

Gateway Special Recreation Association

The Pleasant Dale Park District is a member of the Gateway Special Recreation Association. In addition to Pleasant Dale Park District, current members include the Willowbrook Recreation Department, Burr Ridge Park District, Oak Brook Park District, Elmhurst Park District, Westchester Park District, York Center Park District, City of Countryside and the Village of Hinsdale. These agencies have pooled resources to contract with the Ray Graham Association to provide recreational services for children and adults with special needs.

Facilities & Programs

The base facility for Gateway is the Anna Emery Hanson Center at 59th St. & Garfield Ave. in Burr Ridge. The Hanson Center is a modern, fully handicapped accessible building on a 12 acre site that offers a kitchen for cooking instruction, carpeted exercise room, library, garden space, one mile fitness trail, play fields, family camp site, a barn and riding corral. Instruction is provided in many areas including riding and grooming horses. Programs are also offered at various agency locations. Weekly programs, clubs and special events are offered each season for participants including sports, exercise, dance, music, art and cooking classes. Day trips, camping trips and social get-togethers offer a variety of enjoyment for all age groups. Gateway brochures are available at the Pleasant Dale Recreation Center front desk.

Volunteering For Gateway

Opportunities available 6 days a week, afternoons and evening hours. Assist with a variety of programs for children and adults with special needs. Gateway SRA provides weekly recreation programs, Special Olympics sport programs along with special events and dances. Programs vary from season to season but the FUN stays the same! If interested, please contact Gateway at (630) 325-3857 ext. 109.

Watch for the launch of the proposed Flagg Creek Heritage Center!

Flagg Creek spans six towns and two counties, linking the railroads, Route 66, I55, the Des Plaines River and the I&M Canal, so the Society is in a unique position to tell the stories of the Native Americans, trappers, early settlers, and farms, which then became the suburbs of today.

The new Flagg Creek Heritage Center will provide a hands-on opportunity for people to understand the land in which they live and play and the history and ongoing stories of the communities in which they live.