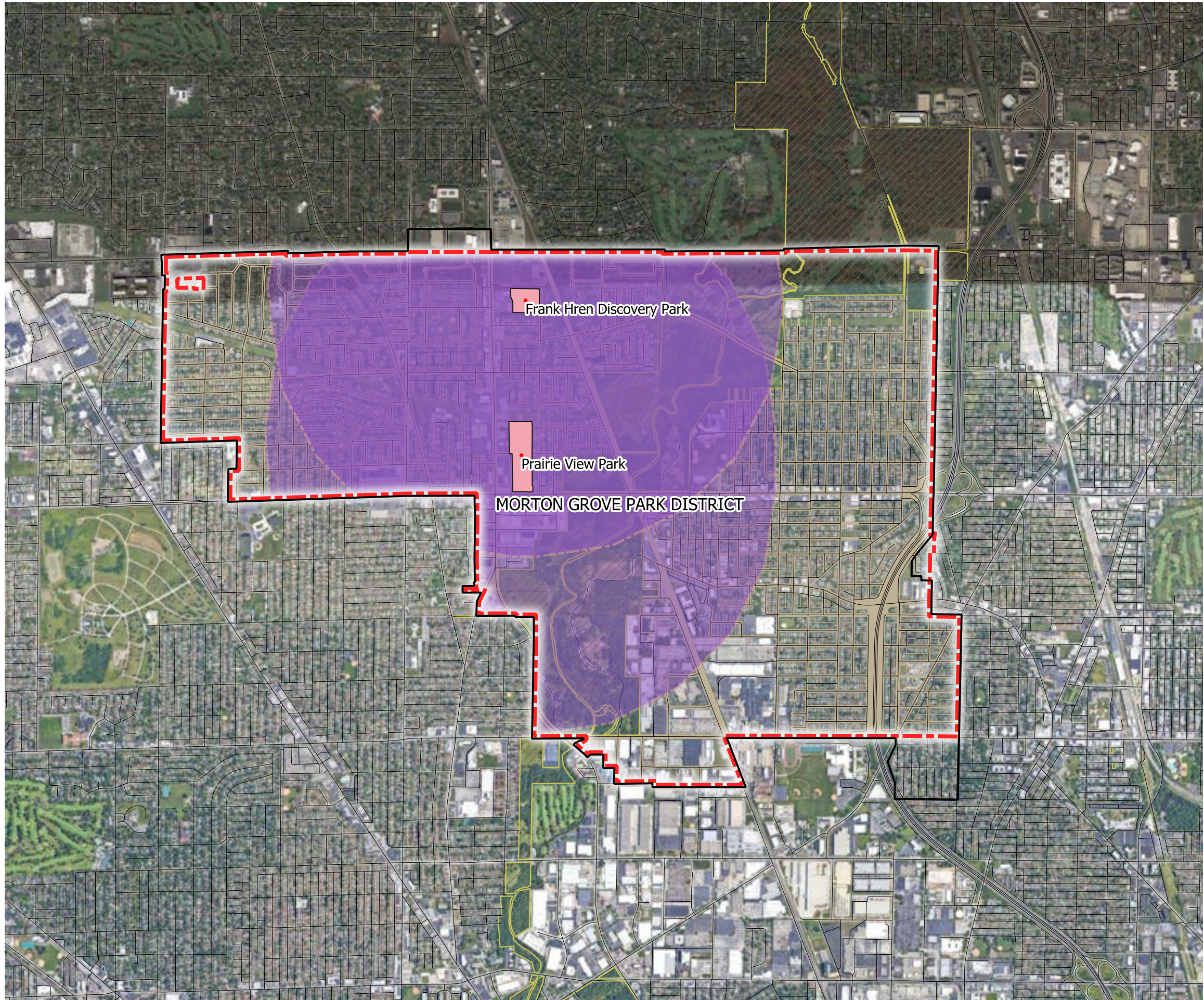
Google Satellite

### Level of Service

No Required NRPA Guidelines  
MGPD Population(2019): 23,089  
Service Area for Roller Hockey Court: 1  
1 Roller Hockey Court Per 23,089 Residents







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# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 16. Prairie Nature Preserve Service Area

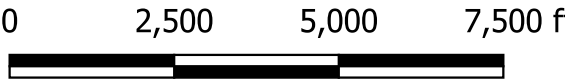
### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Forest Preserve
- Prairie Nature Preserve
- Prairie Nature Preserve Service Area

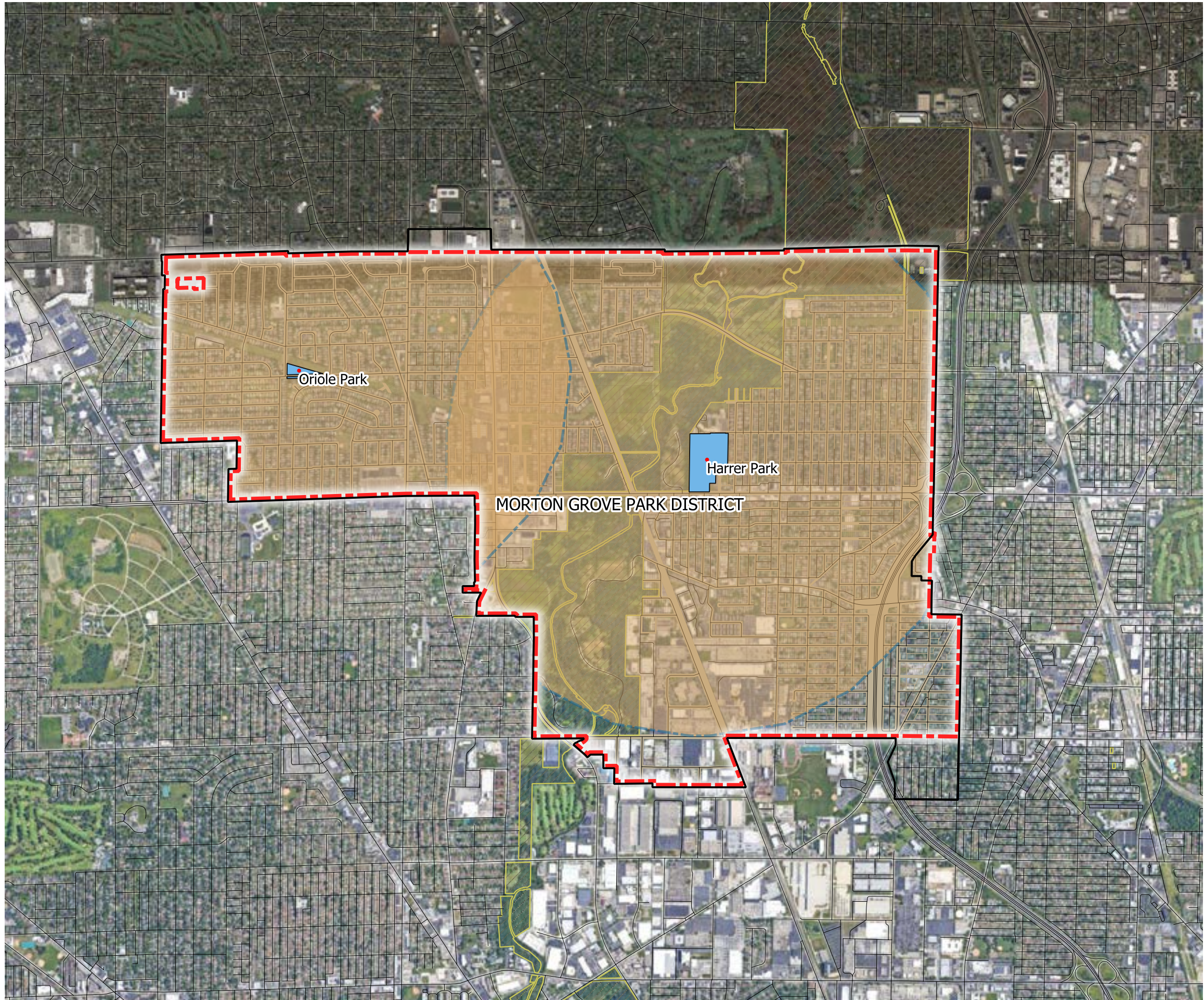
Google Satellite

### Level of Service

No Required NRPA Guidelines  
MGPD Population(2019): 23,089  
Service Area for Prairie Nature Preserve: 2  
1 Prairie Nature Preserve Per 11,545 Residents







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# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 17. Swimming Pool Service Area

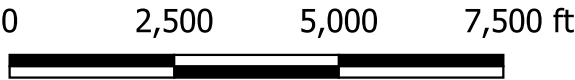
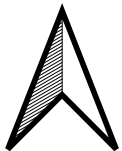
### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Forest Preserve
- Swimming Pool
- Swimming Pool Service Area

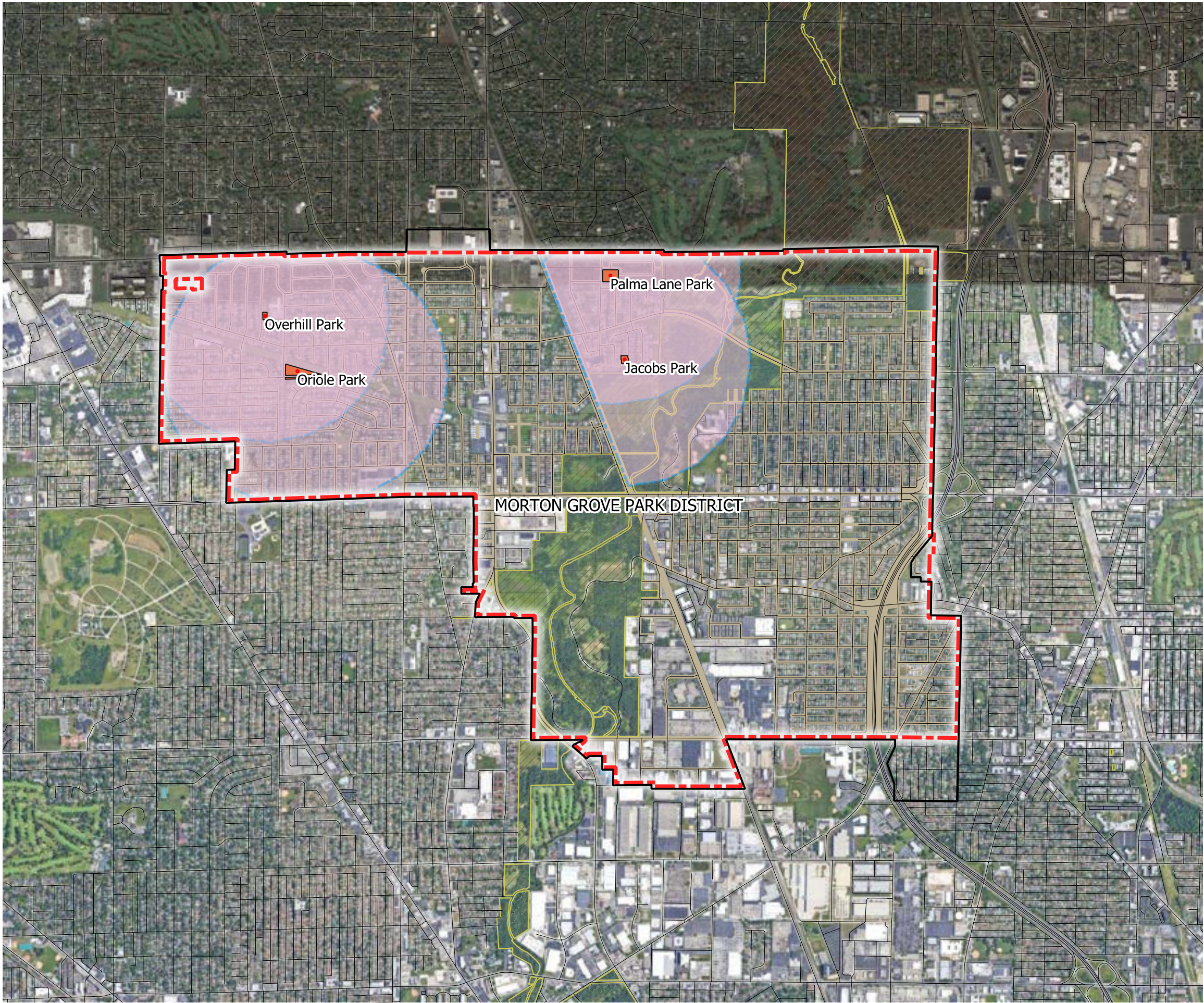
Google Satellite

### Level of Service

NRPA Guidelines: 1 Swimming Pool Per 20,000 Residents  
MGPD Population(2019): 23,089  
Service Area for Swimming Pool: 2  
1 Swimming Pool Per 11,545 Residents







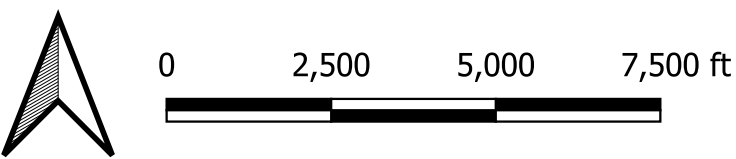
# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 18. Playground (2-5 years old) Service Area

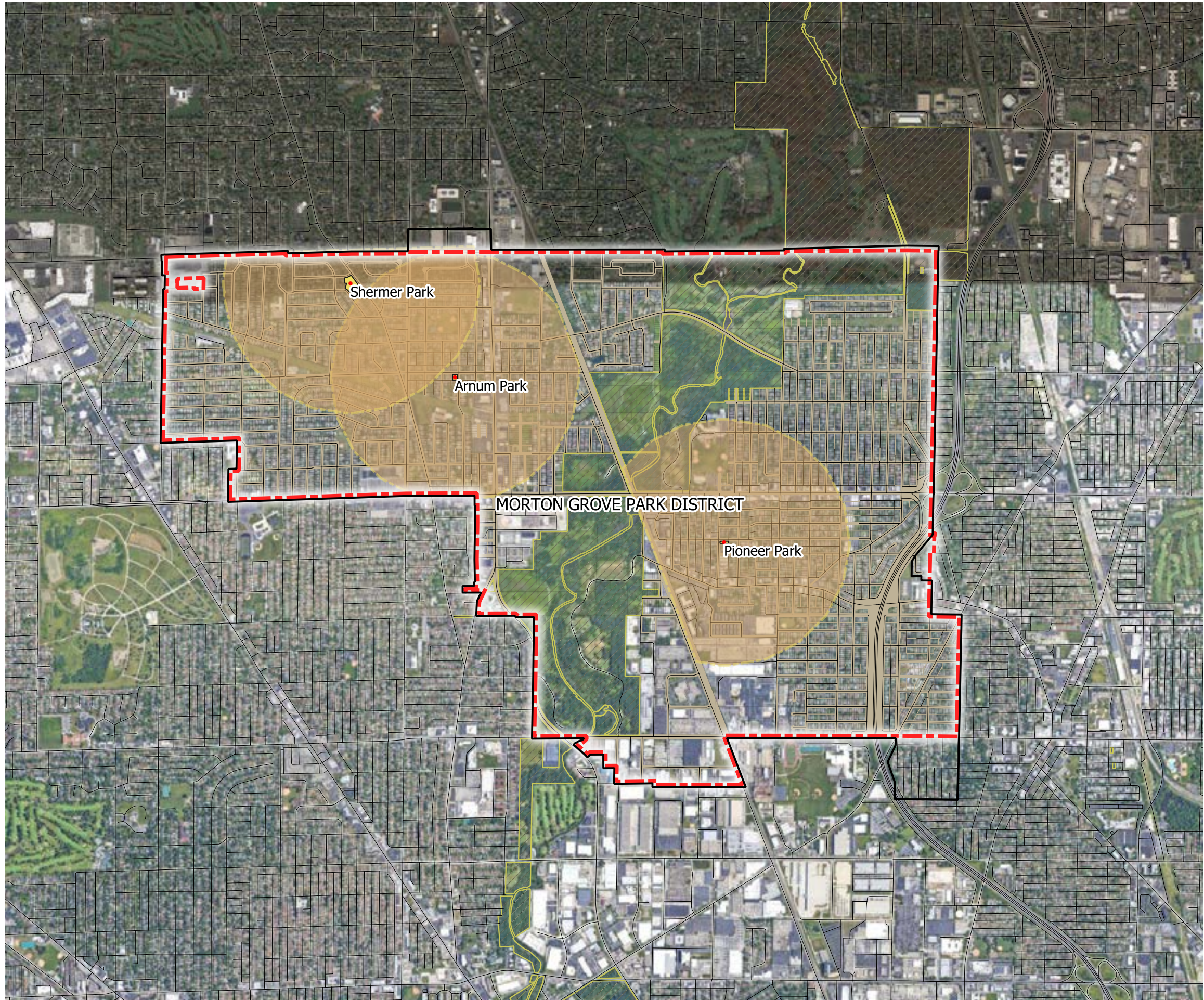
**Legend**

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Forest Preserve
- Right of Way
- Playground (2-5 years old)
- Playground (2-5 years old) Service Area

Google Satellite







**Morton Grove  
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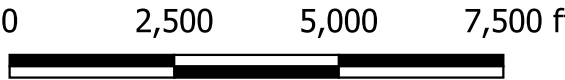
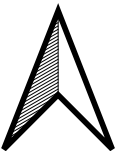
# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 19. Playground (5-12 years old) Service Area

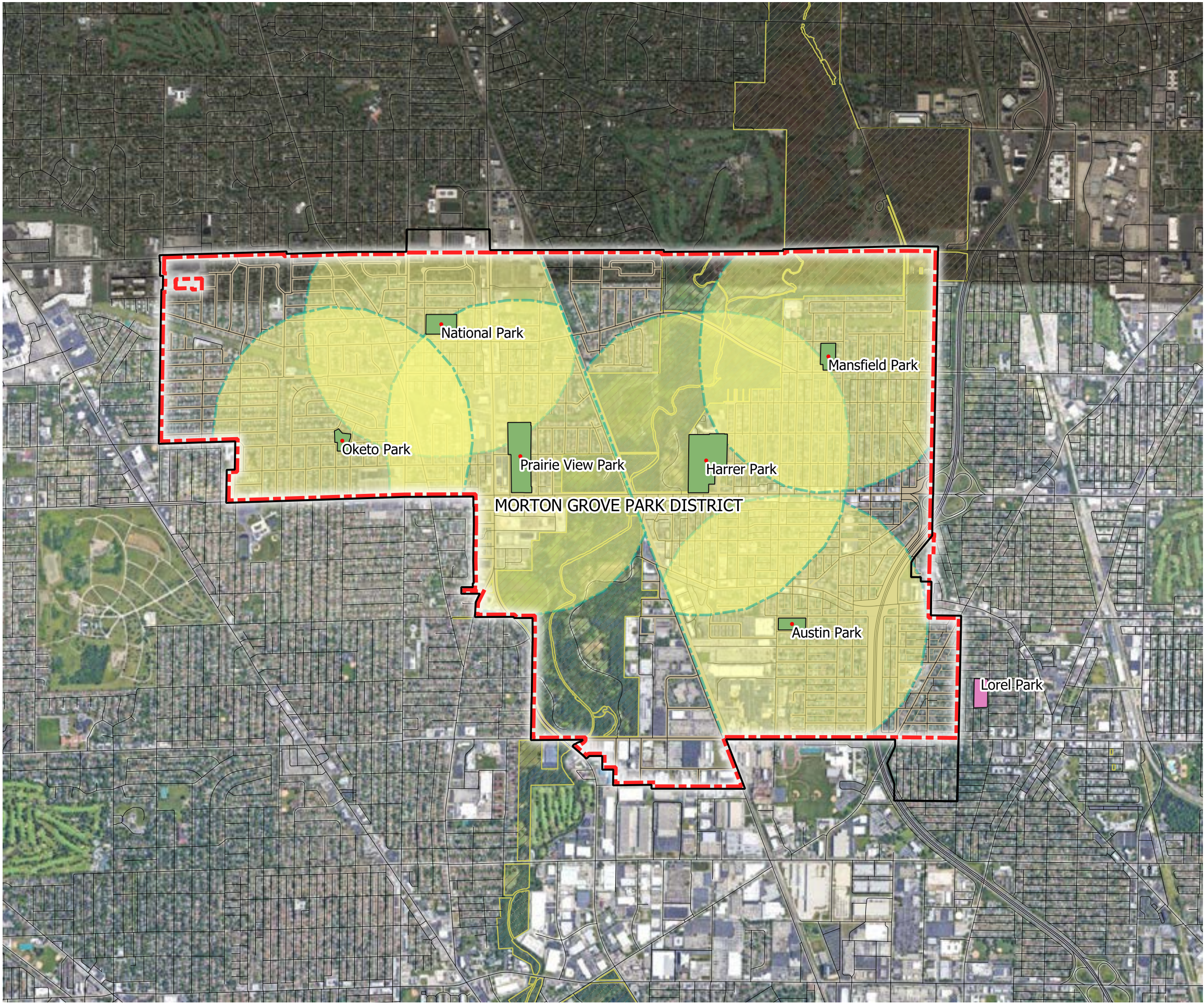
### Legend

- Morton Grove Park District Boundary
- Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Lotline
- Right of Way
- Forest Preserve
- Playground (5-12 years old)
- Playground (5-12 years old) Service Area

Google Satellite















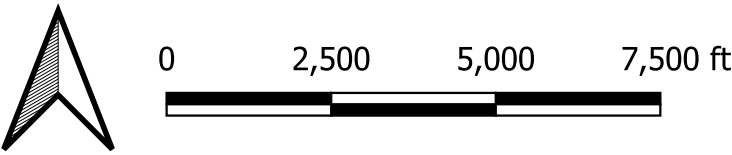
**MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT  
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

**20. Playground (2-12 years old)  
Service Area**

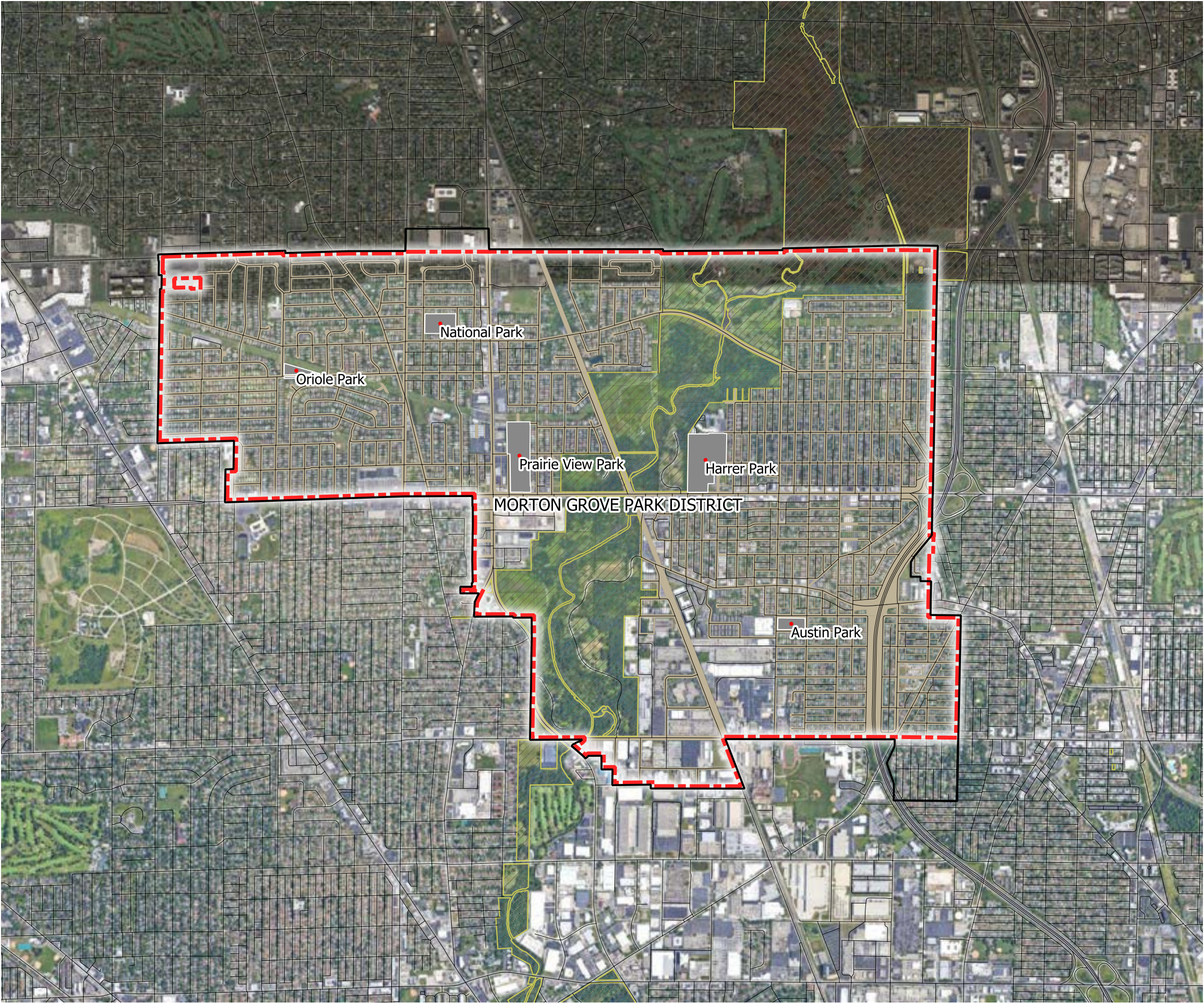
**Legend**

-  Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
-  Morton Grove Park District Boundary
-  Street Centerline
-  Right of Way
-  Playground (2-12 years old)
-  Playground (2-12 years old) Service Area
-  Loreal Park (Skokie Park District)
-  Forest Preserve

Google Satellite







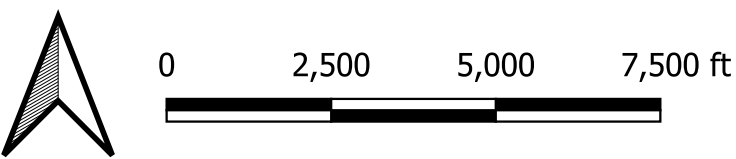
# MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

## 21. On Site Parking Lot

**Legend**

-  Morton Grove Park District Boundary
-  Morton Grove Municipal Boundary
-  Street Centerline
-  Lotline
-  Forest Preserve
-  Right of Way
-  On Site Parking Lot

Google Satellite





## Public Private Partnership

Residents of MGPD are not limited to Park District properties for their open space and outdoor recreational opportunities. Like most recreation agencies, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) are a key component of the MGPD parks and recreation system. As financial pressures and budget constraints increase, many park agencies and recreation districts rely on PPPs as a way of reducing operating budgets – turning these responsibilities over to or sharing them with other governmental agencies or private companies.

Morton Grove is served by five public elementary school districts and two high school districts. The School Districts provide similar active recreation amenities at their school sites, including playgrounds, fields, and courts. Rather than trying to cover all of the community's recreation needs themselves, partnerships with other open space providers are a good opportunity to assist all agencies in providing the highest level of service to residents. The MGPD currently partners with Golf School District 67, and Morton Grove School District 70 in addition to a like partnership with the Village of Morton Grove, Niles Park District, and the Morton Grove American Youth Soccer Organization to provide more services, facilities, and programs to its residents. These agreements benefit all parties and allow a land-locked community like Morton Grove, to gain more greenspace, as well as recreational and programming opportunities.

The Morton Grove Park District takes an active approach in working with its partners. Partnerships take on many different forms, but there are three primary types that park and recreation agencies like MGPD engage with. They include:

- Intergovernmental Partnerships
- Affiliate Partnerships
- Corporate Partnerships

All three of these types are important to the Park District mission. The first two PPP types are well established within the District, but the third one, corporate park partnerships, is an untapped opportunity that should be considered in the future.

### **Corporate Park Partnerships**

The Village of Morton Grove has a vibrant business environment and can provide outlets for businesses that seek local exposure and value the mission of the Park District. Through Corporate Partnerships, the MGPD can create unique and customized branding opportunities that are also cost effective in order to meet the District's goals and objectives. Local businesses and corporations can maximize their marketing dollars by combining resources with the Park District in the development of a banner campaign. The banner campaign could consist of a multi-level sponsorship program or with multiple events and programs



across various District parks, facilities and platforms. For example, for branding and visibility, businesses and corporations could advertise their brand at one of fourteen ballfields across the community. A 6' x 4' banner could be displayed on the backstops or side wing fence from April 1 – November 30 each year seen by hundreds of local sports enthusiasts each week throughout the year. Also, the Park District's website is a great resource used by residents and program participants monthly. Local businesses and corporations could integrate their brand along with the Park District's logo through digital website advertising. Lastly, the Prairie View Community Center is a dynamic facility that features a fitness center, gymnasium, aerobic dance studio, and more. This facility serves as the main hub of activity for the District. Corporate messaging/branding can run on the various large-screen monitors located throughout the facility. Options could include still ads or 30 second commercials.

As the Park District reviews and renews its partnership agreements, it should classify the user fee potential to be gained by the type of services offered within each category. Each section below outlines the terms of agreement and benefits to the Morton Grove Park District.

### **Village of Morton Grove**

The Village of Morton Grove and the Morton Grove Park District both serve the interests of the residents of Morton Grove. Their Cooperative Agreements help ensure the delivery of excellent quality services to the residents of the community while holding costs to a minimum and eliminating duplication. Their agreements underscore the long-standing tradition of the Village and Park District sharing equipment and services.

The MGPD's intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Morton Grove includes the following for shared services and operations:

- Cross access between Harrer Park and the American Legion Memorial Civic Center.
- A portion of the American Legion Memorial Civic Center to be used by the Park District for the Morton Grove Historical Museum; and
- Shared landscape maintenance services.

### **School-Park Partnership**

School-Park Partnership Sites expand outdoor recreational opportunities and fill-in areas of deficiency with the MGPD. The approach of making more effective use of existing facilities like athletic fields, playgrounds, and indoor gymnasium spaces expand year-round recreational opportunities for cash-strapped agencies within land locked communities.

- Golf School District 67 - The MGPD and Golf School District 67 have an intergovernmental agreement for exclusive use and control of Frank Hren Park, the community's premier soccer field complex, by the Park District from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on school days and at all times on those non-school days which are weekend, holidays, and summer vacation. The School District retains the exclusive use and control of the park at all times other than those granted to the Park District.

The Park District and School District also have an agreement for joint use of the Hynes Elementary School Gymnasium.

- Morton Grove School District 70 - The MGPD and Morton Grove School District 70 have an intergovernmental agreement for use of property when they are not in use by the other party.

The properties and uses include the following:

## Public Private Partnership *(Continued)*

- Park View School (southwest corner): Park District is permitted to occupy and maintain a maintenance garage and outdoor storage;
- School District Buildings: Park District is permitted to use the buildings for indoor programming. Priority usage has been given to the building at Park View School.
- No charge to use the school property during times a custodian is regularly scheduled for school. On weekends, holidays and usage outside of regular hours the Park District shall be charged the average cost of labor;
- Harrer Park playground facilities and recreation areas: The School District shall use the facilities if not in conflict with the Park District's use;
- No charge to use the Park District facilities unless an extraordinary use of the park involves the expenditure of more than the usual amount of Park District staff time and materials;
- Commonwealth Edison Company property north of Harrer Park: The School District is able to use the easement for maintenance of electrical service to Park View School.

### **Niles Park District**

The Niles Park District (NPD) and Morton Grove Park District (MGPD) have an intergovernmental agreement for use of each other's pool facilities at resident rates. This was a three-year agreement from June 1, 2017 to December 31, 2020 but renews each year automatically for three successive years beginning January 1, 2021.

The NPD also grants the MGPD residents use of the NPD Iceland Skate facility at resident rates. In return, the MGPD grants NPD residents the ability to utilize the MGPD club fitness facility at a resident rate.

### **Morton Grove American Youth Soccer Organization (MGAYSO)**

The MGPD and MGAYSO have an intergovernmental agreement to use the district's baseball, softball and other fields for games and practices. They also can store equipment at Frank Hren Park shelter and responsible for securing the facility after each use. To use the storage area, MGAYSO pays \$10,000 total (\$2,000 per year from 2010 to 2014).

The Park District performs all field work associated with the fields, but MGAYSO is responsible for any damage done to property beyond normal wear and tear. MGAYSO can also use the Community Center if available upon request for board or team meetings. The gymnasium is also available for use for a fee if it is available upon request for off season clinics.

### **Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation (M-NASR)**

The MGPD has a long-standing successful partnership with the Main-Niles Association of Special Recreation (M-NASR). M-NASR offers programming and services to individuals with disabilities living within 7 neighboring communities - Des Plaines Park District, Golf-Maine Park District, Morton Grove Park District, Niles Park District, Park Ridge Park District, Skokie Park District, and the Village of Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation.



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## Chapter 5

# COMMUNITY VISIONING PROCESS

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## Community Engagement

A critical component of the MGPD Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) is effective public engagement. Public input is an essential part of the comprehensive master planning process to identify the District's current issues and community values. The most effective plans directly relate to the realities and visions of the communities that created them. Therefore, the importance of public involvement in the comprehensive master plan process cannot be underestimated and is absolutely necessary if the plan is to effectively deliver community-oriented park and recreation services to residents of the Park District. The foundation of this Comprehensive Master Plan is input from a wide variety of recreation users, key stakeholders, community leaders and the general public. This input

established principles, values and vision that guide the decision-making process for recreation services and facilities. This process formulated consensus through an open and effective forum.

The MGPD Comprehensive Master Plan engagement format was impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic as the public engagement process had to be adapted to respond to the restrictions and guidelines recommended by the State and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) which replaced all in-person meetings with a virtual engagement platform.

To ensure the process was meaningful and relevant, the District and project team designed an "all virtual" public engagement



process to maximize opportunities for input and feedback as a means of increasing public trust and organizational competence ensuring the community was represented, informed, heard, and empowered. The community input represents qualitative and quantitative data that is used to define need, values, and vision for recreation in Morton Grove. The engagement phase of the Comprehensive Master Plan provided several opportunities to obtain a perspective from a variety of recreation users of facilities and programs, key stakeholders, community leaders, Park staff, and individuals associated with MGPDP through their business or not-for-profit organization. The purpose of gathering community input through a variety of methods is for community members to have a comfortable platform to participate and freely express their thoughts while at the same time ensuring that it reflects the views, preferences, and recreating patterns of Park District residents.

### **What are Morton Grove Park District residents saying about recreation?**

Morton Grove Park District's community engagement took place on September 8th and September 14, 2021. The MGPDP Engagement Phase for the Comprehensive Plan included the following elements:

- 2 Virtual Town Hall, Public Issues & Opportunity Open Houses
- Community Park and Recreation Random Mail Survey
- 1 Virtual Park Board (Elected officials) Focus Group

Similar questions were asked during each session to identify common themes.

The CMP Slogan/Brand for the Plan is "Growing Greatness" – in other words, the district will use the input and information gained from the various public engagement methods including the recommendations

identified in the Plan to guide and direct future planning efforts as the MGPDP "grows towards greatness" over the next 5 years. – with a focus on Park District residents and how it can improve its processes and services to better serve its constituents.

The following is a summary of the most significant and consistent findings, key issues, priorities in facility needs, and principles that create the basis for Community Values from the Town Hall, Public Issues & Opportunity Open Houses and the Elected Officials Focus Group.

These public engagement methods are combined with other research and observations to develop a triangulation approach to public involvement. Triangulation is a concept which recognizes that no single public engagement strategy will accurately reflect the true preferences of an entire community. Repeatedly asking the same or similar questions in a variety of forums and then comparing the answers can identify common themes and issues. This combination of methodology results in a thorough understanding of the general public's views, which can then be incorporated into the Master Plan.

The public input process also included a Community-Wide Park and Recreation Random Mail Survey which polled a representative portion of the Morton Grove Park District population. The survey provided an opportunity to reach individuals who would not typically attend a meeting or otherwise participate in a public engagement process.



# Town Hall, Public Issues & Opportunity Open Houses and Park Board Focus Group Consensus Summary

## Organizational Strengths

*Looking at the MGPD from the outside, what do you see as District strengths that should be continued over the next several years? How satisfied are you with community parks and recreation resources provided by the MGPD?*

### Summary:

The strengths include the variety of well-maintained unique facilities, overall good condition of the parks, variety of programming, and outstanding job and responsiveness of staff members.

### Other items mentioned included:

- Variety of Recreation Programs and activities
- Wonderful activities for children and adults
- The program brochure offers residents diverse and wide-ranging recreational activities – there is something for everyone
- Annual Playground improvements
- Well maintained buildings and facilities
- Well maintained parks and playgrounds
- Very safe facilities
- Keep parks clean & updates them periodically
- Good employees/staff is very accessible
- Reasonably priced programs/classes
- Taxpayers receive high value for facilities, programs and services
- Very positive perception of Park District and its services
- The amount and quality of open space is good
- Valuable asset to the community for a variety of reasons that includes facilities, convenience and programming
- Outdoor summer programming; like concerts in the park, National Night Out, and back to school bash.

## Areas of Improvement

*Conversely, what do you see as major weaknesses of the District that need to be addressed through the Comprehensive Master Plan? What are some areas where the District could look to improve/change in their current practices?*

### Summary:

More senior programs and activities to serve the District's growing population of active adults, seniors, and empty nesters, more community involvement, and washroom access (porta-potty alternative) were the most frequently mentioned areas with opportunities for improvement.

### Other areas for improvement included:

- Strengthening partnerships – more organization/agency coordination
- Marketing Winter Skating Rink
- Ongoing communication and public engagement
- Low priority on green infrastructure practices.
- Update to facilities-parks and facilities need more personality
- Washroom Access – Porta-potty's not popular with residents
- More community involvement
- More Senior programs and activities
- More program space
- Need more trees and plants in the parks
- More Shade in the parks
- Better control of dogs in the parks – no off-leash dog area in the district.
- Lack of parking

## Agency Satisfaction

*How satisfied are you with the programs, quality of existing infrastructure, and maintenance of the parks and facilities within the District?*

### Summary:

The general assessment reveals that most residents have a favorable view of the District – its parks, facilities, and recreation program/ services. Most comments expressed extreme satisfaction with the agency and its services.

- A lot of programs provided
- Favorable draw to newcomers
- Reasonable fees; affordability
- Impressed with staff and inclusiveness
- Good customer service
- Friendly staff
- Keeps residents informed about programs offered – periodic mailings
- Website
- Use of school facilities

## Opportunities

*Are there any Opportunities for Improvement that you see that the District should consider exploring or targeting?*

### Summary:

Connection between the Park District and residents through increased communication as well as build upon current relationships with District partners. Other comments included:

- Expand collaboration on services
- Attention to partnering to leverage resources
- Join up with bordering communities to increase numbers for athletics and activities (Skokie, Niles, Lincolnwood)
- Explore additional intergovernmental opportunities

- Build upon current relationships with the Village, Library, and surrounding Park Districts
- Develop new partnerships with other organizations and School Districts
- Keep up with trends in facilities and programs
- Ensure high standards in maintenance, programs, and services
- Educational and environmental ethic in programs and facilities

## Facilities

*What improvements are needed at existing facilities? Where are these improvements needed?*

### Summary:

The need for more program space to accommodate more senior activities and youth programming was mentioned several times including the development of new washroom facilities in the district – less reliance on porta-pots.

Other most requested new facilities or improvements to facilities were:

- Bike Paths and Trails - In conjunction with Village, look at bike paths and walking trails/and trail connectivity and signage within the area
  1. Golf Road to Oakton Ave.
  2. Caldwell to Niles West
- Modest upgrades to parks creating individual park identities
- New facilities/programs:
  1. Synthetic turf field at Frank Hren Park
  2. Basketball
  3. Softball
  4. Soccer AYSO
  5. Lacrosse/Cricket



# Town Hall, Public Issues & Opportunity Open Houses and Park Board Focus Group *(Continued)*

## Diversity & Equity

*MGPD is very unique in the fact you have more than 50 different dialects spoken within your community as their primary language. Do you feel the MGPD effectively meets the recreation and programming needs of this demographic, or do you feel this demographic may be underserved? (What type of amenities, services, or programs are needed to better serve this market segment?)*

### Summary:

Many of the comments received felt that to serve the community, more diverse programs are needed and will need to rely on community response to identify needs and deficiencies  
Additional comments:

- Continue outreach to minorities and other special populations to build trust
- Initiate more diverse programs to serve the community as a whole
- Rely on community response to identify needs and deficiencies

## Environmental Stewardship

*How do you perceive the District as a leader in environmental stewardship in the community? How important is that to you.... i.e., water conservation, sustainable maintenance practices, recycling?*

### Summary:

Several comments received throughout the engagement opportunities illustrate multiple new ideas and suggestions for the district to prioritize “Green Practices” and focus more on being a leader in environmental stewardship in the community.

### Additional comments:

- Morton Grove “Green Group” Awareness
- MGPD should provide leadership in the promotion and development of environmental ethics
- Expand environmental and passive recreation (MG Prairie)
- Resource management - Park District recycling
- Enhanced pedestrian connectivity in areas to expand pedestrian walkability (Coordinate with Village)
- New waste management service
- Programs to educate the public on environmental stewardship benefits
- Coordinate efforts with district partners or expand opportunities with other agencies such as School Districts #67 & #70, Morton Grove Library, Village of Morton Grove, Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce



## Threats Facing the District

*Are there any threats facing the Morton Grove Park District? How about Park Districts in general?*

### Summary:

Significant issues mentioned included funding and financial concerns as a result of possible property tax freezes and minimum wage increases.

### Other important issues discussed:

- Staffing & Labor shortage as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic
  1. Lifeguards – Struggle for Pool Training
  2. Salaries
- COVID 19 issues regarding access to SD #67 & #70



**Morton Grove**  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



## Values

*What is the number one value that you receive from your parks and recreation system? i.e. good service from staff, family-oriented programming and activities, good communication about happenings and program offerings, quality and affordable programming, balance between passive and active recreation, or organized sports and unstructured activities?*

### Summary:

The consensus was that parks build better communities. The parks in Morton Grove create a sense of community for the residents. Additional comments:

- Program offerings and their value
- Cultural programming
- Clean and safe within the community
- Equity and accessibility
- Health and fitness
- Environment and climate resilience
- People and community

From this input, community values for recreation emerged that serve to frame the Plan and its supporting strategies and actions. The values and vision were created from how often the community addressed certain elements of the District's programming, facility, or operational functions and confirmed through on-site observation and reviews with staff and the Planning team.





# Community Needs Survey

## Overview and Methodology

The Morton Grove Park District conducted a Household Community Survey during the fall of 2021 from October 6 through November 3, 2021. The purpose of the survey was to help identify needs and improvements regarding Park District parks, facilities, programs and services and to assist the Park District in planning for and prioritizing future projects.

The Planning Team worked extensively with the MGPD staff and Board in the development of the survey questionnaire. This effort resulted in a survey specifically tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the Park District's future.

Printed surveys and postcard invitations were sent to a random sample of over 9,340 households within the District. Recipients of these invitations were offered three options in which to participate:

- Online via secure survey website (resulting in n=261 respondents)
- Completing the printed mail questionnaire and sending it to the Planning Team via a prepaid return envelope (n=172 respondents)
- Over the phone with a Planning Team interviewer (n=1 respondent).

The survey goal was to obtain completed responses from at least n=400 randomly selected households within the MGPD boundaries. The study exceeded that target with n=434 completed surveys.

In order to ensure representative results reflecting the entire community, this respondent sample was weighted to match current US Census data for Morton Grove by region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and percentage of households with children under 18. Assuming no sample bias, the maximum margin of error for a sample of n=434 respondents is +/- 4.7% (at the 95% confidence level).

# COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR THE MORTON GROVE PARK DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 2021

*aQity Research & Insights*

*Evanston, IL*



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## Research Methods

- These findings are based on a random sample of n=434 Morton Grove households.
- Data collection was between October 6 and November 3, 2021. The printed survey and/or postcard invitations for the online survey option were sent by USPS to a random sample of over 9,340 Morton Grove households. All mailings included options to complete the survey by mail, online, or phone.



- This respondent sample was weighted to match updated US Census data for Morton Grove by region, gender, age, ethnicity, and percentage of households with children. Assuming no sample bias, the margin of error is +/- 4.7% (at the 95% confidence level) \*.
- Throughout the report, statistically meaningful differences (at the 95% confidence level) are identified. If responses from a demographic group are not reported, this means that the response from that segment was generally in line with the overall response.



## Methods: Sample Demographics

### Gender\*

Male	48%
Female	52%
Prefer to self-describe	0%

### Age\*

<35	10%
35-44	18%
45-54	17%
55-64	17%
65+	31%
Refused	7%
<i>Mean (years)</i>	<i>56</i>

### Children in Household\*

Yes	36%
No	64%

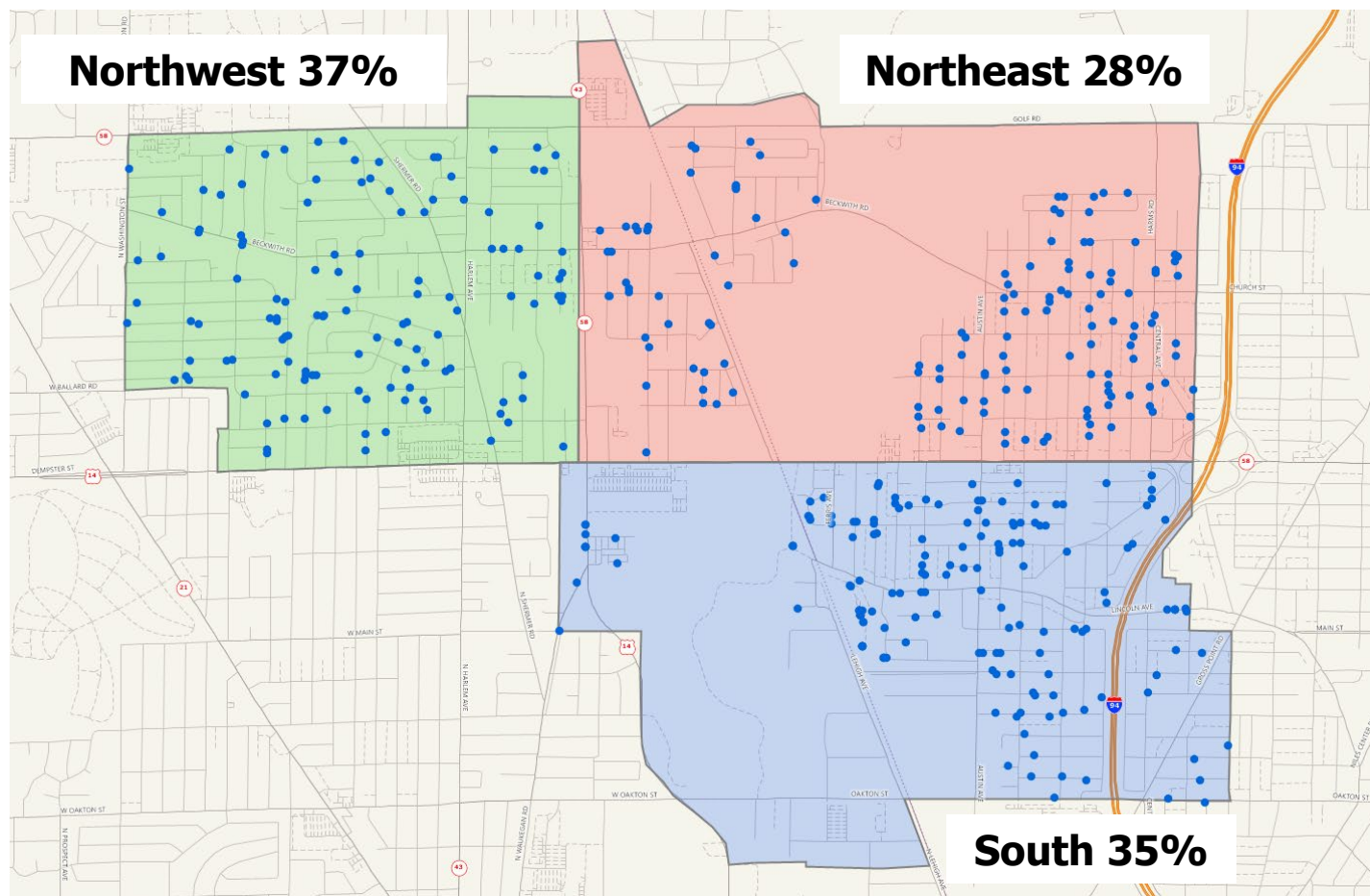
### Length of Residence in Morton Grove

< 5 yrs.	14%
5-9 yrs.	14%
10-19 yrs.	18%
20-29 yrs.	23%
30+ yrs.	31%
<i>Mean (years)</i>	<i>23</i>

### Ethnicity\*

White/Caucasian (non-Hispanic)	60%
Asian (non-Hispanic)	28%
Other (Hispanic, Black/African American)	12%

## Methods: Sample Demographics \*





# Executive Summary: Key Findings

## Overall Opinions

### Morton Grove Park District Residents Continue to Hold the MGPD in High Regard

- On a zero through ten rating scale, the MGPD averages a positive score of 7.4, which is generally consistent (up slightly) from its 7.3 average in 2018. *< pp. 19 - 20 >*
- Overall, 82% have a favorable opinion of the District, including 27% who hold it in highest esteem (scores of 9 or 10). By comparison, only 5% have a negative opinion (also consistent with 2018), and the remaining 13% are neutral.
  - The ratio of favorable-to-unfavorable ratings for the MGPD is over 16:1.
- Its strong ratings are held by all subgroups in the community. The only meaningful difference is by age:
  - Highest esteem comes from adults ages 65+ (8.1, vs. 7.4 overall).
  - Lower than average (still favorable) scores come from those under age 35 (7.0) or 35-44 (6.9).

### MGPD Staff Receive Even Higher Ratings for the Service They Provide

- On the same 0-10 scale, residents are very satisfied with District staff in terms of: *< pp. 35 - 36 >*
  - Overall friendliness (8.1 average, including 57% who are “completely” satisfied);
  - Responsiveness (8.1 average, 53% “completely” satisfied);
  - Knowledge (7.9 average, 49% “completely” satisfied).
- All groups give District staff strong ratings (7.2 or higher), especially the youngest (under 45) and oldest (over 65) adults.
  - Asian households in the District tend to give lower than average scores (though still very positive).



## **Overall Opinions – Cont’d**

### **Residents Overall Believe that the MGPD’s Share of Property Taxes Is Higher Than in Reality**

- On average, survey respondents estimate that the District receives 9.2% of residents’ property taxes, nearly double its actual 5.7% share. < pg. 37 >

- Those giving higher than average estimates are adults under age 35, the newest residents (moved to Morton Grove in the past five years) and households in the NE region.

### **When Informed of Its Actual Share of Property Taxes, Residents Rate the MGPD a Good Value Overall**

- Upon informing respondents that the MGPD receives 5.7% of local property taxes, the District averages a 6.9 value rating (on a 0-10) given that this share helps to cover the programs, parks, facilities and services that District provides. < pp. 38 - 39 >

- This value score is slightly higher than the 6.7 average in 2018 (when the District represented 4.5% of property taxes).
- These “good” ratings are consistent across all regions and subgroups within the District. They tend to align with or lag behind value ratings for nearby park districts.

## **Overall Opinions – Cont'd**

### **A Clear Majority Feel That the MGPD is Inclusive and Represents the Community's Diversity**

- Overall, 89% feel that they and their household are properly represented and feel included within the MGPD and its offerings. This level of agreement is consistent across all race and ethnic groups in the sample.
- The 11% (n=48 overall) who disagree most often feel the District needs to be more inclusive or representative with:
  - Seniors in terms of providing more services and activities and/or reducing fees for those on fixed incomes (n=12);
  - Greater reflection of the cultural and ethnic diversity in the community (n=9), especially in programming and events, representation in MGPD communications, etc.;
  - More awareness/programming for LGBTQ households, and/or for older adults and empty nesters in general (n=5 each).

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## **Overall Opinions: Perceived Strengths and Weaknesses (open-ended)**

### **MGPD Parks/Trails Are Seen as Top Strengths, Followed Closely by Programs/Events and Facilities**

- When asked what they like most about the Morton Grove Park District and what represents its strengths, 83% offered a response, most often mentioning its parks and trails (cited by 40%, especially their level of maintenance, the number and variety of parks, and good trails).
- Nearly as many (35%) mention District programs and events as key strengths, especially community and family events, youth programs, and the variety of offerings for all ages.
- Twenty-eight percent cite MGPD facilities as strengths (well-maintained, aquatics facilities, Prairie View Community Center, etc.).
- MGPD staff and administration are mentioned by 13% overall.

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### **Two out of Five Residents Could Not Identify Any Weaknesses or Improvement Needs for the District**

- In a separate open-ended question, 41% were unable to offer any suggestions or complaints, including 11% who dislike nothing at all. The rest most often suggested:
  - Building/facility issues (35%), most often the need for an indoor pool, and specific facility upgrades (e.g., the fitness center at Prairie View Community Center).
  - Programs/event comments (27%), usually requests for more/better youth programs, more/better sports or fitness programs in general, and more events.
  - Staff and administrative issues (24%), usually more/better communication, dislikes of changes at Harrer Pool, better use of tax dollars/spending, etc.
  - Parks-related comments (22%), usually wanting more trees and landscaping, a dog park, needs for general upgrades and maintenance, etc.

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## Recent Visits And Satisfaction with MGPD Parks

### Overall, 80% of Respondents Report Visits to MGPD Parks in the Past Year

- This level of usage is up slightly from the 74% who reported park visits during the prior year in the 2018 survey. The most frequently used parks now include:
  - Harrer Park or shelter (52% of all residents)
  - Mansfield Park or fieldhouse (34%)
  - Oriole Park (34%)
  - Prairie View Park (34%)
  - National Park or fieldhouse (28%)
  - Austin Park or fieldhouse (28%)
- Other parks are cited by 15% or fewer residents.

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### Recent Users/Visitors Are Very Satisfied with These MGPD Parks

- When visitors rate their satisfaction with these locations, at least nine out of ten are satisfied with the:
  - Overall experience (91% satisfied, including 54% completely satisfied)
  - Accessibility (94%, with 59% completely satisfied)
  - Safety (91%, including 61% completely satisfied – the highest response)
  - Cleanliness and upkeep (91%, with 58% completely satisfied).
- Any specific concerns or complaints about local parks mostly center around:
  - The need for more restrooms throughout, along with more trees and landscaping, and better maintenance in general (n=23 respondents total)
  - Harrer Park (n=5), usually dislikes for the pool, dog issues, etc.)
  - National Park (n=5, usually litter/trash)
  - Austin Park (n=4, again some dog issues)
  - Prairie View Park (n=4, usually better maintenance and trail upkeep).

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## Recent Visits And Satisfaction with MGPD Facilities

### Nearly Half Report Using or Visiting an MGPD Facility in the Past Year

- Overall, 47% said that someone in their household went to a District facility in the past twelve months, most often:
  - Oriole Park Outdoor Aquatic Center (34% of all residents)
  - Amenities at Prairie View Community Center, usually:
    - The Fitness Center (20% of all residents)
    - Gymnasium (11%)
    - Multi-Purpose rooms (10%).
- The remaining facilities are cited by fewer than 10% overall.

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### As With the Parks, Satisfaction with MGPD Facilities is Extremely Positive

- High satisfaction scores for the facilities are nearly as strong as those for the District's parks. Among recent facility users, virtually everyone is at least somewhat satisfied with the:
  - Overall experience (89% satisfied, including 42% completely satisfied)
  - Safety (89%, including 65% completely satisfied – the highest response)
  - Accessibility (87%, with 56% completely satisfied)
  - Cleanliness and upkeep (87%, with 58% completely satisfied)
  - Service experience with MGPD staff (82%, including 48% completely satisfied).
- Relatively few (9%) offer concerns or criticisms about these facilities, most often:
  - Prairie View Community Center (n=13, usually better service, track is too small, cost, better upkeep)
  - Facilities in general (n=12, again mostly service, more updates, better enforcement of COVID protocols)
  - Oriole Park Outdoor Aquatic Center (n=12, mostly a lack of parking, followed by short hours, distracted lifeguards, dirty locker rooms, etc.).

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## **Reasons for Non-Usage of MGPD Parks/Facilities**

### **Non-Users of MGPD Parks and Facilities Tend to Report No Children in The Household**

- Among those who have not visited a District park or facility in the past year and offered feedback (23% overall), nearly half said that it is because they do not have children in their household (or that their children are grown).
  - In other words, the MGPD seems less relevant to them – an opportunity for the District to emphasize the programs and offerings to adults and households of all ages and composition (and show it is not just for households with young children).
- The other top barriers to using or visiting the District's parks and facilities in the past year are:
  - Usage of other facilities/sources for fitness, recreation, etc. (21%)
  - COVID safety concerns (21%)
  - Poor personal health or mobility issues (18%)
  - Lack of interest in general (14%)
  - Unfamiliarity with the District's offerings (13%)
  - Lack of time, too busy (13%)
  - Perception that there is nothing for their age group (13%)
  - Fees/costs (7%).

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## **Interest and Unmet Needs: Specific Indoor Facility/Amenities Assessment**

**From a List of Indoor Facilities, Demand Remains Highest for an Indoor Track and Pool, Followed by Fitness Facilities**

- Most residents express a need or interest in:
  - An indoor walking/running track (58%, down from 69% in 2018 – pre-COVID)
  - An indoor pool (51%, consistent with 52% in 2018)
  - Fitness Center (43%, down from 55% in 2018).
- At least one in five are also interested in:
  - Rental space for meetings, events, etc. (32%, up from 25% in 2018)
  - Gym space (28%, nearly consistent with 32% in 2018)
  - Space for arts, crafts, theater programs, etc. (26%, not tested in 2018)
  - Program space for group fitness (25%, down from 33% in 2018)
  - Dedicated space for seniors (21%, down from 32% in 2018).
- The two top priorities – indoor track and pool – are deemed not readily available currently among those interested in these amenities.
  - This is especially true for the 51% who are interested in an indoor pool, as only 13% of them feel this need is mostly/completely being met currently by any provider or location nearby.
  - Conversely, residents interested in a fitness center, rental space, gym space, and dance studio feel those facilities are already sufficiently available.
  - The other top potential “gaps” or unmet needs are lower demand facilities for program space for seniors, and/or space for arts/crafts/theater programming.
- When asked to rank the top priority for the MGPD, an indoor pool was by far the top choice (37%, up from 33% in 2018), with an indoor track a distant second (19%, down from 26% in 2018).

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## **MGPD Programs and Events**

### **Satisfaction With District Programs and Events Is Stronger Than Ever**

- Nearly half (47%) report someone in their household participating in a District program or event in the past year, most often: *< pg. 67>*
  - Summer outdoor concerts (25%)
  - Special events such as the Egg Hunt, Daddy-Daughter Dance, etc. (14% -- down from 27% in pre-COVID 2018)
  - Youth sports and/or athletics (13%)
  - Fitness/Exercise/Training programs (13%).
- Satisfaction with MGPD programs and events overall is especially high, with an average 0-10 rating of 8.0 (up from 7.6 in 2018). *< pp. 68 - 69>*
  - Virtually all (91%) are at least somewhat satisfied, including 40% completely satisfied.
  - Relatively few (n=18) could offer specific suggestions for improvement, giving very scattered responses (most often specific issues with an individual event or program, general interest in more classes or offerings, website and/or registration issues, etc.).
- Residents offer a wide range of suggestions for potential programs and events for all ages (based on open-ended feedback), usually including a combination of active and passive activities for each age group. *< pp. 70 - 71>*

## Information Sources

**Both the MGPD Printed  
Program Guide and the  
Website Are the Most  
Used and Most Preferred  
Sources for Park District  
Information**

- A majority continue to use the printed program guide (60%) and/or the website (55%) when seeking information about MGPD events, programs, facilities, etc.
- Many residents (43%) also seek Park District information from the Village (e.g., website, stopping by, calling, etc.). In fact, the Village is a more popular source for Park District information than MGPD mailings or emails.
- Overall, 16% use social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest) for MGPD information and updates (little change from 13% in 2018).
- When asked which source is most preferred, about equal numbers are most likely to use the printed program guide or the District website. However, there is a clear shift in these preferences since 2018:
  - 31% now prefer the printed guide (down from 45% in 2018)
  - 28% now said they most prefer the website (up from 21% three years ago).
- In the past 18 months, 19% of District residents report registering for programs or events on the MGPD website.

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## Final Suggestions

**In a Final Open-Ended Question, Residents Repeat a Range of Priorities or Opportunities for the MGPD Going Forward**

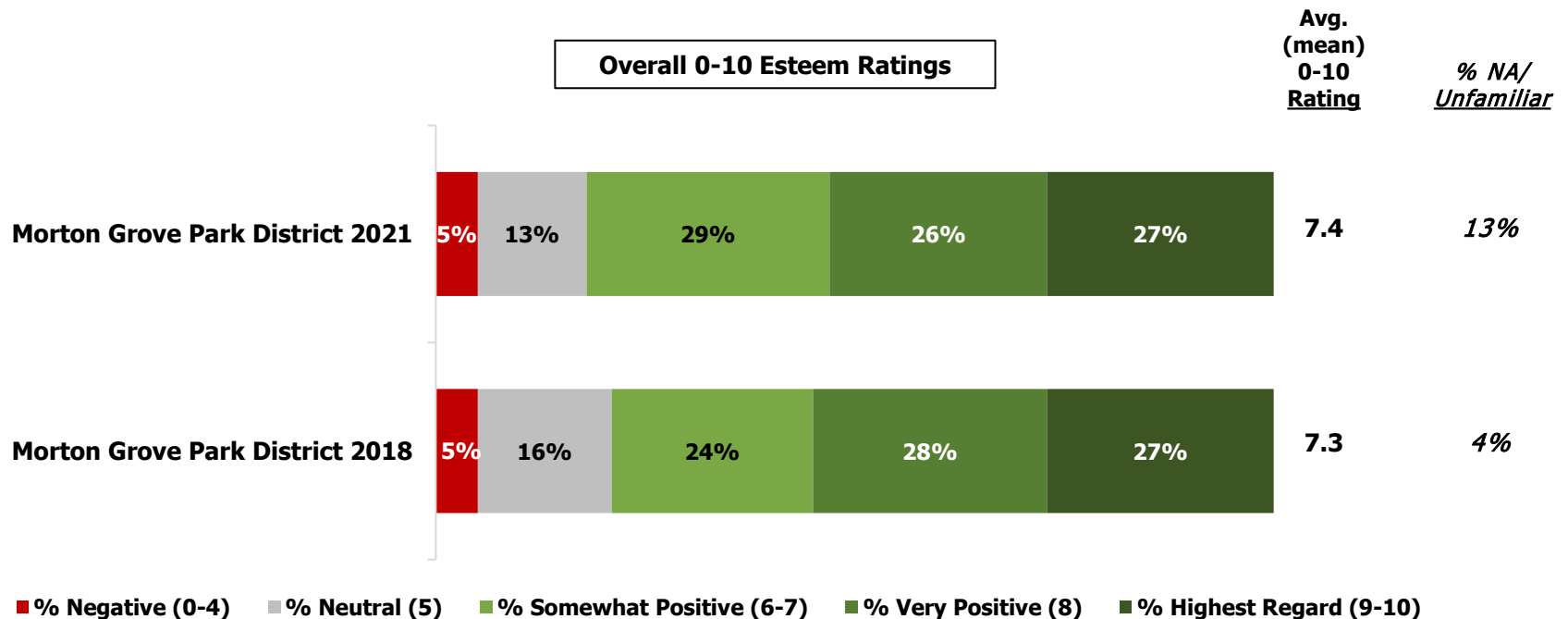
- Topping the list are suggestions for programming and events (32%), most often:
  - More/better fitness and sports programs in general (11%)
  - More offerings/activities for seniors (7%)
  - More youth programming (6%)
  - More events (5%)
  - More programming for adults (5%).
- One in four (25%) echo earlier feedback for facility improvements, most often:
  - An indoor pool (10%)
  - General facility and amenity upgrades and improvements (4%)
  - More outdoor sports facilities (4%, such as pickleball, golf, etc.)
  - More amenities (3% (e.g., restrooms).
- Nineteen percent offer staff and administrative suggestions, usually:
  - More/Better communications (9%)
  - More input from the community (2%)
  - Disapproval of COVID protocols (2%).
- Ideas to improve parks (15%) most often include:
  - A dog park (5%)
  - More upkeep of existing parks (4%)
  - More trees/natural areas (2%).
- Fourteen percent offer suggestions on costs and fees (14%), mostly lower fees (especially for programs) and discounts for seniors.

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# I. Overall Opinions

**The Morton Grove Park District (MGPD) continues to receive very favorable overall ratings, averaging 7.4 on a 0-10 scale (about even/slightly higher than its 2018 average score).**

- Overall, 82% hold the District in favorable esteem, including one out of four (27%) who have the highest regard for the MGPD (scores of 9+).
- By contrast, only 5% overall are dissatisfied with the District, and the remaining 13% are neutral.
- Its ratio of favorable to unfavorable ratings is over 16:1 (consistent with 2018).





## The District's favorable esteem is consistent across virtually all subgroups within the community.

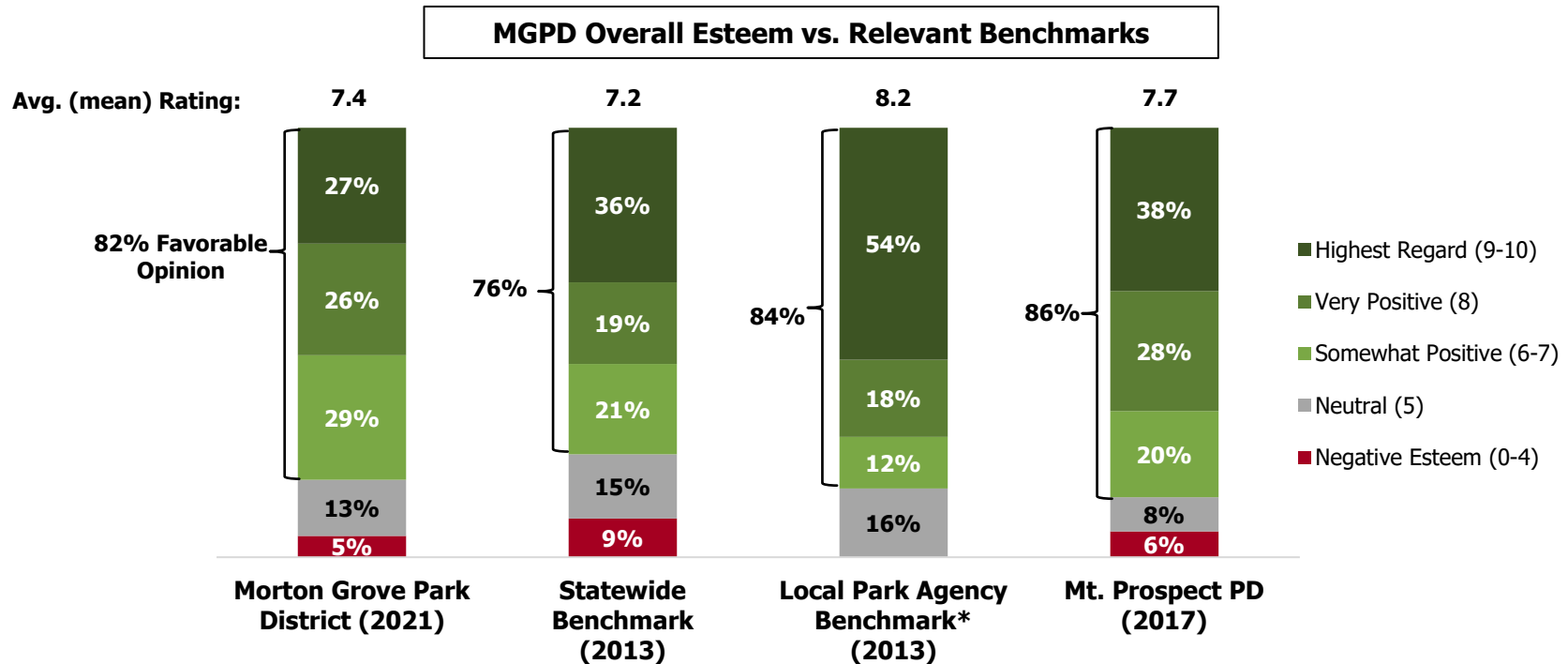
- The only statistically meaningful difference in these scores is by age, with the highest ratings coming from older residents (ages 65+), and lower – yet still very favorable – scores coming from younger adults.

### Differences by Subgroups: Overall Esteem Ratings

	Overall Avg. Rating (0-10)	Lower Esteem	Higher Esteem
<b>Morton Grove Park District</b>	<b>7.4</b>	- Under age 35 (7.0), 35-44 (6.9)	- Ages 65+ (8.1)

## Residents' esteem for the MGPD edges just higher than the statewide benchmark but lags the scores for other nearby districts.

- The biggest difference is the lower percentage of "highest regard" ratings for the MGPD, which is offset by higher response in the "somewhat satisfied" range.



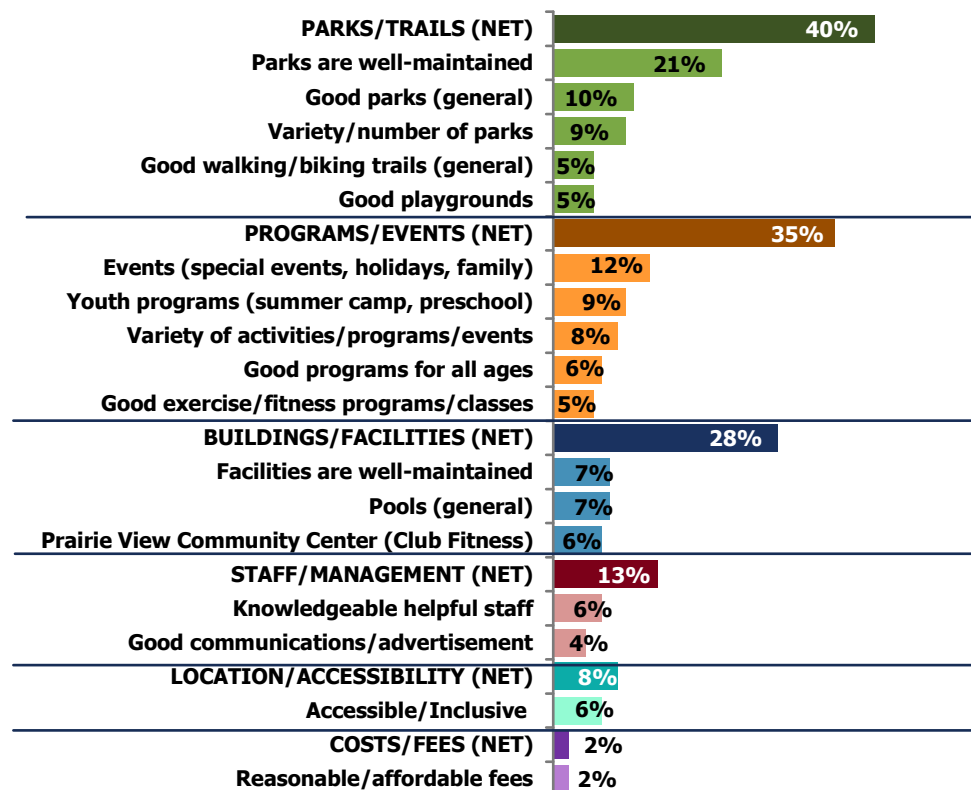
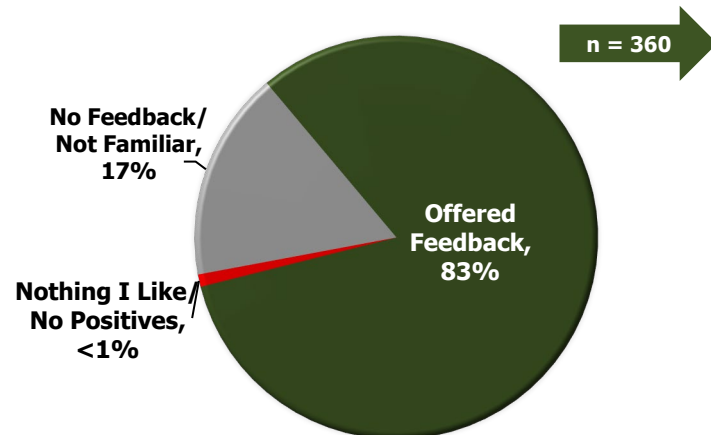
\* The 2013 local Park District/Agency benchmark includes agencies in Skokie, Golf, Evanston, Lincolnwood, Park Ridge, Niles and Des Plaines.

**In an open-ended format, nearly eight out of ten residents offered positive feedback with most citing the MGPD's parks and trails, followed by programs and events.**

- Most often, the Park District's parks and trails are the top strength (40%), especially the maintenance of parks and having good parks in general.
- This is followed by comments about programs and events (35%, most often specific events and youth programs), and the District's buildings and facilities (28%, most often the level of maintenance and the pools).

**Top Strengths (open-ended)**

**Feedback on Strengths**





A “word cloud” was generated from the verbatim comments regarding the District’s strengths or positives. The relative size of the word, name or phrase reflects the frequency with which those terms were used in respondents’ answers.

- Examples of actual full responses to this question are provided on the next few pages.



## Sample Verbatims: Strengths

### **Parks/Trails (40%):**

*"Well maintained parks and playgrounds."*

*"Upkeep on parks is excellent (equipment and landscape)."*

*"Updating park landscaping and equipment. Cleaning and landscaping crews do a great job!"*

*"They keep the parks clean & they update them periodically."*

*"They do a good job keeping the parks clean and updated."*

*"The parks are very clean and free of litter. The maintenance crews do an excellent job cutting the grass during the growing season and maintaining the baseball diamonds."*

*"Cleanliness of parks and trails."*

*"The parks are always clean and freshly mowed and taken care of. All facilities seem like they are well maintained."*

*"Parks are mostly maintained well. Appreciated the ordinance change which allowed dogs to be let in the parks on leash. We enjoy walking through Harrer, Mansfield, and Austin parks."*

*"Maintenance of the parks. Cleanliness, landscaping, upkeep of equipment. I can only speak for Austin, Harrer & Mansfield."*

*"I have found the parks are well maintained and happy to see the doggie bag stations."*

*"My wife and I walk at Harrer Park about for times per week. The park is clean and well cared for."*

*"There are many newly renovated playgrounds throughout town, and my children love playing at them! My children are also VERY excited about the new Harrer Pool!"*

*"Playground renovations at local parks were done well, good use of space for families."*

*"The amount of parks are very nice, gives children a lot of choices. Plus, there is one, and for most more, that are in easy walking distance."*

*"Numerous, well-placed parks."*

*"The parks are nice -- but need more trees since so many have been lost. Allowing leashed dogs in parks + dog waste bags!"*

*"MG parks have always been a source of beauty in this community."*

*"Keep the Parks Nice. Are Dog friendly and kid friendly."*

*"I love the parks and that they are kept in such good shape."*

*"I like the diversity of park opportunities provided, the remodel/upkeep of the parks themselves."*

*"Great Parks."*

*"We love how there are parks everywhere, both small and large. And they are almost always clean and well maintained. Being able to walk to open green space is one of the best features of Morton Grove."*

*"We like the number of parks and the walkways around and through them. We like the benches in the parks."*

*"Most like the number of parks in the village. They are generally well kept."*

*"Large parks."*

*"The parks are always clean and beautiful."*

*"The parks are clean, welcoming, and safe."*

## Sample Verbatims: Strengths (cont'd)

### **Programs/Events (35%):**

*"Wonderful activities for children and adults."*

*"Variety of programs for all ages."*

*"The District offers a wide variety of programs and events for all ages."*

*"Myriad of activities for people of all ages, quite remarkable for a suburb this size."*

*"Variety of programs -- special events."*

*"We like that there is a variety of programming offered for many age ranges. Our children have participated in the preschool, dance program, sports classes, etc. We (the adults) have participated in a few fitness activities, including aqua Zumba and summer bootcamp. Several park district facilities are close to our house, which makes attending activities convenient."*

*"Good selection of Park District classes."*

*"We love the outdoor summer programming like concerts in the park, national night out, back to school bash, etc."*

*"Summer concerts at Harrer park."*

*"Special events for the Morton grove residents. example: we enjoyed the labor day fest."*

*"Oktoberfest 5K."*

*"I mostly like the 4th of July celebration, especially the fireworks."*

*"Children's programs - different activities over the year especially summer band series on concert series."*

*"Always having community events."*

*"I enjoy the holiday offerings (e.g., outdoor fall photo shoot, Santa train, etc.)."*

*"Halloween events and the Popup Pool event were well organized this year. Pool & Parks are well maintained."*

*"We've gone to two family events at Harrer Park, and they were both nice. It's really been because of Covid that we haven't been able to really access the park district or much local community events. We are a young family with a newborn and are excited to grow into this community."*

*"Fun, family events (Halloween, Christmas, Kite Day, Back To School, etc.)."*

*"Family friendly events."*

*"Frequent events. Easy to access."*

*"All the events they prepare for different occasions and all what they offer in each one."*

*"Provides many community events and maintains it's properties."*

*"Offers music classes such as piano and guitar. I also like the aquatic classes offered in the summer."*

*"Fosters friendly community events and good local programs for young kids."*

*"Offers lots of programming for younger patrons."*

*"Good selection of Park District classes."*

*"Different variety of programs."*

*"They try to offer classes the residents are interested in."*



## Sample Verbatims: Strengths (cont'd)

### **Buildings/Facilities (28%):**

*"The facilities are good, but it could use more activities. Ideas from other park districts are indoor pool, roller skating, ice skating, badminton, pickleball, mini golf, batting cages, kids play area and friendly helpful workers."*

*"Nice facility. Good class offerings."*

*"Variety of facilities and activities -- generally well kept."*

*"Well kept facilities. Invests in future."*

*"Clean facilities, many classes offered for all ages and interests, state of the art aquatic center."*

*"Clean facilities."*

*"Nice facilities."*

*"The health club is pretty decent."*

*"Morton Grove park district fitness center. I really like Groupon classes."*

*"Fitness Center (All the equipment I need)."*

*"Club Fitness is a terrific facility; it has a lot to offer and is very clean and attractive."*

*"Although, I still have not gone back, the Fitness Center has been good for me. I plan to go back this winter."*

*"Their complete gym facilities well equipped."*

*"Pools and Prairie View are good. Fitness Center is nice. I like that there are so many parks in MG."*

*"The tennis courts, the farmers market, the pool, the open spaces, the walking path and prairie, the gazebo and bricks with our names on it."*

*"I look forward to the new pool. I have rented the fieldhouse for graduation parties."*

*"The Oriole pool has been excellent this summer with Covid."*

*"Oriole pool is fantastic."*

*"Swimming Pools."*

*"Pools. Sports."*

*"We enjoy the pool (Oriole)."*

*"They have 2 pools and parks are maintained well."*

*"I have gone to Oriole Pool every year that it has been open!!"*

*"Adding second pool- 'redo' on Harrer Pool - The best decision yet!"*

*"Like the gym. It's clean. Like Oriole pool."*

*"Gym & sport facilities."*

*"Fitness Center -- keeps me in shape."*

*"I like the fact that the Harrer Park pool is being rebuilt and that the Morton Grove Historical Building is located there and is being maintained."*

*"Baseball and softball fields -- at the time I was playing."*

*"My family and I like the number and location of parks and the mixture of amenities. Overall, the parks are kept clean and are updated. The field houses are available and accessible and offer an affordable space for residents."*

## **Sample Verbatims: Strengths (cont'd)**

### **Staff/Management (13%):**

*"Always feel the staff is great."*

*"The staff at the Park District Club Fitness that I come into contact are all friendly and helpful."*

*"Staff at the Fitness center were pleasant."*

*"Good customer service."*

*"Customer service is outstanding. Facility is always well kept, clean. Inclusion."*

*"Friendly staff, nice facilities."*

*"We moved to Morton Grove last December and have not used Park District facilities. Booklet of programs and facility information which is mailed to our home has been helpful."*

*"Keeping residents informed about all the programs offered, and updates related to projects, closure, protocols, etc."*

*"I like your periodic mailings."*

*"Advertising (catalogs, posters, banners) very catchy and upbeat. Liked the input from the community on the new Harrer Pool and playgrounds."*

*"Good website."*

*"Advertises all the events and has lots of activities for all ages."*

### **Location/Accessibility (8%):**

*"Our parks are all inclusive of our population and they try to provide programs for all our citizens."*

*"Inclusive."*

*"Accessibility, variety of services."*

*"Where parks are located; they are accessible; where I live, I can use three parks. Also, they are well maintained."*

*"Friendly, convenient location for working out."*

*"Convenient -- close to my home -- friendly, helpful staff."*

*"Close to our residence, accessible."*

### **Costs/Fees (2%):**

*"The variety of programming that is available, including preschool which is extremely affordably priced."*

*"Affordability."*

*"Affordable and efficient facilities."*

*"Great pricing for programs (specifically kids)."*

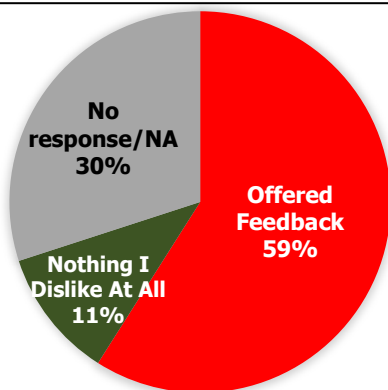
*"After school and camps are good. Well priced."*

*"Great Prices."*

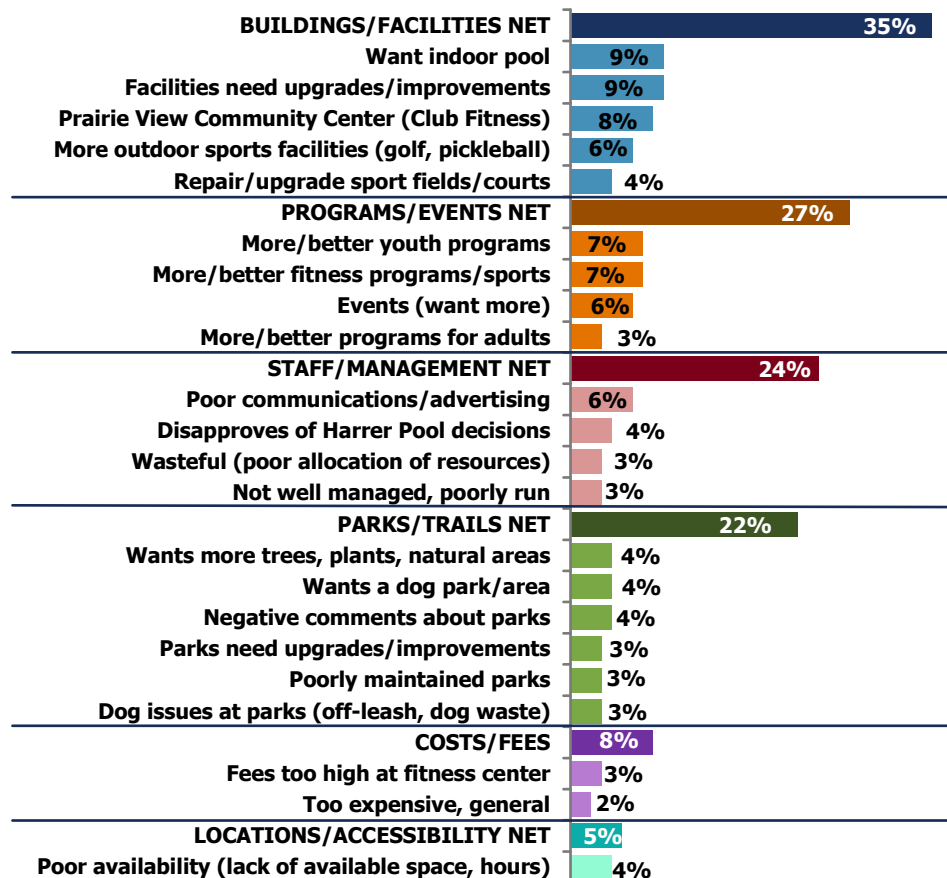
**In a separate open-ended question, over a third (41%) could not offer any dislikes or improvements they want to see from the MGPD (including 11% who said there is nothing they dislike about the District).**

- About a third (35%) suggest building/facility improvements, most often the need for an indoor pool (especially among ages 35-44), and some facilities needing upgrades. The remaining major issues are evenly divided between:
  - Programs and events (27%), usually more/better youth programs (often cited by those under 35), more fitness classes, events, and adult offerings.
  - Staff/Management suggestions (24%), with scattered responses, most often more communication (especially among those under age 35).
  - Park issues (22%), usually wanting more trees and plantings, a dog park, and park upgrades.

**Weaknesses/Improvements Sought**



**Top Weaknesses/Improvement Opportunities (open-ended)**





➤ Examples of actual verbatim responses are provided on the next few pages.



## **Sample Verbatims: Weaknesses/Improvements**

### **Buildings/Facilities (35%):**

*"I think it needs to update its main facility on Dempster street."*

*"Newer/cleaner facilities."*

*"I wish we had a larger, more updated fitness center."*

*"The Fitness Center seems to lack energy and needs to be updated. It has a boring look and doesn't inspire residents to join."*

*"Club fitness is too small and therefore doesn't offer enough machines."*

*"Offer chairs available to the yoga participants in the yoga rooms, so they may sit while taking off and putting on shoes."*

*"Need to stay on top of exercise equipment. Maintenance and replace worn out equipment."*

*"Would like a bigger workout area - a dozen people in the place and it feels like it is packed. No steam room is kind of a bummer too."*

*"It is a very dated facility and does not compare to the other suburbs with indoor activities (swimming) that are offered."*

*"Not enough sports centered facilities. Also, the playgrounds are a bit outdated."*

*"I use indoor pool at Niles family fitness and wish we had one."*

*"The facilities are good, but it could use more activities. Ideas from other park districts are indoor pool, roller skating, ice skating, badminton, pickleball, mini golf, batting cages, kids play area – and friendly helpful workers."*

*"No indoor pool and other indoor facilities are smaller and less useful than surrounding communities."*

*"No indoor pool. Walking track is small."*

*"Should have had an indoor pool years ago."*

*"No indoor swimming pool."*

*"Better indoor walking track for inclement weather -- Prairie View track unacceptable."*

*"I do wish that they had made Harrer Pool indoor so that we could have the option to swim all year round. I didn't attend those meetings so I know I probably could have voiced my opinion better."*

*"No ice rinks indoor or outdoor, zero opportunities for any sort of golf. And outdoor practice facility would be extremely fun & a moneymaker for the town!! There are areas for that too."*

*"Install some outdoor pickleball courts."*

*"No indoor sports facilities (i.e., swimming pool, ice hockey, skating, tennis courts)."*

*"Tennis courts has not been maintained in the past few years."*

*"Tennis courts, especially at Harrer, are in bad shape. Also, night lights don't work properly as bulbs are either missing or dimmed. There is no facility to play badminton."*

*"The tennis courts need to be resurfaced. The courts by Parkview and the ones by the rec center have cracks. But thank you for keeping the nets up during good weather."*

*"Need to keep the baseball/softball fields in better condition."*

*"I am not happy about having two swimming pools, which are very seasonal."*

## **Sample Verbatims: Weaknesses/Improvements (cont'd)**

### **Programs/Events (27%):**

*"Nowadays kids & youth are wasting valuable time on gaming (screen). If our district can motivate them conducting classes on high intellectual topics on weekends free of cost, it will be very helpful to our community."*

*"Youth classes. I wish there were more and better options."*

*"I don't like that we outsource so many programs, like the sports camps/classes & soccer. I also wish we had more indoor facilities for the winter months. I wish we had an indoor facility like the LoVerde facility in Niles for soccer, volleyball & basketball. It would also be really nice to have a big indoor walking/running track, like both Skokie & Niles have."*

*"More options for children's summer camp, such as camps focused on different themes."*

*"No leagues for kids. Baseball, Volleyball, Football."*

*"The children's' programming and summer camp offerings are not up to the same level as Skokie, Niles, or Wilmette. Morton Grove is not our first choice when looking for activities for our kids."*

*"We wish there were more activities for children on the weekends vs during the week. Many of the classes offered are during the week and both of us work. Additionally, more programming in the fall and winter, similar to the summer offerings."*

*"Disappointed the Fall Pickleball was cancelled - hoping the Winter Brochure will offer indoor lessons. I would like to stay in Morton Grove to take lessons - but if I need to look to nearby communities, I will."*

*"Offer more exercise classes."*

*"Need more adult fitness programs – outdoors."*

*"I would love to see more events that are geared more towards adults like bringing in wineries in the area for a wine tasting walk. I'd also like to see a Black Friday hike."*

*"Maybe have more activities for adults. Can't think of much."*

*"Very little offerings for those of us that are not elderly or young."*

*"The lack of programs for adults who work during the day -- In the current booklet we received in the mail, there were only four pages for adult sports and most offerings are for programs weekdays during working hours."*

*"Have more senior activities / exercise programs."*

*"Add more classes for seniors."*

*"Offering more family summer events for young families."*

*"Incorporate more activities for entire families."*

*"I would like to see more family events like Movies at the park, or craft beer events for adults."*

*"I am a small business owner living in Morton Grove. I have previously participated in summer craft fairs with little success. Most communities sponsor summer events and holiday fairs where vendors pay to participate and sell their wares. The costs cover promoting the event to the community. I would like to see this for my community. Small businesses are struggling, and this would be a way to help local small businesses."*

*"Back to School Bash & other kid's events are always underwhelming lack of bouncy houses or kid specific activities or very long lines to participate for younger kids. Also, for kids 5-10 very limited activities. Lack of a summertime splash pad. Lack of variety in playground equipment as compared to the Skokie parks. When events are marked for Morton grove residents only no checks are done at entrance event after we register and pay for events, and it turns into a free for all event."*



## Sample Verbatims: Weaknesses/Improvements (cont'd)

### **Staff/Management (24%):**

- "All of the support help (people manning the counters & such) could be better versed on the activities that took place, are taking place & will be taking place in the future, so as to be better equipped to answer questions when asked."*
- "Reception Desk personnel not friendly, not very helpful --Lack of awareness to kids' program --Lack of communication to kids' program & front desk."*
- "I am disappointed that there are not more instructors to fill in when an instructor cancels classes. I don't know if the instructors have any incentives to work for MG Park District. The MGPD seems to be losing members and instructors -- what is the reason? Members seem to be going to Niles Fitness -- why? Can't parks share instructors from Glenview & Niles or offer a break in classes to either plan?"*
- "Very poor management of the Fitness Center."*
- "Dislike the leadership at the MGPD and believe change should be in order. The focus of the MGPD is much more on how to bring in as much revenue as possible to make up for the bad business deal on Oriole Pool. New leadership that would focus on serving the community partners in a true not-for-profit setting and leadership that can make better long term business deals (I have no faith they made a positive deal for the Harrier Pool renovation)."*
- "Brochures are sent out way to late and by the time they arrive most things are full. Which makes the cost of the brochure and postage a waste of taxpayer \$"*
- "Poor publicity of programs, classes and events. Poor marketing."*
- "More info on renting the fieldhouses."*
- "Would like to see more social media blasts to citizens. Also, would like to see pickleball courts (specific to pickleball) not tennis net height use."*
- "Fitness classes are mismanaged, enrollment is low or nonexistent (pre-pandemic), classes offered without working people consideration, classes cancelled at random, marketing poor."*
- "I think with most governments, Many things are nice, but not always needed or sometimes too extravagant. With taxes crazy from all, we need to spend like it is 'our money' and not the government's money. You see buildings with over-the-top architectural features, not really needed."*
- "MGPD has overextended itself on hardscape and buildings. Money is used to build without the ability to maintain new endeavors."*
- "Perhaps a mismanagement of funds, specifically this survey. This survey, though well intentioned, comes too soon after covid-19 mandated closures, masks and social distancing."*
- "The website could be easier to use. There is no way to tell how many other people have registered, which we've seen as a feature on other park district's websites in the area. There is a lack of diversity when it comes to holiday and cultural events. As a non-Christian, the offerings are non-inclusive and we would like to educate our children to become worldly adults. At times, the staff is not knowledgeable about activities and can't answer questions."*
- "Park district activities need to be marketed in a more inclusive manner. 'Daddy daughter' and 'mommy son' activities are not inclusive to children questioning gender identity, same-sex parents, and families where there is a guardian that is not a 'parent'. We can do better for our community. Also, the website to register and pay for services is outdated and clunky."*
- "The events that the park district puts together sometimes or not inclusive to all members of the community. The congregation that arrives to these events can be somewhat discriminatory to some cultures and groups."*
- "The events do not reflect the diversity of the community. HUGE emphasis on Christmas, Park district Board historically white (until recently)"*
- "Long term planning, and the handling of the Harrier pool project. Morton Grove should not have two pools. Considering the size of the village and the cost of operation, I have to imagine aquatics operations operate at a loss for the season...."*
- "The expensive boondoggle of Oriole Pool."*
- "The money spent for the few people who use Harrier park pool is a joke, no wonder there is no money to improve the parks."*
- "I found it unfeeling by MGPD that 2 meeting dates took place on the High Holy Days. MGPD doesn't have a clue!"*

## **Sample Verbatims: Weaknesses/Improvements (cont'd)**

### **Parks/Trails (22%):**

*"Has not replaced trees lost to disease."*

*"Need to replant lost trees at Harrer Park."*

*"All the trees have been removed from Harrer Park some trees should be planted for shade."*

*"I would like to see more trees and plants in the parks and greenspaces. There is a lot of grass that could be converted to gardens."*

*"There could be more trees for shade at Oketo park. Also, there could be more benches to sit on (I'm a senior)."*

*"The parks are not maintained to the highest standard. The sand boxes are dirty and typically depleted. Bark needs to be replaced more often."*

*"Park maintenance - especially Harrer Park. This is the 'crown jewel' of the parks, should get royal treatment. However, beautiful (and functional - for wind) trees cut down near concert area 4-5 years ago are still not replaced. Also, basketball court surface in very bad shape, and very not level.."*

*"Austin Park was very poorly designed and now catered only to younger children and not the same age level as before."*

*"Too many dogs -- it's a dogs park! Dogs were never allowed before -- now more dogs than people on walking path."*

*"Abolish the law that dogs can run around freely at the public parks. Have one or two doggie parks in the district."*

*"1) People bring their dogs all the time inside the play areas (tennis court, hockey field) like its a dog park to let them loose to play. It is unlawful, and MGPD does not monitor this at all (least you can do is put signs inside the courts 'NO DOGS ALLOWED'); I have never seen an officer issue a citation...."*

*"Do not like dogs in parks doing their business. Children are playing there. Make them go to dog parks."*

*"There is not much to do in the parks. Should be a fitness park and a dog park."*

*"Provide a small area for a dog park. It doesn't need to have water; just an area for dogs to play safely."*

*"DOG PARK!"*

*"I would like a dog park."*

*"I wish there was a dog park somewhere in Morton Grove."*

*"There are no off-leash dog areas."*

### **Costs/Fees (8%):**

*"Most of the activities are free in Skokie for Skokie residents. Morton Grove being small town, can provide free access to residents only like Fitness Club. We pay a lot in property taxes."*

*"Cost."*

*"Prices for gym membership."*

*"Lower costs of Club Fitness."*

*"Maintenance of facilities and cost of gym membership."*

*"The expense of the facilities that charge residents for services, especially seniors."*

*"Offer Senior Discount on programs."*

*"The cost of the preschool programs. The cost of the pool passes. It seems the out of district is not high enough."*

*"Raised taxes because of new pool."*

## **Sample Verbatims: Weaknesses/Improvements (cont'd)**

### **Location/Accessibility (5%):**

*"I don't like ho they close the facility a few times a year. Why don't they have the facility cleaned after hours?"*

*"Room rental is only for summer season but could help if it was available in winter too."*

*"Lack of parking."*

*"Offer more programs to the disabled in Morton Grove besides M-NASR."*

*"Pool could open sooner and stay open longer."*

*"Swimming pool was closed on some weekdays and should be open full week."*

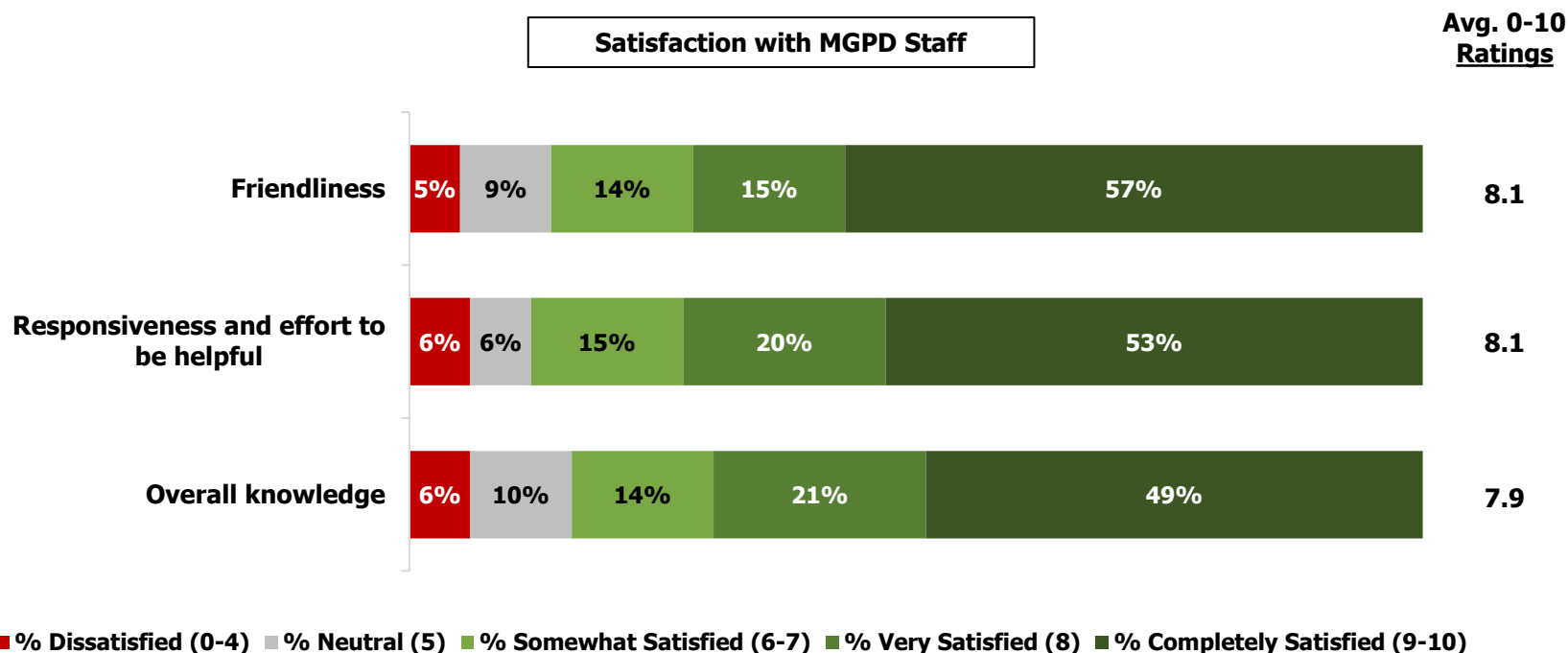
*"Open hours at Prairie View Community Center not sufficient."*

*"It seems that the west end of MG is forgotten! Your new policy of closing the park for the pre-school is very disrespectful of the neighbors. So we have to go to a park farther away! Children and grands in the area need to go 6.8 blocks away. NOT HAPPY!!"*



**Residents were also asked to rate their satisfaction with their MGPD staff interactions and service experience. Consistently, at least 84% provide positive feedback (with no more than 6% who express dissatisfaction).**

- In addition, roughly half (49%+) are “completely” satisfied with District staff in terms of overall friendliness, responsiveness/helpfulness, and general knowledge.



## All subgroups give positive ratings to MGPD staff, across each attribute.

- Both the youngest and oldest residents tend to give the highest satisfaction scores, along with those reporting “other” (non-white and non-Asian) race or ethnicity.
- The lowest scores tend to come from more middle-aged residents (ages 45-64), and Asian American residents. Still, these average ratings are still very favorable (7.2 or higher on a 0-10 scale).

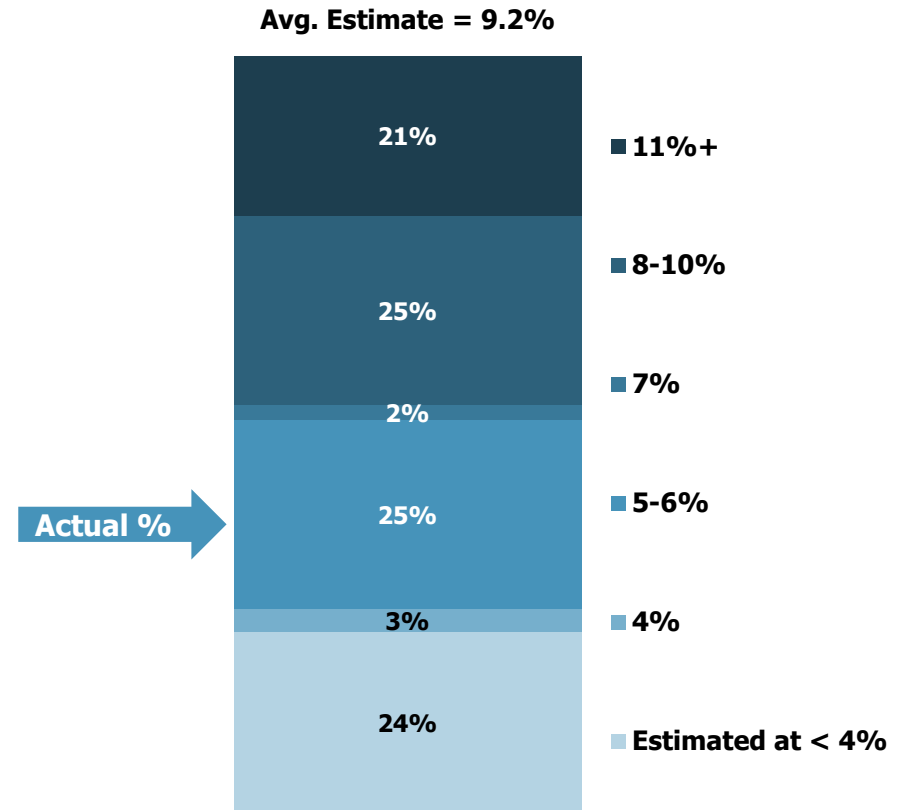
### Differences by Subgroups: Satisfaction with MGPD Staff Interactions

	Overall Avg. Rating (0-10)	Lower Satisfaction	Higher Satisfaction
<b>Friendliness</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 45-54 (7.3), 55-64 (7.5)</li> <li>- Asian residents (7.5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under age 35 (9.1), ages 35-44 (8.6), 65+ (8.5)</li> <li>- White residents (8.4), “other” races/ethnicities (8.9)</li> </ul>
<b>Responsiveness and effort to be helpful</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 45-64 (7.2)</li> <li>- Asian residents (7.5)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove 10-19 yrs. (7.3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under age 35 (9.1), ages 35-44 (8.5), 65+ (8.5)</li> <li>- “Other” races/ethnicities (8.7)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove 30+ yrs. (8.5)</li> </ul>
<b>Overall knowledge</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 45-54 (7.3), 55-64 (7.2)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove 10-19 yrs. (7.3)</li> <li>- Asian residents (7.6)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 65+ (8.5)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove 30+ yrs. (8.3)</li> <li>- “Other” race/ethnicity (non-white, non-Asian – 9.0)</li> </ul>

**Overall, residents believe that the Park District receives just over 9% of their property taxes (nearly double its actual 5.7%). One in five correctly estimate that it is in the 5%-6% range.**

- However, about as many believe that the MGPD's share is as low as under 4% of their taxes (24%) or at the other extreme of over 10% of their taxes (21%).
- Residents who give higher than average estimates (above the average 9.2% response) tend to be:
  - Younger, under age 35 (averaging a 17% estimated share to the MGPD)
  - Those who moved to Morton Grove less than five years ago (12.7% average estimate)
  - NE residents (10.5% average estimate).
- By contrast, lower than average estimates tend to come from:
  - Ages 55 to 64 (6.9% average estimate)
  - Those in the South region (7.5% average estimate)
  - Both of these groups are still estimating higher than the Districts actually 5.7% share of property taxes.

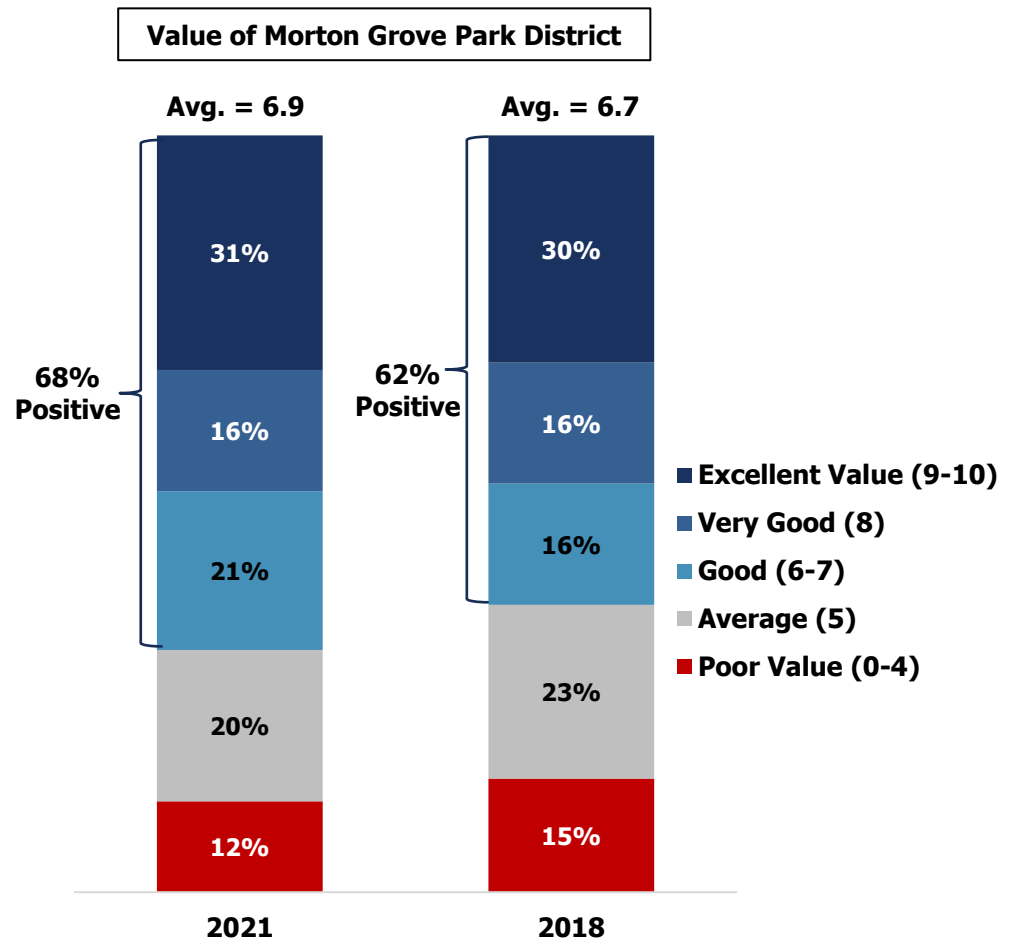
**Estimated % of Property Taxes Going to Morton Grove Park District (n=388)**





**When informed that the Park District share of local property taxes is actually 5.7%, just over two-thirds (68%) feel that it represents a good or better value overall, including 31% who rate it an "excellent" value.**

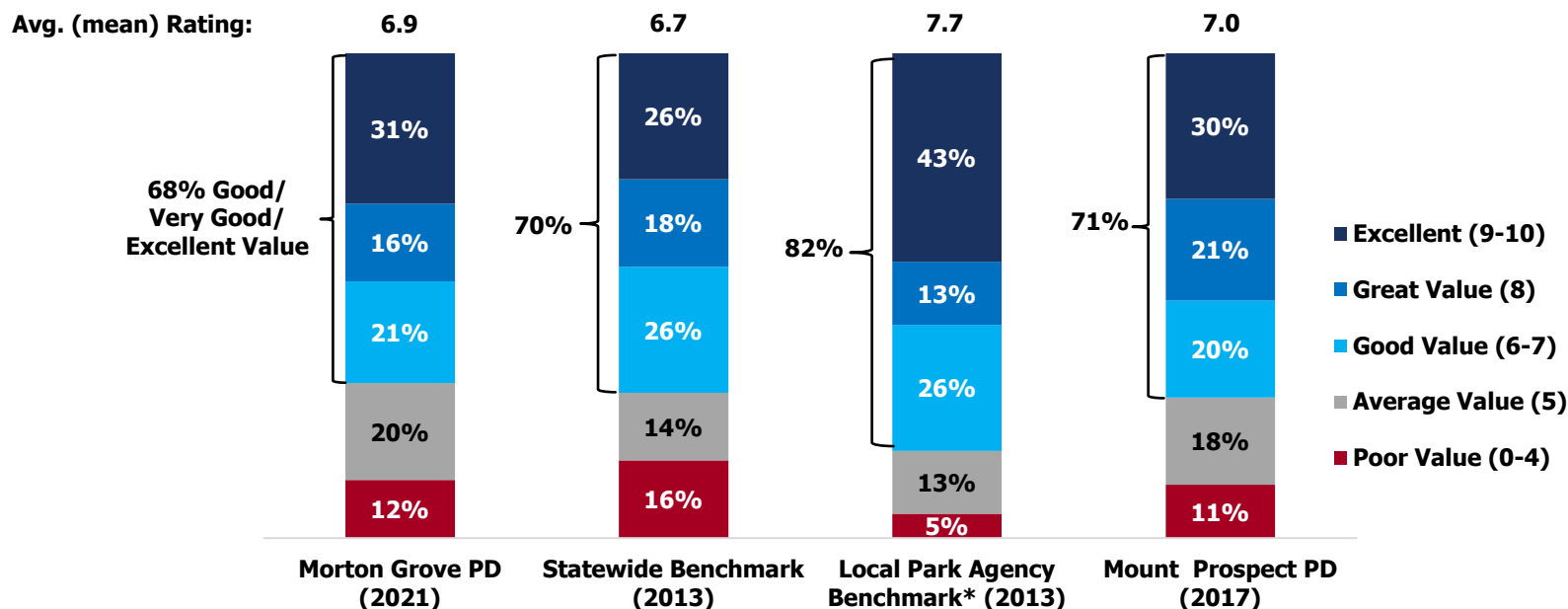
- Among the remaining residents, 20% feel the District represents an "average" value (neutral score on a 0-10 scale), and 12% overall feel it is a poor value.
- These overall value ratings show some improvement over the past three years (mostly in the "good" value range).



**The perceived value scores for the Morton Grove Park District edge higher than the statewide benchmark and are closing in on value ratings for nearby park agencies.**

- The MGPD's favorable value ratings are consistent across all segments (no meaningful differences by region, gender, age, etc.), and closely align with the Mount Prospect Park District's (which has a similar share of local property taxes).

**Perceived Value of MGPD Relative to Property Tax Share vs. Benchmarks**

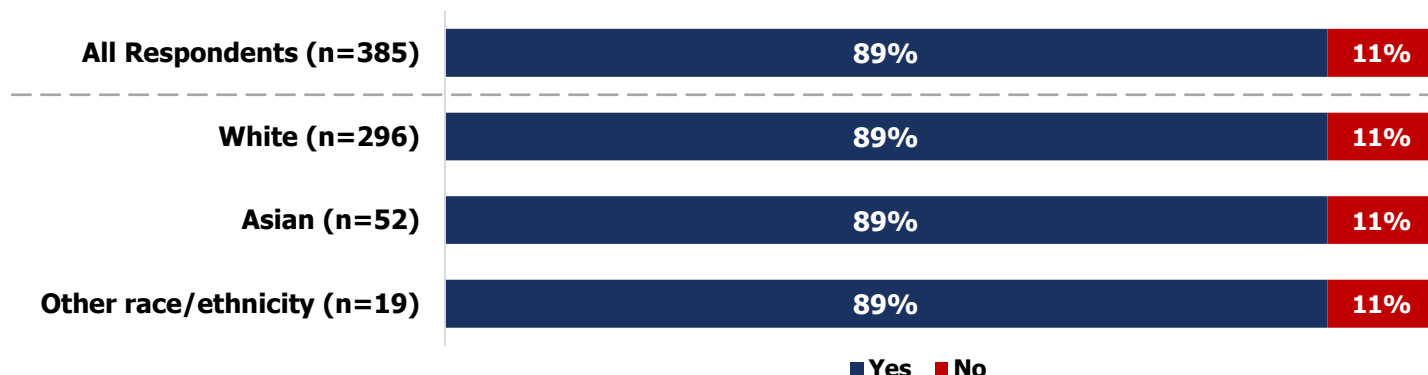


\* The 2013 Statewide survey and local Park District/Agency benchmark referenced a 2% property tax share (averaged) for parks agencies statewide. The 2013 local Park District/Agency benchmark includes agencies in Skokie, Golf, Evanston, Lincolnwood, Park Ridge, Niles and Des Plaines. The Mt. Prospect PD survey (2017) referenced a 6% share of property taxes.

**A large majority (89%) of residents overall -- and of all major ethnic groups in the community -- feel that the MGPD is inclusive of all diverse populations.**

- Regardless of one's self-reported racial or ethnic background, residents feel the District is inclusive by an 8:1 margin.
- The 11% who feel the District needs to be more inclusive offer several reasons or suggestions, most often:
  - More activities/services for seniors (n=12 cases, including n=2 citing lower fees/more discounts for lower-income seniors)
  - Greater reflection of the community's ethnic and cultural diversity (n=9), including a broader reflection of this diversity and cultural representation in District programming, events and holiday activities, and more representation of these populations in District communications
  - Greater awareness and programming for LGBTQ households (n=5)
  - More programs for older adults, and adults without children (n=5)
  - Discounts or reduced fees for lower income residents (n=3, including one from a senior reported above).
- The remaining comments (n=12) were more scattered (see next pages).

**Does MGPD Properly Represent/Include All Households and Diverse Groups?**





## Verbatims: Meeting Diversity Needs/Goals

### Seniors:

*"Would like to see more fitness classes geared toward seniors to stay active and fit."*

*"The offerings for seniors is very limited."*

*"Seniors, cost."*

*"Seniors are basically ignored in this community."*

*"More for seniors."*

*"I'm a senior citizen so I can't play sports or do the many activities that are offered."*

*"I am a 67 yr old woman paying \$17,000/year property taxes and I don't feel I get programs that meet my needs. I stopped going to Prairie View because it seemed like it benefits certain cliques and not the residents of the village as a whole. I would love to see a study of what percentage of residents actually use the facilities. I fear the aquatic center will not have options for me."*

*"I am 91 years old."*

*"Feel most effort goes to kids not seniors."*

*"Age - a young thinking retiree - I am not ready to only do low level activities."*

*"Could use a little more attention to senior activities."*

### Inclusion/Representation of Racial/Ethnic/Religious Groups

*"I don't see any diversity in the MGPD staff or programs (maybe some)."*

*"This community is so diverse with so many mixture of ethnicity and culture. There's no representation of this community."*

*"The community is multi-racial."*

*"No programs catering to the Asian community though it represents a large chunk of MG population."*

*"Looking at all the photos in the brochure and printed materials racial and ethnic groups are not represented."*

*"It would be nice if the park district does more to showcase and celebrate different cultural holidays and traditions. This helps to expose children from a young age to different cultures and teaches them to respect differences."*

*"I feel that the holidays that are supported and celebrated by the park district are geared towards those from the Christian community. There is no discussion or attempt at event to celebrate other religions. This community is made up of a very diverse population and only a small segment of this population is actually celebrated from a holiday perspective."*

*"I'm not very enthusiastic about the park district promoting various religious activities. I understand that it is important to many, but when your religion is under-represented while others are being over-represented, I feel my household isn't well represented and, as such, less valued."*

*"There is lack of diversity inclusion and involvement."*

## Verbatims: Meeting Diversity Needs/Goals (cont'd)

### **Representation of LGBTQ+ community**

*"No opportunities for LGBT community."*

*"No LGBTQIA programming. Offerings are listed by gender which is exclusionary."*

*"More LGBT Offerings."*

*"I've never seen anything done related to LGBT people."*

*"As stated in previous comments. My daughter will never be included in a 'daddy daughter' dance. This could be called, 'winter (or whatever season) dance' which would include all youth that want to go to the dance with their adult (not mommy or daddy)."*

### **More for Adults/Households Without Children:**

*"There were only four pages of the current booklet geared toward adults and most were for programs held during working hours, so that precludes working adults from being able to participate."*

*"The brochure features a lot of classes for kids and my child is 20 years old."*

*"Seems like everything is devoted to young families."*

*"Offer more programs catering 40+ segment."*

*"Most programs seem to be designed for those with young kids, my kids are no longer in the house, so I don't use the programs anymore."*

### **Affordability/More for Lower Income Residents:**

*"My property taxes are too high."*

*"High discount for seniors - I'm 85 years old."*

*"As previously mentioned, there is a lack of diversity in the programs the Park Districts offers. We've never seen anything mentioned in the program guides or on the website that acknowledges how a family without financial means can access programming. On the flip side, it would be nice for those with financial means to anonymously sponsor or contribute towards participation for those who have less."*

## Verbatims: Meeting Diversity Needs/Goals (cont'd)

### Other responses:

*"Not balanced"*

*"My 1-year-old is very limited on what she can participate in due to age requirements."*

*"MGPD is filled with old school MG people that don't look outside of MG to get ideas. Yes, ideas cost \$\$\$, but small improvements can be made to each park to meet the needs of ALL ages!"*

*"It seems the west end of MG is an afterthought."*

*"I think that survey was created just to push the ideology (agenda) for transgender. And sharing the bathrooms in school district."*

*"I don't see any diversity in the MGPD staff or programs (maybe some)."*

*"Fitness Center is needed with new machines, classes and programs for kids."*

*"Current programming doesn't spark my desire to want to go to Park District & Participate."*

*"Due to poor health."*

*"As far as being inclusive."*

*"Need representation with all groups through communication."*

*"Besides M-NASR, would like to feel included in programs with people who aren't disabled. Have a buddy system or something along that idea."*

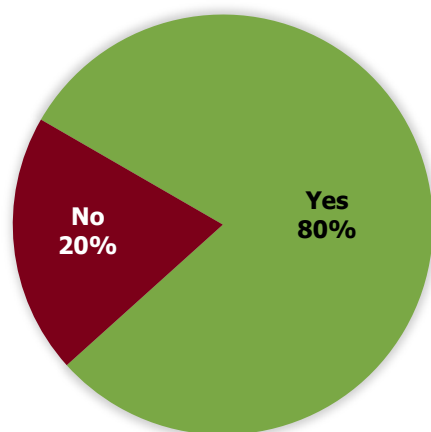


## II. MGPD Park and Facility Usage

**Four out of five respondents (80%) report visiting an MGPD park in the previous year. This is up slightly from the 74% who reported doing so in 2018.**

- Most residents have been to Harrer Park or its shelter in the past year, and about a third (34% of residents) report going to Mansfield Park (or Fieldhouse), Oriole Park, and/or Prairie View Park. Over one in four (28%) have been to Austin and/or National Park (or their fieldhouses).
- Compared to the 2018 survey, self-reported usage among park visitors has increased most for:
  - Oriole Park (23% in 2018, to 40% now)
  - Prairie View Park (from 29% to 40%)
  - National Park (from 20% to 34%)
  - Shermer Park (from 7% to 17%).

**Used or Visited a MGPD Park  
in Past 18 Months?**



**n = 339**

Visited or Used Park in Past 18 Months	% Reporting (n=339)	% All Respondents (n=422)
Harrer Park or Shelter	62%	52%
Mansfield Park or Fieldhouse	40%	34%
Oriole Park	40%	34%
Prairie View Park	40%	34%
National Park or Fieldhouse	34%	28%
Austin Park or Fieldhouse	33%	28%
Oketo Park or Fieldhouse	17%	15%
Shermer Park	17%	15%
Frank Hren Discovery Park	12%	10%
Palma Lane Park	11%	10%
Pioneer Park	11%	9%
Arnum Park	10%	9%
Overhill Park	8%	7%
Jacobs Park	2%	2%

The table below shows the regions from which each park “draws”. For example, while 28% of the overall Morton Grove population lives in the NE region, nearly half of the Mansfield Park and fieldhouse users (48%) reside in that area.

- Some locations draw almost exclusively from just one area. For example, Oriole, Oketo, Shermer, Arnum, and Overhill Park visitors almost exclusively live in the NW region.
- Similarly, all of the relatively few Jacobs Park visitors live in the NE region.
- Austin and Pioneer Parks mostly attract residents from the S region.
- Prairie View Park draws visitors about evenly from throughout the District.

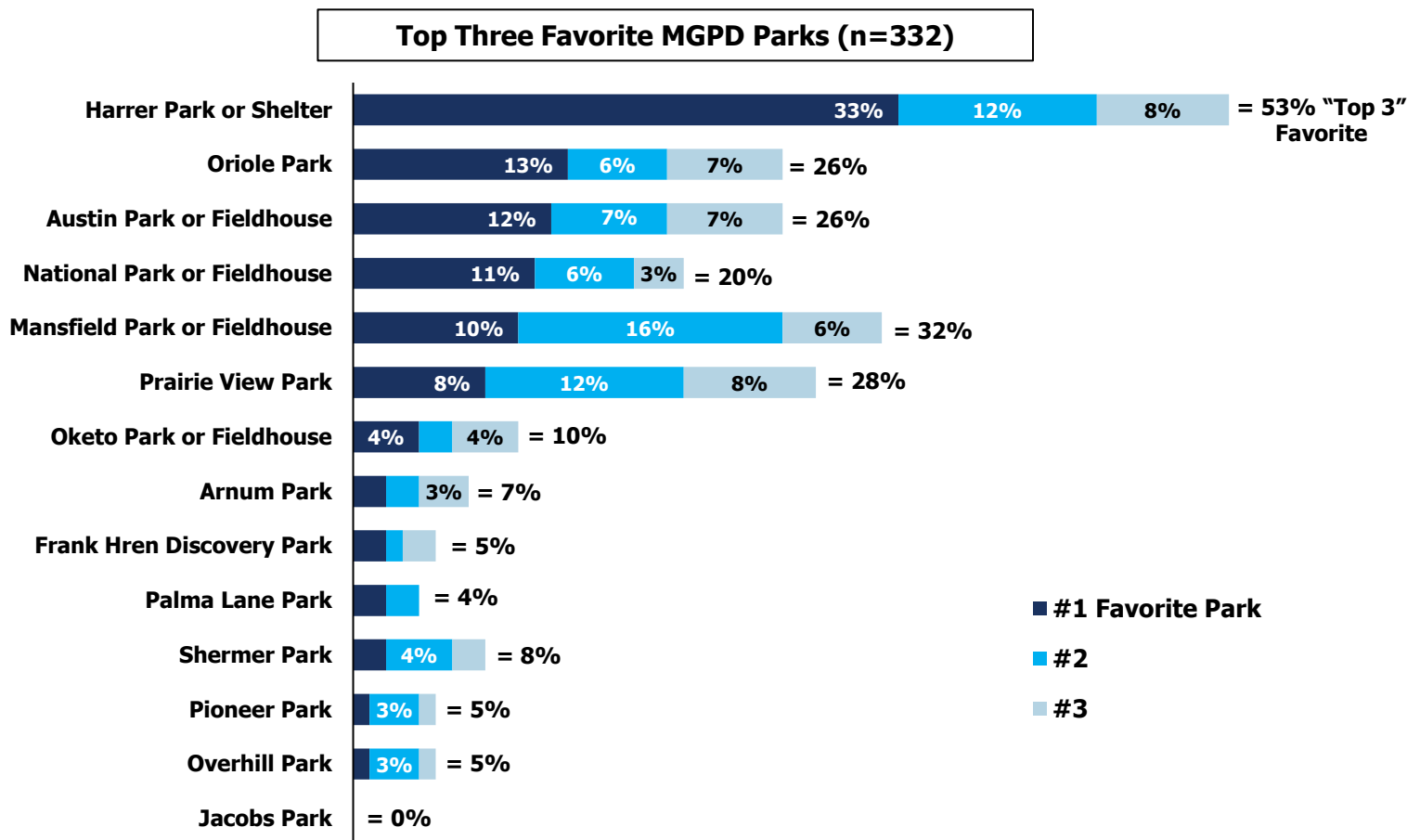
	Total n of cases	NW	NE	S	
<b>Overall (row) % of Park Users/Visitors by Region (n=434)</b>	(434)	37%	28%	35%	=100%
<b>Harrer Park or Shelter</b>	(220)	20%	39%	41%	=100%
<b>Mansfield Park or Fieldhouse</b>	(145)	14%	48%	38%	=100%
<b>Prairie View Park</b>	(134)	34%	32%	34%	=100%
<b>Austin Park or Fieldhouse</b>	(117)	13%	20%	67%	=100%
<b>Oriole Park</b>	(114)	72%	9%	19%	=100%
<b>National Park or Fieldhouse</b>	(90)	56%	19%	25%	=100%
<b>Oketo Park or Fieldhouse</b>	(50)	82%	10%	8%	=100%
<b>Shermer Park</b>	(48)	86%	7%	7%	=100%
<b>Pioneer Park</b>	(45)	8%	32%	60%	=100%
<b>Frank Hren Discovery Park</b>	(36)	26%	48%	26%	=100%
<b>Palma Lane Park</b>	(36)	29%	59%	12%	=100%
<b>Arnum Park</b>	(26)	89%	11%	0%	=100%
<b>Overhill Park</b>	(22)	79%	15%	6%	=100%
<b>Jacobs Park</b>	(9)	0%	100%	0%	=100%

○ = Higher than average response by region (95% level)



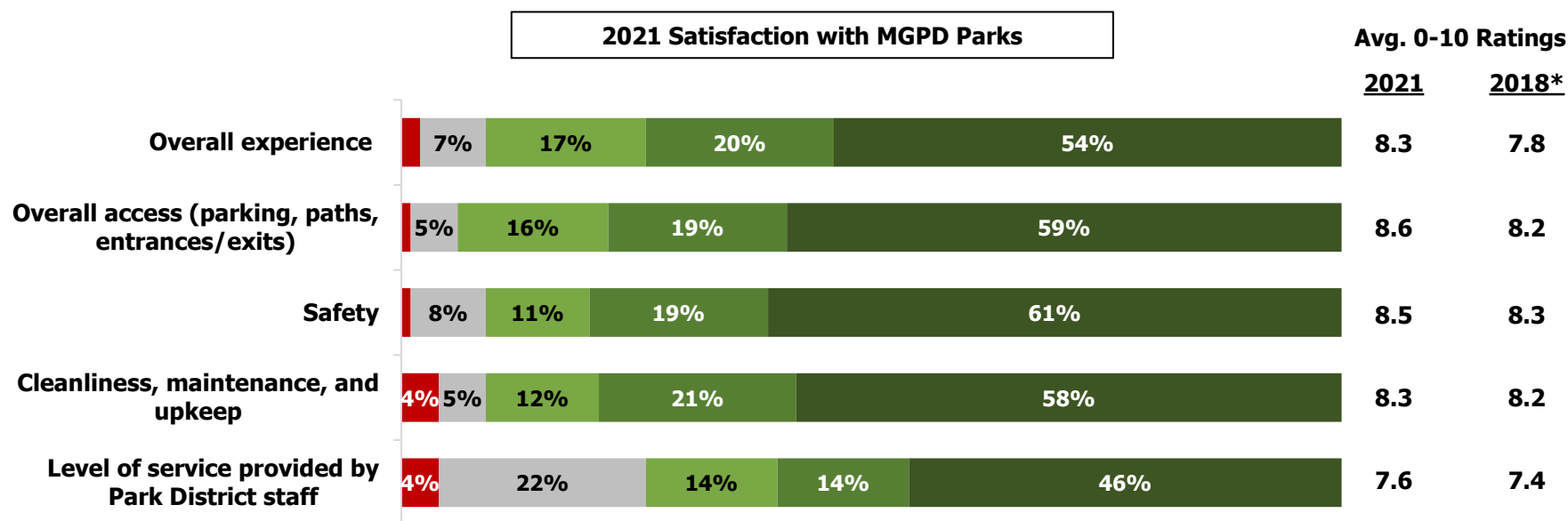
**When asked to identify their three favorite MGPD parks, Harrer Park (including its shelter) is cited by just over half of respondents.**

- Oriole Park and Austin Park receive high “#1 favorite park” responses, but Mansfield and Prairie View Parks also rank in the top five with several second and third choices.



## Satisfaction with District Parks remains very strong and shows improvements across several attributes since the 2018 survey.

- Nine out of ten are at least somewhat satisfied with the overall experience, accessibility, safety, and cleanliness of MGPD parks. In fact, a clear majority (54%+) of park users are “completely satisfied” (giving scores of 9+ on a 0-10 scale).
- The average ratings show that satisfaction has improved most on overall experience and accessibility.
- Satisfaction with District staff at these parks is also very positive but registers far more “neutral” scores – suggesting that recent visitors have no opinion to offer if they did not interact with staff during their visits. Still, 74% are at least somewhat satisfied, vs. only 4% who are dissatisfied.



■ % Dissatisfied (0-4) ■ % Neutral (5) ■ % Somewhat Satisfied (6-7) ■ % Very Satisfied (8) ■ % Completely Satisfied (9-10)

## Satisfaction with MGPD parks is very positive across all subgroups.

- Newer Morton Grove residents tend to report higher than average levels of satisfaction with local parks. Both the youngest and oldest residents are also especially satisfied overall and with access to these locations.
- Those who have been in the community roughly 10 to 19 years tend to give lower satisfaction scores, but remain very positive (6.9 or higher on a 0-10 scale)

### Differences by Subgroups: Satisfaction with MGPD Parks

	Overall Avg. Rating (0-10)	Lower Satisfaction	Higher Satisfaction
<b>Overall experience</b>	<b>8.3</b>	- Ages 45-54 (7.7) - Lived in Morton Grove 10-19 yrs. (7.8)	- Under age 35 (9.3), ages 65+ (8.6) - Lived in Morton Grove < 5 yrs. (9.1)
<b>Overall access (parking, paths, entrances/exits)</b>	<b>8.6</b>	- Lived in Morton Grove 20-29 yrs. (8.3)	- Under age 35 (9.3), ages 65+ (8.7) - Lived in Morton Grove < 5 yrs. (9.1)
<b>Safety</b>	<b>8.5</b>	- Lived in Morton Grove (5-9 yrs. (8.3), 20-29 yrs. (8.3))	- Lived in Morton Grove <5 yrs. (9.1)
<b>Overall cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep</b>	<b>8.3</b>	- Lived in Morton Grove 10-19 yrs. (7.6)	- Lived in Morton Grove <5 yrs. (9.2), 5-9 yrs. (8.7)
<b>Level of service provided by PD staff</b>	<b>7.6</b>	- Lived in Morton Grove 10-19 yrs. (6.9)	- Lived in Morton Grove 5-9 yrs. (7.9), 30+ yrs. (7.9)



**Residents who are less satisfied (12% or n=54 giving ratings of "6" or lower on a 0-10 scale on any attribute) cite a wide range of specific issues and concerns.**

- Most comments are not specific to any park, and usually center around the need for more restrooms, more trees or landscaping, better maintenance. A couple of residents seek a dog park and/or more parking.
- Specific parks received very few complaints (no more than n=5 each) which cover a wide range of suggestions.

**Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Parks  
(top responses, unweighted n of cases)**

**Unspecific Location**

**n=23**

**Responses:**

- n=4 need more restrooms
- n=4 want more trees/plants
- n=4 better maintenance fields/parks
- n=3 boring/uninteresting
- n=2 want dog park
- n=2 need more parking

**Responses n=1 each**

- n=1 goose droppings
- n=1 dog problems (off-leash)
- n=1 construction takes too long
- n=1 need parks for adults
- n=1 playgrounds need updates
- n=1 trash/litter

**Harrer Park**

**n=5**

**Responses:**

- n=2 dislike new pool
- n=1 dog problems
- n=1 path maintenance
- n=1 want more trees

**National Park**

**n=5**

**Responses:**

- n=2 litter/trash
- n=1 dog problems (waste)
- n=1 maintenance (tagging)
- n=1 need restroom
- n=1 playground not safe

**Austin Park**

**n=4**

**Responses:**

- n=2 dog problems (off-leash)
- n=1 unhappy with renovations
- n=1 path needs updating/maintenance

**Prairie View Park**

**n=4**

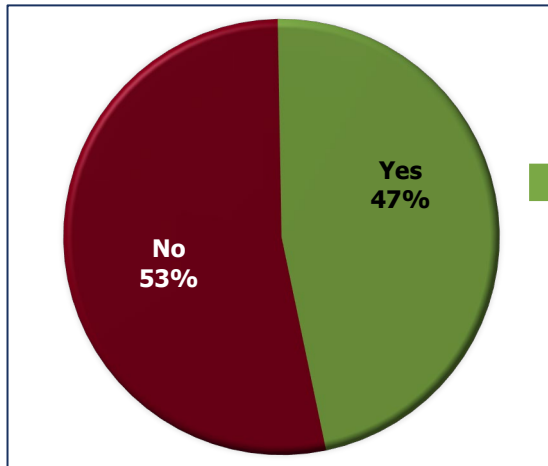
**Responses:**

- n=2 path/park maintenance
- n=1 needs more amenities (benches)
- n=1 tennis courts need resurfacing

**Nearly half (47%) report that their household used or visited a District facility in the previous 18 months (roughly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic).**

- These users most often report using Oriole Park Outdoor Aquatic Center (67%). These visitors represent 34% of all MGPD residents, which is significantly higher than the 20% who reported using this facility in 2018. This is likely due to the recent closure and renovation of Harrer Pool.
- Prairie View Community Center ranks second in terms of self-reported usage, especially the fitness center (consistent with 2018 reporting).

**Used or Visited a MGPD Facility  
in Past 18 Months?**



Visited or Used MGPD Facility in Past 18 Months	% Reporting (n=193)	% All Respondents (n=408)
Oriole Park Outdoor Aquatic Center	67%	34%
Prairie View Community Center Fitness Center	39%	20%
Prairie View Community Center Gymnasium	22%	11%
Prairie View Community Center multi-purpose rooms	20%	10%
Prairie View Community Center Dance Studio	15%	7%
Historical Museum and Education Center	12%	6%
Oriole Palm Room	5%	3%

## Visitors to these MGPD facilities tend to come from all parts of the community.

- The one exception is the Oriole Park Outdoor Aquatic Center. Most of these self-reported users live in the NW region and are least likely to live in the NE area.

	Total n of cases	NW	NE	S	
<b>Overall (row) % of Facility Users/Visitors by Region (n=434)</b>	(434)	37%	28%	35%	=100%
<b>Oriole Park Outdoor Aquatic Center</b>	(111)	58%	13%	29%	=100%
<b>Prairie View Community Center <u>Fitness Center</u></b>	(80)	42%	20%	38%	=100%
<b>Prairie View Community Center <u>Gymnasium</u></b>	(38)	24%	32%	44%	=100%
<b>Prairie View Community Center <u>multi-purpose rooms</u></b>	(38)	37%	28%	35%	=100%
<b>Prairie View Community Center <u>Dance Studio</u></b>	(31)	55%	22%	23%	=100%
<b>Historical Museum and Education Center</b>	(26)	29%	33%	38%	=100%
<b>Oriole Palm Room</b>	(10)	n=3	n=2	n=5	n=10

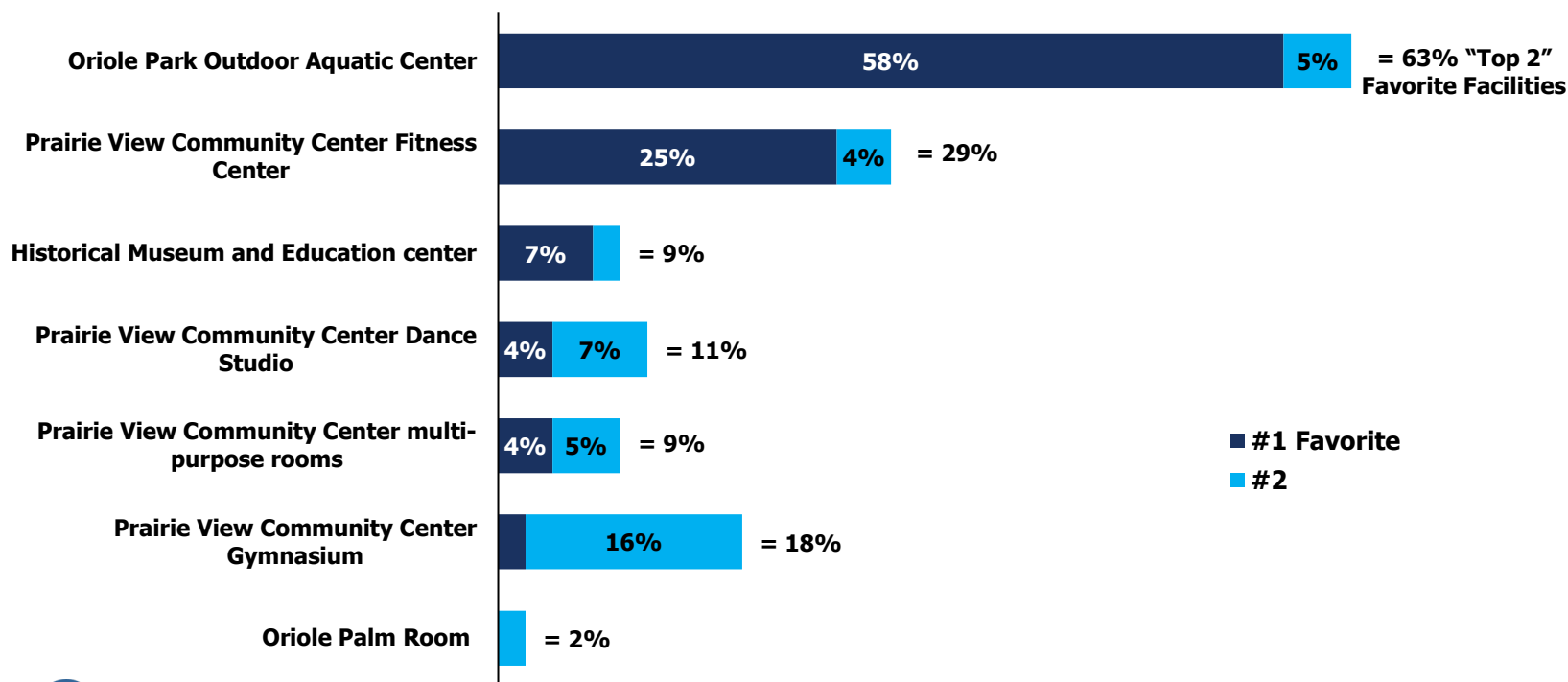
○ = Higher than average response by region (95% level)



**Oriole Park Outdoor Aquatic Center is by far the favorite MGPD facility among residents, with the fitness center at Prairie View a distant second.**

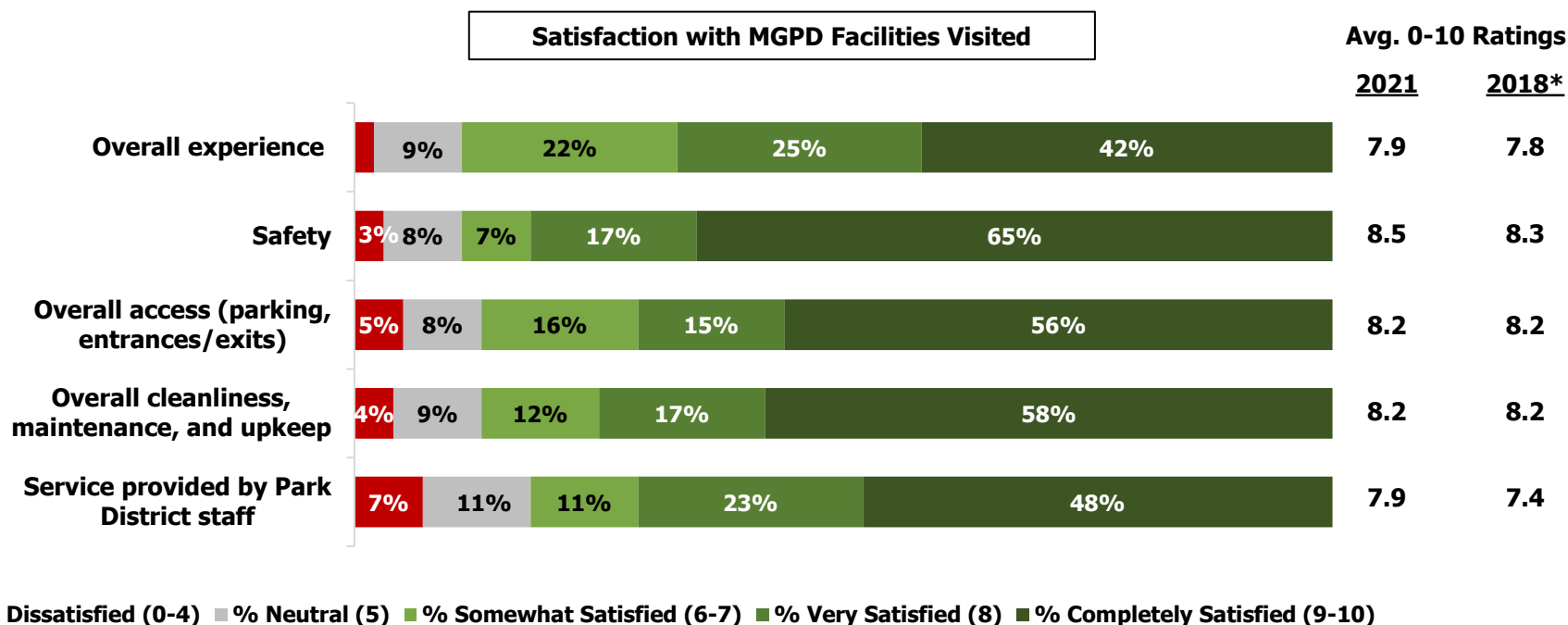
- The Aquatic Center tends to be a top choice among ages 35-54, NW residents, and households with children. The fitness center is mentioned most often by adults ages 65+, residents in the S region, and households without children.
- Note that the gymnasium at Prairie View ranks third overall, most often a “second choice” after the aquatic facility and the fitness center. It tends to be favored most by those in the NE and S regions, households with children, and newer residents (five years or less in Morton Grove).

**Top Two Favorite MGPD Facilities (n=189)**



**As with parks, satisfaction with MGPD facilities are very satisfied overall.**

- Overall safety receives the highest ratings (up slightly since 2018), and staff services/interactions are also highly regarded (bigger improvement vs. three years ago).
- Consistently, at least 82% are satisfied with all aspects at these facilities, and most are “completely” satisfied with the safety, accessibility, and upkeep at these locations.



## All visitor subgroups who recently used District facilities express strong satisfaction (consistent with satisfaction scores for MGPD parks).

- In general, the oldest users (ages 65+) are usually the most satisfied, followed by those in the 35 to 44 age range.
- Lower scores tend to come from the youngest adults (under age 35) and those ages 55-64 (on safety), but otherwise these ratings generally remain very positive.
  - Satisfaction with staff service is especially lower (“somewhat positive”) among the youngest age group (6.5 average).

### Differences by Subgroups: Satisfaction with MGPD Facilities

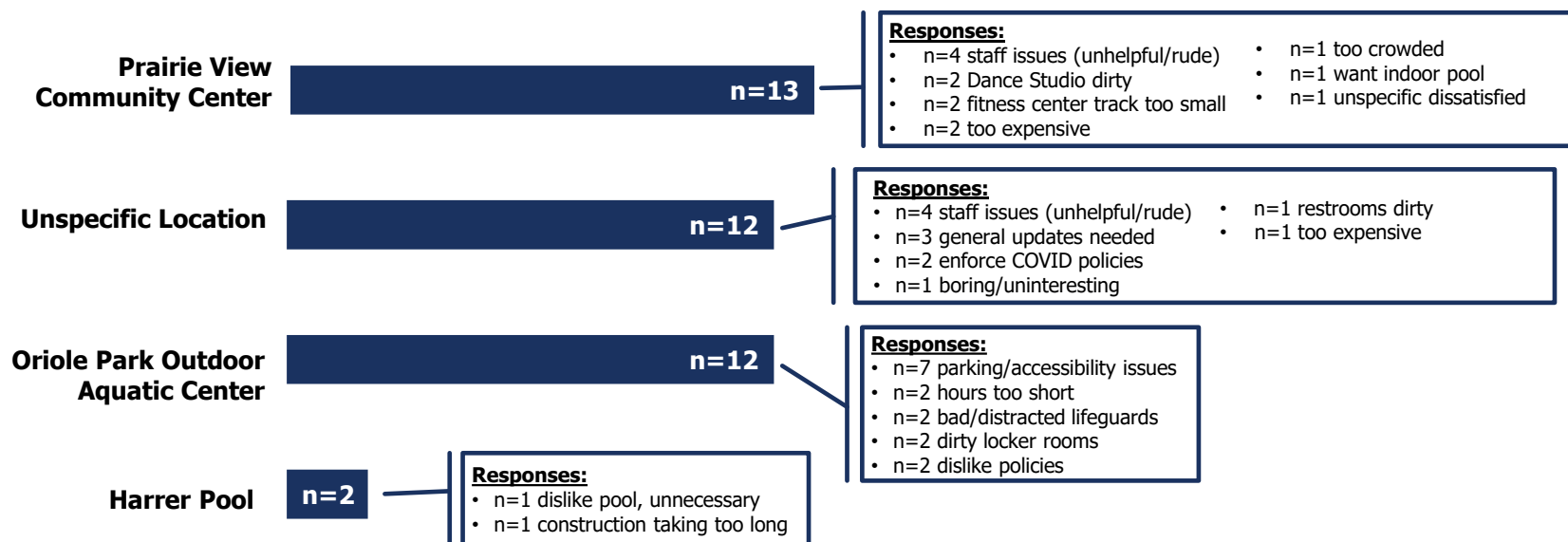
	Overall Avg. Rating (0-10)	Lower Satisfaction	Higher Satisfaction
<b>Overall experience</b>	<b>7.9</b>	- Under age 35 (7.4)	- Ages 35-44 (8.4), 65+ (8.4)
<b>Safety</b>	<b>8.5</b>	- Under age 35 (8.1), ages 55-64 (8.2)	- Ages 65+ (9.0) - Lived in Morton Grove <5 yrs. (9.1)
<b>Overall access (parking, entrances/exits)</b>	<b>8.2</b>	- Ages 35-44 (7.7) - Children in household (7.8)	- Ages 65+ (9.0) - No children in household (8.5)
<b>Overall cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep</b>	<b>8.2</b>	- Under age 35 (7.4)	- Ages 35-44 (8.7)
<b>Service provided by Park District staff</b>	<b>7.9</b>	- Under age 35 (6.5)	- Ages 65+ (8.9)



**Residents who are less satisfied with MGPLD facilities (9% or n=41 giving a "6" or lower on a 0-10 scale on any attribute) were asked what they would like to see improved.**

- Most often, comments regarding Prairie View Community Center or MGPLD facilities in general focus on suggestions for more helpful or friendlier service from staff, followed specific amenities that residents would like to see.
- **Parking** is the top complaint for the Oriole Park Outdoor Aquatic Center, followed by a wide range of issues cited less often.

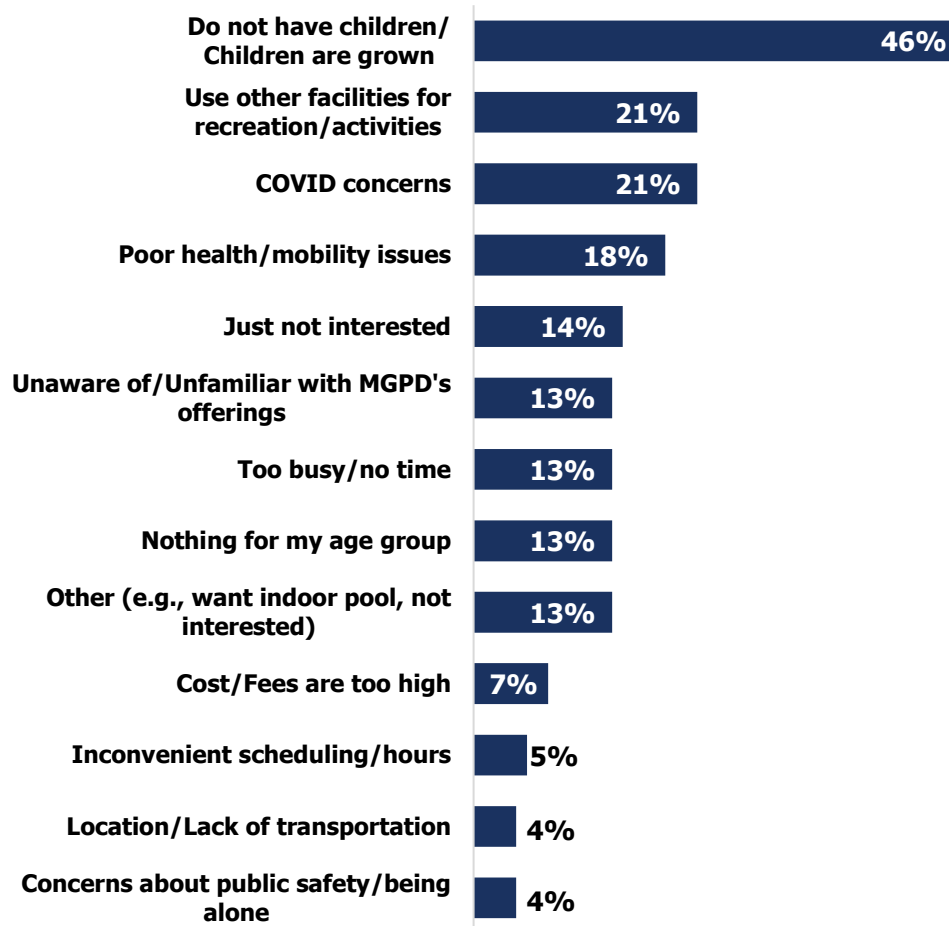
**Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Facilities  
(top responses, unweighted n of cases)**



## Among residents reporting no usage of MGPD parks or facilities, the top reason is not having children in the household.

- This suggests that nearly half of the non-users view the District as applying mostly to children or younger families. They may not be fully aware of what the MGPD offers to older adults and non-parents.
- One in five (21%) cite COVID concerns as a reason for non-usage in the past year. An equal number also report going to other locations for recreational and/or fitness activities.
- Nearly as many (18%) indicate that physical or health conditions limit their level of activity.
- Most of the remaining reasons concern a lack of interest, a lack of time, or lack of awareness of the District's offerings.
- Only 7% overall said fees or costs were a reason for their non-usage or participation.

### Top Reasons for Non-Usage/Non-Visits to MGPD Parks and Facilities (n=127)



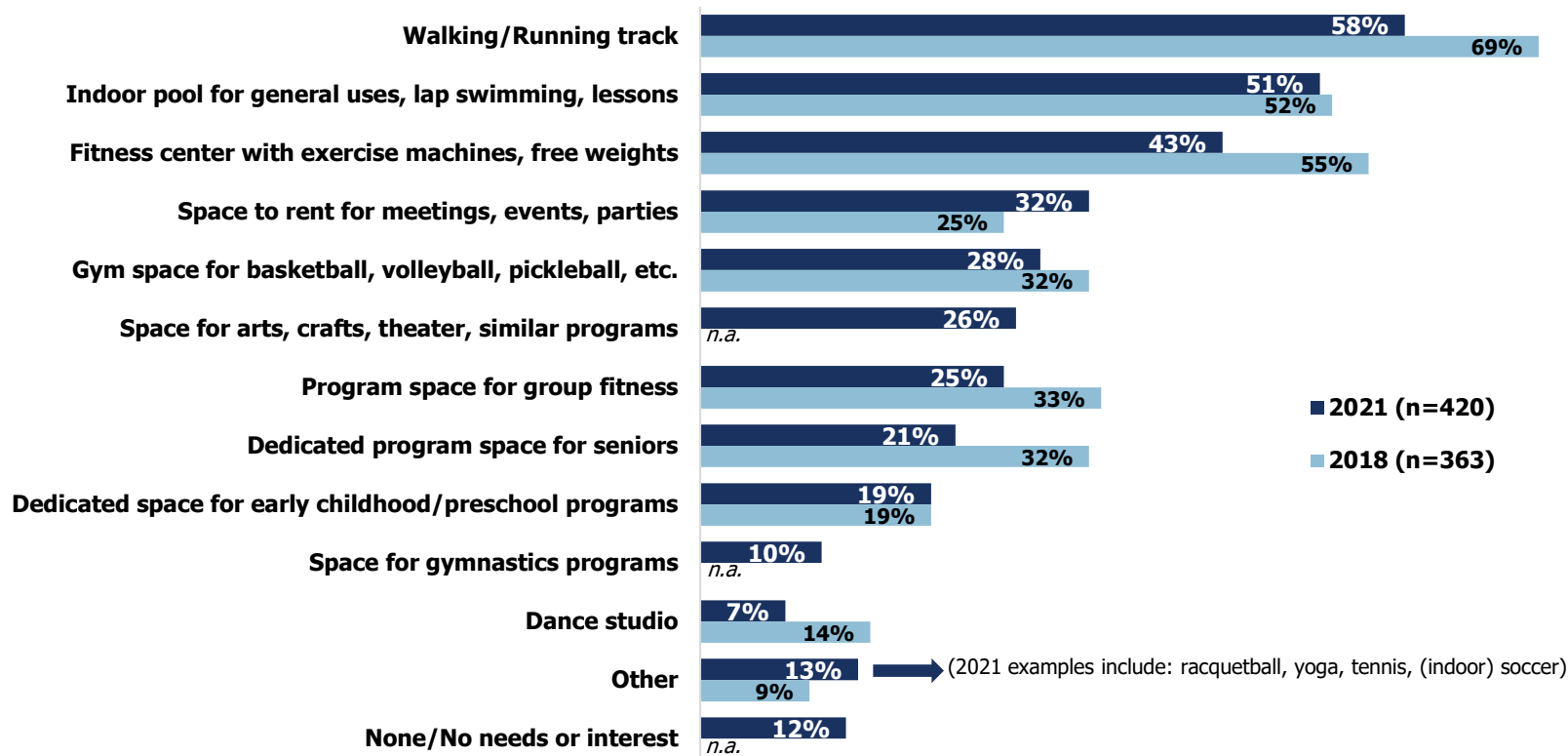
### III. Levels of Interest and Unmet Needs: Indoor Amenities/Facilities



**From a list of indoor amenities/activities, just over half of Morton Grove residents express a need or interest in an indoor track and/or an indoor pool. This is generally consistent with 2018 responses (though interest in an indoor track has dropped in three years).**

- Similarly, demand for a fitness center has declined but still ranks third overall (similar to 2018).
- Several indoor amenities registered a need or interest from at least one in five adults, including indoor space for rental events, gym activities, arts and crafts, group fitness, and programming for both seniors and pre-K children.

**Indoor Amenities/Facilities of Interest/Need Among Residents (% "Yes")**



**In general, younger to middle-aged adults (under age 55) consistently express higher than average interest or need for most indoor facilities.**

- Households with children are especially interested in an indoor pool, rental space, gym space, and a space for arts/crafts/theater.
- Women are especially interested in an indoor track and a space for arts/crafts/theater, along with group fitness space.

	Overall (n=420)	Most Likely to Express Interest/Need/Use
<b>Walking/Running track</b>	<b>58%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women (66%, vs. 50% of men)</li> <li>- Under age 35 (80%), 45-54 (66%)</li> <li>- NE (64%) and S regions (65%)</li> </ul>
<b>Indoor pool</b>	<b>51%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under age 35 (80%), 35-44 (71%)</li> <li>- Households with children (70%, vs. 40% of those without children)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove &lt;5 yrs. (62%), 5-9 yrs. (69%), 10-19 yrs. (64%)</li> <li>- Recent MGPD users/visitors (54%, vs. 28% of non-users)</li> </ul>
<b>Fitness center</b>	<b>43%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under age 35 (68%)</li> </ul>
<b>Space to rent</b>	<b>32%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 35-44 (52%), 45-54 (43%)</li> <li>- Asian Americans (47%)</li> <li>- NE residents (38%)</li> <li>- Households with children (47%, vs. 23% of those without children)</li> <li>- Recent MGPD users/visitors (35%, vs. 14% of non-users)</li> </ul>
<b>Gym space</b>	<b>28%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under age 35 (60%), 35-44 (47%)</li> <li>- NE region (40%)</li> <li>- Households with children (43%, vs. 20% of those without children)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove &lt;5 yrs. (45%), 5-9 yrs. (49%), 10-19 yrs. (37%)</li> <li>- Recent MGPD users/visitors (31%, vs. 6% of non-users)</li> </ul>
<b>Space for arts, crafts, theater</b>	<b>26%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women (31%, vs. 20% of men)</li> <li>- Under age 35 (49%), 35-44 (37%)</li> <li>- Households with children (34%, vs. 22% of those without children)</li> <li>- Recent MGPD users/visitors (28%, vs. 13% of non-users)</li> </ul>
<b>Program space for group fitness</b>	<b>25%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women (33%, vs. 17% of men)</li> <li>- Non-white and non-Asian adults (49%)</li> </ul>

## Need/Interest for Indoor facilities (cont'd)

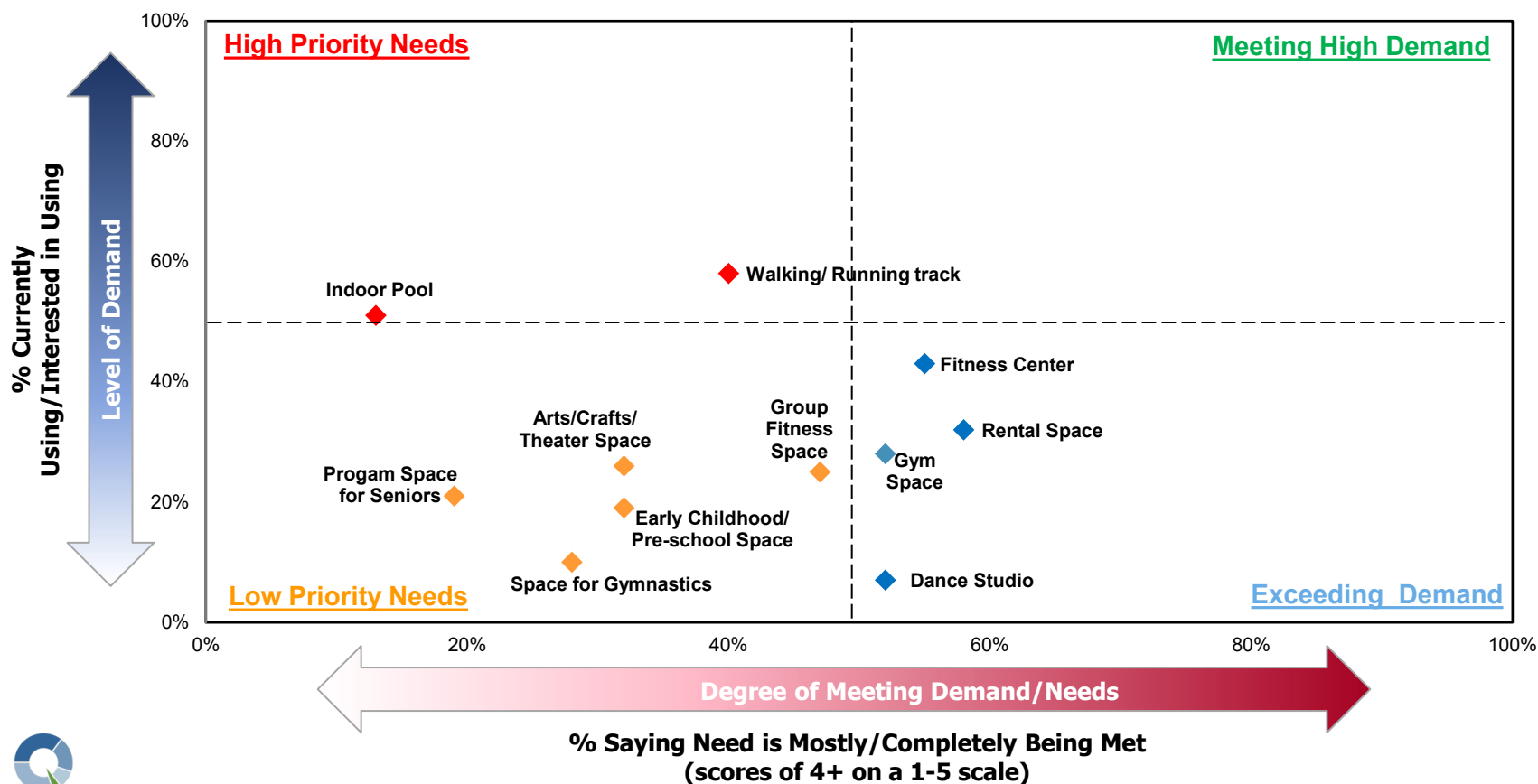
- Not surprisingly, older adults (ages 55+, especially those 65 and older) express the strongest interest in having dedicated space for “seniors”, as are women, and long-term Morton Grove residents.
- Note that older residents (especially those ages 55-64) tend to report that “none” of these facilities are needed or important to them (more than average).

	Overall (n=420)	Most Likely to Express Interest/Need/Use
<b>Dedicated program space for seniors</b>	<b>21%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women (27%, vs. 16% of men)</li> <li>- Ages 55-64 (24%), 65+ (46%)</li> <li>- No children in household (28%)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove 10-19 yrs. (27%), 30+ yrs. (33%)</li> <li>- Non-MGPD users/visitors (39%, vs. 19% of recent users/visitors)</li> </ul>
<b>Dedicated space for early childhood/preschool programs</b>	<b>19%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under age 35 (71%, 35-44 (41%)</li> <li>- NE region (27%)</li> <li>- Households with children (39%, vs. 8% of those without children)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove &lt;5 yrs. (38%), 5-9 yrs. (50%)</li> <li>- Recent MGPD users/visitors (22%, vs. 4% of non-users)</li> </ul>
<b>Space for gymnastics programs</b>	<b>10%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 35-44 (24%)</li> <li>- Households with children (23%, vs. 3% of those without children)</li> </ul>
<b>Dance studio</b>	<b>7%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove 10-19 yrs. (14%)</li> </ul>
<b>None</b>	<b>12%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 55-64 (21%), 65+ (16%)</li> <li>- White adults (15%, vs. 7% of Asian Americans and 1% of “other” ethnicities)</li> <li>- No children in household (16%, vs. 5% of those with children)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove 20+ yrs. (16%)</li> <li>- Non-MGPD users/visitors (27%, vs. 10% of recent users)</li> </ul>

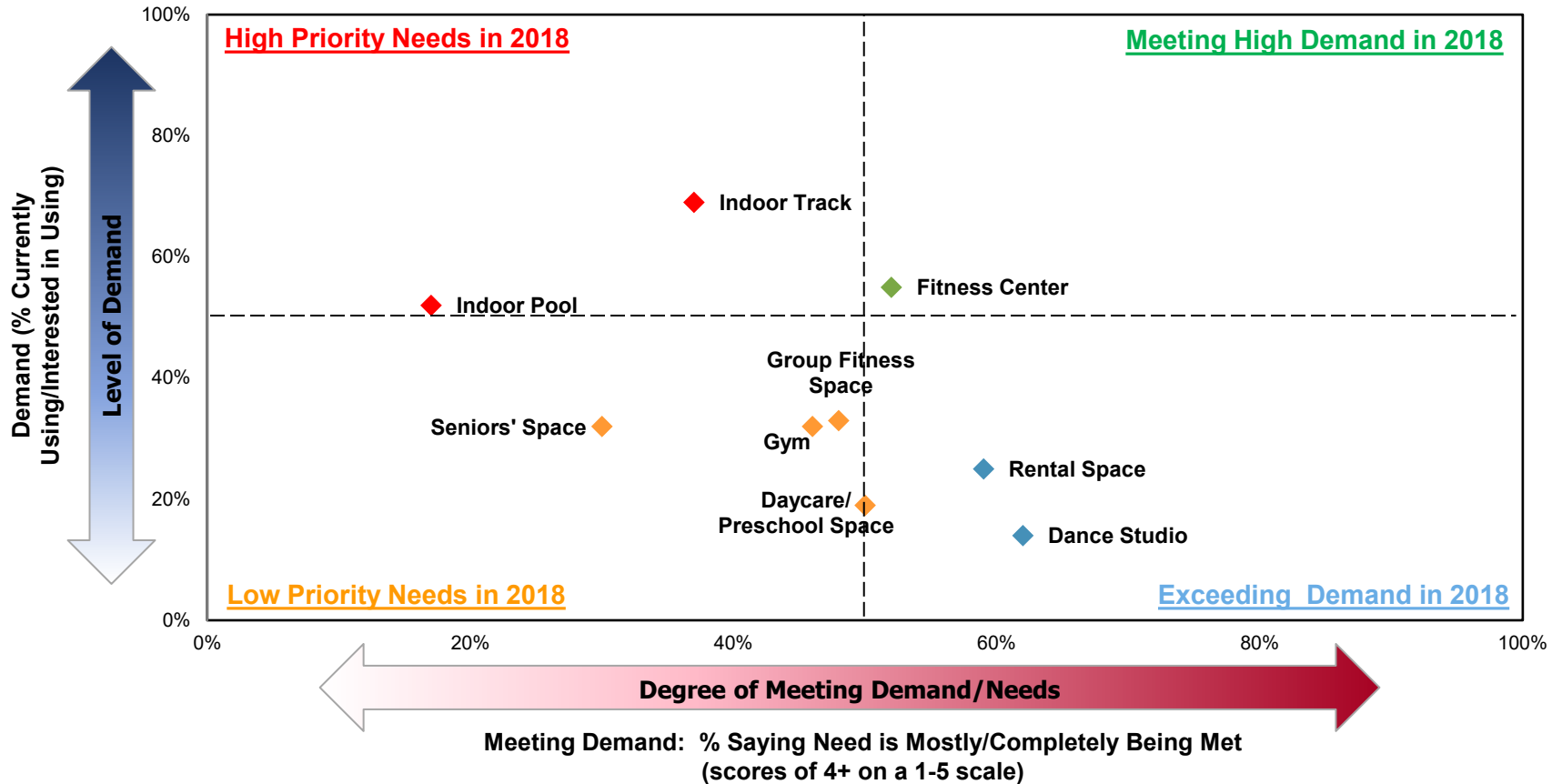


**Quadrant analysis shows that the amenities in highest demand – an indoor track and indoor pool – are deemed “high priority gaps” in that demand is relatively high (over 50%) but less than half of these groups feel these amenities are readily available in the community.**

- This pattern aligns very closely with the 2018 results (see next page), in terms of an indoor pool and track representing the biggest gaps or opportunities.
- Compared to three years ago, residents now feel that a fitness center and gym space are more readily available (as they were identified as “low priority needs” in 2018). Dedicated space for seniors’ programming remains in this lower “gap” quadrant, along with arts/crafts programming space, early childhood/pre-K activities, and gymnastics space.



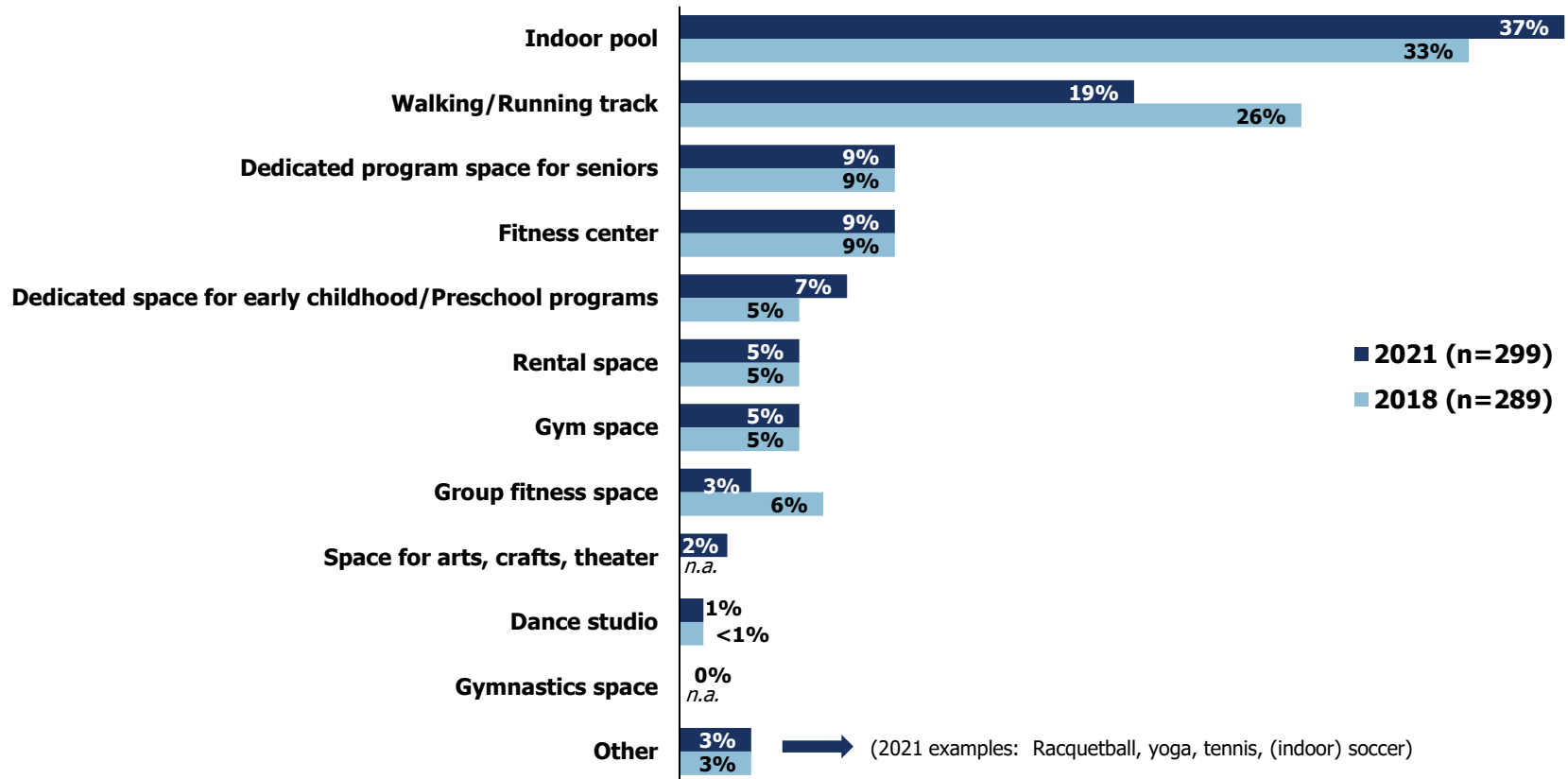
## 2018 Survey Results: Quadrant analysis



As a follow-up question, when asked to identify the single top priority for the MGPD to consider for indoor facilities, an indoor pool continues to be cited most often (slightly more so than in 2018), followed by an indoor track.

- All other indoor facilities tested rank far lower in terms of priorities.

**Top Priority For MGPD To Provide/Add/Improve Indoor Facilities**





**An indoor pool is most favored among ages 35-54 and households with children, while a walking/running track shows fewer differences (more consistent response across subgroups).**

- The oldest adults (ages 65+) tend place the top priority on both a dedicated space for seniors as well as a fitness center.

**Differences by Subgroups: Top Priority**

	<b>Top Ranking</b>	<b>Most Likely to Include as Top Priority</b>
<b>Indoor pool</b>	<b>37%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 35-44 (50%), 45-54 (43%)</li> <li>- Households with children (47%, vs. 30% of those without children)</li> </ul>
<b>Walking/Running track</b>	<b>19%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- White residents (23%)</li> </ul>
<b>Dedicated space for seniors</b>	<b>9%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 65+ (24%)</li> <li>- Non-MGPD users/visitors (23%, vs. 7% of recent users)</li> </ul>
<b>Fitness center</b>	<b>9%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 65+ (18%)</li> <li>- Households without children (14%, vs. 2% of those with children)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove 30+ yrs. (19%)</li> </ul>
<b>Dedicated early childhood/Preschool space</b>	<b>7%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 35-44 (14%)</li> <li>- Children in household (14%, vs. 1% of those without children)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove &lt;5 yrs. (18%)</li> </ul>
<b>Rental space</b>	<b>5%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ages 45-54 (14%)</li> <li>- Households with children (10%, vs. 2% of those without children)</li> </ul>
<b>Gym space</b>	<b>5%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NE region (9%)</li> <li>- No children in household (8%, vs. 1% of those with children)</li> <li>- Lived in Morton Grove &lt;5 yrs. (16%)</li> </ul>
<i>All other facilities received 3% or less response (too few cases to report meaningful differences)</i>		

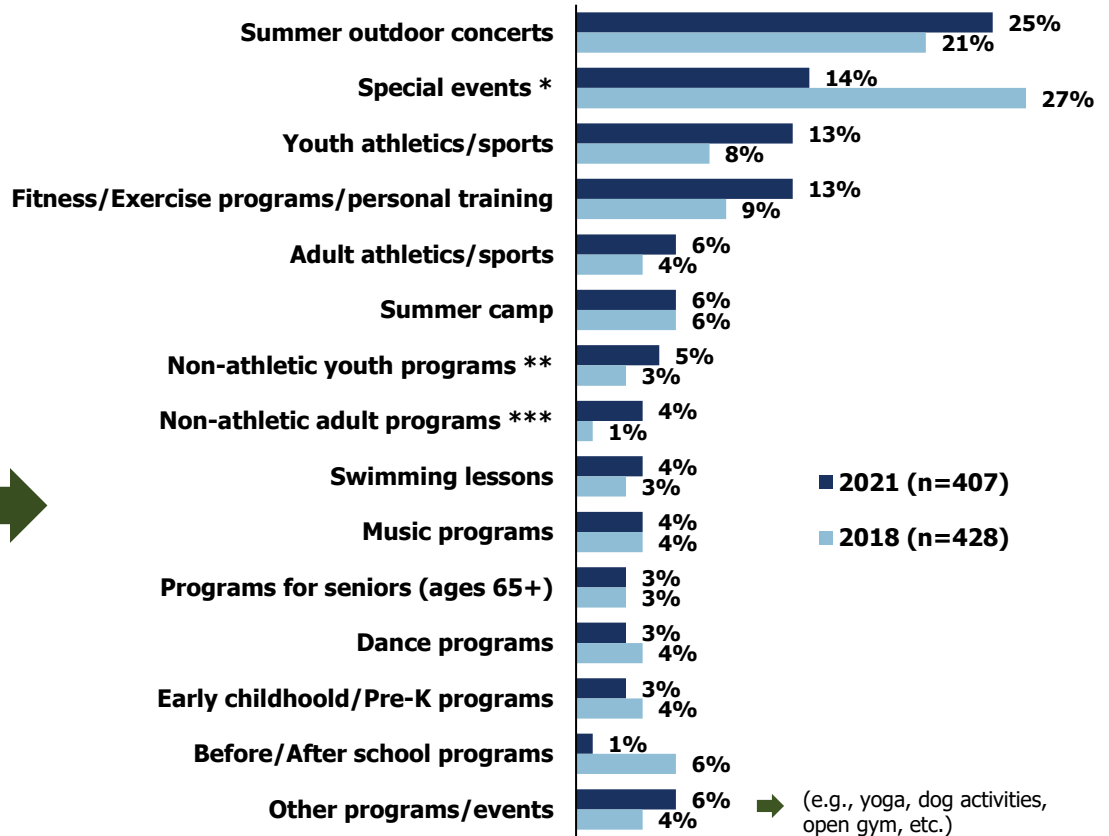
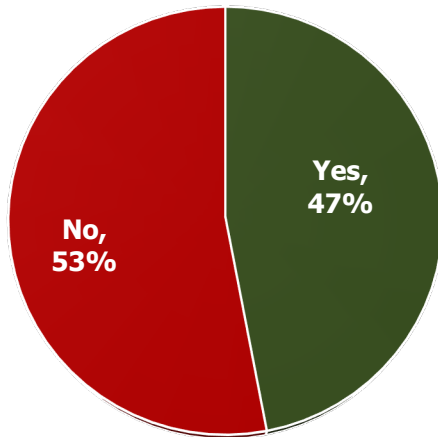
## IV. MGPD Programs/Events

**Nearly half report a household member who participated in a District program in the past 18 months. Most often, they attended summer outdoor concerts, followed by special events, youth sports, or fitness/training programs.**

- Those least likely to participate (53% overall) are older (61% of ages 45-54, 65% of ages 55-64, and 55% of ages 65+).

**Most Frequently Cited Programs/Events  
(multiple responses)**

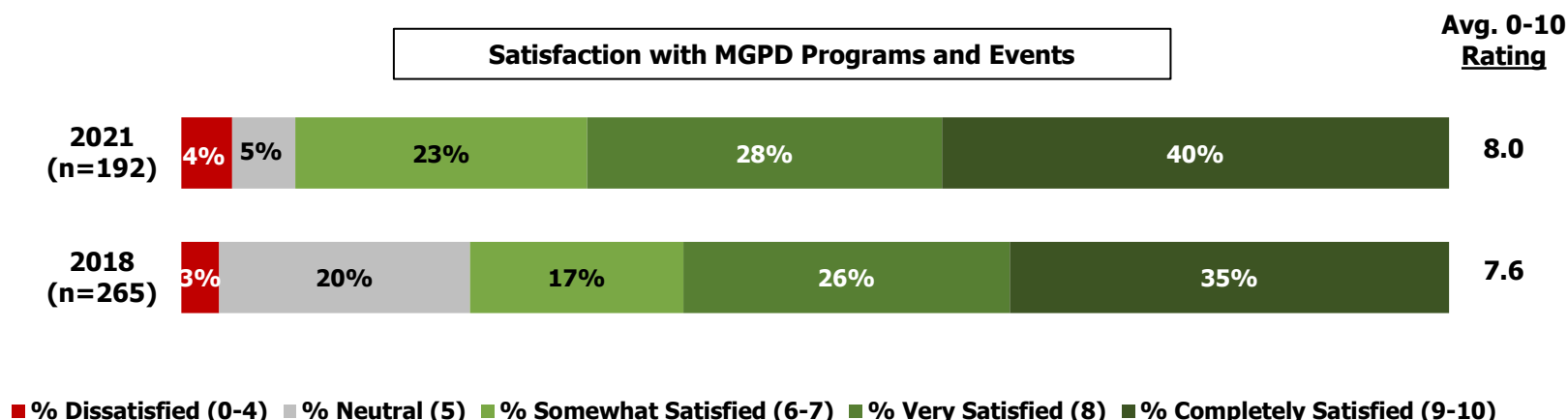
**Household Member Participate  
in MGPD Programs/Event in  
Past 18 Months? (n=407)**





**Consistent with other findings, recent MGPD program and event participants give very strong satisfaction ratings to these activities, again outperforming the 2018 scores.**

- The highest satisfaction scores tend to come from the youngest residents under age 35 (9.1, vs. 8.0 overall).
- Lower than average scores (though still favorable) come from those ages 45-54 (7.0)



**Residents who are less satisfied with MGPLD programs/events (19% or n=37 giving ratings of "6" or lower on a 0-10 scale on any attribute) were asked to offer improvement ideas.**

- Of these, only about half (n=18) provided feedback, which was very scattered across multiple improvements and/or suggestions/requests.

**Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Park District Programs/Events  
(top responses, unweighted n of cases)**

**Events/Programs**

**n=18**

**Responses:**

- n=4 dissatisfied with spec. programs/events general (AYSO soccer, Bark in the Park, outdoor fair, not family friendly)
- n=3 want specific events/classes (Zumba, summer events, weekends, more for seniors)
- n=2 issues with website (remote programs)
- n=2 classes get cancelled
- n=1 Asian population not represented in events
- n=1 dissatisfied with COVID guidelines
- n=1 not participating due to COVID
- n=1 more food choices at events
- n=1 not allowed to go to events with grandchildren
- n=1 upkeep of softball/baseball fields

**In an open-ended question, residents offer a wide range of programming ideas for children and adults of all ages, including a balanced mixed of active (e.g., sports, fitness) and non-active (e.g., skills, learning, crafts) activities.**

- The top suggestions are provided below and on the next page. Note that respondents were especially forthcoming with ideas for adult programming (large number of ideas on the next page).

Age Group Programming Needs	Most Frequent Suggestions (unweighted n of cases)
<b>Children ages 4 and under (n=39)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active activities (swimming, soccer, dance, gymnastics, tennis) (n=11)</li> <li>• Non-active activities (music, arts, STEM, languages) (n=9)</li> <li>• Daycare (working parents) (n=4)</li> <li>• Preschool (n=3)</li> <li>• Playgroups and play areas (n=3)</li> <li>• More evening/weekend events (n=2)</li> <li>• More/more interesting options (n=2)</li> <li>• Other (better promotion, bigger classrooms, specific classes or events, etc.) (n=9)</li> </ul>
<b>Children ages 5 to 10 (n=47)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-active activities (music, crafts, theater, STEM, etc.) (n=15)</li> <li>• Active activities (swimming, soccer, dance, running, etc.) (n=15)</li> <li>• Special events (carnival, playgroups, movie nights, etc.) (n=4)</li> <li>• More options or time slots (n=4)</li> <li>• More camps (n=2)</li> <li>• Other (better promotion, free trials, specific classes or facilities wanted, etc.) (n=10)</li> </ul>
<b>Children ages 11 to 18 (n=48)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active activities (swimming, tennis, ball sports) (n=18)</li> <li>• Non-active activities (STEM, theater, volunteering, arts, etc.) (n=8)</li> <li>• Educational programs ("how to" classes, reading &amp; math support) (n=6)</li> <li>• More (after school) options (n=4)</li> <li>• Special events (movie nights, outdoor events) (n=3)</li> <li>• More camps (summer, sports) (n=3)</li> <li>• Other (want specific facility, free fitness membership, board games, etc.) (n=11)</li> </ul>



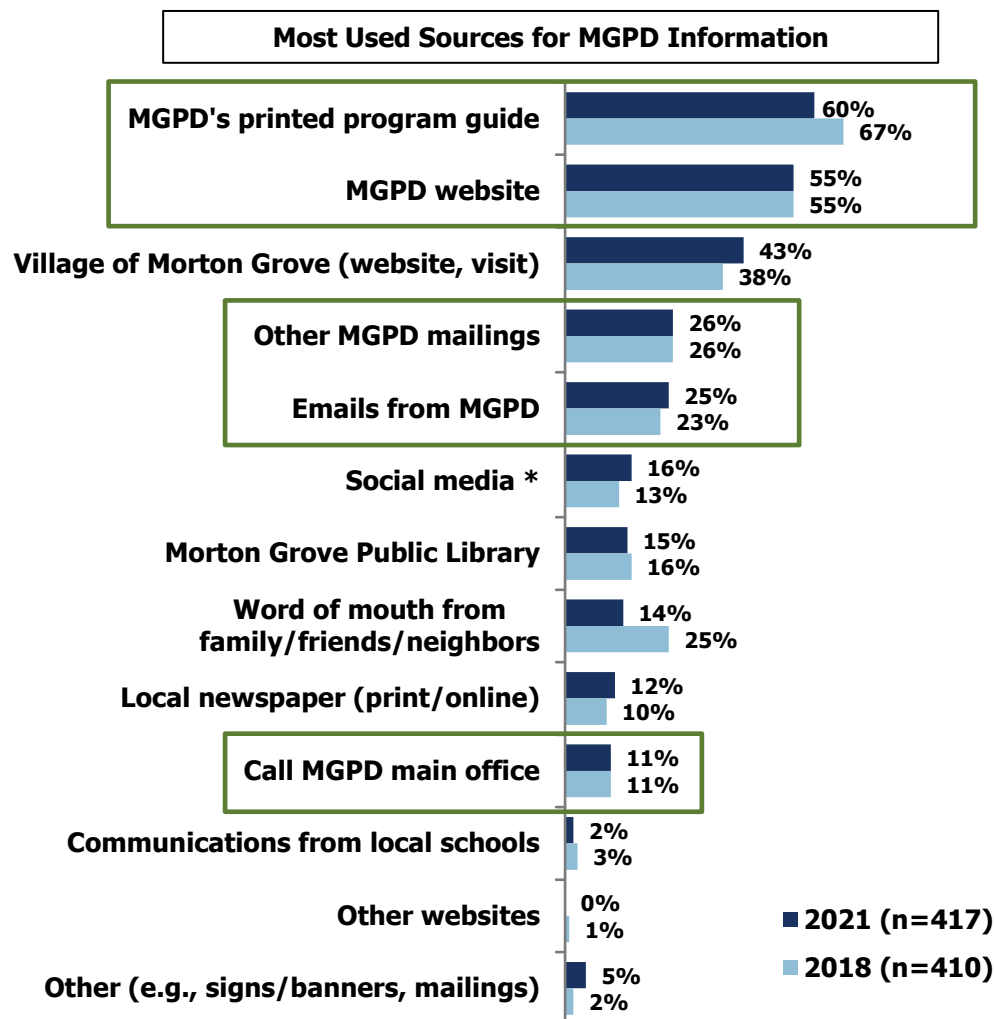
## Programs/Events Suggestions/Ideas (cont'd)

Age Group Programming Needs	Most Frequent Suggestions (unweighted n of cases)
<b>Adults ages 19 to 39 (n=42)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active activities (swimming, open gym, pickleball, etc.) (n=18)</li> <li>• Events (social gatherings, music festival, etc.) (n=5)</li> <li>• Non-active activities (cooking, theater, adult education, etc.) (n=4)</li> <li>• Other (specific facilities wanted, more walking tracks, pet events, etc.) (n=16)</li> </ul>
<b>Adults ages 40 to 59 (n=70)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active activities (swimming, group exercise, pickleball, etc.) (n=25)</li> <li>• Non-active activities (arts, crafts, theater, book club, etc.) (n=9)</li> <li>• Special events (wine tasting, social gatherings, movie nights, etc.) (n=9)</li> <li>• Adult education (languages, financial planning, tech classes, etc.) (n=6)</li> <li>• Outdoor recreation (gardening, archery) (n=4)</li> <li>• Volunteering (cleanups, general volunteering) (n=2)</li> <li>• Other (amenity suggestions: walking track, indoor pool, pickleball courts, skate park; discounts, general adult only programs) (n=20)</li> </ul>
<b>Adults over 60 (n=105)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active activities (low impact, swimming, walking, yoga, etc.) (n=46)</li> <li>• Non-active activities (crafts, arts, games, etc.) (n=13)</li> <li>• General more senior programming (incl. senior-youth mentoring) (n=4)</li> <li>• Special events (concerts, trivia, classic car show) (n=5)</li> <li>• Adult education (Medicare, retirement, computers, etc.) (n=7)</li> <li>• Schedule suggestions (more evening/weekend, specific day, already enough for this age group) (n=4)</li> <li>• Outdoor recreation (wood working, community walks, archery, etc.) (n=3)</li> <li>• Free programming/discounts (incl. Fitness Center) (n=4)</li> <li>• Options for people with different abilities (n=2)</li> <li>• Other (amenity suggestions: walking track, indoor pool, etc.; group trips, dog training, etc.) (n=25)</li> </ul>

## V. Information Sources

**Local residents rely on multiple sources for MGPD information, especially the District's printed program guide followed closely by its website. These behaviors have not changed much, but usage of the program guide is down slightly compared to three years ago.**

- Note that the Village continues to be a frequent "go-to" source for Park District information (ranking third, and consistent with 2018 survey results).
- Park District mailings and emails are cited by one in four respondents.
- The remaining sources of information are mentioned less often. "Word of mouth" from friends or personal relationships is cited less often now than in the previous survey. Social media has edged slightly higher since 2018.



\* (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc.)

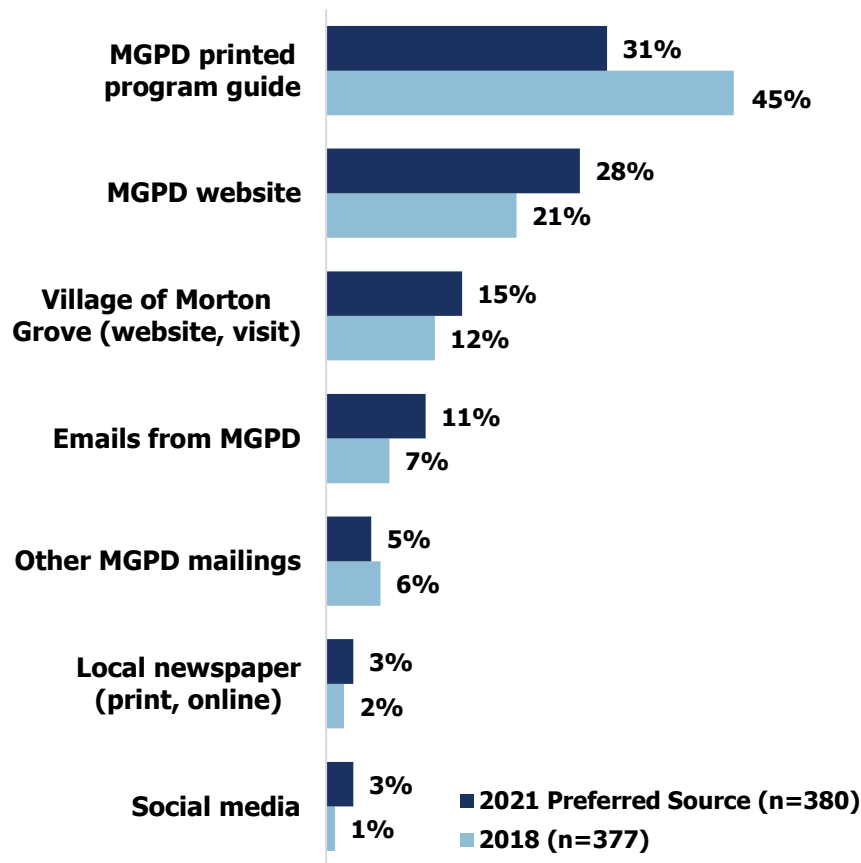
Indicates MGPD sources



**When asked which source they prefer most for Park District information, residents are now evenly divided between the program guide and the MGPD website. By comparison, the printed guide was a 2:1 favorite in 2018.**

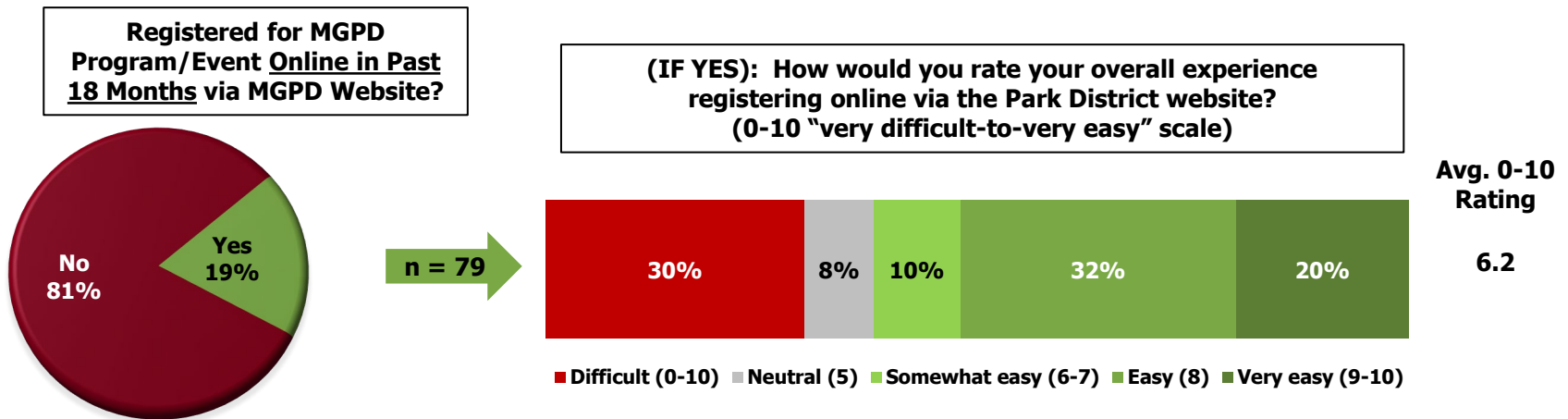
- All other sources are mentioned far less often.
- The printed guide tends to be most favored by:
  - Adults ages 65+ (48%, vs. 31% overall)
  - Non-Asian white and "other" ethnic households (41%)
  - Residents who have lived in Morton Grove 30+ yrs. (47%).
- By comparison, groups reporting the strongest preference for the District website are:
  - Ages 45-54 (41%, vs. 28% overall)
  - Morton Grove residents of 20-29 yrs. (41%).
- The newest residents who moved to Morton Grove in the past five years tend to most prefer contacting the Village for Park District information (32%, vs. 15% overall).

**Top Information Source for MGPD Information**



**Nearly one in five residents (19%) said that they used the MGPD website in the past 18 months to register for a program or event. Those respondents report a somewhat mixed user experience.**

- Residents most likely to report recent online registration include:
  - Those under age 35 (31% 'yes', vs. 19% overall) or ages 35-44 (49%)
  - Adults who moved to Morton Grove 5-9 yrs. ago (61%).
- Most felt the online registration was "easy", but much of that response is "soft" in that only 20% overall said it was "very easy" (scores of 9+ on a 0-10 scale). Note also that nearly a third (30%) rated the experience as difficult.
- Its overall average rating is a 6.2 (considered "somewhat easy").
  - Higher than average ratings (indicating an easier user experience) tend to come from Asian residents (8.0) while lower ratings tend to come from non-Asian households (5.7).
  - There are no other meaningful differences by subgroups (including age, those with or without children, etc.).



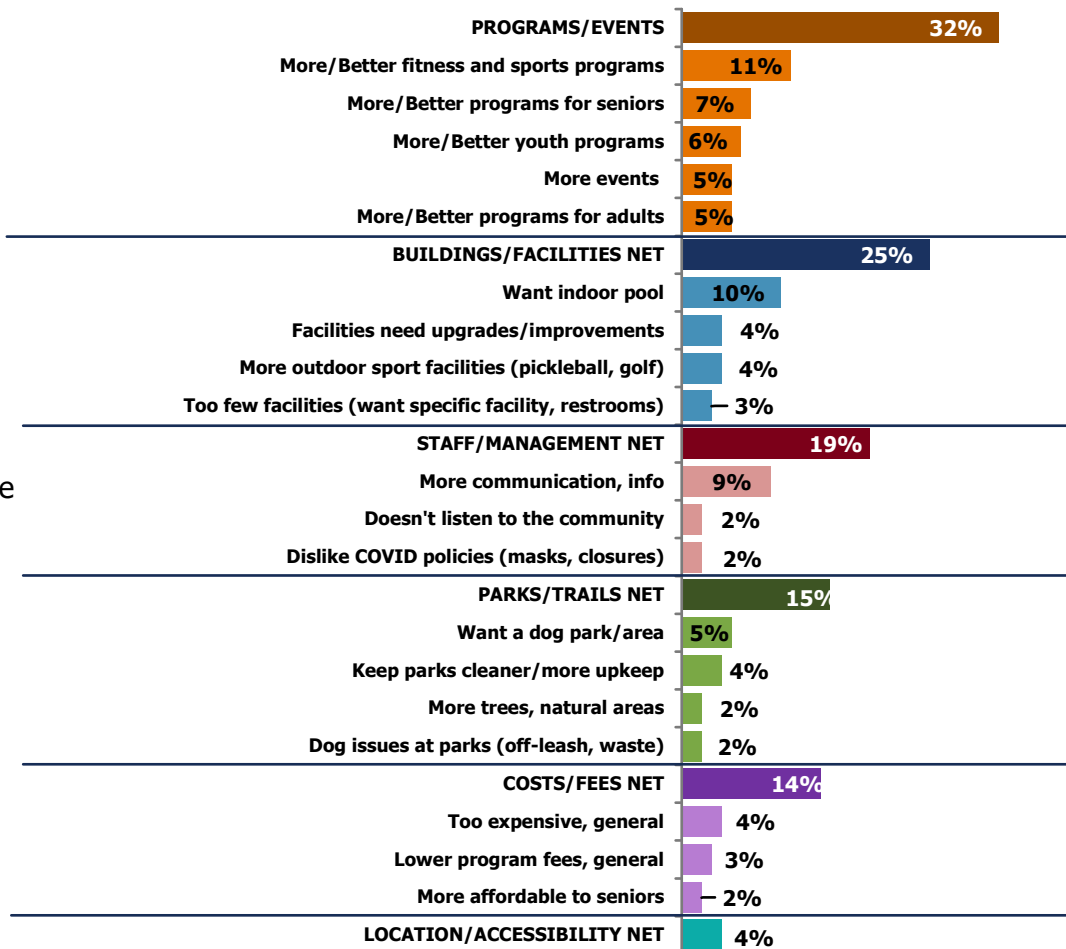
## VI. Final Suggestions/Priorities for MGPD



**In a final open-ended question, residents were asked to identify one thing that the MGPD could do to best serve them or their household going forward.**

- Most often, 32% of residents cite something about programs and/or events, usually:
  - Continuing to offer more or improved sports and fitness activities (11%)
  - More for various age groups (7% more for seniors, 6% more for youth, 5% more for adults in general)
  - Building on existing events (with music and special events in particular).
- One in four echo earlier comments about needed facilities, with an indoor pool getting the highest response (10%). Upgrades to existing facilities, as well as more outdoor sports fields/courts (4%) are also cited.
- Suggestions for District staff and administration (19% overall) most often include more or better communication.
- Remaining comments usually center around:
  - Park improvements (including a dog park, continued upkeep)
  - Controlling costs (lower fees, especially to lower or fixed income residents).

**Top Request/Priority for MGPD  
(multiple open-ended responses, n=225)**



A “word cloud” for this final question help convey the large number of respondents who could offer no suggestions (“nothing”), followed by the top responses for an indoor pool, more senior programs, fitness classes, and/or lower costs (most often).



## Sample Verbatims: Priority for MGPD

### Programs/Events (32%):

*"Offer more yoga classes for gentle, intermediate practitioners."*

*"More weight training classes."*

*"More sporting events, better indoor facilities."*

*"More programs, that are low cost, that enable children to be active (e.g. small tournaments, 5Ks, etc.)"*

*"More activity times in terms of things like gymnastics, etc."*

*"Bring back 'Better Balance' class to the Civic Center or Prairie View -- maybe have some senior exercise classes in the pool (Aquacise) -- offer chair yoga."*

*"Would like a more active senior program -- Niles has one, Maine Township has one."*

*"Senior programs Tai Chi, aquatic exercises, Health and Fitness seminars for seniors."*

*"Programs targeted to seniors, which are not expensive."*

*"Offer senior art classes, day trips, games."*

*"Have programs and fitness classes for elderly seniors."*

*"Game programs for seniors e.g. Mah Jong."*

*"Offer more programs for seniors and people with mobility issues."*

*"Keep up with creative programming to draw participants to MG from surrounding communities. We may not have as many gyms or multi-purpose facilities, but we can offer programs others aren't. Might there be any opportunity to partner with the forest preserve district to offer outdoor or educational programs or even things like kayak / canoe excursions?? I realize logistically this may be tough coordinating with another entity, but the forest preserve, and the trails / river are such a nice part of our village and there may be opportunity here to offer unique recreation activities. Keep up the good job with park grounds maintenance!"*

*"Possibly more art classes. I believe that we have a wonderful park system/programs and I would use it if there was something that fit my needs. I think the Park Board does a great job at keeping our parks modern, safe and clean. Please keep up the good work."*

*"One day trips like other towns have. I have to go to Lockport or Arlington Heights for this!"*

*"More dog training classes. Nose work."*

*"More activities for adults."*

*"More events during the evening to cater to parents that work during the day. This is something that would really impact a large part of the community. More inclusive events that have more local restaurant support and more diverse support such as from our Korean community as well as Pakistani community."*

*"I would like to see more adult activities on a reciprocal for classes not offered with other area park districts."*

*"More programs for kids after 6pm for working mothers."*

*"More youth fun classes but overall great job."*

*"More programs, that are low cost, that enable children to be active (e.g. small tournaments, 5Ks, etc.)."*

*"Offer some kind of group fitness program for kids 9+ years old. I don't think they are allowed at the fitness center."*

*"More community events."*

*"Increase outdoor music events."*

*"Have additional spots for events."*



## Sample Verbatims: Priority for MGPD (cont'd)

### **Buildings/Facilities (25%):**

*"Look into indoor pool."*

*"As an elderly person, I voted to build the new pool at Harrer Park, but keep in mind that seniors feel the cold more than the young! Heated pools are a must!"*

*"It would have been nice to see an indoor-outdoor pool facility go up at Harrer Park, which the community voted for, but you didn't listen. Why should I think you'll listen now? The baseball fields are subpar compared to neighboring park districts."*

*"I would love to see an indoor pool in MG."*

*"It would be nice to have an indoor pool and running/walking track for inclement weather or winter months."*

*"Have indoor swimming facility."*

*"As indicated, an indoor pool and/or walking track would be great."*

*"All year-round swimming pool."*

*"Indoor swimming pool and masters swim team. Water polo for all ages."*

*"Indoor walking / indoor pool."*

*"If no indoor pool then Morton Grove Park District should partner with Niles or Skokie for reduced rates in their pools. I had to join Niles Family Fitness Center in order to swim year-round."*

*"Update the Fitness Center facilities and equipment. Thanks for finally rebuilding the Harrer Park Pool."*

*"Longer hours for fitness club Better care of tennis courts Outside real track Kids are grown so N/A but nice for others to have choice of programs."*

*"Better fitness center. I joined the Niles Family fitness center because there were more offerings."*

*"Upgrade facilities at PVCC."*

*"Extended open hours at Prairie View. Add badminton courts (easy to do as it only court lines needs to be drawn on basketball courts)."*

*"Build a sports facility similar to the one in Niles."*

*"Since I'm an avid golfer & ice skater there is very little here in Mg for those activities..."*

*"See earlier responses. But, keeping up with the times is all I'm asking! I look at our parks and they're fine, but baseball/softball fields are not taken care of well, Harrer Park is not very big for the amount of kids that it serves, gaga ball at every park for kids that are above 7 years old, 4 square courts, etc."*

*"Tennis courts at Prairie View Park need repair/resurface."*

*"Provide a golf training area and transform some tennis courts into pickleball courts."*

*"Set up bocce courts for seniors indoor and outdoor."*

*"Outdoor pickleball courts".*

*"I play pickleball and although outdoor courts were taped, there's not an official p-ball net. Hard to get a program going indoors with covid and turnover in personnel running programs."*

*"I do enjoy the variety of Group Fitness classes, again would like you to offer indoor pickleball. We would have paid a little more in taxes for an indoor pool - as the new one will only be able to be used 3 months a year if even. We did voice those opinions when surveying residents happened."*

*"Have cleaner/newer space for parties/events. Suggestion: kids' indoor playground (ex. Elk Grove's carousel and indoor playground or Skokie's Exploritorium). This can then also be rented out for private parties."*

## **Sample Verbatims: Priority for MGPD (cont'd)**

### **Staff/Management (19%):**

*"Send Morton Grove citizens e-mails with any updates, news, happenings on regular basis."*

*"Please be sure to send Park District catalogs regularly. For example, we received the catalog for the summer, back in the spring, but have not received any other via US mail."*

*"Listen to the residents. Wasn't done with regard to the pool."*

*"Return your phone calls -- answer questions more easily."*

*"Be more receptive to requests for using/renting ball fields. Work with non-profit orgs in deterring rental rates for fields."*

*"Communicate on what is being offered."*

*"Be more inclusive to all families. Stop marketing gender specific activities."*

*"Offer more diverse events."*

*"Website needs to be updated easier to use and maintained."*

*"Lighten up on the mask mandates for the children."*

*"Fix your website and keep it up to date. Increase communication via social media and printed media."*

*"As stated earlier, I don't like that the park district outsources many of their sports programs. I wish they ran the AYSO for Morton Grove. I signed up for the first time this fall, and it is incredibly disorganized. I also think outsourcing these programs increases the prices that we pay, because there's an overhead to go with that outsourced company. I think the programs are great, but they can be pricey (not just AYSO, I'm referring to the Hot Shots programs too)."*

*"I live here, I should be allowed to bring my grandchildren to all activities (I watch them while parents work). Is this how the tokens for the new pool will work, because I am now a 'household' of 1, I won't be able to get tokens for indistrict for my grandchildren. My children who are now in their 30's grew up here 100%, now they are restricted, ridiculous."*

### **Parks/Playgrounds (15%):**

*"Dog park, fitness park."*

*"Actually, the one thing I didn't bring up, we were told we couldn't have a dog park. We could use the park, but just not bring our dog by the equipment. There really is not a dog park in Morton Grove."*

*"A dog park would provide exercise and socialization for both people and dogs."*

*"A dog waste can should be placed at the Lyons Street side of Mansfield Park in addition to the existing one at the Church Street side."*

*"Also, would like if the district could see about dogs allowed only at certain parks or have a dog park. It is unfortunate to go to a park and have to see dog feces or worse step in it."*

*"No dogs allowed in the parks like we use to have. Tired of people not cleaning up after their dog. Looks bad, smells bad."*

*"More trees and benches at Oketo park. More trash cans at Oriole park."*

*"Keep adding greenspace, plants and trees. Don't leave port a potties out year round"*

*"Provide more landscaping and shade trees. The park district seems focused on removing trees but not replacing them in similar quantities."*

*"Encourage people to keep our parks clean. Everyone is concerned about climate change, and we can't even keep our little corner of the world litter free. Face masks littered all over the park, plus all the other bottles and garbage. Maybe we need more reminders and signs."*

*"Clean the parks more often."*

*"Continue keeping the parks clean and well maintained."*

## Sample Verbatims: Priority for MGPD (cont'd)

### **Costs/Fees (14%):**

*"Lower cost."*

*"Lower your prices."*

*"Lower cost."*

*"Provide single senior discount for Fitness Center."*

*"High discount for seniors I'm 85 years old."*

*"Offer discounts to Niles and Skokie park district facilities for indoor pool and work out facilities that already exist."*

*"MGPD swimming pool family fees too much. I think residents should be alot less."*

*"Lower the price of gym memberships. Definitely not getting my 5.7% worth!"*

*"Lower the membership rates for the gyms. Planet fitness is 10 a month."*

*"Please include using Oriole park pool to swim in summer as part of membership."*

### **Location/Accessibility (4%):**

*"Make Prairie View gym facilities more accessible."*

*"Increase the availability of programs and facility capabilities through the use of the various websites, annual village brochures or mailings."*

*"Increase the hours the park district desk is open."*

*"Be more inclusive toward disabled in the community. Possibly a partnering with someone able bodied to make experience more inviting."*

*"More access to lap swimming (indoor and outdoor)."*

*"Longer hours for fitness club."*



Appendices:      - Postcard and Topline Report

aQity Research & Insights Inc.  
1330-B Sherman Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201



Take Our Survey &  
Make Your Voice Heard!

[Last Name] Household  
or Current Resident  
[Address1]  
[Address2]  
[City/State/Zip]

## The Morton Grove Park District wants to hear from YOU!

You are invited to take a **brief, confidential** online survey for the Morton Grove Park District. Your responses will help the Park District better understand how it can serve you better.

**Whether you use the Park District's facilities and parks or not, this is your opportunity to share your opinions and be heard!**

Your household was randomly selected from all households in the District, and the feedback you provide is completely anonymous and will be grouped with everyone else who participates.

We ask that an adult in your household take a few minutes to complete the online survey in the next few days. The survey is very easy to complete, and many find it informative. Simply go to the website below and enter the following password (which is only used to prevent repeat respondents):

Survey Website: [www.arisurvey.com/s3/MGPD](http://www.arisurvey.com/s3/MGPD)  
Password: <PIN>

**Your opinions are very important! Thank you for sharing them.**

aQity Research & Insights, Inc., an independent research firm in Evanston, has been asked by the Morton Grove Park District to conduct this survey. If you have questions or technical issues, or if you prefer to complete the survey by paper questionnaire or phone, contact us at [aqity@aqityresearch.com](mailto:aqity@aqityresearch.com) or toll-free at 866-900-8555.

## 2021 Morton Grove Park District Community Survey

### —Initial Topline Results—

(n= 434 surveys; completed between October 6<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 )

1. How many years have you lived in Morton Grove? If less than one year, enter zero. (total reporting n= 425)

Less than 5 years	14%
5 - 9 years	14
10 - 19 years	18
20 - 29 years	23
30+ years	31
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>22.8 years</b>

2. Please rate your overall opinion of the Morton Grove Park District, using the scale below. If you are not familiar enough with the Park District to offer an opinion, please mark "Unfamiliar".\*

Morton Grove Park District	2021 (n=379)	2018 (n=403)
<b>Extremely favorable (9-10)</b>	27%	27%
<b>Very favorable (8)</b>	26	28
<b>Somewhat favorable (6-7)</b>	29	24
<b>Neutral (5)</b>	13	16
<b>Unfavorable (0-4)</b>	5	5
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>% Unfamiliar/ NA **</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>4%</b>

\*Percentages for esteem scores based on n of cases familiar enough to offer a rating

\*\*Percent based on total of all responses (familiar and unfamiliar with each agency)

3. What do you like most about the Morton Grove Park District, or what does it do well? Please be specific.

*Results included in the final report.*

4. What do you dislike most about the Morton Grove Park District, or what could it do better? Please be specific.

*Results included in the final report.*

WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

5. What percent of your property taxes do you think goes to the Morton Grove Park District? Do not check your tax bill or anything else – we're simply interested in your best estimate. (total reporting n= 388)

Less than 4%	24%
4%	3
5-6%	25
7%	2
8-10%	25
10+%	21
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
<b>Median (midpoint)</b>	<b>6.0%</b>

6. Please indicate which facilities in the Morton Grove Park District you or others in your household have used or visited in the past 18 months.\*

	2021 (n=408)	2018** (n=428)
Oriole Park Outdoor Aquatic Center	34%	19%
Prairie View Community Center <b>Fitness Center</b>	20%	18%
Prairie View Community Center <b>Gymnasium</b>	11%	9%
Prairie View Community Center <b>multi-purpose rooms</b>	10%	10%
Prairie View Community Center <b>Dance Studio</b>	7%	8%
Historical Museum and Education Center	6%	10%
Oriole Palm Room	3%	N/A
Harrer Outdoor Pool	N/A	19%
None	48%	27%*

\*Based on multiple responses (% selected)

\*\* Respondents were asked about visitation in the past 12 months

\* Those who hadn't visited either facilities or parks in 2018

7. Please list your top two favorite Morton Grove Park District facilities, in order.  
(total reporting n=189)

	2021 #1	2021 Top 2*
Oriole Park Outdoor Aquatic Center	58%	63%
Prairie View Community Center <b>Fitness Center</b>	25	29%
Historical Museum and Education Center	7	9%
Prairie View Community Center <b>Dance Studio</b>	4	11%
Prairie View Community Center <b>multi-purpose rooms</b>	4	9%
Prairie View Community Center <b>Gymnasium</b>	2	18%
Oriole Palm Room	0	2%

\*Based on multiple responses (% selected)



WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

8. Please rate your **overall** satisfaction with each of the following in regard to the Park District facilities you visited.

A. Your overall experience	2021 (n=186)	2018* (n=322)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	42%	39%
Very satisfied (8)	25	27
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	22	19
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	9	13
Dissatisfied (0-4)	2	2
Mean (average)	7.9	7.8
B. Overall cleanliness, maintenance, and upkeep	2021 (n=182)	2018* (n=325)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	58%	52
Very satisfied (8)	17	21
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	12	15
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	9	8
Dissatisfied (0-4)	4	4
Mean (average)	8.2	8.2
C. Overall safety	2021 (n=179)	2018* (324)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	65%	53%
Very satisfied (8)	17	21
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	7	14
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	8	10
Dissatisfied (0-4)	3	1
Mean (average)	8.5	8.3
D. Overall access (parking, paths, entrances)	2021 (n=180)	2018* (n=323)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	56%	53%
Very satisfied (8)	15	24
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	16	12
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	8	10
Dissatisfied (0-4)	5	2
Mean (average)	8.2	8.2
E. Level of service provided by Park District staff	2021 (n=180)	2018* (n=319)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	48%	39%
Very satisfied (8)	23	17
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	11	14
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	11	22
Dissatisfied (0-4)	7	8
Mean (average)	7.9	7.4

\*Satisfaction for parks and facilities combined

9. If you are dissatisfied with any Morton Grove Park District facilities, please indicate which one(s) and why.  
*Results included in the final report.*

3

WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

10. Please indicate which **parks** in the Morton Grove Park District you or others in your household have used or visited in the **past 18 months**.\*

PARKS	2021 (n=422)	2018** (n=428)
Harrer Park or Shelter	52%	46%
Mansfield Park or Fieldhouse	34%	24%
Oriole Park	34%	11%
Prairie View Park	34%	21%
Austin Park or Fieldhouse	28%	20%
National Park or Fieldhouse	28%	15%
Oketo Park or Fieldhouse	15%	9%
Shermer Park	15%	5%
Frank Hren Discovery Park	10%	6%
Palma Lane Park	10%	6%
Arnum Park	9%	3%
Pioneer Park	9%	8%
Overhill Park	7%	3%
Jacobs Park	2%	1%
Any Park District fieldhouse(s)**	N/A	7%
None	15%	27%*

\*Based on multiple responses (% selected)

\*\* Respondents were asked about visitation in the **past 12 months** and fieldhouses were recorded separately

\* Those who hadn't visited either facilities or parks in 2018

11. Please rank your **top three favorite** Morton Grove Park District parks.  
(total reporting n= 332)

	2021 #1	2021 Top 2*	2021 Top 3*
Harrer Park or Shelter	33%	45%	53%
Oriole Park	13	19%	26%
Austin Park or Fieldhouse	12	19%	26%
National Park or Fieldhouse	11	17%	20%
Mansfield Park or Fieldhouse	10	26%	32%
Prairie View Park	8	20%	28%
Oketo Park or Fieldhouse	4	6%	10%
Arnum Park	2	4%	7%
Frank Hren Discovery Park	2	3%	5%
Palma Lane Park	2	4%	4%
Shermer Park	2	6%	8%
Pioneer Park	1	4%	5%
Overhill Park	<1	4%	5%
Jacobs Park	0	0%	0%

\*Based on multiple responses (% selected)

4

WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

12. Please rate your **overall** satisfaction with each of the following in regard to the Park District parks you visited.

A. Your overall experience	2021 (n=318)	2018* (n=322)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	54%	39%
Very satisfied (8)	20	27
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	17	19
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	7	13
Dissatisfied (0-4)	2	2
Mean (average)	8.3	7.8
B. Overall cleanliness, maintenance, and upkeep	2021 (n=312)	2018* (n=325)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	58%	52
Very satisfied (8)	21	21
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	12	15
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	5	8
Dissatisfied (0-4)	4	4
Mean (average)	8.3	8.2
C. Overall safety	2021 (n=306)	2018* (324)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	61%	53%
Very satisfied (8)	19	21
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	11	14
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	8	10
Dissatisfied (0-4)	1	1
Mean (average)	8.5	8.3
D. Overall access (parking, paths, entrances)	2021 (n=312)	2018* (n=323)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	59%	53%
Very satisfied (8)	19	24
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	16	12
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	5	10
Dissatisfied (0-4)	1	2
Mean (average)	8.6	8.2
E. Level of service provided by Park District staff	2021 (n=303)	2018* (n=319)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	46%	39%
Very satisfied (8)	14	17
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	14	14
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	22	22
Dissatisfied (0-4)	4	8
Mean (average)	7.6	7.4

\*2018 satisfaction for parks and facilities combined

13. If you are dissatisfied with any Morton Grove Park District parks, please indicate which one(s) and why.  
Results included in the final report.

WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

14. If you have **not** visited/used a Morton Grove Park District park or facility in the past 18 months, why not?\* Select all that apply. (total reporting n= 127)

	2021 (n=127)	2018** (n=126)
Do not have children or children are grown	46%	52%
Use other facilities for recreation/activities	21%	29%
Poor health, mobility issues	18%	11%
Just not interested – e.g., not very active	14%	15%
Unaware of/Unfamiliar with the Park District's offerings	13%	12%
Too busy/don't have time	13%	29%
No facilities or programs offered for my age group	13%	17%
Cost/Fees are too high	7%	18%
Inconvenient scheduling/hours of operation	5%	17%
Location issues, lack of transportation	4%	3%
Concerns about personal safety/being alone	4%	1%
Concerns about quality/condition of the park facilities	<1%	1%
Dislike the Park District, had bad experience	0%	3%
Other, please specify (COVID, want indoor pool, not interested)	33%	11%

\*Based on multiple responses (% selected)

\*\*Respondents were asked about visitation in the past 12 months

15A. Please indicate if you or any household member uses or has a need or interest in the following indoor recreational facilities.\*

	2021 (n=420)	2018 (n=363)
Walking/running track	58%	69%
Indoor pool for general /lap swimming and lessons	51%	52%
Fitness center with exercise machines, free weights	43%	55%
Space to rent for meetings, events, parties, etc.	32%	25%
Gym space (for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc.)	28%	32%
Space for arts, crafts, theater, or similar programs	26%	N/A
Program space for group fitness	25%	33%
Dedicated program space for seniors	21%	32%
Dedicated space for early childhood/preschool programs	19%	19%
Space for gymnastics programs	10%	N/A
Dance studio	7%	14%
Other, please specify (racquetball, soccer, ice rink, yoga studio)	13%	9%
None	12%	N/A

\*Based on multiple responses (% selected)

WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

15B. On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate how well each need or interest is being met – whether provided by Morton Grove Park District or any other source.

A. Indoor pool for general /lap swimming and lessons		
	2021 (n=171)	2018 (n=203)
Completely met (5)	5%	9%
Mostly met (4)	8	8
Average (3)	13	10
Barely met (2)	6	5
Not at all met (1)	68	69
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>
B. Space to rent for meetings, events, parties, etc.		
	2021 (n=93)	2018 (n=102)
Completely met (5)	25%	31
Mostly met (4)	33	28
Average (3)	30	25
Barely met (2)	10	9
Not at all met (1)	2	7
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>
C. Dance studio		
	2021 (n=29)	2018 (n=53)
Completely met (5)	24%	27%
Mostly met (4)	28	35
Average (3)	19	23
Barely met (2)	5	8
Not at all met (1)	24	6
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>
D. Walking/running track		
	2021 (n=220)	2018 (n=235)
Completely met (5)	21%	15
Mostly met (4)	19	22
Average (3)	25	25
Barely met (2)	9	15
Not at all met (1)	26	22
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>
E. Dedicated program space for seniors		
	2021 (n=90)	2018 (n=107)
Completely met (5)	8	13
Mostly met (4)	11	17
Average (3)	43	30
Barely met (2)	15	24
Not at all met (1)	23	16
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>

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WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

F. Dedicated space for early childhood/preschool programs		
	2021 (n=47)	2018 (n=59)
Completely met (5)	18%	19%
Mostly met (4)	13	31
Average (3)	38	29
Barely met (2)	19	4
Not at all met (1)	12	17
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.3</b>
G. Fitness center with exercise machines, free weights		
	2021 (n=157)	2018 (n=173)
Completely met (5)	20%	27%
Mostly met (4)	35	25
Average (3)	33	30
Barely met (2)	8	11
Not at all met (1)	4	7
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>
H. Program space for group fitness		
	2021 (n=95)	2018 (n=114)
Completely met (5)	11	24%
Mostly met (4)	36	24
Average (3)	38	31
Barely met (2)	9	15
Not at all met (1)	6	6
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>
I. Gym space (for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc.)		
	2021 (n=91)	2018 (n=106)
Completely met (5)	22%	20%
Mostly met (4)	30	26
Average (3)	27	30
Barely met (2)	15	19
Not at all met (1)	6	5
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.4</b>
J. Space for arts, crafts, theater, or similar programs		
	2021 (n=88)	2018 (n=N/A)
Completely met (5)	10	N/A
Mostly met (4)	22	N/A
Average (3)	40	N/A
Barely met (2)	16	N/A
Not at all met (1)	13	N/A
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>N/A</b>
K. Space for gymnastics program		
	2021 (n=26)	2018 (n=N/A)
Completely met (5)	13%	N/A
Mostly met (4)	15	N/A
Average (3)	37	N/A
Barely met (2)	6	N/A
Not at all met (1)	29	N/A
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>N/A</b>

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WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

L. Any other <u>indoor</u> facilities your household uses/needs	2021 (n=31)	2018 (n=28)
Completely met (5)	1%	0%
Mostly met (4)	11	8
Average (3)	12	11
Barely met (2)	18	10
Not at all met (1)	58	71
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>

16. Of the indoor recreation facilities please indicate the one that you think should be a top priority for the Morton Grove Park District to provide, add, or improve.

	2021 (n=299)	2018 (n=289)
Indoor pool for general /lap swimming and lessons	37%	33%
Walking/running track	19	26
Dedicated program space for seniors	9	9
Fitness center with exercise machines, free weights	9	9
Dedicated space for early childhood/preschool programs	7	5
Space to rent for meetings, events, parties, etc.	5	5
Gym space (for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc.)	5	5
Program space for group fitness	3	6
Space for arts, crafts, theater, or similar programs	2	N/A
Dance studio	1	<1
Space for gymnastics programs	0	N/A
Other, please specify (racquetball, soccer, ice rink, yoga studio)	3	3

WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

17. In which Morton Grove Park District programs or events have you or any household member participated over the past 18 months?\*

	2021 (n=407)	2018** (n=428)
Summer outdoor concerts	25%	21%
Special events (e.g., Egg hunt, daddy-daughter Dance, Kite Fly, Trunk-n-Treat)	14%	27%
Youth athletics/sports	13%	8%
Fitness/exercise programs or personal training	13%	9%
Adult athletics/sports	6%	4%
Summer camp	6%	6%
Non-athletic youth programs – arts, music, special interest etc.	5%	3%
Non-athletic adult programs – hobbies, day trips, etc.	4%	1%
Swimming lessons	4%	3%
Music programs	4%	4%
Programs for seniors (ages 65+)	3%	3%
Dance programs	3%	4%
Early childhood/Pre-school/Kindergarten programs	3%	4%
Before/after school programs	1%	6%
Other programs or events (yoga, dog activities, open gym)	6%	4%
None	51%	51%

\*Based on multiple responses (% selected)

\*\*2018 survey asked about participation over the past 12-months.

18. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the Morton Grove Park District programs or events you have recently participated in?

	2021 (n=192)	2018 (n=265)
Extremely satisfied (9-10)	40%	35%
Very satisfied (8)	28	26
Somewhat satisfied (6-7)	23	17
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (5)	5	20
Dissatisfied (0-4)	4	3
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.6</b>

19. If you are dissatisfied with any Park District program or event, please indicate which one(s) and why.

*Results included in the final report.*

WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

20. What program suggestions/ideas do you have for the Park District to offer the following groups.

*Results included in the final report.*

21. As you may know, about 5.7%\* of your property taxes support the Morton Grove Park District. Thinking about the programs, parks, facilities, and services that the Park District provides, please rate the overall value that it represents to you given its share of property taxes.

	2021 (n=415)	2018* (n=401)
Excellent value (9-10)	31%	30%
Great value (8)	16	16
Good value (6-7)	21	16
Average value (5)	20	23
Poor value (0-4)	12	15
Mean (average)	6.9	6.7

\*Tax rate in 2018 was 4.5%

22. When you seek information about the Morton Grove Park District and its programs, parks, facilities, or services, from what sources do you get that information? Select all that apply.\*

	2021 (n=417)	2018 (n=410)
Park District's printed program guide	60%	67%
Morton Grove Park District website	55%	55%
Village of Morton Grove (website, visit)	43%	38%
Other Park District mailings	26%	26%
Emails from the Park District	25%	23%
Social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc.	16%	13%
Morton Grove Public Library (visit, website, or phone call)	15%	16%
Rely on word of mouth from family, friends, or neighbors	14%	25%
Local newspaper (print or online)	12%	10%
Call the Park District main office	11%	11%
Communications from local schools	2%	3%
Other website	<1%	1%
Other source (signs/banners in village, mail)	5%	2%

\*Based on multiple responses (% selected)

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WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

23. Please indicate your most preferred source when seeking information about the Park District.

	2021 (n=380)	2018 (n=377)
Park District's printed program guide	31%	45%
Morton Grove Park District website	28	21
Village of Morton Grove (website, visit)	15	12
Emails from the Park District	11	7
Other Park District mailings	5	6
Local newspaper (print or online)	3	2
Social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc.	3	1
Call the Park District main office	2	3
Morton Grove Public Library (visit, website, or phone call)	1	2
Rely on word of mouth from family, friends, or neighbors	1	<1
Other website	0	1
Communications from local schools	0	0
Other source	<1	<1

24. When interacting with Park District staff – either in person, by the phone, via email, or other forms of communication – how would you rate them on a 0 through 10 scale. If you are not familiar enough with the Park District staff to offer an opinion, please mark "Unfamiliar". \*

<b>A. Overall knowledge (n=268)</b>	
Extremely Satisfied (9-10)	49%
Very Satisfied (8)	21
Somewhat Satisfied (6-7)	14
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied (5)	10
Dissatisfied (0-4)	6
Mean (average)	7.9
% Unfamiliar/ NA**	38%
<b>B. Friendliness (n=257)</b>	
Extremely Satisfied (9-10)	57%
Very Satisfied (8)	15
Somewhat Satisfied (6-7)	14
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied (5)	9
Dissatisfied (0-4)	5
Mean (average)	8.1
% Unfamiliar/ NA**	41%
<b>C. Responsiveness and effort to be helpful (n=252)</b>	
Extremely Satisfied (9-10)	53%
Very Satisfied (8)	20
Somewhat Satisfied (6-7)	15
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied (5)	6
Dissatisfied (0-4)	6
Mean (average)	8.1
% Unfamiliar/ NA**	42%

\*Percentages for satisfaction scores based on n of cases familiar enough to offer a rating

\*\*Percent based on total of all responses (familiar and unfamiliar with staff)

12

WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

25. Have you registered for any Morton Grove programs or events in the last 18 months online via the Park District website.

(total reporting n= 426)

<b>Yes</b>	19%
<b>No</b>	81

26. If yes, how would you rate your overall experience registering online via the Park District website?

(total reporting n= 79)

<b>Very easy (9-10)</b>	20%
<b>Easy (8)</b>	32
<b>Somewhat easy (6-7)</b>	10
<b>Neutral (5)</b>	8
<b>Difficult (0-4)</b>	30
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>6.2</b>

27. What improvements would you like to see made to the online registration? Please be specific.

*Results included in the final report.*

28. With regard to parks, recreation, athletic activities, facilities, or programs, what can the Morton Grove Park District do to serve you and your household better?

Please be specific.

*Results included in the final report.*

13

WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

29A. The Morton Grove Park District is committed to creating an environment that respects and celebrates the differences of all community members by providing access and opportunities to everyone, regardless of social/ financial/ethnic background, gender, age, sexual orientation, or physical ability. Do you feel that your household is properly represented and included within the Park District and its offerings?

(total reporting n=385)

<b>Yes</b>	89%
<b>No</b>	11

29B. Why not? Again, your responses are completely anonymous so please help us by providing specific ideas or improvements.

*Results included in the final report.*

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WEIGHTED TOPLINE RESULTS: 11/10/2021

## DEMOGRAPHICS

30. What is your age? (In what year were you born?) (total reporting n= 400)

Under 35	10%
35 - 44	18
45 - 54	17
55 - 64	17
65+	31
Refused	7
<b>Mean (average)</b>	<b>56 years</b>

31. Please indicate your gender.  
(total reporting n= 415)

Male	48%
Female	52
Prefer to self-describe	0

32. Including yourself, how many people...  
(total reporting n= 406- row %s)

	0	1	2	3+
... live in your household?	15%	35	50	
... are under age 18?	55%	14	22	9
... are age 65 or older?	59%	16	25	0

33. Which of the following best describes you/your ethnicity?  
(total reporting n= 406)

White/Caucasian	60%
Asian	28
Other (Hispanic, African American/Black)	12

34. Please list any language(s) spoken in your home  
(other than English).

*Coding of open-ends is in progress; results will be included in the final report.*

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## Chapter 6

# RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANS



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## Action & Priority Plan

The Action Plan is a living document and guide for recreation tasks, projects, and focus areas for the Morton Grove Park District over the next five to ten years. The recommendations and considerations identified in this Comprehensive Master Plan are intended to provide guidance and direction to the Board of Commissioners that results in enhancing the quality of life for Morton Grove Park District patrons as well as the community it serves.

Previous sections of this Comprehensive Master Plan Report identified and detailed a variety of specific recommendations for the Morton Grove Park District to undertake. Identified within this Section are the ways and methods the MGPD can implement the recommendations identified in this Comprehensive Master Plan. Items specified below represent conclusions developed during the comprehensive park master planning process. To successfully implement this Plan, the MGPD should take the following steps:

### 1. Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update

Following the adoption of the MGPD Comprehensive Master Plan, the Plan should be incorporated into the Village of Morton Grove's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Master Plan provides policy guidance to ensure that the general land use, planning of parks and open space, recreational facilities, and opportunities and the growth strategy of the Park District runs parallel with the Village's growth and development. The Comprehensive Master Plan will also be used to update the Strategic Plan.

### 2. Maximize exposure and use of the MGPD Comprehensive Master Plan

Once adopted, the Master Plan could be the single most important tool for achieving a quality park and recreation system requested by the community, and desired by the Park Board and staff. However, it will be up to District staff, Board, residents, and advocates to keep the Plan and its recommendations moving forward. Annual

review of the Plan by the District Staff, Board members, and residents will allow analysis of action item recommendations for park and facilities improvements, and program modifications to enhance the quality of the MGPD system. The District should measure success and base goals and objectives on unfunded projects and untouched recommendations. Additionally, to ensure "use" of the Plan, we recommend the following steps occur:

- a. District staff should be encouraged to review the Plan and while having electronic access to the Plan.
- b. Annually update major stakeholders on the Plan's implementation and results
- c. Quarterly or semi-annually hold staff meetings to review the Plan's progress and results.
- d. For agency transparency, the Comprehensive Master Plan should be posted on the District's Website
- e. Review the plan quarterly at park board meetings.
- f. The MGPD should continue soliciting input from residents within the community inclusive of those who participate in park programs as often as possible. The District relies on community feedback to ensure the needs and desires of the residents are met through the parks, facilities, and programming that directly affecting them. Through continued engagement via open houses, program, and activity surveys, focus group meetings, postcard and letter mailings, email blasts, social media engagement, website updates, and even direct communication with staff, the district regards public input as critical to the continued success of the District within the community.

## Action & Priority Plan *(Continued)*

- g. The Comprehensive Master Plan should guide the District over the next five to ten years in the decision making process but remain a flexible tool. The Plan should be reviewed annually as part of the budget preparation process to measure successes and challenges as the community changes. The District should take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities not identified in the plan and include them in the update.
- h. Throughout the year, the staff should develop a “Comprehensive Master Plan List” for new ideas and priorities that are generated and need to be incorporated in successive years. This Comprehensive Master Plan List is an organized way of maintaining a listing of ideas for future consideration.

- 3. Policy Development Integrated with the Budget Process** – The District should develop a policy of including strategic capital elements from the Comprehensive Master Plan into its annual operating budget and in a 10-year capital improvement budget. As with the District’s operating budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the Comprehensive Master Plan should be viewed as a working document that is annually reviewed and

updated. A yearly updating allows the Plan to stay vibrant and current taking into account unforeseen events, changing conditions, new information, political decisions, opportunities etc. Integrating up-to-date Plan recommendations with the budget process ensures that the Comprehensive Master Plan recommendations can be implemented in a systematic and defensible manner. In this way, all elements of the Plan can eventually be implemented as well as be realized with a priority that reflects changing circumstances and actual community needs.

- 4. Partnering Opportunities** - The MGPD budget is primarily funded through property tax revenues and user fees. The District should actively investigate partnership opportunities with other governmental agencies, local businesses, and athletic affiliates to provide high quality services, reduce the duplication of services and costs to residents, and ultimately meet the ongoing budget challenges facing the District over the next five to ten years. The Park District should provide support, financially or otherwise, to initiatives spearheaded by other agencies that are consistent with the Morton Grove Park District’s Mission. The District should continue to expand partnering





opportunities with the Village of Morton Grove, the local School District(s), and local developers to help fund District programs and capital improvement projects. MGPD should review each of the existing and formal intergovernmental agreements and update, as necessary.

- 5. Site Specific (Individual) Park Master Planning** – A key recommendation of the MGPD Comprehensive Master Plan is to create site master plans or control plans for each of the parks within the District. These site-specific master or control plans should identify improvements that affect the aesthetics and curb appeal, access, and the physical character of each park while enhancing its recreational value. Park improvements identified must be carefully planned and strategically located to ensure that all individual park elements relate well to each other and ensure that the potential of each of these existing parks is maximized. The park master planning process provides another opportunity to engage the public from the surrounding neighborhood.

Therefore, we recommend the MGPD continue to do the following:

- a. Engage the services of a landscape architect/park planning consultant with experience in the entire park planning process, and community familiarity.

- b. For all proposed parks, work collaboratively with the landscape architect/park planning consultant in a master planning process to develop a master/control plan

- c. Prepare necessary final design contract documents and budgets for implementation including drawings, specifications and regulatory permits where required.

- d. Implement construction.

- 6. Monitor Plan implementation and update as needed** – District staff should periodically monitor how well the Comprehensive Master Plan is being implemented and whether needs are changing and decide if new strategies are needed to keep Master Plan implementation moving forward. Interactive display boards at district events, online questionnaires and suggestions boxes at community recreation center buildings are some ways the District can solicit feedback on needed refinements and updates to the Comprehensive Master Plan. Annually, the Park Board should convene to measure the status of Master Plan recommendations, adjusting the Comprehensive Master Plan as needed.



## Action & Priority Plan *(Continued)*

**7. Target Grant Opportunities** – While the majority of recommendations will be funded through traditional means, grant funding can be utilized to help offset the cost of certain projects and reduce the strain on the District’s budget. Grant funding is an effective way to fund park improvements, both for capital projects as well as the maintenance and operations of these facilities. With public funding becoming increasingly tight in most jurisdictions, grants are also becoming more competitive; and in many instances, are decreasing in scale. For these reasons, it is important for the MGPD to continue making a concerted effort to apply for grants as competitively as possible.

Several parks in the District were built using Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) funds. As in times past, the District should consider the OSLAD Program administered through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) Fund Program administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, and other grant opportunities through federal sources with a proven track record in funding parks and recreation facilities. MGPD should continue to pursue grant funding.

**8. District-Wide Capital Improvements** - The MGPD should engage the services of a landscape architect/park planning consultant to assist the District in the continuing development of a yearly playground replacement program that allows funding to be allocated well ahead of replacement needs.

Understanding the District is completely built-out and landlocked, as well as the results of the Community Survey, residents wish for the Park District to “take care of what we have” at this time. Therefore, the Park District should reinvest in existing park sites to address immediate universal access and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) concerns. It will be critical for the District to manage community needs during this Present and Post Pandemic period – a community indoor pool and recreation facility is not a pressing priority at this time via the survey, but likely could become a top priority in the coming years as a result of climate change. This timeframe may shorten based on input received from on-going engagement opportunities and future Community Surveys.

Pedestrian linkages are also an important element to the continued success of the



Morton Grove park system. Walking trails are one of the top requested recreation activities and the Park District should collaborate with the Village of Morton Grove Administration and Planning Department, and the County and State Departments of Transportation to identify and expand existing trail connections as well as integrate paths into larger trail network. Through cooperative efforts and combined resources, these walking path and trail needs can be met benefiting the entire community in a greater way. It is important to note the impact that trails have within a community by allowing the residents more mobility between public spaces and neighborhoods.

- 9. Trending Recreation and Programming Opportunities** – The recreation market is constantly changing, as are the needs of the District's staff and residents. To stay relevant and meet resident's recreation programming needs, MGPD must remain aware of changing interests in the community and in state and national trends. Providing current and in-demand recreation offerings leads to a greater community participation and allows for resident satisfaction and reallocation of resources that may otherwise be used for less effective or declining options. To provide quality recreation services that align with resident needs and interest, the Park District should continue to engage the community to provide up-to-date options when updating and redeveloping parks, open spaces, and facilities, and when scheduling programs and special events.

Recreation Programming should be accompanied by the development of a strong marketing plan and public relations philosophy capable of selling the activities and facilities of the Park District to residents and the community at large.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: PARK AND FACILITY ENHANCEMENT**

The following outlines major improvements for consideration based on The Planning Team's evaluation, as well as public feedback, comments, and understanding. Additionally, these capital improvement recommendations outline enhancement initiatives for consideration for each park based on an extensive field and site inventory and assessment, as well as the findings from the engagement process and The Planning Team's understanding of each MGPD park. These recommendations are also based on a general understanding of the funding opportunities that may be appropriate for future projects. In general, all MGPD parks are well maintained and in good condition. However, a program should be established to develop standardized Park District site furnishings. The use of consistent styles of furnishings will help brand the Park District.

The recommendations are divided into three priorities, with the first priority recommendations consisting of projects considered for implementation within the next two years. The implementation of the second priority recommendations should occur over the next two to four years depending on funding availability and opportunities, site conditions, public demands, and District growth. The third priority and fourth priority recommendations should be considered in the beyond five-year planning period.

### **1 FIRST PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations identified as first priority should be initiated within the next two years. These priorities are deemed important because they represent current needs and initiatives, as well as initiatives relative to accessibility and public safety.



## Action & Priority Plan *(Continued)*

### 2 SHORT-TERM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The second priority recommendations should be implemented in a range of two to four years. Second priority recommendations present improvements considered to expand the use of the park, or replacement of park amenities that are still viable, but need to be scheduled for replacement (life-cycle period expiring during this cycle) within this planning period.

### 3 LONG-TERM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations look beyond the philosophy of a five-year plan to provide a listing of future needs that can be addressed as time and budget allow. These recommendations are typically more than five years from implementation unless funding opportunities make them viable sooner.

The capital prioritization lists projected costs of the improvements by park name. This provides a site-by-site listing of the proposed capital needs. The following Capital Cost Summary totals all parks by First Priority, Short-Term Priority, and Long-Term Priorities. All priorities should be reviewed annually and addressed during the budgeting cycle. Dollars are estimated based on 2022 dollars; no attempt is made to adjust future dollars for inflation or changes in the construction market.

It is important to note, during the course of this Master Plan process, certain work priority items identified during the Planning Team's "boots-on-the-ground" inventory have been completed by the Park District as part of their annual maintenance and facility upgrade operation.

**Arnum Park**


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1	Replace the existing play apparatus with new “themed” play layout	200,000
1	Provide a new ADA drinking fountain near the playground area	8,800
2	Furnish and install new landscape plantings at park sign	3,500
2	Furnish and install perimeter landscape plantings	20,000

**Capital Cost Summary**


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First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 208,800	\$ 23,500	\$00,000	\$ 232,300

**Austin Park**


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1	Provide paved ADA concrete walk to the volleyball court and its perimeter	15,000
1	Provide concrete containment curb around the sand volleyball court	10,000
3	Furnish and install perimeter landscape plantings	25,000

**Capital Cost Summary**


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First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 25,000	\$00,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000

**Harrer Park**


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1	Repair and resurface the existing tennis courts (2022)	90,000
1	Develop a landscape plan to replace the trees that were removed	35,000
2	Replace tennis courts fencing and gates with new black vinyl coated chain link	55,000

**Capital Cost Summary**


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First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 125,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 0,000	\$ 180,000

**Frank Hren Discovery Park**

1	Reset and repair any site furnishing footings that have heaved	7,500
1	Develop weed maintenance program	20,000
2	Furnish and install prairie plants and plugs in the demonstration prairie garden	25,000
2	Spade edge mulch ring to all trees in the park	15,000
3	Conduct an athletic field lighting audit	2,000

**Capital Cost Summary**

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 27,500	\$ 40,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 69,500

**Jacobs Park**

1	Hire a consultant to develop a Master Plan and Bid specs for new Play Area	54,000
2	Replace the existing play apparatus with new “themed” play layout	225,000
2	Replace and/or adjust existing precast block planter walls	85,000
2	Remove overgrown burning bush hedge and replace with new lower plantings	5,200
2	Furnish and install new accessible drinking fountain	8,800
2	Regrade and reconstruct berm at swing area to correct drainage issue	25,000
2	Perform select root pruning of evergreens and river birch trees	5,200
2	Replace existing safety surface with new loose fill surface @ 12” depth	9,600

**Capital Cost Summary**

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 54,000	\$ 363,800	\$ 00,000	\$ 417,800

**Prairie View Park**

1	Repair, reseal and stripe the west parking lot per Village standards	<i>Completed</i>
1	Repair and resurface the existing tennis courts, color coat, and stripe	480,000
1	Replace tennis court fencing, gates and transoms with new vinyl coated fence	125,000

**Capital Cost Summary**

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 285,000	\$ 00,000	\$ 00,000	\$ 285,000



**Mansfield Park**

1	Make minor repairs to ballfield infield areas and upgrade ballfield fencing	<i>Completed</i>
1	Regrade and install accessible park entrances at Church Street	35,000
1	Replace the two half-court basketball court surface with new surfacing (2022)	50,000
2	Remove overgrown plant material at the Fieldhouse Building	3,500
2	Replace the Fieldhouse foundation plantings with low maintenance plantings	20,500

**Capital Cost Summary**

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 85,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 00,000	\$ 109,000

**National Park**

1	Replace existing safety surface with new loose fill surface @ 12" depth	<i>Completed</i>
1	Replace outdated swing set with new accessible swings	13,500
1	Remove and/or adjust the heights of the free-standing precast block walls	42,000
1	Furnish and install new accessible drinking fountain	8,800
2	Replace tennis court and roller hockey surfaces with new court surfaces	90,000
2	Replace tennis and roller hockey court fencing with new vinyl coated fencing	120,000
2	Repair and replace the basketball surface with new basketball court surface	48,000
2	Remove overgrown plantings and replace with new lower plantings	20,000

**Capital Cost Summary**

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 64,300	\$ 278,000	\$ 00,000	\$ 342,000

**Oketo Park**

1	Replace outdated swing set with new ADA compliant swings	13,500
1	Furnish and install new accessible drinking fountain	8,800
1	Replace existing safety surface with new loose fill surface @ 12" depth	16,500
1	Replace picnic tables, benches, and litter receptacles with current standards	15,000
2	Repair and replace the basketball surface with new basketball court surface	52,000
2	Develop landscape plan and install new shade trees throughout the park	30,000
2	Furnish and install new low maintenance plantings at park sign & fieldhouse	16,000

**Capital Cost Summary**

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 53,800	\$ 98,000	\$ 00,000	\$ 151,800

**Oriole Park**

1	Provide concrete ADA walk to the court and around the court's perimeter	11,500
1	Provide concrete containment curb around the sand volleyball court	8,500
1	Furnish Porta-potty screen around the port-a-john	8,800
1	Remove weed growth from volleyball court and top dress with new sand surface	1,500
1	Re-establish turf grass throughout the park	4,000
2	Replace fencing at tennis courts with black vinyl coated chain link fence	90,000
2	Replace basketball surface with new court surface with color coat and striping	60,000
2	Remove overgrown plant material on the site	15,000
3	Redevelop tennis courts into multi-sport tennis/pickleball play court	90,000
3	Install plantings along south side of access drive at Church Street entrance	35,000

**Capital Cost Summary**

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 34,300	\$ 165,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 324,300

**Overhill Park**

1	Remove the corrugated metal culvert pipe and replace with new pipe	3,800
1	Furnish and install new contemporary accessible drinking fountain	8,800
1	Re-establish turf grass at the park's south entrance	3,000
2	Develop a planting plan to provide infill shade tolerant landscaping in park	18,000
3	Develop an accessible walking path to the Meizer School playground.	10,000

**Capital Cost Summary**

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 15,600	\$ 18,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 43,600

**Palma Lane Park**

1	Remove weed growth from playground and top dress with new surfacing	<i>Completed</i>
1	Hire a consultant to develop a Master Plan and Bid specs for new Play Area	75,900
2	Replace existing play apparatus with new "themed" play layout	325,000
2	Provide concrete containment curb around the new playground area	12,000
2	Provide concrete containment curb around the sand play area	4,500
2	Replace the existing drinking fountain with new accessible drinking fountain	8,800
2	Re-establish turf grass throughout the park and ballfield areas	6,000
3	Replace backstop and ballfield fence with black vinyl coated chain link fence	90,000
3	Repair and replace the basketball surface with new basketball court surface	48,000
3	Furnish Porta-potty screen around the port-a-john	10,000
3	Develop planting plan and install native landscaping at the east property line	40,000
3	Provide a shelter/gazebo structure with security light in plaza area	55,000

**Capital Cost Summary**

First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 75,900	\$ 356,300	\$ 243,000	\$ 675,200



**Pioneer Park**


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1	Replace turf strip along north side of park with decomposed granite surface	6,000
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**Capital Cost Summary**


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First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 6,000	\$ 0,000	\$ 0,000	\$ 6,000

**Shermer Park**


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1	Remove weed growth from playground and top dress with new play surface	<i>Completed</i>
1	Replace basketball surface with new surface with color coat and striping	<i>Completed</i>
1	Hire a consultant to develop a Master Plan and Bid specs for new Play Area	63,000
2	Replace existing play apparatus with new “themed” play layout	275,000
2	Provide concrete containment curb around the new playground area	12,000
2	Provide concrete walk and containment curb around the sand play area	18,000
2	Re-establish turf grass throughout the park	2,000
3	Furnish Porta-potty screen around the port-a-john	10,000
3	Remove overgrown plant material on the site	10,000
3	Unify park information signage at park’s entrance.	2,000
3	Create a landscaped berm with strategically placed limestone boulders	39,500

**Capital Cost Summary**


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First Priority	Short-term Priority	Long-term Priority	Total
\$ 63,000	\$ 307,000	\$ 61,500	\$ 368,500

**Summary of Priority Costs:**

First Priority – \$1,122,400.00

Short-term Priority – \$1,712,400.00

Long-term Priority - \$466,500.00

# Financing The Plan

The long-term vision for the Morton Grove Park District contains a 10-year plan of prioritized implementation actions. If executed, MGPD will reach its desired future. Implementation by level of priority and importance guarantees that the Park District is responding incrementally to the community's needs and desires. This does not necessarily mean that this Comprehensive Master Plan will serve all needs and desires of the community for the entirety of the next 10 years. However, it is intended to specify direction for implementation actions prioritized in the near, short term- and long-term future. The accomplishment of all the projects as outlined in this Plan will require a prolonged and dedicated effort. The Park District will require additional financial resources over and above those which it currently receives from Park District general and capital improvement funds, grants, and other revenues at present.

Because funding is the predominant prerequisite essential to implement any of the recommended actions, this Plan identifies a series of possible funding sources which may be useful in achieving the recommended action items in the most cost-effective way conceivable. Due to possible limitations of funding, it is recommended to pursue external sources when possible. A list of those potential sources available to the MGPD are highlighted below:

- **Illinois Department of Natural Resources** – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administers several grants programs to assist park districts, municipalities and other public agencies provide public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The programs operate on a cost reimbursement basis to a government or non-for-profit organization. Park districts and local governments can receive one grant per program per year with no restrictions on the number of local governments that can be funded for a given location. IDNR grants are organized into three categories:

- Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD).
- Boat Access Area Development (BAAD); and
- Illinois Trails Grants Program.

- **Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD)** – The OSLAD program awards up to 50 percent of project costs up to a maximum of \$750,000 for acquisition and \$400,000 for development/renovation of recreational facilities such as playgrounds, outdoor nature interpretive areas, campgrounds and fishing piers, park roads and paths, and beaches. IDNR administers five grant programs to provide financial assistance for acquisition, development, and maintenance of trails that are used for public recreation use.
- **Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** – The Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund program (LWCF) is a program with similar objectives to the OSLAD program and is also managed by IDNR. LWCF Grants are available to park districts, municipalities, county governments, and school districts to be used for outdoor recreation projects. Projects require a 50 percent match. All projects are taken under perpetuity by the National Park Service and must only be used for outdoor recreational purposes.
- **Park & Recreational Facility Construction Grant Program (PARC)** – Park districts, and municipalities can be awarded up to \$2.5 million per project for acquisition, development, construction, rehabilitation, architectural planning, and installation of capital parks, recreation, and open space facilities.

## Financing The Plan *(Continued)*

- **Public Museum Capital Grant Program** – Public museums can apply for up to \$750,000 to develop new and updated exhibits, expand facilities, renovate buildings, and improve infrastructure. The matching funds requirement is determined by the museums' attendance rates.
- **Recreational Trails Program** – The Federal "Recreational Trails program" (RTP). Was created through the National Recreational Trail Fund Act (NRTFA) as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). This program provides funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails. By law, 30% of each States' RTP funding must be earmarked for motorized trail projects, 30 percent for non-motorized trail projects, and the remaining 40 percent for multiuse (diversified) motorized and non-motorized trails, or a combination of either. The RTP program can provide up to 80 percent federal funding on approved projects and requires a minimum 20 percent non-federal funding match.
- **Illinois Bicycle Path Program** – The Illinois Bicycle Path program is a grants program administered by IDNR that provides funding assistance up to 50% to acquire and develop land for public bicycle path purposes. Funded by a percentage for vehicle title fees, maximum grant awards are limited to \$200,000.
- **Public Private Partnership** – Public-Private Partnerships are already a key component of the MGPD recreation System. The Park District partners with local nonprofits and other community organizations to hold non-profit events in the park; maintain existing parks; or work to develop new parks as is necessary. The non-government entity can provide funding to the District to upkeep and improve specifically designated parks. The

District should strive to maintain existing and establish a new partnership to help improve District facilities and programs.

- **Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant Program** – Park agencies, municipalities, and local governments can apply for financial assistance for the development of local urban and community forestry programs/ activities must help to establish, manage, conserve, and preserve the urban and community forests from inner city to associated public lands.

The possible funding scenarios identified in this Plan sets up the model for implementation of future capital projects and it is recommended that the Park District continue to apply for such grants to help it implement the Capital Improvement Park and Facility Enhancement Priority Recommendations Schedule and leverage the local matching dollars as far as possible.



## Plan Conclusions

The Morton Grove Park District Comprehensive Master Plan was developed over the course of 9 months to reflect and address the parks and recreation needs of the community. Throughout the planning process, residents and key stakeholders provided input through two virtual Town Hall, Public Issues & Opportunity Open Houses, a Community Survey, and one virtual Park Board (Elected officials) Focus Group session. This in-depth participatory process led to the development of the Comprehensive Master Plan which presents a thorough understanding of the wants, needs, and aspirations of MGPD today and into the future. Through intentional implementation of this Plan, the Park District will be well on their way to “Growing Greatest,” as they continue providing a high quality of life for its residents and attract regional visitors.

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## APPENDIX



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## SOURCES

A variety of information was researched to develop the Morton Grove Park District Comprehensive Master Plan. The listing below includes only sources outside the MGPD. Thanks to the various organizations and agencies for the use of data and background material used in the preparation of this Plan.

- Village of Morton Grove
- National Recreation & Park Association
- Illinois Park & Recreation Association
- Illinois Association of Park Districts
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
- U.S. Census Bureau
- Council of American Survey Research Organizations
- U.S. Forest Service
- Trust for Public Land
- Des Plaines Park District
- Niles Park District
- Park Ridge Park District
- Prospect Heights Park District
- aQity Research & Insights
- Wikipedia