



EFFICIENCY REPORT



Purpose

The Granite City Park District (“Park District”) formed its Committee on Local Government Efficiency on June 7, 2023, to study efficiencies and report recommendations regarding those efficiencies and increased accountability pursuant to 50 ILCS 70/1, *et seq.* (the “Committee”).

Committee Membership

The Committee consisted of the following individuals:

Matthew Jones, President

Craig Sykes, Vice President

Jenna DeYong, Treasurer

Don Harris, Commissioner

Linda Ames, Commissioner

Tanja Cook-Sedabres, Resident Member

Jerod Henderson, Resident Member

Justin Brinkmeyer, Director of Parks and Recreation

Committee Meetings

The Committee met as follows:

Meeting Date	Meeting Time
August 28, 2024	5:00 PM
October 23, 2024	5:00 PM
November 27, 2024	5:00 PM

*All meetings were held at the Granite City Park District Main Office.

Minutes of these meetings are available on the Park District's website or upon request at the Park District's administrative office.

General Overview of Governing Statutes, Ordinances, Rules, Procedures, Powers, Jurisdiction

The Park District was established by a referendum initiated and approved by the voters of the Park District in 1921. All Illinois park districts are governed by the Park District Code, 70 ILCS 1205/1 *et seq.*

Having a separate and distinct taxing body for parks, recreation, and conservation within the local community, which operates apart from general purpose governments, is extremely beneficial to the community for many reasons, as detailed further in this report.

- **Elected, non-partisan, non-compensated board.** The Park District is governed by a board of five commissioners. Commissioners must reside within the boundaries of the Park District and are elected at the Consolidated Election in odd-numbered years. Pursuant to state law, commissioners are non-partisan and serve without compensation.
- **Accessible and focused representation.** Having a dedicated board to oversee these essential facilities, programs, and services provides the community with increased access to their elected representatives and allows those elected representatives to remain focused solely on those facilities, programs, and services. This is contrasted with general purpose governments where elected representatives are responsible for broad oversight on a wide range of issues. This special purpose benefit is particularly advantageous when it comes to budget and finance oversight.
- **Increased transparency.** Having a dedicated unit of local government to provide park and recreation services also improves the relationship between the Park District and its residents because of the transparency and openness related to the board and Park District operations. Having detailed agenda and action items allows taxpayers to be better informed about the inner workings of their local government. When individual units of government are responsible for providing specified services like park districts, transparency is increased because action items and budget procedures are more detailed. Additionally, these items and budgetary decisions are subject to more scrutiny by locally elected officials than is the case with larger, multi-purpose governments with a multitude of departments.
- **Protection of revenues.** Because the Park District is a separate unit of local government, the revenues it generates can only be used for park district purposes. This assurance is contrasted with general purpose governments like cities, villages, and counties that provide a multitude of services such as fire, police, public works, economic development, etc., where revenues that are generated specifically for parks and recreation can be expended on these other services with limited, if any, input from voters.

- **Protection of assets.** Public parks and other real property owned by the Park District is held in trust for the residents of the Park District, and, subject to very limited exceptions, can only be sold or transferred if residents approve of the sale or transfer by a referendum. This is contrasted with general purpose units of government, which have authority to sell or dispose of property by a vote of the governing board.
- **Providing the Community More with Less.** The Park District does more with much fewer funding options. Unlike other units of local government that receive direct state funding along with taxes such as income, sales, use, hotel/motel, motor fuel and other numerous taxes, the Park District's only tax revenues come from a modest portion of a resident's overall property tax bill.

List of Shared Services and Partnerships

The Park District works diligently to provide the best possible programs, services, and facilities to our community at the least possible cost. One of the many ways the Park District achieves this goal is by partnering with neighboring park districts, school districts, other units of local government within or near the community, the State, non-profit organizations, and for-profit corporations. Below is a comprehensive list of the current partnerships, agreements, and other relationships that assist the Park District's mission of delivering the best possible services at the least possible cost to our community.

1. Intergovernmental agreements with other units of local government

- GCSD9- Shared usage for District programs.
 - Park District Youth Basketball
 - GCHS Golf Team
 - GCHS Baseball
- Granite City Township- Facility usage for District programs.
- City of Granite City- Lease of Civic Park
- Six Mile Regional Library District (Story Walk and program guide distribution)

2. Intergovernmental agreements with the State of Illinois

- CMS Joint Purchasing

3. Partnerships or agreements with athletic or similar affiliate organizations that operate sports or other leagues

- Granite City Braves Football
- GC Tribe Baseball
- St. Elizabeth Catholic School
- Holy Family Catholic School

4. Partnerships or other interrelationships with non-profits

- Tri City Area Association for the Handicapped (TCAAH)
- TWIGS

4. Partnerships with for profit organizations

- Revity Credit Union (Movies Under the Stars)
- Numerous community sponsors for our July 4th Celebration.

5. Informal cooperation with other units of local government which save taxpayer dollars by eliminating redundancy

- City of Granite City (yard and tree waste)



Other Examples of Efficient Operations

Youth employment. The Park District is a major employer of youth in the community. Last year, the Park District employed 93 youth. Not only is this an efficient way to deliver services, but youth employment serves as a valuable training tool for the future workforce.

Joint purchasing The Park District participates in joint purchasing cooperatives pursuant to the Governmental Joint Purchasing Act (30 ILCS 525/0.01 *et seq.*) thereby saving taxpayer dollars through economies of scale. These include:

- National Joint Purchasing Alliance (NJPA)
- Equalis Group

Collaboration with other park districts on best practices. Because park districts are not in competition with one another, they are more willing than the private sector to share best practices. These best practices help to avoid unnecessary costs and deliver services more effectively and efficiently. We hold individual memberships with:

- Illinois Association of Park Districts
- Illinois Park and Recreation Association
- Southern Illinois Parks and Recreation Association

Reliance on Non-Tax Revenue. Unlike most local governments that rely on a wide range of sales, use, and income taxes, the Park District is not permitted to assess these types of taxes. Additionally, although the Park District is an economic engine for the community and generates much revenue for the state and our community in the form of hotel/motel, sales, and motor fuel taxes, our Park District does not receive any of these revenues. Also, unlike Illinois cities, villages, counties, and school districts that received billions of dollars in direct financial assistance from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), our Park District did not receive any such direct federal aid. Our Park District also does not receive state funding under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) or General State Aid (GSA) that these same cities, villages, counties, and school districts receive through the State budget.

Instead, the Park District provides all of the programs, facilities, and services to the community with a very modest amount of property taxes and from **non-tax sources** such as memberships, program registrations, and other user fees as well as private donations and grants.

Transparency to the Community

The following information about the Park District may be obtained by citizens in the location listed.

Document	Location(s) Available
• Annual tax levy	District Office and Website
• Annual budget and appropriation ordinance	District Office and Website
• Agenda and minutes	District Office and Website
• Annual finance report (AFR)	District Office and Website
• Annual audit	District Office and Website
• Statement of Receipts and Disbursements	District Office and Website

The Park District offers residents many opportunities to provide feedback. These include:

- The Board of Commissioners meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays during the months of February, March, April, June, July, August, September and October of each calendar year. On the second Wednesday and Forth Tuesday during the month of November of each calendar year. On the third Wednesday during the month of January of each calendar year. On the first and fourth Wednesday during the month of May of each calendar year.
- Residents may address the board at any meeting after filing a request to be placed on the agenda.
- The Park District's annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is available in tentative form at least 30 days prior to its adoption at an open meeting of the Park District board. Additionally, at least one public hearing is held prior to final action, and notice of the hearing is published in the newspaper at least one week prior to the hearing.
- The Park District's annual property tax levy is approved at an open meeting of the Park District board in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The Park District follows all public notice and hearing requirements under the Truth in Taxation Law prior to the adoption of this annual tax levy.
- Our Patriots In the Park committee is comprised of five community members that provide feedback and steering for our annual community Independence Day Celebration.

- Residents may contact or request information from the Park District by phone at (618) 877-3059 or email at info@graniteparkdistrict.com



Mission Statement

The purpose of the Granite City Park District is to enhance the quality of life through the development of facilities and the offering of programs and recreation services; to preserve the environment through the conservation and protection of natural resources; and to provide leisure opportunities for the benefit of its citizens.

District Staff

The District operates with only twelve full-time employees.

Director of Parks and Recreation
Maintenance Supervisor
Facilities Manager
Recreation and Security Supervisor
Gardens and Memorials Supervisor
Golf Course General Manager/ PGA Professional
Assistant Golf Course Manager
Golf Course Groundskeeper
Accounting Clerk
Payroll Clerk
Maintenance Foreman
Maintenance

Certifications, Training, and Memberships

- Within our staff we hold one Certified Parks and Recreation Professional, two- Certified Pool and Spa Operators, one- Certified Playground Safety Inspector, and one- Certified PGA Professional.
- Membership to the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association
- Membership to the Southern Illinois Parks and Recreation Association
- Membership to the Illinois Association of Park Districts
- Newly elected commissioners attend IAPD Bootcamp.



Benefits and Services

The Park District serves the entire community from the youngest child to the oldest adult and all ages in between. It does so in a variety of ways.

Facilities

The Park District offered the following facilities to the community last year:

Parks	Facilities																				
	Acreage	Activity Rooms	Offices	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Trails	Football Fields	Basketball Courts	Ice Rinks	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Tables	Playground Equipment	Rental Facilities	Tennis Courts	Concessions	Swimming Pool	Restrooms	Volleyball Courts	Soccer Fields	Gazebo	Prairie/Songbird Site
Wilson Park 2900 Benton Street	74.0	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●
Loman Park 2412 Rock Road	11.2				●			●		●	●	●			●		●				
Worthen Park Maryville and Parkview	45.0			●	●		●			●	●	●			●		●		●		
Civic Park 20th and Delmar	1.0										●										
Frohardt Park 2040 Johnson Road	4.8				●																
Stearns Park 2165 Amos	1.5							●		●	●	●									
Memorial Park 21st and Madison Avenue	1.0																				
Rode Park Amos and North Street	5.5									●	●	●									
Tri-City Park McCambridge Parkway	3.5										●	●									
Veterans Parkway Veterans Parkway	20.0																			●	
Triangle Park Rock Road	1.5							●				●									
Robertson Park Edwards and Kate	2.0											●									
Lincoln Place Center 822 Niedringhaus Ave.	1.6	●						●		●	●	●	●				●				
Brown Recreation Center 2165 Amos	0.7	●											●				●				
Legacy Golf Course 3500 Cargill Road	175												●		●		●				

Programs

The Park District offered the following programs last year. Registration numbers are also provided.

Adult/ Senior Swim
Adult Softball
Aqua Aerobics
Back Handsprings
Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Cheer & Tumbling Combo
Beginning Gymnastics
Cardio Class
Chair Yoga
Cheerleading & Dance Combo Class
Drop In Hockey
Intermediate/ Advanced Gymnastics
Introduction to Hockey (Ages 5-8)
Jr. High/ High School Tumbling
Jr. PGA Program
Learn to Skate- (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Freestyle)
Learn to Swim
Miscellaneous Craft Classes
Parent/ Tot Gymnastics
Parent-Infant Swim
Pound Fitness
Power, Speed and Conditioning
Pre-School
Stick & Puck
Summer Recreation
Tumbling
Wilson Park 100 Mile Club
Xtreme Team
Yoga
Youth Baseball/ T-ball
Youth Basketball
Youth Flag Football



Additional Services

The Park District provided the following additional services to our residents.

- *Free pavilion rentals.*
- *Discounted program and facility rentals.*

While the Park District is a special purpose district, its impact to the community is multi-faceted and far reaching. For example, the Park District's parks, recreational programming, and other opportunities improve the community's overall physical and mental health and wellness, thereby reducing health care costs.



Recommendations for Increased Accountability and Efficiency

As illustrated above, the Park District is very transparent in its operations.

The Committee found no inefficiencies within the Granite City Park District. Our long-standing partnerships and committed board of commissioners have provided consistent oversight and direction for over 103 years, resulting in a proven track record of delivering excellent parks and recreational opportunities to the community. Our dedicated and passionate staff continue to work hard to ensure that we offer the best possible programs and facilities for our residents.

Dated: November 27, 2024

Signed: _____

Justin M. Brinkmeyer, CPRP, CPO
Director of Parks and Recreation

