



Understanding Your Tax Bill

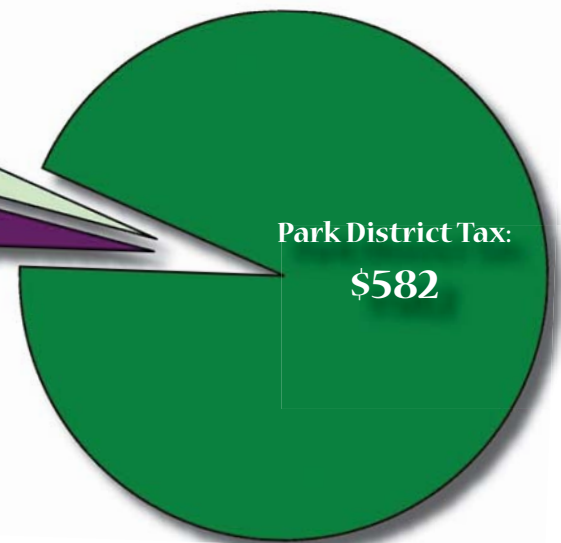
Park District tax amount based on a \$320,000 home: \$582.00*

Improvements to meet
ADA requirements
(Playgrounds, trails,
pools, and more!)

= \$14.86

Equal recreation
opportunities and
inclusion services in
your community
through NWSRA for
individuals with disabilities

= \$20.52



For the price of one large pizza, you help to create outstanding recreational opportunities for children and adults with disabilities in your community!

*Based on one taxpayer's property tax bill in the northwest suburbs. Amounts may vary by Park District.

FOR THE PRICE OF A PIZZA



NWSRA provides outstanding opportunities for children and adults with disabilities



NWSRA partners with your local Park District to provide quality recreational programs and services to individuals with disabilities in your community. NWSRA is dedicated to the responsible stewardship of your tax dollars and continually strives to provide the highest quality programs and services for children and adults with disabilities.

SERVING COMMUNITIES



History

In 1974, Park Districts recognized the needs of individuals with disabilities who deserve access to recreational facilities, programs and resources. Legislation under Section 5-8 of Park District Code created a special recreation tax levy for cooperatives providing special recreation, which allowed funding to be accessed through a joint agreement with a SRA.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

In 1990, the ADA, an unfunded federal mandate, was passed to ensure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Park Districts in Illinois believe that individuals with disabilities should have the ability to choose where and how they recreate, in a SRA program or in an inclusive environment with their peers, neighbors, family and friends. The SRA model is unique to the state of Illinois, and has been nationally accredited for providing access to individuals with disabilities.

Sharing Expenses

In 2003, Senate Bill 1881 allowed locally elected officials to determine an appropriate funding level to ensure adequate funding available. Because your Park District is a part of a SRA, it has the ability to make ADA improvements through an approved Handicapped Accessible levy fund. Special recreation associations have proven to be a very cost-effective way of serving people with disabilities. By sharing the expense of staffing and provision of recreational programs and inclusive services so that children and adults may recreate with their peers, neighbors and friends with other park and recreation agencies, your Park District uses funds more economically.



Costs without NWSRA

LOWERING COSTS



INCREASED ACCESS TO FACILITIES

The Illinois Park District Code requires that section 5-8 levy funds be used for the “program” of NWSRA. The 5-8 levy can, appropriately, be used for capital improvements at partner park district existing facilities and sites. The capital improvement projects are reviewed by NWSRA staff and Board to determine if the project meets the statutory requirements. NWSRA provides the Park District with superior training regarding the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the most recent Standards for Accessible Design.

INCREASED ACCESS THROUGH NWSRA PROGRAMS

NWSRA provides over 2,000 recreational programs, special events, trips, day camps and activities each year, with transportation options available to ensure access to recreation. In addition to programs, NWSRA offers specialized technical training and assistance to your Park District’s staff to ensure safety and best practices, minimizing risk.

INCREASED ACCESS THROUGH NWSRA INCLUSIVE SERVICES

Staff and resources necessary to include an individual with a disability into a Park District program with peers, neighbors and friends. No other state has more than 5 intergovernmental partnerships serving people with disabilities, while Illinois has more than 130 such partnerships. Clearly effective, and clearly efficient, the SRA model allows your Park District to provide more to your residents with disabilities, with much less cost incurred.



INCREASING ACCESS



NWSRA SERVES YOUR COMMUNITY

- Approximately 11% of the children and adults who live in your community have some type of disability.*
- The recreational needs of any individual of any age and with any type of disability, including cognitive, mental or physical.
- Children and adults who deserve the same opportunities as you to make friends, have fun, go new places, learn new things, be included and celebrate their lives.
- NWSRA staff are comprised of professionals with degrees in Therapeutic Recreation or a closely related field. Staff hold certifications in therapeutic recreation, recreation administration, First Aid/CPR, Water Safety Instruction and more. Staff serve on local, state and national committees as advocates toward quality recreational programming for children and adults with disabilities.

* Percentage based on 11% average from the US Census American Community Survey



ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE