



PARK DISTRICT
of HIGHLAND PARK

The Park District of Highland Park mission is to enrich the quality of community life through a diversity of healthy leisure pursuits and a heightened appreciation of our natural world.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Welcome!

With over 700 acres of land, 45 parks, four beaches and nine facilities, the Park District of Highland Park is one of the largest and certainly one of the most diverse districts in Illinois.

This was a year of significant change for the Park District. After a nationwide search, Brian Romes was selected as the Park District's new executive director. Brian worked for the Park District for ten years, most recently as its Director of Recreation.

Under his guidance, the Park District completed a community-wide attitude and interest survey in 2019. The survey results influenced updates to the Park District's 10-year master plan (GreenPrint 2024) and the three-year Strategic Plan aligning them with current and future resident needs, community values, and the Park District's changing demographics. The Park District of Highland Park is dedicated to being an excellent, accountable, ethical, and sustainable organization based on its strong commitment to its mission, vision, and values. GreenPrint 2024 and our Strategic Plan, along with other key planning mechanisms, allow us to stay on track to achieve our goals.

A challenge in 2019 was the rapidly changing environment, especially along our lakeshore. Record-high precipitation, near record-high Lake Michigan water levels, and an increase in damaging storms affected communities all along the Great Lakes. These extreme conditions challenged our ability to continue providing safe beach access at beachfront properties.

In the spring, heavy rainfall caused severe bluff erosion at Moraine Beach, compromising the path and making it unsafe for pedestrian access to our dog beach. At various times throughout the summer, high lake levels and severe storms damaged our floating dock and sand ramp at Park Avenue Boating Facility, causing facility closures for emergency repair work. Rosewood Beach temporarily closed this fall to implement an emergency sand nourishment project at the Nature and Swimming Coves. The project was necessary to protect Rosewood's structures and parking lot from erosion caused by the high lake levels and powerful early fall storms.

The Park District continues working with engineers and community partners to analyze future lake level projections and long-term options to protect our lakefront structures. Fiscally responsible planning to address these challenges is a priority in providing safe, enriching experiences at our lakefront properties.

Amid these challenges and changes, the Park District has much to be proud of from the past year. The newly renovated Sunset Valley Golf Club completed its first full season, with 30,700 rounds played. The club continues to receive positive reviews from our golfers and industry experts.

Park District of Highland Park is a careful steward of taxpayer funds and is in a strong financial position as it maintained its Aaa rating with Moody's Investors Service, the highest rating possible, due in part to the district's sizable tax base, sound financial operations, and strong management.

During the year, government-wide revenue totaled \$24.4 million, while expenses totaled \$20.5 million, resulting in a balanced budget and an increase to Net Position of \$1.4 million. On December 31, 2019, the District's Net Position totaled \$56 million, of which, \$17.7 million is unrestricted and may be used to meet ongoing obligations. In 2019, the Park District of Highland Park invested over \$2.5 million in its infrastructure, including the sand nourishment project at Rosewood Beach.

Statement of Net Position as of December 31, 2019

summarized

Assets

Cash and Investments	17,392,070
Receivables - Net of Allowances	14,870,593
Inventory	16,239
Prepays	66,228
Net Capital	53,645,017
Other Non Current Assets	5,121,119
Deferred Outflows	688,372
TOTAL ASSETS	\$91,799,638

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	1,044,362
Accrued Payroll	471,114
Accrued Interest	18,865
Other Payables	1,840,397
Current Portion-Long Term Debt	2,345,124
Noncurrent Liabilities	14,296,072
Deferred Inflows of Resources	15,801,913
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$35,817,847

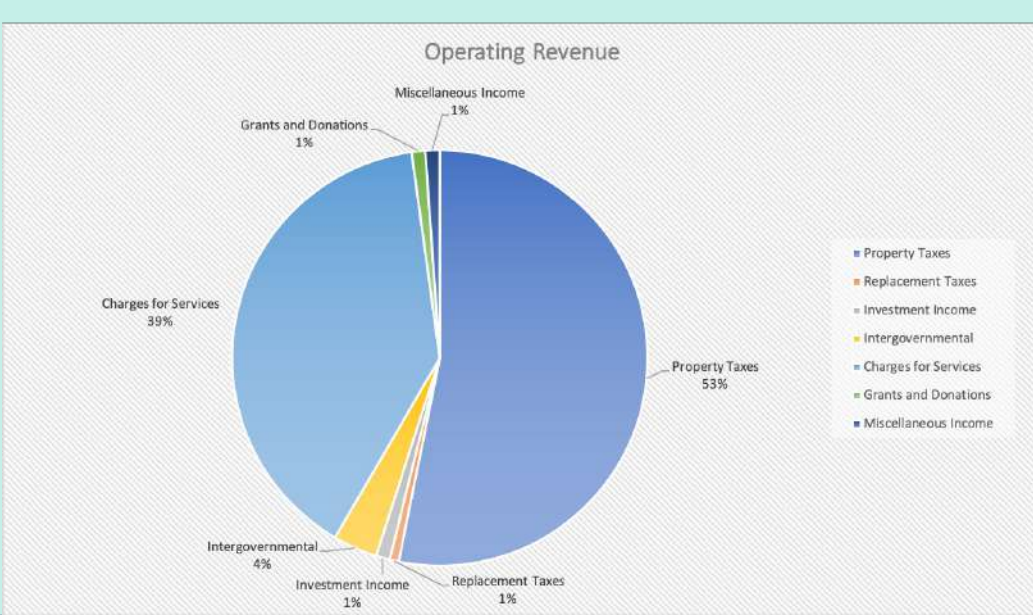
Net Position

Net Investment in Capital Assets	37,782,923
Restricted	487,832
Unrestricted	17,711,036
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$55,981,791

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET POSITION	\$91,799,638
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Park District of Highland Park Actual vs. Budget Year End 2019

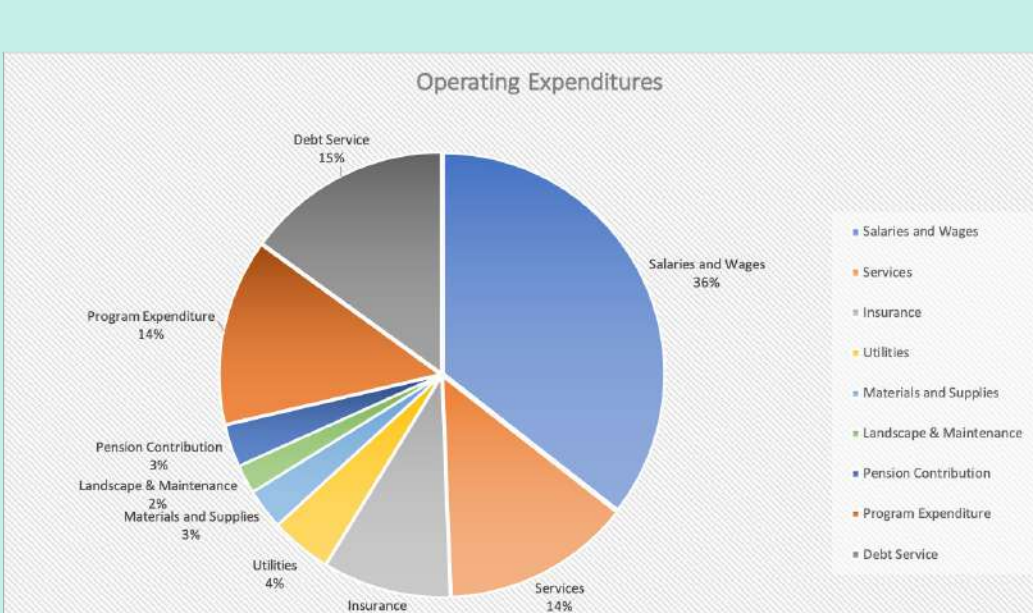
Revenue	Actual	Budget	Variance
Property Taxes	12,963,247	13,212,680	(249,433)
Replacement Taxes	174,765	128,000	46,765
Investment Income	262,147	130,000	132,147
Intergovernmental	838,333	0	838,333
Charges for Services	9,609,804	10,177,054	(567,250)
Grants and Donations	256,572	20,000	236,572
Miscellaneous Income	272,083	240,144	31,939
Revenues	24,376,951	23,907,878	469,073



Expenditures	Actual	Budget	Variance
Salaries and Wages	7,284,299	7,771,892	487,593
Services	2,830,985	2,975,667	144,682
Insurance	1,918,353	2,182,831	264,478
Utilities	913,483	896,006	(17,477)
Materials and Supplies	605,639	656,657	51,018
Landscape & Maintenance	429,945	461,417	31,472
Pension Contribution	632,742	656,795	24,053
Program Expenditure	2,791,208	3,012,972	221,764
Debt Service	3,076,962	3,078,862	1,900
Expenditures	20,483,616	21,693,099	1,209,483

Capital Outlay	2,541,038	7,000,007	4,458,969
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Net Change In Fund Balance	1,352,297	(4,785,228)	(5,199,379)
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BUDGET

The budget process begins in July with final Board approval in December. Once finalized the budget doesn't sit on the shelf. Staff utilizes the budget as a working tool that guides operational decisions. Monthly, the Board reviews YTD budget to actual financial statements.



AWARDS

- Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency by the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA).
- 2018 Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting - For the 30th year in a row the Park District has received this award.
- Golf Inc Magazine, best-renovated courses in the world, Sunset Valley Golf Club
- Illinois Parks and Recreation Association, Facility of the Year Award, Sunset Valley Golf Club



MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE

The Park District of Highland Park maintains a Aaa rating with Moody's Investors Service.

