



**KANKAKEE
VALLEY
Park
District**

2017 IN REVIEW

2017 was a very different year for the KVPD. It was a year of learning, rebuilding, challenges, teamwork, making mistakes and realizing some success. Thank you to those within our community that kept the faith, believed in us, were patient, helped us along the way and continue to help us, and be there for us as we embark on our journey of recovery. We will operate as a new Park District.

OUR MISSION

The Kankakee Valley Park District mission is to acquire, develop and maintain parks; promote the conservation of natural and historic resources. We also provide recreational facilities, programs, and services for the benefit of all District residents. The District serves 33,000 residents (not households but residents). Within our jurisdiction is Sun River Terrace, a small portion of St. Anne, Aroma Park and the City of Kankakee. There are two types of recreation Active and Passive. We are in a period of rebuilding internally, and our focus currently is to care for our land and facilities as well as bringing our buildings, services, and grounds up to Illinois standards. It is an effort that takes detailed and long-term planning of our capital projects and funding.

LOOKING BACK

The story of the past year began when the doors had to close just before Christmas of 2016. It was a devastating event. The District slowly reopened in February with the proceeds from the sale of bonds. A staff of four who are dedicated and believe the District could and would turn around, remained with the District while the financing was secured. Once the District reopened, we set a course to meet our financial obligations.

Under new Administration, we began preparations for the spring. The maintenance team returned in March to start care for our 36 Parks. The Kankakee Valley Forest Preserve was kind to take on a partner property to assist us. The District changed our purchasing practices, including requesting proposals from multiple vendors to get the best prices. We also initiated a campaign to reduce our expenses and did not rehire certain positions to lower salary and wages to lower costs that we could not afford.

LOOKING BACK CONTINUED

We created and implemented an accounting system, compiled and completed three audits in one year. The 2017 FY Audit received the highest rating the district has received in 5 years. In addition to its rating it was completed on-time. With our new approach, KVPD balanced the budget for 2017/2018 fiscal year with a positive balance. We made tough decisions to balance the budget. Four union maintenance workers were laid off for six months. The furloughs began in October and completed by November. We will bring one worker per week back starting in March of 2018.

The River Front project is an initiative of the City. The District was asked to support the City initiative and show support for their application of the grant. Without the support of the District, the City could not apply for the grant. The City and the District need to work together for the betterment of the citizens of Kankakee. The grant would allow for a path to be constructed from the Districts property (Fisherman's park) to Alpiner and down to Schuyler. It would not pay for any additional essentials. Discussions with the City will transpire long before any ground breaking (possible 2019) and/or announcement of an award of the grant (spring-summer 2018). All parties involved want to be prepared and have the proper knowledge on the inner workings of the intergovernmental agreement .

The District was able to run Ice Valley through the summer months, as well as managed and completed capital projects. The District was also able to keep up with the cleanup and mowing of the properties. We assisted other organizations who had special requests for either equipment or wanted District property for their eventsuse.

Did the District have hiccups? Yes. Looking at the number of full-time union personnel in the maintenance department (5), and part-time seasonal staff, the District did very well. The District has three full-time administrative staff at Bird Park. These include the Executive Director and Superintendent of Recreation who oversees our recreation programs.

The Superintendent of Recreation wears many hats. She also assists the General Manager at Ice Valley, coordinates athletics, and works with our contractual staff. Additionally, the position has taken on the role of Business Manager and handles all the accounts payables, payroll, and all financials. The Superintendent also functions as our recording secretary, our website manager, works with our vendors to ensure accuracy, continues to make recommendations of where we can cut expenses.

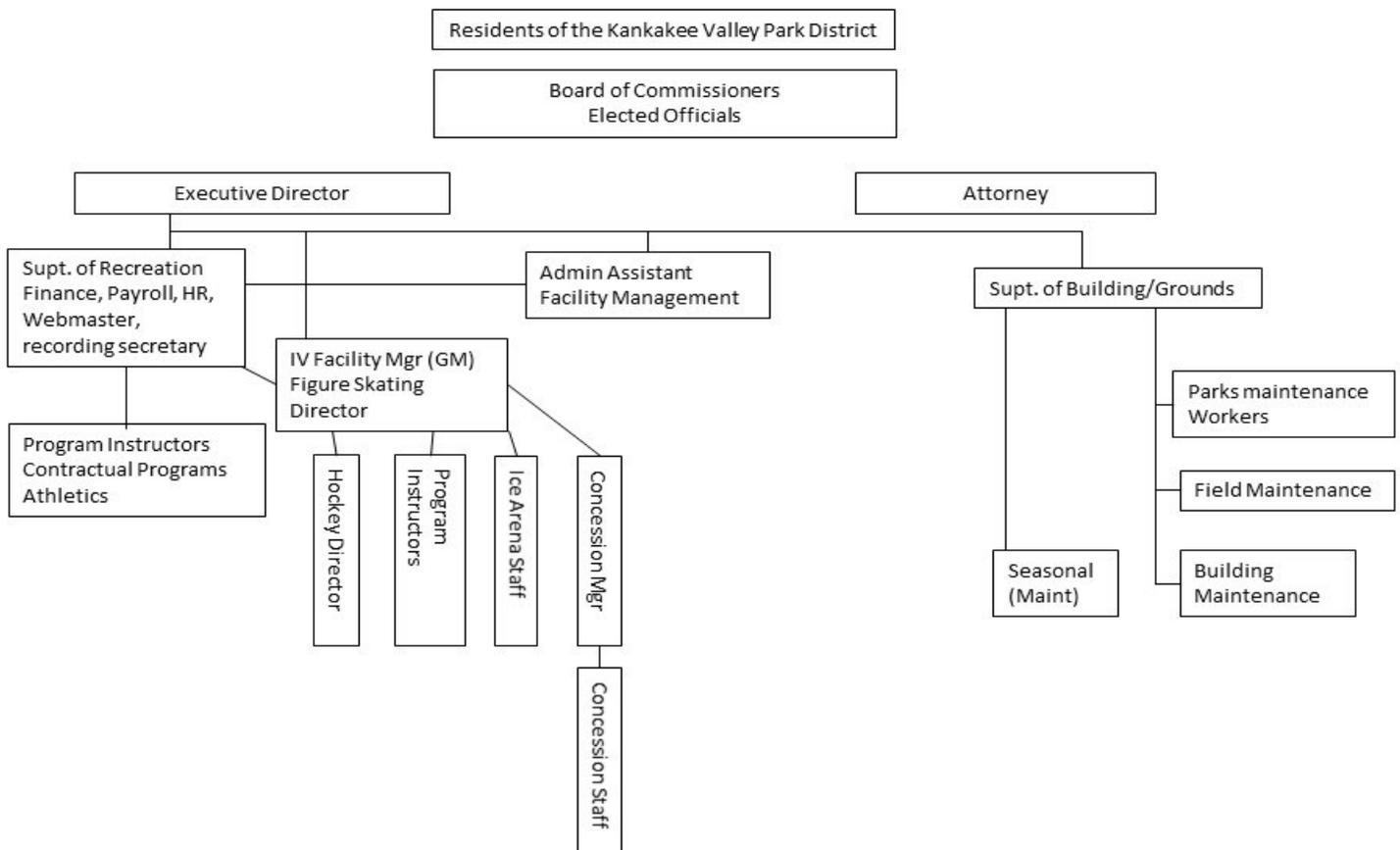
Our third person in the administration is our Administration Assistant/Facility Manager who keeps all the legal books such as ordinances, resolutions, and board minutes. The AA also puts our board packets together, special mailings, answers the phones and assists with questions the callers have. She coordinates all rentals for buildings, pavilions, campgrounds and boat docks.

The other full-time administrative positions the District currently has is Superintendent of Maintenance and General Manager at Ice Valley.

We acknowledge four people who are extremely important to the District Melissa Woodard, Ariana Padilla, Angela Tousignant and Rick Collins. They did not walkout last December when they no longer had a paying job. They have continually supported the director behind the scenes taking on additional work, working 50, 60, 70 hours a week and most weeks 7 days. When you have a staff member who is salaried you expect them to work extra not necessarily the excessive hours and days but then these four also work across departments. Meaning they support all departments. Their usual commentary is "what do you need", "what can we help with". They do not watch the clock. The District would like to thank the staff not only for their commitment but their dedication and devotion to the District and Executive Director. The District is fortunate to have an amazing team!

Kankakee Valley Park District

Organizational Chart



LOOKING BACK CONTINUED

We have enjoyed incredible community support. Many residents pitched in to help at several parks for a cleanup day. Thank you to the Alderman who planned a beautification project at Butterfield Park by coordinating with the district. They were able to have volunteers come out and remove fencing, paint bathrooms, concessions area, garbage cans, bulletin boards, etc. Thank you to all of you who helped!

The residents around Cobb Park raised money to replant new trees in the fall and spring in response to a capital project, the "Tree Restoration Project." Sniders Landscaping donated trees at River Road and as well as services; a private donor gave a tree for the Civic Center. The help made the 2017 project possible. The District is only able to do a couple of parks at a time as many trees need to come down, and need replacement. Our tree project will be continuing into 2018 and beyond to remove the infected and dangerous trees.

MOVING FORWARD

It will take 3-4 years before our deficits come to an end. The District will continue to work on the long-term capital planning. At the forefront, the District is working on the tree project, Bird Park Administrative Offices, River Road, the Civic Center, Splash Pad, and Splash Valley. Maintenance is keeping an eye on Ice Valley as well. We are not implying completion of all capital projects next year. Completion will take time and the proper funding.

The tree restoration project is broken down by each park. Completion will occur approximately over the next four years depending on the replanting. The District is committed to completing this project for the safety of the community and well-being and beauty of the parks.

Bird Park Administrative Office has roof leaks. The District will have roofers assess the damage to the roof and drywall to determine the extent of the damage and cost of repair. At this time, we are unsure whether repairs require a patch, or if it will need a complete tear off. We are also obtaining prices for the work that we need to do.

River Road softball field bathrooms were backing up during the summer of 2016. They are currently hooked up to a septic field. We closed the restrooms during the 2017 season and set up port-o-lets. It is not the ideal choice when the NSA has 40-60 teams over a weekend for a tournament continually over the summer. The current administration was not aware of River Road annexation into the City.

MOVING FORWARD CONTINUED

Therefore we must now hook up to the closest lift station. To reconstruct the bathrooms, we must have engineers, go out to bid, and have a construction company do the work. It is possible to have this project completed in 2018 depending on the costs.

The Civic Center is in great need of HVAC among other renovations. Constructed with four home furnaces and ductwork combined, it is not commercial grade. Two of the four units are no longer running. We need to replace all the furnaces with one or possibly two commercial furnaces. The project will also require all new duct work. The District is aware this job will need engineers and have to go out to bid.

The Splash Pad water leaks have been an ongoing problem since 2016 and possibly even before. In October 2016 the Illinois Department of Public Health informed the District that the Splash Pad had been operating without proper permits since 2012. Our first challenge was to repair or remove/cap off pumps. The pumps are part of the cause of the leaks under the Splash Pad.

Our second task was to balance the water chemistry to pass inspection with IDPH to obtain proper permitting. The District had one pump rebuilt and bought a new pump. We installed new piping to the pumps. The maintenance teams worked with a group to ensure our chemicals were balanced. After two attempts, the District passed inspection.

The Splash Pad was officially open to the public. It was open for approximately one month, and had incurred even more leaks. Our bill showed we used 803,103 gallons of water in a 30 day period. That worked out to be 26,770.01 gallons per day, costing the District \$10,123.40 for the one month of operation.

Aqua Illinois recommended calling a leak detection service to find the source of the leaks. The District is working with experts to guide us in hopes to repair the underground pipe leaks without having to remove the concrete pad. We are still researching the extent of the problems and the costs of repairs.

Splash Valley remains an option on our capital list. We have an estimate to rebuild splash valley at 4+ million-dollars if we restore the facility at once. The District can break that down into phases and do portions overtime when capital funds are available.

In addition to rebuilding, there are other challenges for us. Splash Valley has been shut down for over two years, and no one is around that closed it. As a result, we do not know the condition of the mechanics or the state of the equipment. We also are unclear on the status of lifesaving supplies and equipment.

MOVING FORWARD CONTINUED

There is significant clean up needed, and we need proper staff to assist us. When we are ready to pull the trigger on this project we have to be prepared to put all we have into this project, and not just the construction.

The amount of money the District can use because of the bonds being sold this year for our capital projects is \$304,000.00. That will not cover all our projects which is okay as many of these projects are in the planning and research stage in 2018. We must plan properly.

YOUR TAXES

Many people ask what we do with our tax dollars. The Park District is a separate tax entity within Kankakee; we are not a department or connected to any other municipality. We can only partner with another jurisdiction through an intergovernmental agreement. Therefore, we do not receive funding from any of the other municipality sources. We only collect our revenue from taxes and recreation such as Ice Valley, River Road, Rentals, and Programming (which can be contractual or direct programs with the District).

A SAMPLE TAX BILL

| Net Taxable Value | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--|----------|--|--|
| 20,125 | Taxing Body | Rate | Amount | | | | |
| | Airport | 0.0452 | 9.09 | | | | |
| | County | 1.1332 | 227.77 | | | | |
| | CC 520 | 0.4860 | 97.69 | | | | |
| | UD 111 | 6.1981 | 1,245.82 | | | | |
| | Forest Preserve | 0.0600 | 12.06 | | | | |
| | Park | 0.7657 | 153.91 | | | | |
| | Township Road | 0.3466 | 69.67 | | | | |
| | Township | 0.4060 | 81.61 | | | | |
| | City of K3 | 7.6176 | 1,531.14 | | | | |
| | | | | | 3,428.74 | | |
| | *Gar Creek | - | 5.62 | | | | |
| | *Special Service 2 | 0.0600 | 12.06 | | | | |

The district receives tax distributions from the county in July, August, September October and November (2). The County determines the amounts of each appropriation by a calculation set by the county. Assessed 2016 taxes paid in 2017 to be received \$2,167,026.59. The total due the district after adjustments made by the county was 2,144,633.19. The amount received at final distribution was 2,092,886.76 due to additional adjustments.

YOUR TAXES CONTINUED

Where does your money go? Funds established by Law-2017.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Corporate | \$562,740.00 |
| To be used for all corporate related functions, including salaries, utilities, equipment, supplies, and upkeep of administrative buildings. | |
| Bonds and Interest/Escrow Accounts | \$641,999.68 |
| \$ in this fund can only be used for bond payment of principal and interest due each June and December. | |
| IMRF | \$ 84,179.56 |
| To be used only for the Districts contribution to the IMRF fund. The revenue derived from the tax MUST be used only for this purpose. | |
| Police Protection | \$ 22,957.10 |
| To be used for policing, security, security protection, alarm systems, and related expense. | |
| Audit | \$ 12,298.91 |
| \$ in this fund can only be used for the payment for auditing expenses. | |
| Liability Insurance | \$136,654.45 |
| \$ in this fund is used for tort, workers compensation, liability (risk management) and unemployment insurance. | |
| Social Security | \$ 97,570.86 |
| To participate in the Federal Social Security Insurance and Medicare programs only. | |
| Recreation | \$304,737.33 |
| To be used for all recreation-related functions, including salaries, utilities, equipment, supplies, upkeep (including parks, grounds, buildings). | |
| Aquarium & Museum | \$107,957.02 |
| Tax for the Kankakee County Museum | |
| Paving & Lighting | \$ 12,298.91 |
| To be used for a major project in paving and lighting. If funds are not enough, they can be used for one or the other for significant upgrades. | |
| Recreation-SRA | \$109,323.57 |
| The District has an intergovernmental agreement with River Valley SRA to provide recreational programs for the special needs residents of the District. If there are additional \$ in this fund, they can be used to make ADA improvements. | |

YOUR TAXES CONTINUED

As you see the District receives more money in the corporate fund, so the District shifts expenses from recreation to corporate to assist in the balancing. The recreation fund as a whole has a deficit that is being worked on to clear up as well as several other funds. The District is being cautious in budgeting to maintain a positive budget.

Parks & Facilities:

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alpiner | North Schuyler | Ice Valley | Kensngton |
| Beckman | Old Fair | Splash Valley Aquatic Center | Kraftdale |
| Cobb | Pearl Park | River Woods Park | LaVasseur Park & Trail |
| Goselin | Pine | Knight of Columbus | Legion |
| Gov. Small Memorial | Pioneer | Strasma | Steve Hunter Park |
| Heil | Potawatomi | Butterfield | McBroom |
| Jeffers Park | Railroad Bridge | Bird Park | River Road Park |
| Skyline | Snow Memorial | Rec Center | Fisherman's Park |
| Washington | Rec Center | Piersons Parkway | River Road Sport Complex |

We are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the past year.

No matter how hard a decision is, we always try to put the district and the community first. We promise you we will follow the laws and our risk management guidelines.

We hope this booklet has provided you the information of the past year and highlights of the future endeavors of the district.

Our district has a very honest and open Board of Commissioners and Administrative Team. Please feel free to contact the Board or Administration with any questions, concerns or compliments.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year.

To A Bright Future

KVPD

For an electronic version:
See our website @ www.kvpd.com under public information

or

Our Facebook pages:
Kankakee Valley Park District
Ice Valley Centre Ice Arena
KVPD RecCenter

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