



**Wilmette Park District  
Committee-of-the-Whole  
Board of Park Commissioners**

*Tuesday, September 27, 2022  
6:30 pm – Mallinckrodt Community Center “Big Room”*

**AGENDA**

**1.0 COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE CALLED TO ORDER**

**1.1 ROLL CALL**

**2.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

**4.0 ONGOING DISTRICT PROJECTS**

**4.1 CONSIDERATION OF PICKLEBALL COURTS – DEFINING PHASE - DEFERRED**

**4.2 CONSIDERATION OF WALLACE BOWL RESTORATION – DEFINING PHASE**

**4.3 GILLSON PARK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – PLANNING PHASE**

**4.4 WEST PARK PADDLE IMPROVEMENTS – PLANNING PHASE**

**4.5 LANGDON SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT – PLANNING PHASE**

**4.6 SOLAR PANEL PROJECT AT CRC – PLANNING PHASE**

**4.7 COMMUNITY PLAYFIELDS BATHROOM PROJECT – EXECUTION PHASE**

**4.8 KEAY NATURE CENTER PATH RENOVATION – EXECUTION PHASE**

**4.9 LAKEVIEW CENTER RENOVATION – EXECUTION PHASE**

**4.10 GOLF CLUB GRILLE ROOM RENOVATION – COMPLETION PHASE**

**5.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

**5.1 ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT**

**5.11 COMPREHENSIVE AND STRATEGIC PLAN – UPDATE**

**5.2 FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

**5.21 REVIEW OF MONTHLY FINANCIALS AND CAPITAL PLAN EXPENDITURES**

**5.22 DISCUSSION OF 2023 BUDGETARY GUIDELINES**

**5.3 RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**5.31 OPERATIONAL UPDATES AND SUMMER OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

**5.4 PARKS AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

*If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations to participate in and/or attend a Wilmette Park District meeting, please notify the Director's Office at 847-256-6100.*

## **Wilmette Park District** **Policy for Public Comment**

The Board of Park Commissioners, in its regular or special meetings, is a deliberative body assembled to make decisions on new and pending matters affecting the District. Park Board and Committee meetings are meetings held in public, not a public meeting. The Board invites both oral and written communications from its residents.

To facilitate the conduct of Board/Committee meetings, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A section of each regular meeting is set aside for public comment and will be noted on the agenda as "Recognition of Visitors."
2. During the "Recognition of Visitors" agenda item, audience members should raise their hands and be recognized by the President/Chairperson prior to speaking.
3. When recognized by the President/Chairperson, each audience member should identify themselves and limit speaking to no more than three (3) minutes, unless additional time is granted by the President/Chairperson.
4. Questions are to be directed to the entire Board/Committee.
5. Park Board members may, by addressing the President/Chairperson, interrupt a presenter to obtain clarification and/or further information.
6. A Board/Committee meeting is not a forum for complaints against individual employees. Such matters are handled by directly contacting the Executive Director. Complaints against the Executive Director should be handled by directly contacting the President of the Board of Park Commissioners.
7. During presentation and discussion of agenda items, the President/Chairperson will not recognize speakers in the audience unless the Board/Committee desires additional information from an audience member.
8. When addressing the Board/Committee, all persons permitted to speak shall confine their remarks to the matter at hand and avoid personal remarks, the impugning of motives, and merely contentious statements. If any person indulges in such remarks or otherwise engages in conduct injurious to the civil discourse of the Board/Committee and the meeting, the President/Chairperson may immediately terminate the opportunity to speak. This decision is at the discretion of the President/Chairperson or upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the park board commissioners present.
9. Any person, except a member of the Board, who engages in disorderly conduct during a meeting, may be ejected from the meeting upon motion passed by a majority of the Board present.

**From:** [Patrick O'Gara](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#); [Andrew S. Paine](#); [Michael Braiman](#); [Jeff Stein](#); [John Adler](#); [Ted Blumenthal](#); [Kyle Murphy](#)  
**Cc:** [Paul Hahn](#); [Senta Plunkett](#); [Gina Kennedy](#); [Kathy Dodd](#); [Peter Barrow](#); [Dan Sullivan](#); [Justin Sheperd](#); [Kate Gjaja](#)  
**Subject:** [external] September 13, 2022 West Park Ordinance Violation  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 10:43:50 PM

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Dear Wilmette Park District,

The May 10, 2022 Village Ordinance states: "No League Play shall be permitted after 10:00 p.m. on any day after March 31st of any year and before September 15th of any year."

Please see the attached time stamped picture and advise what action will be taken with respect to the players currently playing paddle on the northwest court of the Platform Tennis Club at 10:40 pm on September 13, 2022, in blatant violation of Village Ordinance? How is it possible that the lights are even on past 10pm before September 15, 2022?

Dear Village of Wilmette,

Please advise what actions will be taken with respect to the Park District for this violation including the Park District's misrepresentation about the light timers which was reported to the Village Board earlier this very evening?

Thank you.

Patrick O'Gara

Sep 13, 2022 at 10:29:43 PM



**From:** [Patrick O'Gara](#)  
**To:** [Andrew S. Paine](#); [Michael Braiman](#); [Jeff Stein](#); [John Adler](#); [Ted Blumenthal](#); [Kyle Murphy](#); [Steve Wilson](#)  
**Cc:** [Paul Hahn](#); [Senta Plunkett](#); [Gina Kennedy](#); [Kathy Dodd](#); [Peter Barrow](#); [Dan Sullivan](#); [Justin Sheperd](#); [Kate Gjaja](#)  
**Subject:** [external] September 16, 2022 West Park Ordinance Violation  
**Date:** Friday, September 16, 2022 8:24:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [IMG\\_6844.mp4](#)

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Dear Wilmette Park District,

The May 10, 2022 Village Ordinance allows construction of two additional paddle courts at the Platform Tennis Club in West Park by expanding an existing special use pursuant to which the six existing paddle courts had been constructed. None of the three special use applications related to the Platform Tennis Club's paddle courts (2013, 2017 and 2022) sought permission for, or made reference to, these paddle courts being used for pickleball play. In April 2022 the Park District withdrew its application for a special use expansion and variations related to dedicated pickleball courts before submitting its modified application seeking only two additional paddle courts and an expanded Unsupervised Booze Hut to the Village Board this past April 2022. The May 10, 2022 Village Ordinance by which the Village of Wilmette allowed the additional two paddle courts and expanded Unsupervised Booze Hut only references the paddle courts as being used for paddle, and makes no reference whatsoever to pickleball, as with the previous 2017 and 2013 Ordinances related to the current six paddle courts and original Unsupervised Booze Hut.

Please see the attached video taken at 7:55 pm tonight, a time at which all six paddle court were reserved for "casual play" according to YourCourts. The video shows pickleball play taking place on two of the paddle courts. Please advise what action will be taken with respect to the individuals who reserved the courts for paddle but engaged in or allowed pickleball to be played in violation of Village Ordinance?

Dear Village of Wilmette,

Please advise what actions will be taken with respect to the Park District for this violation as well as the Park District's ongoing refusal to inform those who reserve the paddle courts that they can only be used for paddle play and that pickleball play is not allowed, including because of the resulting noise disturbance that was established in great detail (including by the Park District's own noise expert Dr. Thomas Thunder) during the special use and variation application process earlier this year?

Thank you.

Patrick O'Gara

**From:** [Patrick O'Gara](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#); [Andrew S. Paine](#); [Julia Goebel](#); [Kara Kosloskus](#)  
**Cc:** [Wilmetteparkfriends Info](#); [Paul Hahn](#); [Friends of West Park Wilmette](#); [Anne Nagle](#); [Michael Braiman](#); [John Adler](#); [Jeff Stein](#); [Senta Plunkett](#); [Kathy Dodd](#); [Dan Sullivan](#); [Peter Barrow](#); [Gina Kennedy](#); [Kate Gajaj](#); [Justin Sheperd](#); [Kyle Murphy](#); [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [external] Community Emails Not In Park District Meeting Packets  
**Date:** Monday, September 26, 2022 10:16:30 AM

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Dear Wilmette Park District,

There is an ongoing serious problem of community emails not being included in meeting packets and therefore not being seen by the Commissioners, including when such emails are about items on the agenda such as West Park. I have previously raised this in addition to other matters I have raised of unlawful speech restriction by the Park District.

For example, I see that there are no community emails whatsoever in the packet for tomorrow night's committee of the whole meeting, including my own. In the past, there have been instances of what appears to be selective inclusion in meeting packets.

What is the policy and procedure for emails to be included in both committee of the whole and board meeting packets? I have previously asked this question and not received a response.

As for tomorrow night's committee of the whole meeting, is it possible for a supplemental packet with community emails regarding items on the agenda--including West Park--to be issued and sent to commissioners?

Thank you.

Patrick O'Gara

**From:** [Friends of West Park Wilmette](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#); [WestPark Project](#)  
**Cc:** [publiccomment@wilmette.com](mailto:publiccomment@wilmette.com)  
**Subject:** [external] Fwd: Fw: WPD Landscape Comments Round 2  
**Date:** Friday, September 16, 2022 9:06:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [WPD Landscape Comments Round 2.pdf](#)

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Dear Wilmette Park District,

We concur with and adopt Paul Hahn's feedback on the Park District's updated landscaping plan in his message below and its attachment. Please include this in the packet for the next Park District COW meeting. We have also copied the Village's public comment inbox and request that this message be included in the next meeting packet.

At the September 12, 2022 Park Board meeting we were once again alarmed by statements of the Park Board President, including that he is again conducting his own legal analysis of the special use and variation permissions granted by the Village of Wilmette for the Platform Tennis Club in opposition to both the Village as well as the neighbors and friends of West Park. Specifically, the Park Board president's statements reflect an improper agenda for pickleball to be programmed on the Platform Tennis Courts and for a decking extension that was at first included in the Park District's special use and variation application earlier this year, but that was withdrawn from the modified application approved by the Village Board after the unanimous ZBA negative recommendation, to still be included in forthcoming construction. The Park Board has never voted on proceeding with programmed pickleball or the decking extension without Village approval, accordingly pursuing this represents--once again--improper commissioner conduct and a misuse of Park District resources.

We are also disturbed that the Park District is using the hypothetical Skokie Valley Trail access path through West Park as a basis not to plan any mitigations whatsoever for the northern side of the northern paddle courts as well as the western side of the northwestern court. Even if one accepts that the future possible access path must be accounted for with respect to the northern side, it would have no conceivable impact on the western side. We fear that the Park District's intention to still build two additional northern courts, as blatantly indicated in the updated landscaping plan by the two court size boxes to the east and west of the existing northern courts, is the true reason it will not introduce mitigations on the northern and western sides of the northern courts. This continues the insulting and reckless nature of the Park District's outlook on West Park, with expansion and revenue generation being the ultimate purpose and issues of disturbance and neighbor relations only addressed to the least possible extent.

Why do we have resident commissioners if this is how they will treat their neighbors, not to mention how they view the Park District's legal obligations? Is there no decent law-abiding person on the Board of Park Commissioners to stand up against this? The irresponsible, abusive if not unlawful way that the Wilmette Park District is being governed and managed must be changed.

Thank you.

Friends of West Park Wilmette

----- Forwarded Message -----

1. .What is the "planting bed" on the east side of the two middle courts? The original plan called for Arborvitae to be planted there. What is going in there?
2. What are the two outlines for courts on either end of the northern courts? If it is a mistake please have them removed and send a new copy that is also dated, this one is not dated anywhere that I can see.
3. Where are the plantings on the southern side of the most southern proposed court?
4. Is there a reason that the Park District wants to remove the two very large bushes on the east side by the West Park sign at this time?? Can't this wait to see if and when the bike path goes in and where it actually ends up?? These kind of plans change often from my experience. I have been told that IF this happens construction would have a "tentative" build date of 2025. More than likely later than that. A lot of agreements have to be hammered out for this to happen by then. "Design Phase" is not the final "construction phase" and is subject to change.
5. On the northern side of north courts there IS room for both plantings and an "Acoustifence" for light and sound mitigation. The "anticipated" bike path is only 5' wide on the drawing and possibly 8' at the most from what I have been told, (if and when it is put in) that leaves another 65" from the courts extended angled bracing to the sidewalk if its actually put in in 2025. The fence can be done either way and continue around the corners on the east and west sides. I don't believe this is an issue after talking with the Village and I have also spoken to the vendor in regards to the north side who informs me that this is completely doable within these measurements and would most definitely help. THIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT THIS TIME. If it is not considered please tell us why not and in writing so that we understand the parks district's reason.? Saying it is not "required" is not an answer from a responsible owner trying to help the neighborhood on the east, west and northern sides in regards to light and sound mitigations.
6. In regards to the berm and its location a drain and drain line should be run from the area behind the property to the south of the large bush to the existing drain to the north. This will help with ponding after a heavy rain. That entire area now floods. The berm will add additional potential flooding to that already flooding area and neighbors' back yard.
7. In regards to the West side of the Northern courts there has been no effort to mitigate that side for lighting or sound at all. Why not?
8. In regards to the signage I think to be clear the IN SEASON and OUT OF SEASON dates should also be included.

**From:** [Friends of West Park Wilmette](#)  
**To:** [WestPark Project](#); [Steve Wilson](#); [John Adler](#); [Jeff](#); [braimanm@wilmette.com](mailto:braimanm@wilmette.com); [publiccomment@wilmette.com](mailto:publiccomment@wilmette.com)  
**Subject:** [external] Platform Tennis Club Objections  
**Date:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 3:58:11 PM

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Dear Wilmette Park District and Village of Wilmette,

This is for inclusion in Park District and Village meeting packets.

In connection with our vigorous objection to ANY expansion of what was submitted to the Village Board earlier this year by the Park District and approved by the May 10 Ordinance with respect to the Platform Tennis Club in West Park, including use of the existing six and approved two additional paddle courts for pickleball (both officially and unofficially) and the significant expansion of the decking around the Warming Hut aka Unsupervised Booze Hut--specifically to expand the northern decking across the Glenview Water Main easement held by the Village of Wilmette and assigned to the Village of Glenview, which decking expansion was removed from the Park District's modified special use and variation application--we have additional information.

First, a neighbor of West Park confirmed with the Park District this week via email that the Park District allows alcohol to be consumed on the Unsupervised Booze Hut's current decking just as alcohol is allowed to be refrigerated and consumed in the Hut's interior. The current Hut decking includes several benches and space heaters, and the associated noise when the decking is used for drinking and other social purposes contributes to the noise disturbances experienced by other park users and park neighbors.

Second, a review of historic meeting minutes shows that Board President Murdock, who recently raised the possibility of building the Hut's northern decking expansion despite its removal from the Park District's modified application earlier this year, made statements that such a decking expansion would facilitate an outdoor grill and firepit. However, such uses for the expanded decking were conspicuously not included in the Park District's original special use and variation application earlier this year. We fear, however, that this together with associated tables and seating remains the unspoken intention for the Unsupervised Booze Hut's northern decking expansion.

Third, earlier this week we learned that a Ouilmette Foundation Bourbon Tasting event in the Unsupervised Booze Hut had been about to proceed without necessary Village liquor and raffle licensing. Only thanks to the vigilance of West Park's neighbors was this blatant violation of Village legal requirements not carried out. The Park District is highly familiar with these legal requirements due to regularly seeking such licensing for events in other locations. Once again, however, the attitude seems to be that the rules don't apply in West Park. If such events indicate the future for the Unsupervised Booze Hut, it only increases our concerns and objections related to the northern decking expansion and the Platform Tennis Club as a whole.

The Park District is making a mockery of the tortuous zoning process that we all went through earlier this year and its own agreements when it scaled back its proposed plans and committed to disturbance mitigation. The Park District is also making it clear that respect and consideration for the neighbors and friends of West Park is the least of its priorities, an outlook that has also been demonstrated in several other disturbing ways in recent months.

No expansion of the Platform Tennis Club including construction of the approved two additional paddle courts should go ahead (i.e., construction permits should be held back or voided) until it is resolved that this unnecessary decking expansion that would create significant additional noise disturbance and further destroy the little remaining open green space in this decimated park will not be allowed. In addition, it must be formally established that the paddle courts will not be used for pickleball, nor will any other expansion such as the additional northern courts that seem to be indicated on the updated landscaping plan be pursued, and the Park District will otherwise fully and promptly comply with all requirements of the May 10 Ordinance.

End the Discrimination and Save West Park.

Thank you.

Friends of West Park Wilmette

From: Paul Hahn <[paulyh813@gmail.com](mailto:paulyh813@gmail.com)>  
To: Stephen Wilson <[swilson@wilpark.org](mailto:swilson@wilpark.org)>; "[westpark@wilpark.org](mailto:westpark@wilpark.org)"  
<[westpark@wilpark.org](mailto:westpark@wilpark.org)>; "[publiccomment@wilmette.com](mailto:publiccomment@wilmette.com)"  
<[publiccomment@wilmette.com](mailto:publiccomment@wilmette.com)>; Braiman Michael <[braimanm@wilmette.com](mailto:braimanm@wilmette.com)>; Jeff Stein  
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<[jgoebel@wilpark.org](mailto:jgoebel@wilpark.org)>  
Cc: Patrick Ogara <[ogara@yaho.com](mailto:ogara@yaho.com)>; Deb Kennedy <[debikenn@gmail.com](mailto:debikenn@gmail.com)>; Hahn Paul  
<[paulyh813@gmail.com](mailto:paulyh813@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 04:44:32 PM CDT  
Subject: WPD Landscape Comments Round 2

Steve, FYI questions in regards to revised Landscape plans for West Park. Could I please get your responses to them in writing for clarification.

Paul Hahn

Paul Hahn

# Memorandum



Date: September 21, 2022

To: Board of Park Commissioners:  
Commissioner Michael Murdock, President  
Commissioner Kara Kosloskus, Vice President  
Commissioner Julia Goebel  
Commissioner Cecilia Clarke  
Commissioner Allison Frazier  
Commissioner Patrick Duffy  
Commissioner Lindsay Anderson

From: Steve Wilson, Executive Director

Cc: Kristi Solberg, Superintendent of Parks and Planning  
Emily Guynn, Superintendent of Recreation  
Sheila Foy, Superintendent of Finance  
Liz Cox, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management

Re: Ongoing District Projects

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## **4.1 Consideration of Pickleball Courts – Defining Phase - DEFERRED**

District staff have completed much of the information gathering the Committee asked for at the last meeting, but due to Village Staff vacations in the month of September, a meeting to discuss the applicable Zoning Codes and Special Use provisions has yet to take place. As this information will very possibly have a material impact on the analysis of this topic, discussion has been deferred to the next meeting.

## **4.2 Consideration of Wallace Bowl Renovation – Defining Phase**

The last time Woodhouse Tinucci Architects (WTA) presented to the Committee, they were given direction to assemble a team of consultants including a structural engineer, landscape architect, and a sound/lighting expert. That process has taken place and WTA reports that the proposals they have selected create a team comprised as follows:

Structural Engineer – C.E. Anderson And Associated - \$3,500

Masonry Restoration/Historic Restoration Specialist – BTLA Architects - \$4,000

AV/Lighting Expert – Threshold Acoustics, \$6,000

Landscape – Wilmette Park District Arborist and Horticulturist, \$0

Staff is in agreement with using these three consultants and the amount total \$13,500, which is less than the required state statute amount requiring board action to approve, and with the general consensus of the Committee, staff will proceed with the team assembled by WTA.

#### **4.3 Gillson Park Comprehensive Plan – Planning Phase**

Following the direction provided by the Board at the last Regular Board Meeting, staff will assemble an RFP to seek engineering services to create detailed drawings in line with the conceptual drawing agreed to by the board. In addition, the RFP will include a solicitation for a Landscape Architect to do a landscape plan for the remainder of the park that was not landscaped as a part of the beach house and parking lot project.

#### **4.4 West Park Paddle Improvements – Planning Phase**

As reported at the Board meeting this month, the additional bids for the site work related to the two new paddle courts is currently being value engineered. At the time of this memo, the discussions are approaching an end, but I do not have this information. Therefore, a Special Meeting will be scheduled to review the revised bid and afford the Board the option to approve the bid for site work.

#### **4.5 Langdon Shoreline Protection Project – Planning Phase**

Staff signed an agreement with SmithGroup to provide additional professional services to develop plans in line with the direction it received from the Board. The intent is to have these new plans presented at the October Board Meeting. If that ends up not being feasible, the presentation will be at the October Committee of the Whole Meeting.

#### **4.6 Solar Panel Project at CRC – Planning Phase**

Staff received two proposals for installing solar panels at the Community Recreation Center (CRC) utilizing a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). A PPA creates an agreement where an outside company pays for the installation of the panels saving the District the upfront cost of installation, while in return the District agrees to purchase the electricity generated by the panels from the outside company. Attached you will find both proposals,

Due to time passing since the original proposals were submitted, and due to market volatility related to world events and inflation, staff will be returning to both companies who submitted proposals, and seeking updated pricing. Once this information is in hand, we will review and make a recommendation on next steps to the full board at the October Regular Board Meeting.

#### **4.7 Community Playfields Bathroom Project - Execution Phase**

At the time of this memo, all interior inspections have been completed and the insulation is being installed. Insulation will be finalized by the end of the day on September 23, 2022. Cleanup of the work zone will begin the week of September 26, 2022. Lastly, the concrete work for the pad to move the irrigation controls to, as well as the perimeter walkways, will be completed in the next couple weeks.

#### **4.8 Keay Nature Center Path Renovation – Execution Phase**

The bid for this project has been approved by the Board and the work is scheduled to begin the first week of October. The entire project should be completed in 2022, inclusive of the bump outs for the nature play areas distributed around the park adjacent to the path.

#### **4.9 Lakeview Center Renovation– Execution Phase**

The permits needed to begin the renovation have been received from the Village of Wilmette and work will begin in the next couple weeks. As the work progresses, staff will report on schedule and include photos of the progress.

#### **4.10 Golf Club Grille Room Renovation - Completion Phase**

The project at the golf club restaurant is materially done. With the exception of some punch list items, the space is complete. The restaurant has begun full operations and has received favorable reviews for the quality of food and service. The space itself is also receiving positive feedback as people like the new bar and the updated look to the now nearly 20 year old room. As we do at this phase of a project, we want to pause and take a moment to determine what worked well, and what did not, so we can continue to improve how we plan and execute projects. The main thing that worked well for us was finding a service provider who has not only professional restaurant experience, but also an enthusiasm to operate in our location. The main thing we learned and should avoid in the future if possible is doing a project of this scope heading into the golf season. The service to the golf community, and the general customer, was disrupted for the majority of the time people would prefer to use the space. In addition, a project of this scope should have a construction manager hired to keep the project moving forward and on schedule. The lack of these services likely caused a slower construction timeline that otherwise would have been achieved.

## Proposal for the Community Recreation Center Solar Panel Installation



PRESENTED BY:



Submitted on: 6/3/2022

Verde Solutions, LLC  
[engineering@verdesolutions.com](mailto:engineering@verdesolutions.com)

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## Executive Summary

Verde Solutions LLC has read the Wilmette Park District’s request for PV solar system development and accepts its terms and conditions. Our proposal is directly focused on helping the Wilmette Park District achieve its goal of implementing renewable energy solutions to achieve energy savings and bring a circular economy for creating jobs and sustainability with this project.

In response to the Wilmette Park District RFP for onsite solar EPC services, Verde Solutions is pleased to submit this proposal for the development, design, construction, operation, and sale of 611 kW-DC of renewable energy from four distributed PV generation sites via a power purchase agreement. Our proposal includes ballasted and flush mount rooftop arrays for the Community Recreation Center.

Verde Solutions will serve as the full-service developer and EPC for this project. Verde Solutions will provide a turnkey solution including all utility applications, system design and engineering, permitting, incentive filing, procurement, and installation. We will include our financing partner, Onyx Renewable Partners L.P. (“Onyx”), to engage in a Power Purchase Agreement with the Wilmette Park District. Onyx, established in 2014, is a vertically integrated renewable developer headquartered in New York City, and has successfully developed, constructed, and financed in excess of 140 MW of commercial and industrial (“C&I”), and utility-scale solar assets across the country. Onyx also provides Asset Management and Operation & Maintenance (“O&M”) services for approximately 154 MW of operating solar assets.

The project proposed by Verde Solutions will be connected to the distribution grid and will comply with ComEd’s Interconnection and Net Metering requirements. Based on production modeling, approximate annual production for the Community Recreation Center is 723,900 kWh. The Recreation Center will save about \$1.75 million on its electric bill over the solar system’s 30-year useful lifespan.

The PPA rate options for the Community Recreation Center are outlined in Table 1 below. The PPA requires \$0 upfront capital commitment and includes ongoing O&M funded by Onyx for the contract term. Purchase options (buyout options) are available for every year starting in year 7, which is the first year Onyx can legally offer a purchase option and still completely monetize the tax incentives.

<b>Term (years)</b>	<b>PPA Rate (\$/kWh)</b>	<b>Escalator (%)</b>
20	0.0549	0
25	0.0566	0

*Table 1: PPA Rates for the Community Recreation Center*

Not only does this project provide financial and environmental benefits to the Wilmette Park District, but it also includes an additional benefit of providing research and educational opportunities for the community at large. The Wilmette Park District can meet its own renewable power needs while developing a program to educate the community on the importance of renewable and sustainable distributed energy systems.

## Company Information

Christopher Gersch, Founder and CEO of Verde Solutions grew up with aspirations of owning his own business while making a difference in the lives of others. His vision to positively impact communities was realized when he founded Verde Solutions, LLC in 2012. Verde Solutions partners with businesses, municipalities, and educational centers across the country to develop comprehensive energy efficiency solutions. Over the last ten years, Verde Solutions has developed more than 2,200 energy efficiency projects in 48 states and has expanded internationally. Verde Solutions initially focused on energy reduction (LED Lighting, HVACR, and Controls) and, with sustainability in mind, added energy generation solutions including Solar and Combined Heat and Power. Verde Solutions' passion for sustainability is shared by many of its Fortune 100 clients. Verde Solutions is proud to partner with these companies to achieve significant and lasting improvements in environmental and social outcomes. Due to the hard work and dedication of the entire Verde team, the company was recognized as #289 on the Inc. 500 list in 2017. Verde Solutions' headquarters is located at 2211 N Elston Ave #208 in Chicago, Illinois.

### Key Personnel

#### **Christopher Gersch – Founder and CEO, Verde Solutions**

Mr. Christopher Gersch is the Founder/CEO of Verde Solutions. Mr. Gersch has over 18 years of experience in various professional leadership roles. He began his career as a trader at the Chicago Board of Trade and utilized his expertise and knowledge to form eleven businesses since 2006 including Centauris Group, Blox Capital, Chicago Global Capital, YourPortal, Save Wave Energy, Gersch Group, Navigate Power, Verde Solutions, RxSun, Fresh Coast Solar and Quanthaven. Mr. Gersch has also held positions as VP Equity Trading for Merrill Lynch, Director of Foreign Exchange for RCM Asset Management and Director of Strategy for Bell Curve Capital. Mr. Gersch was recognized as a Midwest Finalist for Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2017. Mr. Gersch's companies have been listed on Inc. 5000 list six times.

Mr. Gersch is a philanthropist and an active member of his community. He is an Executive Board Member for the Charles Tillman Cornerstone Foundation, a member of the Catholic Covenant Energies Advisory Board, Director at Large for The Energy Professionals Association, and is an adjunct professor in The Master of Science Program in Financial Mathematics at The University of Chicago designing and teaching quantitative trading strategies and algorithmic system modeling. Mr. Gersch is often invited as an expert guest speaker on currency and commodity products for CNBC, Bloomberg, CNN and Fox Business News. Mr. Gersch graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. degree in Aerospace from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a licensed multi-engine commercial pilot.

#### **Kim Gryzlo – President, Altimus Capital**

Ms. Kim Gryzlo is responsible for the leadership and overall operations of the Altimus Capital group of companies (including Verde Solutions and Fresh Coast Solar). She has 30 years of diverse work experience in various leadership positions within sales, finance and operations. Ms. Gryzlo has worked for small to mid-size businesses, private equity-owned portfolio companies, and large Fortune 100 companies. Ms.

Gryzlo is recognized for her ability to lead and develop teams, improve operational effectiveness, and drive profitable results. Ms. Gryzlo passed the CPA exam and received her MBA from DePaul University.

**AJ Dobson – Vice President of Operations, Verde Solutions**

Mr. AJ Dobson has played an integral role in the growth and development of Verde Solutions through his superior operational leadership. Previously, Mr. Dobson was the Vice President of M&J General Contractors, Inc., a national general contractor specializing in retail construction and remodeling. Mr. Dobson spent 6 years as the firm's VP, helping M&J realize consistent growth and year over year profitability. Prior to that, Mr. Dobson spent 5 years as the firm's senior project manager, managing Kroger and Safeway projects up to \$30M in the Midwest and Eastern regions of the US. Mr. Dobson began his career as a direct sales associate for Granton Marketing, eventually building a team and opening an LLC in Reynoldsburg, OH. His people skills and team management abilities led to a natural transition into project management where he has spent the last 14 years building and managing successful teams.

**Shannon Myers – Operations Manager, Verde Solutions**

Ms. Shannon Myers has held various roles and responsibilities within the organization and is a proven leader in the organization. She has experienced tremendous success in her 8-year career due to her responsiveness, attention to detail, ability to create proven processes, and develop strong relationships. She takes pride in her work, advocating for clients and continuously pushing the team to the next level with the goal of overdelivering on commitments and executing successful projects. Ms. Myers has been integral in enhancing Verde's robust project management system to increase efficiency and support the rapid growth of the organization.

**Grace Rasmussen – Renewable Energy Engineer, Verde Solutions**

Ms. Grace Rasmussen is responsible for the evaluation, design, and execution of renewable energy projects. Ms. Rasmussen has several years of engineering and project experience after graduating from Purdue University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. While studying abroad, she became involved in thermodynamics and sustainability which resulted in her interest in developing green solutions.

**Calvin Preston – Renewable Energy Engineer, Verde Solutions**

Mr. Calvin Preston has made significant contributions to the organization since he joined the organization. His strong technical knowledge in advanced energy solutions, combined with his expertise in engineering helps clients better understand renewable energy technology and the significant value it can provide to their organization. Calvin has a strong passion for sustainability and renewable energy and holds both a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a master's degree in Systems Engineering and Design from University of Michigan.

**Jason Stutzman – Solutions Analyst, Verde Solutions**

Mr. Jason Stutzman has over 20 years of experience of working with clients from all industry sectors to discover and implement unique solutions for their business. Mr. Stutzman has experience driving growth and success with multiple utility trade ally programs.

**Jeremy Vavrik – President, Fresh Coast Solar (Solar Install division)**

Mr. Vavrik, Founder of Fresh Coast Solar, has extensive knowledge working in the solar industry for the last 7 years in both the residential and commercial solar sectors. He began his solar career working in Michigan with Peninsula Solar where he was in charge of business development and project management. As a visionary, he saw the opportunity for solar in Illinois and founded his first company specializing in the installation of residential and commercial solar energy systems. Mr. Vavrik has experience in building projects of various sizes from 4kW to 4MW covering multiple sectors including private residential to public schools, municipalities, and not-for-profit businesses in numerous states. Mr. Vavrik holds a NABCEP PV Installation Professional certification which is a key credential in the industry. Mr. Vavrik's leadership and combined work experience of 10 years has contributed to the significant growth and rapid success of the business.

**Adam Kay – Director of Operations, Fresh Coast Solar (Solar Install division)**

Mr. Kay, Co-Founder of Fresh Coast Solar is responsible for overseeing all projects as Director of Operations. His ability to lead teams and execute projects on time while ensuring the safety of all employees has been integral to the success of the organization. Mr. Kay has been in the solar industry for 7 years learning everything there is to know about the construction of successful projects. Mr. Kay began his career in Michigan working for Peninsula Solar managing installations and projects in both the residential and commercial markets. As a NABCEP certified installation professional, Mr. Kay has successfully executed over 400 projects.

**William Boeckmann– Supervising Electrician, BTB Contracting**

Mr. William Boeckmann has over 35 years of electrical expertise, including job management and estimation. He has held a supervising electrical license from the City of Chicago for over 25 years. Mr. Boeckmann is well versed in NEC codes, village amendments, and is a certified electrical trade instructor. He has helped hundreds of electricians successfully complete their apprenticeship program. With the breadth of experience Mr. Boeckmann has gathered over the years working in the field and as an estimator/project manager, he has many ideas and techniques to better manage and execute projects of all sizes. Mr. Boeckmann has successfully executed numerous projects for both Verde Solutions and Fresh Coast Solar.

### Management Structure

Verde Solutions is one of several companies operating under the umbrella of Altimus Capital, LLC which is a privately held parent company managing all businesses owned by Christopher Gersch as majority owner. There are three Altimus companies that support the solar industry in different capacities. Verde

Solutions supports the development and overall management of commercial solar projects, RxSun supports the residential development of solar projects, and Fresh Coast Solar supports the installation of both commercial and residential solar. All Altimus businesses operate out of the headquarters building in Chicago, IL.

Verde Solutions has a unique sales model structured for processing and qualifying large volumes of leads. This robust sales model is possible through shared sales agents with Verde Solutions' sister company, Navigate Power consisting of 400+ independent agents procuring deregulated energy contracts. A portion of these contracts is filtered to energy efficiency and generation opportunities handled by the Verde Solutions corporate sales representatives based on geography and technology type.

In addition to this independent sales model, Verde Solutions works closely with several channel partners building strategic, mutually beneficial relationships. Our dedicated, hands-on support team is focused on implementing customized project plans and processes that fit the unique needs of each relationship. Open communication, precise project execution plans, and organized metrics help our team successfully manage multiple national accounts.

Because Verde Solutions relies on leads from independent agents, channel partners, and an internal sales team, a strong tracking and reporting system is crucial to our success. We use a CRM and project management system that tracks leads from initial contact through project engineering and installation. We provide detailed metrics to our agents and partners alike to ensure project expectations and goals are being achieved. This allows for clear communication and tracking with our partners regarding our performance in lead processing, closing ratios, as well as design, procurement, and installation times.

### Technical Qualifications

#### Qualifications:

- Highly experienced team
  - NABCEP certified personnel (certifications included in additional information)
  - Over 200 MW of collective commercial project experience
  - All field personnel are OSHA certified
- Diverse project experience - over 240 commercial, residential, and small utility projects completed throughout the Midwest:
  - System size ranging from 10 kW to 4MW
  - Various installation types – Roof and ground mount, solar carports, canopies, & sculptures
- Extensive Quality Assurance (QA) program & training

Verde Solutions has several ongoing and completed solar projects throughout the Midwest including, but not limited to the following:

- 1.9 MW ground mount and rooftop system for a college in Grayslake, IL
- 450 kW rooftop system for a mixed-use commercial/residential building in the City of Chicago
- 1 MW ground mount system for a wastewater treatment plant in Uniontown, Ohio
- 100 kW rooftop system for an agricultural facility in Waukegan, IL
- 415 kW rooftop system for a commercial building in Lisle, IL
- 900 kW ground mount and rooftop system for a commercial client in St. Charles, IL.
- 800 kW ground mount system for a wastewater treatment plant in Minooka, IL
- 1 MW rooftop system for a commercial cargo building at O'Hare Airport
- 4.6 MW ground mount community solar array in Elgin, IL

### Project Finance

Verde Solutions has extensive experience with many different financing structures and mechanisms including direct cash purchases, Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), Energy Service Agreements (ESAs), PACE financing, Solar-specific loan programs, and more.

**Rebates & Incentives** – Our rebate team has extensive experience in multiple markets finding the most value for our clients through utility, state, and federal incentives. We handle every step of the process, including research, determining the applicability of various incentives, and assisting in filing for available incentives. If a hands-off approach is required, as is often the case with federal tax-based incentives, we do everything we can to educate our clients, so they can make the informed decisions required to take advantage of every penny possible. We are also partnered with the Illinois Power Association as an Approved Vendor for the Adjustable Block Program, an initiative that gives us a huge competitive advantage in the Illinois solar market, a market that is projected to be one of the fastest growing in the coming years.

**Financing Options** - Verde Solutions has a strong advantage in its knowledge of available financial incentives ranging from utility rebates to national tax incentives combined with financing solutions that require no money down and offer cashflow positive solutions. This alleviates the client's need to utilize its own capital since it is funded by forecasted savings or 3<sup>rd</sup> party investors.

Working with Onyx mitigates the risk of project financials falling through or failing to materialize. Onyx's structured finance and investment capabilities allows for the development of renewable projects of any scope, size and geography across the C&I, utility and government sectors. Onyx has access to working capital and construction financing for the projects and the means to own the completed solar energy systems. All development and construction can be funded by Onyx directly on its balance sheet to ensure timely execution; Onyx may also call on additional capital as required on an expedited basis.

Additionally, Onyx has access to committed tax equity facilities with leading market entities and has relationships with key tax equity providers in the industry. Onyx will use an existing or newly raised facility to fund the tax equity component and finance ownership of the projects. Availability and access to committed tax equity financing for renewable energy solutions enables Onyx to create project value for customers and projects in general. Onyx has the ability to finance assets through a combination of sponsor equity and tax equity and has extensive experience structuring different types of financings for solar projects, including inverted leases, partnership flips and sale leasebacks.

Onyx believes that a major key to success is the ability to work vertically in-house with complementary teams that can communicate effectively in real time. Onyx's full-service approach to financing, development, and asset management – as evidenced by its dedicated in-house teams for these functions located together in New York City and California – allows the acceleration of processes and minimizes the time required to reach commercial operation.

Onyx has the experience to manage dozens of projects concurrently while working with a variety of sites and construction firms, thereby possessing insight into best practices when balancing multiple projects at once. Onyx managed the development of over 70 discrete projects in a 12-month period and continues to manage the development, construction, and financing for many projects. As such, Onyx is confident in its ability to navigate the landscape from financing and acquisition to final energization of any solar solution.

The Onyx team has significant experience working with municipalities and school districts nationally (specifically, 155 individual municipality and school district driven projects accounting for roughly 50% of our active customer base) and large solar portfolios (e.g., Corvias Solutions – 30 MWs across three states, over 3,300 installations) in addition to various school districts and Fortune 500 companies. Its operating portfolio projects range in size from 5 kW to 6.7 MW, with many projects falling in the 150 kW - 2 MW range.

Onyx has extensive project experience in Illinois specifically, having built over 2.4 MW across the Counties of DeKalb and Lake County, with multiple additional projects in ongoing development and construction in the state. Onyx's depth of experience in developing and constructing C&I solar throughout the United States, strong national network of proven engineering, procurement, and construction ("EPC") and O&M partnerships, and financial backing offer the resources and capabilities required to deliver upon the Wilmette Park District's renewable energy goals.

## Education Experience

### **Community Education**

Verde Solutions and our partners understand the value of an educational component to public renewable energy projects. We are committed to developing strong educational opportunities for our solar projects within the community. We have a variety of education and outreach services available and look forward to the opportunity to develop the best integrated solutions for the Wilmette Park District. Popular services include messaging, ribbon cutting events, and displays. Engagement with local schools and universities for

renewable energy education field trips and job training has also been popular when developing an educational program. We have also worked with schools to create pollinator friendly environments around ground mounted solar arrays utilizing native plants and vegetation. This could serve as a great visual representation of Wilmette's commitment to green energy and a healthy environment.

**Messaging** – Verde Solutions and our partners assist clients with writing articles for e-newsletters, press releases, website content, and other communication resources regarding projects. We believe that messaging is critical to leveraging the educational opportunities from the project. We simplify the process by providing templates for sharing this information in an effective manner.

**Ribbon Cutting Event** – Renewable energy projects at large facilities provide a perfect opportunity for a "Green Ribbon Cutting" event to publicly demonstrate your commitment to a green future. We will assist in preparing and executing press or internal events and can provide sample scripts and event display materials. We also complete a drone fly over video of all the solar installations to be displayed on the gifted LED Smart Televisions described below.

**Displays** – Verde Solutions and our partners provide custom interactive displays that connect the community to the project. The displays include 65" Smart LED Televisions that beautifully display the solar production and sustainability equivalents via an easy to understand portal. We work with clients to determine how and what to display including basic information on how solar photovoltaics work to high-level monitoring of the project. We have well-developed expertise in this area having provided solar displays for many schools, municipalities, and commercial clients.

## Project Proposal

Verde Solutions has developed standard drawings, construction specifications, and an implementation plan for deployment at the Wilmette Community Recreation Center located at 3000 Glenview Rd. We have proposed a 611 kW-DC rooftop solar system to greatly reduce energy costs for the Park District.

Verde Solutions has a dedicated team that will provide a turnkey solution including all utility applications, system design and engineering, permitting, incentive filing, O&M, procurement, and installation. We specialize in individualizing client projects while effectively incorporating communication, organization, process management, and professionalism. All work is done in house by Verde Solutions and Fresh Coast Solar, with the exception of the AC electrical tie-ins and stamped structural and electrical drawings.

Our goal is to ensure that we exceed the Park District’s expectations for this project and communicate frequently throughout regarding the status of the project. The project team will establish a weekly construction meeting at which time the work of the previous week will be reviewed, and a three-week look ahead will be coordinated. The project schedule will be updated every two weeks. Verde Solutions has developed a high-level timeline based on the RFP contract awarded date and previous project experience illustrated in Figure 1. The timeline outlines our process for the project development work in Phase 1 and construction in Phase 2.

### Implementation Plan Schedule

Wilmette Community Recreation Center

Project Size = 611kW-DC

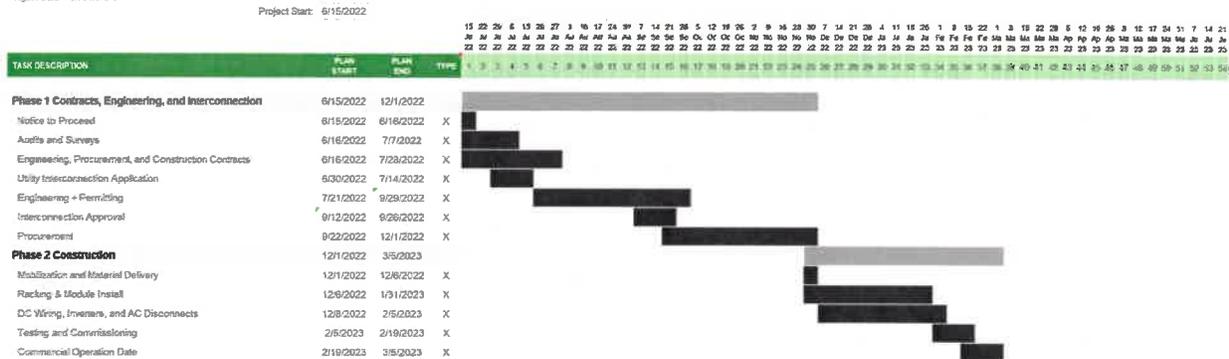


Figure 1: Implementation Plan Schedule

Project administration will be directed through an assigned project manager who will oversee all aspects of the project from pre-construction to post-construction. The project manager is responsible for ensuring that pre-construction planning and onsite operations, site specific safety protocols, risk mitigation, and escalation processes are well defined and adhered to. All team members utilize a standard project file folder structure which ensures proper document control and organization. Verde Solutions has a standard health and safety plan along with a site-specific safety plan that is established in coordination with the Park District’s additional protocols. Verde Solutions will work with the Park District and roofing manufacturer to ensure the roof warranty will not be voided.

Verde Solutions will be diligent in obtaining all permits, clearances, and interconnection/net metering agreements in a timely manner and in coordination with the Park District's schedule. Verde Solutions is also uniquely qualified to negotiate with both ComEd and the alternative energy supplier (ARES) Constellation. Not only has Verde Solutions been a ComEd Trade Ally in good standing since 2012, and have former employees in leadership positions at ComEd, but also is the only RFP applicant that also has a branch of their company solely dedicated to consulting and procurement of energy supply contracts. Verde Solutions' sister company, Navigate Power LLC, also founded and owned by Christopher Gersch in 2012, is a licensed ABC Consultant Firm in Illinois that has experience negotiating net metering contract terms that work with both the ARES and the State of Illinois' long term renewable energy procurement programs.

Equipment and materials will be procured after the design is finalized. Lead times will be confirmed with our distributor and factored into the project schedule accordingly. The installation will begin when the materials are on site. Coordination with the Recreation Center will ensure that no other ongoing operations will be disrupted. The construction site will be secured and kept in a clean and orderly condition. Safety "Toolbox Talks" will be completed before each workday and work activities will be documented.

Upon installation, we will perform complete commissioning of the Solar Energy Facility following the standard tests, inspections, safety and quality checks. Testing and commissioning will be documented and conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

These commissioning and testing procedures for photovoltaic systems and major components are intended to determine system performance to the specification. The tests are designed to verify that the system, as installed, is safe for personnel as well as equipment, and to establish or verify system operation. The tests shall be used to determine actual post-construction operational, performance, and safety characteristics.

#### Design and Installation

The solar system has been designed based on the facility's previous 12-month kWh consumption. The potential rooftop locations were analyzed by our team for sun exposure and shading. Solar panels were added in the most optimal roof locations for maximum energy production. Sufficient clearance has been factored in for maintenance and accessibility. The total system size is 611 kW-DC, which produces enough energy to offset the facility's current annual load by 48%. The approximate area required for this system is 45,000 square feet. See Figure 2 below for the proposed layout.



Figure 2: Proposed Solar System Design

The solar modules specified is based on anticipated available safe harbored modules provided by Onyx. The high wattage panels allow the system size to be maximized based on the available roof space. This ensures the maximum system yield which results in the greatest electric bill savings for the Wilmette Park District.

Verde Solutions uses tier 1 equipment across our entire portfolio regardless of it being an investor-owned project. We offer our clients state-of-the-art materials with industry leading warranties and data monitoring. Our equipment selection and project execution provide our investors with confidence that the system will last longer than the term of the PPA and our performance forecasts will be met.

The project proposed by Verde Solutions would be connected to the distribution grid and comply with ComEd's Interconnection and Net Metering requirements. The behind-the-meter system is more advantageous than a direct connection to the grid for the Wilmette Park District due to eligibility for ComEd's Net Metering program which provides credit, on the utility bill, for energy produced and not utilized. Based on production modeling, the approximate annual production for the proposed system is 723,900 kWh. The system is estimated to produce 20,140,000 kWh over 30 years.

The proposed installation will include racking with a 10-degree ballasted flat roof system developed by PanelClaw and a flush mount system developed by Unirac. Fresh Coast Solar, the sister company to Verde Solutions, has a great deal of experience and success in installing the tier 1 equipment specified for this project.

## Project Financing

The Wilmette Park District can fund the project through a fixed price Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) whereby a third party will fund and own the system. The Park District will purchase the energy produced by the system at a fixed rate of \$0.0549/kWh for a term of 20 years or \$0.0566/kWh for a term of 25 years, based on the Park District's preference. The 20-year PPA rate is more favorable to the Recreation Center. The IL ABP has a frontloaded revenue profile that supports much lower PPA rates relative to prevailing retail electricity rates. A 25-year PPA results in a rate that is higher to sufficiently cover operating expense in outer years, taking into account degradation and expense escalation over time. The PPA requires a \$0 upfront capital commitment and includes ongoing O&M for the contract term. System buyout options are available starting in year 7.

Verde Solutions has extensive interconnection, net metering, and incentive/rebate filing experience with all major utilities in Illinois including ComEd, Ameren, and several small municipal-owned utilities. We have main points of contact within the ComEd Interconnection and Net Metering departments that we work with regularly on residential, commercial, and municipal projects. To date, we have submitted over 300 interconnection and net metering applications with ComEd. We are familiar with all relevant utility renewable energy programs and are an approved vendor with the Illinois Adjustable Block Program which provides incentive money for projects in the form of Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). Below are more details on these programs.

### **Adjustable Block Program (ABP)**

The Wilmette Park District is eligible to apply for REC's in ComEd's Adjustable Block Program (ABP). There is currently a waitlist for projects being submitted for the next block of funding. It is important that once the RFP award is made, the Wilmette Park District moves quickly to submit for interconnection with the utility and then submit part 1 of the SREC application to officially obtain their spot in line. Verde Solutions is experienced in getting projects qualified and in line for SREC incentives. More information on the Adjustable Block Program can be found at the following address: <https://illinoisabp.com/>

### **ComEd Distributed Generation Rebate**

ComEd offers a Distributed Generation (DG) Rebate program to help offset the out-of-pocket costs of installing a qualified renewable energy generating system. The DG Rebate is available to ComEd commercial and industrial (C&I) clients enrolled in net metering service or clients that utilize community supply service and meet program requirements. This rebate has a value of \$250/kW installed system size. More information on this rebate can be found at the following address: <https://www.comed.com/SmartEnergy/InnovationTechnology/Pages/SolarIncentivesRebates.aspx>

### *PPA Payment Terms*

A special production meter will be installed to track the amount of power being supplied from the solar system, and the kWh total is multiplied by the PPA rate to determine the bill for that month. Monthly bills will be sent to the Wilmette Park District in a similar fashion as typical utility bills on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. The term of the agreement is proposed to be 20 years, and the Wilmette Park District would be obligated to continue to make these payments throughout the term or until the system is purchased after year 6. The start of year 7 is the earliest the system can be purchased from the investor for tax purposes.

The typical buyout terms include the following:

The Purchase amount shall be equal to the Fair Market Value of the system, or the Termination Payment amount, whichever is greater. Fair Market Value is defined as:

“Seller’s reasonable determination, the amount that would be paid in an arm’s length, free market transaction, for cash, between an informed, willing seller and an informed willing buyer, neither of whom is under compulsion to complete the transaction, taking into account, among other things, the age, condition and performance of the System and advances in solar technology, provided that installed equipment shall be valued on an installed basis, shall not be valued as scrap if it is functioning and in good condition and costs of removal from a current location shall not be a deduction from the valuation, taking into account the present value of all associated future income streams expected to arise from the operation of the System for the remaining useful life of the System, including but not limited to the expected price of electricity, Environmental Attributes, Environmental Incentives and Tax Attributes and factoring in future avoided costs and expenses associated with the System and assuming the System is able to generate revenue for the then-remaining term of the Agreement at a price equal to the then-applicable Energy Rate and thereafter for the remaining useful life of the System at a price equal to the then fair market price for energy. Seller shall determine Fair Market Value within thirty (30) days after Purchaser has exercised its option to Purchase the System. Seller shall give written notice to Purchaser of such determination, along with a full explanation of the calculation of Fair Market Value, including without limitation, an explanation of all assumptions, figures and values used in such calculation and factual support for such assumptions, figures and values. If Purchaser reasonably objects to Seller’s determination of Fair Market Value within thirty (30) days after Seller has provided written notice of such determination, the Parties shall select a mutually acceptable nationally recognized independent appraiser with experience and expertise in the solar photovoltaic industry to determine the Fair Market Value of the System. Such appraiser shall act reasonably and in good faith to determine the Fair Market Value of the System based on the formulation set forth herein and shall set forth such determination in a written opinion delivered to the Parties. The valuation made by the appraiser shall be binding upon the Parties in the absence of fraud or manifest error. The costs of the appraisal shall be borne by the Parties equally. Upon purchase of the System, Purchaser shall assume complete responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the System and liability for the performance of the System, and Seller shall have no further liabilities or obligations hereunder.”

### Performance Guarantee & Equipment Warranties

There are a few options for performance guarantees offered by Onyx including a 90% performance guarantee on a three-year rolling average or a 90% performance guarantee for a system, with language of: “the Guaranteed kWh of the System is subject to adjustment for weather conditions as detailed below:

Guarantor will use local weather data to adjust the System’s Guaranteed kWh based on the following sources, if available, and in descending order of preference: (i) available data from a locally installed weather station at the Premises owned and properly maintained by Seller or (ii) satellite data provided by a third-party vendor of Seller. In order to determine the weather adjusted Guaranteed kWh, Seller will use the following formula: Adjusted Guaranteed kWh = (Actual Irradiance / Predicted Irradiance) \* Guaranteed kWh”.

Verde Solutions and Onyx will work with the Wilmette Park District to determine what type of performance guarantee is best for this project.

All warranties will be held by the system owner during the length of the contract and are transferable if the Wilmette Park District decides to pursue a buyout option after year 7. Detailed warranty information for each piece of major equipment will be included in the PPA contract.

### Ongoing O&M, System Monitoring Offerings

Onyx manages all maintenance, performance monitoring and analysis, reporting and billing to provide a turnkey solution for their customers. Onyx provides in-house O&M Management and Asset Management by a skilled team of experienced solar professionals that will oversee all necessary functions throughout the life of the operating project. O&M Management and Asset Management functions will be performed by Onyx Asset Services Group LLC (“OASG”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Onyx. To date, OASG has been self-performing asset management and O&M management services on approximately 154 MW of operating solar assets, and its core team has, collectively, several decades of renewable energy experience.

Onyx will, at its sole cost and expense, maintain the projects in good operating condition and repair in accordance with the terms of the power purchase agreement and applicable laws and regulations. Onyx utilizes strategic regional O&M subcontractors to perform the physical work on the system, routine monitoring and utility coordination for operations. Onyx will regularly monitor and analyze project performance in accordance with prudent power generation industry practices to identify any required or recommended corrective maintenance. In addition to as-needed corrective maintenance, Onyx will perform annual preventative maintenance to ensure optimal performance over the life of the projects. The table below describes the typical scope of work division between Onyx and its subcontractors, but these responsibilities may vary by project.

ONYX	O&M SUBCONTRACTOR
O&M Management Asset Management	System Monitoring Maintenance of System

As the operator of over 95% of the solar power generation assets it has developed, Onyx is committed to ensuring that all energized projects will operate safely, run efficiently, perform reliably and deliver the optimal level of energy to the delivery point of the system.

The Data Acquisition System (DAS) is installed with the solar system and is accessible through an online portal. The inverters and optimizers contain monitoring sensors and transmitters, and include both an Ethernet and Modbus RS485 port for internet connection. The monitoring dashboard provides interactive charts depicting the system's historical and real-time performance in addition to environmental data such as temperature and irradiance. Verde Solutions will be automatically notified by the platform if there is an operating issue which will allow for prompt escalation procedures to be executed.

#### System End of life Plan

Verde Solutions will use RDI Recycling for the Removal and Decommissioning of the dated Solar Panels. They are an e-recycling business located in the greater Chicago area. RDI is an R2 Certified recycling company that complies with all rules and regulations relative to the recycling of solar panels, inverters and batteries. The Certificate of Recycling (COR) will be issued once fully recycled.

For reference, a typical PPA end of life plan includes the following language:

Upon the expiration of the Term of this Agreement (provided Purchaser does not exercise its purchase option), Seller shall, at its expense, remove all of its tangible property comprising the System from the Premises on a mutually convenient date, but in no event later than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the expiration of the Term. Excluding ordinary wear and tear, the Premises shall be returned to its original condition including the removal of the System; provided, however, Seller shall not be required to remove (a) any supports, canopies, anchors, penetrations, conduits or other similar ancillary equipment which were installed by Seller if, in Seller's reasonable judgment, the removal of such supports, anchors, penetrations, conduits or other similar ancillary equipment would cause harm and damage to the Premises, and (b) any underground foundations or underground or buried conduits and cabling installed by Seller on or about the Premises. Seller shall leave the Premises in neat and clean order. If Seller fails to remove or commence substantial efforts to remove the System by such agreed upon date, Purchaser shall have the right, at its option, to remove the System to a public warehouse and restore the Premises to its original condition (other than ordinary wear and tear) at Seller's cost. Purchaser shall provide sufficient space at no expense to Seller for the temporary storage and staging of tools, materials and equipment and for the parking of construction crew vehicles and temporary construction trailers and facilities reasonably necessary during System removal.

## Conclusion

Verde Solutions and Onyx Renewable Partners have a track record of success in Illinois developing solar energy projects for municipal and commercial clients. We believe our combined project experience and history working together on similar successful projects will prove to be a very valuable asset to the Wilmette Park District on this project. We know the ins and outs of the ComEd interconnection, net metering, and incentive programs as well as the state SREC program and can guide the Wilmette Park District smoothly through these processes and programs.

[END OF PROPOSAL]

# WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT

SOLAR PANELS FOR THE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER



230 N. Hicks Place, Palatine, IL | [www.GRNESolar.com](http://www.GRNESolar.com)

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## Cover Letter

Wilmette Parks District  
Parks and Planning Department  
3555 Lake Ave  
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Dear Parks and Planning Department:

Since 2012, GRNE Solar has been a leader in development, construction, and maintenance for numerous solar solutions. We handle our own development, financing, engineering, procurement, construction, and O&M in-house to ensure cost efficiencies are realized and strict quality is maintained.

For the Wilmette Park District's Community Recreation Center project, it is imperative that accurate engineering reports are developed so that construction and the implementation of distribution are completed without disruption or delay. GRNE Solar will perform deep site engineering and analysis on the properties to determine the best course of action to maximize site longevity and system production. With installations of this size, we often need additional land evaluation and electrical impact studies, both of which we have experience in handling.

Our installation and electrical teams are all GRNE Solar employees. Throughout construction GRNE Solar will have its own employees on-site with an assigned project manager to ensure the project is being completed to the strict standards of GRNE Solar and the Wilmette Park District. The systems will connect to the approved interconnection point. After construction has concluded, all stakeholders will have access to monitor the array through the inverter. The platform will provide production, analytics, and root-cause analyses needed for production measurement.

These sites will be maintained by GRNE Solar staff members through constant monitoring, dispatch services and thorough inspections. We understand the necessity to ensure the arrays and surrounding land is cared for. We stick with our clients during concept, engineering, construction, and beyond.

All of this is why GRNE Solar is the before, during, and after developer and EPC firm.



Eric Peterman, CEO  
GRNE Solar

## Company Overview

<b>Illinois</b> Corporate Headquarters: 230 N. Hicks Pl., Palatine, IL 1215 Howard St., Elk Grove Village, IL 4109 Oakland Ave Suite B, Bloomington, IL	<b>Indiana</b> 7718 N. Michigan Rd., Indianapolis, IN
<b>Iowa</b> 5281 Oak Crest Hill Rd. SE., Unit 7, Hills, IA	<b>Nebraska</b> 2004 SW 5th St., Unit A, Lincoln, NE
<b>Primary Contact:</b> Eric Peterman, CEO	312-859-3417   Eric@GRNESolar.com
<b>Year Established:</b> 2012	<b>Number of Employees:</b> 80 employees

## Company Capabilities

GRNE Solutions, LLC dba GRNE Solar was founded in 2012 and has proliferated in ten years. Our Midwestern roots run deep as we are headquartered in Palatine, Illinois and have offices in Indiana, Iowa, and Nebraska which allows us to serve across the nation. Collectively, we have over three decades of green construction, and renewable energy experience along with executive leaders to handle sourcing and financial matters.

With a staff force of over 80 employees, GRNE Solar has a workforce necessary to navigate the fast-paced solar industry and take on projects of any size. Our staff is complete with licensed electricians, NABCEP certified staff members, rigorous OSHA training, and extensive experience in design engineering software. We work closely with community leaders to ensure projects are completed to their unique satisfaction and code requirements. Our passion for solar energy and the benefits, extend to educating the surrounding communities. With the influx of solar energy interest across the nation, GRNE Solar has implemented programs within communities to teach residents and community leaders about the benefits of solar energy. We have hosted over 70 educational programs throughout, leaving participants with greater knowledge of solar energy and its benefits.

GRNE Solar is well positioned to service the needs of Wilmette Park District as our priority is customer service and operational excellence in providing design, installation, and ongoing service for residential and commercial solar energy and storage systems.

## References



### **Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, Montgomery, IL**

System Size: 2.00 MW, PPA

Reference: Tom Muth, [tmuth@foxmetro.org](mailto:tmuth@foxmetro.org)

Throughout this project, GRNE Solar, Progressive Business Solutions, and Fox Metro worked together to develop the project from securing the site location to installation. The array was placed in a brownfield adjacent to the community wastewater plant. The 2.00 MW system provides the energy needed to lower the operating costs for the community.



### **Kendall County, Yorkville, IL**

System Size: 2.60 MW, PPA

Reference: Jim Smiley, [jsmiley@co.kendall.il.us](mailto:jsmiley@co.kendall.il.us)

The 2.00 MW, Kendall County solar array was first talked about in 2018, it was through working closely with Kendall County, Progressive Business Solutions, and the community that really got this array off the ground. Due to the newness of solar technology at the time, residents were hesitant to welcome the array. Through public meetings and educational sessions, the project was able to move forward. Energized in 2020, the project has been providing energy to the surrounding municipal building and offsetting their overhead.



### **Southern Illinois Airport, Carbondale, IL**

System Size: 2.7 MW, PPA

Reference: Gary Shafer, [airport@midwest.net](mailto:airport@midwest.net)

This solar array was placed in an adjacent field to the Southern Illinois Airport. The 2.7 MW single-axis tracker system provides the energy necessary to host daily operations within the various terminals. This project involved strong collaboration with the City of Carbondale, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the local utilities (Egyptian and Southern Illinois Power Cooperative).



### **The City of Escanaba, Escanaba, MI**

System Size: 1.7 MW, PPA

References: Mike Furmanski, [mfurmanski@algerdelta.com](mailto:mfurmanski@algerdelta.com)

In 2018, GRNE Solar worked alongside the City of Escanaba for this municipal-owned project. This was designed with the needs of the community in mind to help generate electricity for the local area. The solar field was remarked as so much of an asset for the community, the City tasked GRNE Solar to come back to expand on the system in late 2019. GRNE Solar continues that relationship as the City's Operations & Maintenance firm, handling the maintenance of the solar array.

## Portfolio

GRNE Solar has an extensive portfolio of solar solutions. The following section is just a small portion of our portfolio, we are happy to provide additional information on projects if needed

Customer	Purchase Type	State	Size (kW)
<b>Wastewater Treatment Plant</b>			
American Bottoms	Cash	IL	1,800
Aqua Manteno	Cash	IL	655
Fox Metro	PPA	IL	2,600
<b>Utility</b>			
Altamont	Cash	IL	651
Duke Energy	Cash	IN	2,400
Naperville	Cash	IL	1,285
NPPD - Ainsworth	PPA	NE	686
Escanaba	PPA	MI	1,700
NPPD - Ogallala	PPA	NE	1870
NPPD – York	PPA	NE	4,250
Rock Falls	Cash	IL	1,291
Southern Illinois Airport	PPA	IL	2,700
Springfield CWLP	PPA	IL	262
<b>Private</b>			
DeLong Properties	Cash	IL	3,500
Durable Packaging	Cash	IL	2,040
Echo	Cash	IL	2,570
Hamel	Cash	IL	486
Kankakee	Cash	IL	574
Knoxville	Cash	IL	405
Toyoda Americas	Cash	IL	1,700
<b>Municipal</b>			
Tri-Creek School District	Cash	IN	1,058
Kendall County	PPA	IL	2,090

## Project Overview

### Proposed Timeline

Community Recreation Center	May				June				July				August				September				October				November				December				January			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Execute Contract																																				
Interconnection Application / Approval																																				
Engineering / Permitting																																				
Equipment Procurement																																				
Mobilization																																				
Solar Installation																																				
System Testing and Commissioning																																				

**Notes:**

- \* Interconnection application / approval will take 6 to 8 weeks
- \* Engineering and permitting together will take 2 to 3 months
- \* Solar module procurement will take 10 to 14 weeks from PO date
- \* Mobilization will require 4 to 6 weeks
- \* Installation will take 2 to 3 months
- \* Commissioning and testing will take 1 month

### Engineering

Through analysis of each project site will provide our teams with information to plan, design, and construct to maximize system production.

### Design

The Wilmette Park District can be assured of structural integrity and safety. Should engineering reports indicate needs to adjust the design (e.g., move panels, service the area, mitigate wildlife) for Wilmette Park District, GRNE Solar can advise on the advantages and disadvantages of various grant, debt financing, and tax equity options.

### Construction

As an EPC firm, we utilize our vertically integrated team to take an entire project from concept to completion. With projects of this size, it is our experience that a successful project means providing opportunities for economic development through opportunities for local workforces. Supplies, site clearing, and installation labor are all examples of services we would tap the local community and our trusted subcontractors for assistance.

Throughout construction GRNE Solar will have its own employees on-site with an assigned project manager to oversee that the projects are being completed to the strict standards of GRNE Solar, and Wilmette Park District. The system will connect to the approved interconnection point which will meet the standards for the interconnection.

### Inspections & Commissioning

As with all GRNE Solar projects, we work closely with all parties on obtaining the necessary permits. Before submission of documentation, we will work with Wilmette Park District to ensure the project scope, equipment, and array footprint meets the site-specific standards set. Our project teams will be continuously working on hitting project milestones to ensure the work in place is consistent with the approved and permitted construction documents. Our teams will also coordinate with the necessary personnel to obtain all inspections.

Our commissioning / testing procedures include, but are not limited to:

Insulation Resistance Testing	Visual and Mechanical Inspections	VOC Testing on DC Home Runs	IV Curve Tracing
Ground Continuity Verification	Inverter Commissioning	Monitor Start-Up	Thermal Imaging
AC Equipment Data & Voltage	MV Acceptance Testing	Five-Day Verification Test	Power Rating Test
Trench Compaction Report	Completed / Approved Inspection Reports	Modules Flash Test Report/Module Serial Numbers	GOAB Test Report

Execution of these projects from start to finish and beyond, will be a combination of GRNE Solar and partners. On each project site, GRNE Solar leadership will be overseeing the completion of equipment start-up and commissioning is within the standards of manufacture recommendations, GRNE Solar QA/QS procedures, and in accordance with the local jurisdiction.

#### Monitoring the Systems

All stakeholders will have access to their array’s monitoring site through the platform hosted by the inverter manufacturer, Chint Power Systems. The platforms will provide production, analytics, and root-cause analyses needed for production measurement. This system will also alert GRNE Solar of any anomalies in production to ensure top performance.

#### Operations and Maintenance

GRNE Solar, will maintain each array through the electrical point of interconnection for the duration of the agreed-upon timeframe. GRNE Solar is committed to ensuring that the solar asset and site will be monitored and cared for on an ongoing basis.

### Post-Construction Support

#### Daily System Monitoring

Each location will be installed with an internet-based data acquisition system (DAS). This system will allow all stakeholders to monitor the systems and identify low power remotely. The performance of the systems will be monitored and if field services are required; resources will be allocated to the site within 24-48 hours of notification. Major system repairs not to include mid voltage switchgear, transformers, or utility owned/maintained equipment.

#### Annual Site Inspection and Preventative Maintenance

On an annual basis, GRNE Solar will complete an intensive electrical inspection of the system. During this visit, GRNE Solar will perform all necessary preventive and corrective maintenance on the array which include routine maintenance adjustments, replacements, and electrical panel, transformer and inverter cleaning (interior and exterior) with supporting documentation delivered to the stakeholders after the work has been performed. Maintenance by GRNE Solar will ensure that all warranties, particularly

inverter warranties, are preserved.

#### Preventative Maintenance Site Location

Preventative maintenance will be performed on site at each site location. GRNE Solar will comprise a report for the location's records at the conclusion of the preventative maintenance visit. Preventative maintenance would be performed by our in-house, O&M Department.

#### Spare Parts Inventory Plan

GRNE Solar has multiple office and warehouse locations. This allows us to carry inventory of equipment and parts. In most cases when servicing a site for O&M, we have the part on hand. In some cases, we need to order special parts through the manufacturer. We have close relationships with the manufactures we work with and can typically have a part on hand within 3-days of a request.

## Project Team

STAGE 1 Contract Finalization	STAGE 2 Engineering & Development	STAGE 3 Construction	STAGE 4 Operations & Maintenance
Eric Peterman CEO	Travis Kepler Director of Engineering	Jeremy Hoerauf Project Manager	Bill Schmitz O&M Manager
Adrian Martinez Project Coordinator	Jeremy Hoerauf Project Manager	Brian Walter Foreman	Matt Chairez Technician
	Adrian Martinez Project Coordinator	Josh Vinton Lead Safety Manager	Reese Dellios O&M Dispatch
		Richard Harmann Electrician	

### **Jeremy Hoerauf, C&I Operations, OSHA**

Jeremy is an alumnus of Lawrence Technological University with a Bachelor of Architecture. He has been in the solar industry since 2008 gaining vast experience in every aspect of designing, installing, and maintaining a solar energy system and solar site. Jeremy's career has taken him around the country managing the installations of mid to large commercial and utility-scale projects amounting to over 100 MW installed, and counting.

### **Eric Peterman, CEO, NABCEP Certified, OSHA**

Eric Peterman holds degrees of Industrial Engineering & Management Sciences and Economics from Northwestern University. Eric has a diverse business background which includes management consulting, business operations, as well as serving as an Executive Director for an educational nonprofit. Eric's background in strategic planning and process improvement helps to lead the GRNE Solar team to new successes every day.

### **Travis Kepler, Director of Engineering, OSHA**

Travis Kepler has been a part of the GRNE Solar team since 2007. Travis has extensive construction background as well as the technical design experience to launch GRNE Solar's projects forward. Travis uses drone technology along with CAD design to navigate system design. He plays a dynamic role as he remains involved in projects as a lead installer.

### **Marie Burgquist, Director of Business Development & Strategy**

Marie holds a Bachelor of Business Management & Marketing from Columbia College of Missouri. She came to GRNE Solar with over 8 years of business development and marketing experience. Marie leads the business development and marketing departments by overseeing daily operations. Since joining the GRNE Solar Team, she has worked on the development of various renewable energy projects for residential, commercial, and utility-scale.

**Adrian Martinez, Project Coordinator** Adrian is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a Bachelor's in Environmental Studies & Sustainability, and his entire career has been focused in sustainability. Adrian has been with GRNE Solar since 2020. Working on the C&I Team, Adrian uses his knack for organization to ensure all parties stay informed and relevant details are not overlooked.

**John Shaw, Foreman, OSHA**

John began his career in HVAC and construction in his home state of Nebraska. John has been in the solar industry and a part of the GRNE Solar team since 2012. Now an Illinois resident, John works on the installation of commercial solar projects throughout the Midwest. He has installed multiple megawatts of solar including ballasted and ground-mounted systems. His knowledge of green-construction and carpentry provides John with the tools he needs to navigate each project and his teams as efficiently as possible.

**Brian Walter, Foreman, OSHA**

Brian always knew he wanted to work with his hands and be outdoors. Brian graduated from Harper College in 2019 and began his career with GRNE Solar. Starting on the residential side, he quickly picked up the intricacies of solar installation and navigating complex roof planes. When a spot opened on the commercial team, Brian was hooked on the complexities of large projects at his first installation. In his 2.5 years with GRNE Solar, Brian has installed over 20 MW. Through his thirst for knowledge, skill set, and natural leadership presence, Brian rose to be a Lead Installer in mid-2020.

**Josh Vinton, Lead Safety Manager, OSHA**

Josh has been in the construction field for over 15-years. Starting his career as a general contractor, Josh was drawn to renewables as the technology started to peak in his home state of Nebraska. Josh joined the GRNE Solar team in early 2018 and has installed over 10 MW of solar energy solutions for commercial, agricultural, utility, and residential customers. Josh has extensive site safety training including OSHA 30, storm water inspection certifications, and heavy machinery licenses. Josh developed the GRNE Solar Construction Quality and Control Plan, Site-Specific Safety Plan, and participates on the subcommittee for the GRNE COVID-19 Response Planning. He is known around job sites as "The Stickler," reinforcing, confirming, and making surprise visits to job sites making sure installations are being done to the standards of OSHA, GRNE Solar, NEC, and the client.

**Richard Harman, C&I Electrician, OSHA**

Richard has been with GRNE Solar since 2021 as an electrician and installer. Richard has an encyclopedic knowledge for electrical codes and NEC standards. Throughout his career, Richard has been involved with over 75 MW of installations with a focus on commercial and utility. He is meticulous in the execution of projects making sure that a project will pass inspection with the individual AHJ's.

*Additional GRNE Solar staff bios available upon request*

## PPA Pricing



	System Size (kW)	PPA Rate
<b>Wilmette Park District</b>	509.90	\$0.0485/kWh

### Notes & Assumptions

- Engineering studies and Wilmette Park District preferences will dictate the final system designs and sizing.
- PPA Rate are a 25-year term with 0% escalator
- Total system sizing within 5% of the estimated total will be valid with proposed pricing. Greater than 5% change in the system sizing may require pricing adjustments.
- Assumes SREC program and pricing under the current terms of the IPA LTRRP.
- Assumes \$0 land lease for the property leased for the solar arrays
- Assumes 26% tax credit is applicable to the project owner
- Assumes \$250/kW rebate is applicable to the project owner
- Assumes depreciation value is applicable to the project owner
- Pricing subject to market conditions for commodities at time of contract signature. Variable Commodities include but are not limited to: copper, steel, solar wafers, fuel etc.

Detailed Layout



## Components

Component	Name	Count
Inverters	IQ8A-72-2-US (240V) (Enphase)	962 (335.7 kW)
AC Panels	4 input AC Panel	1
AC Panels	9 input AC Panel	2
AC Panels	10 input AC Panel	3
AC Panels	11 input AC Panel	1
AC Home Runs	500 MCM (Copper)	7 (3,025.4 ft)
AC Branches	10 AWG (Copper)	63 (12,553.1 ft)
Module	Znshine Solar, ZXN7-SPLD144-530/M (530W)	962 (509.9 kW)

## Wiring Zones

Description	Combiner Poles	String Size	Stringing Strategy
Wiring Zone	-	1-1	Along Racking
Wiring Zone 2	-	16-16	Along Racking
Wiring Zone 3	-	1-1	Along Racking
Wiring Zone 4	-	16-16	Along Racking

## Field Segments

Description	Racking	Orientation	Tilt	Azimuth	Intrarow Spacing	Frame Size	Frames	Modules	Power
Field Segment 1	Flush Mount	Portrait (Vertical)	5°	180.79976°	0.0 ft	1x1	313	306	162.2 kW
Field Segment 2	Fixed Tilt	Landscape (Horizontal)	9.62°	180.80519°	1.3 ft	1x1	208	208	110.2 kW
Field Segment 3	Flush Mount	Landscape (Horizontal)	5°	180°	0.0 ft	1x1	66	64	33.9 kW
Field Segment 4	Flush Mount	Portrait (Vertical)	5°	271.1338°	0.0 ft	1x1	199	192	101.8 kW
Field Segment 4 (copy)	Flush Mount	Portrait (Vertical)	5°	91.13378°	0.0 ft	1x1	194	192	101.8 kW



## IQ8M and IQ8A Microinverters

Our newest IQ8 Microinverters are the industry's first microgrid-forming, software-defined microinverters with split-phase power conversion capability to convert DC power to AC power efficiently. The brain of the semiconductor-based microinverter is our proprietary application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) which enables the microinverter to operate in grid-tied or off-grid modes. This chip is built in advanced 55nm technology with high speed digital logic and has super-fast response times to changing loads and grid events, alleviating constraints on battery sizing for home energy systems.



Part of the Enphase Energy System, IQ8 Series Microinverters integrate with the Enphase IQ Battery, Enphase IQ Gateway, and the Enphase App monitoring and analysis software.



IQ8 Series Microinverters redefine reliability standards with more than one million cumulative hours of power-on testing, enabling an industry-leading limited warranty of up to 25 years.



Connect PV modules quickly and easily to IQ8 Series Microinverters using the included Q-DCC-2 adapter cable with plug-n-play MC4 connectors.



IQ8 Series Microinverters are UL Listed as PV Rapid Shut Down Equipment and conform with various regulations, when installed according to manufacturer's instructions.

### Easy to install

- Lightweight and compact with plug-n-play connectors
- Power Line Communication (PLC) between components
- Faster installation with simple two-wire cabling

### High productivity and reliability

- Produce power even when the grid is down\*
- More than one million cumulative hours of testing
- Class II double-insulated enclosure
- Optimized for the latest high-powered PV modules

### Microgrid-forming

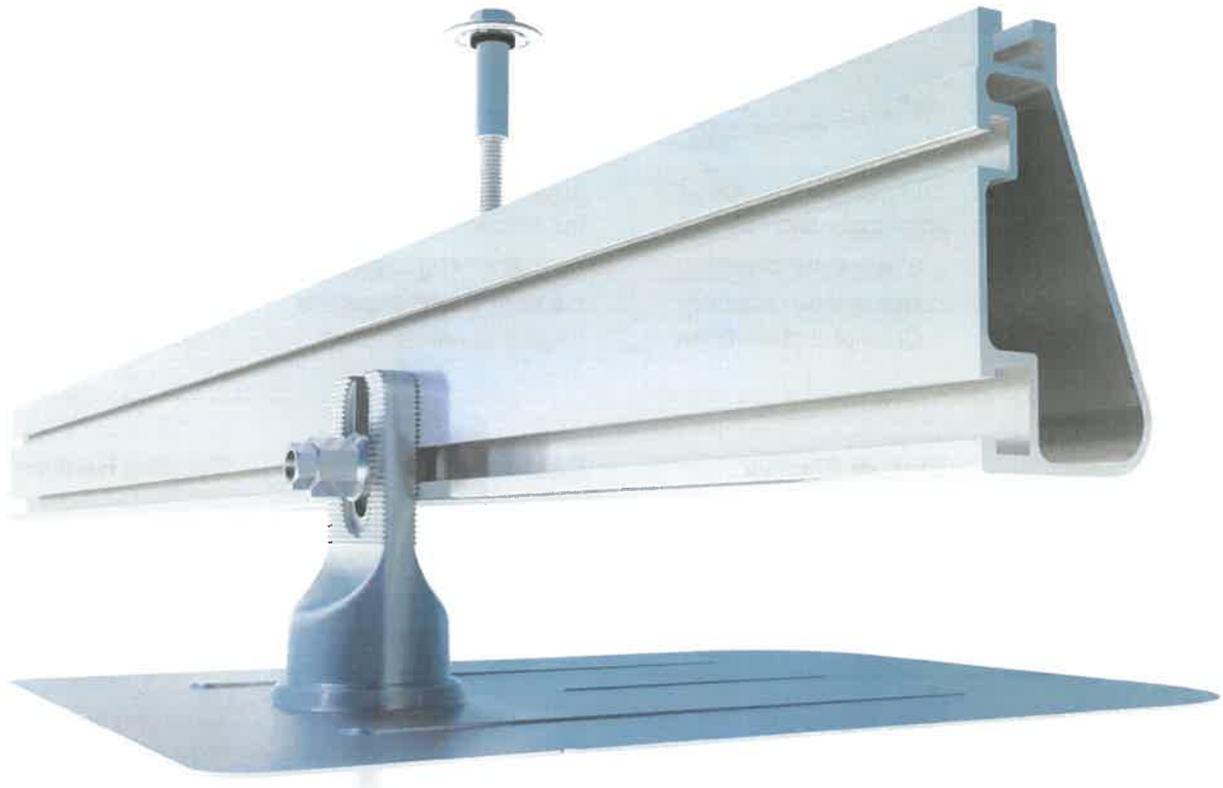
- Complies with the latest advanced grid support\*\*
- Remote automatic updates for the latest grid requirements
- Configurable to support a wide range of grid profiles
- Meets CA Rule 21 (UL 1741-SA) requirements

# IQ8M and IQ8A Microinverters

INPUT DATA (DC)		IQ8M-72-2-US	IQ8A-72-2-US
Commonly used module pairings <sup>1</sup>	W	260 – 460	295 – 500
Module compatibility		60-cell/120 half-cell, 66-cell/132 half-cell and 72-cell/144 half-cell	
MPPT voltage range	V	33 – 45	36 – 45
Operating range	V		25 – 58
Min/max start voltage	V		30 / 58
Max input DC voltage	V		60
Max DC current <sup>2</sup> [module Isc]	A		15
Overvoltage class DC port			II
DC port backfeed current	mA		0
PV array configuration		1x1 Ungrounded array; No additional DC side protection required; AC side protection requires max 20A per branch circuit	
OUTPUT DATA (AC)		IQ8M-72-2-US	IQ8A-72-2-US
Peak output power	VA	330	366
Max continuous output power	VA	325	349
Nominal (L-L) voltage/range <sup>3</sup>	V		240 / 211 – 264
Max continuous output current	A	1.35	1.45
Nominal frequency	Hz		60
Extended frequency range	Hz		50 – 68
AC short circuit fault current over 3 cycles	Arms		2
Max units per 20 A (L-L) branch circuit <sup>4</sup>			11
Total harmonic distortion			<5%
Overvoltage class AC port			III
AC port backfeed current	mA		30
Power factor setting			1.0
Grid-tied power factor (adjustable)			0.85 leading – 0.85 lagging
Peak efficiency	%	97.6	97.6
CEC weighted efficiency	%	97	97.5
Night-time power consumption	mW		60
MECHANICAL DATA			
Ambient temperature range		-40°C to +60°C (-40°F to +140°F)	
Relative humidity range		4% to 100% (condensing)	
DC Connector type		MC4	
Dimensions (HxWxD)		212 mm (8.3") x 175 mm (6.9") x 30.2 mm (1.2")	
Weight		1.08 kg (2.38 lbs)	
Cooling		Natural convection – no fans	
Approved for wet locations		Yes	
Pollution degree		PD3	
Enclosure		Class II double-insulated, corrosion resistant polymeric enclosure	
Environ. category / UV exposure rating		NEMA Type 6 / outdoor	
COMPLIANCE			
Certifications		CA Rule 21 (UL 1741-SA), UL 62109-1, UL1741/IEEE1547, FCC Part 15 Class B, ICES-0003 Class B, CAN/CSA-C22.2 NO. 107.1-01 This product is UL Listed as PV Rapid Shut Down Equipment and conforms with NEC 2014, NEC 2017, and NEC 2020 section 690.12 and C22.1-2018 Rule 64-218 Rapid Shutdown of PV Systems, for AC and DC conductors, when installed according to manufacturer's instructions.	

(1) No enforced DC/AC ratio. See the compatibility calculator at <https://link.enphase.com/module-compatibility>

(2) Maximum continuous input DC current is 10.6A (3) Nominal voltage range can be extended beyond nominal if required by the utility. (4) Limits may vary. Refer to local requirements to define the number of microinverters per branch in your area.



### Built for solar's toughest roofs.

IronRidge builds the strongest mounting system for pitched roofs in solar. Our components have been tested to the limit and proven in extreme environments, including Florida's high-velocity hurricane zones.

Our rigorous approach has led to unique structural features, such as curved rails and reinforced flashings, and is also why our products are fully certified, code compliant and backed by a 25-year warranty.



#### **Strength Tested**

All components evaluated for superior structural performance.



#### **PE Certified**

Pre-stamped engineering letters available in most states.



#### **Class A Fire Rating**

Certified to maintain the fire resistance rating of the existing roof.



#### **Design Assistant**

Online software makes it simple to create, share, and price projects.



#### **UL 2703 Listed System**

Entire system and components meet newest effective UL 2703 standard.



#### **25-Year Warranty**

Products guaranteed to be free of impairing defects.

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## XR Rails

### XR10 Rail



A low-profile mounting rail for regions with light snow.

- 6' spanning capability
- Moderate load capability
- Clear and black finish

### XR100 Rail



The ultimate residential solar mounting rail.

- 8' spanning capability
- Heavy load capability
- Clear and black finish

### XR1000 Rail



A heavyweight mounting rail for commercial projects.

- 12' spanning capability
- Extreme load capability
- Clear anodized finish

### BOSS™ Bonded Splices



Bonded Structural Splices connect XR Rails together.

- Integrated bonding
- No tools or hardware
- Self-centering stop tab

## Clamps & Grounding

### UFO™



Universal Fastening Objects bond modules to rails.

- Fully assembled & lubed
- Single, universal size
- Clear and black finish

### Stopper Sleeves



Snap onto the UFO to turn into a bonded end clamp.

- Bonds modules to rails
- Sized to match modules
- Clear and black finish

### CAMO™



Bond modules to rails while staying completely hidden.

- Universal end-cam clamp
- Tool-less installation
- Fully assembled

### Bonding Hardware



Bond and attach XR Rails to roof attachments.

- T & Square Bolt options
- Nut uses 7/16" socket
- Assembled and lubricated

## Attachments

### FlashFoot2™



Flash and mount XR Rails with superior waterproofing.

- Twist-on Cap eases install
- Wind-driven rain tested
- Mill and black finish

### FlashVue™



Flash and mount conduit, strut, or junction boxes.

- Twist-on Cap eases install
- Wind-driven rain tested
- Secures 3/4" or 1" conduit

### Knockout Tile



Replace tiles and ensure superior waterproofing.

- Flat, S, & W tile profiles
- Form-fit compression seal
- Single-lag universal base

### All Tile Hook



Mount on tile roofs with a simple, adjustable hook.

- Works on flat, S, & W tiles
- Single-socket installation
- Optional deck flashing

## Resources



### Design Assistant

Go from rough layout to fully engineered system. For free.

Go to [IronRidge.com/design](http://IronRidge.com/design)



### Endorsed by FL Building Commission

Flush Mount is the first mounting system to receive Florida Product approval for 2017 Florida Building Code compliance.

Learn More at [bit.ly/floridacert](http://bit.ly/floridacert)

# ZXM7-SPDB144 Series



Znshinesolar 10BB HALF-CELL Bifacial  
Monocrystalline PERC PV Module

520W | 525W | 530W | 535W | 540W | 545W



## Excellent cells efficiency

MBB technology decreases the distance between bus bars and finger grid line which is benefit to power increase.



## Better Weak Illumination Response

More power output in weak light condition, such as haze, cloudy, and morning



## Anti PID

Limited power degradation caused by PID effect is guaranteed under strict testing condition for mass production



## High wind and snow resistance

■ 5400 Pa snow load      ■ 2400 Pa wind load



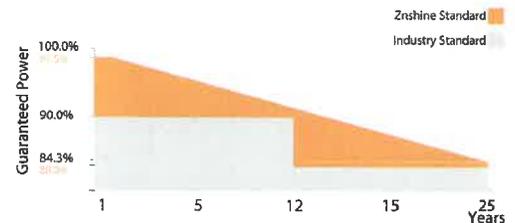
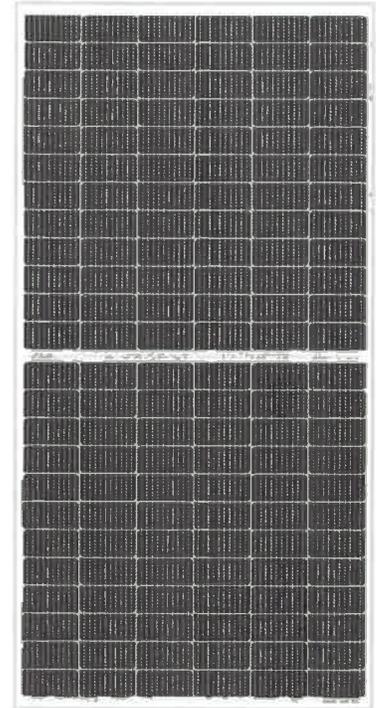
## 25 years power warranty

After 25years our solar panel keeps at least 80% of its initial power output



## Higher lifetime Power Yield

2.5% first year degradation, 0.55% linear degradation



12 years product warranty  
25 years output warranty



0.55% Annual Degradation  
over 25 years



Founded in 1988, ZNShine solar is a world's leading high-tech PV module manufacturer, with the state-of-the-art production lines, the company boasts module capacity of 6GW. Bloomberg has listed ZNShine as a global Tier 1 PV module maker. Today Znshine has distributed its sales to more than 60 countries around the globe.

**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS | STC\***

Nominal Power Watt Pmax(W)*	520	525	530	535	540	545
Power Output Tolerance Pmax(%)	0~+3	0~+3	0~+3	0~+3	0~+3	0~+3
Maximum Power Voltage Vmp(V)	40.70	40.90	41.10	41.30	41.50	41.70
Maximum Power Current Imp(A)	12.79	12.85	12.91	12.96	13.02	13.07
Open Circuit Voltage Voc(V)	49.00	49.20	49.40	49.60	49.80	50.00
Short Circuit Current Isc(A)	13.53	13.59	13.65	13.71	13.77	13.83
Module Efficiency (%)	20.34	20.54	20.74	20.93	21.13	21.32

\*STC (Standard Test Condition): Irradiance 1000W/m<sup>2</sup>, Module Temperature 25°C, AM 1.5  
\*Measuring tolerance: ±3%

**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS | NMOT\***

Maximum Power Pmax(Wp)	388.80	392.70	396.40	399.90	403.60	406.80
Maximum Power Voltage Vmpp(V)	37.90	38.00	38.20	38.40	38.50	38.80
Maximum Power Current Impp(A)	10.26	10.33	10.38	10.42	10.47	10.49
Open Circuit Voltage Voc(V)	45.80	46.00	46.20	46.30	46.50	46.70
Short Circuit Current Isc(A)	10.93	10.98	11.02	11.07	11.12	11.17

\*NMOT(Nominal module operating temperature):Irradiance 800W/m<sup>2</sup>, Ambient Temperature 20°C, AM 1.5, Wind Speed 1m/s

**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS WITH 25% REAR SIDE POWER GAIN**

Front power Pmax/W	520	525	530	535	540	545
Total power Pmax/W	650	656	663	669	675	681
Vmp/V(Total)	40.80	41.00	41.20	41.40	41.60	41.80
Imp/A(Total)	15.93	16.01	16.08	16.15	16.23	16.30
Voc/V(Total)	49.10	49.30	49.50	49.70	49.90	50.10
Isc/A(Total)	16.87	16.95	17.02	17.10	17.17	17.25

**MECHANICAL DATA**

Solar cells	Mono PERC
Cells orientation	144 (6x24)
Module dimension	2256x1133x40 mm(With Frame)
Weight	28.5 kg
Glass	3.2mm, High Transmission, AR Coated Tempered Glass
Junction box	IP 68, 3 diodes
Cables	4 mm <sup>2</sup> , 350 mm
Connectors	MC4-compatible

**TEMPERATURE RATINGS**

NMOT	44°C ±2°C
Temperature coefficient of Pmax	-0.35%/°C
Temperature coefficient of Voc	-0.29%/°C
Temperature coefficient of Isc	0.05%/°C
Refer. Bifacial Factor	70±5%

**WORKING CONDITIONS**

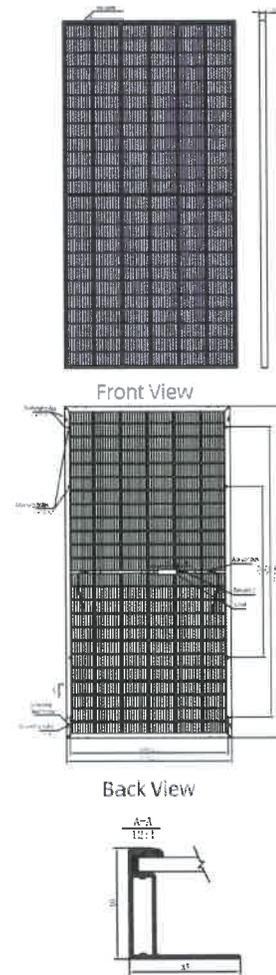
Maximum system voltage	1500 V DC
Operating temperature	-40°C~+85°C
Maximum series fuse	30 A
Maximum load(snow/wind)	5400 Pa / 2400 Pa

\*Do not connect Fuse in Combiner Box with two or more strings in parallel connection  
\*Remark:Electrical data in this catalog do not refer to a single module and they are not part of the offer. They only serve for comparison among different module types.

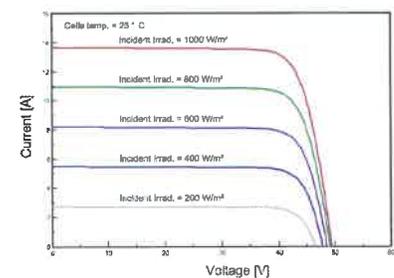
**PACKAGING CONFIGURATION**

Piece/Box	27
Piece/Container(40HQ)	540
Piece/Container(With additional small package)	/

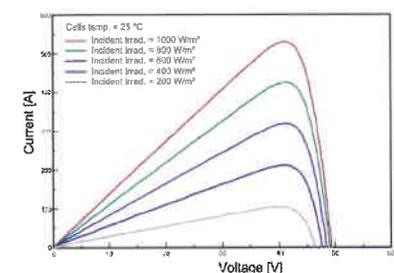
**DIMENSIONS(MM)**



**I-V CURVES OF PV MODULE(530W)**



**P-V CURVES OF PV MODULE(530W)**



**RE: Site Visit**

*Insured: GRNE Solar*

*Foreman: Josh*

*Site Location: Southern Illinois Airport, Carbondale Illinois*

*Inspection Date: 9-30-20*

*This Jobsite was very clean, I didn't see anything that was cause for concern. The site layout was well done, no real bottlenecks or areas of congestion. Materials were placed out of the way and on high ground so muddy conditions wouldn't plague you or cause additional issues/ material handling injuries. Josh was very knowledgeable, and I am very confident in his abilities as we continue to work together in the future. We started with a site walkthrough looking for unmarked utilities, holes, washouts and other hazards throughout the multiple acre site (10-15). He explained that he normally does that before the job starts and throughout the installation process. I touched on site security and the importance of fencing and securing the borders of any jobsites. On this site there was a fence all the way around with a nice sturdy gate for the entrance. I also asked him about documentation. He said he did have a safety manual in the truck as well as other documentation. The paperwork is one item that will need continually checked on. When traveling and working on different jobs it's easy for that to be lost, damaged, need updated, or additional copies of forms printed. During this conversation he seemed confident and on top of all of the items I brought up.*

*If you have any questions comments or concerns please call so we can discuss.*

*Thanks,*

*Dillon Burklund*

*INSPRO Insurance*

*Risk Management Specialist*

*(402)432-3530*

Given GRNE's commitment to quality, customer satisfaction, and workplace safety, we can energetically recommend them as a reliable partner to Ameren now and into the future.

Sincerely,



Noah Greenwald, Producer and Sr. Vice President  
INSPRO, a Marsh & McLennan Agency

***Below are some Pictures & Observations from the Visit:***



*So one of the first things we should notice prior to starting each job is hazards such as this one that require addition communication with a jobsite superintendent or in this case the power company to either insulate or shut off the power to these lines.*

*Josh had explained that the crew was waiting until the power company had come to shut down those lines before driving in the pilings along the fence in this picture.*



*I was happy to see that the employees were being smart and working ergonomically. The rails were still banded and were not overloaded with the rails that they were attaching hardware to. The employee that was down on the ground to the right of this picture would stand up and step back when the Telehandler would come in to set additional rails onto this sawhorse setup. Additionally he would do the same before the lift would pick up the rails with attached hardware to transfer to the area of installation. I was not concerned with crush injuries because this setup was on flat, solid ground and seemed very stable with steel strapping. I did do a kick test with my steel toed boots to ensure nothing would come loose or break apart. I put roughly 400Lbs of force into this drop kick.*



*These materials as I said above in my intro were staged along the edge, out of the way. This allowed equipment traffic to stay away from pedestrian traffic and pedestrian work zones.*



*Here are just a few pictures showing the different phases that we were in during my visit.*



March 12, 2021

GRNE Solutions, LLC dba GRNE Solar  
Re: Safety Observations

To Whom It May Concern,

I have worked with Jess Baker and GRNE Solar for just over a year as a safety consultant. I've spent my career with INSPRO helping construction clients create and build upon their safety programs and company cultures. It is my professional opinion that GRNE is a top tier company from these perspectives, with an upper management focused on safety like few I've worked with.

I've worked GRNE employees in group settings as well one on one. Everybody that I've worked with has really impressed me, from Upper Management to Project Managers and their skilled laborers at installation sites. All have been very knowledgeable, focused and driven. I only foresee good things and further growth in their future. I can confidently say that they are setup for and ready to take on any challenges that comes their way.

They have been a fast growing company since they opened in 2012, but in the last three years, especially, they have grown significantly because of how their business is positioned and managed. With growth usually comes growing pains, but I haven't dealt with these pains like I would typically expect. I believe this largely is due to their foresight, dedication to the quality of their work, and commitment to customer service. When it comes to their work, I've observed planned-out operations, nothing being rushed, and all angles and possibilities considered and reviewed before making any final decisions.

From my track record with GRNE Solar I think if they are given an opportunity or challenge they will not only meet but exceed your expectations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dillon Burklund  
Senior Risk Management Specialist  
INSPRO, A Marsh & McLennan Agency

# Managing the COVID-19 Pandemic: Guidance for Solar Installers

## Background & Helpful Links

The rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic impacts private businesses in a variety of ways. Solar installers in particular will face unique challenges. Below you will find guidance and links to additional resources, some of which are written specifically for the solar industry, while others are more general. For additional information and updates about this crisis, visit [www.seia.org/covid-19](http://www.seia.org/covid-19).

### General Resources

- The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published "[Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)" to help companies respond. The guidance was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and provides practical guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19. It contains information on safe work practices and appropriate personal protective equipment based on the risk level of exposure.
- OSHA also recently launched a dedicated COVID-19 webpage, [available here](#).
- For further information about Coronavirus, please visit the HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage on [COVID-19](#).
- Follow the [CDC](#) and the [WHO](#) protocol for social distancing and virus prevention.

## Guidance for Solar Installers

If your company plans to continue with regularly scheduled installations, we recommend that you take the following additional precautions:

**Consider contacting all customers with upcoming appointments for solar installations or operations & maintenance work in the next 8 weeks.**

- Offer to reschedule with as much notice as possible.
- If you have a high volume in your installation queue, ask for 48 to 72 hours minimum (or longer) in order to reschedule.
- Assure your customers that you are happy to find a suitable time to conduct the installation.
- Consider what accommodations you are able to make for rescheduling.

**Let your customers know that if they have anyone at home who may be experiencing symptoms of illness (particularly cough, fever or shortness of breath), they are able to reschedule their installation. You should not expect them to give you details of the illness or confirm if it is COVID-19.**

- Assure your customers you will keep this information confidential and that details are not necessary.
- Offer to work with your customers to reschedule the installation to a later date.
- Provide your customers with multiple ways to contact you, such as a phone number, email or other means.

# Managing the COVID-19 Pandemic: Guidance for Solar Installers

**Ask crew or employees experiencing symptoms of illness to stay home and / or if necessary, re-arrange crews and proactively reschedule installation appointments to accommodate your staffing situation.**

- Employees who are experiencing symptoms of illness such as fever, headaches, cough and shortness of breath should not be conducting any rooftop work; even if the symptoms are mild, they should discuss this with the crew lead and stay home.
- Health and safety is of the utmost priority with any field work; to protect your crew, if anyone is experiencing symptoms of illness, you should substitute that role with another health crew member and reschedule your jobs accordingly.

**Note that municipalities and other government services may also decide to close services or conduct all business (such as plan design reviews, permitting or other services) virtually, your teams will need to take this into consideration as you develop your in-house workflow and scheduling.**

- These delays or rescheduling to virtual services are also beyond their control and as advised by their city, county, state or federal leadership; so please stay calm and work proactively and empathetically to find mutually beneficial solutions.

**Assure your customers that you value their business, your crew will greet them as advised (no personal contact such as shaking hands) and will keep the recommended minimum distance of six feet.**

- Be sure to let your crews know to carry company identification.
- Keep in contact with your customer's on-site contact and let them know ahead of time with a phone call that the crew is on the way and the name of the main contact person.
- Only have the crew lead speak directly with the customer.
- Be respectful that your customers may have children or older, at-risk individuals living with them during your installation visit and the crews should keep to the recommended social distancing if they need to enter the home to perform work.
- Kindly remind your customers that they should keep all pets and children or other at-home individuals in other areas of the home where work is not being actively conducted so that the installation can go efficiently.

**Confirm to your customer that as you are able, you will keep them informed as the current situation evolves.**

- Like you and your crew, your customers are also operating in a time of concern and uncertainty, be committed to inform them of any changes or additional precautions that may be put in place.

**Comply with the following precautions as well as state, federal, CDC and WHO guidelines for the well-being of employees, crew and customers.**

- Inform them of what normal practices your crew conducts for:
  - Warehouse cleaning especially for frequently accessed areas with bare hands, such as door handles, light switches, desks, bathrooms, stock areas, etc.
  - Vehicle cleaning, especially for door handles, steering wheels, mirrors, windows and other hard surfaces.
- Re-assure them that your crew are keeping the distancing protocols as much as possible.
- Let them know of your in-house hand-washing or other sanitary procedures that you are undertaking.
- Let them know what you are providing our crew with to safeguard them, such as handwashing and / or sanitizing methods prior to leaving the warehouse, in the field, during breaks.

**Overall, SEIA encourages you to remember that your employees and your customer's health and safety are the utmost priority.**

March 12, 2021

Re: GRNE Solutions, LLC dba GRNE Solar  
Statement on Safety Culture

To Whom It May Concern,

In the year that INSPRO has worked with GRNE Solar, we've observed and worked with a construction firm that is focused on safety and clearly prioritizes its safety culture. Given GRNE's rapid growth over the last five years, this is exceptional, as it's often our experience that fast growth and valuing safety run opposite of each other.

INSPRO's own safety professionals have worked extensively with GRNE's Director of Safety, Josh, on both general matters and jobsite specific surveys. It's our opinion that workers are already attuned to safety concerns, as most work days are commenced with a meeting to discuss safety and the day's work, and that workers and site supervisors appreciate and apply in-the-moment corrective action and general recommendations wherever necessary. Coachability is just as important a variable in a safety culture as is the following of a plan in a book. Moreover, when it comes to claims handling, GRNE's management is involved and up to speed.

We recognize that GRNE's workers compensation insurance Experience Modification Rating (EMR) makes it appear average or slightly below average to some of its peers, but I've always believed this data point to be, at best, an imperfect representative of an organization's safety culture and, more frequently, not correlated at all. In short, claims can happen to the best of operators, and while weak operators frequently find themselves the beneficiary of good luck and near misses. In GRNE's case, the expected losses variable in the calculation that produces the EMR is exceptionally low given the company's present payroll and premium volume. This low expected loss threshold gives them a much slimmer margin for error than we would expect from a company of their size, and we believe this is directly tied to their rapid growth rate and relatively low workers compensation premium rates. To summarize, over the last four years, GRNE's workers compensation insurance carriers have paid out just \$54,546 in losses, while total premiums over the same period are well in excess of \$300,000. Again, with their fast growth in a business that is subject to several high severity conditions, and operations in some notoriously challenging venues, this is a fantastic set of results that are pretty clearly tied to GRNE's well-developed safety culture.



## QUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

GRNE Solar is engaged in the procurement, engineering, construction, and maintenance of solar energy developments across the Midwest. GRNE Solar is committed to meeting or exceeding the requirements and expectations of our clients. Through our experience we will continue improving on our quality ensure our solar developments and construction sites remain in compliance with applicable codes, mandates, and customer specifications. We will achieve this by:

- Continuous communication and transparency with clients.
- On-site collaboration amongst the construction teams and leadership at the beginning and end of each day during construction.
- Achieving daily task targets.
- Ensuring compliance with NEC, OSHA, and NABCEP standards.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jess Baker".

Jess Baker, CEO  
GRNE Solar

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Peterman".

Eric Peterman, CEO  
GRNE Solar

# 2022 Camp Report

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Emily Guynn, Superintendent of Recreation

Mary Liz Jayne, Recreation Program Manager

WILETTE PARK DISTRICT

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## Introduction

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The Wilmette Park District is proud to offer a wide-variety of summer camps. Camp offerings include traditional day camp, to one-week specialty, and everything in-between utilizing all of the Park District's facilities and many parks. Camps are offered for ages 2-14 years old. After navigating camps through COVID restrictions, this summer campers were able to enjoy many fieldtrips outside of Wilmette.

## Camp Overview

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Wilmette Park District offers a wide variety of camps for all ages and interests to meet the needs of the community. The following section provides a brief overview of each in-house camp, broken down by category. In-house camps are ones that are staffed solely with Wilmette Park District employees.

### Early Childhood

The Early Childhood Division offered five different camps this summer, including three new camps. Two of our newly added camps, **Hummingbirds** (age 2) and **Summer Doves** (ages 3-5), were created to mirror our school year preschool offerings. These camps ran for 10 weeks, starting one week earlier and one week later than our traditional 8 week camps. Camp hours ran from 8am-6pm to accommodate working families. Campers enjoyed weekly themes with activities focused on social emotional learning, STEAM, and fine and gross motor skills.

Our youngest campers had another opportunity to have some summer fun with the newly added **Teeny Tiny Tots**. This camp was for 2 year olds and gave campers their first camp experience. Campers enjoyed both indoor and outdoor play and had weekly themes. These themes and activities also carried over into our **Tiny Tots** camp which is for 3-5 year olds. Both the Teeny Tiny and Tiny Tots had the opportunity to extend their days with Early Bird drop off or Early Childhood After Camp.



**Camp Innovation**, a STEAM based camp, is for 4-7 year old campers. The Early Childhood camps expanded so much this year that Camp Innovation moved out of the CRC and into Romona Elementary School, with the 8<sup>th</sup> week taking place at Mallinckrodt. Campers enjoyed trips to Gillson Beach, visits from the Wilmette Public Library, and a reptile show. Camp Innovation campers could extend their day at the CRC with Early Childhood After Camp.

### School Age

The traditional school age camps run for campers entering Kindergarten through entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Campers entering Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade can start their full day camp experience in **Wiggleworms**. This camp took place at Romona Elementary School. Campers had swim lessons and free swim twice each week and weekly trips to Gillson Beach. Wiggleworms campers also attended two off-site field trips throughout the summer. **Jr Day Camp** is another traditional day camp and welcomes campers entering Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. These campers are on the move with swim lessons and free swim three times each week and weekly trips to Gillson Beach. Campers also had three off-site field

trips throughout the summer. Jr Day Campers had the option to extend their day with Early Bird and After Camp. Wiggleworms campers had the option to be bussed to the CRC for **After Camp Rec**, an after camp program for all of our CRC based camps, Wiggleworms, and Afternoon Adventures.

**Afternoon Adventures** is a camp that pairs with District 39 Summer Enrichment Program. This camp takes place at the same location as the enrichment program, which was held at Central Elementary School this year. The first three weeks are a full day camp before the start of summer enrichment. These weeks included a weekly beach visits, multiple visits to the pool, and a weekly off-site field trip. The second four weeks, Afternoon Adventures is a half day camp paired with D39 enrichment. Campers continued weekly visits to Gillson and the pool for free swim. In addition to Afternoon Adventures, the following camps can be paired with D39 enrichment with school provided bussing: Sports Camp, Great Gillson, Arts in the Park, and Jr Day.

Campers entering 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade who want to spend a summer on the beach can sign up for **Great Gillson**. This camp takes place at Gillson Park and Beach. Campers enjoy multiple visits to the pool, onsite entertainment, and sailing. Campers at Great Gillson can extend their day with Early Bird and After Camp.

**Teen Camp** is for campers entering 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade and were newly based out of Centennial Recreation Complex. This camp was intended to be restructured in 2020, but this was the first year teens were able to travel. Teen campers go on 3 field trips each week as well as trips to Gillson Beach and free swim at the pool. Campers who want to prepare for future summer jobs can be **Counselors in Training (CITs)**. CITs have three days of training at the beginning of each session before they join camp to assist and learn from the counselors. CITs also go on weekly field trips where they are able to form friendships with other teens.

After the traditional 8 week camps, the end of summer camps fill the gap before the start of the school year. **Safety Town** is a two week, half day camp for ages 5-7. Campers learn a different safety topic each day. Some examples include safety rules for the playground, bicycles, fire, water and seat belts. Campers are introduced to stranger-danger, pet safety, electrical hazards and how to avoid poisons. **Summer's End** camp runs out of the CRC for campers age Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Campers attended multiple field trips each week and trips to Gillson Beach and free swim.



## Sports

**Sports Camp** is for campers entering 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade. Campers are broken into three divisions based on age. Each group learns and plays a variety of sports each day. Campers also go on weekly off site field trips, visits to Gillson Beach, and free swim at the pool.

**Basketball Camp** is a one-week half day camp where campers practice learn basketball skills from experienced coaches. **Beach Volleyball Camp** takes place at Gillson Beach and is another half day camp focused on developing volleyball skills.

## Center for the Arts

The Center for the Arts camps all take place at the CRC and have a specific focus on either art, theater, or dance. **Arts in the Park** runs out of the CRC for campers entering 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Campers enjoy weekly themes based on artists or mediums that the projects are based on. Campers also have weekly free swim and off site field trips. Each session ends with an art showcase for their families.

**Pinterest Art Camp** is a one-week half day camp geared toward teenagers. Campers completed a project each day.

**Broadway Bound** broke into two camps for this year, regular Broadway Bound (grade 5-8) and Broadway Bound Minis (grade 1-4). Each camp performs a show at the end of each session. The four shows performed this summer included: Descendants Jr, Fame Jr, Seuessical the Musical Jr, and The Little Mermaid Jr. **Little World Travelers** is a theatre based camp where campers age 3-5 travel to a different country each week. Campers play performance based games, read stories, and create projects based on each country they visit.

**Dance Camp** is for campers entering 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Campers have weekly trips to the pool and learn a variety of dances throughout the session. In addition to learning new dances, they have special classes like yoga and acrobatics. Each session ends in a short recital for the dancer's families. **Preschool Dance Camp** for 3-5 year olds is their introduction to dance with a weekly theme.

## Specialty

**Pirate Tennis** camps are for ages 7-11 and are half day camps focusing on tennis skills with a pirate theme. These camps can be combined with free swim at the pool or the beach. Older and more skilled campers can sign up for **Excellence Tennis Camp** which focuses on tennis drills and friendly competition match play.

**Gymnastics Camp** takes place at the CRC for ages 4-14. Gymnasts learn skills for all four gymnastics Olympic events. This camp is a full day camp running 3 days/week and campers can extend their day at After Camp Recreation.



**City Slickers** camp is for teens entering grades 7-9. This camp returned for the first time since 2019. Campers enjoyed trips to the Museum of Ice Cream, Navy Pier, the Skydeck, and a tour of Wrigley Field taking the CTA to travel between Wilmette and Chicago.

The specialty camps run by the Lakefront include **Aquatics Camp, Sailing Camp** and **Jr Lifeguard Camp**. Aquatics Camp takes place on the beach and participate in paddle sports, free swim and onshore games. Sailing Camp is a half day camp where sailors learn basic sailing skills starting with sunfish working up to catamarans. Jr Lifeguard Camp is another half day camp where participants learn first aid, rescue skills, and CPR.



## Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association

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The Wilmette Park District works with Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association (NSSRA) to support campers with additional needs. This summer 71 requests were submitted for either observations or companions to support our campers, with 49 companions working in camps. Staff worked with NSSRA prior to the start of summer by attending training to prepare for a successful summer. With a collaborative approach to serving the whole community, staff worked closely with NSSRA to find the best way to support our campers including frequent team meetings to discuss camper behaviors and create tools and strategies to support all campers.

## Marketing and Promotions

---

Marketing Department has an essential role in effectively communicating camp offerings to the community. In 2022, promotions were primarily done electronically through the Wilmette Park District website, constant contact, and social media. Stats below highlight efforts prior to registration.

**Constant Contact:** Five campaigns emailed to over 22,000 addresses, with an average 49.9% open rates

**Social Media:** Facebook and Instagram 12 posts

## Camp Enrollment

	2021	2022
MORNING OR AFTERNOON EXTENSION CAMP	388	496
AFTERNOON ADVENTURES	87	133
AQUATICS CAMP	255	466
ARTS IN THE PARK	350	419
BROADWAY BOUND	60	119
CAMP INNOVATION	119	101
COUNSELOR IN TRAINING	66	63
CITY SLICKERS	Not Offered	13
DANCE CAMP	36	37
FIGURE SKATING SKILLS	Not Offered	25
GREAT GILLSON	318	210
GYMNASTICS	110	121
HUMMINGBIRDS	Not Offered	14
JR. LIFEGUARD	49	53
JR. DAY	241	223
LITTLE WORLD TRAVELERS	113	75
MOVIE STAR CAMP	43	50
PICKLE, PADDLE, AND MORE	51	13
PIRATE TENNIS	256	230
PRESCHOOL DANCE CAMP	116	82
SAFTEY TOWN	28	28
SPORTS CAMP	225	259
SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP	169	124
SUMMER DOVES	Not Offered	38
SUMMER'S END	269	288
TEEN CAMP	126	160
TEENY TINY TOT	Not Offered	45
TENNIS & BEACH	20	18
TINY TOTS	116	80
WIGGLEWORMS	108	101
YOUTH BEACH VOLLEYBALL	187	129

## Staff and Staff Training

Camp staff included 269 counselors and directors for the summer. Camp Directors work closely with the full time supervisor to plan the summer and they are the onsite contact for parents. Camp counselors implement the planned activities, supervise the campers, and provide a fun, safe, and welcoming environment.

Supervisors started recruitment in January with reaching out to returning staff, as well as new summer staff recruitment at local high schools, college job boards, and hosted two job fairs. Targeted emails went

out to the education departments at colleges and universities. In an effort to widen the candidate pool, the decision was made to recruit qualified 15 year olds with work permits. Our youngest counselors were primarily in our Early Childhood and School Age camps that provided an adequate age difference between campers and counselors. That initiative will continue in 2023.

Annual staff training took place for Directors and Counselors took place in May and June. Camp Director training included topics of leadership, communication, behavior management, beach and pool safety, emergency procedures, staff and camper expectations, and camp day planning. Camp Directors also participated in CPR/First Aid training. Camp Counselors focused on camper safety, behavior management, relationship building, and how to keep campers engaged and having fun during their time at camp.

## 2022 Successes

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Summer camps saw many changes in the summer of 2022, especially with the decline of COVID restrictions. One area where we saw success were the changes to our time at the pool. **Camp Swim Hour** was implemented this summer which allowed our campers an hour of access to Centennial Pool each camp day. Each day had between 350-650 campers visit the pool. This allowed for a higher level of safety and supervision from our camp counselors. In addition to camp swim, the process for **swim lessons** was adjusted for Wiggleworms and Jr Day campers. All



campers were able to attend swim lessons each week, instead of breaking them up by session. This ensured equal access to lessons. Aquatics staff and camp staff worked closely during these lessons, with camp counselors being present in the water as swim instructors. This alleviated the need for additional staff from the pool, and kept our counselors engaged and in the best position to supervise campers.

Improvements were made to improve **staffing** for the summer of 2022. In the Early Childhood Camps, year round teachers were hired to be the Camp Directors. This led to improved structure in the camp classrooms, a better routine for our youngest campers, and an increased sense of safety. Families and students who are in our school year preschool programs had familiar faces over the summer and our high school and college age counselors had great role models to learn from throughout the summer. Some of those high school aged counselors were 15 year olds, who were newly hired to be counselors this summer. The 15 year old staff proved to be responsible and had great attendance. In addition to these changes, this year staff were offered an incentive to work through the end of the summer. Counselors who had 2 excused absences or less and worked the full 10 weeks received up to a \$400 bonus. Summer camps had 38 of 269 counselors earn the incentive.

The recreation and marketing department worked closely together before the start of the camp season to improve **camp communications**. This started with a standardized camp welcome letter sent to all camp families in early May. Camp supervisors used a standardized template for camp manuals, calendars, drop

off/pick up maps, and a new “meet the staff” page that were sent out at the same time to create consistency across camps. In addition to these communications, camps used the Remind app as a way to communicate quickly to parents via text. Parents could subscribe to receive these texts for each camp their child attended. Parents could also communicate directly with camp directors via the app. In addition to the standardized communication, the marketing team created updated logos for almost all camps, creating a common brand across camps.

## Planning for 2023

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Looking ahead to Summer 2023, staff has begun to plan on where we can continue to improve and expand our camp offerings. Here is a brief preview of what to expect for 2023.

- Camp will be offered in 2-week sessions, which will allow families more flexibility to plan around other summer commitments and more opportunities to try other Wilmette Park District camps.
  - o *For example, Junior Day will be offered in 2-week, 4-week, and 8-week session options*
- Select half-day camps will have an option to extend the day at Centennial Aquatics Center by being bused over for lunch and camp public swim hour until 2:15pm.
- Camps will have an experienced director and multiple assistant directors, depending on the size of camp, to improve counselor and camper oversight, camp content, and parent communication.
- Camps that typically go on offsite field trips will go on at least one trip per week.
- Onsite entertainers or enrichment classes will be integrated into all general day camps.
- Certain half day specialty camps will have the option to add camp swim hour to their day.
- Early Bird and After Camp options will be provided per camp location to minimize the staffing needed to hold extended hours at each camp.
- More vendor camps will be strategically placed during the pre and post camp time to provide more options for families when our summer staff are not typically available.

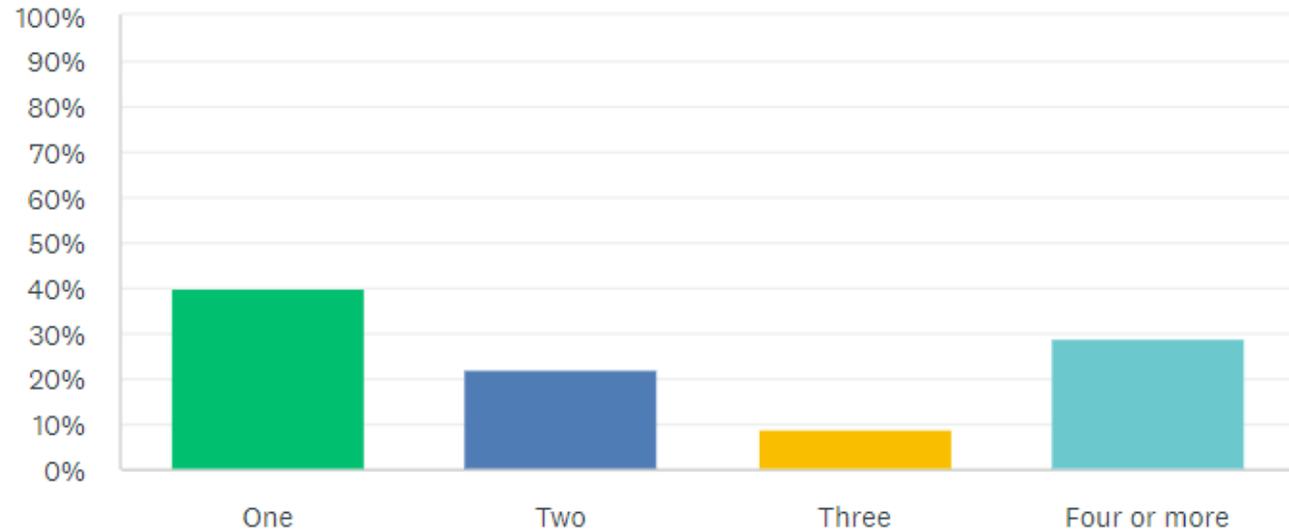
# Summer Camp 2022 Satisfaction Survey

Wilmette Park District  
Recreation Department

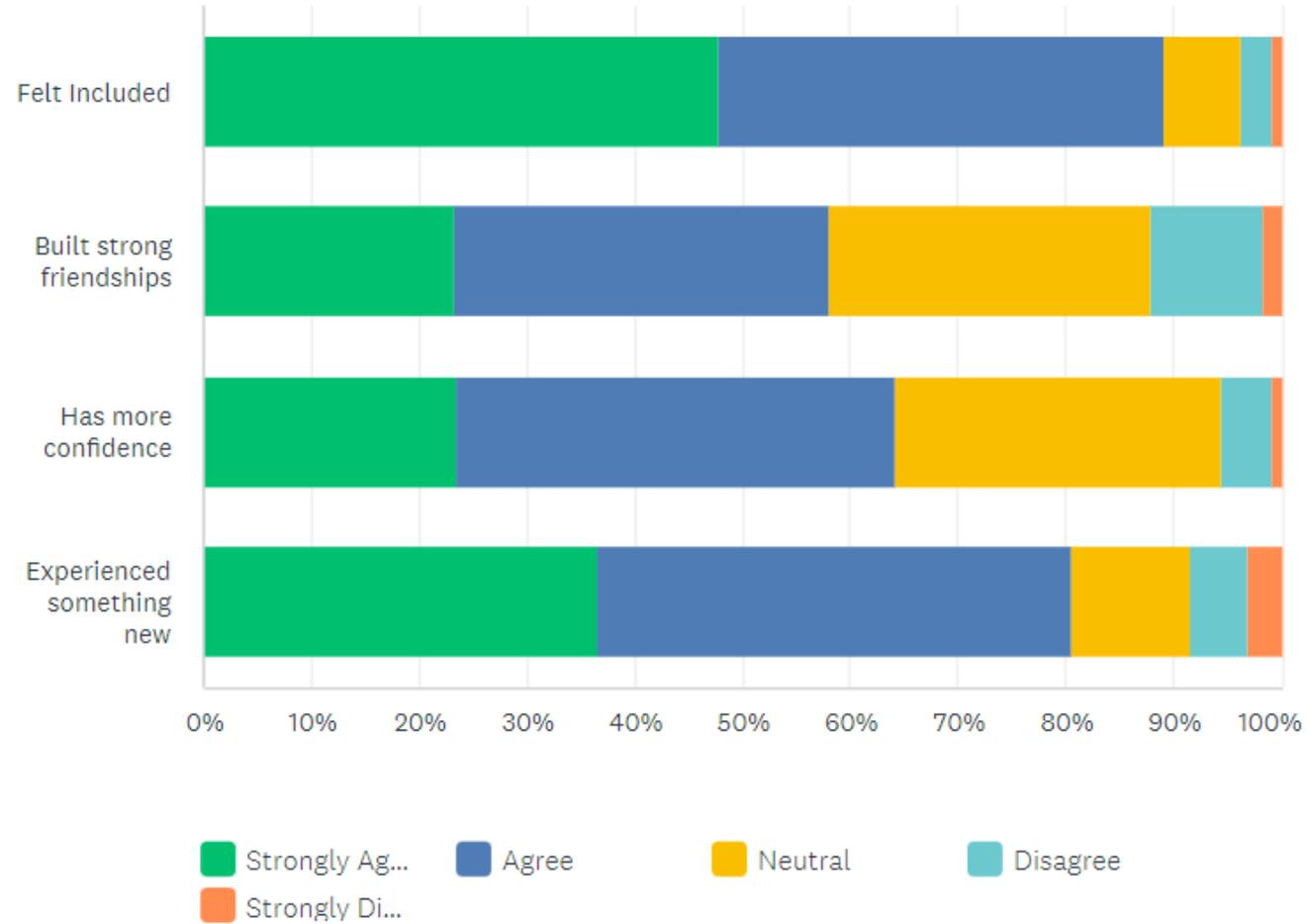
# Camp(s) Attended in 2022

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	9.40%
Afternoon Adventures	5.70%
Aquatics Camp	15.67%
Arts in the Park	10.54%
Broadway Bound	6.55%
Camp Innovation	4.84%
Counselor-In-Training (CIT)	1.99%
Dance Camp	3.70%
Great Gillson	9.12%
Hummingbirds	0.28%
Junior Day	13.96%
Pirate Tennis	6.84%
Sailing Camp	3.42%
Sports Camp	19.09%
Summer Doves	2.85%
Summer's End Camp	10.83%
Teen Camp	3.99%
Teeny Tiny Tots	2.28%
Tiny Tots	4.56%
Wiggleworms	6.55%

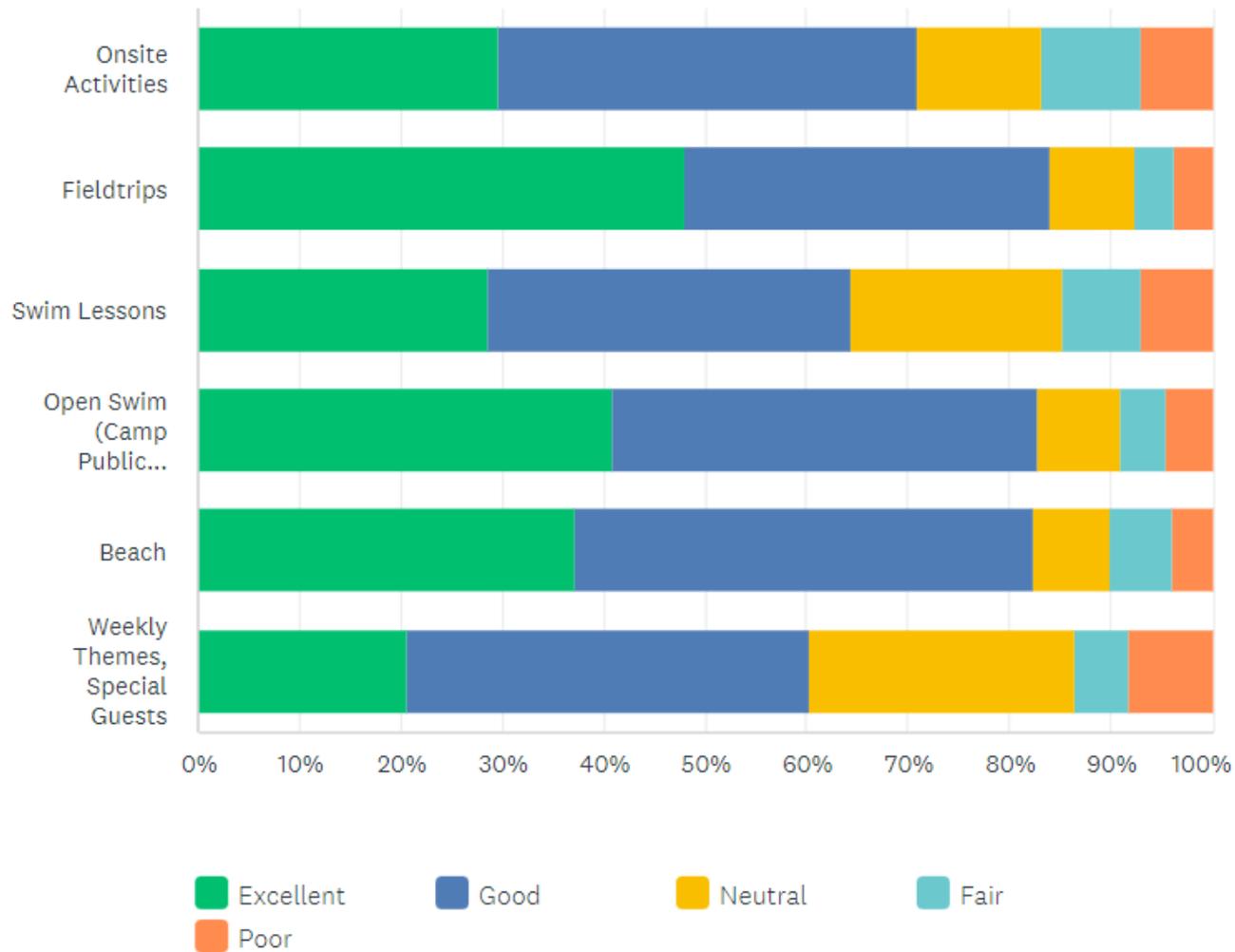
Including 2022,  
how many  
summers had  
your camper  
attended  
Wilmette Park  
District summer  
camp?



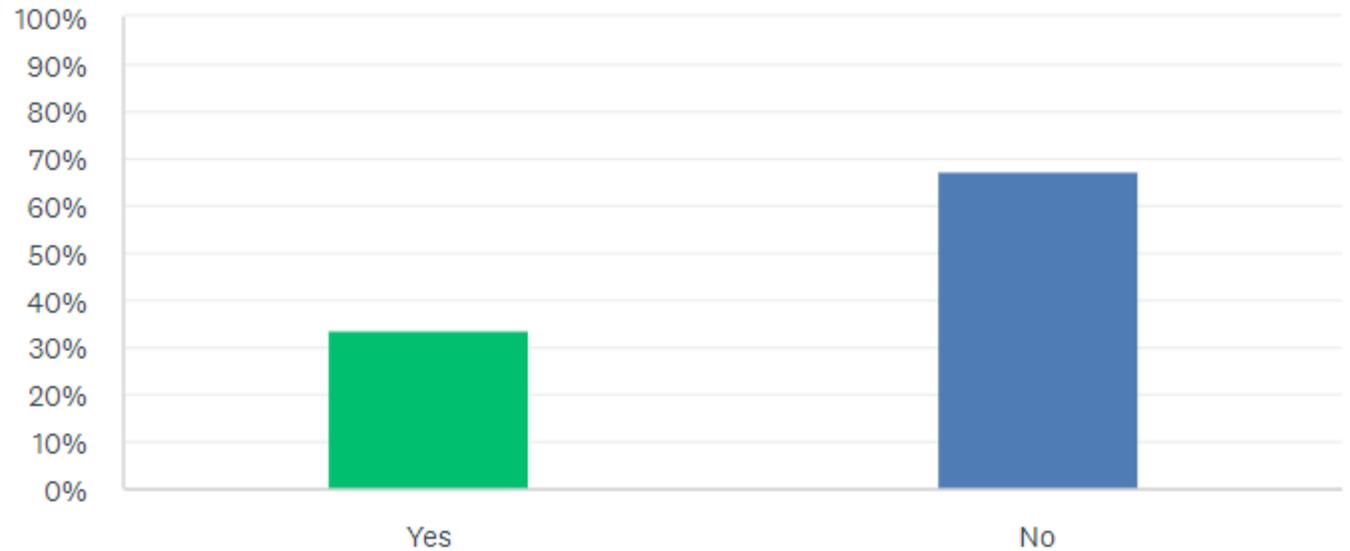
Please choose all that apply to your campers' experience this summer.



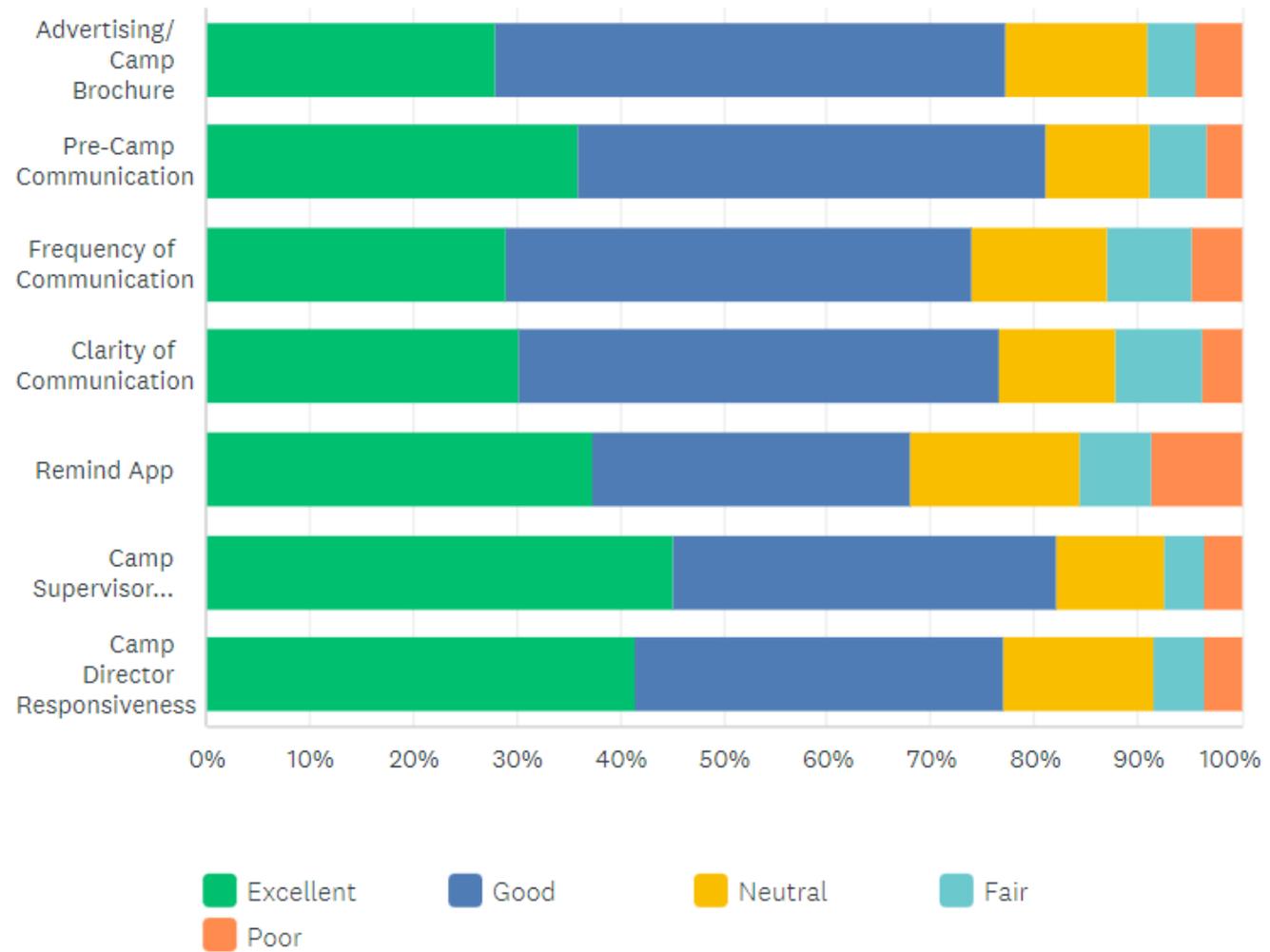
Reflecting on camp content this summer, how would your camper rate each of the following?



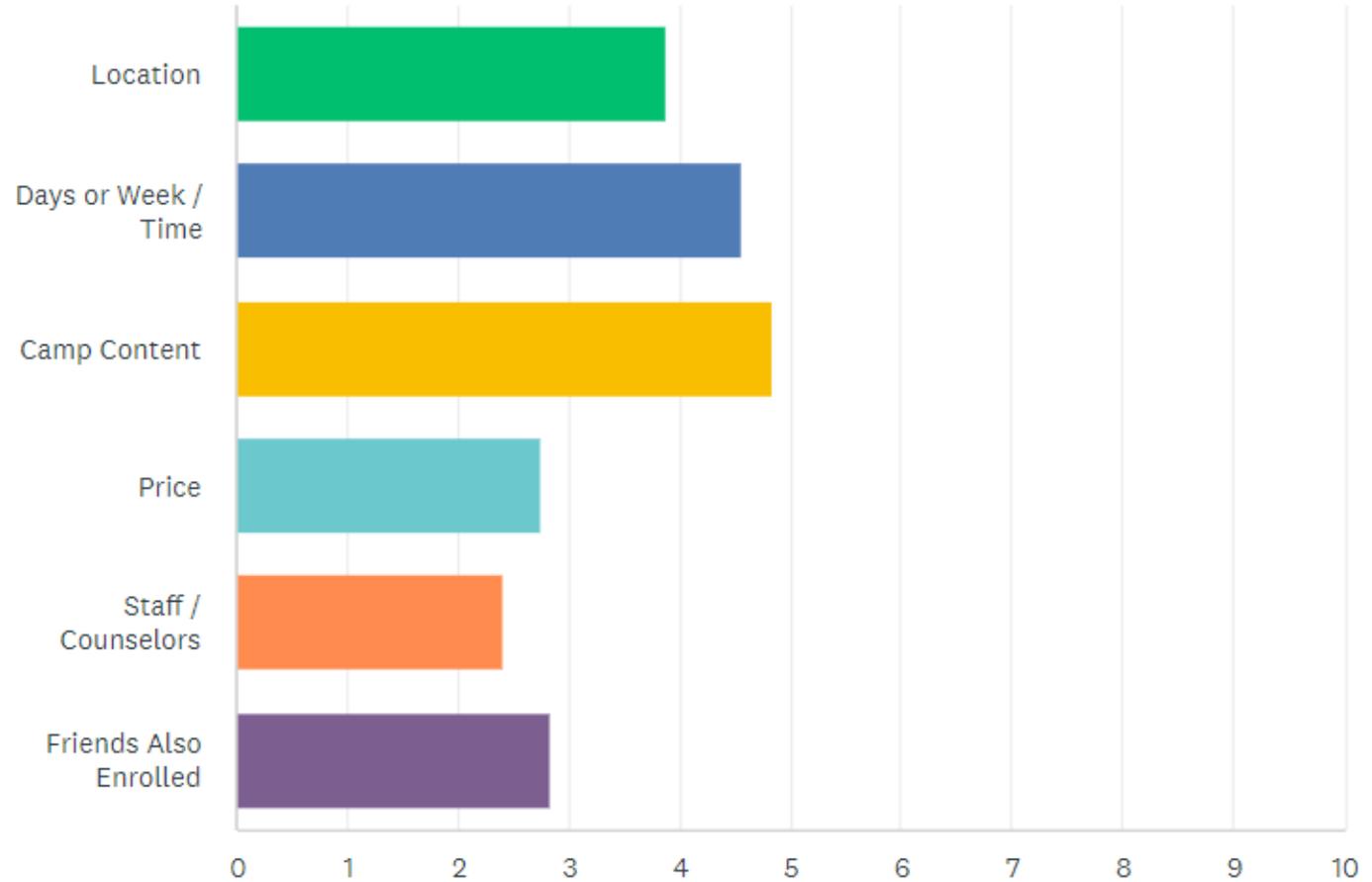
Does your camper have any camp content suggestions for next year?



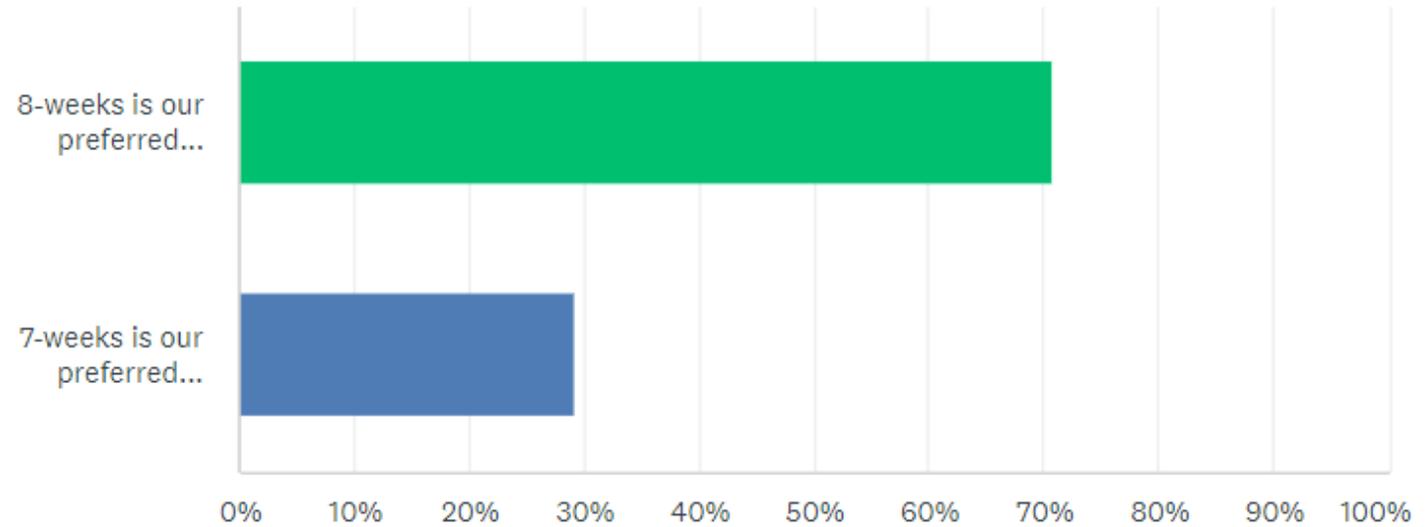
How would you rate each of the following aspects of summer camp communications?



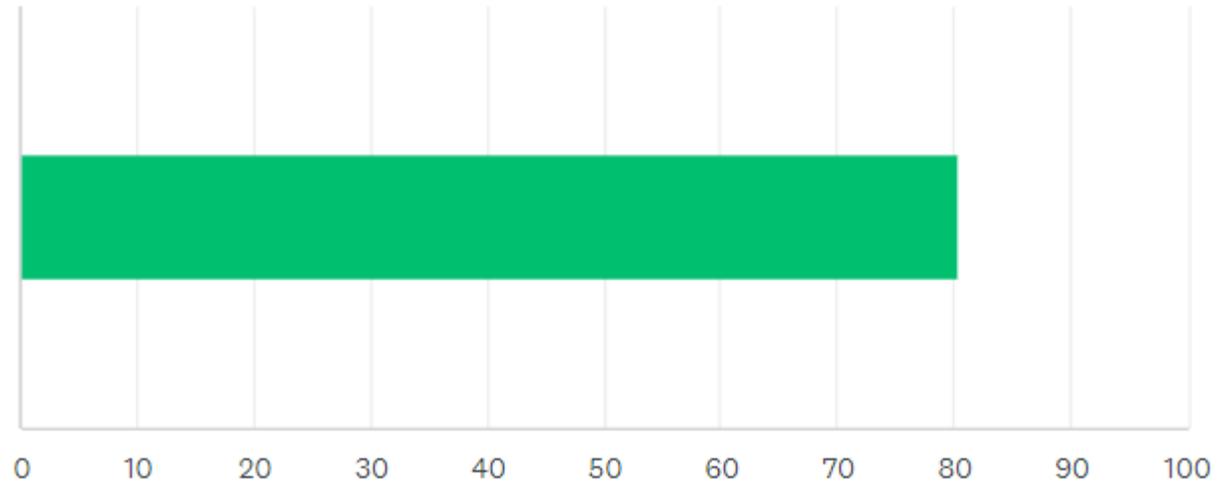
Please rank the following, key factors to selecting a summer camp in order of preference, 1 being your top key factor.



If your camper attended Afternoon Adventures, Junior Day, Sports Camp, or Wiggleworms, did the 7-week camp schedule meet your needs or do you prefer an 8-week camp session?



How likely is it  
that you would  
recommend  
Wilmette Park  
District  
Summer Camp  
to a friend?



**QUESTION #4 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES, Reflecting on camp content this summer, how would your camper rate each of the following?**

2 days out of 5 the water was closed for Kayaks/SUPs. Instead the campers had open swim time but there wasn't really anything else planned for the group. (According to my son) Also, we thought that they would also go out to the Skokie lagoon, (Per description of the camp) but they only stayed at Gillson. Skokie Lagoon would have been a great alternative on those days when the water was too rough at Lake Michigan.

I signed my daughter up for 3 days of arts in the park. She didn't do very many art projects because they just did a project on Monday, Wednesday was a field trip and then Friday kids got to work on what they still hadn't finished all week, but my daughter had nothing to work on.

My son felt camp was too much like preschool/daycare. I think we both expected a different routine that included more outdoor activities and camp-like games.

My children attended the 2nd session of Sports Camp and they went to the pool TOO OFTEN. They went 4 times during their second week at camp.

My kids didn't like that they couldn't play on the play area by the beach and sometimes couldn't even get into the water.

long hours at the beach, sounded like no real structure and kids got burnt

we have been in Broadway for 2 years. This year the Broadway is not prepared well and perform poorly. They even do not have fitted size costume for kids. It does not matter the costume is old or new, it should be prepared well with their careful work. There are many young kids just sit under background and even did not say any words. Parents even not have a chance to catch one picture for her or his performance since they do not play any role in the program that we pay over \$1200. □ Also we went to junior day camp. The counselor seems to have better education but did not show enthusiasm working with kids. They do not lie talk and involve real much with kids and just watching kids. These are not camps experience that we have before. Very disappointed for 2022 summer camps.

At the pool my child felt rushed when changing afterwards

Great Gillson she said it was kind of boring the on-site activities.

At the junior day camp, there was one child who kind of bullied the other kids and that set the tone of the group and I think hindered my son's ability to create relationships with the other kids.

Not enough planned/no structure

He really enjoyed Aquatics camp last year, and he wanted to take more sessions this year. But the location of the camp is changed, they didn't have variety of equipment or group activities as much as last year. The staff said it was due to their insurance. They didn't have water mat nor banana boat, and lots of their paddle boards had missing fins. They also didn't do other activities such as water gun fight which lots of kids enjoyed last year.

The after swim/open swim could have been a little more structured where kids could actually learn swimming or skills rather than just playing in the activity pool. 4 weeks of just playing in the activity pool didn't seem a good use of the kids time and parents money specially when we pay for the seasons passes. Also communication with respect to camps could be better informing the parents what is the weekly plan at the camps and if we can get feedback from camp counselor on our kids skill set from the camp.

Most counselors were on their phones, told kids to just go do whatever by themselves with little to no instruction on activities, and one even told some kids that they were not loved by their parents, which is why they enrolled them to get them out of their hair, or were late at pick up. Need better vetting and training. No phones allowed for counselors!

Mostly only referring to aquatics camp. Pirate tennis and great Gillson my children enjoyed. Aquatics was really bad, counselors taking over games to play with their camp counselor friends. The write up included kayaks, boogie boards, paddle boards, banana boat and more. Pretty much only had paddle boards available. 2 hour camp and one day came home 20 mins early and she said the counselors told her camp was over.

As an up and coming 5th grader he felt a little bored with the activities but participated

My camper said he felt uncomfortable in the deeper water during swim lessons so he was often just allowed to sit out. I found out about this after camp. He also felt somewhat bullied by other children and felt adrift with no real help from staffers.

Sometimes communication seemed reactive and not proactive with parents- example not sending an email reminder about a field trip shirt when the field trip had been moved and calling a parent that morning at work expecting they can bring said shirt last minute.

Bored with Afternoon Adventure camp — wanted their original plan to go to beach or pool daily. Instead it was switched after the first week. But the campus director was great.

Lack of structure overall on indoor activities. This was tough for my 3yo who does better with structure when he is indoors.

My son went to coach Abe's soccer camp for a week. Had a great time

Would have liked more organized activities at the beach, especially. Weekly themes seemed to have poor participation; no encouragement or participation from counselors, etc.

Sometimes the activity noted on the schedule wasn't completed

Camper was disappointed that one day they were unable to go in water, only play at edge. On rain dates they sat inside all day and watched movies, which my child does not like to do, he would have preferred more games and activities. As my child was only a MWF camper many of the themes were lost on him and there were no special guests and only one field trip. I would have liked to see more advanced art projects or activities during non swimming times.

My camper has a poor experience in camp. He didn't make strong connections with other campers and there were a couple of unfortunate incidents that negatively affected his confidence.

We weren't comfortable with the field trip options presented this year and opted out of those days. My campers enjoyed the beach and pool days, however there were times my younger camper (kindergarten) didn't feel safe in the water at the beach. Pool day was always a favorite, but it was hard to monitor the snack situation. I didn't realize the snack shop was open and often found out after the fact that my camper was borrowing money from others to buy snacks. If the snack shop is going to be open during camp hours, it would be helpful if that was monitored better.

The field trip for the Arts in the Park was great. The onsite activities of art projects was very underwhelming. One of my sons took a Tennis/Beach camp too (not called pirate tennis) and ABSOLUTELY loved it. So glad he was able to partake in it as he had never been exposed to tennis and really enjoys the sport now thanks to this camp!

The level of engagement when I saw the kids at the pool with counselors was poor. Also not a lot of fun activities at Central involving outside vendors coming there

Often ran out of paddle boards and kayaks, and didn't have enough variety of water activities as advertised, like boogie boarding. Also, my child was only kid from Evanston and counselors didn't seem to break up cliques and facilitate new friendships, teams, interactivity.

In Sports Camp, the kids would have liked more skill and then scrimmages. The kids complained that the transition was boring. The worst part about Wilmette camps, is that you cannot choose just one week. It is awful for the parents. Also, drop off was a mess. The line was so long and why don't you have a bigger window. It's a nightmare for everyone.

Lack of coach engagement, enthusiasm and instruction quality.

The onsite activities seemed to be the same most days - coloring. Weekly themes did not excite my child nor were they communicated or executed well.

Children's safety needs to be improved. I am not sure camp counselors really supervise the children or let them be on their own. Seems to me more incidents happened than we have ever experienced.

In June the weather is not predictable for beach and the water was cold. She would have preferred programming instead or a theater related field trip, special speaker/topic.

The swim lessons do not seem to be that great. And the field trips Junior Day went on spent more time in a hot bus that at the actual place. Specifically, Museum of Science and Industry was not a good destination for a field trip as the kids spent more time in the bus than at the Museum. Camps should pick locations that are within a 45 minute bus ride (and that would include taking traffic into consideration). My only reason for rating "poor" is that there are no activities for early bird drop off. Just having access to arts/craft box would be nice at Great Gillson.

My camper said they really didn't do anything in the field trip days. For example they just walk around the botanic gardens and looked at the butterflies but no one did anything with them or explained anything to them. Also my camper was enrolled in the MWF sessions so she never did any art projects except on Mondays because We'd was a field trip and on Friday campers got to work on finishing their projects from the week which she didn't have any since she was only there 3 days a week. You need to incorporate more art projects for the 3 day campers too

I was so impressed with this camp! Loved it. Sailing was so fun and I love all the beach time

Arts in the park was boring and the art was not interesting or anything more than free drawing time. Additionally the counselors didn't introduce the kids to any new games or activities.

We loved it. Thank you!

He said he didn't learn anything in swim lessons and needed more challenging instruction

My daughter did a week of Pinterest camp. It was disorganized and the projects were uninteresting - wrapping yarn around a cardboard cut out of their name? Seriously?

The staff was not supported by leadership and the sessions were chaotic.

Arts in the park projects were on tuesdays and Thursdays. Campers attending on M W F did zero art projects. Whilst Thursday campers finished their art projects on Fridays the M W F we're left to play cards together. Awful experience and terrible scheduling/planning.

Felt more like a child minding session than structured activities

Little variety

He attended golf camp at WGC

Daily camp activities felt more disorganized this year than in the past.

She thought the beach visits were too restrictive.

At junior day my child seemed rather bored which turned into frustration. There were several times he was just sitting in the room without toys or an activity. Also it seemed to be the same thing every day swim or beach. My child seemed to like Summers End more because there were different activities each day.

The "arts" component of arts in the parks was somewhat lacking - there were not a lot of crafts or art activities. Most of the art time was spent on free-drawing activities - I feel that the kids should have had more direction-driven projects and exposure to new art activities. Also, movie watching for a rainy-day activity at an arts camp seems like a cop-out -why not have the kids do arts as a rainy day activity?

The pinterest one-week camp activities were just ok and the sense I got from my camper was that the camp counselor wasn't much of a presense in the classroom.

My camper loved the camp but had a lot of concerns about going to the field trip baseball games and the reason he gave is because he didn't want to be on the bus that long and he wasn't allowed to order food. Other than that he absolutely loved his sports camp experience!

It was our understanding that kayaks would be part of aquatics camp but they were not made available until the last day.

Unfortunately we had serious safety issues and lack of communication that we need to address with the camp and park district

I really appreciate that field trips were back this summer. My kindergarten son really enjoyed the Junior Day Camp field trips.

My kids both missed their swim tests and they weren't offered enough times for them to get another one.

I never know what happened during the day for my son. Pick up was also very chaotic.

And the kayak and sup camp the outside Wilderness company from Wilmette that you hire did not communicate well with parents. There was a day when we were supposed to go to the Skokie lagoons but the parents didn't know about it then we drove the kids there and the lagoons were flooded so we had to drive back to Gilson. It was a mess.

I heard a lot of waiting for people to change not much pool as kids really just sat to wait for full group to change

Much more time in the pool would be an improvement. Both in duration and number of visits

So disappointed that Great Gillson is not the super-fun camp that it once was! My older kids LOVED GG and always hated the summer to end. This year, They took all the fun out of the camp (like field trips). My kids were bored out of their minds - no field trips, nothing organized - terrible experience altogether and we will not be returning.

The kids seemed to relay a little more downtime this summer vs last but could be just their age!

Camp did not provide what was advertised. My camper consistently came home early because the counselors were trying to get them out early. And when I wrote an email to complain/ ask what the issue was I never even got a response. I am very disappointed and will communicate my dissatisfaction to anyone that listens.

Reduced swim time

Main issue with beach was returning on time to the park district and communication when late

There seemed to be very little organized activities, the camp seems to have gone down hill from years past (esp with my older kids), with little organized activities. Too much downtime. My son was bored and chose to skip the majority of Great Gillson. In the past, each day had organized activities and there were fun and novel themes - lots to look forward to. Counselors seemed low energy, disengaged. Would never recommend this camp, we will not be back.

I would recommend the instructors to do icebreakers for the new kids to get to know the kids who have been in camp together before.

This camp had a the banana boat that was broken so they rode it once. Onsite activities were poorly managed by untrained clikky counselors that told they could not be in groups yet let certain kids be in groups. They said one thing and did something else. Counselor favored kids. Counselors were found swimming when camper were told not to swim.

Communication about parking and drop off changes was given but not followed by camp personnel. There was no one to assist during daily changes of drop off over the last week as had been stated in the email which led to confusion and getting yelled at for doing the wrong thing.

This survey doesn't have clear wording. Is fair worse then neutral? I wasn't impressed with the amount of time the campers were literally sitting around waiting for movie Star camp—and it's an expensive camp!

For an art camp, I was expecting painting, drawing, anything that would expose my child to new mediums. Instead she came home with "free time" drawings that she draws all the time at home. She did not learn anything new. Did not even pick up a paint brush.

Honestly, I feel like it was a waste of money. I'm very disappointed.

What happened to the "Adventure" in Afternoon Adventures. In the past, Afternoon Adventures has offered field trips, organized activities and weekly themes. This year, it was four days of pool/beach and one day of just open play. I was hoping for more than just loosely supervised playground and pool/beach time. ☐

☐  
Dance camp was awesome with one exception. My child has an NSSRA companion and her companion couldn't start until day three of the camp in order to attend training. On the second day, one of the dance camp counselors called to say that we had to come pick up my daughter because they just couldn't handle her. This person should have been trained about how to deliver such news. It was coarse and lacked empathy.

I didn't like getting all sandy.

The kids had almost no access to paddle boards or sailboats and only got to go on the banana boats once in two weeks. Also, the counselors kept them up at the picnic tables for waaaay too long after drop off and before pick up.

The beach was too crowded by people from out of town.

Open swim was rated as Poor because it seemed like a waste of time and it's something we can do when we take him to the beach. I would hope for more organization through a camp. I was at the beach a few times during Open Swim and my son just sat there by himself doing nothing, other kids doing the same. And at no point did I see counselors trying to talk to him/them, organize and/or encourage collaboration, etc.

My child attendee the movie star camp. At the beginning she felt it was slow and boring but in the middle of the week it got going and by the end she enjoyed it. Not sure if she will want to do it again next summer but we will see.

Nothing planned. Not enough to do.

Too advanced for swim lessons we signed up for and fir the most advanced class it seems. No one really in charge there to discuss options with once you get there in the morning. But we should have called - but didn't know who to call.

Tiny tots did not have field trips but my child in wigglegorms liked the field trip to the arcade type place.

My child loved the camp experience. However, there was a lot of 'down time'. Lots of pictures of my child and other children on their phone. I know the children had to rehearse, but I wish there had been more activities to do. Years ago, I remember the campers used to have a 'carnival' on the last day of camp? I remember the counselors used to do a little 'show'? More field trips? And much more communication, reminders about special activities. My child seemed a bit bored overall.

On-site activities weren't well executed consistently and rain days at Great Gillson were very dull.

My son loved Teen Camp. We don't have anything negative to report.

I was expecting tennis session to be more structured with class divided into groups based on their skill and level. It was more freestyle.

Half-day sports camp campers were treated like lower-class citizens. We paid to have our child in camp from 9-12, however, camp essentially ended at 11:30 so the full-day campers could eat lunch. So my child either left camp early or sat around waiting to be picked up at noon. The half-day campers didn't get to partake in beach or pool days, as they have in years past. And grouping 5th through 8th grade boys together is a terrible idea. The older boys had no interest in anything other than being on their phones. The counselors couldn't control the bad language or the bad attitudes. It was a disaster of a camp for the half-day kids.

As extremely disappointed with camp this year. I felt a majority of the counselors were detached and unprofessional. My children told me that during beach trips they were not allowed to go on the beach because the counselors thought it was too chilly. We were present for one field trip to the museum. It was reported to me that the buses were late that children had accidents and they weren't allowed to see certain exhibits. I asked my children what they did during camp and many of the time it was reported to me that they were inside playing Pokémon. There are a few games, very few art projects. ☐

The main thing my older child came home from candle learning was lyrics to questionable songs, inappropriate jokes for his age, and which counselor was sleeping with which counselor. I'm extremely dissatisfied with camp this year.

On day one counselors asked kids what their pronouns were!!!!☹️ Don't ask KIDS how they identify!!! Over half had no idea what that question meant!

Camp leaders are young kinds unaware of Emotional needs and don't focus when certain kids are bullying..... inexperienced and too easy going. They let things slide and avoid any conflicts between children. With a diverse community there should be more attention given to cultural differences as well as ethnicity. For this reason I was truly unimpressed with staff at Great Gilson.

Didn't engage my camper, wasn't as interested in content, or it wasn't made appealing

Charlotte had an amazing first time camp experience and I am so happy that I sent her to the Park District camp! Will for sure be attending next year!

He was a little bored on site

Not as many fun extra activities as last year.

My daughter attended the first week and loved. She was so excited to go to the museum, pool and beach the first week. Sunscreen was not reapplied even though form was filled out. Sunscreen protocol needs to be a focus for next summer.

<b>QUESTION #5 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES, Does your camper have any camp content suggestions for next year?</b>
Chipotle as a lunch order option
See above.
I think they should honor friendship requests and at the bare minimum group the kids together by school as they have always done in the past.
More variety! They got so tired of going to the pool.
For sports camp, he was hoping for more time spent on some of the sports
They liked the field trips so incorporating more of those. I thought Camp Innovations said there would be field trips but there didn't seem to be any
some some counselor they really like work with kids, but not some counselor they just want collect some experience for their CV for the future job apply.
It has to be more organized around art and they would actually need to work on more substantial art projects, or have drawing classes where they learn different techniques, etc.
Differentiate sailing camp more based on ability and have other activities for days they can't get in the water. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
Allow more time for swimming at volleyball camp. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
Have an older version of Pirate Tennis so they don't age out!
Allow more time to change after swimming
My son prefers being in an all boys group.
More options for girls only sports camps
It would be great if more art projects came home with students and pictures of students at camp were shared with families.
He would like to go to a larger water park with his campers if possible.
More group activities, games, and better equipment are suggested.
5 year old did safety town and some of the materials weren't really age appropriate
More structured after swim program and feedback from counselor to improve the sport skills
We had a wonderful experience! One request would be if the counselors could just oversee and make sure all of the campers put on sunscreen (since they can't help them put it on).
More educational activities and field trips! Science oriented activities.
We enjoyed fashion sewing camp too.
Aquatics needs more beach equipment and activities. She said counselors shouldn't participate in the games. Particularly the Olympic Games at the end. They need to capture flags and she said the counselors were jumping and splashing and capturing them all so she couldn't get any.
More themes - like outer space, sports etc. Verses just general - more sensory activities outside of water- team building activities like an egg launch - teams build a protective device for an egg - this is dropped from above and the teams see which eggs survive the fall
more field trips ;)
More field trips.
More organized activities, especially when they're at camp all day due to no activities or rain dates. So many (hot) days seemed to just be spent laying around in the sun.
Broadway bound again
More creative art projects, and providing a shady place to keep lunches. No matter how many ice packs I would put in his lunch it would inevitably get hot and he would frequently not eat. Which makes for a long day and cranky children.
Aquatics camp - LOVES banana boat make that available as much as possible <input type="checkbox"/>
Sailing camp was great! Loved Pirate day
Full day sailing camps
For sail more advanced sail lessons. They filled too quickly this year: for sail also evening sail classes! Post work -4:30-6:30 type times
Slime or zombie theme day
More shows like reptile guy or magic show or field trip to Kohl's. It was VERY basic and the counselors couldn't even make sure my child ate lunch each day
More fieldtrips
More water sports available (boogie boarding, kayaks, more paddle boards, tubing, etc) Facilitate team and group activities that pair up kids and break up cliques.
More field trips and include swim lessons in sports camp.
Summer's end was a complete mystery and totally unorganized. It worked but pretty disappointed in that. My great reviews were for Junior Day.
More stand up paddle and less kayaking
Camp counselors needs to be well trained for children's safety. They need to be able to engage and make good decisions when problems occurs between children.
More sports options for older kids (middle school)
We would like to see Great Gillson open to 2nd graders next year. When kids are going into 2nd grade, it would be nice for them to have this option
He's done aquatics for 3 years and only gone on the banana twice. Is there a checklist to make it fair for who gets to go?
Read books and practice writing activities
Add more art projects for campers enrolled in the M W F sessions
Keep the banana boat!
My son suggests "robot camp" :)
More swim lesson time and instruction
I already sent email about her experience at CIT. Would recommend 1-to-1 for special needs children. (She got an eye laceration.) She also did Life Guard Training at Gilson- boy, oh, boy, did she get an education and a 1/2. The leaders were really lax about what they were teaching. They did not care if the kids used inappropriate language. My daughter learned such words as p**** and c***, to name a few new words she learned. I would encourage your counselors to keep in professional. They are the role models and need to act the part.
Total overhaul of the program. We are done with the park district camps - too many other option that are of significantly better quality.
Include art projects to include campers on all schedules fro AITP <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
More variety and interesting activities at junior day. My son was very bored.

Our child has special needs - it's a shame that there was no option for a full day of not in D39 ESY (there was last year) <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
NSSRA staff also not as good as last year
More time to swim
Raise the age for participation at the golf camp to 18
Recommendation to stick to planned activity. Many times they were unable to play scheduled activity d/t improper equipment or miscommunication with other groups.
Provide a directory of campers and parents with contact info (even if it's opt in) to coordinate post camp or weekend playdates, or help with car pooling etc.
Visits from the police and fire department, touch a truck event at camp, petting zoo/reptile visit
Field trips such as sporting events, zoo, amusement park, water parks, arcade, put put golf, ice skating, and field sports day.
More arts and crafts!
Just like to make sure to continue to include programs for older kids (i.e., teens). My son was in the Kayak/SUP
The camp counselor should take charge of the group more and ensure that everyone is supportive of each other's art. There should be norms established at the start of each week to make sure people are respectful and positive. My daughter experienced another kid saying rude things to her about what she was doing in her art camp.
It was his first year in camp and he loved it! We will be attending again next year :)
I would love to bring back swim lessons!
For tie dying, offer larger sized shirts for bigger kids. Our child made a tie dyed shirt they love but it is too small because larger sizes were not available.
There was CPR training, but no CPR certificate given. Would have been a good thing if they got the official training with certificate. Also too much "doing whatever you want" time", less than half of the morning was actual structured Junior Lifeguard training, from my understanding. But my 13 year old son liked it anyway.
My 3rd grade daughter did Dance Camp for the 2nd year. Overall it was good. She liked that they got to participate in gymnastics and the pool. She would have liked to go to the beach at least once per session. Also, it would be nice to have some guest dance instructors. The director and assistant director were good but not strong on all dance types and guest instructors would have been a good addition.
Loved that Afternoon Adventures went to the pool nearly every day. That's all the kids really want to do - bravo!
Divide the kids into smaller tennis groups based on skill, so they can actually learn to play according to their level.
She loved camp and field trips. Only small thing she wishes for is maybe small groups sometimes to make better friendships.
More art and planned activities during camp day (it sounded like the day ended pretty early before pick up). It would also be helpful if the day was extended from 9-3.
Field trip to Great America, Funtopia, and Chucky Cheese
We would always love more sections of the aquatics camps and anything that takes place at the lakefront because that's such a unique part of living here. I think the older kids love these one - 2 week camps at the lakefront. It's such a rush to sign up for them that I always feel guilty knowing many people will not get slots unless they know how quickly they have to sign up. Even knowing the system I have sometimes not gotten my daughter into any of the Aquatic sections.
Missed skating and tennis option, hope camp option available for older kids
She mentioned that when it rains it is very uncomfortable with not much to do.
We won't ever be returning to this camp :(
Math, science, learning activities
Provide what is advertised. If that cannot happen tell the parents and allow them to decide if they want to cancel/ change camps and step it up and find a way to make it fun for the kids.
My 12 year old really enjoys aquatics camp. We are very happy the location moved to the regular swimming beach area this year (please continue). She does prefer the old banana boat to the new version (s) and misses swim platform though. She also did one figure skating camp session but was disappointed that most skaters were at the lower level and age range. A skating camp for more advanced and older middle - high schoolers would be terrific!
Would be nice if half day students could also have some special field trip, pool, beach days.
spike ball tournament, beach volleyball <input type="checkbox"/>
(He's 11 and I think he felt like he kind of aged out of Great Gillson this year)
More swim time. Return to ceramics
Field trips, games, activities, art projects, volunteer projects, community engagement, recycling and environmental projects, guest speakers, swim lessons, barbecues, picnics, sports competitions, etc. Just do something more than sit around.
As a parent of 3 young campers, I wanted more communication about what my child was doing at camp. Both specific to my child (was he making friends, participating, etc) and about camp generally (the calendar with activities seemed to only be followed on occasion).
If you want to call me I will offer it however it did nothing when called the director. In fact it got worse.
He will be 14 years old next year and would like to keep doing the aquatics camps.
She would have liked more time at the pool on Mondays, but we understand it may be tough logistically. The sailing was really fun, she hopes to do that again next year!
Fun camps with all days activities that aren't the beach or pool
Actually teach art in Art in the Park. She was so disappointed in the quality of camp.
Field trips!
More reptile shows! This was their favorite activity and they talked about it for days on end. Also, more water play, we were asked to send their suits and towels every day, but they were never used outside of the beach day.
More introductions and team building activities
Going to a trampoline park.
More organized activities and games on beach/pool days, before or after beach/pool, and more time spent indoors to cool down
They need more actual aquatic opportunities other than just beach swimming, which was small also.
Make sure banana boats are not broken. Couldn't use bc damaged. Only got to go once during camp. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
Additionally, make sure campers attitudes are happy and chipper. A few girls would complain at pickup how some counselors were rude. Unacceptable
More organization
They loved sports camp, LOVED pirate tennis, HATED arts in the park. She felt like it has no focus, they don't do ,much art which is really confusing because it is in the title of the camp.

Cubs baseball game, visit an arcade
In the past, the dance camp showcase has been longer/involved more songs & numbers. My camper would like to see the longer showcase brought back - she felt it was too short / they had too few songs this year.
Have to inquire
There was bullying.
Loved that the gymnastics camp used to have an end of camp Gymnastics "performance" for parents/care givers. Wish this could happen again!
They would like trips to the zoo or animals brought in. My wiggieworms kiddo has friends who had the kona ice truck come and she thinks that would be fun.
See previous answer.
It was mentioned that there would be summer Halloween, etc, it seems that it didn't happen.
There was an expectation that the sports camp would have included more actual sports but instead they seemed to play more games (duck, duck, goose, etc)
Fewer movies! Those should be reserved for rainy days. Speaking of which, the rain plan for Gilson is sad. My kid says they get packed into lake view center and do nothing in particular.
Counselor phone usage was very high at Great Gilson this year when kids were playing at park.
My son is 10 and was upset he couldn't buy anything to eat or drink on field trips.
We would like to Teen Camp to increase the age limit for camp.
More coach Abe!
Better trained counselors
We will not be returning to his camp next year
Allow friend requests and don't group 5th through 8th graders together. The difference in maturity levels is too great and the older kids were a terrible influence on my younger son.
More sailing time!
More sailing!!!
See comment above
go to the pool more
Go bowling again!
We really missed the tot tennis camp this year and hope it returns next year.
Not enough field trips from Great Gilson
Daily activities more interesting and engaging, less routine
I would make sure the younger kids are separated from older ones. My daughter asked me what the middle finger was about after one week of camp.

**QUESTION #6 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES, How would you rate each of the following aspects of summer camp communications?**

I did have no direct communication with the camp director.

I texted the camp number several times and didn't receive even an acknowledgement, much less a reply. The remind app wasn't used for anything other than to copy/paste the previous day's announcements.

I would just say I liked the online camp manual that you could print out. I didn't see one of those this year and it was helpful in years past rather than clicking through all the page sites.

we didn't use the app and as a result felt like we didn't know what was happening

Would love to get the hard copy catalog back in action- easier to read than online!

Staff didn't seem to use Remind App or at least I couldn't figure it out(despite signing up)

The brochure advertised sports camp as a morning camp. When registration opened, it switched to an afternoon camp which caused stress and scrambling to find a morning camp. Later, without communication, the sports camp moved to morning camp. It was really confusing and stressful at sign up.

We were getting weekly emails with a summary of the week's activities, but that appeared to stop about halfway through the summer. We enjoyed getting those and would have appreciated them throughout the whole summer!

Camp programming came out too late. March is too late to do camps. All other camps are done in January or February.

Haven't received any newsletters.

I miss the catalog. It's so much better to flip through the pages, circle what's interesting, and have a physical document. PLEASE BRING IT BACK!

The remind app was never used for Tiny Tots. It would have been helpful to know when to send my child in a bathing suit for water activities but after the second week, that was never communicated.

Again rating is just for aquatics. Had good/great experiences at both pirate tennis and great gillson

Independent counselors it was not great - need to be interactive and communicative with parents about how children are doing in the camp setting etc

All was great.

In the handbook, there is a section on the steps to take if there is a behavioral issue. I don't think those steps were taken. I realize there have been many transitions in the past few months for the Early Childhood Learning Center so hopefully this will be better in future years.

Taylor was excellent. It would be nice to get earlier notification of the camps and dates of the camps and a little more explanation on the difference between like sports camp and junior day camp (ended up talking to parents to get their input about the different camps).

LOVED Remind App

Best way to communicate reminders was via texts and always helpful to send out day before and morning of reminders.

Repeated issued with making sure counselor watched that child ate lunch but was not corrected after communicating to director. Also lost special shirt that another child took and took weeks to communicate through the director and was never found and no mention of reimbursement

For other camps, we had a zoom introduction and verbal instruction. We received a manual a week before and had to figure everything out. For working parents, it was extremely inconvenient. Drop off is the worst with this camp. We have been to camps in three other park districts, and the line on hibbard puts the kids and parents in harms way.

Summers end was awful. Junior day was great.

Communications had wrong contact information contained in it and wasn't useful.

I miss the printed camp guide

The phone numbers didn't work and I wasn't able to get ahold of the directors in an emergency multiple times for multiple camps.

I did not receive any emails before camp. May not have been your fault but that is why I rated these as fair.

No one reached out to me saying what occurred at camp. Never got a voicemail or anything. I had to reach out to the team. As I public school teacher, I probably would have gotten fired if I did not call the parents immediately. I would never depend on my student to call their parent in the event of a medical emergency and that's what occurred.

Director had no idea what was going on, not even the names of staff or even how to find the names of the staff.

It's a pity the pdf version of the brochure is no longer available for the fall

Felt the handbook could have been easier to digest. Rather than PDF perhaps put it in a simple website with links or an email that could be referenced.

Overall communication was good but I would have preferred pictures throughout the week rather than just coming on Fridays. But that's a minor nit to pick. Overall was very good!

A more detailed debrief about campers day would have been nice. The younger camp counselors really didn't provide many details ( did they nap, have any issues, really enjoyed something, etc.)

I felt like there could have been more photos captured, updates about what the kids were doing each day, and upcoming activities. We only received 2 weekly newsletters and since our nanny picked up our son, we weren't aware of the daily activities or updates on the class.

The Remind app never worked

I send a text via remind and no one replied

Before Summer End began I found out information from the Next door app because I was not getting a response from the assigned director. Also one day a notice stated the campers were going ice skating then the pool. However that was not the case so they sat in the lobby at the ice rink for some time just waiting for some type of organization.

Re online brochure - There were lots of errors in the brochure. Also, it's nice to have a printer friendly view of the options. I understand the park district not wanting to pay to print and mail the brochures anymore, but it should be easy for me to print stuff if I want to. There was no pdf brochure option at all this year.

Re communication - The pre-camp communication happened at the start of summer, but we participated in a one-week camp near the end of the summer and nothing was sent before that one week camp started. Also the camp director changed and no one notified us about that or sent a new bio or anything. There was no communication at all during the one week camp. The way I found out about the staffing change was because I emailed asking about t-shirts.

Responsiveness - It took longer than I would have expected to find out they weren't doing t-shirts this year, even though in the pre-camp forms we filled out we were asked what t-shirt size would fit our camper.

I wasn't aware of the Remind App until now. There was weekly emails so I feel like I was informed.

It would be nice to have a weekly communication. At the end of week one and again at the end of week two.

Parents should be able to meet the counselors on day 1 drop off, rather than being told to stay in the car.

It would be helpful to know the inclement weather plan if a storm were to pop up during aquatics camp.

Son couldn't find the class on two different days, the first day and also another day that he was late. No way to call and contact them. I called on the Sunday prior to day 1, but of course, no way for me to get ahold of anyone until after it already started on Monday.
We expected communication on serious safety issues to keep our camper safe.
The app was a great addition. Communication was good.
Remind app was good but confusing on how to unsubscribe when you're not in ALL weeks of a camp that goes summer-long (like Sports Camp, Arts in the Park, etc.)
Lack of communication throughout the camp. No updates (e-mails, photos etc.) on my kid. We received one picture for the whole duration of the camp after asking.
Communication was limited. The remind app was never used. I never saw a photo. There was never any report of what was done during the day. Ms Molly was very responsive but overall communication was nil.
I didn't even know about the remind app and I don't remember getting any communication for the two week camps until they were almost over
Not crazy about new online brochure. Hard to find activities, require to click various links to find all classes. Poor user experience. Would prefer to have a full brochure (digital) or when searching for activities to see all activities. Notice some activities are not posted timely so hard to determine what to pick
Did not receive any pre camp info. Had to reach out both times to get info
My child attended Exploring Golf. It would have been helpful to get a quick email before the camp started so we knew where exactly to drop the kids off (behind the practice green), what the instructor names are, and anything they should bring with them. This was especially needed since we signed up in late spring and the camp wasn't until August.
already stated above
I never received a response on multiple. Immunizations to the on-site director. I also think it would have been helpful to get camp information earlier than June 1st. With the end of the school year there is a lot going on and it would have been helpful to receive information earlier.
Very little communication, especially compared to years past. We used to get regular emails, newsletters and updates. Maybe this is because there is not much going on and there's nothing to report. Too bad, the camp has gone severely downhill.
I called the director and nothing happened with that conversation
I tried to reach two counselors using the Remind app and was unsuccessful. Using email was the way I reached them quickly.
Communication should be earlier.
I had to reach out to the park district to ask details about the camp—even 48 hours before it was to start we had no information—no drop off or pick up area... I never even heard who the counselors or directors were... nothing about their daily schedule... nothing
We never received any communication before camp. I gather we were left off the email list. I had to text another mother for the details.
I was expecting a weekly email for an update, but there were some weeks missing. Having younger kids it's hard to understand what exactly they did (they just don't explain very well!) so we really looked forward to the updates.
I emailed the director with a question about an absence and never got a response. I also forgot to write in with my daughters absence once and was never contacted.
Communication when I tried to call was not good. Was trying to get ahold of someone regarding my son's swim skill level and couldn't reach anyone easily.
I rated Advertising/online camp brochure as Poor because the description of the camps didn't seem to indicate what the camps actually entailed.
Outside of the calendar there was very limited communication. When the wiggles crew went on the field trip we had no idea the location, the time they would be gone and if we needed to send money. Tiny tots we rarely got updates.
The app reminder seems to be useless as we rarely used it. Should be better used for better communication, e.g. when to bring water shoes. Also weekly newsletter only happened for the first two weeks.
I miss the physical catalog. I understand that it would be cheaper to just have an online version so printing costs don't have to be used. However, it's much easier to flip through a catalog than going to a website, trying to figure out how to filter out what you want, and to see all the camps. It's much easier to flip through pages. Online catalogs aren't always user friendly and then when you want to look at it again, you have to figure out how you got to the spot again.
Sports camp and summers end did a great job using Remind. Gilson never used it
Pirate Tennis communication was consistent and personal. We rarely received any communication from GG once camp started.
I would have appreciated an email telling me whether or not Jr. Lifeguard camp was on when it was raining.
I strongly prefer the paper guide available prior to covid versus online only. The camp paper guide facilitates looking through various camps within seconds, highlighting interests and planning dates and times. I think it even used to include a map at the end to facilitate locating the camp location. Online I had to google and find each camp site individually, which was not as convenient.
We are not a fan of the online brochure. It's just not as easy to utilize as the previous version. If it has to be online, the layout needs to still show all of the same information without requiring the user to know what they are looking for or clicking on everything individually.
The teeny tiny tots camp newsletter is important bc the little ones can't explain what happened during the day. Please include pics in the newsletter
Better communication about weather
No one ever posted via remind.
During the first session of camp, it was unclear if the half-day kids would participate in the extra activities (pool, beach, field trips). Emails had to be sent to the directors for clarification until they started specifying events for full-day campers only.
Clarity of drop off times was poor. The weekly newsletter was basically cut and paste week to week. When I had concerns the camp director would return my email but I do not feel like any progress or change was made.
The app was never used
The on-site camp directors never answer or return calls.
We received initial information late, just a few days before camp started.

**QUESTION #10 OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES, How likely is it that you would recommend Wilmette Park District Summer Camp to a friend?**

Have the staff redirect persons (driving in to the parking lot from the wrong way) starting in the first week, not waiting a few days/weeks to see if the drivers get it and follow the rules on their own

Communication from Camp Director, a better plan for when the main activity can't happen due to weather.

Honor friendship requests or at the minimum group the kids together by school.

Have a better variety of activities for the days the kids can't go in the water.

The preschool program would benefit from having a more summer camp curriculum that includes outside sports and games.

We are so grateful for all the Park District offers each summer, and the really fantastic camp directors and counselors!!!!

Offer more 1 and 2 week camps.

My children thought the CIT's and counselors were great. However, the way Abby handled adversity was terrible. There was one day where she kept all the rising 5th graders in the gym and yelled at them, even threatened them about being on video surveillance if someone didn't admit to being involved in an altercation during game time. It upset my child and several others who chose NOT to attend the following day in protest of how that was handled. I don't think Abby enjoys being a counselor any longer.

My kids really liked the field trips and hot lunches so definitely would keep that. My kids need to be in camp all day but they liked some of the other offerings like arts in the park, pirate tennis but those didn't seem to provide a before/after care option so just ensuring there is a way for half day camps to also have pre/post care opportunities. In addition, I think the pre/post care was a little boring for my kids as they were waiting for my kids to join and there wasn't much planned activity. Having things like arts/crafts or a game prepared would be nice at least to pass the time.

healthy snacks at after care and more responsive counselors in aftercare only in that when I picked up my camper, sometimes counselors did not know where she was. Minor issue.

working with kids with warm heart

Provide names of counselors

I know it's hard to do, but there should be actual instructors too and not just teenagers supervising the kids.

We're very happy with Wilmette Park District camp!

please ban phones!!

I was disappointed that the first session of City Slickers was cancelled, but my daughter enjoyed attending the 2nd session.

It would be awesome if there were a transportation option/carpool facilitation for campers on east side going to west & vice versa

When field trips occur on hot days make sure there is water and shade

Higher quality sport programs. What I mean is my son did gymnastics since he was 4 y. O. For over 3 years. He didn't even learn how to do a cartwheel. He seems pretty coordinated.

Counselors be more attentive to what the kids are up to, not leave their stuff at camp, etc. make on-site activities fun.

Some of the after school classes sell-out very fast, so I wish they had additional class offerings of some of the sports classes. The people at the Park District are so nice and helpful which is much appreciated!

Counselors should be more engaged. More planned activities/projects. More structure, less freedom.

The sports camp director did a fab job this year!!!! I was really impressed.

Na

Last year our son did Wiggleworms. Often the counselors were on their phones and seemed bored. The campers seemed to sit around a lot. Our son said a couple times the campers were told to take a nap on the floor in one of the classrooms in Central. There was very little communication with parents. On the last day, my son fell on the pavement and scraped his face/eye. There was no phonecall or notification when we picked him up that day. That's why we decided not to enroll our kids in Wiggleworms this summer. We did enroll our son in a one week sports camp through WPD run by Hot Shots. It was well run and organized.

Make pick up and drop off more effective and make website more user friendly.

Upload a few pics to the app to show what the kids did. Hard to get accurate updates from a 4-year-old.

Junior Day Camp was wonderful this summer. What made all the difference this year, as opposed to previous years, is the level of staff engagement with the kids. Both the counselors and CITs made connections with the kids and also helped the kids build friendships within their groups. Excellent job Junior Day Camp - I couldn't be happier with my son's experience this summer!

My daughter loved Broadway Bound, but would I love to see more of a variety of camps. The camps seem very similar each year. Also, 2 week sessions would be nice for variety and scheduling.

Need to submit the camp options in January or February. March was way too late.

I was satisfied w the experience

Except the Aquatics camp I mentioned above, all the others were good.

Offer print out booklets of all activities at park district similar to the ones they used to mail

We did the Pee Wee Sportsters camp and I cannot remember the name of the man in charge but he was very devoted and kind and my son had a wonderful time.

quality of instructors , better training for camp counselors , more steam programs like chess or Lego camp

Better waitlist program, less stressful registration!

Better registration time - ideally in the evening.

Bring back the catalog! Change the activities that have been around forever. FRESHEN UP THE PROGRAMMING.

More late August options.

Make enrollment easier. There was a mad scramble to enroll and we couldn't coordinate with my kids' friends.

All great! We enjoy the camps that are full day until 3pm with content, for the older age group.

Training for camp counselors, get kids more involved and focus on them.

Better sign up times

Better long term camp options for middle schoolers not interested in everything sports.

Both of my children attended and I feel like there was a lack of supervision. My 5 year old often came home not having applied sunscreen because he said no one reminded him. My 8 year old didn't have a lot of fun and I suspect he could have had a better experience if he'd had more attention from the counselors.

More camps coordinated with timing for other children attending other camps - pick ups and drop off are multi time in different locations

offer weekly instead of multi-week camps. Summer schedules are hard. Maybe a half day adventure option with field trips but not as long of a day.

Not have kids stay at camp base for duration of camp time instead of going to a local pool or beach — especially in the heat.

Easier drop-off and pick-up. More interaction with camp counselors. No one ever introduced themselves or bothered to communicate with me during drop off or pick up. Most seemed to just be laying around at pick up and not watching or interacting with kids. My kids are still young so this may work for us for a few years but more content and programming is needed to keep their interest for more years to come.

Drop off was significantly better this year, but keep focusing on keeping drop off organized and efficient.
Increase staff and ability for more campers to join. Too many waitlists and timing for registration is not equitable for working families. This creates tension as working families rely on these services for their children the most during the summer months.
Longer hours for the part time camp, 2 hrs is extremely short
To announce the dates of the different camps earlier so we can plan ahead. Also it would be nice if there was more capacity its always stressful trying to sign up once the window opens to know if you are going to be able to get a spot in the camp you want.
More flexibility on signing up on a week by week basis. Ensuring you are hiring staff that enjoys being around children, and giving them some tools to help with difficult children. I did witness a staff member talking to a child that was concerning to me as a parent. This was witnessed at one of your other camps at another location from that which my child attended. Lost and found should be labeled as to what camp it came from once given to the park district building. Everything was just dumped in there and there was to much to go through. The entire time my child was in camp you only provided a lost and found email to parents once and it was not even at the end of camp.
Allow kids to sign up for Jr Day and such on a weekly basis!
Everything was perfect. We love summer camps at park district.
we had a great summer!
Nothing
Better camp content with trained counselors vs teens
I am troubled by discovering the afternoon appeared to be staffed by only teenagers in his room. I would have liked to know this as it would have informed my decision
Not require long naps for 3+ year olds. Our daughter consistently complained about that. It would be great if there were a section of the room where no-nap kids could sit or lie down or play quietly during nap time without the requirement of staying in bed for 2 hours.
Last year the kids were very disappointed by the camp and I recommend my friends to send their kids and they were disappointed as well. But it's not easy since we were still in a pandemic. This year we saw a lot of improvement and please keep up the good work!
NA
train staff to be more engaged with the kids, make it less stressful for camp sign up.
Can you tweak the bussing? Kids complain not enough free swim time when bussed to pool.
I dropped my kids off late a few times and found it unnerving that all the doors are open to the building area where the kids are. I question whether certain entrances should be locked after drop off for better security.
Bus options for Lakefront camps
Loved having the text options with directors please continue that. I also think ensuring that kids in the camp are inclusive is important. My daughter had mentioned how the first couple weeks of camp their were girls that kept to themselves and we're not nice. I think friends that come in together is a good thing but if they aren't going to be welcoming to everyone and be clicky then counselors need to make the extra effort to bring the whole group together.
The dedicated counselors made it an amazing experience. Keep training them the way you are. They care and are focused on the campers. My son said they were never on their phones. That is what we were hoping for and the camp made it happen. We had a wonderful experience. My son LOVED this camp.
There could be more camaraderie building activities. I also think that someone who knows a sport being introduced could help with instruction, like having a volleyball coach or are least camp counselors who play volleyball teach some fundamentals.
Pricing sometimes too high
Please please please have all counselors enforce a no-cellphones policy for campers. In every camp we attended, campers were on tik-tok during down time. This is the antithesis of what camp should be! It's alienating and does not build social relationships or encourage physical interaction with each other or their environment.
We have done Park District camps since 2016 and have always had a very positive experience, and choose the WPD over other camp opportunities. This year was a little different, not in huge ways, but in little ways I hadn't noticed before. It felt a little more disorganized and lacking in substance. It wasn't bad by any means, but it wasn't the same caliber as we've experience in the past. Unfortunately one camp (Lego) was cancelled randomly while we were waiting at the Rec Center for it to begin, and some of the counselors at Afternoon Adventures were very young. The immaturity was noticeable in the ways they carried themselves, how they spoke to the campers, and what they spoke about in front of the campers.
The enrollment process was stressful because everything filled up within 15 min of it opening and had to be put in a waiting list.
Find help families fine alternatives when camps are cancelled. While this summer we didn't encounter the issue at all, in the past it was a reoccurring issue that there wasn't staff for camps we have chosen and they were cancelled at the last minute. This is why we took a break last year from summer camps because it happened so frequently. Then this happened again just YESTERDAY with an after school camp at Central Elementary. After school is even more critical in my opinion since it is really a childcare situation and cancelling an activity the day of while parents are at work to scramble is a problem. Now many of us are stuck scrambling trying to rearrange work schedules because the Park District can't be relied upon to deliver what we signed up for.
Better pay for counselors so they actually show interest and are connecting with the kids. We have done hi five camp and it is night and day because those counselors earn more and are invested
Bus to sports camp? Better rainy day activities. Kids loved it, thank you!
For me just the communication on dropping off and picking up. we did 2 days a week which was perfect for us!
Send e-mails about new programs and a reminder about the registration date.
More inclusivity, and more planned activities with enough equipment for all.
Better refund policies for illnesses
Informative questions and answer before camp, have camp in august, be able to choose one week camps and not be forced to enroll in 3 week sessions, have better drop off procedures, increase field trips and guest speakers to the campers
Fix summers end camp.
Review the quality of the gymnastics program
The counselors at Tiny Tots camp did not seem engaged or qualified to lead 3 year olds. The director was not communicative.
1) Good and appropriate manners around kids. <input type="checkbox"/>
2) Be able to manage well with kids who have negative behaviors. <input type="checkbox"/>
3) kid's safety
I would like to have more flexibility in the scheduling and pricing to accommodate for vacations during scheduled camp. I was not able to find content offering prorated options.
Relax the beach rules! No drinks, food, floaties on the beach is over the top strict.
More options for special needs
We had a great experience- first time camper and could not have had more fun!

We will always pick Wilmette Park District over any other camp due to our kids having access to the beach and pool. We would like to see camps that are able to be at either the beach or the pool everyday (which is why Great Gillson is are #1 choice and Junior Day a close 2nd since they go to the pool often)
More detail on the days leading into camp so we can get the kiddos ready mentally for the bus, changing, etc
Group friends together. Allow friendship requests or at the bare minimum group campers by school and grade.
Nothing comes to mind
More communication—make sure emails go to both parents, etc.
Was NOT an issue this year - but from years past, making sure that after camp portion is well structured with engaging activities for kids (vs strictly free play)
I think the Park District is an amazing resource for the kids and the community! They do a great job.
Better website for registration
The children should be working towards something whether it is an activity or show. Too much sitting around.
nothing
We had a great experience with WPD camp. We are new to Wilmette and are enjoying all the activities and programs. Thank you
It was great. Would not change anything.
I little more professionalism and better staff training. I am not upset because I know mistakes happen. If they can just elevate the training that would be great!
Total revamp the program. This summer was awful.
Nothing. Fantastic job as always. See you next year!
Have more available slots for the full day camps like Junior Day. Signing up for camp can be stressful because camps fill up so fast.
Better communication if beach or field trips running late.
Be receptive of friend requests. We had friends left out and placed in groups alone whilst other friends were placed together. Go the extra mile for the kids to have a summer with friends. This is not school, it is something parents pay for and the PD should do more to accommodate friend groups who intentionally enroll their children together.
Na
Change the booking system so that a certain no of places are held back for special needs kids (or give them a 'pre-sale') as only certain camps are suitable
Provide feedback on how child is doing at the camp
More camps with wider age ranges. My kids cannot go to the same camp based on their age difference (3 school years)
Maybe a note telling families what kids were learning.
I would like to see more pictures of my child at camp
His 17 yo brother was too old to attend
I would recommend making drop-off for multiple camps at the same location easier for families. The separate drop-offs for Sports Camp & Jr. Day was not ideal d/t restricted traffic patterns. Overall I was disappointed in the Wilmette Park District camps this year. One of my daughters also attended camp at the Winnetka Park District and had an amazing experience.
Clearer ongoing communication. To be clear, it was a 9 out of 10, but minor tweaks to make it more communication more often would make it a 10 out of 10. Very minor tweak.
Improve the website, more customized daily feedback or updates for each child ( either a progress report or through the app)
Better communication/updates on the day-to-day with the younger kids
My son was upset that none of the friend requests were honored.
It's been great...nothing comes to mind.
I felt like the camp counselors could have done a better job to notice any drama that was happening between the campers and do more to address it from the get go. There was also one week where it sounds like there was only one counselor for some reason for a big group of girls, and I think there should have been a backup person. Otherwise, it was great!
My grandson enjoyed the Lego camp immensely, and my granddaughter loved her gymnastics lessons. Thank you.
N/A. We had a fabulous summer!
More camps/care beginning 12pm to pair with morning camps ending 12pm. Thank you.
Camp content and it was evident some of the counselors did not have much experience with little kids and their needs
The drop off and pick up were an issue. In my opinion, they need to allow a longer window of time to get all of the campers picked up or dropped off.
The biggest thing for our family and friends for our family, is to recognize that there are kids, who are 12 or 13 and older, who are not into competitive sports, but who still want to dabble in sports and want to get physical activity in a group setting. My 13 year old would love to do badminton or a casual/low-key/noncompetitive variety of sports, e.g. a mix of volleyball, basketball games, etc. There is VERY little in terms of offerings for a 13 or 14 year old or older through the park district. It feels like there is an assumption that kids that age either: don't want to do anything physically active OR are into super competitive level sports. It would be REALLY nice to see some chill athletic offerings for a kid who wants to get physical activity but isn't competitive and who isn't performing at a high level of athleticism. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Similarly, my daughter would probably be interested in taking a dance class, if there were classes where there was no performance/dance recital. She just likes to dance and it would be a nice way to get physical activity. She has NO interest in performing. Because she has taken a class in the past and knows that there are performances for those classes, it prevents her from trying these classes. We have a sense that if she told the instructor she isn't interested in participating in the performance, the class would still be focused on doing a performance, so it wouldn't be as enjoyable as just taking a dance class for fun and to be active. She would be "in the way" and the instructor wouldn't know what to do with her. I love taking a zumba class at the gym. It's a fun way to get exercise and there isn't a looming dance recital to dread. I wish there was something like that for my daughter. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> On an unrelated note, in the past few years here have been more typos/inaccuracies in the date/time/age type information for classes. My family has had to reach out on several occasions to get clarity on a dates and found the published information to be wrong.
To give an update on how child is doing. Because this was my son's first time and being 5 (turned 6 in August) I was curious to see how he was interacting, socializing etc. I did ask the camp counselors and they were happy to update me. Overall, great experience and plan to send both of my kids in the future.
Healthier lunch options! The Kiddos catering sounded great, but when I looked into it, it was all pizza and burgers! I ended up not ordering anything because it wasn't healthy.
Offer more availability for end of summer options
Offer more options for kids who are 14-15-16. They'd still like to do fun beach activities, play basketball, etc.
Direct cell phone to contact a teacher on the day of camp or during camp. Also a better set of directions and address listed everywhere, not just in one spot on one website page.

Provide more qualified counselors and directors to execute the programs
We would like to buy lunches but we want healthier food for our kids. Panera would be fine. Just not fast food.
It was very convenient to have after camp at the various locations. My Junior Day Camper did loose a lot of things over the summer. He had to bring a lot of stuff daily and it would be good to have a little more focus on the kids keeping track of their stuff. I'd also like to see more slots/variety for summers end camp. The 3rd/final week filled up right away. Those 3 weeks in August could also be a great opportunity for mini-camps in partnership with other organizations that can provide content. Overall, however, this year was the best since the pre-pandemic times and I both our kids have great experiences. Thanks!
More Wendy Avon and Kate Black. More outdoor time at Broadway Bounds.
Continue to do a variety of activities/field trips as opposed to multiple beach days. (It was much better this year than the year before.)
My son is in travel baseball and so we would have liked the opportunity to customize the Sports Camp weeks... i.e. ideally he could have done two weeks of half day and two weeks of full day. Or paid by individual week would have also been nice. I don't know that we'll do Sports camp again next year because since it's so rigid, we ended up missing a lot which felt like a waste of money.
Thank you for providing access to the prepaid lunches. However, a few times my kids came home saying they only had 2 items in their lunch when the menus clearly state 3 or 4 - for example, main item, fruit, chip or dessert. For the price, it does feel like 3 items should be given.
Aligning with the school dates for more coverage would be good. More full-day options would also help. Maybe a hybrid where it is half learning half fun for a future camp as well.
Longer days, more activities planned, more art!
Communication. A lot more updates of the campers throughout the camp.
My campers indicated that their camp this year seemed disorganized and there was a lot of plans that changed. To eliminate this would be comforting to both campers and parents.
There were 3 days in 1 week kids required to wear their camp T-shirt...that is too much to try to get in the laundry!☐ One day there was pizza for lunch at Trampoline park and that was not communicated (that we were aware of).☐ Counselors were great and very welcoming with our shy kiddo!!!!
Nothing!
Better communication
I would just appreciate more sections of all of the aquatics and Beach options since the lakefront is what makes will Wilmette so unique as place to spend your childhood summers.
Provide camper directories with contact info☐
Option for teen
Better communication pre-camp.
more swimming
Develop the Jr Life Guard program with real content with goal of development of life guard pipeline staff
Go back to making camp fun - not glorified day care.
Really always appreciate the extension programs that help fill the full work day. Thank you.
Organized program for pre camp hour, it seems kids just were sitting outside by the door for an hou
Please require camp instructors to do a bit of research on the age group they are teaching, even if just a Google search for effective teaching ideas/games for that age group. For example, a camp for 4-5 year olds should not involve a marker board with the rules written on them, as most kids that age can't read. Similarly, telling 4-year olds to play Simon Says during swimming lessons is not effective, as most kids that age don't know how to play that game; something like Red Light, Green Light would be a game more kids are familiar with and can comprehend. Counselors/instructors not being aware of the abilities of the younger age groups has been an issue in every camp my young kids have attended.
provide what is advertised
Higher level advanced content of fun beach/pool/sports activities. Too much is simply serving babysitting needs!
I wasn't too fond of hearing on some rainy days, for sports camp my kid watched a movie.
Communicate better
Offer more end of the summer options. The last few weeks of summer there is not much to choose from or maybe longer hours for the camps offered.
Ice time
N/a
"Live"communication when things do go as planned
Recruit more engaged counselors and implement a more compelling program for Great Gillson.
The pick up and drop off the last week was horrible bc they were doing the construction. I was afraid I was going to get in a car accident. Why couldn't they have waited until the summer camps were over?!
Have registration be friendly for working parents in terms of time to register. More hobekats
More camps at Central School or in east Wilmette for young campers. Swim options for young kids (under 5)
Thanks for a fun summer!
Camp programming should be issued earlier in the year in order to better evaluate wilmette options against neighboring communities.
Train your counselors on basic things like not to favor groups. Teach them to learn campers names. Teach them that they are in charge and working its not camp for them. Teach them to talk to the kids. Find better hiring practices
Hold more 1-week camps
It would be nice if they could help facilitate friendships formed at camp (ie, encouraging kids to get each other's email addresses, etc)
Communicate!
The first morning at drop off was extremely unorganized, intimidating and confusing. If I had not gone with my son, he would not have found his counselors. No one came up to us to ask if we needed help, no one was approachable. ☐ We requested friends and all of his friends were put together in a different group and he was singled out. That was a bummer. If you take requests, make more of an effort to honor them. I called the camp and did not have an authentic conversation with the person in charge- it just seemed odd that 3 kids were together and 1 alone. It would have been kind to take the time to switch it up to 2 and 2, especially given my concern for anxiety and first time experience.
Do actual art in an art camp.
Send pictures to families
Provide more clarity about content in advance of signups

Do more get-to-know-you activities to help foster friendships between the kids. Kids often need a little intervention to help with bonding. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I would also add that when my 6 year old was picked up from camp after 5pm on days where there was beach or pool visits he was still in his swimsuit. The counselors should be prompting the kids to change back into their street clothes. Clothes changing time should actually be a scheduled activity. It's especially problematic to have kids in sandy clothes all day because that can cause skin irritation. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> We also noticed increased sunburns at Park District camps compared to other camps we did this summer. It doesn't appear that the counselors are helping the little kids to put on sunblock. We put it on our kiddo in the morning but it needs to be re-applied before they go swimming.
Consistent buddy or pair with a camper
We would love to have the open house again, it was so great to be able to meet the director, their counselors and see their camp room ahead of time in years past. We were disappointed when it was not an option this year, especially with kids as young as 4 in the camp.
LGBTQIA inclusive
I'd love to see a more social media/digital content, i.e. Facebook/Instagram posts about events. I receive so many wonderful emails from both the school and WPD it's easy to miss things. P.S. Niki K was fabulous this summer! -Margaux
Sign up is stressful
I would have liked to have been able to meet the counselors and meet the parents of the other children so we could have created more of a community for the Teeny Tiny Tots.
A more detailed description of the camps would help us select a more appropriate camp for each child
Make the camp what was advertised
Employee people that are fun! Not everyone should be a counselor and work directly w kids
More camp options that are all day (not just multi week enrollment)
Make enrollment easier
Teen age counselors need more to do with the kids. They would all just sit around doing nothing.
If the camps actually met the description in the brochure/advertisement, I would be thrilled. My sons did 3 short camps this summer - Aquatics, Basketball, and a Baseball/Basketball camp. The Aquatics camp didn't have enough actual aquatic activity (mostly playing games on beach, even in nice weather, and open swim with no activities). The basketball and baseball/basketball camps didn't include ANY instruction, drills, learning of any kind (to be fair we never saw a description for the basketball-only camp). They seemed to focus solely on letting the kids play the sport - which is fun, but they didn't learn anything, progress in the sport, etc. We were especially disappointed in the baseball/basketball camp, which was done in coordination with the IBA. There was zero coaching/teaching/instruction for baseball, and when we emailed the organizer they were very nice and responsive - but nothing changed at all. The baseball portion consisted of scrimmage the entire time, and the "basketball" portion was basically just indoor free time. The kids played more wall ball than basketball. We didn't expect much from basketball, but hoped the baseball portion would help the kids grow in the sport. <input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that many parents just use these camps for daycare/childcare coverage - but we don't need that and were excited for these camps based on the descriptions. We specifically chose each camp, based on the descriptions, thinking they would get something out of them aside from killing time for a few hours. <input type="checkbox"/>
This all said, they did have fun in each camp and that's worth noting.
Nothing! We love Taylor Brooks!
If there was a camp that taught how to make tv shows it movies both of my kids would sign up for that.
Everything was great! If I had to pick one thing, I would say more communication with parents about daily/weekly activities. May not apply to older kids but at the Tiny Tots level it is so appreciated!
Offer more full day camp options the last 2 weeks of summer. My child attended Summer's End camp one time and really did not enjoy it/refused to go back, so, every summer, we end up cobbling several half day camps together the last week or 2 of summer, which is very challenging to manage logistically.
Website can be difficult to navigate and find what you need. Saw that you did a redo of it, but have not had a chance to test it out yet
You need to allow for friends to be in the same group. This is summer camp. Kids want to do things with friends. That does not make anything exclusive. The policy for no friend requests is inappropriate for summer camp. I want my child to be excited to go and have the chance to be with her friends. I do not want to be coaxing her to go. I do that enough with school and other things that are not optional activities.
My son has been going to WPD camp every summer, and it feels like he's running out of new camps. I hope to see some new content/activity in the next couple of years for middle school aged kids. Thank you and look forward to next summer.
Not act like you did during the Covid year. The campers did not like the camp too much and a few had to be forced to return.
More structure
Better indoor activities on rainy days. More info on what day will look like - schedule. More info ahead of time on counselors and staff. Boys (11 and 12) really like certain counselors but we know nothing about who will be supervising/leading ahead of time - only right before camp, so it doesn't play a part in decision making.
Photos shared of camp days. Would love to know what the kids are doing and have memories captured.
Having an older child who went through a bunch of camps, it seems like some of the 'magic' is gone. I remember that Wilmette camps used to be AMAZING, because of everything the counselors did to make it fun, silly, exciting. Maybe it was just the specific camp, but it didn't have that level of 'camp' feel this year.
Communication needs to be more frequent. Also as a safety concern - the sign out process for tiny tots was less than stellar. I was never asked who i was when taking my child. I had 2 different sitters pick up my child and they were never asked to present ID or anything they just walked in and took my kiddo. Very disappointed in the lack of safety.
More photos of the kids and activities
There are some things that might not necessarily make it a better experience, but feel like I'm getting less for my money. I understand that there will be increased costs. Wilmette Park District is among one of the more expensive park district camps for residents. I can send my child to Skokie park district camp with a non resident rate and pay a lower fee than a Wilmette resident rate. It was quite expensive and some of the small things that the park district used to do is taken away. It went from the campers would get lunch bags which were awesome to then getting a cheap draw string bag. Now they get a t shirt only and why doesn't the park district ask what size shirt the child needs at registration? My child got a shirt that was 6 times her size and I had to email and get a smaller shirt for her. As time goes on it seems like what the park district used to do to differentiate itself is now gone. It's just another camp that gets a generic t shirt so they know who belongs to them for a field trip. I'm not wowed by any of what is offered. I feel sorry for the future campers as my children will age out soon because the offerings will get less and less. Then that will be the expectation while 10 years ago, it felt like the money we had to pay for the camp was well used. I guess one thing you can do is give a lunch box
N/A

Earlier registration would be helpful as many private camps are already full by the time we register giving us no backups if our camps are full; better rain day plan and add field trips for Great Gilson
The counselors need better training.
Make paper camp guides available again
The registration process was difficult. It was hard to get kids registered with their friends.
Bring back the bicycle camp.
I was not impressed with the counselors. I felt like they dismissed any questions or concerns I had, didn't look us in the eye, and according to my older kid, they were disrespectful to the kids. One of the CIT was showing a group of 5 year old kids horror videos and when it didn't stop after a week, I asked one of the counselors to please address it and the response was "oh yeah, ok." I don't think it would take much--just to look adults in the eye, to be polite, and to be respectful of both adults and kids. It was almost like they were all forced to be there? Even the adults in charge as directors could be dismissive and condescending. This was my first experience with the park district camps and I was very surprised.
Would be great if there was an option for childcare between the end of camp and start of Early childhood program.
Get rid of all the covid restrictions and encourage parents to drop teeny tiny tots off in classroom (it helps the littlest kids, they are too young for drop off at door)
Provide more spots. Camps fill up extremely fast and it's difficult to get into some. Extremely impressed with the staff this year. Everyone was exceptional
Make the pool hours longer
ID cards as an app
Improve camp registration process
Make pirate tennis a longer day or have an afternoon add on
Wish Camp Innovation had one pool/beach day - we LOVED the swim lessons at Wiggleworms and were sorry to end them but he was so excited about science camp. Would also have loved more photos in the weekly newsletters - when we did Winnetka camps it was always fun to see your camper featured at least once and this year pics were more general. Thanks for a wonderful summer!
Better trained counselors
Have better oversight of the people that are interacting with our children. I think they need more training or better hiring.
Have camp start at 8. This year early bird was terrible for my son because there was so few kids enrolled. 9 am start time is just impossible for working parents.
See previous comment
Offer shorter sessions for kids throughout the summer! One week options are great!
We enrolled only for one week. We didn't know the schedule going into camp or contact persons. I think the counselors should be more enthusiastic when welcoming new campers. My camper cried after he was dropped off because he didn't know where to go. He had to ask for help.
Na
Again, we would like to see tot tennis come back.
Pirate tennis could be longer or provide more options to make a full day camp.
Train the young counselors at any camp better
Honor friend requests. More activities especially at jr day
More engaging and enriching content in daily camps like Gillson
I would love if you offered more classes for 15 month olds more dates for music. Also if you offered birthday party packages with a theme I noticed Winnetka Park district does that and it's a wonderful idea!
Honestly I, this camp ran so smoothly, I have no suggestions
Responsiveness was sluggish the first few weeks but did get better as the term went on. There were times early on where we felt a concern we had was not being addressed. Later in the term that changed and communication from the staff became very proactive.
More pool hours
Add a little extra fun into camp. Last year there were water fights and ice cream trucks
Make sure to clean the area better, there is always rubbish around (better than last year though)



# 2022 Lakefront Season Report



## Introduction

Gillson Park and Beach is the largest lakefront property on the North Shore at just over 60 acres, which offers a wide variety of amenities to serve our community. It is widely accepted as the premier lakefront location in Illinois. Patrons can enjoy activities that includes a wide variety of water sports, swimming, dog beach access, family picnic areas, four tennis courts and an updated playground. The Lakeview Center and Wallace Bowl are available for group rentals throughout the year.

This is the second season for our new management team who set specific goals and objectives for the 2022 season. The primary focus was on patron communication through signage and creating a welcoming environment for all patrons of Gillson Park. Niki Koclanes was hired on in the beginning of the year as the Program Supervisor. Niki's responsibilities include all Lakefront Camps and programming throughout the park and the Lakeview Center.

## Executive Summary

The Lakefront Seasonal report provides a detailed summary of all the Gillson Park and Beach summer operations. Patron experience and satisfaction is the main motivating factor of staff efforts.

The 2022 year had an increased number of visitors to the park pre-season. Staff worked to mitigate early issues to ensure a smooth start to the season starting Memorial Day weekend. Continued efforts throughout the summer were made to set standards while allowing enjoyment throughout the property.

Full and part time staff worked together to identify areas of opportunity to better the staff and patron experience for future summers.

Moving into 2023, the Lakefront team will work to bring new and diverse programming to the park and the newly remodel Lakeview Center. These efforts will provide more access to much needed programming for our community. New technologies will be brought to the beach to allow use to provide patrons information in real time as well as track visits to the beach more accurately.



# Gillson Park 2022 Objectives & Accomplishments

## 1. Complete the 2022 Sailing Beach contracts through our website

In previous seasons, membership registration for sailing beach patrons was through mailing out contracts to all boat owners and requiring them to return the signed contract with payment. This appeared to be a labor-intensive process requiring significant staff time. In 2021, the Park District utilized DocU-Sign which allowed patrons to return their contracts and payment information through email. Auto fill form were completed by patrons and returned for staff to manually enter into our system. As part of onboarding new SUP spaces in 2021, staff piloted a new program allowing those patrons to utilize our Rectrac system, register, and pay for their spaces on line. The program was successful and the decision was made to implement this for all sailing beach patrons in 2022. Lakefront and IT staff conducted several meetings and trials to ensure this process would be successful. The program launched on January 7<sup>th</sup> and ran through February with a goal of 70% completion by January 31<sup>st</sup>. This process provides a better customer experience while addressing significant staff efficiencies as no manual impute is required. Constant positive feedback was received and our 70% goal was surpassed.

## 2. Increase the number of spaces for all vessel types on the sailing beach by opening day 2022.

- 7 additional catamaran spaces were added to the far west end of the sailing beach. Four rows were given and additional space while another four spaces were added in the F row during the enhanced grading process in the spring.
- 2 laser spots are anticipated to be completed in October when the laser row is complete. The work was delayed due to the inclement weather during pre-season.
- 8 monohull spaces were added with the completion of the new racks this spring.
- 20 additional SUP racks were completed and added pre-season.

## 3. Enhanced grading of sailing beach

In 2021, patrons had provided feedback on the condition of the catamaran spaces on the west side of the road which typically do not get pre-season grading as those boats remain in place throughout winter storage. These spaces were no longer level and the rows and spacing were not consistent. Once grading of the main beach was complete and those boats moved to their summer spaces, staff began work on the west side of the beach. Staff moved all boats and storage, graded each row, and re-positioned all vessels to provide clear rows and equal spacing.

# Gillson Park 2022 Objectives & Accomplishments

## 4. Continued signage upgrades at Gilson park

Upgraded all parking signs on Overlook Drive in Gillson Park so they are constant and clear.

The lakefront staff worked with marketing and West Park to update all the signs. The new signs have a consistent branded design, which provide patrons with a clear and constant message when moving through that area. The signs provide information on parking restrictions, beach hours, trail-in launch, and dog leash requirements

## 5. Implement new card scanning system at sailing beach

Hardwire internet was run to sailing shed to utilize a laptop and card reading scanner. This system is already used at the fitness center and the pool.

The IT department installed a point-to-point wireless connection for the start of the season. Patrons saw no disturbance in the check in process as it was the same in prior years. The system works well and is easy for the staff to re-set if it goes down. We have seen a significant increase in sailing scans as compared to last year. With the implementation of this hardware, we are looking into the feasibility of this same system for the Swimming Beach entrance in 2023.

2021: 8,080 Sailing Beach Scans

2022: 12,448 Sailing Beach Scans

30% increase Year to Year

## 6. Implantation of South Beach plan as approved

Additional equipment was purchased and park patrol positions and job responsibilities were re-organized. South Beach now has 4 full time position chairs spaced out from South Fence to the Rock Jetty. Park Patrol 1 and 2 are both staffed on the beach to provide additional support. Small buoys are place in the water each morning to serve a visual reference to patrons on how far they can go in the water. Each chair has a rules sign on or directly next to it to help inform patrons. The updated plan has proven to provide a better experience for staff and patrons with clear visual aids and consistent enforcement.

Staff worked closely with the Wilmette Police Department to increase early season patrols of the south beach area. Emphasis was placed on underage drinking and marijuana use. Numerous citations were issued as we adopted a zero tolerance policy. These efforts proved successful as we saw a sharp decline in this activity as the season progressed.

# Pre-Season Operations



Each pre-season, the beach is graded and leveled out prior to boats being moved back in place .

Pre-season operations began in early April with extensive clearing, cleaning and organizing of the Sailing Beach. work included.

- Replacement of 2 monohull racks
- Grading of exiting beach are
- Moving over 100 catamarans to their summer space location
- Replacement of 3 lifeguard chairs



SUP racks that were buried by several season of sand were dug up, moved, and re-set after grading.



Sup racks are moved back from their winter storage area, and that beach is re-graded.



Before



After

## Additional Improvements

- Completed replacement of all vessel racks on Sailing Beach  
Metal racks that were in disrepair were replaced with wooden ones.
- New guard chairs implemented for staff safety  
Shorter LG chairs allowed for same visibility of swim zone with safer transitions to the sand during emergency situations.
- Self check for sailing waitlist online  
Auto updated daily, patrons can search their household number to find their waitlist position for every vessel type.
- Self registration for Sailing Beach waitlists on-line  
Link located on the sailing beach web page allows patrons to add themselves to a vessel waitlist.
- New stop sign installed at bottom of hill to swim beach for safety  
Sign allows for safer pedestrian crossing at the crosswalk and slower traffic in and

## Marketing and Communications

The practice of consistent sign branding continued into the 2022 season. Most notably seen with the signage changes on Overlook Drive. Lakefront web pages were updated per-season and modified throughout to ensure clear communication of regulations and visitor information as it related to each area of Gillson Park.

Events held at the lakefront were well attended due to public awareness. Communications were made through email, social media and print to provide timely updates to park and beach activities.



# Safety and Security

Safety and security at Gillson Park continues to be a top priority for our Lakefront team. Pre and post season meetings with the Wilmette Police Department, interviews with returning staff and conversations with patrons helped identify areas of concern.

## 1. Patron/staff interaction

Staff training was increased this season as we had several new young professionals joining our team. Special emphasis is placed on positive interactions with patrons. Staff were instructed on de-escalation techniques as well as the importance of explaining rules to patrons so they have a enjoyable experience when they visit.

## 2. Night Security at Gillson Park

In past seasons, Gillson Park saw an increase in after hour use on both beaches and the swimming beach parking lot. Drinking, fireworks and speeding were observed after hours which provided for a poor experience for patrons and the neighboring properties. Park District and Village of Wilmette staff conducted meetings to formulate a plan to curb this behavior. Wilmette Park District night security detail was enhanced and stationed throughout the park. In addition to this the main park gates were closed at 8pm to restrict vehicular access. This practice continued into 2022 as we staff 7 night security positons throughout the park and beach. Based on these implementations, calls for police assistance continue to decline.

## 3. July 4th evacuation of Gillson Park

Staff became aware of the events unfolding in Highland Park on the morning of July 4th. Staff were in constant communication with the administrative team and the Wilmette Police Department. To guarantee patron and staff safety, the decision was made to close the park. Staff modified our existing severe weather protocols and began clearing all three beaches, the water, and the park area. The Wilmette Police immediately secured the entrances and patrons exited the park safely. The 60 acre park was cleared of most patrons in 20 minutes. Our young staff is to be commended as they maintained their professionalism during a very fluid and unsettling situation.

## 4. On water vessel management

The waters off Gillson Beach are utilized by numerous vessels from Stand Up Paddle Boards, to 60 foot sailing and motorized pleasure craft. The Sailing Beach staff are responsible for the management of these vessels. No boat buoys are place along the Park District shoreline to restrict motorized boat traffic in the sailing/swimming area. Staff also educate boaters on current Village of Wilmette Ordinances restricting anchoring off shore and work with Wilmette Police to enforce non-compliance. Sailing staff utilize 3 Ridged Hull Inflatable boats to assist all on the water patrons as needed. This season we added a new RIB to our fleet that included a larger engine and a center counsel providing the operator with a clear view. All our motorized vessels have propeller guards installed as an added level of safety.

# 2022 Special Events



Gillson Park hosted several events throughout the summer that provided relaxation, competition, and community building. The property continues to be a desired destination for these events.

## On the Wire Regatta

This is the second annual event and race for this group. Over 25 boats competed in the race and had hundreds of spectators.

## Symphony Performance

The Sesquicentennial provided a free concert featuring the Evanston Symphony Orchestra at the Wallace bowl. The concert was attended by over 600 music lovers.

## Sounds of Summer

Monthly concert series was facilitated by the Wilmette Park District featuring, Sushi Roll, Kaleidoscope Eyes, and Dancing Queen.

## Movie Nights at Wallace Bowl

Patrons of all ages gathered at the Wallace bowl over the summer to enjoy the outdoor showings of Luca and Encanto.

## Quilmette Foundation One Mile Swim

Unfortunately this event was cancelled due to dangerous swimming conditions.

## Quilmette Foundation Beach Bash

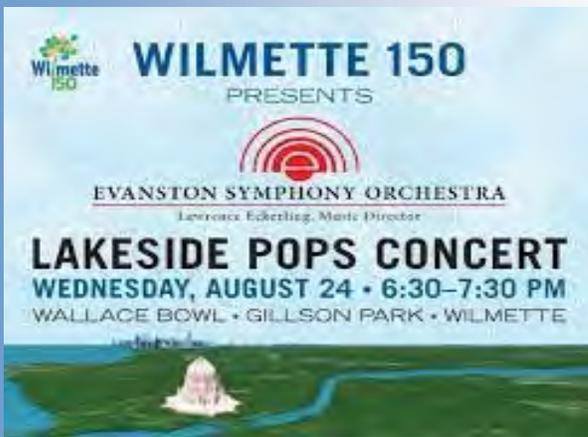
This fundraising event featured live music, food/drink, kids games, and a beachside bonfire. This is the 3rd beach bash hosted at Gillson Beach and interest and crowds grow.

## July 3rd Fireworks and Fun

A fun and busy weekend included food, live music, the Jessie White Tumblers, and, of course, fireworks.

## Yankee Doodle Dash

This event is organized by our marketing team and hosted on the morning of July 3rd. Over 500 runners/walkers participated breaking previous attendance records.



## 2022 Special Events



### North Shore Triathlon

We welcomed back the North Shore Triathlon this season. This year's race was attended by over 500 athletes. The weather and water temps proved perfect for this all-age event.

### Special Olympics Polar Plunge

This was the 1st year that Gillson Beach hosted the Polar Plunge. The event was attended by teams from across our areas looking to cool off in 34-degree Lake Michigan waters while raising money for a great cause.



### Egg Hunt and Bunny Brunch

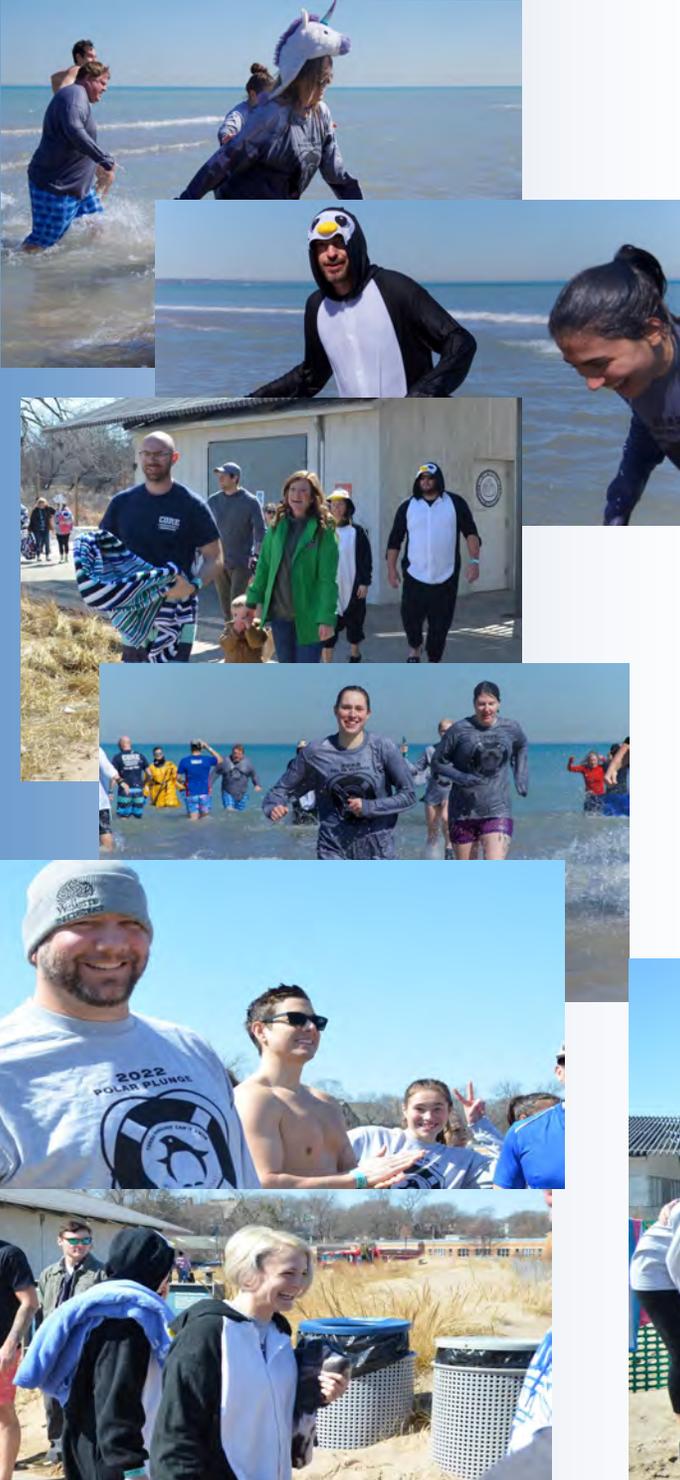
For the first time, the park district hosted the egg hunt at Gillson Park. Patrons also had the option to enjoy a brunch with a 5' 4" bunny.



*Triathletes gather at the swim start as the sun begins to rise.*

# Illinois Special Olympics Polar Plunge 2022

This year, Gillson Beach, and the Wilmette Park District enjoyed the great honor of becoming the host of the Illinois Special Olympics Region 5 Polar Plunge. The Lakefront and administrative staff worked closely with Illinois Special Olympics team to prepare for this event. Our marketing team helped to promote the event and push our patrons to the Wilmette Police Department Plunge Teams donation page which allowed them to be the top donor in region 5. The Wilmette Park District came in a close 2nd with a great turn out of staff, friends, and family. The event organizers were very happy with the partnership which we hope to build and foster for years to come.



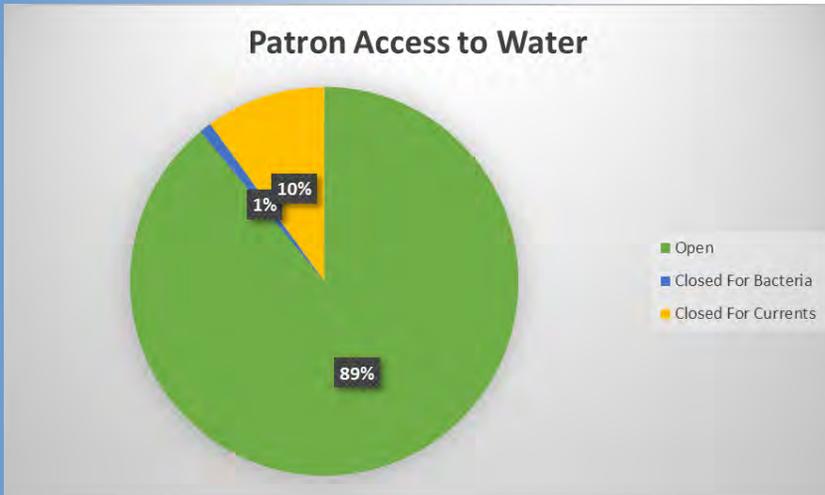
## Event Stats

### 2022 Polar Plunge Lake Michigan Region 5

- Date: March 5th 2022
- Water Temperature = [33.8 Degrees](#)
- Total Funds Raised = **\$52,334**
- Top Team  
Wilmette Police Department  
**\$11,914**
- 2nd Place  
Wilmette Park District  
**\$8,023**
- Top Individual Fundraiser  
Jeff Groves, Wilmette Park District  
**\$2,460**

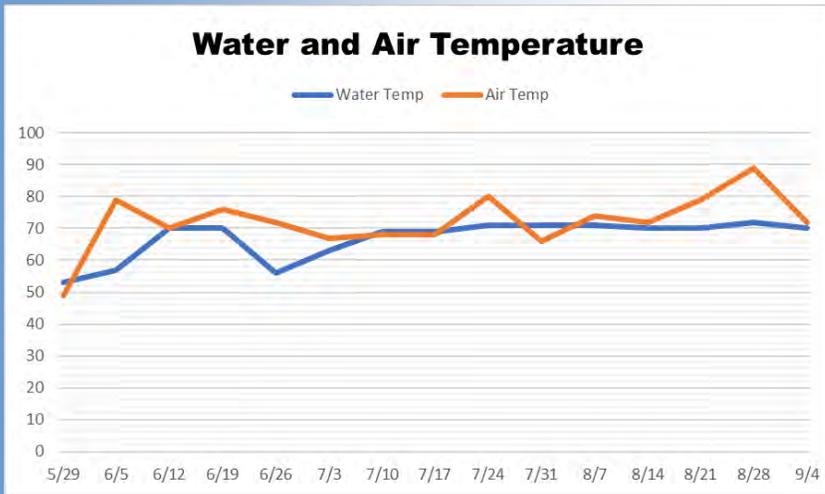


# General Conditions 2022



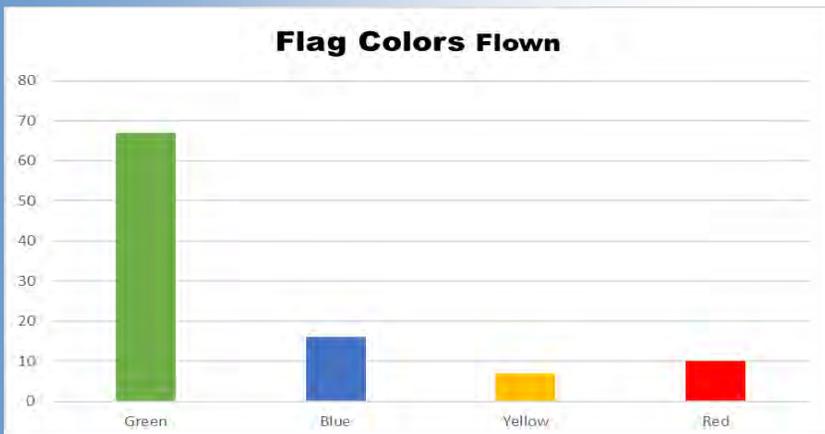
Daily conditions were available to patrons every morning by 9am through a phone recording. The rainout line on the WPD website was utilized for full water closures.

Water samples are taken twice daily at the swimming beach. This practice offered the most up to date bacteria levels. Samples are processed by the Wilmette Water Plant with an 18 hour turn around time. If bacteria levels are above the recommended threshold, the water is closed until subsequent samples fall below that threshold.



The water is closed during any beach hazard statement issued by the National Weather Service or if staff observed dangerous water conditions.

The beach area is closed anytime lightning or thunder is observed in the area and not re-opened until 30 minutes after the last observed lightening or thunder.



The Sailing Beach will fly different colored flags to provide sailors with up to date wind conditions or advisories.

- Green = 0-12mph
- Blue = 12-20 mph
- Red = Over 20 mph
- Yellow = General Caution
- Red/Blue = Small Craft Advisory



# Gillson Sailing Beach

The Wilmette Sailing Beach is located at the North end of Gillson Park. The beach currently houses 728 privately owned vessels as well as 35 vessels from the Park District rental fleet. The Sailing Beach operates mid-May to mid-October; it is a popular destination for sailing beach members and patrons looking to rent a vessel for the day. Small group and private sailboat lessons are available throughout the season. Park District camps utilize the beach as part of their programming with sailboat rides conducted by sailing staff. Sailing instructors run a Sailing Camp off the beach as well.

Fees are based on vessel type and resident status. Vessels that are required to have an Illinois Department of Natural Resource (IDNR) Registration qualify to add a partner on their vessel for an additional \$126 fee. Based on 2022 registration, the Wilmette Sailing Beach Patrons that are primary owners of the vessel consist of 90% Residents and 10% Non-Residents.

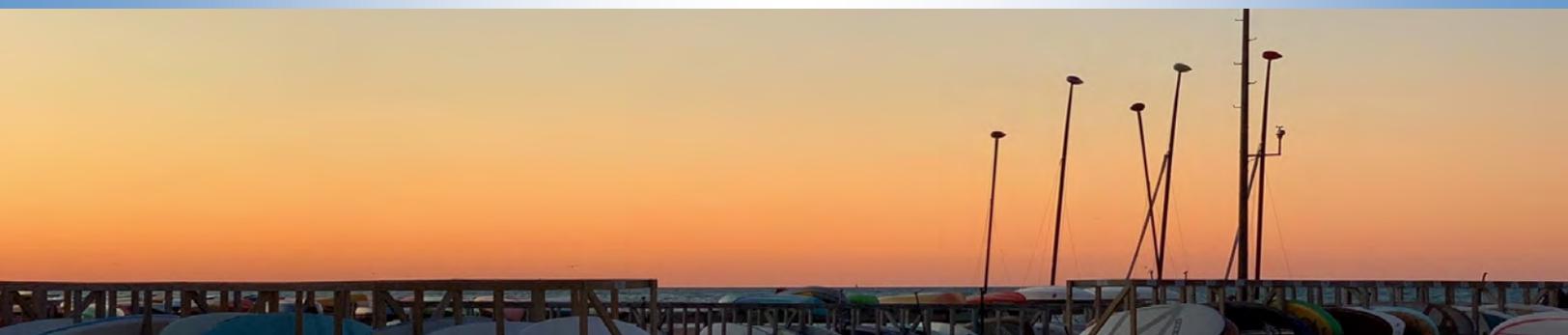


*Spaces in 3 of the 5 vessel types were added this year. We intend to add additional spaces for Laser II and Windsurfer this fall.*

Available Spaces		
	2021	2022
<b>Catamaran</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>Monohull</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>292</b>
<b>S.U.P</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Laser II</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Windsurfer</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>		
	<b>\$448,565</b>	<b>\$526,614</b>

	2021	2022
<b>Season Passes</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>3,169</b>
<b>Total Visits</b>	<b>8,080</b>	<b>12,447</b>

Wait List Numbers		
	2021	2022
<b>Catamaran</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Monohull</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>398</b>
<b>S.U.P</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>570</b>
<b>Laser II</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Windsurfer</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>94</b>



# Gillson Beach Parking



Gillson Park provides close parking access for both the Swimming/Sailing Beaches, as well as the general park area. Lakefront season passes are required to park in the swimming beach lot. Daily parking passes are available on a limited bases depending on the day of the week. Parking on Overlook Drive is allowed by Lakefront Season Pass or Village of Wilmette parking sticker, no daily passes are available. Parking stickers must be affixed to the windshield and are not allowed to be transferred from car to car.

Free parking is available on upper drive as well as public street parking adjacent to the

## 2022 Fees: Resident

Season = \$33

Daily = M-F \$15 Sat-Sun \$18

## Non-Resident

Season = \$186

Daily = M-F \$19 Sat-Sun \$24

Season Passes	Issued	Resident/Non-Resident	Revenue
2021	6,704	5,286/1,418	\$412,104
2022	5,359	4,638/1,292	\$368,806

Daily Passes	Issued	Resident/Non-Resident	Revenue
2021	2,383	257/2,126	\$45,502
2022	3,184	338/2,828	\$61,832

# Gillson Beach Concessions

This was the 2nd season the Wilmette Park District offered a restaurant service through the concession stand next to the beach main entrance. Our vendor continues to be The Fat Shallot which has 2 food trucks and a restaurant in Lincoln Park. The restaurant utilized both patios for patrons to enjoy. Although food is allowed on the beach, all alcohol consumption was limited to the patio areas and enforced by both The Fat Shallot and Park District staff. Clear signage was in place to direct patrons. Staff continues to received positive feedback on the facility and the operations of the vendor.



This season, the Fat Shallot hosted 3 ticket events. A profit share clause was included in their contract for 2022 as well as moving forward.

## Regular Season Revenue

Year	Revenue
2021	\$7,500
2022	\$8,000

## Special Event Revenue

Year	Revenue
2022	\$4,573



# Lakefront Operated Camps

## Aquatics Camp

incorporates paddle sports, swimming and sand activities.

Year	Enrollments	Revenue
2021	255	\$79,856
2022	466	\$119,915

## Sailing Camp

begins on dry-land learning the parts of the boat, knots and wind dynamics. On the water campers shadow counselors before captaining their own vessels.

Year	Enrollments	Revenue
2021	120	\$19,828
2022	127	\$22,880

## Great Gillson Camp

is located in Gillson Park offering a wide variety of activities including swimming, sailing, crafts and themed weeks.

Year	Enrollments	Revenue
2021	289	\$317,041
2022	210	\$227,677

## Jr. Lifeguard Program

is a two week intensive, skills driven camp that gives hands-on experience with first aid skills and simple rescues.

Year	Enrollments	Revenue
2021	49	\$12,467
2022	53	\$14,236



## SUP & Kayak Camp

is run through a vendor and splits revenue 70/30 with WPD. Safety skills and offsite paddling is included in their curriculum.

Year	Enrollments	Revenue	Expense
2021	171	\$70,985	\$44,327
2022	161	\$73,537	\$49,660

Total revenue includes before and after care



# Gillson Park Dog Beach

The Wilmette Dog Beach is located at the south end of Gillson Park. The park is fenced in allowing for off leash activities and access to the water. The Dog Beach is open from 6am to 10:30pm. Mid-day restriction were lifted over the summer as Aquatics Camp was moved to a different location. Permits for 2022 were consistent with 2021 numbers indicating a continued interest in the dog beach. This season, placing the same staff member at dog beach on weekends allowed for more consistent messaging and enforcement.



Owners are required to purchase a permit and provide proof of current vaccinations from their veterinarian.

**2022 Fees:** Resident = \$43 for the 1st dog, \$8 for each additional dog

Non-Resident = \$218 for the 1st dog, \$73 for each additional dog

Year	Number of Permits Issued	Resident/Non-Resident	Revenue
2021	727	528/199	\$67,985
2022	725	530/195	\$66,880

Note: The fence was not replaced this season in an effort to explore more cost effective options.



# SUP & Kayak Trail-In Permits

Based on increasing popularity of both Stand Up Paddle Boarding and kayaking, the Wilmette Park District began offering a trail-in option in 2018. Residents and non-residents have the ability to purchase an annual permit to launch their vessel from our far south beach area or The Cove. Pass monitoring is done both at the car gates as well as beachfront. Patrons are required to follow all U.S. Coast Guard regulations regarding lifejackets and right of way rules. All vessel activities are monitored by sailing staff during posted operating hours from our observation tower.



Trail in permits are per vessel and include either a resident or non-resident parking sticker.

**2022 Fees:** Resident = \$194

Non-Resident: \$420

Year	Number of Permits Issued	Resident/Non-Resident	Revenue
2021	131	112/19	\$25,957
2022	136	123/13	\$25,378

Note: Residents and non-residents have the option of not purchasing the parking sticker with the trail-in permit bringing their fee down. This is why we see similar revenue from 2021/2020 even though the fee increased by 5%.



## Picnic Areas & Shelter

Families and friends looking to gather and grill at the park can take advantage of one of fifteen picnic sections or a covered picnic pavilion. Picnic sections include seating for 20 people and a grill and can be divided into 4 larger picnic areas throughout the park. The picnic shelter hosts two larger grills and seating for 70 people. Reservations for the areas and pavilion are made in two hour blocks of time. Residents of Wilmette can reserve any area in the park free of charge and with no limit.

*Note: In 2021 time blocks were 3 hours for areas and 4 hours for the pavilion.*

### 2022 Picnic Area

Resident: Free; Non Resident Fees: \$16

Year	Resident	Non-Resident	Revenue
2021	312	114	\$1,710
2022	520	188	\$3,008



### 2022 Shelter

Resident: Free; Non Resident Fees: \$63

Year	Resident	Non-Resident	Revenue
2021	196	3	\$180
2022	186	11	\$693

# Post Season Operations



Operations continued post Labor Day at the Sailing Beach which will remain open until October 16th.

The Lakeview Center has been vacated as construction begins.

Post season storage, inventory, and equipment maintenance continue.

Looking into 2023, we have identified the following areas for improvement. We anticipate this list to expand as we complete an in depth analysis of the 2022 season.

## **Parking**

- Increase violation fines in line with current Village of Wilmette practices (Not complete in 2022)
- Continue signage improvements in the park to provide clear messaging

## **Staff Development and Responsibilities**

- Utilize new scheduling software that is more user friendly and searchable

## **Communication to Patrons**

- Continue updating WPD web pages to clearly convey regulations and information about the park
- Install video screen at beach house to provide information to patrons

## **Patron Visit Tracking**

- Utilize new hardware at the swimming beach entrance for patron pass scanning



# Centennial Family Aquatic Center

Annual Report 2022



# Content

- Season Summary
- Principles Summary
- Season Challenges
- Pool Schedules
- Pool Passes
- Programming Revenue
- Swim Team Rental
- Look Ahead 2023

# Season Summary

- Sayre Froelich began her first summer at Wilmette Park District
- For the first time in three years, staff had the opportunity to approach pre-season preparation without COVID restrictions
- Staff used the following principles during pre-season preparation:
  - Continue to be the first outdoor aquatic center to open and last to close
  - Create an equitable pool schedule with respect to all distinct user groups
  - Capitalize on continued programming growth from 2021
  - Pool returned to a pre-COVID schedule, similar to 2019
  - Communicate to the community that staff was listening to frustrations from 2021



# Principles Summary

- Be the first outdoor aquatic center to open and last to close
  - Lap Swim and New Trier Aquatics started the week prior to Memorial Day
  - Public Swim started on Memorial Day weekend
  - Public Swim continued through Labor Day weekend
  - Lap swim is scheduled to continue through October 2
- Create an equitable pool schedule in respect to all distinct user groups
  - Distinct user groups include, public swim, swim lessons, camp swim lessons, camp free swim, dedicated lap swim, and swim team rental
    - Increased open lane hours for lap swim without reservations
    - Introduced a dedicated WPD camp public swim hour
    - Increased public swim access to 8:30pm
    - Limited New Trier Aquatics swim club access



# Principles Summary

- Capitalize on the program growth from 2021
  - Staff increased weekend Learn to Swim offerings
  - Additional concentration on private swim lessons
  - Added Fluid Running as a program in the dive well
- Pool returned to a pre-COVID operation and schedule
  - Elimination of reservations for dedicated lap swim
  - Increased lap swim lane availability throughout the day
  - Longer hours for public swim into the evening and earlier start on the weekends
  - Restart of the food operation



# Season Challenges

- Labor Market Shortages
  - Hiring nationwide was very tight and locally was lighter than other summers
  - Aquatic Center was open fully for 97% of intended hours in spite of a limited guard staff
  - Learn to Swim staff was hired later and was smaller than usual
- Equitable Pool Schedule
  - Continual efforts to balance demand from all the unique user groups
- Customer Approach
  - Navigating the best practices to train and guide all levels of staff through a heightened level of customer expectations and feedback as compared to pre-COVID seasons



# Pool Schedule

## Monday-Wednesday

Public Swim	
Lap Swim	Camp Swim
Swim Lessons	Camp Swim Lessons
Diving Lessons	New Trier Swim Practice

TIME	Main Pool		Activity Pool	Wading Pool	Diving Well
	Lanes 1-4	Lanes 5-8			
6:00 AM					
7:00 AM	Lap Swim 7:00-12:45p	New Trier 5:15-9:45a			
8:00 AM					
9:00 AM			Private Lessons 8:30-9:30a		
10:00 AM			Camp Lessons 9:45-10:45a	Public 9:00-12:45p	Diving Lessons 8:00-12:50
11:00 AM			Lessons 11:00-11:45		
12:00 PM	Lessons 12:00-12:45				
1:00 PM	Camp Swim				
2:00 PM					
3:00 PM	New Trier. 2:15 - 4:45p	Public Swim 2:00 - 8:30p			
4:00 PM					
5:00 PM					
6:00 PM					
7:00 PM					
8:00 PM	New Trier 7:30 - 8:30p				
9:00 PM					

# Pool Schedule

## Thursday-Friday

Public Swim	
Lap Swim	Camp Swim
Swim Lessons	Camp Swim Lessons
Diving Lessons	New Trier Swim Practice

TIME	Main Pool		Activity Pool	Wading Pool	Diving Well
	Lanes 1-4	Lanes 5-8			
6:00 AM					
7:00 AM	Lap Swim 7:00-12:45p	New Trier 5:15-9:45a			Thursday Fluid Running 6:45-7:45a
8:00 AM					
9:00 AM		Private Lessons 8:30-9:30			
10:00 AM		Camp Lessons 9:45-10:45		Public 9:00-12:45p	Diving Lessons 8:00-12:50
11:00 AM	Lessons 11:00-11:45				
12:00 PM	Lessons 12:00-12:45				
1:00 PM	Camp Swim				
2:00 PM					
3:00 PM					
4:00 PM					
5:00 PM					
6:00 PM					
7:00 PM					
8:00 PM		New Trier 7:30-8:30p			
9:00 PM					

# Pool Schedule Saturday-Sunday

TIME	Main Pool		Activity Pool	Wading Pool	Diving Well	TIME	Main Pool		Activity Pool	Wading Pool	Diving Well
	Lanes 1-4	Lanes 5-8					Lanes 1-4	Lanes 5-8			
6:00 AM						6:00 AM					
7:00 AM						7:00 AM					
8:00 AM		New Trier 6a - 9:45				8:00 AM					Fluid Running 7:30 - 8:30
9:00 AM	Lap Swim 7 - 12p		Private Lessons 8:45 - 9:45			9:00 AM	Lap Swim 7:00-12p		Private Lessons 8:45 - 9:45		
10:00 AM		Lessons 10:00 - 10:45			Diving Lessons 9:00-10:30	10:00 AM		Lessons 10:00 - 10:45			Diving Lessons 9:00-10:30
11:00 AM		Lessons 11:00-11:45		Public 9:00-12:45		11:00 AM		Lessons 11:00-11:45		Public 9:00-12:45	
12:00 PM						12:00 PM					
1:00 PM						1:00 PM					
2:00 PM						2:00 PM					
3:00 PM						3:00 PM					
4:00 PM						4:00 PM					
5:00 PM						5:00 PM					
6:00 PM						6:00 PM					
7:00 PM						7:00 PM					
8:00 PM						8:00 PM					
9:00 PM						9:00 PM					9

Public Swim	
Lap Swim	Camp Swim
Swim Lessons	Camp Swim Lessons
Diving Lessons	New Trier Swim Practice

# Pool Pass

*\*Due to uncertainty during pre-season planning, the combination pass was not offered in 2021*

Pass Type	2019	2021	2022
Public Swim Daily - Resident	3,162	3,992	3,427
Public Swim Daily- Non-Resident	4,464	4,928	4,289
Wading Pool Only Daily- Resident	131	290	205
Wading Pool Only Daily- Non-Resident	399	367	461
Public Swim Pool Pass- Resident	1,871	5,312	1,225
Public Swim Pool Pass- Non-Resident	1,799	938	1,324
Beach/Pool Combo Pass - Resident	7,196		5,494
Beach Pool Combo Pass – Non-Resident	596		1,324
September Dedicated Lap Swim Pass- Resident		439	
September Dedicated Lap Swim Pass- Non-Resident		154	
September Dedicated Lap Swim Daily Admission		90	



# Programming Revenue

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Learn to Swim	\$25,113	\$62,692	\$89,434	\$102,071
Private Lessons	\$4,003	Not Offered	\$11,730	\$23,816
Diving	\$22,536	\$30,117	\$32,696	\$33,395
Fluid Running				\$8,968



# Swim Team Rental

New Trier Aquatics (NTA) is a third party renter. NTA is comprised of a significant number of Wilmette residents. NTA has had a longstanding positive rental relationship with the Wilmette Park District.

- In 2022, NTA had a change of Directors with a new approach to club management which lead to reduced Centennial usage
- In 2022, WPD approached the season with more of a pre-COVID pool schedule, which included more lane allocation in the morning for public adult lap swim and subsequently reduced NTA access to morning lap lanes
- Planning for 2023, will start earlier in the post season to be sure staff continues to proactively balance demand and prioritization of the distinct user groups

Revenue	2019	2020	2021	2022
	\$42,248	\$115,000	\$51,606	\$32,164





# Look Ahead 2023

- Focus on complete customer experience at the complex
- Review and implement new staffing structures where appropriate including a coordinator to spread Supervisory work load across
- Create themed marketing and communication plan to staff and the community
- Explore additional event based activities for 2023



# Questions?