



Dear Volunteers, WPAC Members, and Community of Winnemac Park,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and pride for the incredible achievements we have accomplished together at Winnemac Park. Your unwavering support and dedication have made 2024 a remarkable year for our beloved park. Here are many of the successes the WPAC is thrilled to share with you:

1. **Volunteer Engagement:** The number of active volunteers has grown significantly, contributing countless hours to nature space maintenance and event organization.
2. **Nature Area Preservation:** Our community efforts in preserving the park's unique natural areas have flourished. The WPAC Nature Committee took the initiative to foster a relationship with the Chicago Park District and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Through this relationship the WPAC offers multiple informative nature trail walks during the Spring and Fall; the WPAC has been afforded access to equipment to assist in maintenance efforts; we also now harvest native species seeds to be shared with other parks, so repair, enhanced biodiversity and natural beauty can germinate across Chicago Parks.
3. **Community Events:** We hosted a series of well-attended community events, including the memorable "Winnemac Park Fourth for All" celebration, which brought together neighbors for games, activities, and festive entertainment. Did you get to participate in the Disc Golf Tournament, eat from the food trucks in the park and enjoy the fiery display by performance artists on July 4th?
Our recent partnership with Chicago OnScreen provides the WPAC the ability to bring a curated offering of local performing artists and directors never experienced at Winnemac Park. On one of the hottest nights in August, a crowd of 50-60 film enthusiasts enjoyed beverages from a food truck, free water, soda, and popcorn to cool off that night. These events fostered a sense of community and provided fun for all ages.
4. **Youth Programs:** Our youth learning garden team conducted educational sessions and workdays, and youth participation has been strong. Partnered with the Chicago Public Library, the garden now includes story time in the park throughout the year. Also, for the second year, the WPAC donated hot cocoa and cookies for the Chicago Park District holiday party at Chappell School.
5. **High School Level Baseball Field:** In Q3, the renovation of the baseball field finally kicked off. The WPAC was instrumental in coordinating with the community to gather feedback and provide direction for the Chicago Park District on the \$1.2 M project. The expected completion of the project is slated for Spring 2025.



6. **Tennis and Pickleball Courts:** Winnemac Park got the Pickle Ball Mania bug and under the direction of the WPAC we were able to negotiate the renovation of our tennis courts and allow for a multi-use pickleball / tennis court. The completion of the courts in early summer brought top-notch facilities for our racketed sports buffs.
7. **Environmental Education:** The WPAC launched educational programs focused on environmental conservation, helping the community learn about and engage in sustainable practices. These programs include workshops on composting, recycling, and water conservation. The WPAC strengthened relationships with Amundsen's Seeds of Change club and looks to continue supporting the mission of the club.
8. **Increased Funding and Donations:** Thanks to generous donations from local businesses, elected officials, and neighbors, the WPAC was able to secure funding to offer these amenities and programming while operating in the black. The WPAC now only holds in our coffers funds to operate the website & administrative expenses such as event permitting and insurance so our [fund-raising initiative](#) will start earlier this year to allow us to offer more community experiences.

Future for Winnemac Park:

- **Baseball Diamond Renovation:** Spring of 2025, is the targeted date for the completion of baseball diamond renovations, including the installation of artificial turf, new stormwater drainage systems, and lighting. This project will improve playability and accessibility for all users.
- **Expanded Offerings:** During 2024, the WPAC was just getting started. We aim to introduce more community programs, cultural events, and educational workshops, to engage a broader audience and promote healthy lifestyles. Join us in shaping that future.

How to Get Involved with WPAC:

- **Volunteer:** We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with park maintenance, event planning, and community outreach. You can sign up to volunteer on our website: www.winnemacpac.org
- **Attend Meetings:** Join our monthly WPAC meetings to stay informed about park projects and share your ideas. Meeting dates and times are posted on our [website](#). The next one is Wednesday January 22.
- **Donate:** Your financial support helps us fund important projects and programs. [Donations](#) can be made online through our [secure donation portal](#).



- **Spread the Word:** Help us raise awareness about your love for Winnemac Park and how the WPAC supports this love by sharing our updates on [social media](#) and encouraging your friends and neighbors to get involved.

These achievements would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our dedicated volunteers, passionate WPAC members, and the supportive community. We look forward to continuing this journey together during 2025, making Winnemac Park a vibrant and cherished space for all.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment.

Warmest regards,

The Winnemac Park Advisory Council

PRESS PUBLICATIONS 2024

<https://wgntv.com/community-events/#!/details/winnemac-fourth-for-all/13277751/2024-07-04T00>

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2024/07/02/winnemac-park-first-fourth-of-july-celebration-will-have-fire-dancers-disc-golf-and-more/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/chicago-winnemac-park-no-fireworks/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/video/winnemac-park-july-4th-celebrations-will-not-include-fireworks-organizers-say/>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2024/07/04/photos-2024-navy-pier-fireworks/>

<https://do312.com/events/2024/7/4/full-moon-jam-tickets>

<https://bcochicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/BCO-Bowmanville-Bee-Spring-2024.pdf>