GUIDE TO ORGANIZING PARK DISTRICTS IN ILLINOIS

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FOREWORD

The goal of establishing a system of parks and recreation is both a challenging and noble undertaking. It presents an opportunity for the members of a community to demonstrate their foresightedness and to leave a legacy of open space and the community spirit with which to manage it properly.

Illinois’ unique system of park districts enables a community to create an elected non-compensated body whose sole charge and responsibility is the oversight and planning of that community’s recreational needs.

The legislative authority for park districts is not designed to promote the private or parochial needs of a few. Rather those taking up the challenge of beginning a park district must look to the needs of the entire community and thereby solicit its support.

The Illinois Association of Park Districts is proud of the 100 year tradition of park districts which promote volunteer service and provide for a continuous source of funding the recreational needs of our children, adults and senior citizens.

If the Association can be of assistance to you in your efforts to create a park district, please contact us.

Peter M. Murphy
General Counsel
Illinois Association of Park Districts
PART I

Need for Parks and Recreation Services

Increasing urbanization, industrialization, population, and a general advance in the aspirations of people with respect to community living, have brought parks and recreation into the category of essential services.

While the birth-rate and leisure-hours statistics supported the expansion of the park and recreation services in the past fifty years, more recently ecological and environmental scientists are producing greater evidence of the urgency for a balanced natural environment. These findings, coupled with the diminishing availability of open spaces and the stifling effects produced by the concrete environment of cities and highways, have led many communities to generate greater efforts toward acquiring open space and establishing parks.

For the city or community the new park and recreation services represent a substantial increase in both corporate and capital expenditures. Acquisition of open space, whether functionally developed and heavily used, or whether held as a land reserve for a future purpose, is taken from the tax rolls and represents a reduction in general property tax revenue. Nevertheless, parks and recreation facilities are amenities that increase property values, enhance the desirability of the community, and in a relatively brief period pay their own way.

Land acquired well in advance of industrial or residential development can never be acquired at a lower price. Communities with these lands usually attract development and in this respect there is reciprocal effect. Economic development is stimulated by provisions for parks, and parks are stimulated to higher levels of services by economic development.

Personal Needs

Each and every individual has a need to find suitable and satisfying outlets for his leisure pursuits. These will vary from individual to individual, compounding as the community grows, involving private, voluntary and public institutions.

Whether it be a community in a dense urban center, or one in less populated areas, the obvious facts are that with population increases more people are to be accommodated.

For youth and the aged, the needs are universally accepted. It does not take a long explanation to justify the need for the children to play, for healthy pursuit of games and sports, to learn to swim. Neither is it difficult to point to the leisure needs of older adults. The middle-age group, often pre-occupied with business and civic pursuits, does not acknowledge a recreational need until opportunities are withdrawn, then an adjustment is quickly made and the element of cost is passed over as the most important factor.
PART II

Typical Parks and Recreation Services

Both in the rural and urban settings, leisure needs are often met on an organized basis through voluntary and public agencies. In the private sector the home, the country club, church-related activities, and many family or community-oriented groups assure that sufficient services prevail.

The next level is the public service. Its need is recognized to assure permanence, to provide a basic level of support for the entire community, and to perform tasks in providing for leisure that can only be done through government or in the public sector.

These tasks involve the acquisition of land in advance of the movement of population. They involve the development of lands, structures and facilities for public use. Capital financing, provisions for corporate financing, maintenance and the leadership and supervision necessary to promise the highest and best use of these public resources is assured by the public agency.

In the State of Illinois, public resources for meeting this responsibility can be provided either through The Municipal Code\(^1\) (Cities and Villages) or The Park District Code\(^2\).

While cities and villages have typically provided park and recreation services, experience shows that many times other demands preempt or “out-shout” the priorities set for park and recreation functions. In Illinois recreation services do not suffer from these vagarities primarily due to the existence of park districts which can provide a sound and consistent foundation of financing for these services.

Illinois Park Districts

As provided by the statutes of the State of Illinois, through The Park District Code, means are assured for providing ample levels of park and recreation services throughout the state. The machinery exists for any community, whether it be village, city, town, county, or overlapping jurisdiction, to set up a park district providing that such a district does not overlap another.

\(^1\)65 ILCS 5

\(^2\)70 ILCS 1205
The park district is an independent unit of local government, the boundaries of which do not have to be coterminous with any other. It is governed by an elected board of commissioners who serve without compensation. The Code permits park districts to assure permanence, to serve the entire community, to acquire land, to provide both capital and corporate financing, and to supply the supervisory leadership and other personnel necessary for the park and recreation function.

The Board of Commissioners has the power to levy and collect taxes, to issue bonds, and spend money to acquire acreage, develop and maintain facilities, and establish recreation programs. These are the functions of this board, completely independent of city, school, and other governmental units. Whereas the City Council has diverse responsibilities, the park and recreation function is the primary function of the park district.

Each park district shall have the power to levy and collect taxes on all the taxable property in the district for all corporate purposes. The commissioners may accumulate funds for the purposes of building repairs and improvements and may annually levy taxes for such purposes in excess of current requirements for its other purposes.

All general taxes proposed by the board to be levied upon the taxable property within the district shall be levied by ordinance. A certified copy of such levy ordinance shall be filed with the County Clerk of the county or counties in which the same is to be collected, not later than the third Tuesday in September in each year. Thereupon the County Clerk shall extend said tax; provided the aggregate amount of taxes levied for any one year, exclusive of the amount levied for the payment of the principal and interest on bonded indebtedness of said district and taxes authorized by special referenda, shall not exceed the rate of .10 per cent as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue.

Any park district may levy and collect annually, a tax of not to exceed .12 per cent of the value, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue, of all taxable property in such district for the purpose of planning, establishing and maintaining recreation programs, such programs to include playgrounds, community and recreational centers, which tax shall be levied and collected in like manner as the general taxes for such district.

The proceeds of the tax authorized by this Section shall be paid to the treasurer of said district and kept in a fund to be known as the recreational program fund. Such fund shall be used for the planning, establishing and maintaining recreational programs carried on by such district.

No such tax in excess of .075 percent shall be levied in any such district until the question of levying such tax has first been submitted to the voters of such district of any general or special election held in such district and has been approved by a majority of such voters voting thereon. The board may submit such
proposition to the voters of the district regardless of whether or not a petition, signed by electors of the district, requesting the submission thereof has been filed with the board. Notice of such election shall be given and such election shall be conducted in the same manner as elections (other than the first election for officers) held by said district for election of members of its board.

The Board may issue bonds for capital improvements in an amount not to exceed 2.875% of the equalized assessed valuation of all taxable property within the district with the approval of the voters. With another referendum this may be increased to 5.75% which is the constitutional limitation. The Board may issue bonds without referendum in an aggregate amount not to exceed 0.575% of the equalized assessed valuation of all taxable property in the district. Revenue bonds may be issued without referendum for the purpose of constructing swimming pools, artificial ice rinks, golf courses, tennis courts, zoos, recreation facilities and harbors or marinas. The following table is indicative of the application of the law to bonding power of park districts.

Bonds may be issued for amounts indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessed Valuation</th>
<th>Under .575%</th>
<th>Under 2.875%</th>
<th>Under 5.75%</th>
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</thead>
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<td>$ 14,375</td>
<td>$ 71,875</td>
<td>$ 143,750</td>
</tr>
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<td>$ 5,000,000</td>
<td>$ 28,750</td>
<td>$ 143,750</td>
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<td>$ 43,125</td>
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<td>$ 115,000</td>
<td>$ 575,000</td>
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<td>$ 862,500</td>
<td>$ 1,725,000</td>
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<td>$ 230,000</td>
<td>$ 1,150,000</td>
<td>$ 2,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 50,000,000</td>
<td>$ 287,500</td>
<td>$ 1,437,500</td>
<td>$ 2,875,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(For all available park district tax rates see Appendix I on page 7.)

In summary, with a tax of approximately $35.00 a year on a residence carrying an assessed valuation of $20,000, the following elements of a community park and recreation service can be assured under the park district law:

- a managing authority specifically organized to perform the function on a permanent, year round, basis;
- a board of elected representatives, citizens to whom the provision of these services is a primary concern;
- the opportunity prevails for the employment of staff within the financial means of the board;
a dependable, continuous source of funds to establish, operate and maintain programs, services, and facilities — funds that by law must be fully audited and publicized annually;

the power to acquire and lease land, to provide facilities, indoors and out; empowered to accept gifts;

the power to initiate intelligent comprehensive planning procedures, and to cooperate with other public agencies in achieving overall community aspirations.

A recent survey shows the average park district characteristics in the following table:

Average Assessed Valuation ............................................ $96 Million
Average Population .............................................................. 25,000
Average Taxes Extended .................................................. $32,750
Average Acres ................................................................... 119.9
Average Acres Per Thousand Population ......................... 8.0

Police Departments:

Full Time ........................................................................... 28
Part Time........................................................................... 45
Cooperative Agreements (City, County, State or Other Law Enforcement Agency ....................................... 78

Total .... 151
Two Organization Charts to show how the attention of the City Council and the executive officer of the city must be dispersed over many vital functions (left), and that of the Board of Park Commissioners and its Superintendent can concentrate on the Parks, Recreation and Conservation functions.
PART III

Dimensions

There are many published standards and guidelines for the development of the community parks and recreation system. These are generally the results of nationally circulated questionnaires, later averaged, refined and edited. This summarizing procedure dilutes the standards as fixed premises yet does permit comparison. Nevertheless, only through realistic appraisals of local attitudes, aspirations, a measure of physical resources, and the financial potential can the dimensions of a proposed park and recreation system be projected.

Attitudes and Aspirations of the Community

Whether it be housing, education or recreation, the dimensions of the service - quantity and quality - and hence the cost, will largely depend upon the people of the community. The use of any of the various community surveys would be helpful, but not as determinative as a specific survey to sound out community desires and expectations of park and recreation services.

A physical boundary must be delineated. Within the boundaries, population growth, composition and characteristics should be understood. Affluence and educational attainment of component groups should be at least sketchily catalogued. Population, age, sex, and trends should be analyzed. Social factors such as religion, politics, groupings, assimilation, and integration are factors of importance to determine the service character. Add to this the character of land-use, zoning, transportation, and physical barriers.

In measuring and weighing these various data, the interpretation can be assisted by knowledge of city plans, aspirations of the school authorities and casual observations of how people build their houses, participate in religious activities, and seek out social or leisure satisfaction.

Certainly the ambitions of the business, commercial and industrial interests should also be considered. A new addition to an industrial complex, the development of high density residential area, a new highway, and all similar factors will have a bearing on the newly developing park and recreation services.

Measurement of Physical Resources

The principal ingredient for park and recreation development is open land. Potentially valuable land, forests, prairies, rivers and lakes should be carefully documented. The values for recreation or conservation should be catalogued: the time of need - if a future need - should be forecast. Costs today as well as future costs, and costs of improvement, should be appraised.
The second element under physical resources related to buildings, structures, and facilities. In almost any organized community there are physical resources purchased and developed with community funds that would conceivably be useful for recreation purposes.

Similarly there are private or semi-private physical facilities which may be used as public recreation resources. An abandoned church, and old residence, a theater, are physical resources that might be acquired through gift, lease, purchase, or tax-delinquency.

Commercial, or voluntary agencies' resources may exist that might remove the necessity for the public agency. A commercial ski-tow, a YMCA swimming pool, a church concert hall, are provisions that the public parks and recreation agencies might not have to supply.

Surveys

Ascertaining the attitudes and aspirations of the people of the community and the measurement of physical resources for parks and recreation should be pursued in a competent and systematic manner if the results are to be useful in comparing with a standard, or in dimensioning a new service.

The gathering of this data is referred to as “conducting a survey,” certainly in the large community the survey may become an involved and complicated task requiring assistance of professional surveyors and consultants. In the smaller towns the self-survey conducted by citizens voluntarily may suffice.

Projecting a Plan

The data produced in the survey may be measured against a set of standards, or the surveyors may advance recommendations without reference to such guidelines. After consensus is reached between the surveyors and the citizens’ committee a plan is projected, often referred to as a “Master Plan.”

Although traditionally the Master Plan has been a delineation of physical development, it is becoming more universally acknowledged that if the physical plan is to be implemented, management and operational factors must be included. In other words, the Master Plan should include an analysis of basic community data. It should involve an appraisal of resources, existing and potential, in comparison with standards. It should project adjustments or new provisions for management, capital and corporate expenditures, and the organization needed to administer the service.

For the purpose of this pamphlet, it is not assumed necessary to provide in the Master Plan, detailed physical plans of all of the various sites of the proposed park district. A preliminary design of one or two typical parks; of typical buildings; and a map
of suggested park sites might be indicated to give some basis for the projection of financial and management requirements.

PART IV

Legal Procedures

No new public or community service can be inaugurated, nor serve the community well over prolonged periods, without the active support of interested and articulate citizens. The public park and recreation services should be “in the form of an efficient governmental structure complemented with the sustained vigilance and participation of the citizens to keep the tools functioning properly.”

This implies that to create a park district a citizen’s organization should be formed. This organization should preferably be composed of individuals interested in promoting the community’s interests. These individuals should be willing to study and learn; to teach and educate; to endorse and recommend. This body is not intended to “rule by complaint.” Its principal purpose should be to foster, promulgate and develop support for the public park and recreation services.

As already indicated, its composition should involve the leaders of the community. It should be so structured as to fairly well include a cross-section of the community socially, culturally and geographically. Its size, organizations, incorporation and similar factors are all dependent upon the size and nature of the community. The body will need funds, preferably from contributions, that are properly accounted for periodically, in order to promote the creation of a park district.

In the early stages of organizing the park district, this committee should become highly conversant with the need for the services; the various means by which the services can be met, with the advantages and disadvantages of each; and after a decision is made by consensus, to be familiar with the dimensions and other details of the plan to be projected.

Creation of a Park District

Having determined the desirability of organizing a park district, the services of a competent lawyer with some municipal law experience will be required. This lawyer will draft the petition, define the boundaries of the proposed district, and prevent legal errors that invalidate an otherwise successful referendum.
As outlined in *The Park District Code*, the following legal steps must be observed in order to form a park district:

1. To qualify the territory must have a population of less than 500,000 legal voters and so lie as to form one connected area, no portion of which shall already be included in an incorporated park district.

2. A petition bearing the signatures of not less than 100 legal voters resident within the limits of the proposed district is filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County in which the greatest portion of the district lies requesting that the Circuit Judge call an election to submit the proposition of organizing a park district to the voters. This petition must (a) define the territory to be embraced in the district, (b) contain a plat survey of the legal boundaries of the proposed district, (c) set the name of the district, (d) include an affidavit attesting that notice of intent to petition for formation of a park district has been published, and (e) request the judge, in writing to set a date and time for a public hearing not less than 30 days nor more than 180 days after the date of filing the petition.

3. A petition for the creation of a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected rather than appointed must have attached to it an affidavit attesting that at least 108 days and no more than 138 days prior to such election notice of intention to file such petition was published within the proposed political subdivision, or if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the territory of the proposed political subdivision.

4. However, petitions for the submission of a public question to referendum which proposes the creation or formation of a political subdivision must be filed with the appropriate officer or board not less than 108 days prior to a regular election to be eligible for submission on the ballot at such election.

5. Upon the filing of the petition the Judge is required to set a date, time and place for a hearing upon the subject of the petition. The Clerk of the Court is then required to give a 20 day notice of the hearing on the petition by publication in one or more daily or weekly newspapers having a general circulation within the proposed district.

6. If the Circuit Judge finds that the petition as filed meets the requirements of *The Park District Code*, and that the boundaries as set forth in the petition are reasonable boundaries, the Judge is required to order the submission of the question and the election of five commissioners as the governing body of the park district at the next regularly scheduled election as required by the general Election Law, Chapter 46-28-2.
7. The form of ballot is specified in the Code and in addition to the names of nominees must contain five blank lines for write-in votes.

8. Each person desiring to run for commissioner must file his nominating petition bearing the signatures of at least 25 qualified voters, with the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

9. The return of the election is made to the Circuit Judge who conducts the canvass of the returns and enters an order determining and declaring the results. If the district lies in two or more counties, a copy of the order must be filed with the County Clerk of each county other than that in which the order was entered. The cost of the election on the Proposition to organize a park district is paid by the county or counties in which the district is located.\(^3\)

10. Within 30 days after the declaration by the court of the result of the election, the five commissioners elected are required to meet and determine by lot the term for which each shall hold office. Two shall serve for six years; two shall serve for four years; and one shall serve for two years, respectively, from the date of the next odd year an election would otherwise be held.

11. At this meeting of the commissioners, the Board also elects one member as President, and one member as Vice-President, who hold their office for a term of one year. The Board also shall then appoint a secretary and a treasurer, who need not be members of the board, and prescribe their duties and fix their compensation.

12. At the first meeting of the commissioners of a newly formed park district, or as soon as possible thereafter, the board should adopt (a) an ordinance prescribing the rules for the conduct of the business of the park district; (b) an ordinance setting forth the regulations and restrictions for the use of the Park system, and eventually (c) a traffic ordinance. Appropriations and Tax Levy Ordinances will also be needed.

\(^3\)People v. Sackett, 351 Ill. 363
PART V

Public Relations and Promotion

If the citizens’ committee has diligently learned its lessons and the proper legal procedures have been pursued to place a park district proposal on the ballot, implementation then depends upon good public relations and the promotional campaign.

Strategy

The newcomers on the citizens’ committee would be well advised to defer judgment on strategy to the older citizens who have had experience in previous referenda campaigns. The idealist is often shocked with the cynicism revealed as the issue begins to move, and only an understanding of practical politics in planning strategy will prove successful. Nothing can be left to chance, or assumed that because the cause is “good” it will succeed. Strategy will depend upon many local questions:

- when was the last referendum held and what was the outcome;
- what were the strengths or weaknesses of that campaign;
- could timing be improved;
- could interpretative materials be improved;
- where and what was the opposition, and/or the support.

The citizens’ committee in the survey process, and in the soliciting and filing petitions in accordance with legal procedures, will uncover many supporters.

Some opposition may be encountered, but often the most effective opposition is never discovered until it is too late to counter. It is an important part of strategy to learn or anticipate what kind of opposition could develop, and plan to effectively deal with it.

This phase of implementation calls for clarity, honesty, and frankness in selling, and packaging the issue in such a way that the taxpayer is attracted and wants to support it aggressively. He should not be merely saying “yet” but he should be motivated sufficiently to want to go out and work for passage. Further, planning should be so conceived that individuals can join the band-wagon, and feel they are sharing the accomplishment of civic good. It should be bi-partisan and every man’s program!

Tactics

Strategy will determine the tactics and in the larger cities this could mean a plan as comprehensive as any political campaign. In small cities and villages, funds may not
be available to do a sophisticated press-agent job. The small community’s task is simpler, fewer persons are involved, communication is often more personal and facile, so nothing is lost in not spending great sums.

In either the large or small community, after the general strategy has been determined, implementation becomes a routine promotional campaign. Plans call for the use of all communications media, each carefully coordinated to supplement each other in reaching desired groups with economy in cost and conserving time and energy of the volunteer.

Every voter should receive full information in terms he can understand and preferably through sources in which he has confidence. Not only should his doubts and reservations be answered, but he should be stimulated to actively support the measure. The information must appeal to his interest; otherwise, his mind will be closed. There must be sufficient repetition in the form of new or expanded information to prevent his forgetting and to sustain enthusiasm.

The campaign should be through all media: the press, radio, TV, lectures, displays and most important in the smaller communities by word of mouth via friends, church, union, service club, or even the children. As the campaign progresses to a climax, the attention-commanding gimmick, the press agentry, will often be the clinching reminder.

The last minute pressure should be a “harder” sell, but should retain dignity and preserve the integrity of purpose by presenting the truth and all essential facts.

Organization

Implementation requires that the citizens’ committee initiating the proposal expand its organization during the promotional campaign. This is done by drawing upon volunteers from civic organizations, service clubs, religious groups, PTA’s, League of Women Voters, Veteran’s organizations, leisure interest groups, and businessmen’s groups. The publicity media should be included.

From these representatives of community groups, some subcommittees may be needed to carry specific responsibilities or tasks for the campaign. The most active and progressive available person should be appointed chairman to direct the promotional program.

It helps to select a special community need around which to identify the need for a park district, such as a swimming pool, ice rink or youth program. It should be explained that the organization of a park district will not automatically supply a pool or a rink, or set up a youth program, but it does provide a taxing body with continuing power to make such goals possible.
The committee will prepare a simple brochure, mimeographed statement, or letter that should be sent to every home and citizen. The Illinois Association of Park Districts will, upon request, send committee chairmen copies of brochures used by other communities in organizing a park district, a copy of the latest edition of The Illinois Park District Code, and other materials.

A question and answer statement of information is usually very effective. The facts should be stated simply and concisely. Secure the written endorsement of as many groups as possible. Explain what the park district will cost the taxpayer annually in terms of a property owner with a house valued at $20,000 or $30,000. Give a brief statement of the contemplated services or program. Explain how and by whom the facilities of the district will be administered. Describe the area to be included and give the name of the proposed park district. State clearly the date, hours, and voting places for the election. Other helps include: inserts for grocery snacks the week before the referendum date; transportation to and from the polls; baby-sitting service on election day; also a telephone committee to remind those who have not voted at the half-way mark.

Do not depend entirely on printed literature, however well prepared it may be. Person-to-person contacts are very important, especially on a precinct basis. Some communities have followed the precinct plan of organization with a captain and assistants in each. Enlist the assistance of school children and young adults in the distribution of literature, preparation of posters, and other tasks.

Some Procedures and Organization Necessary for a Successful Referendum:

1. The proposition must be based on sound community planning supported by competent legal advice. Competent legal advice, from the beginning, will save costly mistakes and unnecessary delays.

2. Must be built around a definite community need.

3. The need must be understood and realized by every citizen.

4. The cooperation of community publicity media (radio, TV, newspapers), churches, civic, education, fraternal, veterans, and labor organizations must be enlisted.

5. Sufficient time must be allowed to educate the citizenry and “sell” the proposition.

6. Facts must be complete, correct, and easy to understand.

7. The Committee must know and tell the truth, and stick to the truth.
8. The integrity and past performance of the candidates for commissioners and members of the community committee must be such that voters have confidence in their recommendations.

9. A careful check-up in the early afternoon of election day should be made to make sure all voters have voted.

10. Free transportation and baby-sitting service is helpful.

11. Be prepared to answer and refute the arguments of groups and individuals who may attempt to distort or misinterpret the provisions of The Park District Code. A competent attorney will be of invaluable help in this area.

Some Reasons Why Referenda Fail:

1. Inadequate Planning.

2. Incompetent legal guidance.


4. Combination of park district referenda with city, village, or school elections or referenda.

5. Unresolved conflicts in community needs.

6. Involvements in controversial community issues.

7. Difficulty of overcoming a tax-conscious public.

8. The false assumption that the proposition will carry without any special effort on the part of the board or sponsors.

9. Lack of sincere enthusiasm particularly on behalf of the original proponents. They start the ball rolling and lose the determination to succeed.

Should Rural Areas Be Included:

In many campaigns this important question arises. One of the most pertinent answers to the question of why rural areas should be included is because rural residents, are, in fact, a definite part of the community life.
The farmer is as much of a businessman as the merchant or professional man on Main Street. He has as great a stake in community progress and planning as anyone living in the corporate limits of a city or town. Modern roads, methods of travel and communications no longer leave the farmer in an isolated world of his own. The farmer has a right to a voice in planning on a community level, because anything done in the community affects him and his family, just the same as those who live within the corporate city boundaries.

By the same token, the rural people are expected to use the facilities which may be provided by creation of a park district, in the same manner they use schools, churches, streets, roads, hospitals, etc. It would hardly seem fair that they should be excluded or segregated in any way from the park district area. They want the same opportunities for themselves and their posterity as the man on Main Street, the laborer in the factory, and rightfully so, it should be.

Some communities have experienced difficulty in including rural areas, even though the residents of the rural area will use the facilities of the park district if and when available. If rural area is to be included, person-to-person contacts will be advisable in the rural area. The rural community is often a community-in-transition which in a few years may become industrial-urban. The wisest public policy, the most economical over the long term, is establishment of a park district before urbanization takes place.
VOTE YES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, (YEAR)

AT

TROY GRADE SCHOOL

8 A.M. To 6 P.M.

A Protected Play Area For Our Children

A Place For Off Street Non-Commercial Activities
WHO IS SPONSORING THIS PARK DISTRICT?

The Rochelle Parks, Inc. This body was set up as a Not-for-Profit Organization three years ago. Its members are from the various Service Clubs of the Community. Its purpose is to help work out a Park Program for the Flagg/Rochelle area.

Practically all of the Service Clubs, Vete Organiza-
tions, Baseball Leagues, City Council, Industrial
Leaders and School Organizations recognize the
urgent need for such a Park District to serve our continually growing area.

Specimen Ballot

Yes

FOR PARK DISTRICT

No

AGAINST PARK DISTRICT

PERSONALLY KNOW

PARK COMMISSIONERS

Yes

JOHN CROSS

Yes

GERTRUDE BEXTON

Yes

MRS. JACQUELINE HEFFRON

Yes

EUGENE R. LEMMING

Yes

RALPH G. STRANG

When To Vote: AUGUST 20, (YEAR)
SATURDAY, 6:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
Central Grade School GYM
No. 6th and 5th Avenue -- ROCHELLE, ILLINOIS

Residents Of HILLCREST Vote At:
WAYSIDE FURNITURE MART
On Route 61, North

COME ON ALONG, NEIGHBOR:
Rochelle residents to ROCHELLE CENTRAL GRADE
SCHOOL -- Hillcrest Residents to WAYSIDE FURNIT-
URE MART -- to VOTE "YES" for an urgently needed
PARK DISTRICT for the FLAGG/ROCHELLE AREA!

HERE ARE THE QUESTIONS:

1. Why is a Park District needed?
2. Who Pays The Cost?
3. What is the Purpose of a Park District?
4. Why is a Park District needed now?
5. Can a Park District accept Contributions?
6. Do other surrounding Areas have a
   Park District?
7. Who Supervises a Park District?
8. WHAT ABOUT COST?

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

To insure adequate and continuous income for our parks
and Recreational Services for the Flagg/Rochelle area.
The cost of maintaining a Park and other Recreational
Facilities is spread so that everyone shares its upkeep
through the Park District.

To provide facilities and supervisory recreational ser-
dices for all the people in the Flagg/Rochelle area on a
year 'round basis.

To expand badly needed baseball fields, Parks, Swim-
ing Facilities, Picnic and Camping grounds; possibly
a future Golf Course for our ever-growing Area.

Yes, it would be able to accept Contributions of land and
money from public spirited citizens and industries in our
Flagg/Rochelle Area.

Yes. Our area is the only one on all sides that does not
have such a Park District to help people enjoy their leis-
ure time.

Five Commissioners elected by the voters of the Dist-
trict. These Commissioners are governed by the laws of
the State of Illinois.

THE COST IS VERY NOMINAL. The rate is but 10c per
$100.00 valuation; the full fair cash value, as equalized
or assessed by the Department of Revenue.

For the good of the Area this is very little to pay to help
make our area an even better place to live, work and play.

SEE SAMPLE BALLOT
ON THE BACK PAGE!
THE ISSUE

The primary objective of the proposed Bartlett Park District is to plan areas at this time for parks and recreational use before such lands become unavailable. This, along with the primary objective of neighboring communities, our good neighbors to the north, Greenwood and Darien Parks.

Should Bartlett area residents fail to vote YES for the Bartlett Park District, it is possible that neighboring communities might cause park districts which could take in Bartlett and surrounding areas.

The Bartlett area residents also are represented by the Village Board of Trustees. The most suitable arrangement would be for the Board to lease the park grounds to the Bartlett Park District for the purpose of maintenance, improvement, and recreational usage. In this manner, the park can be used as in the past.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

A park district serves to share and expand the task and responsibility with church, school and home to provide properly planned play areas with a balanced sense of values; insures adequate and continuous park and recreational facilities; supplies the means to expand our present recreational facilities to suit the needs of various groups such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other groups and individuals; makes a home in a community with adequate park and recreational facilities more valuable and more desirable to a home in a similar community without them; provides a balanced program to meet the future growth needs of the district, such as swimming, tennis, playground and picnic areas.

WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE

Bartlett Field House for Cook County residents; Apple Orchard Country Club for DuPage County residents. January 20th. Polling places will be open between 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M.

WHO CAN VOTE?

All residents within the boundaries of the proposed Bartlett Park District who are 21 years of age or over, have lived in the State of Illinois for 1 year, County of Cook or County of DuPage for 90 days and in the district for 30 days, are eligible to vote, if registered.

The formation of the Bartlett Park District has been endorsed by the Lions Club, Kiwanis, Bartlett Retirement Assn., the Bartlett Parent-Teacher Assoc., The Bartlett Volunteer Fire Department, the Bartlett Village Board of Trustees, and the Village President, Lee Richardson.
RECREATION FOR ALL

OUR PARK DISTRICT IS
a legal means of insuring ADEQUATE
and CONTINUOUS park and recreational
facilities.

OUR PARK DISTRICT CAN
Acquire fast disappearing land for
recreational activities
Enhance property values
Give our community permanent
park and recreational facilities
Offer all age groups supervised and
unsupervised opportunities year
around
Provide off the street areas for the
youth of our village
Serve Senior Citizens

OUR PARK DISTRICT WILL
be controlled by residents of the
district elected by the people
be supported by gifts, bequests
and a small property tax
be paid for by Industry, Business
and Residents
cost the homeowner $1.13 per
$100.00 equalized Assessed
Valuation as set by State Law

BELONG TO US

THE TIME IS NOW
Commissioners of newly organized Park Districts who spend their first few months in developing a personal park philosophy are those who are most successful in their tasks, and who are the happiest.

It is necessary to know the people and their needs, and the physical condition of the community. It is important to visit other Park Districts, preferably of similar size, and who operate under similar conditions.

New Commissioners should attend any and every meeting where others, or park administrators might be in attendance. They will find that people generally are willing to share their experiences.

Many new districts are voted into existence because of some specific need within the community. Perhaps a particular piece of land is threatened to be developed commercially that would serve better for park purposes. Or, a group has suddenly awakened to the desirability of setting aside recreational areas before all available vacant land is developed for private use. It may be that a community desires to develop a recreation program and that a setup under the Park District Code appears to be the best way to achieve this goal. In such cases, a new Board has definite tasks to perform as soon as it is legally possible.

Early after organizations, the new Board should think in terms of a long range program. They should prepare a blueprint for the future orderly development of their park system. This will serve as a guide for themselves as well as for future Boards. The preparation of a plan is often guided by professional firms but, it is the function of the Board to reflect the needs and the wishes of the people so the planner does not impose upon the community an “Ivory Tower” concept of community needs.

Increased costs of land and facilities dictate the need for careful and continued study of the availability of funds from sources other than local taxes. Federal and State programs involving grants and/or loans should be explored. Fees and charges for some types of facilities and services are now an accepted practice. Donations of land as well as money from individuals, industry and foundations might well supplement tax income and help Park Boards achieve goals not otherwise possible.

New park commissioners, in development of a philosophy, must know that their function is to establish policy. As their District becomes stronger financially and grows in size, they should employ a competent administrator whose responsibility it is to see that those policies are carried out.

The laws provide that a District must start its fiscal year without money, live on anticipated income for a full year, and end the fiscal year the same as they started -
without funds. A new District would be better off to avoid the issuance of tax anticipation warrants.

As a matter of public policy, keep the public informed of the action and the thinking of the new Board. An enlightened public is more inclined to be of help at referendum time than a public that is kept in the dark, and then suddenly is requested to give approval to bond issues.

The elected commissioner may delegate someone to notify the office of the Illinois Association of Park Districts of the result of the election and the names and addresses of the elected commissioners. The Association office will then place the names of the commissioners upon the mailing list to receive copies of pertinent materials and will discuss the many benefits available through Association membership.
APPENDIX
SUGGESTED LEGAL FORMS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF A PARK DISTRICT UNDER THE PARK DISTRICT CODE
A. SUGGESTED FORM FOR PETITION FOR ORGANIZATION OF A PARK DISTRICT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE ______________ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS, ______________ COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF A PARK DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS NO. __________
THE ______________ PARK DISTRICT

TO THE CIRCUIT JUDGE OF THE ______________ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF ILLINOIS, ______________ COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PETITION FOR ORGANIZATION OF THE ______________ PARK DISTRICT

We, the undersigned legal voters, resident within the limits of the territory hereinafter described and proposed to be incorporated as a park district under the Park District Code, respectfully represent as follows:

1. The undersigned are more than 100 of the legal voters resident within the limits of said proposed park district.

2. Said territory is contiguous territory and lies within the Counties of ______________________ and __________________, Illinois.

3. The greatest portion of the territory within the limits of said proposed district lies within ______________________ County, Illinois.

4. Said territory has a population of less than 500,000 inhabitants.

5. Said territory, although not coterminous, closely approximates the community served by ______________________ which has an assessed valuation of approximately ________ million dollars.

6. Said territory contains no territory contained in any other incorporated park district.

7. The territory proposed to be incorporated as a park district as aforesaid is described as follows:
The following described land situated in _____________________ County, Illinois:

8. The name under which the park district is proposed to be organized is THE _____________________________ PARK DISTRICT.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned do hereby request this Honorable Court to set a date, time and place for a public hearing on the subject of this petition not less than 30 days and not more than 180 days from the date of the filing hereof, that notice of such hearing be given, that at such hearing this Honorable Court order an election to submit to the legal voters of said proposed park district the question of the organization and the establishment of said proposed park district, and that this Court order the giving of notice of such election, all as provided by statute.

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(At least 100)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF _______________ SS.

I, _______________________________ __________________________

(I insert name of person circulating petition and making affidavit)
do hereby certify that I am 18 years of age and a U.S. Citizen, that I reside at _______________________________ in the (City) (Village) of _______________________________ in the State of Illinois, and that the signatures of this sheet were signed in my presence, and are genuine, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the persons so signing were registered voters for the proposed park district described herein, and that their respective residences are correctly stated as above set forth.

(This line for Signature of Person Circulating Petition and Making this Affidavit)
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this _____ day of ______________ A.D. 20__.  

__________________________________________  NOTARY PUBLIC  
(SEAL)  
My commission expires on: _____________________.  

SHEET NO. _______
B. SUGGESTED FORM FOR NOTICE OF PETITION TO FORM A NEW PARK DISTRICT

A petition for the creation of a political subdivision whose officers are to be
elected rather than appointed must have attached to it an affidavit attesting that at least
108 days and no more than 138 days prior to such election notice of intention to file
such petition was published within the proposed political subdivision, or if none, in a
newspaper of general circulation within the territory of the proposed political subdivision
in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF PETITION TO FORM A NEW ______________________

Residents of the territory described below are notified that a petition will or has
been filed in the Office of ________________________________________
requesting a referendum to establish a new ____________________________
to be called the ___________________________________________________.

The officers of the new ________________________________________ will be
elected on the same day as the referendum. Candidates for the governing board of the
new ________________________________________ may file nominating petitions
with the officer named above until _____________

The territory proposed to comprise the new _______________________ is
described as follows:

(description of territory included in petition)

(signature)______________________________________________________
Name and address of person or persons proposing the new political
subdivision.

*Failure to file such affidavit, or failure to publish the required notice with the
correct information contained therein shall render the petition, and any referendum held
pursuant to such petition, null and void.
C. SUGGESTED FORM FOR ORDER SETTING THE PUBLIC HEARING

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE ____________________ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS,
____________________ COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF A PARK DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS
NO._________________
THE ______________ PARK DISTRICT

BEFORE THE CIRCUIT JUDGE OF THE ______________ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF
ILLINOIS, ____________________ COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ORDER SETTING PETITION FOR PUBLIC HEARING

A Petition having been filed in the Office of the Clerk of the court of
___________________ County, Illinois, on the _______________ day of
________________________, 20__, petitioning the undersigned Circuit Judge of said
County to cause the question to be submitted to the legal voters of the proposed
__________________ Park District as to whether they will organize as a General Park
District under the provisions of The Park District Code (70 ILCS, 1205/2-1 through 2-
13), and requesting the setting of a hearing on the subject of the said Petition pursuant
to the provisions of Paragraph 2-3 of the said Park District Code, and the Court having
considered the contents thereof and upon consideration of the same,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a hearing upon the subject of the said Petition is
hereby set in the Circuit Court for the ___________________ Judicial Circuit of Illinois,
__________________ County, Illinois, on the ____ day of ________________, 20__,
at _____ o’clock _____M: and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of such hearing shall be given by the
Clerk of the Court in the manner as provided by Paragraph 2-3 of The Park District
Code.

ENTER:

_________ _______________________
Circuit Judge of the _______________
Judicial Circuit of Illinois,
____________________ County, Illinois

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D. SUGGESTED FORM FOR NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE __________________ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS,
___________________ COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF A PARK DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS NO. ___________
The __________________ PARK DISTRICT

Pursuant to Order of the Circuit Court entered in the above matter on __________, 20____, you are hereby notified that a public hearing on said petition will be held in the Circuit Court of __________ County, ______ Floor, County Building, _____________, Illinois on _____________, 20____ at ________________ o’clock ___M.

_____________________________________
Clerk of the Court

(70 ILCS 1205/2-3.)
E. SUGGESTED FORM FOR ORDER CALLING THE ELECTION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE _______________ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS,
__________________ COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF A PARK DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS ________
THE _____________________ PARK DISTRICT

ORDER CALLING ELECTION

THIS CAUSE coming on to be heard on the PETITION FOR ORGANIZATION
OF THE _______________ PARK DISTRICT petitioning to cause the question to be
submitted to the legal voters of the proposed _______________ Park District whether
they will organize as a General Park District of the Park District Code and the
Petitioners being represented in court by their counsel _______________________ and
the court having made careful examination and inspection of the Petition and the
Notices on file and having made careful examination and inspection of the Petition and
the Notices on file and having heard the testimony and arguments thereon, and upon
due consideration of the same found:

1. That the Petition and Notices are in proper law and jurisdiction is thereby
conferred upon the undersigned Circuit Judge of _______________ County to call an
election as requested in said Petition.

2. That the Petition is signed by not less than 100 legal voters resident within
the limits of such proposed park district; the territory of the proposed park district
contains no territory contained in any other incorporated park district; the territory forms
one connected area and all lies within ______________ County, Illinois; the territory
has a population of less than 500,000 inhabitants; the Petition clearly defines the
territory intended to be embraced in such district and the boundaries as defined are
reasonable for the formation of a park district; the Petition sets forth the name of such
proposed district; and the Petition includes the required affidavit attesting that notice of
intent to petition for formation of a park district has been published in the
______________, a newspaper published in the county wherein the territory is
located as required by the general election law.

3. That the hearing on the Petition took place on ____________, a date not
less than 30 days and not more than 180 days after the date of filing of such petition on
_______________ and that notice of the time and place of such hearing was given
by the Clerk of the Circuit Court at least 20 days prior to the date fixed for such hearing
by weekly publications thereof starting _________________ and ending
_______________ in the _________________, a weekly newspaper having
a general circulation within the proposed park district territory.
4. That the Petition should be granted and an election called in the territory described in Exhibit A attached to the Petition.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED

A. That the election be held in the territory of said proposed ________________ Park District on __________________, the date of the next regular election, and that each legal voter residing within the limits of the proposed “______________” have the right to cast a ballot in such election.

B. That the ballot to be used at such election be in substantially the following form:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Proposition for Organization and Establishment of _________ Park District to be known as “______________ Park District”.

/___/ For Park District

/___/ Against Park District

For Park Commissioners

(Vote for five)

Names

/___/ __________________
/___/ __________________
/___/ __________________
/___/ __________________
/___/ __________________
/___/ __________________
C. The Clerk of the Circuit Court is to certify the proposition and offices to the proper election authority which shall conduct such election at the time and in the manner provided by the general election law.

D. That the ballots so cast be received, returned and canvassed as is provided by law.

E. That the Judges of said election return the ballots and original poll books with a certificate showing the result of the election to this Court, which shall canvas the returns and enter a judgment of record determining and declaring the results of the election.

F. That the certification of such election be given by the Clerk of the Court in the manner provided by Section 2-4 of the Park District Code.

DATED this ____ day of ___________________________, 20__.

__________________________
Circuit Court Judge
F. SUGGESTED FORM FOR STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

--ATTACH TO PETITION--

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

NONPARTISAN

NAME  ADDRESS-ZIP CODE  OFFICE  CITY OR DISTRICT

STATE OF ILLINOIS, )
) SS.
County of _____________)

I, ___________________, being first duly sworn (or affirmed), say that I reside at _____________________________ Street, in the City or Village of ___________________________. (Zip Code) in the county of _________________, State of Illinois; that I am 18 years or age and a U.S. citizen, that I am a candidate for election to the office of park commissioner in the _________________ Park District to be voted upon at the election to be held on the _____day of _____________ A.D. 20__; and that I am legally qualified to hold such office and that I have filed (or I will file before the close of petition filing period) a Statement of Economic Interests as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act and I hereby request that my name be printed upon the official ballot for election for such office.

______________________________
(Signature of Candidate)

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me by ____________, who is to me personally known, this ______day of _____________, A.D. 20__.  

(SEAL)

______________________________
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires:_________________.

35
G. SUGGESTED FORM FOR NOMINATION PETITION FOR PARK COMMISSIONER

PETITION FOR NOMINATION OF PARK COMMISSIONER

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

FOR THE ________________________ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS,
______________________________ COUNTY, ILLINOIS

To the Circuit Judge of the Circuit Court of the _________________ Judicial Circuit of Illinois, _________________ County, Illinois

We, the undersigned registered and qualified voters residing within the limits of the territory proposed to be incorporated as a park district under the provisions of The Park District, do hereby petition that the following named person shall be a Nonpartisan Candidate for election to the office hereinafter specified, in the political division aforesaid, to be voted for at the _________________ Election to be held in connection with the initial organization of aforesaid park district on the _____ day of ____________________, A.D., 20__.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS  )  SS.
County of ____________  )

I, _______________________________________________________
(Insert name of person circulating petition and making affidavit) do hereby
certify that I am 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen, that I reside at ________________
Street, in the (City) (Village) of _____________ Zip Code ________, County of
_________________________________ in the State of Illinois, and that the signatures on this sheet
were signed in my presence, and are genuine, and that to the best of my knowledge
and belief the persons so signing were registered voters of the political division in which
the candidate is seeking election, and that their respective residences are correctly
stated  as above set forth.

________________________________________
(This line for Signature of Person Circulating
Petition and Making this Affidavit)

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this ____________day of
_______________________, A.D., 20___.

________________________________________
(SEAL)

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires on: _____________________________

SHEET NO. _________________

(70 ILCS, 1205/2-9)
H. SUGGESTED FORM FOR ORDER AS TO ORGANIZATION OF A PARK DISTRICT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE __________________ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS,
________________________ COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF A PARK DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS NO.___________________
THE _________________ PARK DISTRICT

ORDER AS TO ORGANIZATION OF
THE _________________ PARK DISTRICT

On this ________day of ________________ , 20___, the Judges at the
election held on ________________, 20____, for the purpose of determining whether or
not the legal voters resident within the territory therein described would organize as a
General Park District, under the Park District Code, to be known as the
______________ Park District, and to elect five commissioners to serve for said
election was duly given by ______________________Clerk of the Court of the
______________ Judicial Circuit, ____________ County, Illinois.

The undersigned thereupon has canvassed said returns and makes the following
statement of the result of such election, namely:

Number of votes cast in such election
Number of votes “for Park District”
Number of votes “against Park District”
Number of votes “for Park Commissioners”

“Commissioners”
“Commissioners”
“Commissioners”
“Commissioners”
“Commissioners”

And it now appearing to the undersigned that the majority of votes cast in said
proposed district is in favor of the formation and organization of said proposed district.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that said proposed ________________ Park
District, the territory of which is as follows:

The following described land, situated in ____________ County, Illinois:

AND ALSO:
shall be deemed organized and incorporated under the provisions of the Park District Code.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that ________________________________,
_____________________________, and ____________________________ were the
five persons who received the highest number of votes for commissioner at such
election, and each of whom the undersigned finds to be a legal voter of and residing
within said district be and the same are hereby declared the commissioners of said
District.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the foregoing statement of the result of said
election be entered on the records of the Circuit Court of said _________________
County, Illinois.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if no proceeding to contest said election is filed
within 60 days from this date, all ballots used in said election shall be destroyed by the
Circuit Court pursuant to the provisions of the Election Code.

_______________________________
Circuit Judge

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF _________________ SS.

I, _______________________________ Circuit Judge within and for the County
and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that on this date the Affidavit of Voters and Tally
Sheets for the election held on _________________, 20____ were opened and the returns of the election
canvassed by me, and I further certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement
of the results of said election and a correct abstract of the votes passed for and against
the organization of said _________________ Park District and for Park
Commissioners at such election, as is shown by the returns made to me by the Judges
of said elections.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand in the County on the
_____ day of _________________, 20____.

_______________________________
Circuit Judge _________________________
___________________County, Illinois

(70 ILCS 1205/2-6)
I. FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR PARK DISTRICTS
(OF LESS THAN 500,000 INHABITANTS)

Airport
70 ILCS 1205/9-2b

.075% (7-1/2¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). AUTHORIZED BY
REFERENDUM ONLY.

**Aquarium and Museum
70 ILCS 1290/2

.03% (3¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). Limited to museum purposes only.
May be increased from .03% to .07% (7¢ per assessed valuation) by backdoor
referendum in Park Districts with a population less than 500,000;

*Corporate
70 ILCS 1205/5-1

.10% (10¢ per $100 of assessed valuation) or the rate limit in effect on 7-1-67,
whichever is greater. Rates do not include tax for bonded indebtedness and
taxes authorized by special referenda.

Corporate (Additional)
70 ILCS 1205/5-3

.25% (25¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). AUTHORIZED BY
REFERENDUM ONLY.

Conservatory
70 ILCS 105/5-7

.05% (5¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). AUTHORIZED BY REFERENDUM
ONLY.

**Handicapped - Joint Recreation Programs
70 ILCS 1205/5-8

.04% (4¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). District must participate in joint
recreation program with another taxing district. May not be levied in area where
levied by municipality.

Health, Safety, Handicapped Access and Energy
70 ILCS 1205/5-10
.10% (10¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). To pay for alterations and repairs required by lawful order of any agency, other than a park district board, when sufficient funds are not available. **AUTHORIZED BY REFERENDUM ONLY.**

Paving and Lighting, Streets and Roadways  
70 ILCS 1205/5-6

.005% (.5¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). **SUBJECT TO BACKDOOR REFERENDUM ONLY.**

Playground and Recreation Commission  
70 ILCS 1205/5-2a, 1205/5-2b

.09% (9¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). Park District assumes rate being levied by city, village or incorporated town upon a 2/3 of the park board and the governing board of the city, village or incorporated town to merge the Playground and Recreation Commission with the Park District.

Police System  
70 ILCS 1205/5-9

.025% (2-1/2¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). Subject to backdoor referendum. May not be levied by any district not participating under the Police Training Act.

Public Benefit  
70 ILCS 1205/7-5

.025% (2-1/2¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). To pay public benefit installments assessed against the park district. (For Special Assessment Projects only.) **AUTHORIZED BY REFERENDUM ONLY.**

*Recreational Programs  
70 ILCS 1205/5-2

.075% (7-1/2¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). May be increased to .12% (12¢ per $100 of assessed valuation) **BY REFERENDUM ONLY.**
Recreational Programs (Additional)
70 ILCS 1205/5-3a

.25% (25¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). **AUTHORIZED BY REFERENDUM ONLY.**

Working Cash Fund
70 ILCS 1205/11.2-2

.025% (2-1/2¢ per $100 of assessed valuation). May be levied for a maximum of four years. Park Districts that levied this tax in previous years are also limited to a total of four years including back years. **SUBJECT TO BACKDOOR REFERENDUM.**

BONDS AND INTEREST

Airport
70 ILCS 1205/9-2c, 1205/6-6

No rate limit. But rate for bonds is set off against rate allowed for Airport Fund unless improvements are required to conform to federal or state standards. If tax exceeds Airport Fund rate, then only rate for bonds will be extended. **AUTHORIZED BY REFERENDUM ONLY.**

Corporate
70 ILCS 1205/6-2, 1205/6-3, 1205/6-4, 12-5/6-6

No rate limit. General obligation non-referendum debt is limited to .575%. Referendum required to exceed .575% of equalized assessed valuation.

Highways
70 ILCS 1310/7, 1310/9

No rate limit. **REFERENDUM REQUIRED** not to exceed $20 million or 5% of assessed valuation, whichever is less.
Playground and Athletic Field (Living War Memorial)  
70 ILCS 1275/2, 1275/3, 1275/10

No rate limit. Bonds issued to match grant or donation. If amount of bond issue exceeds $5,000 or .066% of taxable property. AUTHORIZED BY REFERENDUM ONLY.

Refunding  
70 ILCS 1205/6-1, 1270/1, 1270/2

No rate limit. To repay existing indebtedness.

* Tax rates permitted without referendum

**Tax rates permitted without referendum, but requiring specific facilities, activities, responsibilities, or intergovernmental agreements.
J. FOR GUIDANCE IN GETTING STARTED, THE FORM BELOW SHOULD BE FILLED OUT AND SENT TO THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS, 211 EAST MONROE STREET, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701.

Date ______________________________

TO: Illinois Association of Park Districts

Gentlemen: Be advised of the organization of the _______________________
________________________________________ Park District, City _________________
(Corporate Name) County(ies)________________________ Address (Mailing address of District)
________________________________________ Telephone Number ______________________
Date of Organization __________________________________

The following is a list of the elected Commissioners of our Park District:
President ________________________________________________________
Vice President ____________________________________________________
Other Commissioners ______________________________________________

The following is a list of officers appointed by the Board of Commissioners to serve this new District.

Superintendent or Director of Parks and Recreation  ________________________________
Secretary ________________________________
Treasurer ________________________________
Information Furnished By ________________________________
Official Title ________________________________

General Information:
Assessed Valuation ________________________________
Population ________________________________
Acres Owned ________________________________
Park Sites ________________________________
Buildings Owned ________________________________