



## Wilmette Park District

# Board Brief

Updates of interest from your Wilmette Park District Board of Park Commissioners

*Following are highlights from the March 14 Regular Meeting of the Wilmette Board of Park Commissioners, held in the Council Chambers of Wilmette Village Hall.*

### **Park landscape plans; nature play areas; Keay revitalization; Thornwood amenities**

At the March 14 Park Board meeting, Parks and Recreation Committee Chair Patrick Duffy reported on items covered in the Committee's March 7 meeting:

- The Committee discussed applying funds from the Village Stormwater Project's Intergovernmental Agreement to amenities for Thornwood Park, including potentially resurfacing Thornwood's tennis courts. A restroom at the park is not under consideration.
- Nature play areas in the parks were also discussed. Duffy said it was "good to get the ball rolling" on this innovative idea, and it "really opened my eyes to what could be done there, with sticks and logs, essentially."
- A new pathway for Keay Nature Center is in the budget for 2022, a first step in the revitalization effort for that park.
- Commissioner Duffy also reported that landscape plans for every park are complete (with the exception of Gillson; plan pending), and staff are moving forward with Vattmann and Centennial plans this year. Duffy stated that the community will "start to see improvements later this year, which is really exciting!" He stressed that the Board is committed to making park beautification a high priority, but "give us time," he said, for plantings to fill in over the years ahead.
- Several members of the board later elaborated on this commitment to implementing the landscape plans, including planting trees, noting a \$25,000 yearly commitment and the intention to add a dedicated horticulturist to the team. Commissioners emphasized the importance of staging tree installation over time, of having adequate staff to maintain the new plantings, and of assuring adequate open areas to support varied, sun-loving vegetation critical for birds, butterflies and bees.



**Wilmette  
Board of Park  
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**Mike Murdock**  
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[email](#)

**Julia Goebel**  
Vice President  
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**Lindsay Anderson**  
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**Cecilia Clarke**  
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**Patrick Duffy**  
Commissioner  
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**Allison Frazier**  
Commissioner  
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## Designers present West Park playground concepts; Maple Park playground construction begins; project report impresses

- At the meeting, Board President Mike Murdock referred to the second Community Input Meeting for West Park's new playground on March 8. Upland Design presented four concepts and allowed attendees to provide feedback and select their preferred option via a survey. The survey was also available on the Wilmette Park District website, and was emailed to the community.
- Additionally, the Maple Park playground construction started on Monday, March 7, and is estimated to be ready for play by early June.
- Commissioner Duffy remarked on a list of projects completed around the Park District's facilities, recognizing that "it really does highlight some of the efforts that staff puts out on a daily basis that may go unrecognized." Examples of projects completed last month include installation of cameras at Centennial Family Aquatic Center, trimming trees within West and Hibbard Parks and Keay Nature Center, repairing fencing and windscreens within the parks, and using a new "concrete planer" to help reduce trip hazards on park sidewalks (with specific success eliminating trip hazards at Gillson and Mallinckrodt Parks). Commissioner Cecilia Clarke was particularly impressed with the concrete planer. Murdock agreed, "there's a lot of great work that's done around around the community, and we should highlight that."

**Kara Kosloskus**

Commissioner

[email](#)

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**Wilmette Park District**

**Administrative Office**

**1200 Wilmette Ave.**

**Wilmette, IL 60091**

**847/256-6100**

[www.wilmettepark.org](http://www.wilmettepark.org)

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## Wilmette Golf Club prepares for opening day, celebrates new cart path

- Also at the March 14 meeting, Commissioner Lindsay Anderson reported that a lot of hard work is underway in preparation for the 2022 golf season, with a tentative April 1 opening day planned.
- In addition, Anderson enthusiastically pointed out that "there's so much to celebrate at the golf course," acknowledging the Club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a new, 5-mile continuous golf cart path. The path was inaugurated on March 12 with a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by a "St. Pathy's Stroll" event, which included fare from Left Coast Food and Juice. "It was really cool to see our community coming together," said Anderson of the event that enjoyed a great turnout, despite very cold weather. Visitors were encouraged to walk or run along the path and read fun facts about the course's history along the way.
- Anderson also noted that they are looking forward to continued discussion and final approval of Left Coast's restaurant, The Lawn. The Lawn could be in limited operation as early as Memorial Day.

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## Park Board, staff meet with three Master Plan consultant candidates

- At the meeting, Wilmette Park District Executive Director Steve Wilson reported that on Friday, March 11, the Board attended a Special Meeting to hear from three different consulting teams about comprehensive and strategic plan services. The Board engaged in approximately three hours of presentations and Q&A time with the three groups. Wilson is collecting input from the Board and plans to move forward, potentially with a contract for the Board's consideration, by the April 11 Board meeting.

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To read the full minutes from our past Board meetings, click [here](#).  
Minutes are posted after they are approved at a subsequent meeting.

Next Board meeting: Monday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall at 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette. All meetings are open to the public. Details will be posted on the [Park Board](#) page on our website.

Meetings will be available on Channel 6 locally for Comcast subscribers. View a live meeting online [here](#), or view previous meeting recordings [here](#). *Please check our [website](#) for updates.*

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