



Oswegoland Park District

2010 *Annual Report*



“Creating Opportunities for a Healthy Community.”

Mission Statement Oswegoland Park District

*It is the Mission of the
Oswegoland Park District
to effectively and
responsively:*

*...plan, acquire, develop,
maintain and preserve
parks, facilities, and
natural and historic areas.*

*...provide diverse,
accessible, high quality
services and programs.*

*...provide our community
with opportunities to play,
gather, celebrate, learn, and
enjoy nature.*

*...provide the leadership,
staff, and volunteers
with the resources and
environment to create a
park district that reflects
the spirit of our community.*

Adopted -
September 20, 1996

Executive Director
Bill McAdam

Deputy Director
Richard Zielke

Executive Secretary
Peggy Krahn

Director of Finance
Nancy Woods

Director of Recreation & Marketing
Ginny Bateman

Director of Planning & Development
Grant Casleton

Director of Operations
Mike Fee

General Manager Fox Bend
Brad Doyle

Message from the President . . .

Dear Friends,

As President of the Park Board, I am honored to represent this great community. I realize the high expectations you have of your Park District, and I speak on behalf of the Board in assuring you that we will work together to provide the quality programs, facilities, and customer service to which you are accustomed.

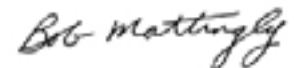
One of the things I love most about this country is the democratic process; it allows for the people to be heard, and new representation from a variety of backgrounds. It is up to those who are elected to discuss issues and arrive at decisions together that best meet the needs of our community.

We, as Park Commissioners, are your voice and we are grateful for the phone calls, e-mails, and personal contacts we receive from you. We take our responsibility very seriously as we know how many lives are impacted by the decisions that we make on a daily basis.

During the past several months there has been much talk of fiscal responsibility. We welcome these conversations. Even during the lean economic times this past year, your Park District operated within a balanced budget without raising taxes or cutting programs, services, or jobs.

Part of that budget included the construction of a new skate park and lighted ball fields at Prairie Point Community Park. This summer we are excited to open the District's first splash playground at the same location; all free to the public.

It has been a pleasure to serve you for the past eighteen years. I look forward to seeing you at PrairieFest, Hudson Crossing Park, on the bike trail, at the new splash playground, on the golf course, or any other place that our Park District offers you "opportunities for a healthy community."



Robert Mattingly
Park Board President

Meet Your Commissioners

Meetings of the Oswegoland Park District Board of Commissioners are generally held on the fourth Thursday of each month at South Point, 810 Preston Lane, Oswego, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend and *Recognition of Visitors* is a standard agenda item. To confirm meeting information and view the agenda, visit www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org or call 630.554.1010.



Bob Mattingly
President



Deb Krase
Vice President



Mike Satlak



Danielle Ebersole



Mark Slover



Your Park District at a glance

The Oswegoland Park District is a governmental agency responsible for acquiring, developing, and maintaining natural areas, parks, and leisure time facilities for area residents. The District also plans, develops, and implements a wide range of recreational programs and activities that reflect the interests of all age groups.

The Park District was established by referendum in 1950. It is a separate governmental entity known as a "special district" and serves approximately 49,500 residents who live within this District's 38-square-mile service area. This service area includes the Village of Oswego, parts of Montgomery, Aurora, and Plainfield, and all of Boulder Hill. The Oswegoland Park District also includes the surrounding countryside of Oswego Township and a tiny portion of Will County.

Park District operations are funded by revenue generated through program fees, tax dollars, grants, donations, and interest. These funds pay the staff members who care for parks and facilities, plan and supervise programs, and help you register for classes. They also pay for all the materials, supplies, utilities, and other resources required to keep your public places functional, attractive, and safe.

Your Park District responsibly uses available funds to purchase, plan, design, and construct new facilities, renovate existing facilities, and acquire equipment needed to care for all of the places and spaces you and your neighbors enjoy.

A board of five elected commissioners set policy and carry out the official business of the District. Park Board Commissioners serve six-year terms, without pay. Any resident who is a registered voter may run for a park board seat when elections are held in odd-numbered years.



In 2010, the Park District offered 467 programs with 25,541 participants.

Recreational Facilities

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 49 parks | 21 half court basketball courts |
| 8 greenways | 4 full court basketball courts |
| 32 picnic areas | 1 18 hole disc golf course |
| 20 small picnic shelters | 13 miles of biking and hiking trails |
| 5 group picnic shelters | 367 acres of natural area |
| 31 playgrounds | 160 acre golf course |
| 9 tennis courts | 1 aquatic park |
| 2 skate parks | 1 swimming pool |



Conservation natural resources



Conservation partnership program with District 308 schools was expanded in 2010. Conservation field work included continued development of the Sustainable Schoolyard Program, changing schoolyards to prairies, gardens, orchards, and other sustainable uses. The District also began a new conservation partnership program with the Oswego Opportunity School.



Pantry garden

continues to be successful as a major contributor to the Northern IL Food Bank Program of Kendall County donating over a 1000 pounds of fresh produce in 2010.



Restoration planting projects continue along Waubonsie Creek, Lakeview, Bartlett Lake, Victoria Meadows, and Morgan Creek. The District planted over 3,000 gallon native plants and over 10,000 native prairie plugs throughout the District's natural areas.

Native seed gathering by conservation volunteers helped expand the in house plant nursery operation. Volunteers collected over 15 pounds of valuable seed.



Invasive plant monitoring and removal continue at the District's natural areas.



Prescribed burns in the fall and spring continue to improve the quality of natural areas by removing invasive plants, promoting deep rooted prairie regeneration and more plant diversity. 223 acres of Park District prairie and 5.2 acres of schoolyard prairie were burned in 2010.



New and Improved planning and development

The Civic Center Park playground was completely renovated in fall 2010. Improvements include a handicap accessible playground with four slides, eight climbers, activity panels, swings, and ramps to provide wheelchair access. The poured-in-place rubberized surface not only meets safety standards, it also adds a bounce to everyone's step! A shelter, sitting area, benches, walkways and bike rack complete the construction. This project was partially funded by the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association.



Phase II construction at Prairie Point Community Park will include a picnic shelter with restrooms and plenty of space for large gatherings. A first for the Park District is a splash playground with 17 different spray and play features. A tot area with five gentle spray features provides space for little ones to enjoy. An auxiliary building located next to the splash pad will house the mechanical equipment and ballfield lighting controls as well as a family restroom. A pergola along the face of the building will provide instant shade and a place to relax. Two of the ballfields will be lighted to accommodate the growing number of baseball and softball players in the District. This project is funded in part by a \$400,000 OSLAD grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The District's new **Concrete Skate Park** opened in 2010 at Prairie Point Park. The 7,900 square foot, pre-cast concrete skate park is truly unique. Stop by, sit on the bleachers and enjoy watching some amazing tricks performed on the five foot high bowl, grind rails and ledges, hubba ledges, speed ramps, stairs, and benches. Join us on May 21, 2011 for the **Prairie Sk8 Jam** grand opening!



The **Waubonsie Creek Restoration Project** was a joint venture between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to create fish passage from the mouth of the Waubonsie Creek to Waubonsie Lake in Aurora by removing several old dams on Park District property at sites along the creek including Stonegate Park and the Fox Bend Golf Course. Riffles were installed in their place to allow access for fish to breed, spawn, and forage. The Park District assisted the two agencies and was involved in the planning process and construction monitoring.

Program Participants recreation

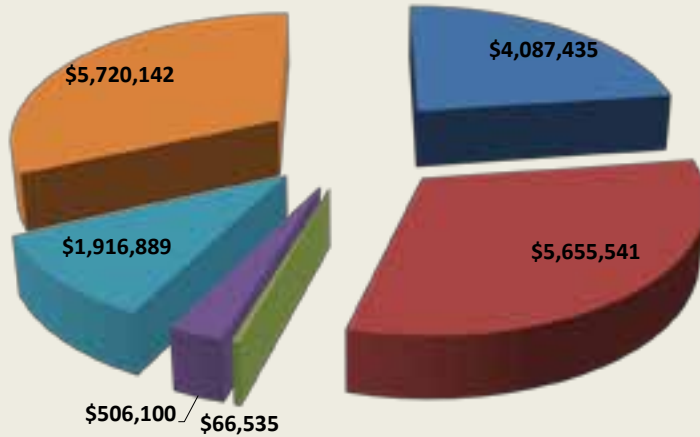
- 3,796 Gymnastics
- 3,297 Fitness
- 2,004 Soccer
- 1,863 Swim Lessons
- 1,002 Basketball
- 917 Baseball
- 1,385 Dance
- 500 Kid's Connection
- 340 Preschool
- 32,000 golf rounds



Fiscal Responsibility

Oswegoland Park District 2011 Operating Budget January 1 - December 31

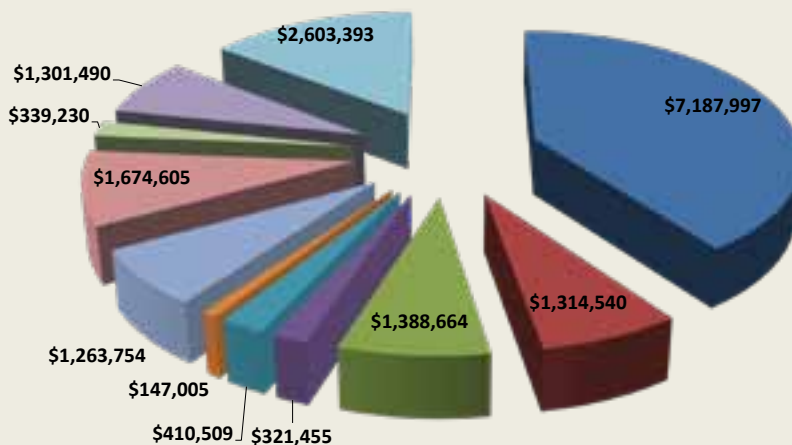
Total Revenues
\$17,952,642



Revenues by Source

- Previous Year Balance - 23%
- Tax Receipts - 32%
- Interest - < 1%
- Grants - 3%
- Other Income, Transfers & Allocations - 10%
- Recreation and Program Fees - 32%

Total Expenditures
\$17,952,642



Expenditures by Source

- Salaries & Benefits - 40%
- Contractual Services - 7%
- Materials & Supplies - 8%
- Utilities - 2%
- Equipment - 2%
- Property & Liability Insurance - <1%
- Debt Service - 7%
- Capital Projects - 9%
- General Operations - 2%
- Other Expenses, Transfers & Allocations - 7%
- Reserve Fund Balance - 15%

Complete audit report will be available for viewing June 2011.
www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org

Transfer of Ownership



The Little White School Museum, built as a church in 1850 and formerly a one-room school, had long been maintained by a cooperative agreement between the school district, the park district, and the Oswegoland Heritage Association. The school district owned the building, the park district maintained and staffed the building, and the Heritage Association ran the museum which holds the rich history of the area.

The Oswegoland Heritage Association suggested that the building owner apply for historical landmark status. Since the park district's mission includes preserving historical sites, and the school district's mission is primarily education, on November 22, 2010 the school board voted to transfer ownership to the park district for ten dollars. The Oswego Historic Preservation Commission awarded Landmark Status to the the Little White School Museum assuring that this historic building will be preserved for generations to enjoy.



Community Gardens

In response to resident requests, the Oswegoland Park District created the Community Gardens at South Point Park behind South Point at 810 Preston Lane in Oswego. There are one hundred 20' x 20' plots which rent for \$20 a season and twenty 10' x 10' plots that rent for \$10. Non residents pay slightly more.

The first year was met with tremendous enthusiasm, but trying soil conditions and poor drainage led to some abandoned tomatoes and cranky cucumbers. The Park District has turned those challenges into opportunities this season, and has tilled organic compost into the entire garden, created wood chipped paths, improved drainage, and added a community message board so that you can share your successful gardening tips or comment on your neighbor's expertise. Cool beans!

Those interested in renting a garden plot can contact the Park District at 630.554.1010.



The Park Foundation



The Oswegoland Park & Recreation Foundation was established in 2005 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. It is a tax-exempt public foundation operating for the benefit of the Oswegoland community. Its board of directors is made up of citizens who operate independently of the Park District, yet in support of its mission.

How can you help? Purchase an engraved brick paver to be placed along the walkways at Hudson Crossing Park, make a donation to the Foundation, or become a Friend of the Parks.

All donations are tax deductible. For more information, contact Park Foundation Chair Candice Hadley at 630.554.1865.

www.greeneroswegoland.org



Facilities

Coming in 2011 working so you can play

Prairie Point
313 E. Washington
Oswego, IL 60543
FAX 630.554.1577

Civic Center
5 Ashlawn Avenue
Montgomery, IL 60538
FAX 630.896.2058

Boulder Point
ZERO Boulder Hill Pass
Montgomery, IL 60538
FAX 630.896.5265

South Point
810 Preston Lane
Oswego, IL 60543
FAX 630.554.4979

Aquatic Center
5 Ashlawn Avenue
Montgomery, IL 60538
630.554.1010

**Fox Bend
Golf Course**
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
630.554.3939
FAX 630.554.9771

**Little White
School Museum**
Jackson & Polk Streets
Oswego, IL 60543
630.554.2999
FAX 630.554.0716

Completion of **Prairie Point Community Park**! We are excitedly looking forward to having the picnic shelter open for celebrations, the **Splash Pad*** filled with families enjoying the cool spray on a hot summer day, and the ballfield lighting shining down on evening ballgames.



Staff will be designing a new master plan for **Waa Kee Sha Park** to accommodate a new shelter and future bike trail connection to the south. The shelter will be constructed after the master plan is completed.

Townsend Park in the Prescott Mill subdivision is scheduled to start development in 2011. Planned improvements for this year include an accessible playground, swings and walkways, as well as benches and a drinking fountain.

The Civic Center **Aquatic Park** will be getting new sand play equipment, and the concrete pool deck by the lap lanes will be expanded for additional lounge chairs and a new shade Funbrella.

The first phase of the \$100,000 grant project at the **Little White School Museum** will start in the spring. The project includes replacing the wheelchair lift to the museum and the seat lift to the archives and installing historically appropriate gutters and downspouts on the building. The second phase at Little White School Museum includes reinstalling historical markers, new walkways, benches, interpretive signage and exterior lighting improvements.

*Artist rendering of the FREE Splash Pad to open summer 2011 at Prairie Point Community Park.

All Facilities:
630.554.1010



The Oswegoland Park District is a member of the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association which provides recreational opportunities for children and adults with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities. More information about FVSRA is available online at www.fvsra.org or contact them at 630.907.1114.