



Golf • Youth Development • Ecology • Community

2021 Year-end Report

In 2021, Canal Shores continued to be the community-based gem that served as a destination for golfers, nature enthusiasts, concertgoers, joggers, birders, and persons simply enjoying the great outdoors. Through the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers, we provided a safe and socially distanced environment for everyone who visited our open green space. In our 102nd year, we furthered our work on the four pillars of our strategic plan: golf, youth development, ecology, and community.



The “gem in your backyard”

Golf & Recreation

Canal Shores remained a national leader in community golf. As an important part of our leadership and growth plan, Canal Shores recently hired family-owned and Northbrook-based KemperSports to manage our golf operations. We are excited to benefit from KemperSports’ world-class management and golf operations expertise. This change will not alter our community character nor prevent us from serving the local communities.

In 2021, golfers of all ages and skill levels played over 15,000 rounds at Canal Shores. Our unique layout and fast, fun, and flexible golf experience attracted golfers from over 260 zip codes. In addition to being a destination, Canal Shores remained one of the best values in golf in Chicagoland, helping fulfill our mission to make golf affordable and accessible for all. Canal Shores staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to maintain the course despite months of severe drought conditions. We began a project to upgrade the irrigation system and invest in additional equipment to better care for the greens and fairways and provide better golf conditions.

Youth Development

We continued to advance our youth development mission by hosting robust youth golf camps and clinics in 2021. We had over 450 youth between ages 5 and 14 participate. Canal Shores served as an ideal setting for young golfers whether they were playing for the first time or working to take their skills to the next level.



Youth golf programs

Canal Shores maintained two scholarship programs focused on underserved and minority youth. As part of our regular camps, these scholarship programs taught kids the importance of discipline, hard work, integrity, and good sportsmanship. In 2022, Canal Shores will pursue the goal of expanding our camps and scholarship programs to better serve the local communities.

Ecology

Per our Canal Shores' Master Ecological Plan, we relentlessly continued to remove invasive species, restore native vegetation, and maintain the banks of the North Shore Channel. Our efforts were driven by hundreds of volunteers of all ages who valued ecological improvements in their community.

Canal Shores took the important step of creating nurseries on holes #11 and #14 that are growing the first ever batch of trees (150!) that will be transplanted around Canal Shores when they are older. Thank you to Commissioner Cam Davis and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) for the generous donation of these trees.



Volunteers building tree nursery on #14

As part of our effort to reduce our carbon footprint, Canal Shores purchased two electric-powered leaf blowers and installed electric hand dryers near our Pro Shop. We also continued to implement our action plan developed with the assistance of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program. Our Spring and Fall birdwatching walks were supplemented by birdwatching instruction for first graders at the school closest to the course, Baker Demonstration School.

Community

We increased our drive to be a vibrant part of the local communities. We hosted an outdoor winter art festival with Evanston Made, Boy Scouts campout, and the third annual Out of SPACE concerts which featured national performing artists Emmylou Harris, Patti Smith and Ben Harper. The American Legion Post 42 continued to provide music, food and drinks in a scenic and safe outdoor setting. In 2021, we received our first ever liquor license and enjoyed a valued partnership with Evanston's own Sketchbook Brewing, who brewed Level Par Lager for the course. We look forward to providing refreshments to our golfers and supporters for many years to come.



Out of Space at Canal Shores

We want to thank NorthShore Evanston Hospital and Aramark for their generous donation of materials and labor which resulted in significant improvements to our 3rd hole tee area.



NorthShore Evanston Hospital and Aramark volunteer day

Canal Shores is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that receives no taxpayer funding. We [truly appreciate the support from each person who supports our mission](#) and remain committed to improving the 82 acres of green space we provide for the benefit of the local communities.

Best wishes from Canal Shores for a healthy and happy 2022!

Sincerely,
Karl Leinberger
President, Canal Shores Board of Trustees