



**PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK**  
**Regular Park Board Meeting**  
**Hedges Administrative Center**  
**218 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois 60302**  
**Thursday, January 15, 2026, 7:00pm**

**AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

**II. Approval of Agenda**

**III. Visitor/Public Comment**

*Each person is limited to three minutes. The Board sets a limit of 30 minutes for public comments.*

**IV. Consent Agenda**

- A. Cash and Investment Summary\*\*
- B. Warrants and Bills\*\*
- C. Minutes\*
- D. Disposal Ordinance 2025-01-24\*
- E. 2026 Full-Time Salary Bands\*

**V. Staff Reports**

- A. Executive Director's Report\*
- B. Updates and Information\*
- C. Revenue/Expense Status Reports\*\*

**VI. Old Business**

- A. Parks and Planning Committee – Commissioner Worley-Hood
  - 1. Field Park Playground Improvements Contract Approval Update
  - 2. Cheney Mansion HVAC Geothermal Contract Approval Update
- B. Administration and Finance Committee – Commissioner Wollmuth
  - 1. 2025 Tax Year Levy – Abatement Resolution for 2025 Levy Adjustment\*
  - 2. 2025 Program Scholarship and CDM Report\*
- C. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – Commissioner Lentz

**VII. New Business**

**VIII. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Worley-Hood  
Commissioner Onayemi  
Commissioner Lentz  
Commissioner Wollmuth  
President Porreca

**IX. Closed Session**

**X. Continue Regular Board Meeting to February 5, 2026**

*\*Information attached. | \*\*Information to be provided at/prior to the meeting. | Update/Review – verbal report to be provided at the meeting, no materials attached.*

The Park District of Oak Park welcomes the opportunity to assist residents and visitors with disabilities. If you need special accommodations for this meeting, please call (708) 725-2017 or via email at [karen.gruszka@pdop.org](mailto:karen.gruszka@pdop.org).

*In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities.*

**AGENDA COMMENTS**  
**Regular Park Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 15, 2026, 7:00pm**

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

**II. Approval of Agenda (Voice Vote)**

No additions to the Agenda are anticipated at this time.

**III. Visitor/Public Comment**

**IV. Consent Agenda (Roll Call Vote) – Commissioner Wollmuth**

*Commissioner Wollmuth: Motion of the Board for approval of the Consent Agenda which includes:*

- *the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of December 2025;*
- *approval of the minutes from the*
  - *Committee of the Whole Meeting from December 4, 2025,*
  - *Regular Board Meeting from December 18, 2025,*
- *approval of Disposal Ordinance 2026-01-09; and*
- *2026 Full-Time Salary Bands*

**V. Staff Reports**

- A. Executive Director's Report\***
- B. Updates and Information\***
- C. Revenue/Expense Status Reports\***

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Parks and Planning Committee – Commissioner Worley-Hood**

- 1. Field Center Park Playground Improvements Contract Approval Update
- 2. Cheney Mansion HVAC Geothermal Contract Approval Update

**B. Administration and Finance Committee – Commissioner Wollmuth**

- 1. 2025 Tax Year Levy – Abatement Resolution for 2025 Levy Adjustment\*  
*Commissioner Wollmuth: I move that the Board approve the 2025 Tax Levy Abatement Resolution 2026-01-01 for the 2025 Tax Year.*
- 2. 2025 Program Scholarship and CDM Report\*

**C. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – Commissioner Lentz**

**VII. New Business**



**VIII. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Worley-Hood  
Commissioner Onayemi  
Commissioner Lentz  
Commissioner Wollmuth  
President Porreca

**IX. Closed Session**

**X. Continue Regular Board Meeting to February 5, 2026**

**Park District of Oak Park  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Community Recreation Center  
229 Madison Street  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302**

**Thursday, December 4, 2025**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

**I. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioners Lentz, Onayemi, Wollmuth, Worley-Hood, and President Porreca

**Park District Staff Present:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Ann Marie Buczak, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement; Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management; Mike Biardo, Superintendent of Special Facilities; David Ferry, Administrative Assistant, and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

**Others:** Kevin Graham, Senior Landscape Architect; Jennifer Draper, Landscape Architect; and Jamil Bou-Saab, Executive Vice President, Terra Engineering LTD., Evan Michel, Township Manager, Oak Park Township.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ellen Mills - Ellen stated she is a part-time Skating Instructor at RCRC as well as an Architect. She had come before the Board a while back when RCRC was being renovated to champion the rink becoming a full-time ice rink and has worked there for over 30 years. She wanted to bring attention to the departure of Cathy Brown, coordinator for the Ice Academy and say how sad she is noting that Cathy had an extensive knowledge of the skating programs and instructions and that knowledge is now gone. Although part-time staff members, she wanted to state that the instructors are professionals in their own right and that the knowledge of the position will not be easy to fill. She met with Paula Bickel, Director of HR, prior to the Board Meeting and appreciated the information that was shared with her by Paula. She feels there is no sense of joy now when she goes into work. She finished by saying as she has been all over the nation at clinics/camps/trainings, she feels there should be better processes brought in.

**III. PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- A. Barrie Park Master Plan – Kevin Graham, Senior Landscape Architect and Jennifer Draper, Landscape Architect, of Terra Engineering LTD., were there to update the Board on the review of the Barrie Park Master Plan from the community meeting held on September 10, with Commissioners Porreca, Lentz, and Wollmuth in attendance. Mr. Graham began by stating there were a lot of positive comments at the meeting. Looking back from our 10 year Master Plan update, he expanded on the following various improvements identified at the meeting: the sled hill, fitness, seating, rain garden areas, ADA crossing at the intersection, court surface updating, shading, the budget and timeline, and more. The Board noticed the need for more shade structures being requested in park renovations and were told that the PDOP attempts to use tree shading as much as possible but where trees weren't available in our parks, pavilions were built or as in this case, shade structures; the Board noted it is a nice consistency to see throughout the parks. The Board also discussed the drainage system for the sports field and were told that artificial turf would not be going in that park and with this knowledge, a sand and drainage system would be set up for the field. The possibility of lighting was also discussed, and it was confirmed that they would reach out to groups using the field to partner for lights at the time if added to the plan. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

- B. Longfellow Playground Sourcewell Purchase Approval – The Board were informed that alongside the construction contract for the Longfellow project, the PDOP had planned a direct purchase for the playground/splash pad equipment and the playground surface using Sourcewell. The cost of the playground equipment is \$435,638, the splash pad equipment is \$79,928, and playground grass is \$172,689.98 for a total of \$688,255.98. The Board questioned how Sourcewell compared to competitive bidding and it was explained that Sourcewell goes out and gets the bids on typical equipment and then they provide the lowest provider at a locked in cost, and it basically is a co-op that anyone can use. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
- C. Longfellow Park Portland Loo Sole Source Purchase Approval – Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that the Portland Loo had been pulled out of the contract as it is a sole source provider for the outdoor restroom required at Longfellow and therefore it would save on markups to buy directly from the supplier. The Board questioned what makes the Portland Loo the only option and were told no other outdoor restrooms would run year-round in our weather conditions with open air vents and that it would solve a lot of problems that occur with the only running restroom year-round being inside the building. Currently there is a Portland Loo at Rehm, the only difference during winter from the insides restroom is the water outside of the Portland Loo is shut off so ice does not form and create hazards, but it has worked well and been well received. The cost of the Portland Loo single occupant public toilet is \$179,160 and the installation is included in the Hacienda contract. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

#### **IV. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- A. Draft IGA Oak Park Township - PDOP Scholarship Program  
The PDOP has an established strong working relationship with the Oak Park Township and has participated in various Intergovernmental Agreements. Annually in the past, the Park District has applied for funding from the Township to help support the Financial Assistance Program for the youth residing in Oak Park. The Township suggested an IGA to document this partnership and collaboration towards scholarship funding. One aspect of the new IGA, just as Scott Sekulich comes before our Board annually in January to update them on the scholarships, he would also attend the Township board meeting to update them as well. Evan Michel, Township Manager for the Oak Park Township, stated they appreciate the collaboration with the PDOP scholarships, and felt it was natural to move this into an IGA. The Board agreed it makes it simpler for both entities and also shows transparency for the community. Initially this IGA is for one year but could move to longer periods after this initial year is reviewed. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting**
- B. 2026 Board Action Calendar – Executive Director Arnold noted that the Board Action Calendar was prepared to help staff track all of the different items that will be coming before the Board during the 2026 Calendar year. The Board was reminded that variations to the Board Action Calendar do take place, but it is a good tool to set the length of meetings by items on the agenda and to track items needing approval from the Board for accreditation. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
- C. Letter to WSSRA of Appointment of Representatives – Executive Director Arnold noted that every year, WSSRA requests a letter to be made to note the Park District's appointment to the WSSRA Board of Directors. Executive Director Arnold is noted as the Regular Representative, and Commissioner Worley-Hood is noted as the alternate as was approved at the May Annual Meeting. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
- D. Bi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes – Executive Director Arnold noted that in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Board is required to review closed session minutes bi-annually to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists on all or parts of the closed session minutes. It was

recommended that the Board continues to hold the identified closed session minutes at this time. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

- E. PACT Agreements – Executive Director Arnold noted to the Board that all of the PACT Agreements are up for renewal. These agreements were created so that other user groups and organizations would be able to use Park District facilities. The 2026 PACT applications were received and processed, with each organization contacted with their designated placement level based on the PACT (Partner, Associate, Companion, and Tenant) program. As such, it was recommended that the Board approve all of the PACT agreements provided and be fully executed. Executive Director also noted that East Avenue Lacrosse had sent in their signed contract today and will be brought up under new business this evening to add to these agreements. The Board discussed the difference between partners and tenants, and the costs associated to each group. The Board thanked David Ferry for all his work on the agreements and working with the individual groups. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
- F. Administrative and Board Policy Manual Update – Staff review the Administrative and Board Policy Manuals on an annual basis. Changes to the best practices were made, part of which were: language on prohibited items in parks to include temporary walls and shopping carts, an updated cost recover chart, the service for refunds was updated to \$5.00 for all other programs, and language about drugs not therapeutically administered was removed and cannabis as prohibited in any park facility from IAPD language was added. A discussion took place on programs based on the new cost recovery model and it was decided this would be brought for discussion in further details at the 2026 Board Retreat. **This item will be brought before the Board at the Consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
- G. Personnel Policy Manual Update – Staff review the Personnel Policy on an annual basis. Some changes to their best practices were made including the making of all non-union employees 40 hours and the changing of language to the family neo-natal section. There will be a one-time adjustment for the employee hours changing to 40 from 37.5. No questions were provided from the Board at this time. **This item will be brought before the Board at the Consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
- H. Crisis Management Plan Update – Executive Director Arnold noted that as part of the standards for CAPRA accreditation and keeping in line with good practices, the Crisis Management & Communication Plan must be reviewed on an annual basis. The manual has been reviewed by staff and updates to staff job titles, along with the adjustment for just the title in many positions only being listed instead of names and titles in case of staff turnover, were made. No material changes were made. **This item will be brought before the Board at the Consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
- I. Safety Manual Update – Staff review the Safety Manual on an annual basis. Some changes to their best practices were made. A brief discussion took place on local and federal laws regarding the distinctions between legal drugs and CDL licenses and the Board confirmed that the staff are all informed/have the knowledge and aware of the distinctions. **This item will be brought before the Board at the Consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

## **V. RECREATION AND FACILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE – None**

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Extension of FOPCON Agreement - Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that representatives from FOPCON, staff, and Commissioner Wollmuth have held two meetings, and it has become clear that agreed upon changes will not take place in the near future. The current contract ends December 31, 2025. As plants need to begin being planted for the plant sale, they were looking for a verbal consensus to extend the current contract for an additional year ending 12/31/2026. Continued work towards a new contract will take place with a third meeting taking place in January with others following as needed. The Board agreed it was better to

continue this way without making any hasty decisions and verbal consensus was given. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

2. East Ave. Lacrosse PACT Addition - As mentioned earlier during the PACT discussion, East Avenue Lacrosse has sent in their signed PACT agreement and would like to renew their agreement. The Board gave consent to add it to the PACT agreements to be approved at the December Regular Board Meeting. **This item will be brought before the Board at the Consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

**VII. CLOSED SESSION** – None

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:26pm, the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed with a voice vote of 5:0.**

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**Secretary**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

January 15, 2025  
**Date**

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**President**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

January 15, 2025  
**Date**

**Park District of Oak Park  
Regular Park Board Meeting  
John Hedges Administrative Center  
218 Madison Street  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302**

**Thursday, December 18, 2025**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

**I. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioners Lentz, Onayemi, Wollmuth, Worley-Hood, and President Porreca.

**Absent:** None

**Park District Staff Present:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement; Mike Baiardo, Superintendent of Special Facilities; Roger Oney, Parks & Facilities Supervisor; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

**Others:** Caitlyn Culbertson, Elrod Friedman LLP.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0**

**III. VISITOR/PUBLIC - None**

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wollmuth and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of November 2025; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting from November 6, 2025 and Regular Board Meeting from November 20, 2025; approval of Disposal Ordinance 2025-12-12; approval of the PACT Agreements for Fenwick, SEOPCO, Troup 20, Ascencion, St. Giles, Windmills, AYSO, OPYBS, Chicago Edge, Alliance, OPRFYU, and East Avenue Lacrosse; approval of the 2026 Board Action Calendar; approval of the Letter to WSSRA of Appointment of Representatives; approval to continue to hold the identified closed session minutes; approval of Personnel Policy Manual; approval of Administrative and Board Policy Manual; approval of Crisis Manual; and Safety Manual; and, approval of IGA Oak Park Township-PDOP Scholarship Funds. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

**V. STAFF REPORTS**

- A. Executive Director's Report** – In addition to the Executive Director's Report (which is included in the Board Packet), Executive Director Arnold noted staff have been busy with holiday programs and community families are engaging in the fun. Staff celebrated the holidays at Circle Lanes. Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board during the holidays when she would be out of the office, Maureen McCarthy would be the point of contact and wished everyone happy holidays.
- B. Updates and Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.
- C. Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee**

1. Annual Highlights/Accomplishments – Executive Director Arnold provided the Board with an overview of the Park District's highlights and accomplishments over the past year, including updates on facilities, programming, awards and grants received, and staff updates. The Annual Report will be completed in March. **No Board action is needed on this item.**

### **B. Administration and Finance Committee**

1. 2025 Comprehensive Strategic Master Plan Update – Executive Director Arnold discussed the 2025 goals and action items the Board approved for the completion this year through 2030 reminding them that the goals and action items would be looked at each year. Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations, recapped on the completed goals for 2025 and informed the Board that all the goals including CAPRA, Distinguished Accreditation, and the Gold Medal, had been completed; the only goal not completed yet is the complete cost of service analysis, but the teams were working on it, and it should be completed shortly. **No Board action is needed on this item.**

### **C. Parks and Planning Committee**

1. Longfellow Playground Sourcewell Purchase Approval – *Commissioner Worley-Hood: I move that the Park Board approve the Sourcewell purchase of the Landscape Structures - Playground Equipment \$435,638.00, Landscape Structures - Splash Pad Equipment \$79,928.00, for a total of \$515,566 and the Forever Lawn – Playground Grass Ultra for \$172,689.98 for the Longfellow Park Development Project and authorize Executive Director Arnold to execute the contracts.* Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the playground/splash pad equipment and the playground surface that the PDOP is requesting the use of Sourcewell for their purchase for a total of \$688,255.98. The Board had no further questions from the COW meeting discussion. Motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
2. Longfellow Park Portland Loo Sole Source Purchase Agreement – *Commissioner Worley-Hood: I move that the Park Board approve the Sole Source purchase of the Portland Loo Single Occupant Public Toilet \$179,160 from Madden Fabrication, Beaverton, OR, for the Longfellow Park Development Project and authorize Executive Director Arnold to execute the contract.* Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the Portland Loo is only made by one company in Beaverton OR making it a Sole Source purchase. The Portland Loo purchase had been pulled out of the Hacienda contract, saving on marked ups by buying directly from the supplier; the installation costs remained in the contract. Currently there is a Portland Loo at Rehm which has been successful year-round. There were no additional questions from the Board. Motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Lentz. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
2. Field Park Playground Improvements Bid Update – Executive Director Arnold noted the current work for the Field Center taking place before we do the playground and the demolition. Moving forward we are going out to bid on January 2 on the playground, which is due back on January 28, which will be brought to you in February. This timeline will give potential contractors leeway for when the project starts in June to get on their docket sooner rather than later. The Demo is part of the Field Center project and is in the capital plan and will be bid and come to the Board separately. The Board are looking forward to the new play area with the bigger berms than the previous ones. **No Board action is needed on this item.**

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS –**

*Commissioner Wollmuth: I move for the Park Board approval of Resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing \$40,000,000 general obligation park bonds to the voters of the Park District of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois, at the general primary election to be held on the 17th day of March, 2026.* Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that the Park District has heard the desire by the community

to have access to an indoor aquatic facility for many years now. In 2017 the District entered into discussions with the OPRF to see if there was a possible partnership opportunity to meet the community desire, but competing needs of the two organizations made that not feasible. As a result of these conditions, the Park District included a question in the 2023 community survey to ask residents if they would support a tax increase to provide for the construction of an indoor aquatic facility. 69% of respondents to that survey said they would either support or strongly support a tax increase for that purpose. Following that survey, in 2024 as part of the Comprehensive Strategic Master Plan, the District had community meetings and pop-up engagements where the question was asked again, and at that time 73% of respondents said they would support a referendum for an indoor aquatic facility. The Board accepted the 2025-2029 CSMP in February 2025 where going to referendum in 2026 was proposed. In 2025 the District engaged with architects for preliminary designs of such a facility to estimate costs. It was determined that such a facility would cost \$40,000,000 to construct. The Park District does not have that amount of money available for capital projects, so in order to proceed the community would need to approve a bond referendum. In June, the Board Retreat included conversations regarding funding options for such an asset. Direction to staff was to prepare for the potential referendum and present it to the Park Board in December for consideration.

The Board expressed the appreciation for the process and going to the constituents. Striving to be responsive to interest is what the PDOP is about, and it is great that we have taken the steps; good conversations and letting them decide. They confirmed it is a binding referendum, if the community says yes, the PDOP has seven years to get the bond and get it in.

Executive Director Arnold went on to remind the Board to please note that voting to approve this resolution does not imply that any commissioner individually supports this project. A vote for this resolution is supporting giving the community the opportunity to vote, not the project itself. The message for the referendum is community vision, community decision, your vote as this is up to the residents of Oak Park.

Caitlyn Culbertson, Elrod Friedman LLP, summed it up that we are strictly here to put the information out to the voters. When approached by other local governments and residents with questions, to just provide the facts and guide them to the website where all the information will be.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing \$40,000,000 general obligation park bonds to the voters of the Park District of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois, at the general primary election to be held on the 17th day of March, 2026. Motion was made by Commissioner Wollmuth and seconded by Commissioner Onayemi. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

## **IX. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Onayemi:** Commissioner Onayemi wanted to inform everyone the Library would be holding a Kwanzaa event on December 30. He wished everyone happy holidays and thanked staff for the PDOP highlights.

**Commissioner Worley-Hood:** Commissioner Worley-Hood enjoyed a few of the holiday events and went on to say that it will be an exciting few months ahead at the Park District and wished all happy holidays.

**Commissioner Wollmuth:** Commissioner Wollmuth mentioned he had attended events at Cheney Mansion including the Charlie Brown Christmas and noted all the programs going on and the work put into them by staff and wished all happy holidays.

**Commissioner Lentz:** Commissioner Lentz commented on how good it is that we have structured and linked our goals and activities and how that link helps to keep us on track and guides us in our work to meet our primary goals. She thanked those that attended the Seven Generations Ahead Meeting and was happy to see how they worked with and encouraged our young people to actively participate. Happy holidays!



**President Porreca:** President Porreca mentioned she has taken her whole family to many of the holiday events and wanted to give a shout out to the staff for their attention to detail and all the decorations at Cheney Mansion and Pleasant Home and she wished everyone happy holidays and Merry Christmas!

**X. CLOSED SESSION** – None

**XI. ADJOURN REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

At 8:09pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to adjourn the Regular Board meeting. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

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**Secretary**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

January 15, 2026  
**Date**

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**President**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

January 15, 2026  
**Date**

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01-09

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY  
OWNED BY THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Park District of Oak Park, it is no longer necessary, useful, or in the best interests of the Park District to retain ownership of the personal property described in this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the President and the Board of Commissioners of the Park District of Oak Park to dispose of said personal property in the manner described in this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Commissioners of the Park District of Oak Park, Cook County and State of Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated into this Ordinance as findings of the President and Board of Commissioners.

Section 2. Disposal of Surplus Property. The President and Board of Commissioners find that the personal property described in Exhibit A attached to this Ordinance and by this reference incorporated into this Ordinance (the "Surplus Property") is no longer necessary or useful to the Park District, and thus the Executive Director of the Park District is hereby authorized to direct the sale or disposal of the Surplus Property in the manner most appropriate to the Park District. The Surplus Property shall be sold or disposed of in "as is" condition.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this 15th day of January 2026

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

APPROVED this 15th day of January 2026.

By:

Kassie Porreca, Park Board President

ATTEST:

Sandy Lentz, Secretary

(See Other Side)

DESCRIPTION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

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- Damaged/Outdated Books
- (5) Corsair HS55 Stereo Headset
- (1) Corsair K60 RGB Pro SE
- (5) S-Racer Blue Gaming Chairs

# Memo

**To:** Chris Wollmuth, Chair, Administration and Finance Committee  
Board of Park Commissioners

**From:** Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management

**Cc:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director

**Date:** January 9, 2026

**Re:** 2026 Full-Time Salary Ranges



## Statement

The Park District of Oak Park is committed to providing a competitive and equitable total compensation package that supports employee recruitment, performance, and retention. This includes competitive wages, comprehensive health benefits, and meaningful time-off benefits.

## Discussion

Staff is recommending a 3% adjustment to the maximums of the salary ranges. This adjustment supports market competitiveness, employee growth and retention, internal equity and compression management. This recommended adjustment is consistent with best practices and supports the District's long-term compensation strategy. The adjustment does not impact the budget amounts for 2026.

## Conclusion

The Administration and Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve the attached 2026 Full-Time Salary Ranges.

*Attachment: 2026 Full-Time Salary Ranges*



# PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

## 2026 Full-Time Non-Union Salary Ranges

Coordinators/Coaches/Admin	MIN	MID	MAX
Customer Service Representative	\$16.48	\$20.60	\$25.46
Parks & Planning Assistant	\$18.29	\$22.87	\$28.26
Gymnastic Recreational Coach	\$23.15	\$28.94	\$35.77
Accounts Payable Assistant	\$23.15	\$28.94	\$35.77
Payroll Assistant	\$25.70	\$32.12	\$39.70
Principal Coach & Program Specialist	\$25.70	\$32.12	\$39.70
HR Generalist	\$25.70	\$32.12	\$39.70
Executive Assistant	\$50,523	\$63,153	\$78,057.63
Marketing Graphic Designer	\$50,523	\$63,153	\$78,057.11
Supervisors			
Historic Properties Special Event Coordinator	\$46,225	\$57,781	\$71,417
Program Coordinator - Early Childhood	\$46,225	\$57,781	\$71,417
Facility Coordinator Special Facilities	\$46,225	\$57,781	\$71,417
Customer Service Supervisor	\$51,309	\$64,137	\$79,273
Marketing Supervisor	\$51,309	\$64,137	\$79,273
Youth Engagement Supervisor	\$51,309	\$64,137	\$79,273
Parks & Facilities Supervisor	\$51,310	\$64,137	\$79,273
Facility Operations Supervisor	\$51,309	\$64,137	\$79,273
Program Supervisor	\$51,309	\$64,137	\$79,273
Senior Program Supervisor	\$56,954	\$71,192	\$87,993
Horticulture Supervisor	\$56,954	\$71,192	\$87,993
Greenhouse Supervisor	\$56,954	\$71,192	\$87,993
Program & Operations Supervisor GRC	\$56,954	\$71,192	\$87,993
Fitness & Membership Program Ops Supervisor	\$63,788	\$79,735	\$98,552
Management			
Historic Properties & Cheney Operations Manager	\$65,096	\$81,370	\$100,573
Registration & Customer Support Manager	\$65,096	\$81,370	\$100,573
Finance Manager	\$65,096	\$81,370	\$100,573
Program Manager	\$65,096	\$81,370	\$100,573
Risk Manager	\$65,096	\$81,370	\$100,573
Sports Field Manager	\$65,096	\$81,370	\$100,573
Human Resources Manager	\$65,096	\$81,370	\$100,573
Parks & Facility Manager	\$72,908	\$91,134	\$112,642
Maint. & Operations Manager	\$72,908	\$91,134	\$112,642
Program & Operations Manager	\$72,908	\$91,134	\$112,642
Leadership Team			
Director of Horticulture and Conservatory Operations	\$79,825	\$103,000	\$132,613
Director of Properties & Planning	\$79,825	\$103,000	\$132,613
Superintendent of Properties & Planning	\$98,996	\$127,736	\$164,461
Superintendent of Special Facilities	\$98,996	\$127,736	\$164,461
Director of Business Operations	\$100,000	\$129,032	\$166,129
Director of Human Resources & Risk Management	\$100,000	\$129,032	\$166,129
Director of Marketing & Communication	\$100,000	\$129,032	\$166,129
Deputy Director - Recreation	\$110,050	\$142,000	\$182,825



#### 2026 Union Ranges

	<u>MIN</u>	<u>MAX</u>
Grade A - General Maintenance Worker	\$20.00	\$29.87
Grade B - Building Specialist	\$21.50	\$31.93
Grade C - Technician	\$22.50	\$35.02
Grade D - General Maintenance Worker - PM Shift	\$20.00	\$29.87

## Executive Director's Report

***From the desk of Jan Arnold***

**Friday, January 9, 2026**

- 1. Upcoming Board Meetings** –The Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2025, at **7:00pm**. The Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held on February 5, 2026, at **7:00pm**. All meetings will take place at the John Hedges Administrative Center. At the end of my report, there are some events you may consider stopping by.
- 2. Indoor Pool Referendum Community Meeting** – The Park District will host an open house and information opportunities Community Meeting on January 22, 2026, from 7-8:00pm at the Community Recreation Center. Please visit the PDOP website for all information on the indoor pool referendum. The residents will have the opportunity to vote on the After receiving community feedback, this meeting will cover progress made and the upcoming timeline. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- 3. IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference** – The conference will run from January 29-31, 2026, at Hyatt Regency Chicago. Sandy, Ade, Chris, Jake, and Kassie will be attending from the Park Board along with 25 PDOP staff members.
- 4. Winter Parking** – As a reminder for PDOP staff to follow the Village's odd/even parking for 2 or more inches of snow. You must park on the even numbered address side of the street on even number days (east and north sides of street) and on the odd numbered address side of the street on odd number days (west and south sides of street). Additionally, for Parks and Planning staff required to arrive early (4-6am) on snow removal days they will be allowed to park in the Village Hall parking lot on those days since they cannot park on the street per Village Ordinance until 6am.
- 5. Staff Committees** – The 2026-2027 Staff Committees will be announced December 1. We have five internal committees including: DEI, Safety, Wellness, Innovation, and Sustainability. Staff serve two-year terms and help advance policies and provide education session for staffs.
- 6. Outdoor Ice Rinks** – The Longfellow ice rink was successfully installed and filled. We opened the rink on December 8. Warmer December temperatures in the middle of the month led to the closing of the rink. Temperatures dropped towards the end of December and the beginning of January, however the ice remained closed due to insufficient freezing. With a warmup the first week of January, staff will reduce water volume and depth of the rink so that it will freeze more quickly when the weather cooperates. We will monitor temps and set up the Taylor rink.
- 7. Field Center Project** – Winter conditions will be required to stay on schedule. Installation of rebar and foundation formwork was completed by December 15. The concrete for the foundation walls was poured on Saturday, December 20. The foundation wall forms were removed over the following week in preparation for the water proofing application. After some poor weather days, the water proofing work began on December 26. Due to incorrect installation of the applied fluid above grade, some of the work will need to be corrected before the remaining work is completed and the area around the foundation can be backfilled. After discussions between the PDOP, Patrick Brown and Keven Liebe, a tent has been contracted for and will be installed over the building footprint so that

work that has been slowed, ex. the building pad and the Rammed Earth work, can begin. The heated tent will provide the best opportunity to get caught up on the work and keep the project on schedule. The Park District is working with the Terra Engineering on separate bid documents for the demolition of the old Field Center and installation of the new playground, spray pad and landscape elements with work to be started after the completion of the Field Center. Bid documents will be available to the Public on Wednesday, January 7 with bids due on January 28.

- 8. Andersen Park Improvements** – The Andersen Project is substantially complete. The facility was opened to the public on November 15. A few remaining items need to be completed, including existing fence repairs, and the punch list completed. The contractor has some final inspections with the Village of Oak Park to complete. The Andersen Master Plan Meeting occurred on December 3, at 7pm-8:30pm at Andersen. There were approximately 15 in attendance. The updated Master Plan will be brought to the Board in February. Hacienda is working to close out some inspection details with the Village of Oak Park.
- 9. Cheney Mansion Geothermal Well Project** – The Cheney Mansion Geothermal HVAC installation project went out to bid on Demand Star on September 18. A mandatory pre-bid walk through took place on September 23 and the bid opening took place on October 9 with three bids being received. The base bid included installation of all HVAC equipment necessary to heat and cool the first and third floors. An Alternate was included to install all equipment necessary to heat and cool the second floor. All Base Bids were significantly over the total project budget and were rejected. Mark Nussbaum is working on a new system and equipment design similar to the one in Pleasant Home. The Base Bid will include the first-floor system, Alternate 1 the second-floor system, and Alternate 2 for the third-floor system. Including the Alternates will improve the chances of getting at least the first-floor work completed. Future phases can then be planned for the other floors. The re-bid of the Cheney mansion Project went out to the public on December 24 and contractors who submitted bids for the original project have been notified. A walk through will be held on January 9, and the bids are due on January 28 at 218 Madison St.
- 10. Longfellow Park Improvement** – The PDOP received a \$600,000 OSLAD for park improvements to include a new playground, splash pad, pickleball courts, etc. The project bid was scheduled to open on October 10 with the bid opening held on October 30, with five total bids received. Base bids ranged from \$1,348,202 to \$1,812,804. The apparent low bid was provided by Hacienda Landscaping, Inc. which the Board approved at the Regular Board Meeting on November 20. Staff presented a recommendation for owner purchased equipment at the December Board Meetings. The playground equipment, spray pad equipment, Portland Loo and Forever Lawn impact turf, have been ordered by the Park District as owner purchased equipment.
- 11. CRC Solar Project** – The Park District has entered into a contract agreement with Windfree Solar following the Park Board's approval at the Continued Board Meeting on September 4. A kick-off meeting took place with Windfree Solar, engineer, Charlie Saville, and PDOP staff on September 23. The schedule has been changed for substantial completion to take place by June 15, 2026. The Park District has also entered into an agreement with Energy Tax Savers to apply for a federal grant that could be valued at 30 to 50 percent of the total project cost if certain US equipment sourcing percentages are met. Windfree is working on a project schedule and starting design process. Windfree Solar representatives met staff on site on November to determine a few options to lay out the canopies and determine equipment locations inside the facility. Staff have engaged Energy Tax Savers to work on grant funding for the solar project. They are doing the same for the

Cheney Geothermal Project. As of January 1, Windfree Solar is in the process of designing the canopies and the solar system for a May and June installation.

**12. Rehm Pool Project** – The Park District hired Perkins & Will (PW) to complete a Rehm Pool Master plan in 2023. We received the IDPH permit on November 7 and notified the project team as soon as we received it. The project is now substantially complete. Recent work included installation of decorative railings between the main and the activity pool and underneath the slides. The pool painting was finished, and the pool was filled on October 21. On October 22, the slides manufacturer, Vortex, had representatives on site to inspect the slides, the installation, and function. A full report will be provided to the PDOP by Vortex, but overall, the slides tested well. On October 28, the Illinois Department of public Health inspector was on-site to perform a final inspection to approve the permit to operate the pool in 2026. The contractor is working with MWRD on a final inspection.

**13. Holiday Lights** – The PDOP holiday lights are on at Scoville Park, Taylor Park, Cheney Mansion, Pleasant Home, RCRC, and the GRC which will remain up from November 26 - March 1.

**14. WinterFest 2026** – WinterFest is tentatively scheduled at Longfellow Park for use of the ice rink during it on Saturday, February 7, from 11am - 1pm.

**Calendar of Events**

**Jan. 15, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting, Hedges Administrative Center, 7:00pm**  
**Jan. 22, 2026 – PDOP Referendum Community Meeting, CRC, 7-8pm**  
Jan. 22, 2026 – Winter Sowing Lecture, Oak Park Conservatory, 7pm  
Jan. 25, 2026 – Seed Swap, Oak Park Conservatory, 12pm  
**Feb. 4, 2026 – PDOP Referendum Community Meeting, CRC, 7-8pm**  
**Feb. 5, 2026 – Committee of the Whole Meeting, Hedges Administrative Center, 7:00pm**  
**Feb. 25, 2026 – PDOP Referendum Community Meeting, CRC, 7-8pm**

Please visit the PDOP Website for online activities and programming.



JANUARY 2026

# Updates & Information

## BUSINESS OPERATIONS

### FINANCE

#### ***Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations***

- Finance staff held the audit kick off call with L&A on 1/9/26.
- The District received 2 partial payments for approximately 40% of our remaining balance for the tax year 2024 Levy from Cook County.
- Staff created a summary of the proforma to add to the referendum FAQs.
- The District submitted its list of statement of economic interest filers to Cook County. Those emails will be sent to Park District email accounts.
- Finance staff are preparing and reviewing all of the year-end tax documents (1099s, W-2s, etc.) for 2025.

## MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

#### ***Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement***

- Continued marketing support for Conservatory's Winter Greens Market with print and digital advertising.
- Launched CRC virtual tour to engage visitors and increase memberships.
- Developed PDOP Highlights document for the Board demonstrating the agency's accomplishments from 2025.
- Developed postcard promoting financial assistance and summer hiring.
- Continued development of Summer Camp and Spring/Summer Program Guides.
- Prepped and submitted four entries for IPRA's Agency Showcase Awards; awards will be announced in January at the 2026 IPRA Conference.
- Welcomed Breanna Benedict to the department as our Social Media Specialist.
- Developed marketing assets to support community education for an indoor pool referendum.
- Analyzed Community Survey results exploring trends and identifying opportunities to enhance communications.
- Secured \$10,039 in Advertising and Sponsorship revenue in November and December.

## GUEST SERVICES

#### ***Scott Sekulich, Registration and Customer Support Manager***

- One new Financial Assistance application was approved in December to finish out the year. Total scholarships used in the month of December were \$7,878.68.
- The final totals for 2025 are: Scholarships: \$159,082 (\$140,450 in 2024). Childcare Membership Discounts: \$172,260 (\$162.240 in 2024). A total of 440 families (965 unique individuals) utilized financial assistance.
- Nine dog park memberships were purchased, all renewals.
- Winter registration went off cleanly and began December 5. Total registrations for the first five days exceeded 3,330.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### ***Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources & Risk Management***

- Actively recruiting for a full-time Program Supervisor – Aquatics, Facility Operations Supervisor, and General Maintenance Worker.
- Hired Brigid Guerin as the Program Supervisor – Ice Arena, and Khliq Ali as the General Maintenance Worker.
- Trained new and rehired staff members in New Hire Orientation, Customer Service, First Aid, and CPR/AED.
- Completed Health Insurance Open Enrollment for full-time staff members.
- Conducted full-time Benefit Orientation Sessions with newly hired full-time staff.
- Continued working on upgrading camera systems.
- HR staff attended Manager's Meeting, Wellness Committee meeting, DEI Committee meeting, Career Pathways Committee meeting.
- Completed the Annual Performance Evaluation Process for full-time staff.

## **PARKS AND PROPERTIES**

### **MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS**

#### ***Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Properties & Planning***

- The Properties and Planning Department welcomed Khliq Ali as the full-time General Maintenance worker on the facilities team.
- The Rubenstein and operations room doors at the Conservatory have been replaced.
- Maple Park fence damaged by vehicle collision has been repaired. There were three collisions on the Harlem fence line in 2025.
- The CRC parking lot fence has also been hit by vehicle a couple of times and has now been repaired.
- Garage lighting at the JHAC admin building were updated to LED.
- Scoville tennis court lights have been upgraded to LED.
- Staff have continued to declutter and deep clean multiple facility basements and storage spaces. This will continue into 2026, until all facilities have had this work completed.
- The Longfellow Ice Rink remains closed due to the warm weather.
- New sound system and controls have been installed at Ridgeland Common.
- A heat exchanger failed on one of two roof top HVAC units for the large gym space at the Gymnastics and Recreation Center. We are receiving quotes from vendors. Once this unit is repaired, we will pre-emptively replace the heat exchanger on the second unit as the two are same age.
- Another tree sale season with Dombroski Tree Farm in the Rehm Pool parking lot has concluded.
- The Cheney Geothermal HVAC Re-bid is out to the Public. Bids are due on January 28. We are hopeful that we will have bids that are within our budget.
- The Field Park Renovation project featuring a new playground, spray pad, various site amenities and a new berm went out on January 7, with bids due on January 28.
- A new Maverick Hybrid pickup was purchased in December and received on December 29. The new vehicle is a quad-cab and will be useful transporting up to four staff members to facilities and parks, helping to save fuel cost and improve efficiency.

## HISTORIC PROPERTIES

**Susan Crane, Historical Properties & Special Events Manager**

### Cheney Mansion

- Holiday events filled our calendars at Cheney Mansion and Pleasant Home from Thanksgiving weekend through December 21, here are the numbers:
- Cheney Mansion had 1,231 adults and children attending our holiday events.
- 165 adults attended our 21+ holiday events.

### Pleasant Home

- Pleasant Home had 802 adults and children attending our holiday events.
- 178 adults attended our 21+ holiday events.

### Community Events

- Event tours were still very active at both homes with 30 tours happening in between our events and bookings for 2026 as well as 2027 are brisk. We expect appointments to continue to be strong for weddings through February.
- Winter Fest is currently planned as a pop up event on Saturday, February 7 at Longfellow Park. We will hope for ice for the rink, otherwise we have fun winter themed activities planned both indoors and out and an appearance by “Bumble!”

## OAK PARK CONSERVATORY

**Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture and Conservatory Operations**

- The Conservatory welcomed 2,304 visitors in December.
- During December, there were 3 Rentals, 3 photo shoots, and 1 children's birthday party.
- Storytime had 16 participants.
- Winter Greens wreath and holiday center piece workshops had 40 participants.
- Winter Greens Market took place in December and exceeded budget expectations.
- Volunteer appreciation event was held for park district volunteers on December 4.
- Candlelight Walks took place on the first weekend in December with 466 participants.

## RECREATION

### RIDGELAND COMMON RECREATION COMPLEX

**Mike Baiardo, Superintendent of Special Facilities**

#### Aquatics

- Staff are working on summer training dates for pool staff.
- Staff are going through the interview process for all leadership staff: Pool Assistant Managers, Aquatic Facility Supervisors, and Head Guards. The Aquatic team is looking to make decisions by the end of January.
- Pool Passes will be going on sale in early January.

#### Ice Arena

- The first inaugural Skate with Santa was held on December 19, the new event was extremely successful with 187 people registered. The event had opportunities to skate with Santa and take pictures with Santa and involved decorations, crafts, and free skate for two hours.
- Noon Years Eve Skate was held on December 31, from 10:30am-12:00pm. The total number of participants for this event was extremely successful with 486 people registered and 475 attending. This is an increase of 147 participants from 2024. This event included a balloon drop for the first time which was well received by the public. Skate shop staff received multiple

compliments from participants about the event and their efforts to move the large group of people through the ticket and skate rental process.

- During the school winter break, RCRC ran six days of camp where participants skated for more than two hours a day. Each day we could have a maximum of 16 participants, with registration totaling 66 participants. One of the six days was cancelled due to low enrollment.
- The winter programming sessions of instructional ice programs started the week of January 5. These programs are running for a total of eight weeks through the end of February. Updated enrollment numbers will be provided in February.

#### **Customer Service**

- Noventech has purchased new terminals for the skate shop computers and will be replacing them on January 9. These terminals have been researched and planned for replacing.
- Day Camp registration is scheduled for February 7. Day Camp Managers and Supervisors, including Guest Services Supervisor will be available during the time of registration, for questions and assistants to Guest Service Representatives. There are also two additional Guest Service Representatives on staff that day at RCRC.

## **GYMNASTICS & RECREATION CENTER**

### ***Keith Kerrigan, Program & Operations Manager***

- Our competitive gymnastics teams attended the Ultimate Wish meet in Waukegan December 5-7 and the Pineapple Classic in Schaumburg December 19-21.
- Registration for the Winter 2026 session opened to the Oak Park residents starting December 6 and to non-residents starting December 13. By the end of December, 872 out of 960 class slots were filled.
- The last day of the fall class session was December 21.
- Winter Gymnastics Camp ran on five days during the two weeks of Winter Break. 133 out of 200 slots were filled in total.
- Also during Winter Break, the GRC held nine holiday Preschool Playtimes, Open Gyms, and Family Open Gyms from December 27 to January 4. These drop-in programs had 539 out of a possible 540 registrations.
- The GRC held its second Ninja Challenge of the season on December 28 with times for three different age groups. Altogether, 91 out of 144 slots filled.
- The GRC was closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

## **GENERAL RECREATION**

### ***Joe Lilly, Program Manager***

#### **After School/Teens/Preschool/ECE/Arts/Special Interest/Active Adults/Adventure/Nature**

##### **Afterschool/Teens:**

- 2026-2027 Afterschool Priority Registration opens on January 19 for currently enrolled families and will open the following Saturday for all residents.
- Afterschool participants and staff returned from winter break refreshed on January 6.
- Teen registrations for the Winter season have started off slow.

##### **ECE:**

- 2026-2027 Preschool Priority Registration opens on January 19 for currently enrolled families, will open the following Saturday for all residents, and January 31 for non-residents.
- Indoor playground is currently at 113 members for the season.

- Pjs with the Grinch and a New Years Eve ball drop took place at Stevenson center late last month with a great turn out.
- Busy Bees and Butterflies for January completely filled with a waitlist.

**Arts/Lifelong Learning:**

- Lifelong Learning members are at an all-time high with almost 500 active participants.
- Our yearly nutcracker took place late last month with a great turnout and successful production.
- One-day art class registrations are slow to start the year while series classes remain consistent.

**Nature/Adventure:**

- Archery classes for January have filled up and have shown strong registrations to start the year.
- Nature ongoing classes have seen slow registrations to start the year.

**General Rec Camps:**

- Winter Break camps wrapped for the season with participants enjoying field trips to Chicago History Museum, Bowlero, and others as well as participating in science experiments and crafts. Registration was low on 12/26 but otherwise saw strong numbers the rest of break.
- Summer hiring has begun for 2026. Applications are trickling in slowly.

## COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

*Chad Drufke, Program Manager*

**Fitness/Circus**

- As of January 7, we have 6,150 paid monthly CRC memberships. We also have 3,604 free track memberships and 880 free afterschool memberships. In total, we have 10,634 CRC memberships free or paid.
- The CRC gymnasium floor will be refinished the week of March 30. The track floor will also be cared for that week as well. Both amenities will not be available to members that week.
- The CRC Fitness Equipment Orientation January class is full. The class provides adult members a more in-depth review of our fitness equipment and more importantly how to use the equipment correctly and safely.
- The CRC afterschool program for the month of December averaged 68 participants per day. There was no program the last two weeks of December during holiday break for the schools.
- The CRC afterschool program staff will be leading a parents meeting in late January. The purpose of the meeting is for staff to provide parents with the details of the program their child attends.

**Sports/Martial Arts/Facility Attendants**

- A one-night mixed doubles pickleball tourney is scheduled for Friday, January 9 at the CRC. There are 16 teams registered for the tourney.
- The grade 3-8 youth basketball league began the week of January 5. The league has a total of 425 participants this season.



# Memo

**To:** Christ Wollmuth, Chair, Administration and Finance Committee  
Board of Park Commissioners

**From:** Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance

**Cc:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director

**Date:** January 9, 2026

**Re:** 2025 Tax Year Levy – Abatement Resolution for 2025 Levy Adjustment



## Statement

Starting in 2022, Cook County began automatically increase tax levies to recapture any losses from assessment appeal refunds. The District can abate this levy increase similar to the bond levy abatements until April 1, 2026.

## Discussion

The State of Illinois passed Public Act 102-0519 (SB 508) in 2021, which will direct counties to automatically increase a taxing body's levy by the amount lost due to assessment appeal refunds. This additional levy does not affect the PTELL calculation in future years. The Park District's calculated amount for tax year 2025 is \$120,229.

The 2026 Budget did not include this additional levy. The additional tax as a result of this levy would be \$1.04 per \$100,000 of equalized assessed valuation. Since this levy was not part of the 2026 Budget and has no impact on future PTELL calculations, staff feel it is prudent to abate this levy and not collect the additional taxes from residents.

## Conclusion

The Administration and Finance Committee recommends the 2025 Tax Levy Abatement Resolution 2026-01-01 for the 2025 Tax Year be approved.

*Attached: Abatement Resolution for 2025 Levy 2026-01-01*

**Park District of Oak Park  
Resolution No. 2026-01-01**

A RESOLUTION abating the tax levy increase for 2025  
provided by Public Act 102-0519 (SB 508), of the Park District of  
Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Park Commissioner (the “Board”) of the Park District of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois (the “District”), by ordinance adopted on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025, did provide for the levy of \$13,406,107 in property taxes to fund its operations;

**WHEREAS**, the Property Tax Code was amended by Public Act 102-0519 (SB 508) (the “Act”), providing PTELL Districts an increase to their annual levies as an offset for property tax assessment appeal refunds;

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary and in the best interests of the District that the levy increase due to the Act for the year 2024 be abated in its entirety;

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is hereby resolved by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Abatement of Tax. The levy increase heretofore levied for the year 2025 as a result of Public Act 102-0519 (SB508), namely one hundred twenty thousand two hundred and twenty nine dollars (\$120,229), is hereby abated in its entirety.

Section 2. Filing of Resolution. Forthwith upon the adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of the Board shall file a certified copy hereof with the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, and it shall be the duty of said County Clerk to abate said tax levied for the year 2025 in its entirety in accordance with the provisions hereof.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect forthwith upon its adoption.

Adopted by roll call vote January 15, 2026.

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_

Absent & Not Voting: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kassie Porreca, Park Board President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy Lentz, Secretary

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
                         ) SS.  
COUNTY OF COOK )

**SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE**

I, Sandy Lentz, do hereby certify that I am Secretary of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois and as such official, I am keeper of the records, ordinances, files and seal of said Park District, and

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing instrument is a true and correct copy of the Ordinance No. 2026-01-01 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION** abating the tax levy increase for 2025  
provided by Public Act 102-0519 (SB 508), of the Park District of  
Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois.

adopted at a duly called Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District of Oak Park, held at Oak Park, Illinois, in said District at 7:00 p.m. on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

I do further certify that the deliberations of the Board on the adoption of said resolution were conducted openly, that the vote on the adoption of said resolution was taken openly, that said meeting was called and held at a specified time and place convenient to the public, that notice of said meeting was duly given to all of the news media requesting such notice, that said meeting was called and held in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, and with the provisions of the Park District Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and that the Board complied with all of the provisions of said Act and said Code and with all of the procedural rules of the Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto affix my official signature and seal of the said Park District at Oak Park, Illinois, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

January 15, 2026

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Sandy Lentz, Secretary  
Board of Park Commissioners

(SEAL)



# Memo

**To:** Park District of Oak Park Board Members

**From:** Scott Sekulich, Registration and Customer Support Manager

**Cc:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director

**Date:** January 12, 2026

**Re:** 2025 Scholarship and CDM Report

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## Scholarship and CDM Statement

The Park District of Oak Park Scholarship Program exists to provide programs and services to our residents who might otherwise financially not be able to participate. Sources of approved funding include \$10,000 from the Township of Oak Park, non-resident fees, patron donations (\$7,313), and proceeds from the FLW race (\$42,377). We saw a 13.2% increase in usage of scholarships and an approximate 6% increase in Childcare Discount Membership discounts in 2025. A total of \$159,082 in scholarship funds used toward a total of 4,368 activities and memberships compared to \$140,450 in 2024. We also saw an increase in CDM discounts (\$172,260 vs \$162,240 in 2024). Some of the reasons for the increase can be attributed to some new marketing efforts laid out in the report below.

Criteria for 2025 scholarship eligibility remained the same as it did in 2024

- \$300 maximum funding for each qualified family member.
- No household maximum.
- Registrations can take place any time throughout the year.
- 3 tiers of financial qualification exist. (Tier 1 provides 75% funding; Tier 2 provides 55% funding; and Tier 3 provides 35% funding towards program and pass fees.)

Criteria for 2025 CDM remained the same as it did in 2024

- Three AGI tiers (0-\$41k, 41K–68.5K, 68.5K-105K).
- Tier 1 provides 55% funding; Tier 2 provides 40% funding; and Tier 3 provides 25% funding towards program fees.)
- Grades K-Age 14.
- No limits.
- Must be used toward full day camps (6hrs or more) or afterschool Clubhouse.

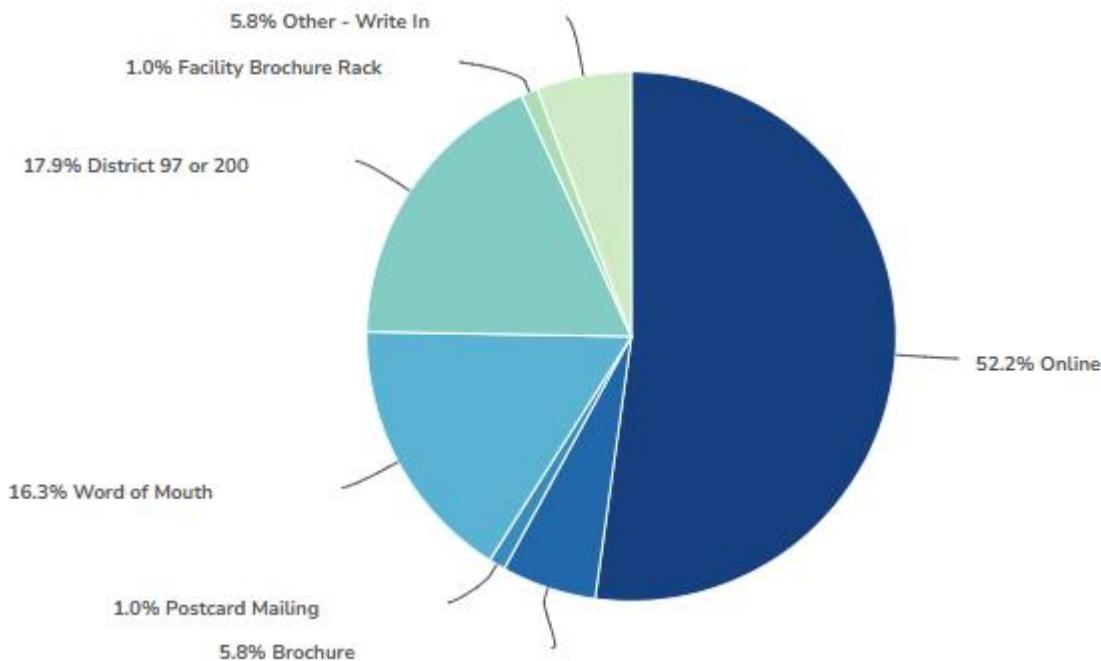
## Marketing Efforts

An integrated marketing effort was launched which included paid social media, e-news, dedicated postcard to all Oak Park residents, web slider, REACH Screens, RCRC Marquee to all Oak Park addresses.

Additionally, we continue to include on flyers, OP/FYI, D97 Marketing, and the application remains within the first hand full of pages of our program guides.

- Web Slider: 17,000 users viewed the homepage during the slider's lifetime.
- Social: 10.5k views. 132 Clicks.
- Collaboration with D97 with the 2 free weeks of camp for interested students receiving Free/Reduced lunch for incoming 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> graders. This collaboration results in 76 families (89 students) receiving a total of 156 camps for free.

Here is where new applicants found out about the PDOP financial assistance.



## Scholarship Statistics

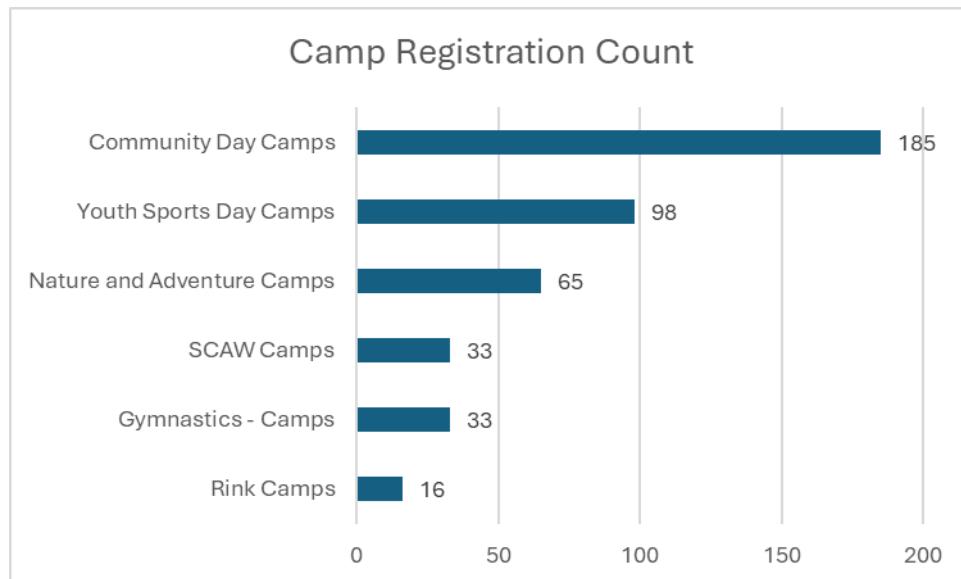
A total of 518 households were approved for Scholarship in 2024 while we had only 472 in 2024. Of these 518 households, only 437 ended up using funding. Within the 437 households there were 966 (922 in 2024) unique individuals using funds.

Scholarship Tier	% Approved
Tier 1 PDOP Scholarship 75%	76%
Tier 2 PDOP Scholarship 55%	14%
Tier 3 PDOP Scholarship 35%	10%

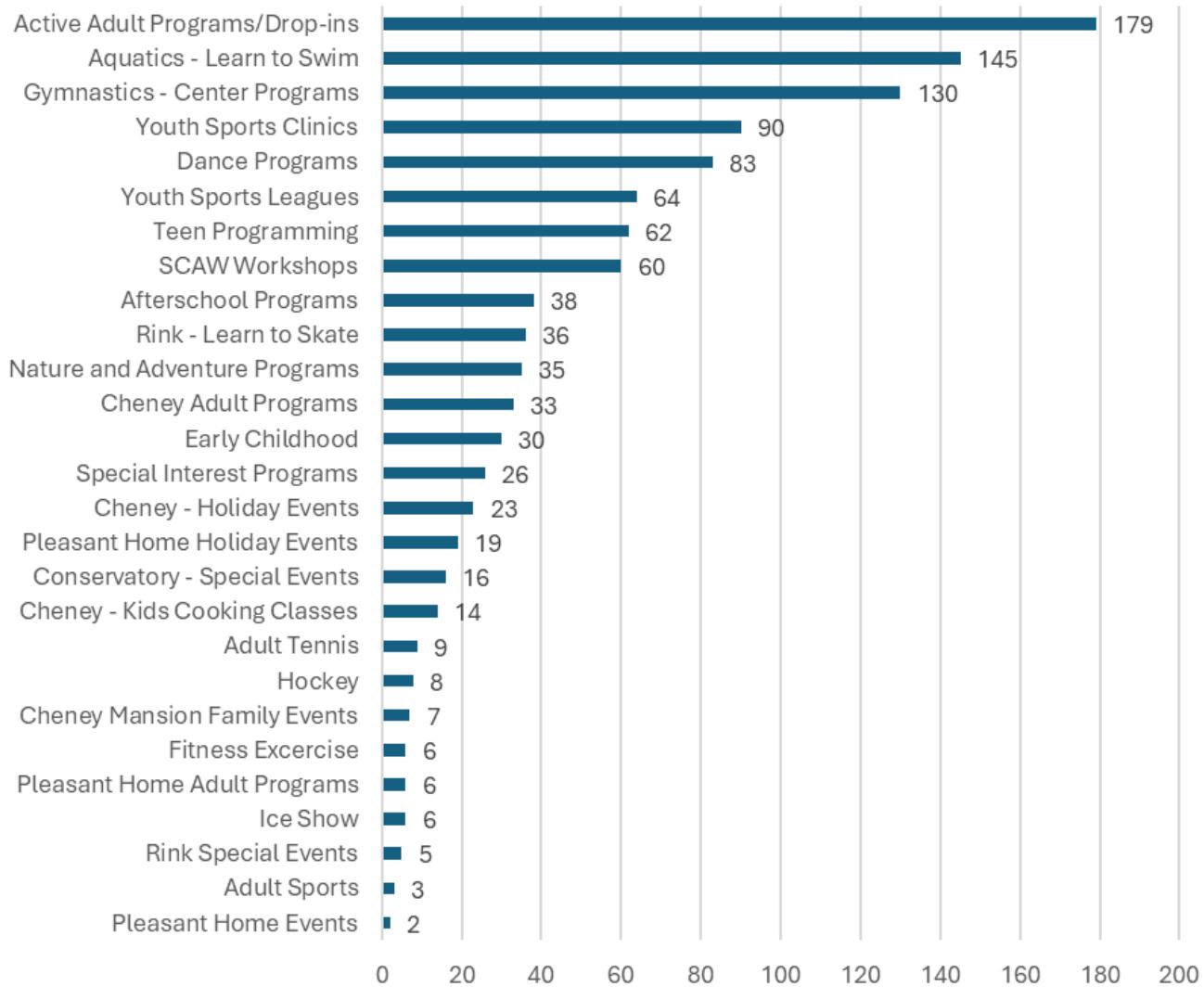
\*\* We saw an approximate 4% shift from Tier 2 to Tier 3

26% of individuals who received scholarships used between 95-100% of their scholarship funds.

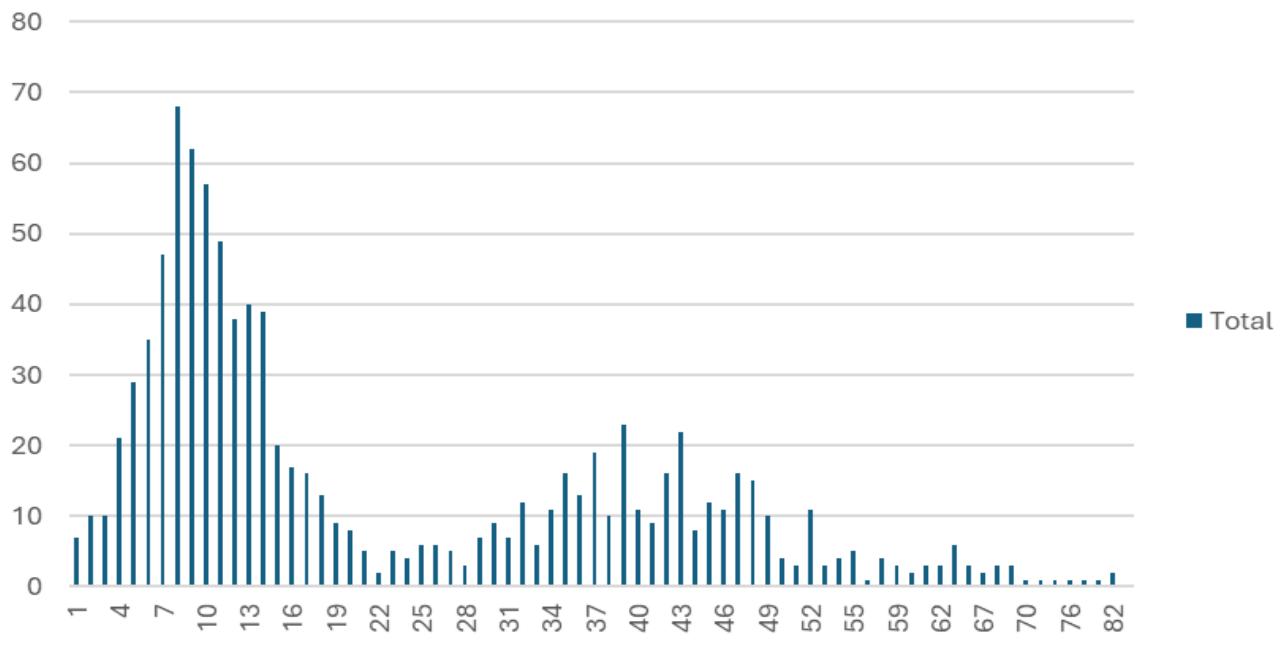
% of scholarship used per person	% of approved persons
95-100% Used	26%
80-94% Used	7%
65-79% Used	11%
50-64% Used	9%
35-49% Used	8%
20-34% Used	17%
19-1% Used	23%



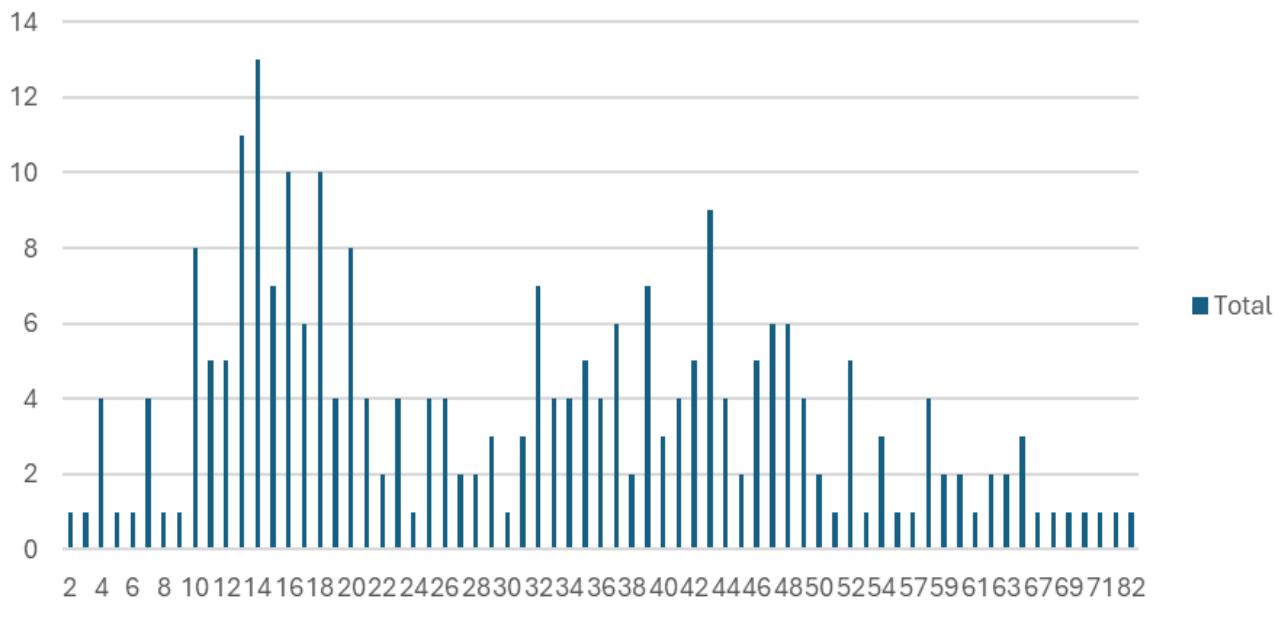
## Registration by Type (no Passes)

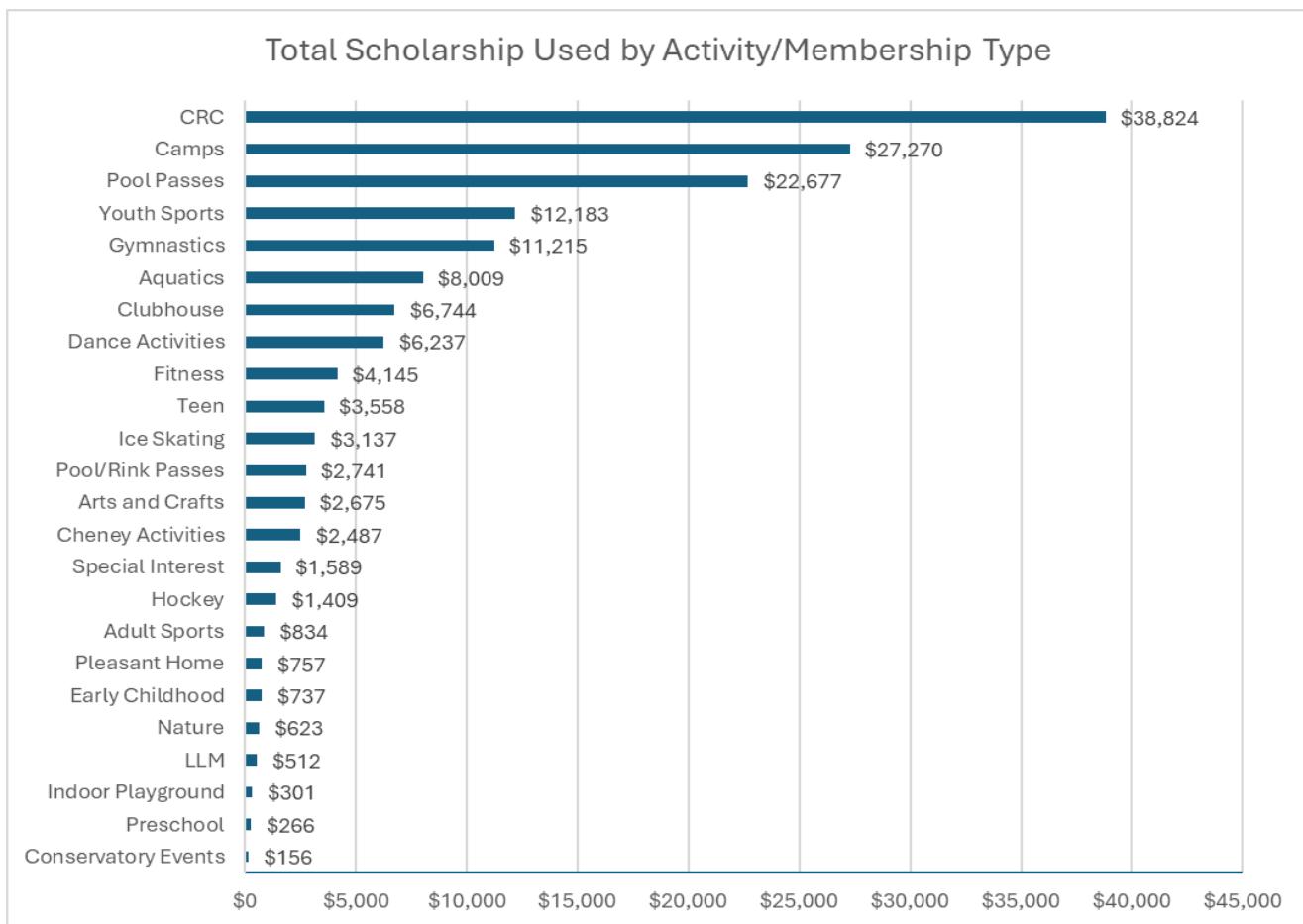
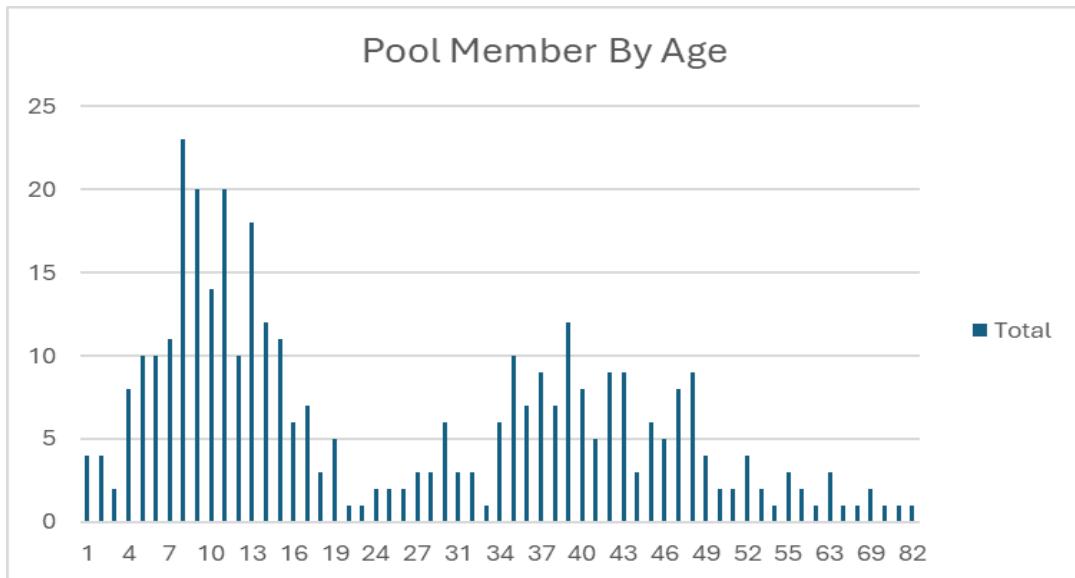


### Total # of Unique Recipients by age

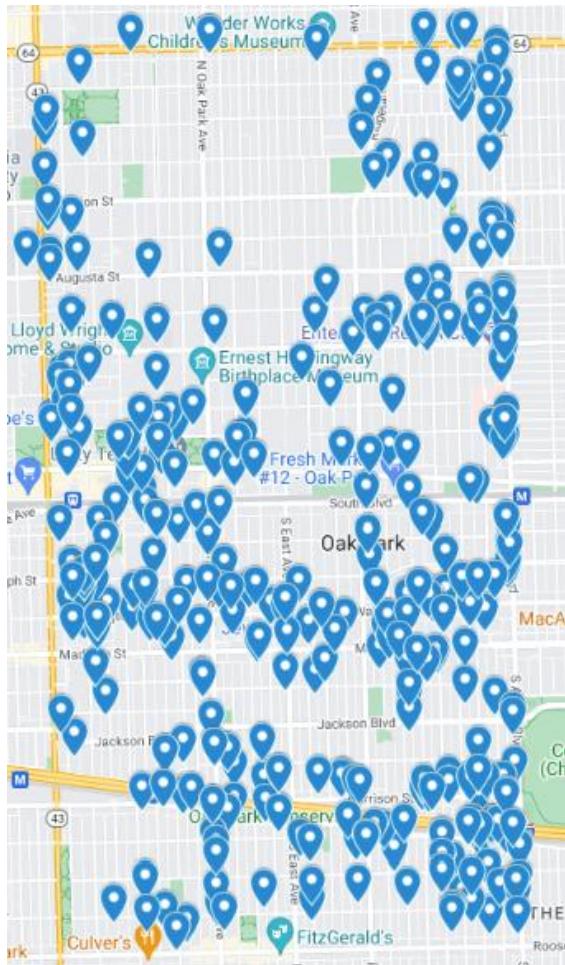


### CRC Members by Age

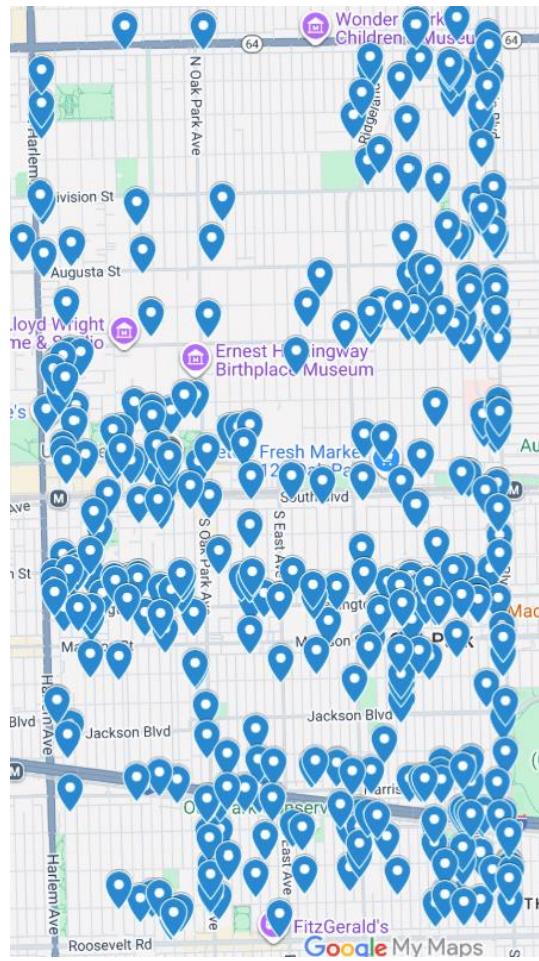




Map from 2024



Map from 2025

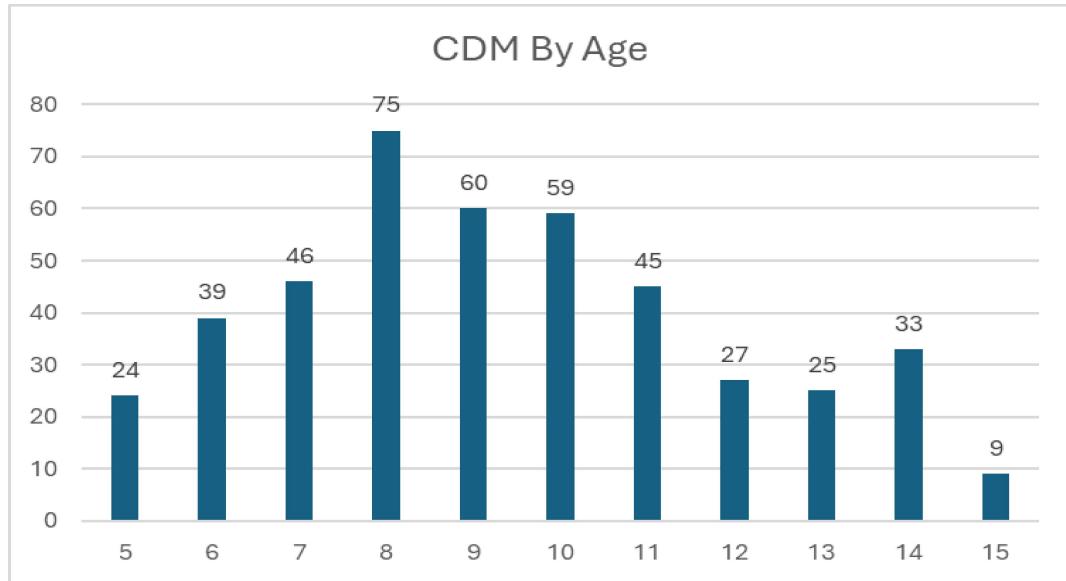


## Childcare Discount Membership Statistics

In the fifth year of the Childcare Discount Membership, our total discounts issued went from \$162,240 to \$172,260. This is the total discounted amount however this number is high due to the inability to report on how much was reversed due to cancelations. To be eligible, the combined household adjusted gross income must be \$105,000 or less. A total of 296 households were approved, including 443 children who could benefit from the CDM program. Sixteen families were approved for the CDM that did not qualify for the scholarship.

## Statistics

CDM Discount Type	Children Approved
Tier 1 Childcare Discount membership 55% 2025	303
Tier 2 Childcare Discount Membership 40% 2025	96
Tier 3 Childcare Discount Membership 25% 2025	44



## **Conclusion**

We continue to see an increase in financial assistance, but the rate of the increase appears to be slowing. 2025 was a record year in financial assistance provided to our community. We will continue efforts to increase awareness to our program.

There are no changes to the financial assistance for 2026, however we do expect a larger participation now in the 3rd year of collaboration with D97 for two free weeks of camp for incoming 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

Scott Sekulich, Registration and Customer Support Manager, will be at the meeting to answer questions and provide additional information and insight into this information.

**Below are some experiences shared by financial assistance recipients:**

I truly enjoyed access to CRC! I'm so appreciative of this program because I wouldn't have discovered this amazing gym located right in my backyard. It has given me an outlet, to be able to use the equipment and access the basketball area, has allowed me to focus on my health and fitness goals and to decompress. Thank you!

Being able to attend the CRC to work out while my son goes to the play zone is wonderful for the both of us! We also met a couple of friends along the way!

I have been a community member growing up in Oak Park participating in many offerings the Park District offered. As my family has gone through transitional periods in life, The Park District of Oak Park has been extremely instrumental in creating programming dedicated to physical health, mental well-community connection, socialization and learning new skills throughout the lives of my family. Generations of families are enjoying the programing, and we look forward to participating in many more. Thank you for all that you do for the community.

I enjoyed my Wednesday evening ballet classes. I have always wanted to take ballet since I was a young girl, but my family wasn't able to pay for the classes. When I saw that the GRC had ballet classes, I was really excited to sign up and attend. The classes and teacher were amazing. I have taken the class 3 times because I love ballet.

I haven't been able to afford a gym membership. Being able to go to the CRC has been huge as I am trying to get back in shape after years of depression.

It is extremely important to me that I give my kids opportunities that were not available to me. Watching them flourish in summer camp with kids that go to school with them is healing for me AND them. They are not "othered" - they are able to share experiences with their classmates rather than just hear about them. They can maintain structure and routine through summer while also being excited to get up and go to their new camps each week. PDOP camps are truly magical.

It made a lot of changes for my husband as he has chronic immune system issue that needs regular exercising routine to be managed without medical treatments. Getting the scholarship for him to pick back up his daily work-out routine is making his pain issues gone! Otherwise, my kids are also enjoying their new sports on the skating rink. It made them feel so proud of themselves being able to learn something new and not fearful of falling as they come to the new country without too much financial support. Thank you, Oak Park, so much!

My daughter and I loved being able to go the pool and have ultimate fun there. She was able to see her friends from school and neighborhood. I was able to connect with other parents and stay updated with community events etc. The gym was the best for me as I was having bad health issues. I had to get a blood transfusion and iron infusions for months. Twice a month, I was getting infusions until my surgery. The gym helped me so much to go in and take an hour to strengthen my muscles and get healthier. I have been recovering from surgery and hoping to get back into the gym soon.

My daughter has excelled as a gymnast, my son is taking JR Lifeguard classes with hopes to become a PDOP Lifeguard, and both of them have attended and been enriched by the CRC. I have three children who have all attended various programs and found friendships, confidence, and self-esteem/self-worth was built.

My family and I have had wonderful moments at the Park District of Oak Park, especially during the summer camp programs. Last year, my kids participated in the nature exploration camp, and it was a transformative experience for them. They not only made new friends but also learned so much about the local ecosystem. The counselors were fantastic and truly made the activities engaging and educational. Watching my children discover a love for nature and the outdoors was incredibly fulfilling. Additionally, we often visit the local parks for family picnics and community events, which have strengthened our bond as a family and helped us connect with our neighbors. The scholarship program made these opportunities possible for us, and I am deeply grateful for the Park District's commitment to enriching lives through meaningful experiences.

My husband has attended a Valentine's event through the PDOP for six of the past ten years, not including the one he will be attending in a couple of weeks. He took our oldest daughter for three years, and he will take our youngest for the fourth time this year. These are core "daddy/daughter" memories that will remain with all of them for the rest of their lives.

Water exercise in the summer at the two pools is a major part of my aging life. I am a disabled senior and fairly isolated. I benefit in so many ways by participating in this group activity with other seniors.

We have had many but I think our most meaningful experience would be last summer. My youngest two children did not know how to swim at all. And on the first day at the pool my son was so excited he jumped in not thinking about how deep the water was. I didn't see him at first and then I saw his little head bobbing up and down and I jumped in. I was terrified and so was he. We worked on getting over our fear over the next few weeks and I taught him how to swim. By the end of the summer he was doing tricks off of the diving board and my youngest getting her doggie paddle down and floaties off. I'm so thankful we had the access and ability to do so with help from this scholarship to get pool passes. So thank you to everyone who makes this opportunity possible for families like mine. It's truly a blessing.

My son who doesn't have too many friends was able to attend the CRC after school where he met other children and played with them. They didn't treat him any differently due to his condition. He loves it so much and wants to attend everyday after school. He also participated this past summer where he learned how to swim. Everyone was so nice and caring for the children during the lessons. With the scholarship I was able to afford for him to attend.