

Geneva Park Connections

A Geneva Park District Publication



Fall 2016

Power of Parks

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 real benefits to residents.**

the power of parks!

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

92%

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



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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

Only
1 in 3
children are physically
active every day.

Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009

Get active with us!

With over 3,000 programs and
50 parks we provide countless
ways to stay active!



Personal & Social Benefits

exercise, enjoyment, relaxation, safety, and community!

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%.**

Geneva Ranked 2nd Safest City

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 playground, 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.

Parks are Powerful!

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



Nearly
50,000

non-native species have been introduced to the United States according to a recent study.
Source: US Fish & Wildlife Service (2015)

Geneva Park District has
385 Acres of Natural Prairie

The natural prairie provides safe habitats for native species to thrive!

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

20%

when they are in close 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.

Economic Growth

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 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 Powerful!

One acre of trees absorbs the carbon dioxide produced by driving a car 11,000 miles.

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.

New
larger location!

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

7.5 Hours

a day in front of a screen.

Get involved with Playhouse 38 and help combat this statistic!

**"Tell me and I forget;
show me and I remember;
involve me and I understand"**

-Anonymous



The arts are essential.

They teach people of all ages innumerable lessons—practice makes perfect, small differences can have large effects, collaboration leads to creativity.



Visit our new larger location!

321 Stevens Street | Suite P | Downtown Geneva



Geneva
PARK DISTRICT

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