

Eight years ago, the President's Page described the Park District's Millennium Milestones. Since the year 2000, the Park District has kept busy putting your tax dollars to work and here are just a few of those accomplishments:

*Acquisition and development of Maryknoll Park - We first acquired this 25-acre property in the year 2000 and eight years later, it is one of our Park District's most popular family destinations. It houses our 36-hole, handicapped-accessible miniature golf course (Holes & Knolls) as well as an adventure playground, extremely popular splash pad (over 11,000 wristbands were sold in 2007), picnic shelter with bathrooms as well as a Platform Tennis facility which gets a lot of use over the winter. And we're not done yet . . . we are still looking to build a state-of-the-art Safety Village through different fundraising efforts and a partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation. We will continue to make this park a great family place to be.

*Renovation of our two community recreation centers - In 2000, we purchased and renovated the Spring Avenue Recreation Center which houses programs, a fitness center, administrative offices and a dog park. In 2007, we renovated the Main Street Recreation Center, improving all the rooms and general repair to an aging facility. We also redesigned the outside park area of the Main Street facility, creating a safer place for program users.

*Grant funding - Since 2000, our Park District has received over \$3.2 million in grants through various organizations including OSLAD and IDNR, and \$2 million through Build Illinois, as well as grants from State of Illinois Recycling and DuPage Community Foundation. We purchased and developed Maryknoll Park, developed Churchill Park and Village Green Park and implemented different recycling projects throughout the Park District.

*Sunset Pool improvements - Sunset Pool, the District's only swimming pool and only outdoor public pool in the community, went through changes over the years. A new medium-depth lap pool was built and now houses the largest swim team program in the West Suburban Swim Conference. The pool has been painted, renovated and new pieces were added in both the sand play area and the zero depth pool. The



Under construction: a new pavilion at Village Green Park.

District sells over 6,100 passes every year. In the last 8 years, Sunset Pool has received the Platinum award for outstanding lifeguarding services and pool operations from Ellis and Associates International Aquatic Safety and Risk Management Consultants.

*Village Green Park Lease and Improvements - The Park District negotiated a 100-year lease of Village Green Park from the Village of Glen Ellyn. The Park District has earmarked funding from grants and capital improvements to develop the park including the lighting of additional baseball fields, a new concession building and shelter, a new playground, basketball court, tennis court and a walking path. Besides our garden plot users, thousands of residents use this park on a yearly basis for various sports.

*Lake Ellyn Project - Through the generous donation of an anonymous donor, the District received over \$600,000 to improve the water quality and enhance the ice skating conditions at Lake Ellyn. Through the installation of a low flow system and Vortex Separator, the water has improved and the ice skating is lasting longer (when the weather cooperates).

*AA Bond Rating - For the first time in the history of the Park District, a AA Bond rating was awarded on General Obligation limited-tax park bonds. According to Standard and Poor's stable outlook rating, the Park District maintains sound financial operations with adequate reserves and has limited debt needs. Since that rating in 2005, we continue to score the AA rating and take great pride in our fiscal management every year.

*Newton Park Improvements - Newton Park has taken on many changes since 2000. Improvements include the construction of the basketball court, sled

hill, skate park, football field renovation, press box and bleachers as well as a new picnic shelter. We were able to secure cash in lieu funding from the new construction in the area and assistance from our Golden Eagles Football organization.

*Renovated Playgrounds / Lightning Detection System - Since 2000, the parks department has installed new playground pieces at various parks including Maryknoll, Stacy, Lake Foxcroft, Babcock, Frank Johnson Center and Walnut Glen. Surrey Park is scheduled for renovation this fall. We installed the Thorguard Lightning Detection system in several

of our parks which helps protect our park users in the event of a fast-moving storm or lightning in the area.

*Recreation Programs / Internet Registration - In 2003, the Park District developed our first Web page and introduced our live Internet registration to the community. Our first year saw a 20% use of the internet while our most recent registration showed a 60% usage. In 2005, we redesigned our Web page and continue to upgrade it for ease of use and accessibility of information. Our recreation programs continue to grow in participant numbers and variety of offerings. In the summer of 2006, we partnered with the Village of Glen Ellyn to offer a free Block Party wagon to our residents. The two wagons that are delivered to your home for the weekend contain chairs, tables, large outdoor grill and a bean bag toss game. Both wagons are used every weekend beginning in May through October.

*Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation - The Glen Ellyn Parks Foundation was established in 2003 to provide financial support for scholarship needs and capital project items. The popular "Putts for Kids" event held every year at Holes & Knolls has raised over \$20,000 for the scholarship program which enables over 100 families to participate in programs offered by the Park District.

*2006 Referendum - In the fall of 2006, the residents voted Yes to the Park District referendum which enables the Park District to improve the Main Street Recreation Center, build a new indoor sports complex at Ackerman Park as well as acquire land and open space in the community.

It's been a wonderful eight years for the Board of Commissioners and we look forward to many more years of improving our park district for you and your family.