

ANNUAL REPORT



INSIDE

- 02 Welcome
- 03 Your Parks
- 04 Your Programs

- 05 Your Facilities
- 06 Financial Profile

- 07 Marketing
- 08 Accomplishments

2017

WELCOME



From left Wendi Calabrese, Cheryl Crisman, Carlo Capalbo, Maureen Nugent and Jennifer Rooks-Lopez

The Plainfield Park District continued great momentum in 2017. Following the passage of a 10.5 million dollar referendum at the end of 2016, the Board of Commissioners began the process of building our 40,000 sq. ft. indoor recreation facility at Bott Park with the selection of the design/build firm Wight & Co. Since April, the team and board members have diligently worked and had the groundbreaking of the new facility that will be named the **Prairie Activity & Recreation Center**, or otherwise known as the **PARC**.

Beyond the work that the Park District Team is doing towards the new facility, we have continued to perform park and playground improvements and maintenance. The Leadership Team sits atop (photo on left) the new play structure at Village Green one of our flagship playgrounds. Through all the hard work in making sure that we provide our residents with the best recreational opportunities and practices, the Plainfield Park District became one of 44 agencies in all the state of Illinois to carry the designation of an Accredited Distinguished Agency. This process ensures our residents that we are operating in an efficient and excellent manner through a series of operation and field assessments and reviews. Our goal is to be the best park district possible to service you.

The key for all of what we accomplish and what we strive to provide in an excellent manner is you. Our residents are the most important thing to the District. We want to ensure that whether you are enjoying one of your parks or participating in one of the many program offerings, that you leave with a smile on your face and a memorable experience in your heart. We want to make memories that last a lifetime, all for you!

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Mary Kay
Ludemann
President
2021



Mimi Poling
Vice President
2023



Rob Ayres
Commissioner
2023



Bill Thoman
Commissioner
2019



Peter Steiny
Commissioner
2019



Rebecca
Hosford
Commissioner
2019



Jason Rausch
Commissioner
2019

MISSION. VISION. VALUES.

OUR MISSION

The Plainfield Park District seeks to enhance lives through quality recreation opportunities.

OUR VISION

We aspire to be innovative in administration, recreation and preservation.

OUR VALUES

Our Values center on:

- Community
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Stewardship of Natural Resources
- Health & Wellness

YOUR PARKS



kids around the world

Part of the District's Value's focuses on Stewardship of Resources and Focusing on Community while helping conserve our planet's valuable resources. This was done in 2017 by donating used playground equipment when it is replaced. While the condition of some playgrounds prevents their reuse both Kendall Ridge and Village Green Playgrounds were donated to Kid's Around the World. Kids Around the World is a 501 C3 organization located in Rockford, IL. that removes and completely restores old playgrounds. The playgrounds are then reinstalled in countries around the world that have been affected by war, poverty, disease or natural disasters. The District received notice that retired equipment from Kendall Ridge Park will be installed in 2018 in Iraq for new playground life.

PARK HIGHLIGHTS

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Removal: With over ninety (90) parks and fifteen hundred (1,500) acres managed by the District, the Emerald Ash Borer has had a devastating impact on the District's trees. 2017 saw a continuation of our management plan. The focus in winter 2017 was in the southern half of the District.



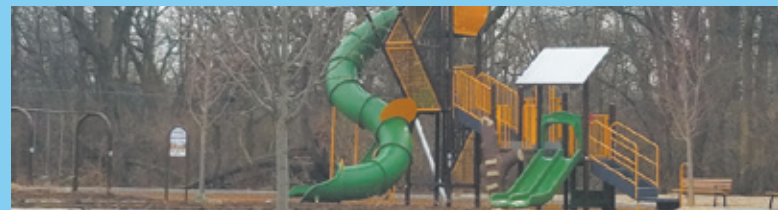
Kendall Ridge: Installed in early 2017, the District received a matching grant of \$40,000 from IPRA and Cunningham Recreation/Game time towards the purchase of new equipment at Kendall Ridge. The playground is the District's first inclusive play park intentionally providing opportunities for physical, cognitive, communicative, social/emotional and sensory development.



New Recreation Center: After years of planning and finger crossing late 2017 finally saw the ground break for Prairie Activity & Recreation Center (PARC) at Bott Park. The new center will feature an elevated track, gymnasium, fitness and four preschool rooms and is expected to open in January 2019.



Van Horn Woods Playground: The original playground at Van Horn was installed in 1999 and featured a zip-line that was aging poorly. The new park features taller equipment for ages 2-12 and an improved zip-line that is designed for children and the child at heart ages 5+.



Village Green Playground: In fall of 2017 construction began on a new playground at Village Green Park. The new structure features a nature theme and is designed for ages 2-12. The playground will also feature a new online interactive program called BIBA. It's a program new in the District and Village Green will be the first playground to feature it. It works with a free app that creates obstacle courses, scavenger hunts and games for children ages 3-9. For more information visit bibaventures.com.



YOUR PROGRAMS



Programs are offered throughout the year at Plainfield Park District. Some of the new programs offered in 2017 included: Summer Kick Off Bash, End of Summer Shindig, Walk With Ease, Scarecrow Decorating Contest, Yoga, Wine & Cheese Night, Halloween Madness, Video Message from Santa and Breakfast With Santa.

10,348 patrons took advantage of 426 programs offered at various times throughout the year. Those programs include active adults, aquatics, athletics, dance, music, early childhood, equestrian, fitness, theater and youth programs... Just to name a few.

Special events and drop in programs play a large role in the offerings of the Park District but do not always require registration. The combined attendance at Patriotic Picnic and Grinchmas on the Green, the two largest special events in 2017, was estimated to be over 11,000 patrons in attendance. Other examples of drop in programs are Active Adult games days, card playing, Wii Bowling days and pot luck luncheons that had 1,711 participants. Games on the Go, a mobile park playground program for elementary age participants, had 318 participants.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Recreation Fund contains the income and expenditures associated with offering programs within the Plainfield Park District. 42% of the budgeted fund was income associated with taxes and 55% of the budgeted income was associated with programs. The remaining 3% was budgeted to come from various sources including fundraising/advertising, misc.

Program Participation Enrollment Numbers:

Active Adult Drop-In Programs: 1,711

Athletics: 2,296

Basketball: 632

Dance: 755

Early Childhood: 659

Fitness & Health: 1,057

Private Rentals: 93

Special Events/Themed Programs: 1,429

Summer Camps: 124

Youth/General: 249



NORMANTOWN EQUESTRIAN CENTER



Normantown Equestrian Center (NTEC) is one of only three park district owned equestrian centers in Illinois. The facility sits on 6 acres and offers full and dry stall boarding options in addition to group and private lessons, in-house school shows, traveling competition team, birthday parties and special events throughout the year.

Normantown Equestrian Show Team Highlights:

Normantown Equestrian Center show team participants received a 4th place and 2-6th place in the Place to Start equestrian competition circuit.

Normantown Equestrian Center by the Numbers:

The facility averaged 34 horses in the stable each month: 10 park district owned horses; 13 full board horses; and 11 dry stall horses.

3,356 private lessons were purchased

285 participants enrolled in group lessons and camps

NTEC hosted 37 pony parties and 3 scout outings

29 pony rides and 118 groom and rides



OTTAWA STREET POOL



Ottawa Street Pool (OSP) is the only public swimming pool within the District's boundaries. OSP offers Red Cross certified private and group swim lessons in addition to open swim, monthly events, birthday parties and private rentals. The 200,000 gallon L-shaped pool is equipped with high and low diving boards and lap lanes.

Swim Lesson Participation: 1,129

Swim Passes Sold: 805

Swim Lessons Offered: 488

FINANCIAL PROFILE

The District's budgeted operating fund balance of \$4,0343,998 represents adherence to the District's Fund Balance/Net Assets Policy adopted in 2016 by the District's Board of Commissioners. The policy was established to provide financial stability, cash flow for operations, and the assurance that the District will be able to respond to emergencies with fiscal strength.

It is the District's philosophy to support long-term financial strategies, where fiscal sustainability is its first priority, while also building funds to support growth. It is essential to maintain adequate levels of fund balance/net assets to mitigate current and future risks and to ensure tax rates. Fund balance/net asset levels are also crucial consideration in long-term financial planning. Credit rating agencies carefully monitor levels of fund balance/net assets and unassigned balance in the Corporate Fund to evaluate the District's continued creditworthiness.

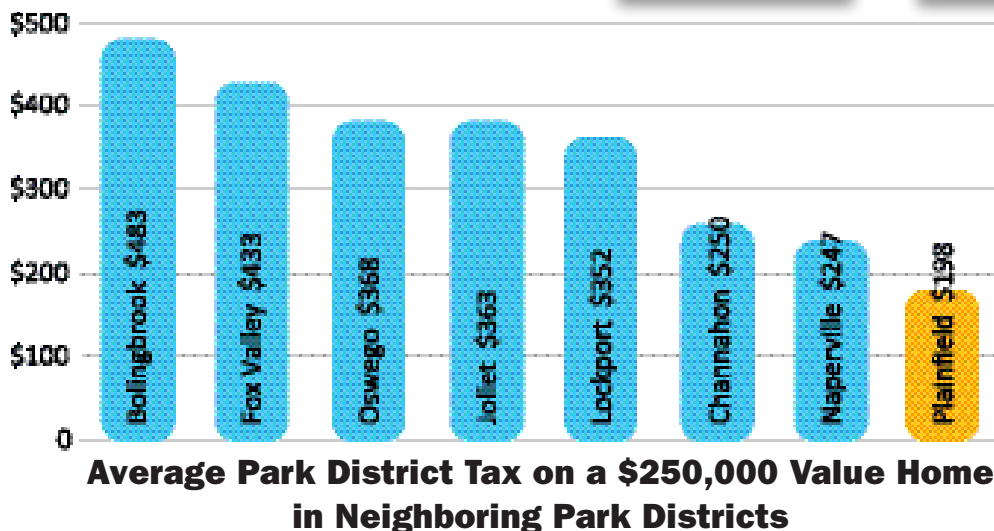
The Plainfield Park District's Standard & Poor's rating on its outstanding debt was raised from 'AA' to 'AA+'. At the same time, S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'AA+' rating to the District's series 2017 general obligation (GO) park bonds. The rating upgrade was based on the District's higher reserve levels and overall stronger financial operations, which S & P Global Ratings believes will be sustained, because management adopted stronger financial policies and practices.

Property Tax Bill Park District Portion



Of the 72 Illinois park districts rated by S & P Global Ratings, only one District has obtained the highest S&P Global Rating of 'AAA', which is one level higher than the District's 'AA+' rating.

Generally, a higher S&P Global Ratings debt rating will result in lower interest rates on the District's bond sales, which will result in less interest paid by District taxpayers through their property taxes.



MARKETING



Scout Update: In 2017 Scout began his third year as the Plainfield Park District mascot. He really gathered some attention. Scout hosted a scavenger hunt. With a custom guidebook, led participants to some of our parks, teaching them about the Park District, the environment and why foxes are important in Illinois. Scout hosted a meet-and-greet-luncheon to help celebrate Parks and Recreation Month in July. Paper Scout cutouts traveled with our patrons on all their summer adventures (similar to Flat Stanley). With the help of our patrons, Scout visited 10 states in the summer of 2017.

Park Partnerships: Beginning in late 2017 a new park partnership booklet (sponsorships) was designed and professionally printed (a first for the District). This new booklet established new park partnership categories and partnership levels. Newly featured was having title park partners for large established District events, such as Grinchmas on the Green and Journey to the North Pole. This new booklet will be used throughout 2018 to help with the recruitment in park partnerships through mailings and chamber events.

New areas of Marketing: 2018 will bring in new areas of marketing being researched and tracked with the goal of implementation in late 2018 or 2019. Some of these new areas will consist of new promotions banners on display in more of our parks. Implementing and launching a new website in 2018 and opening new social media sites such as Instagram, Snap Chat and using Facebook Live.

2016 REFERENDUM UPDATE

In November 2016 the Plainfield Park District passed a referendum to finance the new recreation center recently named the Prairie Activity & Recreation Center (PARC) with issuing bonds in the amount of \$10.5 million. Along with the referendum the Park District was awarded an Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant in the amount of \$1 million to apply to the PARC construction. Since 2016, and the referendum passing, the Park District has been able to make many improvements such as breaking ground and begin the construction of the new recreation center to be located at Bott Park, 24550 W. Renwick Rd., Plainfield.

Other Park District Improvements and Costs:

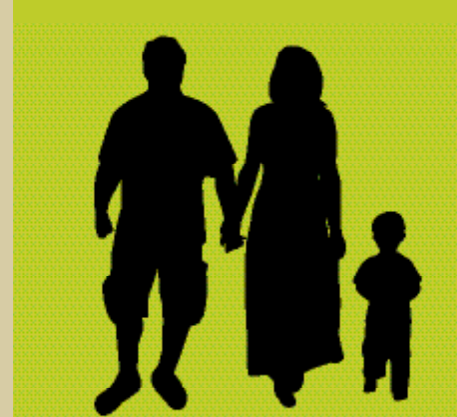
Avery Preserve DiscGolfPark Equipment Replacement (November 2017) \$20,000

Harvest Glen Park Replacement (October 2017) \$125,400.00

Kendal Ridge Park Replacement (September 2017) \$150,000

Van Horn West Park Replacement (Spring 2018) \$181,500

Village Green Park Playground Replacement (December 2017) \$200,300



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Plainfield Park District Receives Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency Award.

Plainfield Park District was recognized as an Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency by the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) in 2017.

“This program gives recognition to park and recreation agencies that go above and beyond in dedicating themselves to offering quality programs and services designed to fulfill their community’s needs,” said Debbie Trueblood, IPRA Executive Director.



Along with the Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency recognition many on the Plainfield Park District staff and board were recognized for their achievements in 2017.

Mimi Polling, Board Vice President, earned Master Board Member. IAPD Board Member Development Program is open to board members from IAPD member agencies. The program gives recognition to local board members who consistently go above and beyond the call of duty.

Carlo Capalbo, Executive Director, was awarded the IPRA Administration and Finance (A&F) Section’s Professional of the Year. It is presented to an individual who is a member of the section and has shown exemplary dedication and leadership within the field.

Corinne Vargas, Marketing Manager, was awarded the Communications & Marketing (C&M) Vision award. The award recipient is nominated from their community of peers and awarded to a forward-thinking professional who works to advance the purpose and professionalism of C&M.

The District won several awards at state conference this year including **first place** for table display and second place for paid advertising categories at **Agency Showcase C&M section.** A spirited competition spotlighting bright ideas exhibited by park, recreation and conservation agencies throughout the State of Illinois.



IPRA Promotes Play Initiative for Kendal Ridge Park.

This award is part of an Illinois statewide initiative to promote healthy play in partnership with IPRA and GameTime a Playcore company.

Wendi Calabrese, Director of Administrative Services and Leslie Anderson, Recreation Manager Early Childhood and Camps, passed their Certified Parks and Recreation Professional certification (CPRP).

The Plainfield Park District received the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** and the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The awards are the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Bill Frossard, Division Manager, received his Certified Pool Operator (CPO) and **Wendi Calabrese and Paul Crisman, Division Manager,** received their PDRMA Safety Coordinator Certification.

The Park District was awarded a \$1,000 Wellness Grant from PDRMA. Spring Into Steps – Walk Across America. The overall goal of the program is to log enough steps for an employee to successfully “walk” across America (San Francisco, CA to Norfolk, VA).

In October **Jon Stratton, PPD volunteer,** was honored at the Illinois Association of Park District’s (IAPD) **Best of the Best Awards** Gala for Jon’s volunteer efforts at the Plainfield Park District and in the Plainfield community.