

play

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learn

Plainfield
PARK DISTRICT
Annual Report 2011



plainfieldparkdistrict.com

Plainfield Park District Annual Report

our accomplishments

ADMINISTRATION

Lease Agreement for Downtown Plainfield Location

The Park District signed a long-term lease for space in the Heritage Professional Center located at 24023 Lockport St. in downtown Plainfield.

The Park District's Great Adventures Program for Preschoolers has relocated to the facility, making it the first program to be offered at the new site. The building, which is centrally-located within the District, will also allow the Park District to offer a wider range of programs for people of all ages in the evenings, on the weekends and year-round, including birthday party packages and private rentals.



The Park District hosted a ceremonial ribbon-cutting and public open house at its new Heritage Center location in Downtown Plainfield on Feb. 4, 2012. Pictured from left to right are Mary Kay Ludemann, vice president of the Park District Board of Commissioners; John Wilson, Park District Commissioner; Carl Bryant, owner of the Heritage Professional Center and president of Contract Development Corp; Mike Brann, president of the Park District Board of Commissioners; and Peter Hurtado, Park District Commissioner.

PLANNING

DuPage River Trail

The Park District hosted a ceremonial ribbon-cutting for a new section of DuPage River Trail at Riverview Park.

The .75-mile 10-foot wide asphalt trail runs north from Riverview Park at Naperville-Plainfield Road east of Route 59, over a newly-constructed bridge crossing the DuPage River, to a loop turnaround at the Com Ed right-of-way at 143rd St. and Route 59.

The Park District received \$1,215,500 in American Recovery Reinvestment Act funding for the development of this new segment. These monies were utilized in conjunction with \$656,000 in Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation and \$80,000 in federal SAFETEA-LU funds.

When complete, the DuPage River Trail eventually will be a 29-mile regional trail running along the DuPage River from Naperville to Channahon.



Pictured from left to right are Adam Tarmann of Dunnet Bay Construction; Tom Lenahan of Dunnet Bay Construction; Jenny Lowenstein of Engineering Resource Associates, Inc.; Brian Dusak of Engineering Resource Associates, Inc.; Mike Brann, president of the Park District Board of Commissioners; Larry Newton, Park District Commissioner; John Wilson, Park District Commissioner; Mary Kay Ludemann, vice president of the Park District Board of Commissioners; Peter Hurtado, Park District Commissioner; Cameron Bettin, Park District Superintendent of Planning; and John Mayer, Engineering Resource Associates, Inc.

Commissioner John M. Wilson Jr. Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge

During the ceremonial ribbon-cutting for the new section of DuPage River Trail at Riverview Park, the Park District also named the newly-constructed bridge for Commissioner John M. Wilson Jr. in recognition of his five terms and almost 30 years of service and contributions to the Park District.



John M. Wilson Jr. (top left) and family

New Restrooms at Van Horn Woods East

The Park District replaced the old restrooms on the east side of Van Horn Woods, off the I-55 Frontage Road, with new restrooms.

Property Acquisition

The Park District purchased 2.6 acres south of the Normantown Trails Equestrian Center, including a pole building and two rectangular storage buildings. The new site is being utilized as a Park District satellite maintenance facility housing the North Maintenance Division. The Park District also acquired 2 acres to expand Renwick Community Park.

Tree Donation

For the second year in a row, the Cambridge Run Homeowners Association celebrated Arbor Day with a new tree planting in its neighborhood park. This year's celebration also included construction of a daylily flower bed and a dedication ceremony on April 23. All donations were contributed by The Fields on Caton Farm Inc. in Joliet. The tree, a Cleveland Select Pear, was planted near the park's Frontier Lane entrance, and the daylily flower bed was constructed around the park's entrance sign.

Natural Areas Projects

The Park District continued its on-going removal of non-native woody vegetation and other invasive flora species throughout district ponds and woodland areas.

The Park District conducted prescribed prairie burns at Auburn Lakes, Eaton Preserve, Mather Woods and the Norman Greenway. The Park District also completed maintenance and management program activities to improve the conditions and aid in the establishment of the natural areas at Clow Stephens, Eaton Preserve and Oaks at Van Horn Woods.

The Park District continued its involvement with Conservation Plainfield by co-sponsoring a spring environmental enhancement project at Mather Woods, where more than 30 volunteers removed non-native vegetation. The Park District also co-sponsored a fall enhancement project at Eaton Preserve, where more than 60 volunteers planted native prairie plugs and removed non-native vegetation.



Eaton Preserve Environmental Enhancement Project, September 2011

The Park District participated as a stakeholder in the development of the Lower DuPage River Watershed Plan.

Paving Projects

The Park District seal coated the paths at King's Crossing, North Point, McKenna Woods, Commons, Caton Ridge, Old Renwick Trail, Cambridge Run, Farmstone Ridge, Normantown Trail, Mather Woods and the Great Divide Trail. The parking lots at Mather Woods and Aux Sable were also seal coated. In addition, the Park District re-paved the asphalt walks and entries at Winding Creek playground and Golden Meadows IV.

Master Plan

The Park District Board of Commissioners approved and adopted the 2010-2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan in March.

Accessibility

The Park District completed an Americans with Disabilities Act compliance audit for its indoor and outdoor facilities, and is utilizing the audit to prepare a transition plan.

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RECREATION

Bergman Completes IPRA Professional Development School

Amanda Bergman, Barn Manager of the Normantown Trails Equestrian Center, graduated from the Illinois Park and Recreation Association's Professional Development School. The two-year program teaches participants to become strong leaders in the field of parks and recreation.

Participation by the Numbers

Summer 2010 Programs

June 1-August 31, 2010

Participated	5,943	
Wait Listed	113	
Total Enrolled	6,056	
Residents	5,934	98%
Nonresidents	122	2%
Male	2,880	47.6%
Female	3,176	52.4%
Enrolled Online	3,250	53.7%
Enrolled w/Form	2,806	46.3%
Program Sections Offered	1,755	
Program Sections Held	759	43%
Program Sections Cancelled	996	57%

Fall/Holiday 2010 Programs

September 1-December 31, 2010

Participated	3,679	
Wait Listed	52	
Total Enrolled	3,731	
Residents	3,573	95.8%
Nonresidents	158	4.2%
Male	1,793	48.1%
Female	1,938	51.9%
Enrolled Online	2,391	64.1%
Enrolled w/Form	1,340	35.9%
Program Sections Offered	891	
Program Sections Held	397	45%
Program Sections Cancelled	494	55%

Winter/Spring 2011 Programs

January 1-May 31, 2011

Participated	3,185	
Wait Listed	37	
Total Enrolled	3,222	
Residents	3,072	95.3%
Nonresidents	150	4.7%
Male	1,444	44.8%
Female	1,778	55.2%
Enrolled Online	2,111	65.5%
Enrolled w/Form	1,111	34.5%
Program Sections Offered	541	
Program Sections Held	361	67%
Program Sections Cancelled	180	33%

Rentals & Parties

Ottawa Street Pool Rentals	5
Picnic Shelter Rentals:	150

(Season runs mid-April through mid-October)

Boy Scout Park	31
Eaton Preserve	40
Mather Woods East	7
Mather Woods West	0
Van Horn Woods 1	7
Van Horn Woods 3	25
Village Green	40

Birthday Parties:	25
Normantown Trails Equestrian Center	11
Ottawa Street Pool	14

Pony Rides/Ride & Grooming Sessions:	75
Scout Grooming Badge Field Trips:	5



JBSRA

To better serve residents with disabilities, the Plainfield Park District entered into an agreement with the Joliet-Bolingbrook Special Recreation Association (JBSRA) in 2006. JBSRA, formed in 1983, provides comprehensive year-round recreation programming for individuals with disabilities, as well as inclusion services for those with special needs who wish to participate in mainstream recreation programming with assistance.

Accommodations are made available by training staff, adapting activities, working with behavioral modifications, and providing support staff.

Participation by the Numbers

(with % increase from previous year)

Programs offered	Participations	Households
2004 81 -	602 -	70 -
2005 118 (46%)	639 (6%)	90 (29%)
2006 125 (6%)	682 (7%)	109 (21%)
2007 117 (-6%)	939 (37%)	118 (8%)
2008 136 (17%)	926 (-1%)	146 (24%)
2009 143 (5%)	1,028 (11%)	159 (9%)
2010 166 (16%)	1,102 (7%)	172 (8%)
2011 183 (10%)	1,240 (12%)	203 (18%)

2011 Highlights

Sherrie Izban represented JBSRA and Special Olympics Team USA at the World Games for Track and Field in Athens, Greece

JBSRA awarded \$9,285 in scholarships
JBSRA raised \$9,944 in funds, including:

DuPage Township	\$1,000
Donations	\$350
Goodwill Mailing	\$2,200
Carson Pirie Scott Community Days	\$2,545
Chili's	\$503
Yard Sale	\$554
Concession Stand	\$1,311
Jersey Mike's	\$1,283



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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Plainfield Park District is to promote the development of a comprehensive park system that provides recreational opportunities for all residents, as well as to offer diversified programs and activities that provide personal enjoyment, contribute to a sense of self-fulfillment, and enhance the quality of life of its residents.

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1966, the Plainfield Park District currently serves a population of more than 100,000 people, making it the 9th largest park district in the state of Illinois based on population served. The Park District employs more than 250 people including 40 full-time employees, and maintains several building sites and 80+ parks comprised of more than 1,500 acres. It covers more than 40 square miles and encompasses all of Plainfield Township and portions of Wheatland Township in Will County and Na-Au-Say Township in Kendall County, including areas of Bolingbrook, Crest Hill, Joliet, Plainfield, and Romeoville, as well as some unincorporated areas.

BUSINESS

Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting

The Park District received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the fifth year in a row. The award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the GFOA program. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Plainfield Park District's portion of a tax bill for an average home valued at \$250,000 is \$163.25. This amount is approximately 2.6% of the tax bill, with the remaining 97.4% going to other taxing bodies such as the school district, village/city, township, county, fire department, library, community college district, and forest preserve district.

Property Tax Bill-Park District Portion

PPD Share
is 2.6¢



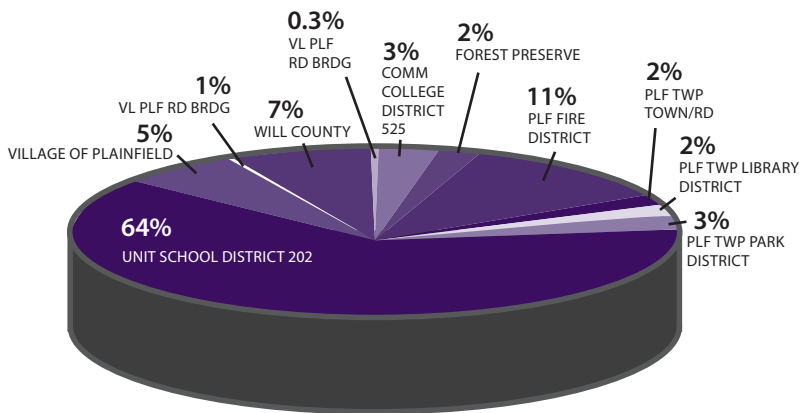
All Other Taxing Bodies
Share is 97.4¢

For less than 50 cents a day, the Plainfield Park District provides the average household access to five recreation facilities including the Recreation/Administration Center, the Streams Recreation Center, the Ottawa Street Pool, the Normantown Trails Equestrian Center, and leased space at the Heritage Center.

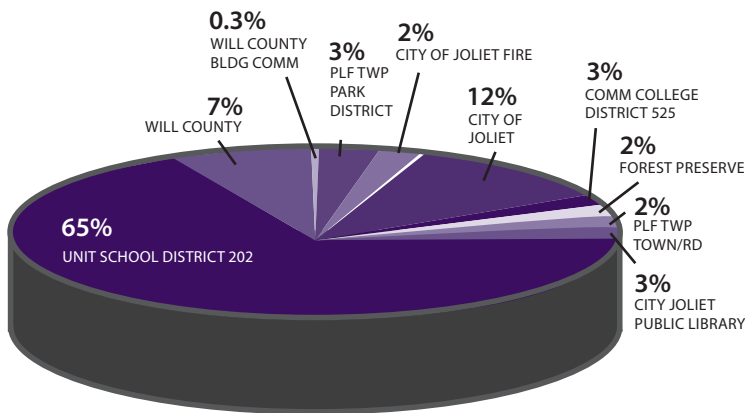
In addition, the Park District maintains 80+ parks comprised of more than 1,500 acres, including:

- 63 playgrounds
- 58 shelters
- dozens of sports fields and athletic courts
- 2 dog parks
- 2 skate parks
- 1 bike park
- 2 outdoor ice skating locations (*winter only*)
- 3 sled hills (*winter only*)

Village of Plainfield Tax Allocation for Plainfield Park District Residents



City of Joliet Tax Allocation for Plainfield Park District Residents



The Plainfield Park District represents less than 3% of a resident's tax bill. The dollars generated help to serve a population of more than 100,000 people.

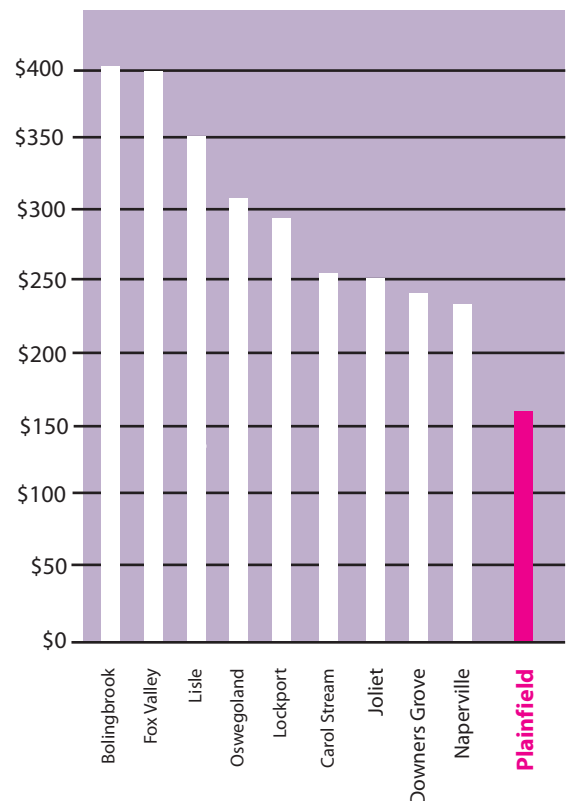
The Park District's tax rate has been declining for the last two decades. In 1990, the District's tax rate was .3270 and the District's Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) was just over \$180 million. In 2010, the District's tax rate was .1956 and the District's EAV was just under \$2.7 billion. (The District's EAV is equal to one-third of the total taxable property values within the District.) The Park District is able to realize an increase in property tax revenue based on two inflationary factors: an increase in

the EAV or a rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is less. The District also may seek voter approval to pass a referendum to raise property taxes.

10 Year Tax Rate History



When compared to 10 neighboring park districts of similar demographics, the Plainfield Park District's tax rate and the comparative amount of tax dollars spent per resident ranks last by a large margin.





BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Brann, President
Mary Kay Ludemann, Vice President
Peter Hurtado, Commissioner
Larry Newton, Commissioner
John M. Wilson, Jr., Commissioner

ADMINISTRATION

Greg Bott, Executive Director
Cameron Bettin, Superintendent of Planning
Gene Coldwater, Superintendent of Parks
Cheryl Crisman, Superintendent of Recreation
Maureen Nugent, Business Manager
Marianne Ryan, Public Information Coordinator

