

Pilgrim Park 2024 Report

Illinois Conference UCC Annual Celebration

In the last year, we have been blessed with so many volunteers that have made our mission and vision continue and hopefully flourish in the upcoming years! Volunteer Work Groups, Program Counselors & Directors, Regular and Ad Hoc Committee Members, and all our Donors; We cannot do this without you and want to make sure you know how much you are appreciated!

Over the last year, because of volunteers and donors, we at Pilgrim Park were able to accomplish a lot. The drive bridge leading to the pool got its piers reinforced, the pool got a new coating, we completed the changing areas in the summer cabins and the bathroom stalls to make the summer washhouse accommodating to all genders, a new Iris bed was installed with rare breeds of iris and benches all donated, and so much more. A local tree company has volunteered twice a year to help take down problem trees that would end up damaging facilities, saving us thousands of dollars. Thank you to all our supporters and site users.

Our Solar Project installation is underway. The infrastructure was updated in September, which sets us about a month ahead of schedule. If all goes as planned, we are hoping to see cost savings as soon as January. This could add up to nearly \$20K in utility savings a year.

Pilgrim Park was also able to score near 100% on our American Camping Association Site visit this summer, so will be able to continue offering our programs with their endorsement for the next 4-5 years before our next onsite visit. This accreditation also helps with our insurance policy.

The biggest news is that we will be celebrating Tara Cade's 30th year of running our Outdoor Ministries Office this January! She is the voice of our camp and has become a close family member to all our staff. If you have a chance, give her a call or send her a card in appreciation.

Again, we want to thank you all for your continued support of our ministry, and we hope to see you come for a visit soon!

Mitch Kloster- Pilgrim Park Site Manager