

Park District of Oak Park *Park District 2013-15 Strategic Plan*



The Strategic Plan process included a review of the mission and vision statements, as well as the organizational values. The Strategic Planning process included a Board workshop, input sessions from the Park District Citizen Committee and key leaders, multiple Leadership Team meetings, employee workshops and focus groups, and successive reviews of information. This iterative process provided opportunities for review and reflection.

The elements of the Plan include the major areas as follows:

- Revised mission, vision, and values
- Summary of Board, PDCC, staff, and community leader input
- Notes from Board and staff workshops
- Information about the Balanced Scorecard framework for strategy
- Strategic Initiatives refinement
- Development of Goals and Goal Statements
- Strategy Maps
- Strategic Objectives
- Guidelines for Implementation
- Strategic Plan Definitions

Mission, Vision, and Values

A good starting point for strategy is a review and development of a mission and vision. This was achieved in successive Board and staff workshops, providing an opportunity to reflect on the revised statements. The mission statement was shortened, but the essence of the statement remained the same. Mission statements define the business or purpose of the organization. Vision statements are more aspirational; what do we hope to become? The essence of strategic planning asks these three basic questions:

- **Where are we now?**
- **Where do we want to go?**
- **How will we get there?**

The intent of the Park District of Oak Park Strategic Plan 2013-2015 is to address these questions.

Mission Statement

In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities

Vision Statement

We strive to exceed the needs of our diverse community with a collaborative and innovative approach

Values

Values identify the main tools that will be used to accomplish the mission and vision. The staff developed the following values:

- Partnerships: We will work collaboratively with others in our community
- Responsible Leadership: We will create a high performing, engaged, and accountable organization
- Integrity: In all that we do, we will adhere to moral, honest, and ethical principles and work toward accessibility and inclusion
- Innovation: We will continuously try new methods and ideas, adapt services according to trends, and continuously improve processes in order to exceed the needs of our customers
- Sustainability: The District will endure through renewal, maintenance, stewardship and stability in all aspects of operation

Summary of Input Information

As part of the Strategic Planning process, interviews were completed with key community leaders and PDOP full-time and part-time staff. In addition, members of the Park District Advisory Committee were briefed about the Plan's progress and were asked for their comments.

The key leaders included:

- Dee Brennan, Executive Director of Oak Park Public Library
- Dr. Steven Isoye, Superintendent of Oak Park River Forest High School
- Gavin Morgan, Executive Director of Oak Park Township
- Cara Pavlicek, Interim Manager of the Village of Oak Park
- Dr. Al Roberts, Superintendent of School District 97