



In the KNOW

Winter 2012

Dear Residents:

We've planned for it for years; we've talked about it for months, and now you are going to see it happening! Shortly after the New Year, the two-year construction phase of the Heritage Park redevelopment will begin.

It is important to note that during construction, Heritage Park will be closed to all pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and parking around the Community Recreation Center (CRC) and Aquatic Center will be altered. However, the CRC, Fitness Center, Arctic Splash indoor pool, and Aquatic Center (in season) will remain open throughout construction. This project will require patience from all of us. Parking may be inconvenient at times, but please know that Staff will work to keep you informed of any changes that may affect your visit to the Wheeling Park District.

To aid in the communication process, a new Web site, www.HeritageParkProject.info, dedicated exclusively to the redevelopment of Heritage Park, will be launched in January. This site will have up-to-the-minute progress reports on the construction as well as important information that CRC and Aquatic Center guests will need to know. Until then, the Heritage Park Master Plan Report is available for viewing on the Wheeling Park District Web site at www.wheelingparkdistrict.com, or at the Guest Service Desk at the CRC.

While we all understand that the construction process can be inconvenient at times, the Park District Board and Staff could not be more excited for guests to enjoy the end result. Once completed, Heritage Park will feature:

- 2,400-square-foot band shell with a hardscaped plaza
- Athletics complex with lighted synthetic turf baseball/softball/soccer/football fields and electric scoreboards
- 2,500-square-foot, two-story concession and restroom building
- 1,300-square-foot pavilion
- Boardwalk across the basin from Wolf Road into Heritage Park
- Two-lane vehicle bridge over Buffalo Creek to a new parking lot
- Expansion and shoreline improvements to Lake Heritage
- Buffalo Creek stabilization plantings
- Walking paths around the park perimeter with natural landscaping and seating
- Extensive site landscaping

This project was made possible due to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Wheeling Park District, Village of Wheeling, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). This agreement will meet the needs of each agency while providing benefits back to Wheeling and other communities along the Des Plaines River. The partnership calls for compensatory storage at Heritage Park for the Levee 37 project on the Des Plaines River without hindering the Heritage Park Master Plan or the operations of the park. The broad-ranging benefits of this intergovernmental agreement serve as a model of what can be achieved when entities partner for the betterment of the constituencies. The agreement, which was authorized by the Park District Board of Commissioners on February 9, 2010, calls for the Park District to transfer property along Wolf Road to MWRDGC for compensatory storage for the levee. This land currently hosts the Park District's Parks and Facility Services building and a water detention area. Once complete, this area will contain a storm water storage basin featuring natural grass and native landscaping. The basin will be bordered by ornamental decorative fencing. Additional storage also is provided throughout the park in a manner that does not compromise the enjoyment of the facilities.

MWRDGC also provided the Park District with additional funds to replace the existing Parks and Facility Maintenance building located at 222 S. Wolf Road. These funds were used to help purchase and renovate a new facility located at 245 Egidi Drive.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Wheeling Park District, I thank you, in advance for your patience and understanding as we work to make Heritage Park the pride and joy of the Wheeling community.

Yours in Parks and Recreation,

Jan Buchs, Executive Director
Wheeling Park District

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New Entrance to Husky Park

Neighbors now have a new view of Husky Park thanks to the completed entrance from Norman Lane. This improvement “opened up” the park to the neighborhood addressing residents’ concerns for better access and security.

The house and garage at 228 W. Norman Lane were demolished this summer and all debris removed. A new asphalt path into the park was constructed in the fall. Park District Staff then completed the site grading, planted sod in the area, and constructed a new sign.

As far back as 2006, neighborhood residents shared their views on Husky Park with Park District Staff and Board at a public listening session in which both issues and opportunities of the park were discussed. A similar public meeting also was held prior to the purchase of the property to review previous public comments and discuss expansion of the park. The purchase of the property and resulting improvements were a direct response to the concerns presented by the residents.



Before



After

Northside Park Is Open

Getting to the top of the 20-foot tall, 360-degree enclosed slide at the new Northside Park playground is an adventure. Three slides on the 32-foot structure are configured at different heights to offer children, ages five to 12 years, a variety of exciting challenges. The multi-leveled enclosed stairs to the top of the imposing structure allow for crawl tunnels from one level to the next, many play opportunities, and a viewing platform.

The playground design, based on feedback from neighborhood residents and Hawthorne Early Childhood Center staff, features individual climbing pieces, belt swings, tot swings, tire swing, spinning and spring toys, free-standing infinity climber, and individual musical play panels all set on a cushioned safety surface. Seat walls, additional benches, and new trash and recycling receptacles compliment the space. A new pathway loops the entire perimeter of the 3.06-acre park located at 200 Glendale Street adjacent to the Hawthorne Early Childhood Center. The new ball field is another dramatic improvement. New fencing, new back stop, and new player benches offer a much more player-friendly configuration.

With the exception of the fencing and asphalt path, all work on Northside Park was done by Wheeling Park District staff and completed in mid-November. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration will be scheduled in the spring. Watch for more information in future *In the Know* publications and on the Wheeling Park District Web site.



Arctic Splash Gets a New Look

The Arctic Splash indoor pool will be closed for two weeks to undergo a series of improvements. The pool will reopen on Monday, January 2. Guests may have already noticed the removal of the roller blinds from the windows and the addition of the glare-reducing tinted film. By reflecting light and rejecting harmful ultra-violet rays, the tinted film helps improve visibility for guests’ safety. Additional upgrades include painting of the walls to feature bright designs and contrasting colors and replacement of the old blue and gray sound absorbing baffles with newer technology “sails” to better control noise and improve acoustics. The original stereo and speaker system also will be upgraded with a new sound system.

All indoor pool passholders are invited to join mascot Petie the Polar Bear for the grand opening celebration on Sunday, January 8, from 4 to 6 PM. Admission is free for the afternoon of swimming, games, prizes, and refreshments. More information is available on the Web site at www.wheelingparkdistrict.com.

Arctic Splash opened in 1999 with a four-lane, 25 yard lap pool, and zero-depth entry leisure pool. The pool was part of a significant renovation to the Community Recreation Center which also included the addition of the current Fitness Center. Since 1999, the indoor pool has been host to thousands of swimmers, young and old.



Celebrating 50 Years of Memorable Experiences!

Thank you for celebrating our 50th Anniversary with us for the past 12 months! It's been fun looking back at the

50 years of memorable experiences we've shared with you.

The year began with a free party for the community on Sunday, January 16. The Community Recreation Center (CRC) was decorated with gold balloons, signs, and memorabilia. Children enjoyed giant inflatables in the gym and old-fashioned games like Twister, Jenga, checkers, Rummy, and Mancala upstairs. Free skate rental was available for everyone who wanted to glide on the rink outside the CRC that featured the 50th Anniversary logo in the ice. A warming hut offered hot chocolate and cupcakes. Hay rides took guests around Heritage Park. A photo booth in the CRC lobby was there for anyone who wanted a free souvenir of the event. A display solicited guesses about where the 25th Anniversary Time Capsule was buried in 1986.

To commemorate five decades of serving the community, many 50th Anniversary specials were available to guests at our facilities. The Arctic Splash indoor pool had 50-cent Friday. Chevy Chase Country Club hosted a celebration in the Gable Room and Traditions at Chevy Chase had 50th Anniversary golf rates. The Fitness Center held five free Saturday workouts in the parks. The Aquatic Center had 50-percent off Mondays, 50-cent water bottle refills, souvenir Thursdays for the first 50 guests, 50-cent popcorn day, 50 percent off ice cream sundaes, and a 50th Anniversary Celebration.

On July 4, the Park District hosted a free Independence Day Celebration for the community that kicked off with the Sis Boom Bike and Pet Parade. Pets and their owners, led by mascots Petie and Willie, followed on foot and on decorated bikes, trikes, scooters, strollers, and wagons from the CRC to the "secret" location of the time capsule in Heritage Park. Park Commissioners dug up the time capsule with gold shovels in front of the Parks and Facility Maintenance building off of Wolf Road. The fun continued with refreshments and old-fashioned lawn games including water-balloon toss and relay races. The party moved to the Aquatic Center with live music and games throughout the afternoon. The

Star-Spangled Banner Day ended with a beautiful fireworks display. On Wednesday, September 21, a commemorative 50th Anniversary section was published in the Daily Herald newspapers. The issue featured Wheeling Park District history in addition to outlining plans for the future. Copies of the section are available at the Community Recreation Center. The section also will be included in the next time capsule.

From the beginning of fall on September 23, through Veterans Day, November 11, a contest entitled 50 Days of Fall ran on the Wheeling Park District Facebook page. The first person to post the correct answer to the daily trivia question won a prize. All the questions related to the history of Wheeling Park District for the past 50 years.

During the past year, Park District staff has been collecting items to include in the 50th Anniversary time capsule. The new time capsule will be buried in a secret location sometime in the spring to be brought up in the year 2036. In the meantime, don't miss an opportunity to make your own memorable experiences at a Wheeling Park District park or program!



It was a Star-Spangled Banner Day!

Wheeling Park District Commissioners (from left to right, Cheri Klumpp, Sue Stein, Vice President Brian Lichtenberger, President Keith Pecka, Mike Kurgan, Rich Rosen, and Larry Widmer) unearth the 25th Anniversary Time Capsule on July 4, 2011.

Winter Wonderland

On Sunday, February 26, from 1 to 4 PM, Chamber Park in Wheeling will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland of fun and outdoor games for the whole family. Skating, snow-shoeing, snowman building, and more will be provided free of charge. Sports equipment, including ice skates and snow shoes, will be available for use. In addition, guests will be able to warm up inside the Church building on the grounds to enjoy hot cocoa and snacks. Try some of the winter-time active pursuits that can be done close to home. This is an excellent opportunity for families to spend quality time together while enjoying the winter weather and pursuing healthy activities.

Chamber Park is located at 131 N. Wolf Road, just north of Dundee Road, in Wheeling.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming special events at the Wheeling Park District.

Don't miss a memorable experience!

12/31 . New Years Eve Celebration	2/26 . Winter Wonderland
1/2 . . . Arctic Splash Reopens	3/1 . . . Summer Camp Registration Begins
1/20 . Illinois Hunter Education Class (1/20-1/21)	3/14 . Guest Appreciation Day
2/8 . . . Preschool Open House	3/16 . St. Patrick's Day Feast
2/10 . Valentine's Day at Arctic Splash	3/30 . Spring Break at Arctic Splash
2/12 . Daddy/Daughter Dance	3/31 . Incredible Egg Scramble
2/24 . Friday Night Fish Fry every Friday through March 30	3/31 . Spring Scramble Golf

The future is NOW at Wheeling Park District!



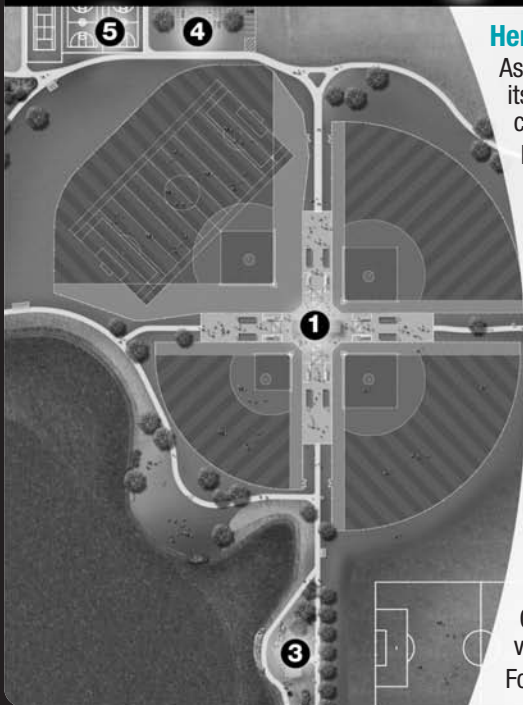
Concession Building 1



Bandshell 2



Pavilion 3



Heritage Park construction begins in March

As the 50th Anniversary year comes to a close, Wheeling Park District will start the second half of its century of existence with a \$38 million renovation of Heritage Park. After years of planning, construction will begin in March of 2012 and is expected to be completed by December of 2013.

Funded almost entirely through the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) as part of a flood control project, some of the new amenities include:

- New Athletic Complex with three artificial turf baseball fields and one football/soccer field and centrally-located Concession Building with restrooms ¹
- Bandshell with natural amphitheater seating ²
- Pavilion with lake overlook ³
- Wolf Road entrance
- More conveniently-located parking ⁴
- Walking paths looping the entire park
- New entry plazas
- New playground and basketball and tennis courts ⁵
- New site amenities

In March, fencing will be erected around the entire perimeter of Heritage Park in preparation for construction to begin. Access to Heritage Park will be prohibited from February 2012 through December 2013. Programs currently held at Heritage Park will be relocated to alternate parks in Wheeling. Your patience and cooperation during construction is appreciated. The CRC will remain open throughout construction as will the Aquatic Center during the summer seasons. Once completed, Heritage Park will not only be an outstanding recreational facility that preserves valuable open space, it also will provide Wheeling with a true community gathering place. For more information, contact Superintendent of Planning Larry Raffel at (847) 465-7772.



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