

2023



# YEAR IN REVIEW



10925 La Porte Road, Mokena  
[www.mokenapark.com](http://www.mokenapark.com)  
708-390-2401



# Administration

## Board of Commissioners

President  
Steve Jacobson

Vice President  
Kathryn O'Connor

Treasurer  
Mike Gandy

Commissioner  
Jeff Apel

Commissioner  
Dan Gilbert

Commissioner  
Mary Louise Knoerzer

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.

## Great Turnout for the Yunker Splash Barn Public Input Meeting

The meeting was held on Tuesday, May 23 and over 50 community residents attended the meeting to learn about the project. It was a very informative meeting with insightful comments and discussions.



MOKENA COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT'S  
**PUBLIC INPUT MEETING**  
TUESDAY, MAY 23  
6:15PM AT YUNKER PARK BARN  
10824 LAPORTE ROAD

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**  
The Mokena Community Park District has plans to renovate the Yunker Park Splash Barn to add needed space for additional recreation programming and meetings. The community is invited and encouraged to attend the meeting to add your input about the project. The purpose of the renovation is to transform the barn into a year-round facility.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

- Refreshments will be served
- This project was first identified as a need in the 2019-2023 Comprehensive Master Plan
- Public input is necessary to receive a maximum grant award
- There will be no additional financial impact to the taxpayer
- MCPD is seeking over a \$1,000,000 in grants to help fund the renovation

For more information come to the meeting or visit our website  
[www.mokenapark.com](http://www.mokenapark.com)

## Re-Elected Commissioners Take Their Oath for Another Term

Pictured left to right are: Mike Gandy, Steve Jacobson, Kathryn O'Connor, and Dan Gilbert.

Thank you for your Service.



# Administration



The Board of Commissioners Approved the Yunker Park Barn Renovation.  
Bidding will be Spring/Summer 2024 • Construction to begin Fall 2024





# Administration

## New Park District Social Committee Keeps It Fun

The Social Committee was busy planning several fun staff events. The Chili Cook-off had 8 entries and everyone was able to sample each entry and vote for their top two choices. *Winners pictured below.* In July, the Staff Appreciation event was filled with games, good food and camaraderie.



The Chili Cook-off winners were: 1st Place, Greg Vitale, 2nd Place, Kara Bartnik. Congratulations on your delicious Chili.



Thanks to the Social Committee for planning these fun events. (pictured left to right): Beth Waller, Patti Parli, Brenna Bowers, Kristin Ehler, Kristin Potocki.





## Welcome to our New Employees that Joined Us in 2023!

Rusy Mitcheff



Maintenance Staff

Andrea Stoettner



Customer Service/  
Recreation Support

Beth Waller



Manager of Recreation  
Facility Operations

## It Was Time for an Update

The new website launched in the fall with a new, modern design and brighter colors. It's easier to navigate and find the information you're looking for. It's also easier for staff to update information faster.



## Patti Parli, Superintendent of Finance and Human Resources, Announces Her Retirement

Patti will be retiring in March 2024. Her finance knowledge was instrumental with the construction of the Oaks and Program Center, the building of additions to the Oaks and Maintenance Garage, and several OSLAD grants that we were awarded. Patti's hard work has helped put the Park District in a great financial position. Patti will leave big shoes to fill. Best Wishes Patti, we will miss you.

## MCPD Holiday Luncheon Socking Gift Exchange

Attention All Mokena PD Employees!  
You are invited  
**DECEMBER 13, 2023**  
11:30-1:00pm Oaks Walnut Room



The social committee is hosting a Holiday Luncheon & Gift Exchange with the theme of **Crazy Socks**. The luncheon will be immediately following the Crazy Socks Exchange Game.



Bring an appetizer to share for the luncheon and a wrapped package containing a pair of **Crazy Socks** & additional items totaling \$25 for the game.

Most creative gift will win a PRIZE!  
RSVP by 12/1/23 to [bbowers@mokenapark.com](mailto:bbowers@mokenapark.com)

## Holiday Cheer at the Staff Luncheon

The Social Committee added a fun twist to our Staff Holiday Luncheon with a Crazy Socks Gift Exchange game this year.



# Administration

## A New Format for The Safety Committee

The Safety Committee was reorganized to include one employee from each department.

Monthly meetings are held at different locations. They tour the locations and look for any safety initiatives.

Some of the safety initiatives that were addressed by the Committee were:

- ▶ A new stop sign was installed on the walking path where it crosses the service drive. This will alert people to watch for vehicles crossing the path.
- ▶ Safety Suggestion Box at the Administration Office and The Oaks.
- ▶ First-aid kits were installed in the Administration, Program Center and Oaks Recreation Facility by Freedom First-Aid.
- ▶ A safety door viewer was placed on the Administration Center back door.



## Congratulations Jr. Celtics

The Mokena Park District Board of Commissioners recognized the 2022 Jr. Celtics 13U Tackle Football Team (part of Mokena Youth Athletic Association) on winning Pop Warner National Championship. GO TEAM!



**Splish Splash**  
A New Pump and Filter was Installed at the Splash Pad



## Exciting Projects are Planned for 2024

Each park that's getting a playground renovation will have one new unique feature.



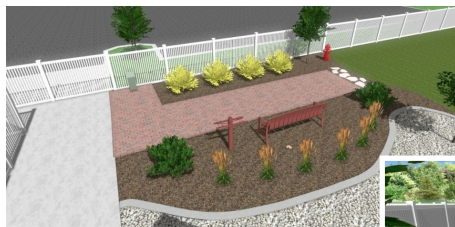
Approved **Boulder Ridge Park** playground replacement - Spring 2024



Approved **Timbers Point Park** playground replacement - Spring 2024



Approved **Riivendell Park** playground replacement - Spring 2024



## Park 'n Bark Dog Park

A new entry gate system was installed at the **Dog Park**. The new system can be programmed remotely. The former system required on-site programming.

Upgrades and landscaping improvements will also start in Spring 2024.



Plans were approved to add lights to the pickleball courts at **Hecht Park**. Construction starts in Spring 2024



## The Bandshell Was Refinished and New LED Lights Were Installed

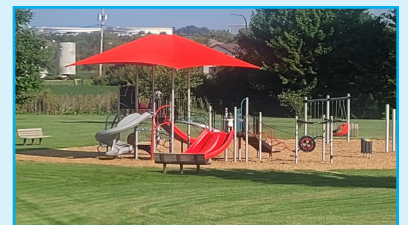


## Manchester Cove Playground Replacement Project

Opened to the public Summer 2023.  
\$29,500 Under Budget.

### Features:

- 15ft x 15ft shade topper
  - Spinetic Spinner
  - All-ability Freedom Swing
  - Playsemble Drums musical play and Percussion Play Chimes
- Manufactured in the U.K.*



## Manchester Cove Park Renovation

2023





## Six New Branded Park Entrance Signs Were Installed

Park entrance sign replacement continues. New branded signage was installed at Grasmere, Heritage, Buske, Riivendell, Marley Creek and Hecht parks.



## New McGovney Park Path

A connecting path from the public sidewalk to the playground was installed. This was suggested by a resident.



**Improvements were made to several ball fields. Main Park ball field fencing was upgraded to black-coated fencing.**





# Recreation Department

## New Programs in 2023



**Family Superhero Night**  
36 participants



**55+ Pickleball League**  
36 participants



**Paint and Sip Night**  
8 participants



**Family  
Camp Out**  
19 families



**Lake Geneva Boat Tour and Lunch**  
18 participants



**Trunk or Treat**



## St. Francis Career Fair

Mokena Community Park District attended the University of St. Francis Internship and Career Fair in September.



## Mokena Chamber of Commerce Scarecrow Invasion Contest

Our Scarecrow entry was promoting the upcoming Family Superhero Night event.



## New Preschool Teacher Aide



Venessa Mowry

## New Programs in 2023

### Early Childhood Programs

Painting Playgroup

1st Down Tots

Movin' and Groovin'

### Youth Programs

Baseball Pitching Camp

Crayola Imagine Arts Academy

Comedy Improv Workshops

Let's Get Creative!

Creative Writing for Kids!

Mother's Day Paint Along

Mom and Me Ornament Making

Summer Swing with Coach Hernandez

Spring Swing with Coach Hernandez

### Teen Programs

Teen Escape Room

Boho Necklace Making

Money Whiz!

### Adult Programs

Mokena Madness 3v3 Basketball Tournament

Cornhole Tournament

Co-Ed 16" Softball (6 teams)

Rockler Woodworking Classes

Women's Doubles Pickleball Tournament (10 participants)



# DAY CAMP

## SUMMER

## SUCCESS



**OVER 500** Children Participated in our Summer Day Camp Programs



*Children can register for several camp sessions. This chart represents the number of individual children that participated in summer day camps, not the amount of how many sessions they were registered for.*

# The Oaks Recreation & Fitness Center



## New Logo for The Oaks and Rebranding at the Facility

It was time to update the original logo from 2006. The new, redesigned Oaks logo was released in May. In the following months the old logo was replaced throughout the facility.



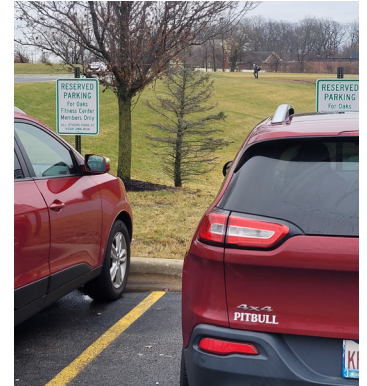
Marquee with New Oaks logo and New MCPD logo.



Old Signage on the Marquee

## New Reserved Parking Spots for Oaks Fitness Center Members

The reserved parking shows our appreciation for our members. It's also helpful during events and busy times so members can have easy access to the facility.



### Farewell Rachel

Rachel has worked at Mokena Park District for 11 years as the *Manager of Recreation Facilities* for The Oaks Recreation & Fitness Center. She's moved onto a new opportunity and we wish her well. We're grateful for her contributions to the facility and the Park District.



### New Bleachers were Installed in the South Gym





# The Oaks Recreation & Fitness Center

## New Equipment and a New Manager at The Oaks

- New equipment purchases of Matrix CXM Indoor Cycling Bikes, Spirit Vertical Climber, Precor AMT and Woodway Curve Treadmill.
- Beth Waller, the new Manager of Recreation and Facility Operations started in August, bringing over 30 years of experience in facility and program management.
- A Halloween-themed Member Appreciation Day was on October 23 with Mokena Athletico was in the lobby for health screenings.
- An Oaks Supervisor and several exercise Instructors and Personal Trainers attended SCW Mania in Rosemont, IL for continuing education.
- New Wellness Challenges for Oaks Members and staff in the Employee Wellness Program.



Member of the Month, Sue T. at the October Member Appreciation Day table filled with free goodies for the members.

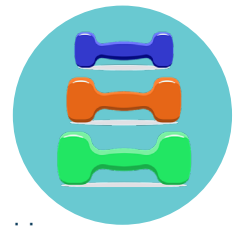


## Personal Training and Wellness Services

Personal Training and Nutrition Services underwent a revamping process, introducing new packaging options and a new marketing look. The new packages consisted of a starter, nutrition and wellness combo package.

## Group Exercise

The Group Fitness Department saw a resurgence in regular class attendance, requiring the purchase of additional equipment to keep up with demand.



## Specialty Programs

Continued success for our Group Training programs with filled registration and waiting lists for Ultimate Athletic Training and K.B.S. (Kettlebell, Boxing and Suspension Training).

New specialty yoga programs and workshops:

- Yoga for Anxiety
- Chronic Pain Workshops
- Sound Bath, Yoga Nidra, and Guided Meditation classes
- Yoga for Sleep Improvement Workshop





**The Mokena Community Park District Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable foundation with a mission to raise funds to provide:**

- Financial assistance for Park District or community affiliate organization programs.
- Capital projects.
- Landscape and beautification projects.
- Scholarships for local residents that are attending an accredited college or university to obtain a degree in the Parks & Recreation field.



*Mokena Community Park District  
Foundation*

## Thank you to the MCPD Foundation 2023 Golf Outing Sponsors

### Eagle Sponsors

Image 360 Mokena  
Old Plank Trail Community Bank  
Precise Tree Care Inc.

### Birdie Sponsors

19th Hole  
Ace Hardware  
Gas N Wash  
Lukis Restoration Co.  
Mayor Frank Fleischer  
NuToys Leisure Products Inc.  
Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete Inc.  
Post Game Pub & Sedona Grille  
Stumm Insurance Company

### Hole/Par Sponsors

3 Corners Grill & Tap  
Aurelio's Pizza Mokena  
Berkots Super Foods  
Canna Law Offices P.C.  
Chicago Investment Advisory Group  
Currie Motors Commercial Center  
Direct Fitness Solutions  
Eco-Clean Maintenance  
Fifth Third Bank  
Homewood Disposal Service  
Jameson's Pub  
Jamo's Live  
Priority Payroll Service Plus  
Priority Recovery Solutions  
Shark Shredding Inc.  
Speer Financial Inc.  
Sportsfields  
Tressler LLP

### Bogey Sponsors

Leangreen Vending  
Mid-America Tree & Landscaping  
Midwest Commercial Fitness  
South Suburban Umpires Association

### Raffle Prizes/Donations

19th Hole  
Albanese Candy  
Case Lots, Inc.  
Dude Wipes  
Fuller's Car Wash  
Joliet Slammers  
Lauterbach & Amen, LLP  
MCPDF Board  
Meijer  
Pioneer Athletics  
Shelly Scinto, Ice Miller, LLP  
The Wildflower Farm

For more information about the Mokena Community Park District Foundation, please contact Greg Vitale at 708-390-2410 or MCPDFinfo@gmail.com



Family Superhero Night



Fourth Of July Parade



Breakfast with Santa



Daddy Daughter Ball



Mom & Son Valentines Bowling



Lunch Bunch & Bingo

## A look back at 2023



Woodworking Class



Mummy Wrap Contest at Halloween Hollow



55+ Pickleball League



Farm & Barn Fest



Flashlight Egg Hunt



Class of 2022-23 Graduation