

**THE FOLLOWING ANNUAL REPORT HAS BEEN APPROVED  
FOR ALL AUDIENCES BY THE SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK  
AND RECREATION DISTRICT.**

**R**

**RIDICULOUSLY FUN**

**For Intense Prolonged Sequences of Health  
and Wellness. Contains Laughter and Smiles.  
Strong Action and Adventure.**



**South Suburban  
PARKS AND RECREATION**

**LIVE LONG AND PROSPER**





# ACTIVE LIFESTYLES: THE FINAL FUNTIER.

These are the voyages of South Suburban Park and Recreation District. Its continuing mission: to help residents explore close-to-home opportunities for mind body wellness, to seek out new activities, new amenities, and to boldly enjoy every moment of their free time.

At warp read , we invite you to discover how we provide and manage parks, trails, open space and recreation facilities and programs for 146,000 residents living in Littleton, Lone Tree, Sheridan, Columbine Valley, Bow Mar, western Centennial and portions of unincorporated Jefferson, Douglas and Arapahoe counties. Our Annual Report features highlights from 2014, and our thank you to voters for approving a two-mill property tax for general operations.

Visit [ssprd.org](http://ssprd.org) for additional data.

RECREATION

It's fascinating, interesting, logical.

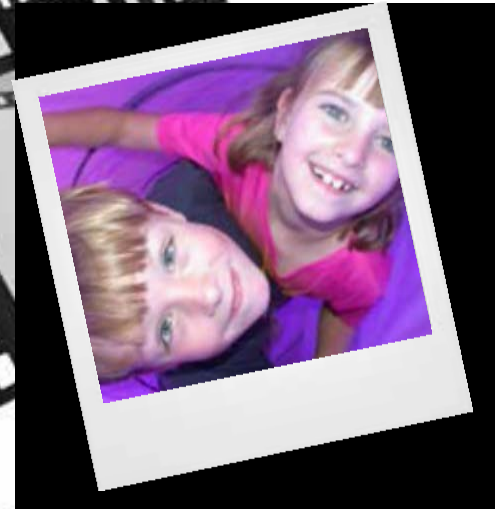
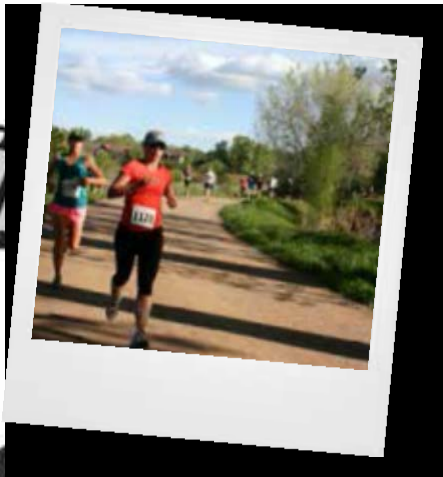




# I SEE PARKS PEOPLE.

Haley Joel Osment, Sixth Sense

And you'll see them, too, all the time, everywhere. Children and adults play every day in the 100 parks that we manage and maintain. South Suburban lacrosse, flag football, tennis and other recreational sports happen nearly year round in the parks, and families utilize the many park playgrounds daily. What's not so obvious is the amount of water needed to keep the parks and athletic fields green. As a steward of the environment, water conservation is a constant goal. Because voters authorized a two-mill property tax increase for daily operations, we can continue upgrading to more efficient irrigation systems, so you'll see parks people AND green grass.





# TOTO, WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE.

Judy Garland, Wizard of Oz

People who live in the South Suburban district will tell you that the heart of everything we provide is the trail system. When you follow this “yellow brick road” network of trails it will take you anywhere you want to go, school, work, shopping, and, of course, parks and recreation facilities. Whether you walk, bike, jog or wheelchair, your courage will also be rewarded with well-planned natural areas, such as the 880 acre South Platte Park and nature center or Willow Springs, Holly Dam and TrailMark Open Space.

The brains behind these amenities throughout the South Suburban park district come from years of planning, along with many partnerships with local cities and counties, to make a walkable and bikeable community.

Several trail and open space improvements were made last year, such as Willow Creek Trail replacement and Willow Creek Open Space, Littleton Community Trail Phase 2, Centennial Link Trail and South Platte Park River enhancements.



# IS THIS HEAVEN? NO, IT'S SOUTH SUBURBAN.

Kevin Costner, Field of Dreams

People come to South Suburban facilities for many reasons: to work out, take a dance class, play a round of golf or simply to make new friends. But often, when you look back, it's all about the memories you had as a child that bring you back, to start playing tennis again or to bring your own kids to swim in the neighborhood pool. Over 50 years ago, when civic leaders had the idea to create a special park and recreation district, they knew that if they built it, people would come. Today, there are over 1.6 million visits to South Suburban facilities, and that doesn't include all the visits to parks and the use of trails.

For many people, the constant in their life has been South Suburban. So when you hear that voice that says play baseball or basketball or go skateboarding or take a bridge class – we're here, part of your past, part of your future.

# GO AHEAD — WE'LL MAKE YOUR DAY.

Clint Eastwood, Sudden Impact

We know what you're thinking, does South Suburban offer 3,501 classes or 3,502? Well, you'll feel lucky every time you receive our activities catalog in the mail, sign up for a recreation enewsletter, follow us on social media or visit our website because you'll find exactly what you're looking for and at an affordable price. Some of our most popular adult programs include drop-in and specialty fitness classes offered at Buck, Goodson, Sheridan and Lone Tree recreation centers. In 2014, over 170,000 people improved their balance, endurance and strength in fitness classes ranging from perennial favorites such as yoga to new blended activities like Total Body Fitness and Healthy Pilates.

Adults also increased their participation in Silver Sneakers and Pickleball — one of the nation's fastest growing sports.



Prosperity is about community. We provide critically needed programs that private companies would not offer because they would not generate a profit. For example, we offer programs for older adults, activities for teens and classes for people with special needs such as those with physical and mental challenges.

We enhance social equity through our Recreation Money and Scholarship initiatives for those with limited means to partake in District offerings. In 2014, our Recreation Money program provided 644 vouchers to residents for free classes and facility use. While the value of vouchers was over \$101,000, the experience that participants enjoyed was priceless. We work with Social Services and a local non-profit to administer these initiatives, and screen participants. The District's Scholarship program allows residents to use facilities and participate in programs at discounted rates. In 2014, the District accepted 232 scholarship applications for more than \$8,000.



# FRANKLY, MY DEAR, WE DO GIVE A DAMN

Clark Gable, *Gone with the Wind*



# HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU KID.

Humphrey Bogart, Casablanca

We offer a lively mix of children's programs and activities, but sometimes you can't just "play it again, Sam." In 2014, instead of rounding up the usual suspects and having only adult staff develop programs, we created a South Suburban Youth Commission. Local teens were invited to apply, and eight were selected to serve on the newly formed commission. They are using critical thinking, communication and creativity skills to advise South Suburban staff about what is important to area youth regarding recreation. The commission is organizing social media campaigns to gather feedback from the community, and they are involved with other supervised outreach efforts. We think the Youth Commission is the beginning of a beautiful partnership.

While we may not always have Zombie Survival Camp or Clay Critters & Bugs class, we will always have programs for children.

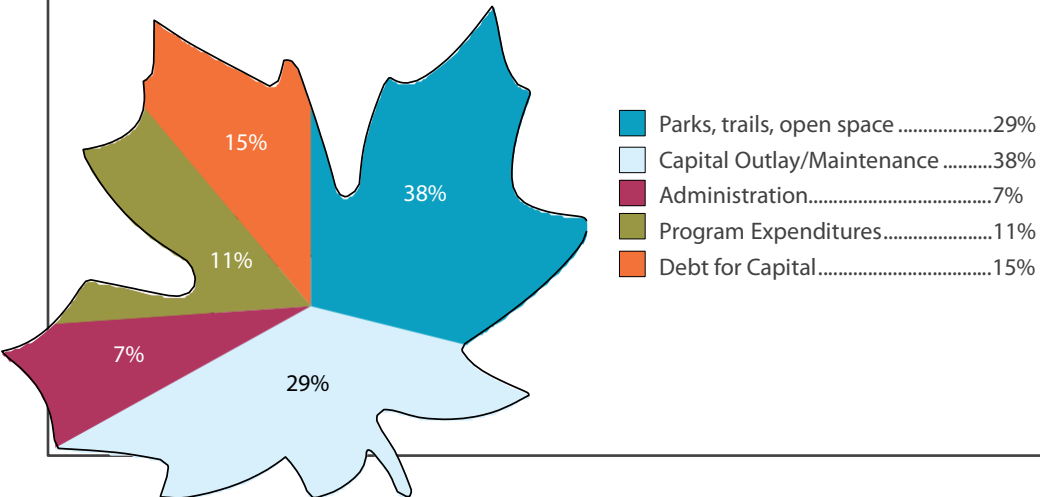


# SHOW ME THE MONEY

Tom Cruise, Jerry Maguire

In 2014, voters approved a property tax increase that costs the typical park district homeowner \$48 per year. This additional funding will be used for general operations including water and energy conservation efforts and facility, trails and parks improvements. We entered into an Energy Savings Performance Contract to identify projects in facilities that will save energy or water. The project costs will be paid by energy and water savings. The guaranteed water savings is 6,481,000 gallons/year, equivalent to \$41,432/year in water and sewer savings. The energy contract also included the purchase of 725 solar panels in a community solar farm. The solar panels are estimated to pay back within 6-7 years due to generating electricity and putting it back into Xcel Energy's grid. For the 13th consecutive year, South Suburban was recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

## How are my South Suburban tax dollars spent?





# HASTA LA VISTA, BABY

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Terminator

After 48 years of dedicated and visionary service, Executive Director Dave Lorenz decided to retire in early 2015. A national search process will result in a new executive director hired by mid-summer. In the meantime, the District is in great hands, with an experienced staff and Deanna Heyn as interim Executive Director.

Highlights of improvements planned for 2015:

Enhancements of the High Line Canal Trail, including 5 new bridges, a restroom facility and a trail connection.

New river oriented park on Mary Carter Greenway, near W. Belleview Ave.

New park near Lone Tree Entertainment District.

New pickleball courts at Cornerstone Park.

Replace deck at Goodson Recreation Center Pool.

Ongoing energy saving improvements to various facilities.

Master Planning for South Suburban Golf Clubhouse and South Suburban Ice Arena.



Explore. Enjoy.

