



CAROL STREAM

Park District

Capital Improvement Needs

2024 - 2030



Thank you for supporting Grant Funding for Parks and Recreation
Carol Stream Park District has been awarded \$3,392,436 over the last 10 years.

With the support of GRANT FUNDING, the Carol Stream Park District has been able to bring many more opportunities for social interaction, healthy activities, sports and play, walking/biking paths and playgrounds to the community. These projects have also spurred economic development, created jobs, enhanced property values, and improved the quality of life.



This 2024 report shares the additional projects awaiting support from Grants for the Carol Stream Park District.

Carol Stream Park District prides itself in being stewards of our resident's tax dollars. Staff have created a disciplined plan for repair and replacement of playground, vehicles, and technology, and many of our capital needs. Even with that discipline, there is need for additional funding to enhance our community's recreational opportunities.

Through the support of grant funds, we can make those dollars stretch so much further!

Thank you for your support of the Park and Recreation industry, and the Carol Stream Park District.

The following report is a listing of Capital Improvement Projects for the Carol Stream Park District through 2030. While priorities and projects must often be shifted to address unforeseen repairs, or new trends, this plan sets a roadmap to meeting the recreational needs of the Carol Stream Community and improving the quality of life for its residents.

The current Capital Improvement Plan is primarily funded by earned revenue in order to avoid the issuance of debt and placing tax burdens on our resident. Future bonds may be issued, but we will do our best to avoid that through the use of alternative revenue sources, and seeking grants to help us stretch our capital dollars farther.

The 2023 Community Needs Assessment provided strong support of the District from the Community. It reinforced the community's desire for the Park District to "take care of what we have" and continue to provide recreational opportunities and outdoor space. It also reinforced that priorities in this community include:

- Playgrounds
- Replacement of the District's 39 Passenger Bus
- Coral Cove Water Park Enhancements
- Fountain View Recreation Upkeep
- Walking Path/Trails/Bike Paths

Parks & Playgrounds

All District playgrounds are inspected and evaluated regularly; recommendations for replacement are based on 'actual' condition. The District contracted with *Wight & Company* to prepare a Park Analysis Plan for the long-term replacement needs of its playgrounds.

The Plan includes suggested improvements and enhancements as well as estimated costs. As time passes, the District applies a cost of living increase to those cost estimates for budget purposes. The plan includes many suggestions that can be considered 'a la carte' amenities – in other words, the actual playground replacement plan will be adjusted based on capital funds available, grant opportunities, and special recreation funds. The plan creates a comprehensive roadmap for the District replacement needs with a goal of replacing 1 playground per year. **Funding has yet to be secured for any playgrounds beyond 2025.**

Playgrounds currently under renovation.

Walter Park renovation is currently underway, with expected completion by early June of 2024. The District was successful in being awarded a \$400,000 OSLAD Grant which will cover half of this \$800,000 project. Installation of an artificial turf surface throughout the play structure area makes this playground fully accessible for individuals with varying physical limitations. An estimated \$200,000 will be funded through the Special Recreation Fund, bringing the capital dollars needed for this project to \$200,000. A grand opening of the Park will be scheduled following its completion.

Appomattox Park will be the next playground renovation and is scheduled for 2025. A contract for \$18,500 is in place for landscape architecture and design, civil engineering, cost estimate, permitting, bidding and construction. This small park will not be a candidate for an OSLAD grant, and staff has budgeted an all-in amount of \$192,500 for the project. Up to 25% of the overall cost can be funded through the Special Recreation Fund.

Unfunded Playground Replacements

Friendship Park was originally constructed in 1996, and is scheduled for renovation in 2026. A smaller park sitting on .5 acres, it is located in an established residential area. Equipment is geared towards younger children. The plan includes the replacement of the play equipment and the small shelter, and also adding a small play structure for grade school children. The renovation of this park is estimated at \$275,000 and is not yet funded.



Kent Park was originally acquired in 1989 and sits adjacent to Heritage Lakes Elementary School. The 3-acre park includes a large play structure and baseball/softball field. It is located just off a walking pathway that leads around Heritage Lake. It is located in a mature residential area and is the host to many recreational baseball/softball games. The estimated renovation of this park is \$150,000 and is not yet funded.

Papoose Park is sits on a 1-acre parcel in a more densely populated, older section of Carol Stream. It has both a toddler, and youth play structures as well as a swing set. The pocket park is reached through several neighborhood pathways, and includes plenty of open space. The play equipment is some of the oldest in our inventory. Although safe, and inspected on a strict schedule, this playground needs a complete replacement. The estimated renovation of this park is \$225,000 and is not yet funded.

Memorial Park sits on .5 acres in the older section of the community with smaller parcels. It was one of the District's original parks and has access to a beautiful (recently improved) bike/walking trail that was completed by the Village of Carol Stream in late 2023. The park includes ADA swings along with

regular swings, a youth play structure, and benches. It is surrounded by mature trees and has lots of shade making it a popular spot for parents with young children, or those who want to rest after using the trail. The Carol Stream Parks Foundation will be installing a bike-fix-it-station at the entrance to the trail, making this little park a spot for everyone. The estimated renovation of this park is \$250,000 and is not yet funded.



Hampe Park is one of the District's largest parks and sits on 21 acres. It includes a fenced in skate park, sand play area, large picnic shelter and flush washrooms, basketball court, large playground with multiple structures, soccer fields, open space, parking lot, and access to the Village trail system. It received a \$200,000 OSLAD grant in 1997 and is due for renovation and upgrade. This particular park could create a fully accessible playground with the addition of turf throughout the playground area. The estimated renovation of the park is \$1,000,000 and is not yet funded.

Cambridge Park was acquired in 1993 and sits on 6.5 acres. It includes a baseball/softball field and both a youth and toddler play structure, a soccer field, and a picnic shelter. As with many of our parks, it is located in a highly populated residential area and busy for the majority of the year. The estimated renovation of this playground is \$500,000 and is currently not funded.



Barbara O'Rahilly Volunteer Park was acquired in 1992 and covers 3.0 acres of land. It includes a bocce court, youth play structure and both regular swings and ADA Swings. A large picnic shelter, and the adjacent parking lot makes it an easy destination location for our residents. The Village trail system passes in front of this park and leads to the connection to the Great Western Trail. It is also along that same path that leads to the District's Dog Park. The estimated cost to renovate this park is \$400,000 and is not yet funded.



Park District 39 Passenger Bus

The District currently owes a 39 passenger bus with a handicapped lift. Originally purchased in 2012, the bus has provided transportation for the Senior/Adult Trips, the youth summer camp program, and even served as emergency transportation in cooperation with the local Fire Protection District. Now at the end of its useful life, replacement of this vehicle will cost \$250,000.

As a unique benefit that serves both our youth, adult and senior populations, the Carol Stream Park Foundation Board has taken on a fund raising effort to help purchase a new bus. The replacement bus will also be outfitted with a wheelchair lift to ensure accessibility for individuals with physical restrictions. While the Carol Stream Parks Foundation – the District’s 501c3 – is hoping to help raise money to replace this vehicle, the bus is nearing the end of service and needs to be replaced soon.



Facility Improvements & Upkeep



Coral Cove Water Park is one of the District’s most popular attractions! The facility underwent a \$2M+ renovation between Fall of 2022 and Spring 2023, opening with all new mechanical and filtration systems. While the renovation made significant ‘behind the scene’ improvements, there were only limited cosmetic changes. Those

improvements, however, did ensure that the facility could operate for another 20+ years from structural and mechanical perspectives. The large bucket play feature is one of the focal points of the water park and is several years beyond repainting. The feature itself operates without any issues. An estimated \$44,000 would ensure that the feature matches the other improvements made at the park and provide many years of enjoyment for our residents. Funding has yet to be secured for this improvement.

Fountain View Recreation Center is also a highly visible and popular District facility. Community members continue to encourage the Park District to ‘take care of what we have’ and keeping this facility in good condition is a priority. The Facility recently celebrated it’s 10-year anniversary, and staff will need to begin replacing certain amenities.



- Replacement of carpeted areas in the fitness center with fitness flooring. Estimated at \$65,000, elimination of carpeting will reduce shedding carpet fibers which impact fitness machine performance, and is much easier to maintain.
- Flooring in the main public areas needs replacement. The original floors were intended for longer wear, but due to installation issues have large cracks in multiple areas. Replacement estimated exceed \$300,000. Neither of these flooring needs have been funded.

Pathways and Trails

Pathways and Trails ranked as the most popular park district provided amenity during the 2023 Community Needs Assessment. The same has been true for the past several Community Assessments making funding very important. The Park District annual levies taxes for the purposes of Paving and Lighting improvements. Our extensive trail system requires several years to accumulate funding to support our pathway replacement needs, therefore grant funding will be an important supplement to meet the replace and replacement plan for this category.



Replacement of a **pathway near Spring Trails Elementary School** would benefit both the Park District and School. We estimate the District's share for this project at \$55,000.

Pathways near Hampe Park are also due for replacement with an estimated \$100,000 cost.

Veteran's Park Trail and Bike Pathway surrounds Mitchell Lake/Klein Creek with about 1.6 miles of paving walking path, also connects to the Village trail system. The lake is deal for fishing. The pathway is due for full replacement and is estimated at \$400,000.

Thank you for your support and help in gaining funding for these important projects.