

Dear Residents, Community Members, and Neighbors,

The Butterfield Park District Board of Commissioners has spent the past several years focusing on a clear vision for the future of our District: seeking to ensure that every park is safe, attractive, and well-maintained; expanding quality programs and services for residents of all ages; maintaining strong fiscal responsibility; and building an organizational structure capable of supporting continued growth and improvement.

One of the Board's most important responsibilities was conducting an extensive search for executive leadership capable of carrying forward this vision.

I joined the Butterfield Park District in November 2025 with more than 25 years of experience in parks and recreation, including previous service with the Butterfield Park District as Superintendent of Recreation. Returning to the District in this role is a responsibility I am honored to accept and an opportunity I enthusiastically embrace to strengthen the organization, enhance services, and strengthen Butterfield Park District's future for the community.

In just six months, meaningful progress has already been made. We have expanded programming opportunities, strengthened financial planning and oversight, increased operational efficiencies, enhanced marketing and communications, and accelerated efforts to beautify parks and improve safety throughout the District.

Achieving these goals has required significant commitment, thoughtful planning, and steadfast adherence to Board policy. The Board has worked diligently to evaluate every aspect of District operations, identify opportunities for enhancement, and establish a strong foundation for the future. This work included a comprehensive assessment of the District's strengths, opportunities, and long-term needs, as well as a highly successful resident survey conducted in 2025 that provided valuable information supporting the Board's existing strategic priorities.

Butterfield Park District is well-positioned for continued growth and improvement. We are already seeing the results of these efforts and remain committed to building upon this momentum.

Here is Where We Are Today

In recent months, the District has:

- Begun implementing a more structured and visible park maintenance plan across all park locations.
- Initiated cleanup efforts including weed removal, brush clearing, edging, deadwood removal, and seasonal landscaping preparation.
- Partnered with Morton Arboretum to assist with removal of invasive species and the planting of new trees.
- Strengthened staffing in key areas including aquatics, youth programming, finance, administration, and communications.
- Installed new water fountains through grant funding to improve accessibility and park amenities.
- Improved signage and clarity regarding park use, dog walking, and walking paths.
- Strengthened financial oversight and reduced unnecessary spending.
- Expanded communication efforts to provide residents with more timely, consistent, and thorough updates.

These are early but important steps toward invigorating the District and improving the experience of the residents we serve. It is also important to recognize where the District continues to serve families with excellence.

Our preschool program, supported by experienced long-time staff, has grown to be one of the District's strongest and most trusted offerings. With a consistently robust array of popular class options that continue to grow, it is currently fully enrolled with a substantial waitlist for the 2026–2027 school year - reflecting the dedication, compassion, and professionalism of the educators who serve our youngest residents every day.

Similarly, our popular District camps and before-and-after-school programs are true markers of excellence, with adventure, ingenuity, and creativity spurring our campers into adventure and discovery.

Summer Programs, Camps and Aquatics

This year's offerings include:

- Summer camps designed around creativity, activity, and engagement.
- Aquatics programming and swim team opportunities for children ages 5–18 years old.
- Continued investment in preschool and early childhood programming.
- Expanded opportunities for community events and adult participation.

Maintenance and Beautification Efforts Underway

One of the foremost goals of the Board has been to enhance the quality, cleanliness, safety, and overall maintenance of our parks and facilities. The results of our recent resident survey clearly reinforced this priority.

The District has implemented a more detailed seasonal maintenance approach that includes:

- Regular mowing, edging, and weed control.
- Playground inspections and safety checks.
- Tree mulching and landscape maintenance.
- Fertilization and lawn applications at multiple park sites.
- Seasonal flower planting and irrigation management.
- Pool and aquatic center maintenance.
- Deep cleaning and upkeep of District facilities.

Throughout the summer and fall, residents will continue to see visible work taking place across The Glenbriar, Hoffman, Montgomery, Brentwood, and the Aquatic Center. We recognize that improvement will not happen overnight but visible consistent progress is underway.

Communication

As we are moving forward, you'll see:

- More regular updates from the District.
- Clear communication regarding maintenance, programming, and improvements.
- Increased visibility into projects and seasonal work.
- Consistent messaging across email, social media, and printed materials.
- Improvements to the website and communication systems.

We are also committed to showing not just telling you about the progress being made. In the coming weeks, the District will begin sharing visual updates, including before and after photos of maintenance and beautification efforts taking place across our parks.

Community Involvement and Volunteer Opportunities

Many residents expressed interest in becoming more involved with the District through volunteerism, beautification projects, and future community initiatives. The District is currently organizing opportunities for:

- Park beautification efforts.
- Seasonal planting and gardening initiatives.
- Volunteer support at programs and events.
- Community partnerships and sponsorship opportunities.

We are grateful for the residents, students, and community members who have already expressed interest in helping improve our parks and programs. More details on how to participate will be shared in the coming weeks.

Commitment Moving Forward

Residents will continue to see visible improvements throughout our parks and facilities as these initiatives move forward. The Board's vision remains unchanged: to provide exceptional parks, programs, and services while responsibly managing District resources for the benefit of current and future residents.

Thank you for your continued interest in Butterfield Park District and for your support. We look forward to building upon the progress already underway and continuing to make Butterfield Park District the community asset it has the potential to be.

Sincerely,

Jack Savage
Executive Director
Butterfield Park District