



2026 Local Government Directory for the Wheaton Park District DuPage County, IL

Our Mission

To create vibrant, welcoming spaces and activities that inspire fun, foster connection, strengthen the community, and enrich well-being for all.

Our Vision

To be the community leader in offering fun and inclusive experiences inspired by nature, powered by creativity, built on collaboration, and guided by integrity.

Our Values (CREATE)

Community, Respect, Excellence, Adventure, Teamwork, Equity

821 acres of open space

278,466 sq. ft. of permeable pavers mediating stormwater issues

5,200+ trees reduce runoff by 50,000 gallons of water a year

2,500+ early childhood, teen, adult and senior programs (41,000+ participants)

150,000+ visitors to Cosley Zoo

54 parks

70 athletic fields (multi-purpose)

1.8 MILLION facility visitors per year

102,000 volunteer hours



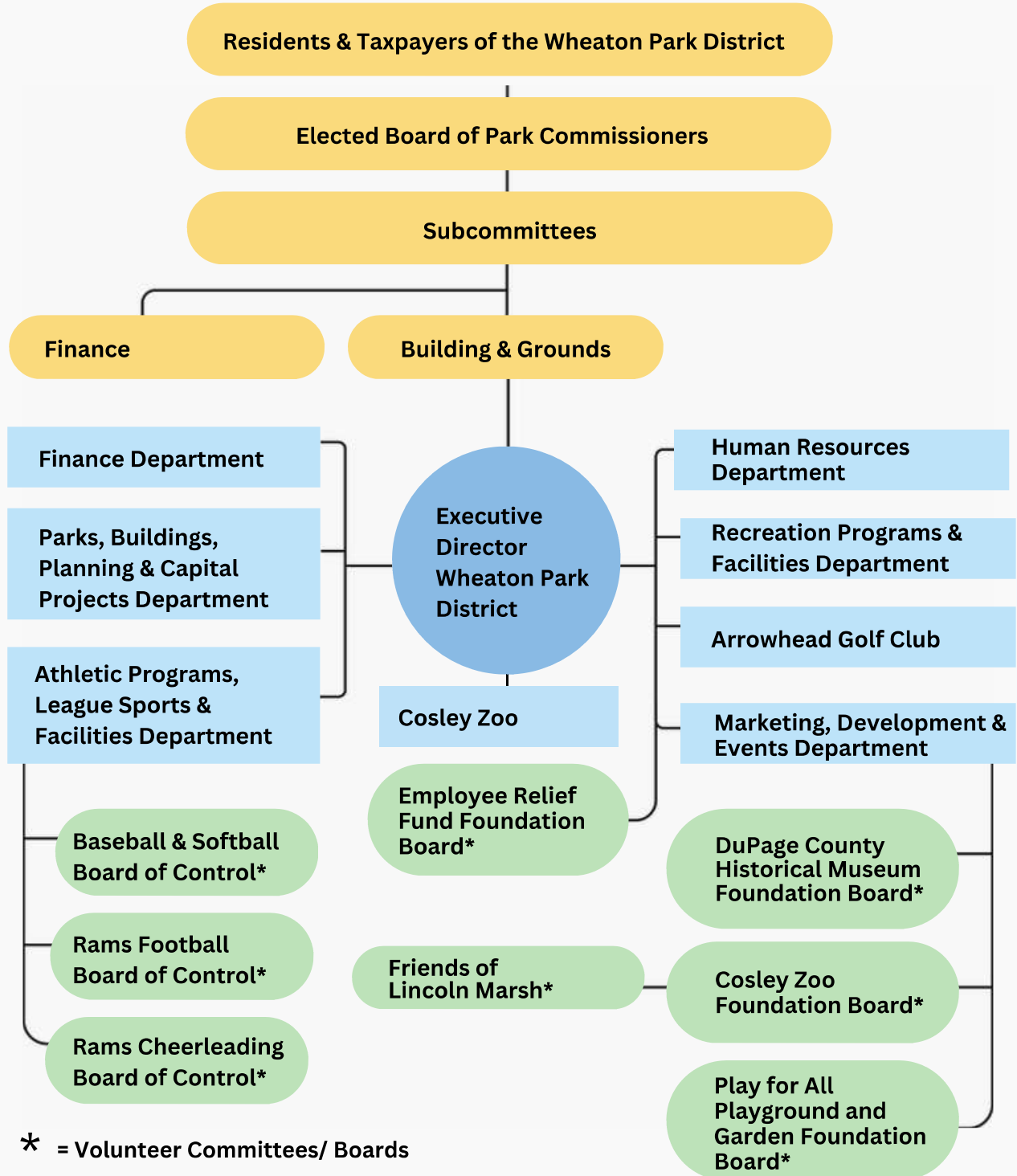
To access commonly requested information such as copies of budgets, meeting minutes or other basic operational documents, please visit the Wheaton Park District Transparency Portal, available at wheatonparkdistrict.com/transparency or by scanning the QR code.

All financial transactions the Wheaton Park District has conducted since 2011 are presented in its OpenGov portal, launched February 22, 2017. They can be found at wheatonparkdistrict.opengov.com or linked from the transparency portal.



For Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Compliance, see page 10 of this document.

Block Diagram/Organizational Chart of Functional Subdivisions



Block diagram/agency organization structure certified by: _____

Staff Member Name / Initial / Date

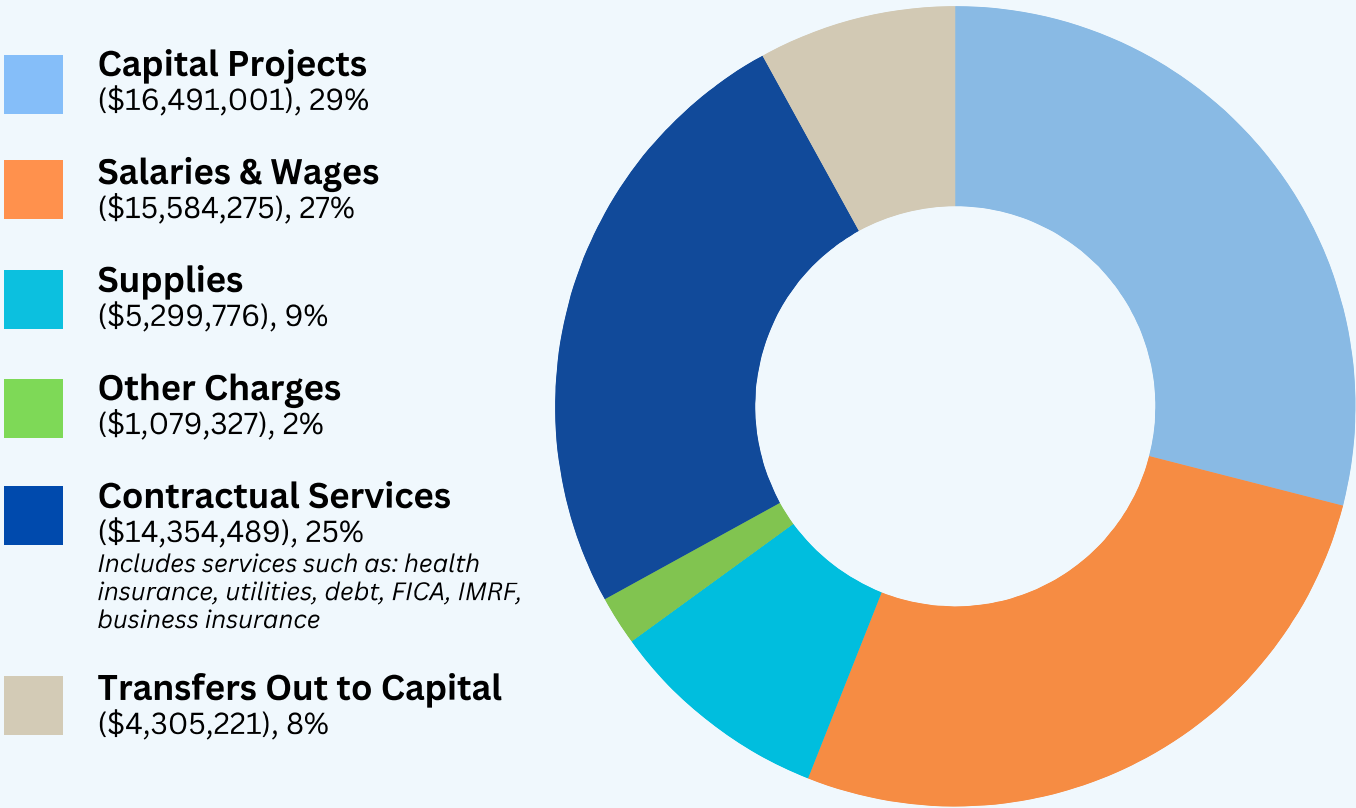
SUMMARY OF PURPOSE

A park district is a form of local special-purpose district intended to provide public parks and recreation in or near its geographic boundaries. Some park districts, like Wheaton Park District, also own or maintain related cultural facilities such as monuments, zoos, sports venues, music venues, or museums.

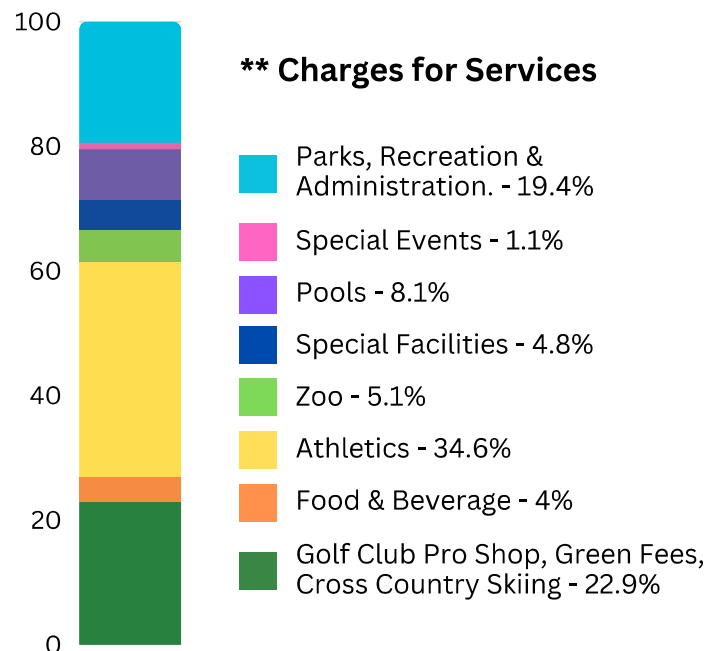
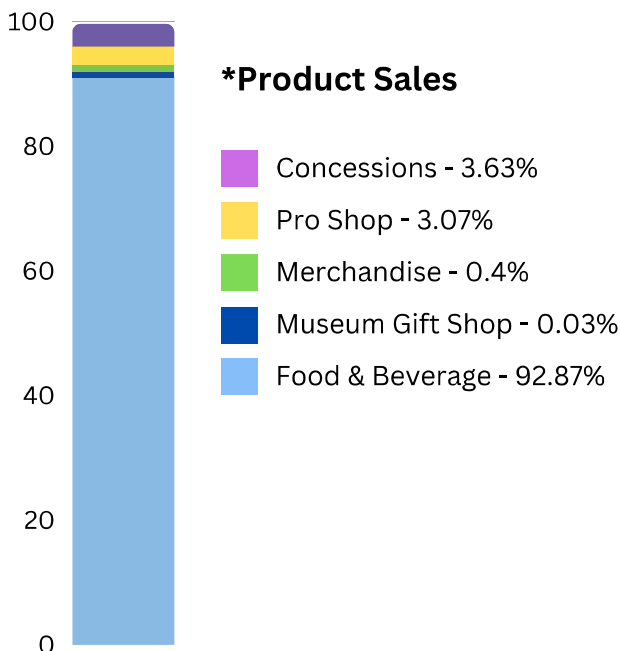
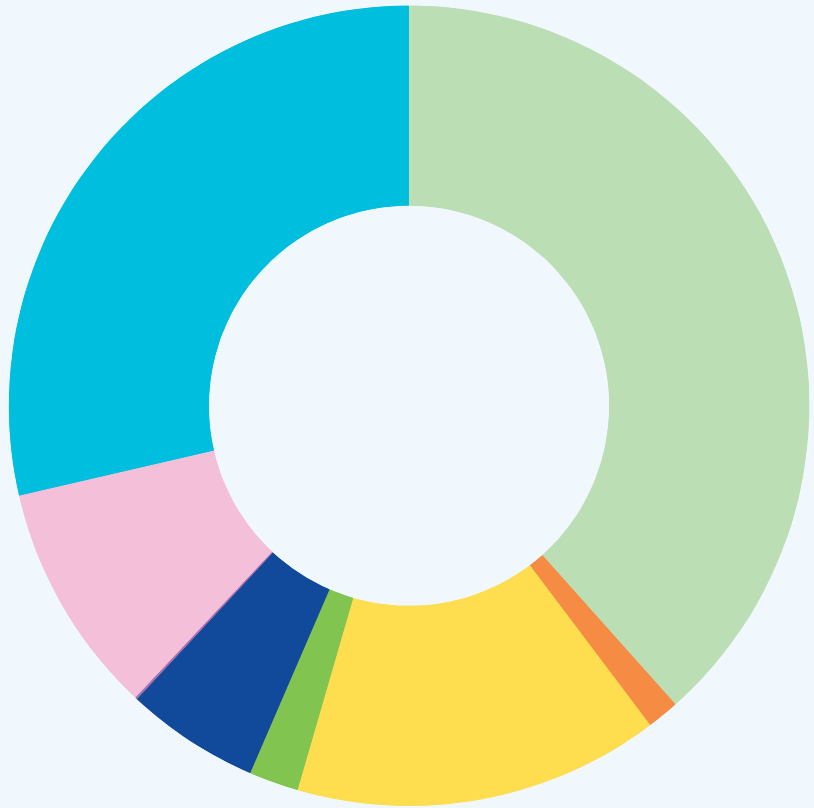
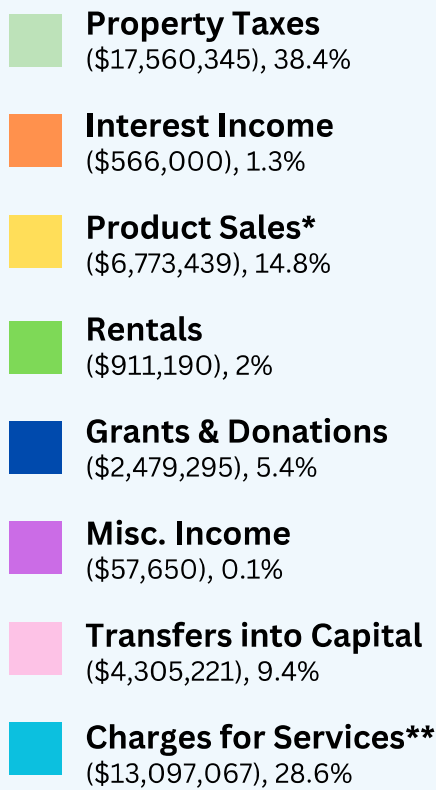
Park districts are prevalent in the United States. State statutes often have a general law to provide for park districts’ creation, dissolution, geographic borders, and annexation; the selection of governing boards, often referred to as park boards; and the criteria for levying property taxes on behalf of the district. Park districts sometimes obtain additional revenue by charging admission fees for some venues and through donations or voluntary memberships in a way similar to not-for-profit organizations; in addition, sometimes a park district is assisted by a private not-for-profit organization set up specifically for the purpose of assisting the local public park system.

Total Operating Budget Capital Budget	
A. Property Taxes for Operating Expenses 2025 tax levy	\$14,636,022
B. Property Taxes for Debt Service & Annual Capital Projects 2025 tax levy	\$2,924,323
C. Total Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2026	\$36,317,867
D. Capital Projects Budget Fiscal Year 2026	\$16,491,001

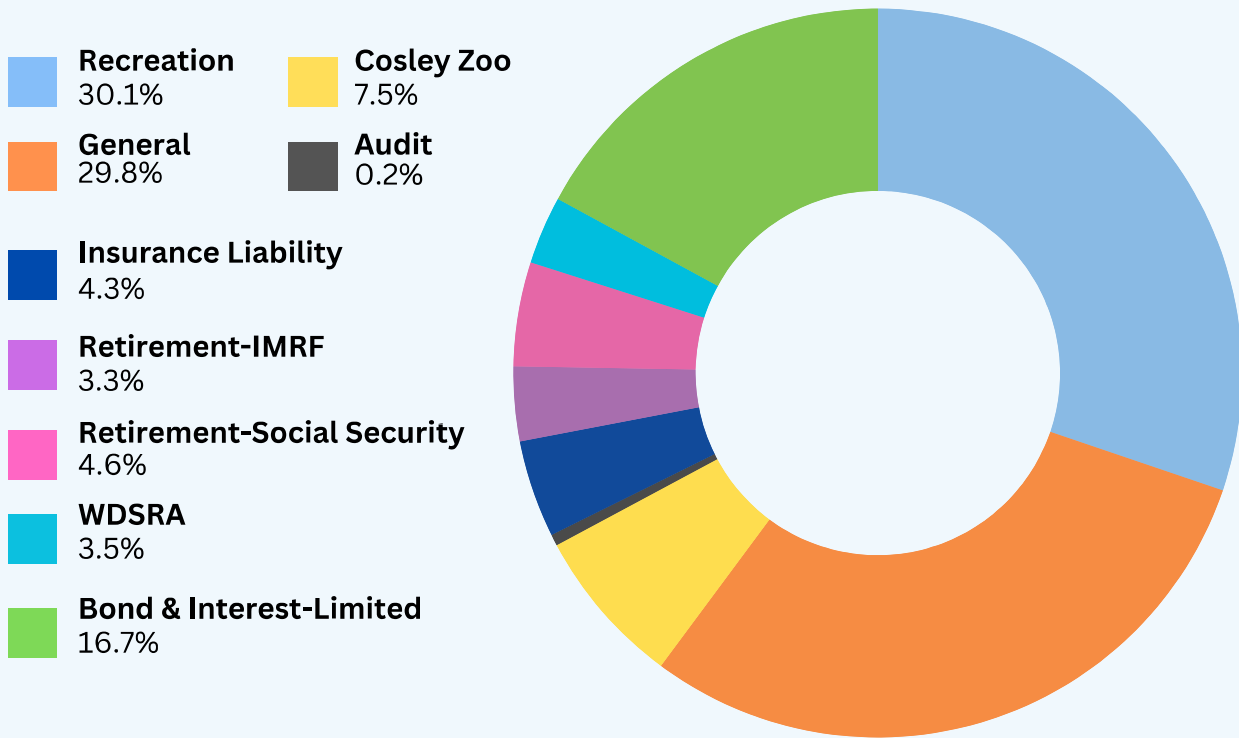
2026 Budget Expenses



2026 Budgeted Revenues



2025 Tax Levy (to be received in 2026)



Levy	\$ Amount
General	\$5,292,578
Recreation	\$5,243,081
Cosley Zoo	\$1,314,552
Audit	\$35,825
Insurance Liability	\$750,640
Retirement-IMRF	\$575,529
Retirement-Social Security	\$807,967
WDSRA	\$610,000
Bond & Interested-Limited	\$2,924,323

Total 2025 Tax Levy	\$17,554,495
Paid in 2026	

For every dollar of property taxes you paid in 2025, approximately 8.5 cents went to the Park District.



9.3¢ – Regional share to include college, county, forest preserve, Milton Township, Airport Authority

70.8¢ – School District 200 share of your tax dollar

11.4¢ – City of Wheaton share of your tax dollar

8.5¢ – Wheaton Park District's share of your tax dollar

Boards, Foundations, and Committees

Board of Park Commissioners - elected at large
commissioners@wheatonparks.org

Role of the Park Board:

The role of the commissioners is to provide leadership to further the mission and vision of the park district. They establish and adopt policies, set a strategic direction, monitor operation and capital expenditures, develop and maintain long-range plans, and oversee the Executive Director. Commissioners can be reached at commissioners@wheatonparks.org.

John Vires - President
Finance Subcommittee Chair
Commissioner Term 2023-2027

William Barrett - Vice President
Commissioner Term 2025-2029

John Kelly
Building & Grounds Subcommittee Chair
Commissioner Term 2025-2029

Bob Frey
Commissioner Term 2023-2027

Terry Mee
Commissioner Term 2023-2027

Linda Pecharich
Commissioner Term 2023-2027

Angela Welker
Commissioner Term 2025-2029

Michael Benard
Annual Appointment Executive Director/Secretary:
mbenard@wheatonparks.org
630.510.4945 OFC | 630.945.7726 CELL
FOIA Compliance Officer & ADA Compliance Officer

Volunteer Boards and Committees Supporting Park District Programs & Facilities

Baseball & Softball Program Board of Control

Dan Sullivan - sullivanand01@gmail.com
Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball and Softball (WPDYBS) is dedicated to providing opportunities for all Wheaton area youth to play baseball and softball in the respective leagues as defined by the Board of Control.

Rams Football Program Board of Control

Frank O'Connor - saharafrank@gmail.com
The purpose of the Wheaton Park District Youth Football League (WPDYFL) shall be to provide a sound and responsible football program for the youth of our community and to encourage the teaching of the fundamentals of football and the ideals of good sportsmanship.

Rams Cheer Board of Control

Gretchen Niemann - gretchen.goetz89@gmail.com
The purpose of the WPDCO shall be to provide a sound and reasonable cheerleading program for the youth of the area, and to encourage the teaching of fundamental cheerleading skills, teamwork, and the ideals of good sportsmanship.

DuPage County Historical Museum Foundation

Marty Keller, President -
foundations@dupagemuseum.org
The foundation is a volunteer board whose primary function is to raise funds to support DuPage County Historical Museum's mission to educate the general public through the collection, preservation, interpretation, and exhibition of materials that document the history of DuPage County and its relationship to Illinois and the nation, and to provide local history services for historical organizations and scholarly endeavors.

Cosley Zoo Foundation

Jennifer Clark, President -
cosleyfoundation@cosleyzoo.org
The foundation is a volunteer board which oversees the various fundraisers and the disposition of monies raised to support ongoing capital development of Cosley Zoo.

Friends of Lincoln Marsh

As a subsidiary of the Cosley Zoo Foundation, the Friends of Lincoln Marsh exists to generate funding for the future development at the Lincoln Marsh Natural Area.

Play for All Garden and Playground Foundation

Mike Benard, President -
mbenard@wheatonparks.org
The Play For All Playground and Garden Foundation exists to create inclusive and universally accessible outdoor play spaces and gardens in DuPage County. Through the cognitive, social, and physical values of play, the Foundation will promote a spirit of inclusion, enhance the quality of life, and support involvement in recreation and wellness activities for all people and abilities.

Employee Relief Fund Foundation

Sandra Simpson, President -
ssimpson@wheatonparks.org
The foundation is run by employees of the district which provides grants of short-term assistance to Wheaton Park District employees experiencing severe financial hardship due to unexpected circumstances. This foundation's primary source of funding is through donations from employees.

Employee Counts and Facilities Information

Full Time, Part Time & Seasonal Totals During Peak Summer Season +



Arrowhead Golf Club

FT: 22 | PT: 199 | Seasonal: 55
26W151 Butterfield Rd. | 630.653.5800
27-hole championship golf course | Restaurant, patio and sports bar | Meeting and banquet space for up to 275 people



Blanchard Building

FT: 0 | PT: 1 | Seasonal: 15
1753 S. Blanchard St.
Summer camps | Recreation programs | Rentals



Central Athletic Complex

FT: 0 | PT: 9 | Seasonal: 20
500 S. Naperville Rd. | 630.690.4880
(for rentals and parties)
2 full-size basketball courts or 4 side basketball courts, 4 volleyball courts, 2 batting cages, indoor soccer training areas, baseball/softball training area | Outdoor ice rinks (winter) | Meeting/birthday party room



Clocktower Mini Golf & Skate Park

FT: 0 | PT: 0 | Seasonal: 5
100 Naperville Rd. | 630.665.1299
(for parties and groups)
Mini golf and skate park | Concessions | Birthday parties and group outings available



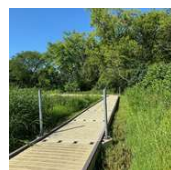
Cosley Zoo

FT: 9 | PT: 22 | Seasonal: 9
1356 N. Gary Ave. | 630.665.5534
North American wildlife and farm animals | Educational programs and camps | Seasonal concessions | Unique programs | Birthday parties and rentals | Special events



DuPage County Historical Museum Executive Director Office & Administration

FT: 4 | PT: 5 | Seasonal: 0
102 E. Wesley St. | 630.665.4710
Free admission | Research library | Three floors of exhibits | Guided tours
HO Gauge Model Railroad | Room rentals | Programs & events



Lincoln Marsh Natural Area

FT: 2 | PT: 7 | Seasonal: 5
Main entrance at the corner of Harrison and Pierce Aves. | 630.871.2810
Two miles of trails | Adventure programs and camps | Challenge Course with climbing tower | 151 acres of woodland, wetland and prairie | Environmental education and nature interpretation programs and camps



Mary Lubko Center

FT: 1 | PT: 17 | Seasonal: 0
In Memorial Park | 208 W. Union Ave. | 630.665.1415
Variety of programs for all ages – including fitness, games, sports, performing arts, day and extended travel for active adults | Rentals

Full Time, Part Time, Seasonal Employees 2026*

Full Time Employees: 106
Part Time Employees: 422
Seasonal Employees: 535

*During peak summer season

+Staff counts are approximate and based on season

Employee Counts and Facilities Information

Full Time, Part Time & Seasonal Totals During Peak Summer Season +



Memorial Park Band Shell

FT: 0 | PT: 0 | Seasonal: 8

In Memorial Park | 225 Karlskoga Ave. | 630.665.1415

Concerts and Performances | Special Events



Northside Family Aquatic Center

FT: 0 | PT: 0 | Seasonal: 76

1509 N. West St. | 630.653.3345 (Summer only)

Swim programs and lessons for all ages | Lap swimming

Shade and lounge chair areas for relaxing | Drop slide, body slides, diving boards, volleyball courts, children's play area, sand play areas



Parks Plus Fitness

FT: 1 | PT: 32 | Seasonal: 0

1777 S. Blanchard St. • Lower Level | 630.871.6713

Full fitness facility | Personal Training and Small Group Training

Kidz Kingdom on-site childcare service | Group fitness instruction



Park Services Center

FT: 29 | PT: 16 | Seasonal: 37

1000 Manchester Rd. | 630.653.5429

Maintenance | Capital Projects | Park & Shelter Rental



Prairie Administrative Office

FT: 16 | PT: 9 | Seasonal: 1

Staff Building | 855 W. Prairie Ave. | 630.510.4952

Marketing | Development | Special Events

Human Resources | Finance | Cosley Zoo



Rathje Park House

FT: 0 | PT: 2 | Seasonal: 0

In Rathje Park | 616 Delles Rd. | 630.690.4880

Youth programs | Recreation events



Ray Morrill Community Center

FT: 21 | PT: 100 | Seasonal: 104

1777 S. Blanchard St. | 630.690.4880

Open gym | Indoor track | Parks Plus Fitness & Kidz Kingdom Childcare

Room rentals Program & Photo I.D. registration | Pool pass sales



Rice Pool & Water Park

FT: 0 | PT: 0 | Seasonal: 193

1777 S. Blanchard St. | 630.653.8884 (Summer Only)

Swim programs and lessons for all ages | Group packages, birthday and private parties | Lap swimming | Drop slide, body slides, diving boards, volleyball courts



Toohey Park & Safety City

FT: 0 | PT: 4 | Seasonal: 7

1900 Orchard Rd. | 630.871.2835

Preschool programs | Safety City | Birthday parties

+ Staff counts are approximate and based on season



Government Transparency Portal

Wheaton Park District documents are available for public inspection upon request and are also immediately accessible via the Government Transparency Portal located within the Wheaton Park District website.
wheatonparkdistrict.com/transparency

- **Accounts Payable** - Check approval documentation by date
- **Americans with Disabilities Act**
- **ADA Accessibility Audit and Transition Plan**
- **Annual Reports** - Annual reports of facilities and departments
- **Bid Results** - Include the statement and discussion of issue, bid submissions and summary
- **Board Meetings** - View board meeting agendas, minutes and packets. Videos of regular meetings also available for viewing.
- **Board Meetings Archive** - Archived Board meetings Agendas, Packets, Minutes, and Videos
- **Budget & Financial Reports**
- **Annual operating budgets, annual comprehensive financial reports and general finance reports including:**
 - Monthly Finance Report
 - Compensation Disclosure
 - Treasurer's Report
 - IMRF Employer Cost and Participant Information
 - Finance Policy
- **Capital Projects & Improvements** - Projects currently under construction, future endeavors and recently completed
- **Contracts & Agreements** - Contracts and agreements organized by year and vendor
- **Departments of the District** - Administration and Department Directors
- **FOIA Requests** - Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests overview and officer contact information. FOIA officer training annual certificates available upon request.
- **FOIA Notices or Denials** - An index of notices or denials available upon request
- **Ordinances & Resolutions** - Organized by year with a short description
- **Policies** - Details about policies of the Wheaton Park District
 - Advertising & Sponsorship Policy
 - Canada Geese Management
 - Environmental Policy
 - Finance Policy
 - Outdoor Athletic Area Fee Schedule & Use Policy
 - Park Board Policy & Practices
 - Park Conduct Ordinance
 - Purchase of Resident Benefits by Nonresidents
 - Residency Status
 - Satisfaction Guarantee & Refund Policy
 - Service Animals
 - Social Media
 - Use & Distribution of Images
- **Stakeholder Surveys & Results** - Summary of Wheaton Park District 2020 Stakeholder Survey, 2016 Resident Survey Results and 2025 Stakeholder Survey
- **Strategic Plan** - Strategic plan documents
- **Vendor Payments** - Link to OpenGov Financial Transparency Tool
- **Citizen Concern Forms** - Available to download from the Wheaton Park District website or for pickup at the Community Center.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Designated Contacts

Public documents related to the Wheaton Park District are available at any time. Freedom of Information Officers listed below are available to assist the public with obtaining access to documents they wish to review. In many cases, the information will be available on our website wheatonparkdistrict.com via our Transparency Portal or via wheatonparkdistrict.opengov.com. Your need for public information can typically be met informally.

Michael Benard, Executive Director
& Freedom of Information Officer
mbenard@wheatonparks.org
630.510.4945 OFC | 630.945.7726 CELL

Donna Siciliano, Executive Assistant
& Deputy FOIA Officer
dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org | 630.510.4944

To formally request information under the Freedom of Information Act, visit the link below.
wheatonparkdistrict.com/FOIA

How the Process Works

After a FOIA Request submission is received, the Chief FOIA Officer or Deputy will respond within five (5) business days with the requested materials unless a request is denied or an extension is required. The public has a right to information produced by their government with certain privacy limitations (5ILCS 140/1). When you submit a FOIA request, your information becomes public record and your request as well as our response will be posted on our website. Fee information is also posted at **wheatonparkdistrict.com/FOIA**

- **FOIA Requests** – Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests overview and officer contact information. FOIA officer training annual certificates available upon request.
- **FOIA Notices or Denials** – An index of notices or denials available upon request.

FOIA Fees Allowed Under Section B:

You may opt to inspect original documents at the Wheaton Park District's Administrative Office at 102 E. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL or you may request copies. There is no charge for the first 50 pages of black and white letter or legal sized copies. There is a \$0.15 charge for each additional page.



Wheaton Park District
**Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
Request Form**

Administrative Office
102 E. Wesley St.
Wheaton, IL 60187
Phone: 630-665-4710
Fax: 630-665-5880

Michael Benard, Chief FOIA Officer

1. Complete the following fields. *Please print.*

Full Name: _____ Today's Date: ____/____/____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq., "Freedom of Information Act," I request the following public record(s) from the Wheaton Park District:

3. Would you prefer to (check one): ☐ Inspect the documents at the Administrative Office
☐ Receive copies of the documents

Note: There is no charge for the first 50 pages of black and white letter or legal sized copies. There is a \$0.15 charge for each additional page. There is no charge to inspect records only.

4. How would you prefer to receive the requested documents? (circle one)

Mail Fax Pick-up Inspect (at the Administrative Office)

5. The purpose of this request is for (check one): ☐ Personal Use ☐ Commercial Use

It is a violation of the Freedom of Information Act for a person to knowingly obtain a public record for a commercial purpose without disclosing that it is for a commercial purpose, if requested to do so by the public body. 5 ILCS 140.3.1(c)). If you are requesting that the public body waive any fees for copying the documents, you must attach a statement of the purpose of the request, and whether the principal purpose of the request is to access or disseminate information regarding the health, safety and welfare or legal rights of the general public. 5 ILCS 140/6(c)).

Important:

- The Wheaton Park District has five (5) business days to respond to non-commercial requests, unless cause for a time extension is cited by the Park District pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3(d).
- Please retain a copy of this request for your files, if you need to file a review, you will need to submit a copy of your request.

Requestor's Signature: _____

For Office Use Only

Receiving FOIA Agent: _____

Request received: _____ (date/time)

Response period expires: _____ (date/time)

Notes: _____