



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 2020

Welcome!

With over 800 acres of land, 45 parks, four beaches, and nine facilities, the Park District of Highland Park is one of the largest and most diverse districts in Illinois.

This past year was like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic required the Park District to shut down facilities and limit its ability to offer programs at a time when the community needed recreation services more than ever for their physical, mental, and emotional health. In a typical year, we offer over 3,000 programs. In 2020, the Park District only offered 2,160 programs and was required to limit enrollment due to social distancing mandates. With creativity and a retooling of programs, the Park District was able to safely offer a mix of virtual and in-person programs, including adult/youth variety, athletics, early childhood, art, dance, ice skating, tennis, swimming, golf, gymnastics and tennis. A new on-demand fitness service, "On the Go Fitness," was introduced for only \$5 per month. Proceeds were given to the Parks Foundation for reinvestment in scholarships and other free fitness opportunities for the community. Socially distanced events throughout the year such as HP Hauntings, Polar Parade, reverse trick-or-treating, drive-in movies, and outdoor fitness classes under a new heated tent provided the community with additional outlets for safe recreation.

In 2019, the Park District completed a community-wide attitude and interest survey. The survey results influenced updates to the Park District's 10-year master plan (GreenPrint 2024), 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 other key planning mechanisms such as the Park District's annual Capital Plan allow us to stay on track to achieve our goals.

The Park District completed major capital repair and replacement initiatives from the Capital Plan during the Pandemic in 2020, including a compressor replacement and new ice rink refrigeration system at Centennial Ice Arena, roof replacement at Deer Creek Racquet Club, filtration restoration at Hidden Creek Aqua Park, and a shoreline protection project at Rosewood Beach.

Construction also started at The Preserve of Highland Park. The new one-of-a-kind natural area for passive recreation includes green lawns, nature-based play areas, specialized native gardens, restored woodlands, and walking and biking trails that connect neighborhoods, downtown Highland Park, and regional biking trails.

During 2020, revenues decreased significantly due to closure caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic, delayed and diminished tax collections, and reduced capital grants and contributions. With the complete closure of all facilities and programming cessation beginning on March 14, 2020, coupled with gradually limited re-opening and reduced programming, the District took in \$3,797,604 less in charges for services than in 2019.

Additionally, while the tax extension increased year over year, due dates for property taxes were delayed, and the 2020 tax collections were carried into April 2021. Over \$300,000 in property taxes related to 2020 were collected in April of 2021, and the decrease from 2019 versus 2020 financials is \$51,350.

Grant and contribution opportunities were also significantly diminished in 2020 due to the Pandemic. The Park District's significant gain in reserves was achieved due to a substantial reduction in expenses, including a decrease in payroll, a salary and hiring freeze, and staff furloughs. Additionally, having facilities closed and programming eliminated, the costs generally attributed to their functions were significantly reduced or eliminated. Like the outdoor aquatic center, some facilities and programming that annually lose money were never opened or offered, thus saving even more. The District also reacted to the Pandemic by maintaining larger than usual operating cash on hand until operations could return to normal to ensure that all debt service requirements would be funded, as well as any emergency maintenance at facilities or properties. Most special events were canceled, thus saving thousands more in expenses.

Fiscal year 2020 showed government-wide revenue totaling \$19.7 million while expenses totaled \$16.1 million, resulting in a balanced budget and an increase to a Net Position of \$3.6 million. On December 31, 2020, the District's Net Position totaled \$59.6M, of which \$21.1M is unrestricted and may be used to meet ongoing obligations. In 2020, the Park District of Highland Park invested over \$4.4M in its infrastructure.

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.

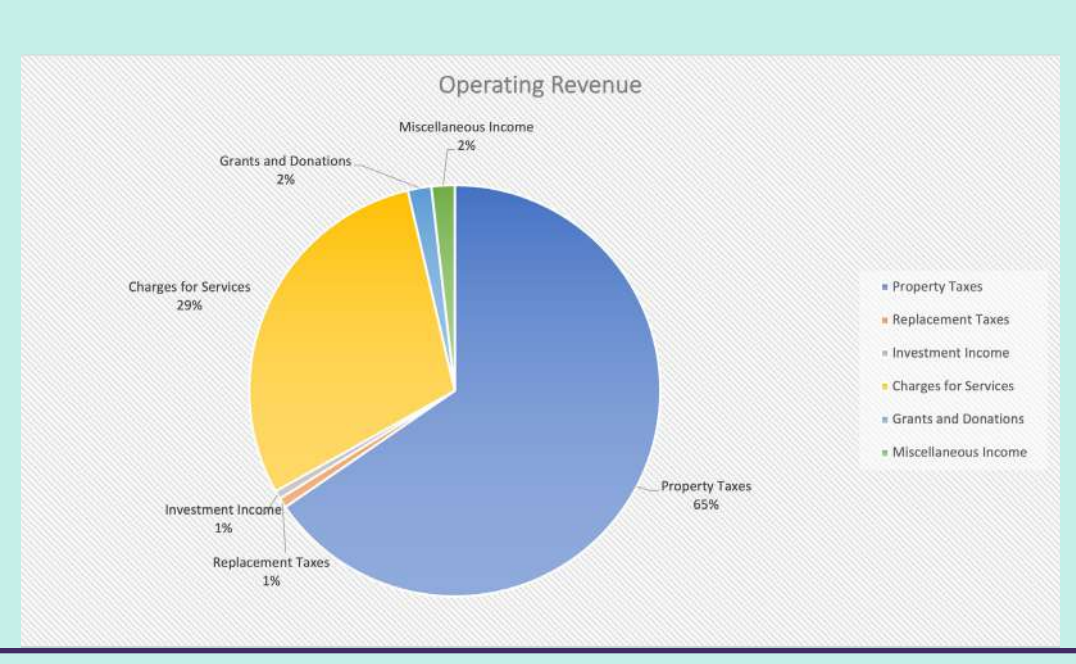
Statement of Net Position as of December 31, 2020

summarized

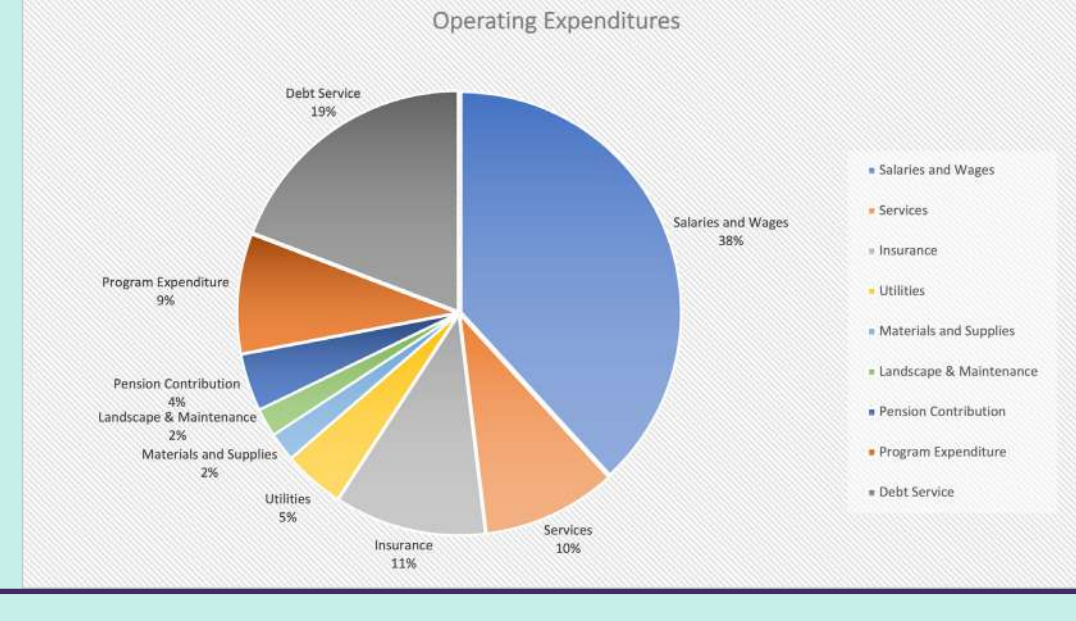
Assets	
Cash and Investments	22,528,798
Receivables - Net of Allowances	13,784,411
Inventory	12,528
Prepays	67,936
Net Capital	54,723,278
Other Non Current Assets	9,519,502
Deferred Outflows	345,535
TOTAL ASSETS	\$100,981,988
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	811,911
Accrued Payroll	198,362
Accrued Interest	25,687
Other Payables	970,268
Current Portion-Long Term Debt	2,619,713
Noncurrent Liabilities	18,715,494
Deferred Inflows of Resources	18,053,075
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$41,394,510
Net Position	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	37,659,759
Restricted	782,043
Unrestricted	21,145,676
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$59,587,478
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET POSITION	\$100,981,988

Park District of Highland Park Actual vs. Budget Year End 2020

Revenue	Actual	Budget	Variance
Property Taxes	12,911,897	13,363,199	(451,302)
Replacement Taxes	156,195	160,000	(3,805)
Investment Income	127,651	170,000	(42,349)
Charges for Services	5,812,200	10,367,930	(4,555,730)
Grants and Donations	364,868	40,000	324,868
Miscellaneous Income	360,613	195,423	165,190
Revenues	19,733,424	24,296,552	(4,563,128)



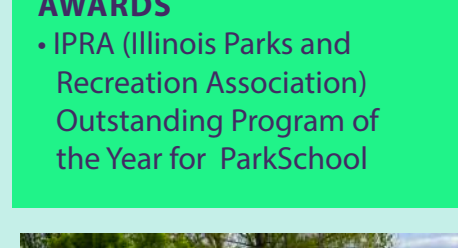
Expenditures	Actual	Budget	Variance
Salaries and Wages	6,488,210	8,154,729	1,666,519
Services	1,678,325	2,777,274	1,098,949
Insurance	1,892,828	2,323,923	431,095
Utilities	758,182	920,635	162,453
Materials and Supplies	354,702	644,942	290,240
Landscape & Maintenance	350,373	425,817	75,444
Pension Contribution	713,722	891,036	177,314
Program Expenditure	1,491,538	3,206,595	1,715,057
Debt Service	3,261,160	3,273,045	11,885
Expenditures	16,989,040	22,617,996	5,628,956
Capital Outlay	4,485,755	7,862,427	3,376,672
	21,474,795		
Net Change In Fund Balance	(1,741,371)	(6,183,871)	(13,568,756)



BUDGET
The budget process begins in June, with final Board approval in January. Once finalized, the budget does not sit on the shelf. Staff utilizes the budget as a working tool that guides operational decisions. Monthly, the Board reviews the YTD budget to actual financial statements.



AWARDS
• IPRA (Illinois Parks and Recreation Association) Outstanding Program of the Year for ParkSchool



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

