Geneva Park Connections A Geneva Park District Publication



Our services extend beyond the playground



In Geneva, the impact of Parks and Recreation is powerful!

Park Districts are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in a community, ensuring the health of families and youth, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of the community.

With over 700 acres across 50 parks, and countless other assets in the community, such as Sunset Community Center, Stephen D. Persinger Recreation Center, Sunset Pool, Mill Creek Pool, Stone Creek Mini Golf, Peck Farm Park, including the

Butterfly House, the historic Peck House and Hawks Hollow Nature Playground, Community Gardens at Prairie Green, and Playhouse 38, the Geneva Park District and its programs provide

the bower of

real benefits to residents.

The mission of the Geneva Park District is to provide recreational programs, facilities, and open space that will enhance the quality of life for residents of all age groups and abilities. Therefore, through this mission, our residents are impacted by the **Power of Parks!**

Results of our 2015 Community Survey show

Fall 2016

of Geneva Park District users are satisfied with our services, programs and events.



Power of Parks we make it happen

Power of Parks

Personal benefits - exercise, health, relaxation, fun, entertainment, and enjoyment Environmental benefits - nature, aesthetics, open space, wildlife, conservation, and preservation Social benefits - sense of community, family-time, togetherness, a safe place to play, and a place to meet people Economic benefits - increased property values, reduced healthcare costs, and employment opportunities



According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), time spent in parks and green spaces has a variety of emotional, health and social benefits. Parks are the best medicine! Research shows that just seeing a park can help improve an individual's health and well-being. Modern research shows that communing with nature can improve your memory, focus, and attention. After just an hour of interacting with nature, memory and attention spans improved by 20%.

After being ranked as the top place to live in the western suburbs, Geneva also has been named one of the safest communities in Illinois, by BackgroundChecks.org.

Parks are powerful; they have the power to strengthen communities, transform lives and protect the future. The Geneva Park District provides valuable benefits including exercise, enjoyment, relaxation, and academic and social development through our array of recreational programming.

Through the Kids' Zone program, we provide a safe, engaging and affordable place for children of working families during critical hours when school is not in session. Our summer camps provide a quality camp experience that helps children develop the emotional and social skills necessary to grow into strong adults.

The Geneva Friendly Senior program provides seniors an active and

social atmosphere. Additionally, our accessible parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities and programs provide critical support to those with special needs.

The Geneva Park District impacts lives beyond the playaround, and our health and wellness programs, trails, and fitness facilities play an essential role in combating childhood obesity chronic disease, and improving overall health and well-being.

Park Districts provide the opportunity to exercise and recreate in safe, attractive settings.



Economic & Environmental Benefits

increased property values, employment, and open space

Parks improve property values. It is shown that home values can increase as much as

proximity to parks and green space.

There is a passion for parks, and the benefits that parks and recreation agencies provide to the economy are powerful. Parks improve the local tax base and increase property values. According to a 2015 study by NRPA, local and regional park agencies are important assets to connecting communities throughout the United States. This study revealed that 92% of Americans say their communities benefit from local parks.

Not only are public parks leaders in conservation, health, wellness, and social equity, they are engines of significant economic activity and job creation in the United States. According to a 2013 NRPA economic impact study, Illinois employs over 96,000 parks and recreation professionals, and generates over \$12 billion in

economic activity. Studies conducted by NRPA show that people see local parks as a valuable and essential feature of their community.

Geneva Park District provides valuable work experience to approximately 41 full-time staff, 150 part-time and 250 seasonal employees.

The health benefits provided by parks and recreation also hold an economic value. By promoting physical activity, parks are one of the most effective ways to control the approximately \$147 billion direct and indirect costs of the obesity epidemic. In our fitness facilities, over 4,800 members stay active in the pursuit of healthy lifestyles, saving a total of nearly \$1.7 million dollars each year. If you include the over 200,000 visitors to Peck Farm Park and the Fox River Trail, Geneva Parks provides \$71.8 million in health care savings each year!

According to NRPA, parks and public lands serve an essential role in preserving natural resources and wildlife habitats, protecting clean water and clean air, and providing open space for current and future generations. Parks provide an essential connection for people of all ages and abilities to the life-enhancing benefits of nature and the outdoors. Over 700 acres of preserved open space throughout Geneva provide safe habitats for a variety of plants, animals, insects and birds, giving our community the opportunity to see bald eagles, sandhill cranes, milkweed plants, brown bats, and red foxes in their own backyard. Nurturing a life-long connection to nature helps ensure the future of our global environmental health. Additionally, trees and plants have the ability to remove air pollutants and improve air quality, helping our residents avoid the costs associated with air pollution.

Annually, our horticulturists at the Wheeler Park Greenhouse grow over 20,000 flowers and plants, which are used throughout our parks. Over the past year, our staff has planted 101 new trees. According to the American

One acre of trees

absorbs the carbon dioxide produced by driving a car 11,000 miles.

Forestry Association, one tree provides \$273 in environmental benefits each year, meaning our 101 newly planted trees generated over \$27,000 in environmental benefits this year. Additionally, through the Kids Around the World organization, Geneva Park District donated old playground equipment to underprivileged areas in a variety of countries as an environmentally responsible way to provide recreation to communities outside our own.

Parks are key to ensuring the health of our environment because they play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, providing clean water and clean air, and enabling conservation of natural resources.



Playhouse 38

a facility of the Geneva Park District





It's time to celebrate! Playhouse 38 has debuted its new larger location at 321 Stevens Street, Suite P, in downtown Geneva. Playhouse 38 is the ultimate theatre experience in Geneva, offering both on-stage and off-stage options for all ages.

Community theatre enriches the lives of those who take an active part in it, as well as those in the community who benefit from live theatre productions.

the power of the arts:

Arts & Culture illuminate our

inner lives, enrich our emotional world. and teach compassion.

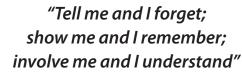
Cultural arts programs stimulate and develop imagination and critical thinking while refining cognitive and creative skills. Cultural arts also nurture important values including

team-building skills, respect for alternative viewpoints, and an appreciation for different cultures and traditions. According to Americans for the Arts, young people who participate in the arts are more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.

Additionally, Adult Community Theatre brings business to the area, enriching the lives of those who participate while providing the community with "social capital".

Television, tablets, video games and computers contribute to children spending more than

a day in front of a screen. Get involved with Playhouse 38 and help combat this statistic!



-Anonymous





