



Recreation Administration Center  
23729 W. Ottawa St.  
Plainfield, IL 60544  
(815) 436-8812 | plfdparks.org

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

# Building *towards* our Future



### INSIDE

02 Welcome  
03 Your Parks  
04 Financial Profile

05 Financial Profile (*cont.*)  
06 Your Programs

07 Marketing  
08 Accomplishments

# Welcome



Plainfield Park District Leadership Team

“Wow. That one word sums up 2018. The Plainfield Park District started the year moving straight from 0-60 in the blink of the eye. It was a momentous year for the District as it started with being awarded Distinguished Agency status. Through the course of 2017 the District performed a very high level self-review of operations to achieve a “best standards” in parks and recreation. This is a great achievement as there are approximately 53 other agencies in Illinois that hold this designation.

The District did not sit still for long. On February 26, 2018 the first precast wall went up Bott Park for what would be the site of the newly opened Prairie Activity & Recreation Center (PARC). This new recreation center is not only unique to our District being the first recreational facility the Plainfield Park District possesses, but also it is targeted to be a Net Zero building. This will be the first recreational based facility in the state of Illinois with this designation,

as well as the first facility in Will County with the designation. What does net zero mean? Through the 593 solar panels placed on the high and low roofs, the facility will generate the energy to sustain the amount it uses or greater. This is a larger scope than just electrify, as it will also offset all the natural gas usage the building requires to keep it heated. Additionally, the building uses several other measures to help this process in window sizing and placement, usage of pre-treated outside air through a heat exchanger, the usage of LED light bulbs, and greater insulation within the precast walls to assist in keeping it warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

The District also continued facility improvements with an painting of the Ottawa Street Pool, an overhaul and redesign of the Avery Disc Golf Course, installation of new LED field lighting at the Ottawa ballfield, the upgrade to a new ball diamond at Bott Park on field #3, and the constant maintained and upkeep of our numerous outdoor recreational spaces. Our goal at the District, through our mission, vision, and values, is to bring our residency the best park district possibly with high quality of services and facilities.

We are excited for all that 2019 may bring through the District. As we spent 2018 Building towards our Future, we are proud to have opened the new PARC facility for you, our residents. We look forward to the continued growth and development throughout the year. We will continue to incorporate our mission in all of our future planning and efforts, always seeking to enhance all of our residents loves through quality recreation opportunities!”

## Board of Commissioners



**Mary Kay Ludemann**  
President  
2021



**Mimi Poling**  
Vice President  
2023



**Rob Ayres**  
Commissioner  
2023



**Bill Thoman**  
Commissioner  
2019



**Peter Steinys**  
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

The District opened its new 40,000 square foot activity and recreation center on January 1, 2019. Construction on the facility started in October 2017 and features the following amenities:

- 4,000 SF Fitness Center and Fitness Studio
- 9,500 SF gymnasium
- Indoor Elevated Walking Track
- Four Pre-school Classrooms
- 1,650 SF Multi-purpose Room

The facility is the first Net Zero Energy Recreation Center to be certified by Passive House Institute US. To achieve net zero the District pursued and was awarded a million dollar grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. The grant supports the cost of the 213 KW roof top solar array and other improvements for aggressive energy savings. The new Prairie Activity & Recreation Center (PARC) facility is estimated to be 65% more efficient than a conventional project of the same size and scope.

## Park Highlights

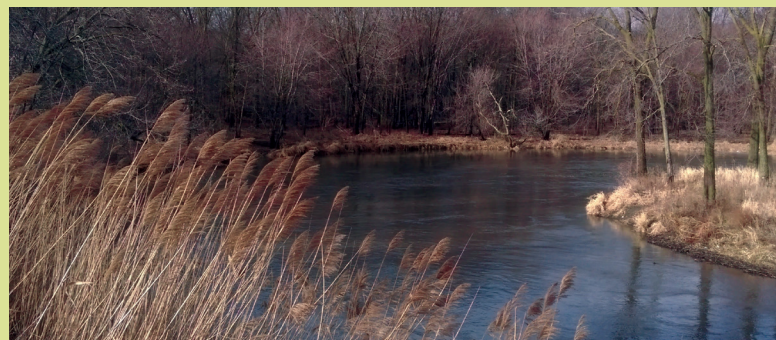
**Ottawa Street Ballfield Lighting upgrade:** In fall Ottawa Street ballfield lighting was upgraded to LED. The new lighting, while dramatically reducing energy consumption, also improves the overall light quality at the Park.

**Heritage Meadows and Indian Oaks Playgrounds:** In fall of 2018 the District applied for and was awarded grant for up to 50% of the equipment cost at these two parks. The playgrounds will be installed in Spring/Summer of 2019.

**Natural Area Management Herbicide Applications:** As a component of Natural Area Management, herbicide applications in conjunction with mowing events and prescribed burns, assist these sensitive areas in development and control the progress of invasive species establishment such as Common Reed and Thistle. Herbicide applications are sometimes the only effective treatments for wet, sloped or heavily wooded areas.

**Natural Area Management: Prescribed Burns: The Ponds, Farmstone Ridge and The Reserve:** As a component of natural areas management, prescribed burns in conjunction with mowing events and timely herbicide applications assist these sensitive areas in development. Prescribed burns help to control unwanted woody plant material and perennial weeds while stimulating native plant growth.

**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. 2018 saw a continuation of our management plan. The focus in winter 2018 was in the southern half of the District.

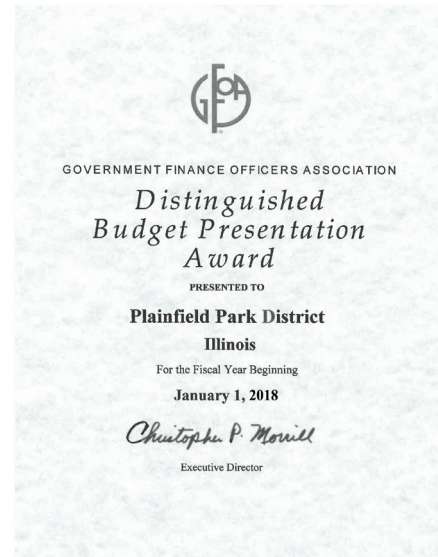


# Financial Profile

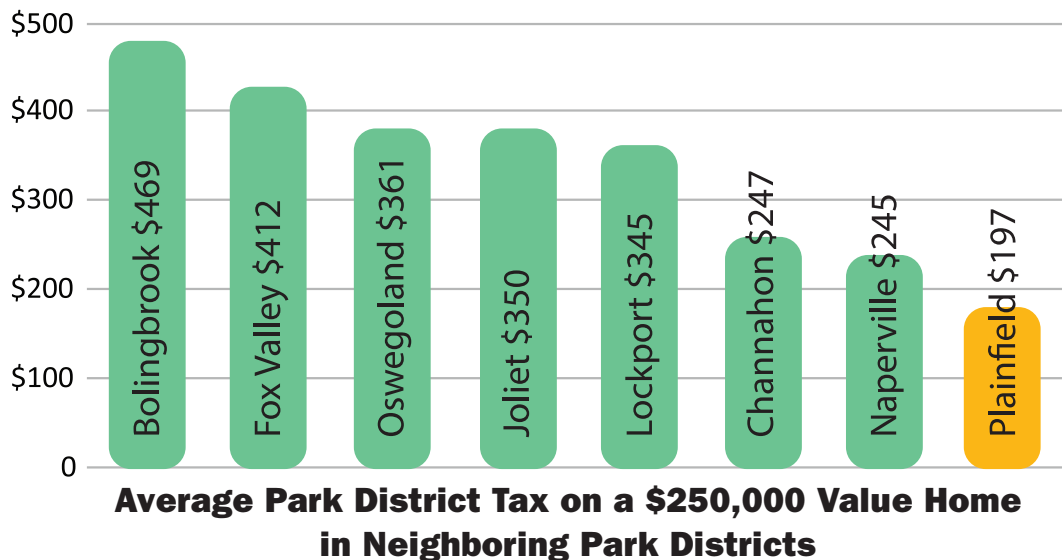
The Plainfield Park District's Standard & Poor's rating on its outstanding debt was raised from 'AA' to 'AA+'. At the same time, S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'AA+' rating to the District's series 2017 general obligation (GO) park bonds. The rating upgrade was based on the District's higher reserve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

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.



## Property Tax Bill Park District Portion





# Financial Profile

**Prairie Activity & Recreation Center (PARC) was funded through a referendum that was passed in November, 2016 by the voters of the Plainfield Park District. A referendum is a measure that appears on a ballot. The 2016 referendum authorized the sale of \$10.5 million in bonds to fund the construction of the PARC facility, along with park improvements.**

A bond issue is a way to borrow money for capital improvements. The bonds can be approved by referendum and this authority allows the Park District to repay the bonds with property taxes. The Park District can issue these bonds on a tax-exempt basis, which means the interest paid by the Park District on the bonds is exempt from federal income taxes. The tax exemption lowers the interest cost to the Park District and provides an incentive for people to invest

Park District Projects Funded in whole or in part by the 2016 Referendum:

- Avery Preserve DiscGolf Park Equipment Replacement
- Harvest Glen Park Playground Replacement
- Kendall Ridge Park Playground Replacement
- Ottawa Street Park Lighting Replacement
- Prairie Activity & Recreation Center – Construction and Furnishing
- Van Horn West Playground Replacement
- Village Green Park Playground Replacement



In 2019, the remainder of the 2016 referendum funds will be utilized for Bott Park Field Renovation, Bott Park Sports Field Lighting, and Bott Park playground replacement.

The District asked for \$10.5 million in bonds, which would allow the bond & interest tax rate not increase for the District's tax payers. The District's 2016 fiscal year bond tax rate was .0423 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and went down to .0377 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation in the 2018 fiscal year.

PARC has been designed for future expansion to meet growing community needs and future funding sources.



# Your Programs



## **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.

3,515 lessons private and semi private lessons sole

88 pony rides

28 Birthday Pony Parties

8 Scout Outings

Hosted 5 horse shows

Traveled to 7 horse shows

# Program Highlights

## **Program Participation Enrollment Numbers:**

Active Adult Drop-In Programs: 891

Athletics: 1,410

Basketball: 578

Dance: 651

Early Childhood: 754

Fitness & Health: 811

Private Rentals: 86

Special Events/Themed Programs: 1,502

Summer Camps: 130

Youth/General: 279





# Marketing



**Community Outreach:** This summer Marketing rolled out the “Share Your Smile” photo frames. The frames are located at Boy Scout Park, Clow Stephens Dog Park, Eaton Preserve, and Van Horn Woods East. Park visitors were encouraged to take photos smiling and enjoying the parks. The frames and photos were used in social media campaigns and proved to be quite popular. Four additional frames will be added in 2019.

The District partnered for community outreach with the Plainfield Area Chamber of Commerce to create a new event titled “The Heart of Christmas”. The event incorporated the Grinchmas on the Green tree lighting ceremony with the former Chamber Candlelight Christmas. The District provided hayrack rides for attendees through the lighted downtown. Other Community Outreach Partners were the Plainfield Township Fire Protection District, Plainfield Library, Village of Plainfield.

**Park Partnerships:** A new park partnership booklet (sponsorships) was designed and professionally printed and used to help with the recruitment in park partnerships through mailings and chamber events. Utilizing this booklet we sold \$32,707 in activity guide advertising and \$34,000 in park partnerships.

**Social Media:** A part-time Communications Coordinator was hired in April to establish and expand the District’s social media presence and share the District’s stories. We ended the year with:

- 5,079 likes on Facebook
- 515 Instagram followers
- 1,414 Twitter followers
- 173 LinkedIn

**Scout Update:** In June, Scout the Mascot was transitioned from a volunteer position to a part-time paid position. We hired a Scout Partner to attend events with Scout. Scout made appearances throughout the year at special events and programs. Scout held his Scavenger Hunt for the second year with a custom guidebook that led participants to a number of our parks teaching them about the Park District, the environment and energy efficiency. Our Weekly ENewsletter was rebranded as “Scout’s Weekly Guide”. Once a week Scout updates subscribers with advertising for upcoming programs, employment opportunities and sharing information from completed programs.



**Website:** In April, Marketing launched the District’s new website which averages 5,000 visits per month. One of the features of the new website is Google Analytics which tracks the total number of visits to the website, the most popular pages visited, user’s average length of time spent on the website, and other important metrics. The mobile friendly view is another great feature of the website.

# Accomplishments



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.

### **Plainfield Parks Commissioners Recognized at State Conference.**

Plainfield Park District Commissioners **Rebecca Hosford, Jason Rausch** and **Bill Thoman** achieved **Notable Board Member** status at the 2019 Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) state conference held in January in Chicago.

**Plainfield Park District President Elected Trustee of Leading Statewide Association For Parks. Mary Kay Ludemann**, President of the Plainfield Park District, was **elected to the Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Board of Trustees**. As an IAPD Trustee, Ludemann will assist the association with its mission of advancing Illinois park districts in their ability to preserve natural resources and improve the quality of life for all people in Illinois.

**Maureen Nugent, Director of Finance and I.T., Beth Brannen, Recreation Supervisor - Athletics & Aquatics and Jennifer Rooks-Lopez, Director of Parks and Planning** passed their Certified Parks and Recreation Professional certification (CPRP).

Plainfield Park District **Lukas Wyss**, Recreation Supervisor **Named 2018 Young Professional of the Year** by The Illinois Park & Recreation Association. He accepted the award at the Illinois Association of Park District's annual conference.

The award is presented to a current Illinois Park and Recreation **young professional who has made an impact in the parks and recreation field** and who shows a great deal of promise in becoming a future leader.

The District won several awards at state conference this year including **second place** for table display and third place for large format 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.

We always knew that we were good but one of the best? Residents around **Will County** noticed and they **voted the Plainfield Park District "One of the Best" in the Shaw Media Best of Will County Reader's Choice Awards**. Representatives from Plainfield Parks accepted the award in the Family Recreation category at a ceremony at the Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet

