

Wilmette Park District Seeks Visionary Executive Director to Lead a Thriving Community-Focused Organization

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2025

Wilmette, IL - The Wilmette Park District Board of Park Commissioners is conducting a national search for an experienced, forward-thinking, and community-focused leader to serve as its next Executive Director. This is a rare and exciting opportunity to lead an acclaimed park district committed to operational excellence, innovative programming, and community wellbeing.

Wilmette Park District enriches the lives of nearly 28,000 residents through over 4,000 annual programs and events, 28 outdoor spaces, including an expansive lakefront park with three swimming beaches, and 279,325 square feet of vibrant facility space.

The Executive Director will report to a seven-member elected Board of Park Commissioners and lead a dedicated team of 79 full-time and over 900 part-time employees. The successful candidate will be a transformational leader who embraces collaboration, fosters innovation, and values input from staff, board members, and community stakeholders. A strong communicator and listener, the new Director will unify the team around a shared purpose while strengthening trust within the community.

Key Opportunities and Challenges Include:

- **Providing strategic leadership in executing the District's Comprehensive and Strategic Plans**
- **Inspiring others through the mission, vision, and guiding principles of the District**
- **Building trust and meaningful relationships with residents and community partners**
- **Championing sustainability through responsible practices and enhanced green spaces**
- **Developing a comprehensive plan for the newly acquired 5.5 acre facility and park space.**

**WILMETTE
PARK DISTRICT**

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PRESS RELEASE

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Ideal candidates will have a proven track record of successful leadership in a complex organization, comprehensive knowledge of parks and recreation operations, financial planning expertise, and strong interpersonal skills. Experience with sustainability initiatives, strategic planning, and public communication is essential.

About Wilmette Park District

Established in 1908, the Wilmette Park District is an independent municipal body with a deep history of service and stewardship. From tree-lined streets to lakefront amenities, including Gillson Park, the District continues to evolve as a community hub for recreation, wellness, and natural beauty. Major facilities include the Wilmette Golf Club, Centennial and Community Recreation Centers, and the Lakeview Center.

Mission

We enrich the quality of community life by promoting wellbeing, providing exceptional parks and facilities, and offering creative programming for people of all ages and abilities.

Vision

To be leaders in achieving parks and recreation operational excellence.

Commitment to Inclusion

The Wilmette Park District stands against racism, hate, discrimination, prejudice, and intolerance. We are committed to providing a safe, equitable, and inclusive environment where all are welcome and treated with dignity and respect. We believe that providing this opportunity for all is core to our mission.

Application Process

Visit wilpark.org/Executive-Director-Search to see the full Job Description. Interested candidates should apply online at www.GovHRjobs.com with a resume, cover letter, and contact information for five professional references by Friday, April 25, 2025.

For questions about the recruitment process, please contact:

- Joe DeLuce, Senior Consultant – jdeluce@mgt.us
- Chuck Balling, Senior Consultant – cballing@mgt.us

The Wilmette Park District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and strongly encourages applicants from all backgrounds and experiences to apply.