

Plainfield Park District

Annual Report 2012



• Play • Learn • Live •



plainfieldparkdistrict.com

ADMINISTRATION

Heritage Center Location Opens

The Park District opened its new Downtown Plainfield location in the Heritage Professional Center, located at 24023 W. Lockport St. The Great Adventures Program for Preschoolers was the first Park District program to be offered at the new site. In addition to housing Great Adventures September through May, the new facility is host to a variety of programs and special events for people of all ages in the evenings, on the weekends and year-round. The facility also provides kids' birthday party packages and private rentals for groups up to 40 people.



Ground Breaking on Joey Kledzik Memorial Field

Ground Broken on Joey Kledzik Memorial Field

The Park District hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Joey Kledzik Memorial Field at Renwick Community Park. The project is being funded by the Joey Kledzik Memorial Fund (\$40,600), a grant awarded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the Park District.

The field, designed for 12-18-year-old players, should be ready for play in Spring 2014. The Park District will be seeding the site in Spring 2013, and dugout areas, players' benches and bleachers will be installed later in 2013.

Fun Fact!
The Great Adventures for preschoolers program used 328 jumbo glue sticks last school year.

PLANNING

Bettin Appointed to Conservation Foundation

Cameron Bettin, Superintendent of Planning, was appointed to serve on the Illinois Conservation Foundation. The Illinois Conservation Foundation and its partners work to preserve and enhance the state's natural resources by supporting and fostering ecological, educational, and recreational programs for the benefit of all citizens of Illinois and for future generations to come.

Less Earns Landscape Architecture License

James Less, Landscape Architect, passed the State of Illinois' Landscape Architect Registration Examination and earned his Landscape Architecture License from the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Board.

DuPage River Trail at West Electric Park

The Park District was awarded a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for engineering and construction of a segment of the DuPage River Trail. The trail will be located on the Village of Plainfield's riverfront property currently known as West Electric Park. It will connect to the Village's new Lockport Street Pedestrian Bridge on the south side of the street and continue south to the ComEd right-of-way. The Park District plans to complete construction of the trail by the end of 2013.

Windsor Ridge Park Development

The new Windsor Ridge Park is located next to Aux Sable Park and Middle School and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. The park's amenities include playground areas for 2- to 5-year-olds and 5- to 12-year-olds, and a three-bay swing set with tot, belt and accessible seats, and seating areas. Trees will be planted in 2013. The Park District received this new park through a developer donation. It was constructed in Fall 2012 utilizing cash in lieu of land funds donated by the developer and the Park District's special recreation funds.

Winding Creek Pond

The Park District planted a native vegetative buffer around the pond at Winding Creek, as well as submerged plantings in the water. Also included are two rock out-cropping areas to provide better access along the shoreline for fishing. In 2013, the Park District will construct a concrete walk from the Village sidewalk to a seating area on the backside of the pond in the northeast corner.

Great Divide Trail

The Park District constructed a boardwalk on a section of the Great Divide Trail where the path becomes inundated with water during heavy rains.

Clow Stephens Community Park

The Park District installed climbing equipment play structures, independent play equipment, and a two-bay swing set with belt and accessible swings by the shelter. The Park District also demolished the house at the entrance of the park along Lily Cache Road. The Park District has plans to create a seating area with interpretive signs depicting the history of the Clow Stephens farmstead and donation of the land to the Park District. The 106.5-acre property was donated to the Park District in 2004 by the late Mary Clow Stephens. It was her wish to preserve the site and its natural features while providing open space for the community and recreational opportunities for future generations.

River Edge Park

The Park District demolished the River Edge Recreation Center and plans to construct new restrooms and re-open the shelter for rentals in 2013. The Park District also plans to demolish the two-story apartment/garage in 2013.

Paving Projects

The Park District seal-coated the paths at Eaton Preserve, Fort Beggs Trail South, Renwick Community Park, River Point Estates, Riverwalk and Oaks at Van Horn. The parking lots at Eaton Preserve, Four Seasons, Norman Greenway at 135th Street, Northwest Community Park, Renwick Community Park, Riverview Park and Van Horn Woods West were also seal-coated and striped.

Accessibility

The Park District completed its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan based on the findings of a compliance audit done on its indoor and outdoor facilities. The Park District has already started making improvements, including the restriping and signing of its parking lots, pruning of trees that overhang paths and sidewalks, and the replenishing of wood fiber safety surfacing at playgrounds. The Park District is in the process of making indoor improvements at all of its facilities. Future plans are to make improvements to access routes and paths, athletic facilities, and additional improvements to playgrounds.

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 Canterbury Woods, Clearwater Springs, Creekside North, Farmstone Ridge, Hidden River, Prairie Knoll, Riverside Parkway and Springbank Greenway. The Park District also completed maintenance and management program activities to improve the conditions and aid in the establishment of natural areas at Clow Stephens, Eaton Preserve, The Ponds and Oaks at Van Horn.

The Park District continued its involvement with Conservation Plainfield by co-sponsoring a fall enhancement project at Eaton Preserve, where more than 50 volunteers consisting of families, high school students and scout groups planted native prairie plugs and collected/spread seeds from the native plants in the park's prairie.

Property Acquisition/Leases

The Park District partnered with St. John's Lutheran Church, agreeing to lease their 17-acre parcel located at Caton Farm Road and Drauden Road for use as an open field play area and practice fields. In 2013, the site will be graded and seeded. The site will not be in use until 2015.

Prior to the site opening for use, the Park District and Church will construct a small parking lot at the entrance off Drauden Road, and the City of Joliet will install a sidewalk from Caton Farm Road to the Brookside Subdivision. The plan also includes St. John's subdividing the parcel into two lots: approximately 13.7 acres south of the entry drive for the church building and parking lot, and approximately 3.3 acres north of the entry drive for a park. Eventually, St. John's will donate the 3.3 acres to the Park District to be developed into a park.

The proposed plans for the future park site include a small parking lot (which eventually will be part of the church's parking lot once they build out), an in-line hockey rink, two tennis courts, two volleyball courts (one with sand, the other with poured in place rubber surfacing), a 30' x 60' shelter, pocket areas with independent play equipment along a paved path, bioswales and rain garden areas with native plantings, and berms with native plantings, deciduous trees and shrubs, and coniferous trees.

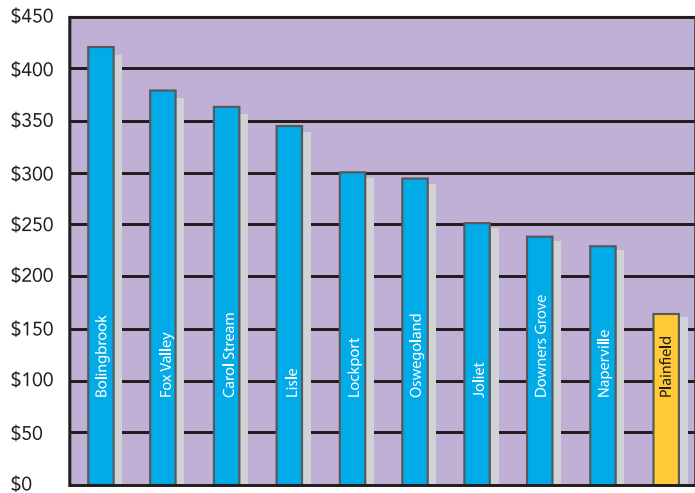
The Park District acquired 1.2 acres along the DuPage River from Cube Smart as part of its continued efforts to develop the DuPage River Trail north of the ComEd right-of-way to the Eaton Preserve.

BUSINESS

Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting

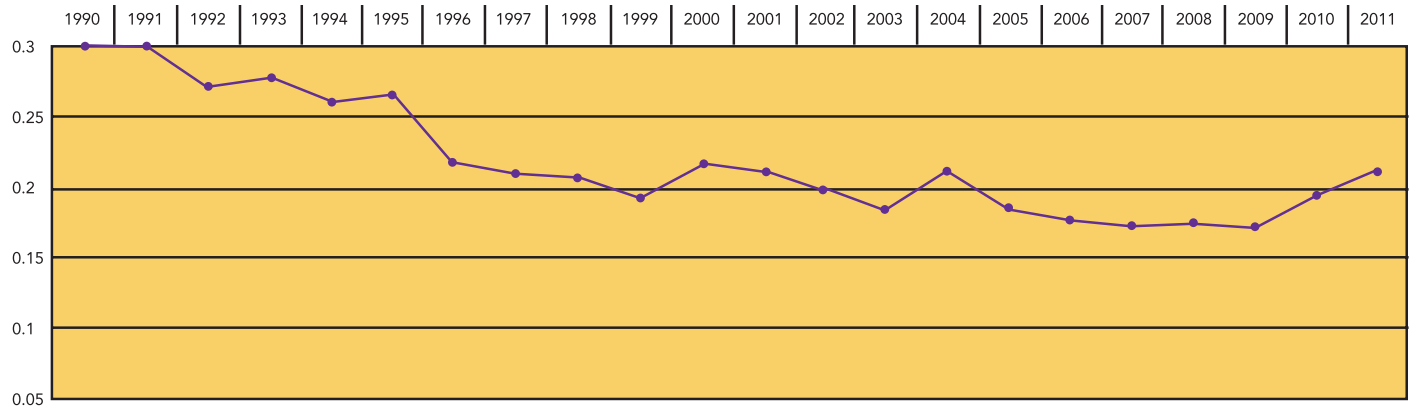
The Park District received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the sixth year in a row. The award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial 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, 2011, 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.

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.



The Park District's tax rate had declined for most of the last two decades. (The increase in 2000 was due to the successful passage of a land acquisition referendum, and the increase in 2004 was due to a first-time levy for special recreation.)

However, the current decline in the Park District's Equalized Assessed Valuation (the EAV is equal to one-third of the total taxable property values within the district) has resulted in a slight increase in the tax rate as illustrated below.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Plainfield Park District's portion of a tax bill for an average home valued at \$250,000 is \$153.77. 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.

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
- 33 football/soccer fields
- 32 baseball and softball fields
- 9 full and 16 half basketball courts
- 4 tennis courts
- 3 sled hills (winter only)
- 2 dog parks
- 2 skate parks
- 2 outdoor ice skating locations (winter only)
- 2 sand volleyball courts
- 1 bike park

Property Tax Bill Park District Portion

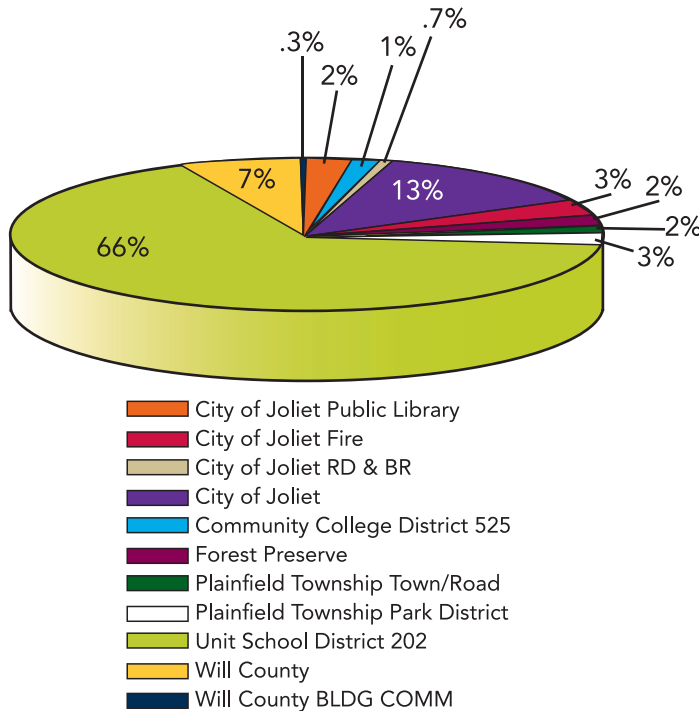
**Plainfield Park District
Share is 2.6¢**



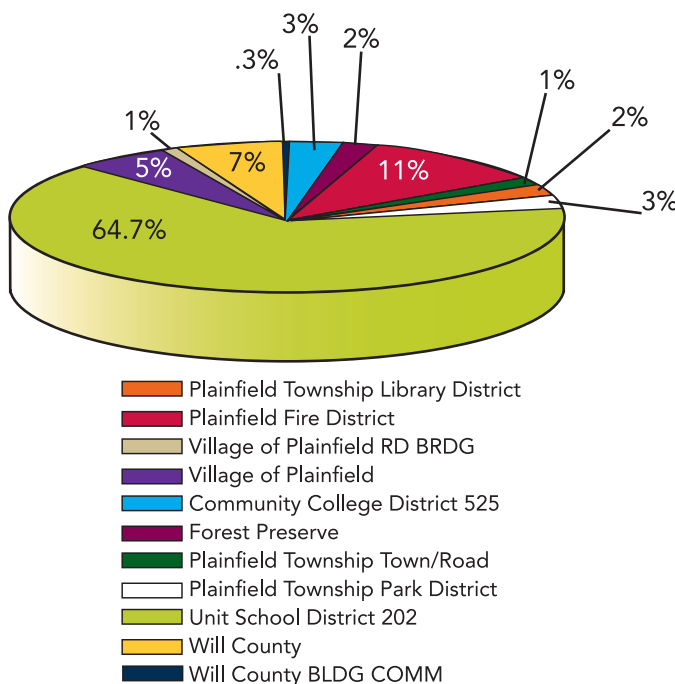
**All Other Taxing Bodies
Share is 97.4¢**

Tax Allocation Plainfield Park District Resident in City of Joliet

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.



Tax Allocation Plainfield Park District in Village of Plainfield





Great Adventures Program for Preschoolers
Petting Zoo Day - April 2012

RECREATION

Participation by the Numbers

Summer 2011 Programs: May 1-August 31, 2011

Participated	6,430	
Wait List	65	
Total Enrolled	6,495	
Residents	6,336	97.55%
Nonresidents	159	2.45%
Male	3,051	46.97%
Female	3,444	53.03%
Enrolled WebTrac	3,603	55.47%
Enrolled RecTrac	2,892	44.53%
Program Sections Offered	1,147	
Program Sections Held	837	73%
Program Sections Cancelled	310	27%

Fall/Holiday 2011 Programs: September 1-December 31, 2011

Participated	3,688	
Wait Listed	47	
Total Enrolled	3,735	
Residents	3,606	96.55%
Nonresidents	129	3.45%
Male	1,779	47.63%
Female	1,956	52.37%
Enrolled Online	2,394	64.10%
Enrolled w/Form	1,341	35.90%
Program Sections Offered	683	
Program Sections Held	504	74%
Program Sections Cancelled	179	26%

Winter/Spring 2012 Programs: January 1-May 31, 2012

Participated	3,118	
Wait List	24	
Total Enrolled	3,142	
Residents	2,933	95.99%
Nonresidents	125	4.01%
Male	1,326	42.53%
Female	1,792	57.47%
Enrolled WebTrac	2,110	67.67%
Enrolled RecTrac	1,008	32.33%
Program Sections Offered	766	
Program Sections Held	548	72%
Program Sections Cancelled	218	28%



Frankenstein Kiddie Carnival
October 2012



Fun Fact!
Did you know?
380 seniors traveled
with the Park District
on day trips July
2011-July 2012.

Above: Picture of the LCSRA launch party that took place
February 2013.



SPECIAL RECREATION

Introducing the New Lily Cache Special Recreation Association

The Lily Cache Special Recreation Association (LCSRA), previously known as the Joliet Bolingbrook Special Recreation Association (JBSRA), has been re-launched to better represent the partnership between the Plainfield Park District and Bolingbrook Park District, formed in 2006 to better serve the special needs population in our communities.

LCSRA 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.

The mission of the new LCSRA remains the same - to provide personalized, compassionate care while giving participants opportunities to grow and build self-esteem - and the same great staff is in place to deliver these programs.

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%)
2012 263 (44%)	1,643 (33%)	210 (4%)

2012 Highlights

- New SRA Advisory Board began meeting January 2012
- LCSRA name approved February 2012
- LCSRA logo approved July 2012
- JBSRA raised \$11,136 in funds
- JBSRA awarded \$12,923 in scholarships



Fun Fact!
Did you know?
Hip Hop is the most
popular Park District
dance class.

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.

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

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