



2024

Year In Review

Board of Commissioners

President
Kathryn O'Connor

Vice President
Mary Louise Knoerzer

Secretary
Dan Gilbert

Treasurer
Mike Gandy

Commissioner
Jeff Apel

Commissioner
Steve Jacobson

Commissioner
Bob Lindbloom

Mission Statement

The Mokena Community Park District is committed to enhancing lives through the power of recreation by providing exceptional parks, facilities, programs, events, and services for all to explore and enjoy.

Vision:
Working together to build an active vibrant, welcoming, connected, safe and healthy community.

Values:
Our mission is guided by these values; Collaboration, Community Engagement, Safety, Sustainability, Cleanliness, Comfort and Inclusion.



New Communication Board Installed at Willowview Park

The Communication Board was donated and installed by Kai Hough for his Eagle Scout Project. Communication Boards are a reliable tool for individuals with speech, language, or communication challenges to interact with each other. They contribute to a more inclusive environment, so they are a popular amenity in parks and other public spaces.



Go Team!

MCPD Administration staff sported their favorite teams for the NFL opening weekend.

The Finance Department Streamlines Many Procedures

- The Mokena Park District’s budget has been revamped.
- Department heads now have access to the budget and expenditures in real time.
- Quarterly budget meetings have been added.
- Transparency allows for better planning and future forecasting.



Andrea Stoettner stepped up to a new position as Accounting/Payroll Coordinator II and took on additional responsibilities as board secretary and Safety Coordinator.

Bond Rating Review

The Park District had a bond rating review in August. We are happy to announce that the S&P Global Ratings affirmed it’s AA+ long-term rating on the Mokena Park District outstanding debt.

Fund Balances Increase from Prior Year

The Park District’s Fund Balances as of 6/30/24 increased by \$212,003 from the prior year.

The MCPD Safety Committee Attended the PDRMA RMI (Risk Management Institute)

The Safety Committee and several other staff members attended the yearly PDRMA conference at the Tinley Park Convention Center. RMI offers a variety of informative seminars about safety and health and wellness topics.



Mokena Park District is Featured Twice in the Mokena Neighbors Magazine

On the cover of the May edition was Beth Waller, The Oaks Manager of Recreation Facility Operations and Rentals with Kristin Ehler, Fitness & Wellness Supervisor. The article was about the many amenities that are available at the Fitness Center, Disc Golf Course, Park 'n Bark Dog Park and Rental spaces for events. On the cover of the August edition was Greg Vitale, Executive Director at the Splash Park. The article described the Yunker Farm Renovations which will be completed in spring of 2025.



Social Committee Creates Staff Camaraderie with Year-Round Events

The Social Committee hosted a Soup Contest, Appetizer Contest, Staff Picnic and Holiday Party,



2024 Holiday Party



Appetizer Party Contest Winners



Welcome To The Team!



Pamela Krynski
Oaks Guest Services Supervisor



Joe Lesniak
Oaks Maintenance Assistant



Andrea Smaga
Recreation Supervisor



Lisa Tassone
Customer Service/
Recreation Support

Renovations for the Yunker Park Barn and Splash Park

Broke ground on the renovation of the Yunker Farm Barn. The barn is being transformed into a year-round recreation and rental destination, complete with a large event space, an adjacent party room, a kitchenette, a patio and earth-friendly geothermal heating and cooling. This project is funded through a combination of a grant and financing and without any tax increase.



Completion is Expected in Spring 2025

Improving Parks with Fiscal Responsibility

\$157,000 GRANT AWARDED Awarded a grant for **\$157,000** from the American Rescue Plan Act to be used towards the addition of earth-friendly geothermal heating and cooling at the Yunker Park Barn.

\$40,000 GRANT AWARDED Awarded a grant for **\$40,000** through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to be used towards any park improvement.

\$ SAVINGS Saved thousands of dollars by publicly bidding the Boulder Ridge Park playground, Timbers Point playground and Riivendell Park playground renovations together instead of separately.

SAVED \$18,546 ON PARK RENOVATION Saved **\$18,546** on the award of the Acorn Park playground renovation by choosing cooperative purchasing. The playground will be installed in early 2025.

\$ SAVINGS OF OVER \$100,000 Decreased the cost of the LED lights at the Hecht Park Pickleball Courts by **over \$100,000** by redesigning the original pole configuration.

Installed 5 Branded Park Signs with the New Park District Logo

New signs were installed at Acorn Park, Boulder Ridge Park, Hecht Park, Manchester Cove Park, and Timbers Point Park.



Improved the Employee Experience

- Updated the pay week days to improve the employee experience.
- Improved employee attraction and retention by offering recreation program, membership and rental benefits to part-time employees.
- Enriched employee medical insurance benefits by increasing Park-District contribution to employee health insurance accounts and decreasing the amount the employees must pay towards family insurance coverage

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Partnered with the Mokena Police Department for the Second Trunk or Treat Event at The Oaks Parking Lot



Independence Day Celebration

Wednesday, July 3
Main Park
10925 La Porte Rd.,
Mokena

TCBY, Chick-fil-A, Kona Ice, The Dock on Front Street will offer food.

Brotherhood Brewing will offer a mixture of seltzers, sours and beers.

The Dock on Front Street will offer Margaritas.

Food Trucks
4:30-9:45pm*

Encore Concert Band:
5-6:45pm*

Whiskey Road
7:30-9:30pm*

Fireworks
9:30pm*

The event and parking is free. For a list of parking locations, please visit mokenapark.com.

*Times are Approximate, food/drink options subject to change.

Community Partnerships

Hosted the Mokena PTA Color Run at Main Park

The event had over 700 attendees.



Partnered with the Village of Mokena for the July 3rd Festivities

Enhanced July 3rd Festivities resulted in record attendance. The event featured a new band and more food trucks.



Hosted the Mokena Police Department's Third National Night Out Event at Yunker Park



New Event Created and Organized by Recreation Department Intern

The Family Trivia Night was a free event sponsored by ATI Physical Therapy. Our intern, Alyssa organized the event and ran four rounds of trivia and everyone was able to pick a prize.



Alyssa Kochanny,
Recreation Department
Fall Intern

Enhanced Halloween Hollow

Due to the construction on the farm we added more food vendors and a beer tent. The changes were meant for one year only, but will likely be permanent due to the positive guest feed back.



Family Superhero Night



Participation was increased by 23 people for this year's event.

Senior Lunch Bunch & Bingo has Tripled in Size from Two Years Ago

The March Lunch Bunch bingo prizes had a festive spring theme.



Afternoon Tea

This event was in cooperation with Frankfort Park District. Four participants were from Mokena.



NEW PROGRAMS in 2024

- Art-a-Palooza
- Abilities Art Session
- Acting Workshop
- ASL (American Sign Language) Learn to Sign
- Babysitter Boot Camp
- Bocce Ball Tournament
- Comic Book Workshop
- Creative Ceramic Painting
- "Disney's High School Musical JR."
- Do Art Productions Creative Writing Workshop
- Do Art Productions Halloween Painting Workshop
- Education on the Farm
- ESL (English as a Second Language)
- Family Barn Day at Nova Quarter Horses
- Father's Day Cup Making Class
- Grammie/Grampie & Me Intro to Crystals
- Grandparent's Day
- Kindermusik Experience
- Kindermusik Programs
- Knife Skills Class with Farm House Academy
- Lacrosse
- Learn to Paint
- Little Doctor School
- Little Veterinarian School-Cat
- Little Veterinarian School-Dog
- Mommy and me Playgroup
- Mother's Day Vase Making Class
- Natural Wool Dyes
- Paint your Pet
- Pierogi Workshop
- Pizza Workshop Cooking Class
- Plaited Cedar Basket Making
- Poetry Workshop
- Ready to Paint Ceramic
- Red Note Choir
- Salla Bag Making
- Seniors Creative Mingle Session
- Senior Creative Wheel of Art Splat
- Simply Music Playdates
- STEM Sleuths
- Summer Singles Cornhole League
- Supper at the Farm
- Tortellini Pasta-Cooking Class
- Wilderness Medicine
- Wilmot Mountain Ski Resort Trip

Great Start for a New Event!

Donuts with the Bunny had 47 participants for it's first year and we also received a donation of donuts from Fleckenstein's Bakery.



Adventure Camp Attendance Grows by 40% Since it Started 2 years Ago

Average campers per day:
2022-20, 2023-24, 2024-28.



Adult Egg Hunt

The Adult Egg Hunt ran for the first time after different attempts. We had 22 participants that found eggs and received prizes and enjoyed a nice dinner.



New! Unplug Mokena, Free Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day was held at Yunker Park in July. 100 free kites were handed out for kids to color and then fly them. Family games, water balloon toss and the Splash pad was free during the event.



Baseball Field Renovations were Made at Hecht Park

Renovations made to Hecht Park Baseball Field #1 and all fencing was upgraded from basic chain-link to black-coated.

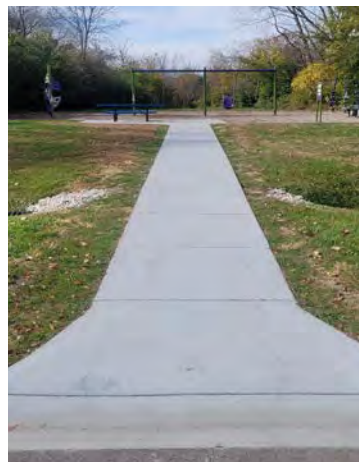


New Paths to Increase Accessibility were Added at Tinley Gardens Park and Riivendell Park

Rebuilt drainage and an added pathway from the street to increase accessibility to the playground by wheelchair, stroller and bicycle.



Tinley Gardens Park



Riivendell Park

**BOULDER
RIDGE PARK
PLAYGROUND
RENOVATION
2024**





Renovations at Rüvendell Park





Volunteers Make the Parks More Beautiful While Helping the Butterflies



Butterflies R' Us volunteers planted sunflowers, milkweed and wildflowers around the parks. The plantings enhanced the landscape and helped to improve the butterfly population.

New LED Lights at Hecht Park Pickleball Courts

Programmable LED lights were added to the Hecht Park Pickleball Courts to allow for evening play. Bollard lights were installed between the courts for added safety and security.



Bollard Lights

PARKS & FACILITIES

Resurfaced and Re-coated Basketball Courts at Marley Creek Park and Heritage Park



Marley Creek Park



Heritage Park

Installed a New Gaga Ball Pit at Hecht Park that was Donated by the MCPD Foundation



Converted Diamond 4 at Main Park from an Open Concept to a Fenced Enclosed Field



Installed a New Windscreen with the Park District Logo on the Fence at the Hecht Park Pickleball Courts





Timbers Point Park Playground Renovations 2024



The Chestnut Room is Renovated for Rental Space

The Chestnut Room was renovated into a party room and rental space with a new wall mural. Artists: Robbyn Really and assistant Laurie Holt.



Chestnut Room Mural

New Signage for the North and South Field Houses and Courts

Colorful identification signage that will help guests at The Oaks to locate the correct field house, court and other amenities.





Landscaping Upgrades
at The Oaks Recreation
& Fitness Center

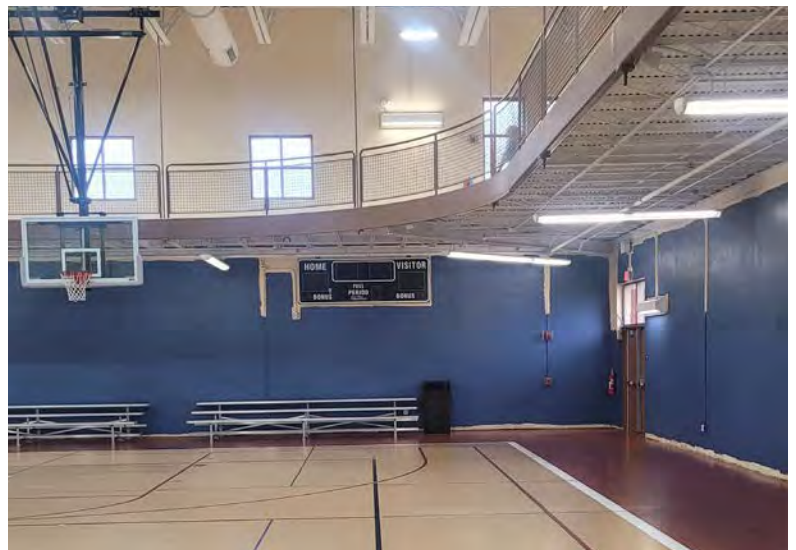


ADA Updates for The Oaks Entrance

The aging concrete at the entrance was replaced and multiple ADA pads were installed to assist those who are visually impaired.



The Oaks North Field House Gets a Fresh Coat of Paint with New Colors



The Oaks Members Leave Complimentary Responses for the New Valentine's Promotion: *Why Do You Love The Oaks?*



The staff is always caring, motivating and challenges us to be our personal best.

Cathy L.

I love the exercise classes and the instructors, the smiles I see all day, so blessed to be part of The Oaks.

Jen M.

The Oaks is so clean, the facility feels more inviting now. I really see the change. Love it!

Donna W.

I love that I get a workout in a good environment.

William W.

Community Service

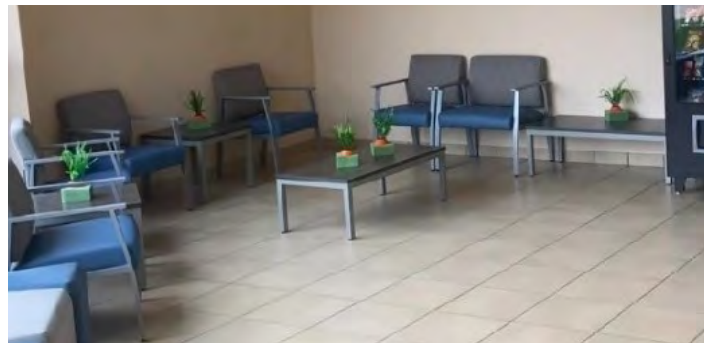
- > Partnership with library for walking/book club
- > Scout Troop meeting spaces
- > Prime Timers
- > 6 large boxes of food donated to Frankfort Food Pantry
- > 5 large boxes of toys collected for Toy for Tots
- > 2 large boxes of coats collected for the Mokena and Frankfort Lions Clubs

Member Appreciation Days

St. Patrick's Day and Halloween are just a few Appreciation Days we have throughout the year.

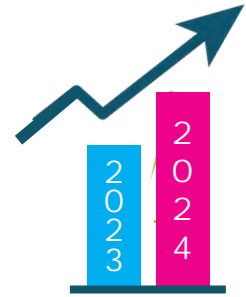


Added New Lounge Seating and New Flooring for the Free Weights Area



The Oaks 2024 by the Numbers

The Oaks "Jump Into Fitness" promotion in January 2024 generated over **\$104,000** in revenue, making a **75.3%** increase compared to January 2023. This resulted in a remarkable return on investment (ROI) of **275%**.



 <p>Walking Track 8,958 Visits</p>	 <p>Fitness Center Visits 105,257 An increase of 20% from 2023</p>	 <p>Open Gym 12,369 Visits</p>	 <p>Pickleball 4,000 Visits</p>
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An Open Gym ID card was launched in September 2024, providing a variety of benefits, including streamlined entry, and enhanced security and accountability.

New Fitness Programs



- > New Fitness Programs
- > CIRCL Mobility®
- > Girl Power Training
- > Hip Hop Event
- > Meet the Trainer
- > Playful Pilates
- > Pickleball Strength & Injury Prevention
- > Meditation Series
- > Wise & Fit

New Handball and Disc Golf Tournaments



Extended Pickleball and Splash Pad Hours



SUMMER PICKLEBALL SCHEDULE

Thursdays 8am-noon
Fridays 3pm-7:30pm
Sundays 8am-noon

June 3-Aug 9

THE OAKS
RECREATION & FITNESS CENTER

Yunker Barn

SPLASH PAD

Welcome!

Hours:
Sun-Tues & Thurs-Sat
12:00-5:30pm*
Wednesdays
2:30-7:00pm*

*Times may vary due to events

New Fitness Equipment

- > Curve Treadmill
- > Dead Lift Area
- > Full Set of Dumbbells
- > 2 Matrix Indoor Cycling Bikes
- > Matrix Ascent Trainer
- > Glute Lift Pro
- > True Lever Row
- > Vertical Climber
- > Benches: 1 seated, 2 ab and 1 back extension



Matrix Indoor Cycles



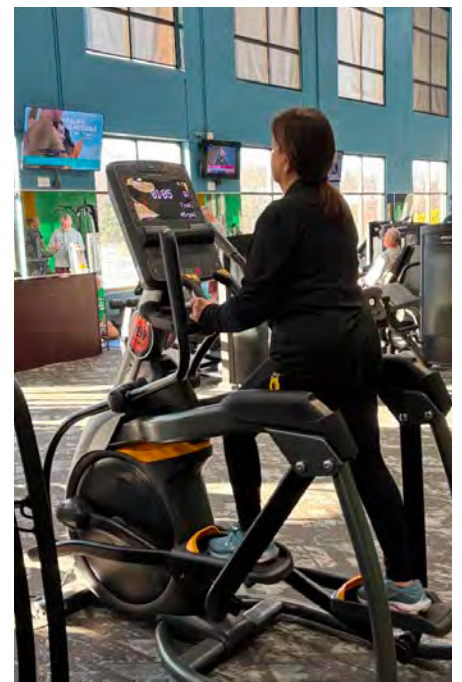
Curve Treadmill



Vertical Climber



True Lever Row



Ascent Trainer

Monthly Specials at The Oaks for New and Current Members

The Oaks offers monthly specials throughout the year from discounts on personal training, to free months added to your membership.



Dead Lift Area

New Fitness Equipment



Dead Lift Area



Glute Lift Pro



New Floor in Free Weight Area



Full Set of Dumbbells and Bench

Unplug Mokena!
Free Family Fun Day

