

Dear Park District Commissioners,

I am writing to publicly announce my resignation from the position of Executive Director at the Wilmette Park District, effective January 31, 2025. This decision comes after extensive discussions and planning with the Board of Park Commissioners and careful consideration with my family.

My tenure at the Wilmette Park District over the past 17 years has been an immensely fulfilling journey. I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of our community through our various recreation programs and initiatives that make our community more livable and residents more connected with one another. During my time as Superintendent of Finance and Personnel, I played a key role in integrating the Marketing and Information Technology departments into our operations, enhancing our ability to meet the needs of our residents. I am proud to highlight that our Park District has earned the Certificate in Financial Reporting from the Illinois Government Financial Officers Association, which we have received annually since the first year I worked in Wilmette.

Throughout my leadership as Executive Director, we have achieved remarkable milestones, including significant improvements to our green spaces and park facilities, such as the renovation of the Wilmette Golf Course, the beach house at Gillson Park, the construction and expansion of the Platform Tennis facility and the ongoing lakefront infrastructure projects. Each project reflects our commitment to quality service and community investment while maintaining financial practices resulting in an AAA credit rating.

This year marks a critical turning point for the District. A significant property acquisition will enable us to serve our community even better in the future. Additionally, the development of our first Comprehensive and Strategic Plans serves as a foundational guide for the Park District's work in the years ahead as these plans were created by engaging and listening to our residents. The Park District is in an excellent position to continue its extraordinary service to Wilmette.

As I transition from this role, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the outstanding staff members I have enjoyed working with. Their dedication and professionalism have made my tenure rewarding, and together we have fostered a strong sense of community. It is for this reason I am fully committed to a smooth transition and have been assisting the board in this planning.

I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to my family, in particular my wife, Cheryl, for the unwavering support they have given me, and to the residents of Wilmette for warmly embracing our family when we moved to town 14 years ago. Being part of a community that continuously strives for excellence has been a privilege.

I look forward to witnessing the Wilmette Park District's continued success and its positive impact on our community in the years to come.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this transition.

Sincerely,

Steve Wilson

Executive Director