

VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST



RECREATION, PARKS & COMMUNITY HEALTH

*Meet the Team*

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*Creating the perfect balance is key.*

*Celebrating*

## RECREATION & PARKS MONTH

Celebrating Recreation and Parks Month: Enriching Lives and Building Community in Park Forest  
July Shines a Spotlight on the Power of Parks and the Vital Role of Recreation in Our Daily Lives

July is officially recognized as Recreation and Parks Month—a time to celebrate the essential services that local parks and recreation departments provide in communities across the country. In Park Forest, this month serves as a reminder of how recreation and green spaces enhance our quality of life, promote wellness, and strengthen our sense of community.

From vibrant parks and scenic trails to youth programs, fitness classes, senior services, and cultural events, the Village of Park Forest's Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department plays a key role in creating a healthier, happier, and more connected community.

"Recreation is not just about play—it's about wellness, belonging, and building a better future," said Kevin Adams, Director of Recreation, Parks & Community Health. "Whether you're taking a morning walk through Central Park, participating in a fitness class at our community center, or enjoying a concert in the park, these experiences contribute to physical and mental well-being."

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Across Park Forest, residents of all ages benefit from the recreational opportunities available. Programs for children encourage creativity and physical activity, while services for older adults provide social connection and lifelong learning. Public parks and green spaces give everyone the chance to unwind, connect with nature, and engage in active living.

This year, the Village is marking Recreation and Parks Month with a variety of special programs, challenges, and community events that invite residents to get outside and get involved. Throughout July, the community is encouraged to visit a new park, participate in a class, or simply enjoy the outdoors.



### Why Parks and Recreation Matter:

- Promote physical and mental wellness
- Provide safe and inclusive spaces for play and community gatherings
- Support environmental sustainability and green infrastructure
- Encourage economic development and community pride

As we celebrate Recreation and Parks Month, residents are invited to reflect on the value these spaces and programs bring to our daily lives—and to show their support by participating, volunteering, or simply enjoying all that Park Forest has to offer.

To learn more about local programs or view upcoming events, visit [www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com)

# Meet OFFICE TEAM



Kevin Adams, Director



Adina McCollough  
Recreation Manager  
Community Health Coordinator



Kellen Thornton  
Recreation Supervisor  
Athletics



Celestra Warren  
Recreation Supervisor  
Programs



Teresa Brown  
Administrative Assistant II  
Events Coordinator

## The Heart Behind the Scenes: Our Office Staff

Behind every program, event, and park improvement is a dedicated team of office staff who keep everything running smoothly. From answering community questions and processing registrations to coordinating logistics and supporting staff across departments, they are the vital link between our services and the residents we serve. Their organization, professionalism, and friendly support make the magic of Recreation & Parks possible—every single day.



Margarita Guzman  
Administrative Assistant I  
Social Media



Mary Boone  
Office Technician



*Bringing the Soundtrack  
of the Summer every  
Wednesday at  
Main Street Nights*

# FREEDOM HALL



Victor Blackful  
Cultural Arts Manager  
Programs/Events



Shelley Strasser  
Cultural Arts Specialist  
Programs/Events

## Freedom Hall: Where Culture Comes to Life in Park Forest

Freedom Hall is the heartbeat of arts and entertainment in Park Forest—a place where music, theater, and culture come together to inspire and connect our community. From world-class performances and local showcases to educational programs and community events, Freedom Hall offers unforgettable experiences for audiences of all ages. Whether you're enjoying a jazz concert, a dramatic stage production, or a youth performance, Freedom Hall invites you to celebrate creativity and community in an intimate, welcoming setting. It's not just a venue—it's where Park Forest gathers to be moved, inspired, and entertained.



**SOUNDTRACK OF THE SUMMER**  
Main Street Nights 2025  
DOWNTOWN PARK FOREST, IL

**9 FREE Weekly Concerts**  
WEDNESDAYS / JUNE 11 - AUGUST 6  
6:30PM OPENING ACT | 7:30PM MAIN STAGE  
VILLAGE GREEN (CUNNINGHAM & MAIN STREET)  
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD TRUCKS,  
VENDORS, KIDDY RIDES, & FAMILY FUN!

**Park Forest**  
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# Our PARKS CREW



Todd Cann  
Parks Crew Chief  
Village Forester



Kevin Rogge  
Parks Foreman



Dan Dessecker  
Building  
Maintenance  
Coordinator



Craig Yohn  
Building  
Maintenance  
Specialist



Leonard Porter  
Parks Maintenance



David Brown  
Parks Maintenance



Jose Vasquez  
Parks Maintenance



Robert A. Boehl  
Parks Maintenance



Raul Trevino  
Village Maintenance



## **Behind the Green: Honoring the Park Forest Parks Crew for Their Year-Round Commitment to the Community**

### **The Unsung Heroes Who Keep Our Parks Beautiful, Safe, and Ready for Play**

When residents of Park Forest stroll through a clean park, attend a community event on a manicured lawn, or enjoy a shady trail on a hot day, they're experiencing the work of a dedicated team that often operates quietly behind the scenes: the Park Forest Parks Crew.

These hardworking individuals are the backbone of the Village's Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department—responsible for maintaining more than 400 acres of parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, community gardens, and green spaces that define the character of Park Forest.

From the early morning hours through sweltering summer afternoons and snowy winter days, the Parks Crew is out in the field mowing grass, planting trees, clearing walking paths, repairing playground equipment, preparing facilities for events, and ensuring that each park remains safe, welcoming, and well-maintained for residents and visitors alike. “Their work is what allows everything else to happen,” said Kevin Adams, Director of Recreation, Parks & Community Health. “Every family picnic, soccer game, community concert, or peaceful walk through the park is made possible because our Parks Crew prepares and protects those spaces. They are the foundation of public recreation in Park Forest.” The crew's responsibilities go far beyond lawn care. They assist with special event setup and cleanup, manage seasonal landscaping, respond to storm damage, and support sustainability initiatives like native plantings and pollinator habitats. Their work ensures that parks are not only functional—but also beautiful and resilient.

#### **Throughout the year, the Parks Crew plays a crucial role in:**

- Maintaining and upgrading more than 21 playgrounds and athletic fields
- Managing tree care and removal in storm-impacted areas
- Supporting beautification initiatives, community gardens, and green infrastructure
- Assisting with snow removal on park walkways and parking lots
- Installing benches, signs, and safety barriers
- Enhancing outdoor spaces with seasonal flowers and mulch

Their work requires skill, physical endurance, and a deep sense of community pride. Each member of the crew brings experience, attention to detail, and a love for the outdoors to every task—no matter how big or small.

As we celebrate Recreation and Parks Month, it's the perfect time to recognize the Parks Crew for their year-round efforts and often-unseen impact. The next time you visit a Park Forest park, take a moment to appreciate the care, craftsmanship, and commitment behind every blade of grass, every safe structure, and every inviting path.

**Thank you to the Park Forest Parks Crew for your dedication to making our community a greener, cleaner, and more enjoyable place for all!**

Meet

# TENNIS & HEALTH CLUB



Chris Tudor

Tennis & Health Club Facility Manager



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## Did you know?

More Than a Gym—It's a Community at the Park Forest Tennis & Health Club

The Park Forest Tennis & Health Club is more than just a place to work out—it's a hub for healthy living, active lifestyles, and meaningful connections. Whether you're serving aces on the court, building strength in the fitness center, or joining a group class, the club offers something for every age and fitness level. With affordable membership options, expert staff, and a welcoming atmosphere, the Tennis & Health Club empowers residents to stay active, reduce stress, and build friendships. It's where wellness meets community—right here in Park Forest.



# SUMMER CAMP



Mike Carr  
Camp Director

## Meet Mike – Summer Camp Director Extraordinaire!

Hi Everyone, I'm Mike! This is my third year working with the Park Forest Summer Camp, and I'm excited to be back for another amazing season. I bring several years of experience in youth programming and camp leadership, including serving as the Nature Camp Director at Iron Oaks, Camp Director at Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, and earning Staff of the Year twice at the South Suburban Special Recreation Association. I'm passionate about creating fun, inclusive, and memorable experiences for every camper. Looking forward to another great summer in Park Forest!

## Why Summer Camp Matters in Park Forest

Summer camp isn't just a place for kids to stay busy—it's a place where friendships grow, confidence is built, and lifelong memories are made. In Park Forest, our summer camps provide a safe, supportive, and enriching environment where children can explore new interests, develop social skills, stay active, and simply have fun. From creative arts to outdoor adventures and team games, camp helps bridge the gap between school years while supporting working families and strengthening our sense of community. It's more than just summer—it's a season of growth, joy, and belonging.





**BREAKING**

**NEWS**

**BREAKING NEWS!**  
After a close race, Reecy has been elected as Park Forest Recreation, Parks & Community Health's first-ever official mascot!  
You saw it here first — this is the first live photo of Reecy!

# THANK YOU, PARK FOREST: CELEBRATING RECREATION AND PARKS MONTH TOGETHER

**A MONTH OF COMMUNITY, CONNECTION, AND CELEBRATION COMES TO A CLOSE  
BUT THE IMPACT LASTS ALL YEAR**



As Recreation and Parks Month comes to a close, the Village of Park Forest extends a heartfelt thank you to the residents, families, volunteers, and staff who helped make this month a true celebration of community spirit, wellness, and togetherness.



Throughout July, our parks, programs, and public spaces came alive with energy—from nature walks and youth camps to fitness classes, facility tours, and community events. The support and enthusiasm from residents of all ages reminded us of the vital role that recreation and parks play in enriching daily life here in Park Forest.



Whether you attended a summer concert at Freedom Hall, enrolled your child in summer camp, worked out at the Tennis & Health Club, or simply took time to enjoy a walk through your neighborhood park—you were part of something bigger. You helped us highlight the importance of play, connection, and access to healthy, vibrant public spaces.



Recreation and Parks Month is about more than just activities—it's about celebrating what brings people together," said Adina McCollough, Recreation Manager of Recreation, Parks & Community Health. "We're grateful to everyone who took time to engage, explore, and share in the joy of community life."

A special thanks goes out to the Parks Crew, office staff, program leaders, and volunteers whose hard work behind the scenes made every moment possible.

As we look ahead, the Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department remains committed to providing quality programs, maintaining beautiful parks, and creating spaces where everyone belongs.

From all of us at the Village of Park Forest—thank you for celebrating with us. We can't wait to see you at our next event, class, or in the park!

To stay connected and see what's coming next, visit [www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com) or follow us on social media.



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# July

## Recreation & Parks

### Month

**Village of Park Forest**  
350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL

[www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com)

RECREATION & PARKS  
*Month*

*Let's get in touch*

350 Victory Drive  
708-748-2005  
[www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com)  
[recinfo@vopf.com](mailto:recinfo@vopf.com)

-   
Trustee John V. Moore
-   
Trustee Erin I. Slone
-   
Trustee Tiffani Graham
-   
Mayor Joseph A. Woods
-   
Trustee Theresa M. Settles
-   
Trustee Maya Hardy
-   
Trustee Randall White

