

2019 PLAINFIELD PARK DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT



Plainfield
PARK DISTRICT

PLAINFIELD PARK DISTRICT

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2019 was a monumental year for the Plainfield Park District.

In January, we opened the Prairie Activity & Recreation Center, the District's very first indoor recreation facility which houses the Prairie Fit fitness center, dedicated fitness studio, cross fit workout area, large gymnasium, an elevated track, and multi-purpose room.

PARC provides a permanent home for our Great Adventures early childhood education programs, music classes, and our always popular winter basketball leagues. It also serves as the location of our most popular special events throughout the year including the annual Daddy Daughter Dance, Breakfast with Santa, and Breakfast with the Bunny.

The facility received Passive House certification in 2019 for its Net-Zero energy-efficient design which includes heat-retaining walls and windows as well as a rooftop solar component that will help offset its annual energy usage—a first in the State of Illinois. Not all of our development was indoors though as we continued our outdoor maintenance programs with pond treatments, naturalized burns, as well as upgrades to six playgrounds including Indian Oaks, The Reserve, Heritage Meadows, Heritage Lakes, Kelly, and Bott Parks. The Bott playground improvements also include a new challenge course along with plaza, seating area improvements, and ball field lighting.

In 2020 we will continue the momentum with playground upgrades planned for Commons, Brookside, Clearwater, and Woodside Parks as well as a new picnic shelter at Village Green. And, with the assistance of a \$400,000 state grant, we also plan to complete a \$1 million upgrade at Eaton Preserve.

On behalf of myself and the leadership team here at the Plainfield Park District, we look forward to continuing to serve you, our residents, in our mission of enhancing lives through quality recreation opportunities in 2020.

Best wishes, *Carlo J. Capalbo*



Plainfield Park District Leadership Team



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 Reserve, Health & Wellness

Photo: Left to Right - Carlo Capalbo, Jennifer Rooks-Lopez, Wendi Calabrese, Maureen Nugent, Andy Dunfee

Board of Commissioners



Mimi Poling
President



Bill Thoman
Vice President



Syed Abedi
Commissioner



Rob Ayres
Commissioner



Mary Kay Ludemann
Commissioner



Jason Rausch
Commissioner



Heath Wright
Commissioner

FINANCIAL PROFILE

MAKING THE GRADE

The District's S&P Debt Rating is AA+

The District's Standard & Poor's rating on its outstanding debt is AA+ which reflects our high reserve levels and strong financial operations.

The higher S&P Global rating helps the District receive more favorable interest rates on the District's bond sales, which will result in less interest paid by District taxpayers through their property tax bills.

DISTINGUISHED BUDGET AWARD

Also, in 2019, Finance received the Distinguished Budget Award from the Government Finance Officer's Association for its 2018 budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the Plainfield Park District Finance Department and reflects the ongoing commitment by commissioners and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. A copy of the most recent budget along with past budgets can be found on the Park District's website, plfdparks.org.

KEEPING TIME

One of the main goals for the Plainfield Park District's finance department in 2019 was the implementation of Executime, the District's automated time keeping software system which employees began using in the spring and summer.

The new software will help streamline the District's payroll system and improve timecard tracking as well as employee vacation and time off requests.

Read our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at plfdparks.org.



HOW DO WE MEASURE UP?

The Plainfield Park District staff works hard to provide the most recreation opportunities and park space at the lowest cost possible for our residents through advanced planning, stringent budgeting, and an ongoing eye toward process improvements. Take a look to see how far your tax dollars go compared to neighboring park districts:

\$401	Bolingbrook
\$379	Fox Valley
\$340	Lockport
\$339	Joliet
\$244	Naperville
\$243	Channahon
\$200	Plainfield



For every \$1 paid in property tax, just 3 cents of that goes to the Plainfield Park District which we use to maintain park space and facilities, fund recreation programs, and put on special events throughout the year like the Plainfield Park District Patriotic Picnic and Fireworks on July 3.

IMPROVING YOUR WORLD

... ONE PARK AT A TIME

IMPROVING PARKS & FACILITIES

While the most visible new addition to the Plainfield Park District has been the Prairie Activity & Recreation Center (PARC) which opened to the public on New Year's Day 2019, the Parks and Planning Department has also been busy over the past year renovating several playgrounds at park spaces around the District.

As part of its 5-year master plan, and with a goal to "Improve and maintain a quality system of parks and facilities that excite the community," Planning staff oversaw an ambitious itinerary in summer 2019 to upgrade playgrounds and infrastructure at 6 of its parks.

Those parks receiving a refresh in 2019 included: Indian Oaks, Heritage Lakes, Heritage Meadows, Kelly Park, The Reserve, and Gregory B. Bott Park. Bott Park's upgrades include a new universal playground with ADA access as well as a new challenge course.

To help defray the cost for taxpayers, the District applied for and received two grants from Game Time, a playground equipment manufacturer, totaling just over \$175,000 that was used to purchase new play equipment for upgrades at Heritage Meadows, Heritage Lakes, and Bott Park.

WHAT'S NEW & UPCOMING

4 New Playgrounds at Brookside, Clearwater, Commons, and Woodside Parks scheduled for 2020

Debuting this year, the upgraded Gregory B. Bott Park playground includes a 40-yard dash challenge course, as well as a universally accessible playground which exceeds Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards providing extra wide ramps for wheelchair accessibility on to the play structure as well as other features that provide play opportunities for physical, cognitive, communicative, social/emotional, and sensory development for kids of all ages and abilities.

Parks and Planning is moving ahead with plans for more improvements in 2020 including 4 new playgrounds at Brookside, Clearwater, Commons, and Woodside Parks, improvements to the Van Horn Woods Bike Park and pedestrian bridge repair at Van Horn Woods. The District also was notified in January 2020 that it will receive a \$400,000 Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant from the State of Illinois that will help pay for improvements at Eaton Preserve.

NATURAL AREA MANAGEMENT

Burns help to control unwanted woody plant material and perennial weeds while stimulating native plant growth. The District prescribed burns in conjunction with mowing events and timely herbicide applications to assist these sensitive areas in their development.

As part of its ongoing commitment to maintaining natural park space, Parks and Planning conducted prescribed burns at Eaton Preserve, Riverside Canoe Launch, Prairie Knoll & Old Renwick.



KIDS AROUND THE WORLD

In 2019, the Plainfield Park District donated 5 playground sets to Kids Around the World, a non-profit organization that removes and refurbishes the equipment for re-installation in developing countries.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

PARC GRAND OPENING

Hundreds turned out for the ribbon cutting and public grand opening of the Prairie Activity & Recreation Center (PARC) on Feb. 1. The day included free entrance to PARC, food, giveaways, and tours of the new facility which includes a large gym, classroom space, the Prairie Fit fitness center, and an elevated track.

PARC WINS AWARDS

The Prairie Activity & Recreation Center continued to rack up awards in 2019. In addition to its Passive House Certification, PARC also received a "Best Green Practices" award at the Illinois Association of Park District's Best of the Best Gala, as well as a technology award from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.

RECREATION MANAGERS PASS CERTIFICATION EXAM

Recreation Manager of Special Events Misty Bartlett and Risk Manager Paul Crisman passed the exam to become Certified Park and Recreation Professionals.

INAUGURAL VETERANS PINNING CEREMONY HELD IN MAY

In May, Plainfield Park District hosted its first ever ceremony to honor local veterans for their service at the Plainfield Township Community Center. The event attracted a large group of veterans and their families who were presented with a pin and certificate. Attendees also were treated to refreshments and cake following the event.



OTTAWA STREET POOL LIFEGUARD RECOGNIZED

Plainfield Park District life guard Mackenzie Vargo was recognized by the Village of Plainfield Police Department for her quick thinking and actions that saved a swimmer in distress on Aug. 1. Mackenzie was working the night of the police department's D.A.R.E. Night pool party when a middle school student who couldn't swim dove in to the pool. Plainfield Police Chief John Konopek presented Mackenzie with a "Lifesaving Award" and a challenge coin.

PARK DISTRICT COMMISSIONER ELECTED TO STATEWIDE PARKS ASSOCIATION

Commissioner Mary Kay Ludemann, was elected to the Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Board of Trustees which oversees the advancement of Illinois park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies statewide. Commissioner Ludemann works with the 19-member board to advise the association in providing service, research, advocacy, public awareness and educational programs around Illinois.

PLAINFIELD PARKS COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZED AT STATE CONFERENCE

Plainfield Park District Commissioners Jason Rausch and Bill Thoman, as well as a former commissioner Rebecca Hosford, achieved Notable Board Member status at the 2019 Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) state conference in January. The status is granted to those board members who "go above and beyond" in service to the communities they serve.

COMMISSIONER RECOGNIZED FOR 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Plainfield Park District Commissioner Mary Kay Ludemann was recognized by the Illinois Association of Park Districts for her 10 years of service.

BOARD MEMBERS MAINTAIN MASTER STATUS

Commissioners Ludemann and Poling maintained their Master Board Member status in IAPD's Board Member Development Program in 2019.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

PLAINFIELD PARK DISTRICT RECEIVES \$500 DONATION FROM LOCAL BIKE CLUB

The Plainfield Park District received a \$500 donation from the Joliet Bicycle Club to help further the development of trails throughout the District.

PLAINFIELD PARK DISTRICT, ROMEOVILLE PARTNERSHIP

Plainfield Park District staff and commissioners celebrated the re-opening of Budler Park playground over the summer. The newly revamped playground, located in Romeoville and the Plainfield Park District, is the first park site to be revamped under an intergovernmental partnership between the two agencies.

PLAINFIELD PARK DISTRICT RECEIVES \$1000 WELLNESS GRANT

The District received a \$1,000 wellness grant from the Park District Risk Management Agency that will pay for the Nosh Plot, an employee vegetable garden that will be planted outside the Ottawa Street Rec/ Admin Center.



STREAMS DANCE STUDIO REOPENS

The Streams Recreation Center unveiled its new look with a ribbon cutting this summer after renovations created three dedicated dance studios and an expanded waiting area. The recreation center will now be the exclusive home to Park District dance programming.



DAY CAMP PROGRAM ACHIEVES AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION ACCREDITATION

Plainfield Park District's Summer Day Camp program received its accreditation from the American Camp Association Illinois in 2019.



The ACA Accreditation process, which took over a year to complete, establishes policy guidelines for camp

directors on key aspects of camp operations related to program quality, health, and safety aspects for campers and staff.

All told, the Park District summer camp program underwent a review of 150 standards to achieve the accreditation which reviewed areas of core/foundational, administration, facilities, health and wellness, staff qualifications, training, supervision; program design and activities; and program aquatics. The accreditation offers parents another level of assurance when they drop their kids off to a Plainfield Park District Summer Day Camp in summer 2020.



RECREATION BY THE NUMBERS

10,303



TOTAL PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS

513



SUMMER CAMP ENROLLMENTS

686



DANCE CLASS PARTICIPANTS

3,407



PRIVATE RIDING LESSONS

632



YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

948



OTTAWA STREET SWIM LESSONS

393



FITNESS MEMBERSHIPS

895



OTTAWA STREET POOL PASSES SOLD

