A Band Shell for concerts and movies, a Baseball/Softball Sports Complex with electric scoreboards and lighted fields, a Pavilion, walking paths, and nature viewings areas --- all of these features and more will be built at Heritage Park for all Wheeling residents to enjoy. And, this project should happen sooner rather than later at significant cost savings thanks to a cooperative agreement among the Village of Wheeling, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC).

Wheeling Park District, Village of Wheeling, & MWRDGC Reach Historic Intergovernmental Agreement

By working cooperatively, an agreement was reached that meets the needs of each agency while providing benefits back to Wheeling and other communities along the Des Plaines River. This 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 Maintenance building located at 222 S. Wolf Road. MWRDGC also will provide additional funds to replace the existing Parks and Facility Maintenance building located at 222 S. Wolf Road. "The redevelopment of Heritage Park is the largest single project undertaken by the Wheeling Park District and is a major initiative in the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Report. The construction and funding assistance for this project is of great value to the residents."

– Keith Pecka, President, Park District Board of Commissioners

Work has commenced on the preliminary engineering and construction documents for the project. However, construction at Heritage Park is not anticipated to begin until 2012. Park District staff will stay involved in the construction documentation process and continue to conduct public presentations to keep the community informed about this project that is not only a recreational benefit but preserves open space and provides Wheeling with a true community gathering place.

The true benefit to the local community is what will happen within the interior of Heritage Park. In exchange for the use of the land, MWRDGC has agreed to redevelop portions of Heritage Park in accordance with the Master Plan (see graphic below) prepared by the Heritage Park Advisory Committee. These redevelopments will include:

- 2,400-square-foot band shell with a hardscaped plaza
- Baseball/softball sports complex that includes four lighted fields with permanent outfield fences, electric scoreboards, and full irrigation system
- 3,000-square-foot, two-story concession and restroom building
- 1,800-square-foot pavilion
- Pedestrian bridge across the basin from Wolf Road into Heritage Park
- Two-lane vehicle bridge over Buffalo Creek to an adjacent parking lot for approximately 220 cars
- New turf groomed and made suitable for soccer fields
- Expansion and shoreline improvements to Lake Heritage
- Buffalo Creek stream bank improvements
- Walking paths around the park perimeter complete with a raised boardwalk over a natural viewing area
- General site landscaping

MWRDGC also will provide additional funds to replace the existing Parks and Facility Maintenance building located at 222 S. Wolf Road.

"In the KNOW"

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On January 19, 2010, the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners approved the 2010 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. This ordinance set the budget for calendar year 2010 and will serve as the Park District's financial guide.

The 2010 budget totals just under $16.9 million and represents an increase of just 3% from the budget that was amended in late 2009. The 2010 budget reflects the District's recognition of the current economic condition and, as a result, has been prepared very conservatively with respect to revenues and participation in District programs. As part of its reaction to the impact of the economy, the District has placed greater resources towards community-wide recreational activities for its residents.

Highlights of the 2010 budget include landscaping improvements at several of the District’s parks, a new playground for the Preschool, and replacement of the walking track at the Community Recreation Center.

Of the nearly nineteen (19) million dollars in budgeted revenues, 37% comes from tax sources and 63% from non-tax sources such as program fees, memberships, and investment income. The tax revenues the Park District receives are independent of any other entity (i.e. Village, County, or State) and are generated by residential and business property taxes.

This budget, based on all expenditures, represents an investment of $438 for each of the 38,555 residents the Wheeling Park District serves.

A copy of the Wheeling Park District 2010 budget can be viewed by visiting the Community Recreation Center, located at 333 W. Dundee Road in Wheeling, during regular business hours. For questions regarding this budget or any other financial matters pertaining to the Park District, contact Elliott Becker at (847) 465-7766.

The Wheeling Park District is bringing recycling to the forefront in 2010! While the Park District has always provided for recycling of paper, glass, plastic, and aluminum in our facilities, this year new trash receptacles will be placed in the parks. New signage also will be installed to explain the benefits of recycling and how the community can help at the parks and in the home.

The waste hauler the Park District uses is a non-separating source. This means that all recyclable material may be deposited in the same receptacle and the various materials are sorted at the waste hauler’s facilities.

The benefits of recycling are endless. On a local scale, it saves trees, protects wildlife habitats, reduces the space needed for landfills, supports biodiversity, and keeps our parks and playgrounds clean. On a global scale, recycling helps prevent the destruction of forests, wetlands, rivers, and other places essential to wildlife. In addition, there are economic benefits in the creation of jobs and economic development.

With your help, the Wheeling Park District is going to make our parks cleaner and greener while ensuring that our natural resources are preserved for future generations.
The CRC has official size and weight balls and equipment for an indoor game of **Bocce**. Bring your friends and challenge them to a match. Room location and times vary. Stop by or call the Guest Service Desk at (847) 465-3333.  

**Thirsty? Hungry for a snack?** The CRC has several **vending machines** with a selection of snacks and beverages for your enjoyment.  

**Two ice rinks** are available, weather permitting, for free public skating and hockey play. The Heritage Park rink at 222 S. Wolf Road features hockey nets and closes at dusk. The rink located at 327 W. Dundee Road in the Aquatic Center parking lot has lights and remains open after dark. To check on ice conditions, call the 24-hour hotline at (847) 537-2284 or visit the Home page of the Wheeling Park District Web site. The Green Flag on the page indicates the ice is open; a Red Flag means the ice is not open for skating.  

The Arctic Splash indoor pool has **open swim** hours available throughout the day. Check current schedule listings for availability on the Web site or at the CRC. Fee: General Admission or Aquatic Membership  

**FREE drop-in Baggo** competitions take place every Wednesday, from 4-5 PM, in the LOBBY of the CRC.  

Get in on the international craze of **Geocaching**. Find the hidden caches in some of your favorite Wheeling parks. Visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and let the adventure begin!  

**A Late Night Swim** at Arctic Splash just for teens will take place Friday, March 26, 8-10 PM. The $3 admission gets you swimming, music, games, and snacks. Look for more details coming soon on our Web site at [www.wheelingparkdistrict.com](http://www.wheelingparkdistrict.com).  

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**2010 CENSUS: IT’S IN OUR HANDS**

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. It takes about 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire. If you have not returned the form by April 1, you may receive a visit from a census taker who will ask you the questions from the form.  

Your response is very important. First of all, the law requires that every resident in the United States be counted every 10 years. The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. In addition, census information determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. Census data from 2010 will directly affect how more than $4 trillion is allocated to local, state, and tribal governments over the next 10 years, including Wheeling. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services, and much more. With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. Questions about how we live as a nation, our diversity, education, housing, jobs, and more are now covered in the American Community Survey which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.  

For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site at [http://www.census.gov/2010](http://www.census.gov/2010) or contact the Village of Wheeling Census coordination at (847) 459-2672.  

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**Save the date!**

**WPD Friday Night Wine Down**

**Friday, April 16**

6:30-10 PM

**Chevy Chase Country Club**

*$40/person in advance*<sup>*</sup>

*$50/person at the door*<sup>*</sup>

This special tasting features a fine selection of wines from Wine Styles.  

*All but $10 of the ticket prices goes directly to the ME Campaign to provide free recreation programs to resident youth.*

For more information, visit [www.wheelingparkdistrict.com](http://www.wheelingparkdistrict.com), or call (847) 465-3333.
Recently the Wheeling Park District was able to acquire 31 acres of land and preserve it as open space for the community. Referred to as the Lake Cook Property, the area includes a 13-acre lake, a 10.5 acre wetland, several acres of field, and two-to-three buildable acres. Located east of Northgate Parkway and just south of Lake Cook Road, the property is home to mammals, fish, insects, a variety of plants, and over 50 species of birds.

“Since the early ’70s, the Park District has targeted this property for acquisition,” said Jan Buchs, Executive Director. “We are very fortunate to be able to respond to the community’s desire for open space and bank this land for future development.”

While the design for the Lake Cook Property will be determined at a later date, it has the potential for many recreational and educational opportunities that will benefit the community. It will fill a need for walking and biking trails in addition to natural areas and wildlife habitats.

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

Don’t miss a memorable experience!

3/5 . . . . . Friday Night Fish Fry
3/5 . . . . . Late Night Swim
3/7 . . . . . Passport to the World
3/12 . . . . Friday Night Fish Fry
3/14 . . . . My Buddy and Me Swim
3/19 . . . . Friday Night Fish Fry
3/22 . . . . Stay-cation Camp starts
3/26 . . . . Friday Night Fish Fry
3/26 . . . . Teen Late Night Swim
3/27 . . . . Family Egg Hunt
4/1 . . . . . Guest Appreciation Day
4/2 . . . . . Friday Night Fish Fry
4/2 . . . . . Late Night Swim
4/3 . . . . . Spring Scramble
4/11 . . . . My Buddy and Me Swim
4/15 . . . . Spring Fling- Family Fun Hike

Lake Cook Property Expands Park Open Space

Don’t miss a memorable experience!

3/5 . . . . . Friday Night Fish Fry
3/5 . . . . . Late Night Swim
3/7 . . . . . Passport to the World
3/12 . . . . Friday Night Fish Fry
3/14 . . . . My Buddy and Me Swim
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