



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 2022

Welcome!

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

The Park District usually offers over 3,000 programs annually. However, due to the continued pandemic during 2022, especially early in the year, the Park District provided only 2,123 programs. These programs include athletics, preschool, art and dance, ice skating, tennis, swimming, golf, gymnastics, and tennis. The District also offers general youth and adult variety programs throughout its facilities and parks.

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 extraordinary, welcoming, and caring organization based on its strong commitment to its mission, vision, and values. The Park District's 10-year master plan, GreenPrint 2024, and other key planning mechanisms allow us to stay on track to achieve our goals.

Major capital repair and replacement initiatives from the Park District's Capital Plan were performed in 2022, including bluff restoration at Millard Park; path repair at Moraine Park; playground replacement at Sunset Woods Park; renovation at Centennial Ice Arena, including ice rink replacement; lobby exhibit improvements and parking lot replacement at Heller Nature Center; concrete resurfacing, pump, sound system and drain replacement, and slide structure repairs at Hidden Creek Aqua Park; breakwater and boat ramp replacement at Park Avenue Beach and Boating Facility; replacement of cart paths, bridges, and furniture at Sunset Valley Golf Club.

Additionally, working with the City of Highland Park, the District purchased the Highland Park Country Club property in 2018 and began the transformation to a passive recreational open space. This conversion project created a large natural open area with walking paths and nature play amenities in the center of town for all to enjoy. Construction began in 2020 and was completed in 2022.

During 2022, revenues increased due to recapture taxes being distributed by Lake County to the District versus none being distributed in 2021. Additionally, other general revenues increased due to increased interest rates and more aggressive investing in short-term certificates of deposit as cash flows have become more certain with the easing of the pandemic.

Furthermore, other general revenues increased over the prior year in the capital projects fund, primarily due to impact fees and a new licensing agreement. Finally, charges for services increased as the District experienced a return to near pre-covid levels of activity at most facilities. With the increased activities, the District also saw increased expenses to provide those services. Like many places in the country, the District was short-staffed during 2021, thus causing significant savings in salaries, insurance, and pension costs. Congruently, like other employers in 2022, the District increased current staff wages to comply with the \$1 per hour increase in the minimum wage law effective January 1, 2022, and also to encourage staff not to leave for positions elsewhere.

Additionally, with the increased salaries, the District could fill many open positions, thus further increasing the salary, insurance, and pension expenses of the District. The previously locked-in natural gas rate went out for bid with a resulting significant increase. Inflation also caused increases in several costs, including gasoline, transportation, and materials and supplies. The inflation caused the landscape and maintenance expenses of the District to come in over budget. Finally, with new debt issuance in late 2021, interest on long-term debt for 2022 significantly increased.

The Capital Projects Fund reported a decreased fund balance of \$3,479,187 to \$24,186,694. This decrease is due to the spending of a net debt issuance of \$17,236,240 in late 2021. The debt issuance funds capital projects across the District to improve or expand parks and facilities.

On December 31, 2022, the District's Net Position totaled \$70.7M, of which \$31.6M is unrestricted and may be used to meet ongoing obligations. In 2022, the Park District of Highland Park invested over \$9.0M in its infrastructure.

Park District of Highland Park is a careful steward of taxpayer funds. It is in a strong financial position due in part to the District's sizable tax base, sound financial operations and strong management.

Statement of Net Position as of December 31, 2022

summarized

Assets

Cash and Investments	40,538,401
Receivables - Net of Allowances	15,119,641
Inventory	19,083
Deposits	16,163
Prepays	67,895
Net Capital	60,245,700
Other Non Current Assets	2,852,661
Deferred Outflows	4,939,684
TOTAL ASSETS	123,799,228

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	2,796,562
Accrued Payroll	344,313
Accrued Interest	45,029
Other Payables	2,183,770
Current Portion-Long Term Debt	2,360,510
Noncurrent Liabilities	30,719,953
Deferred Inflows of Resources	14,625,698
TOTAL LIABILITIES	53,075,835

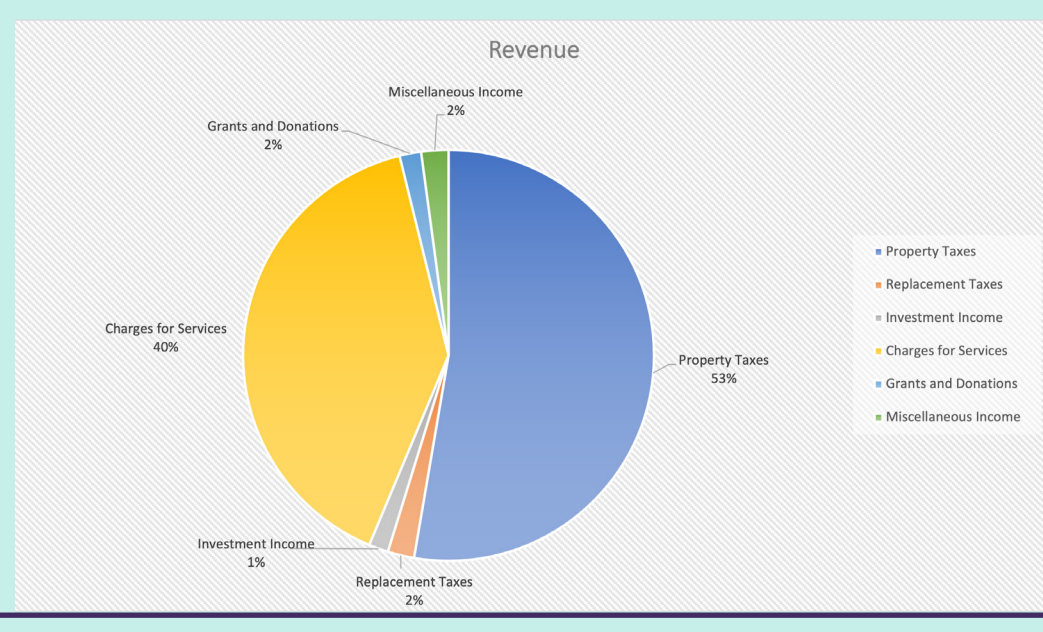
Net Position

Net Investment in Capital Assets	38,710,356
Restricted	375,573
Unrestricted	31,637,464
TOTAL NET POSITION	70,723,393

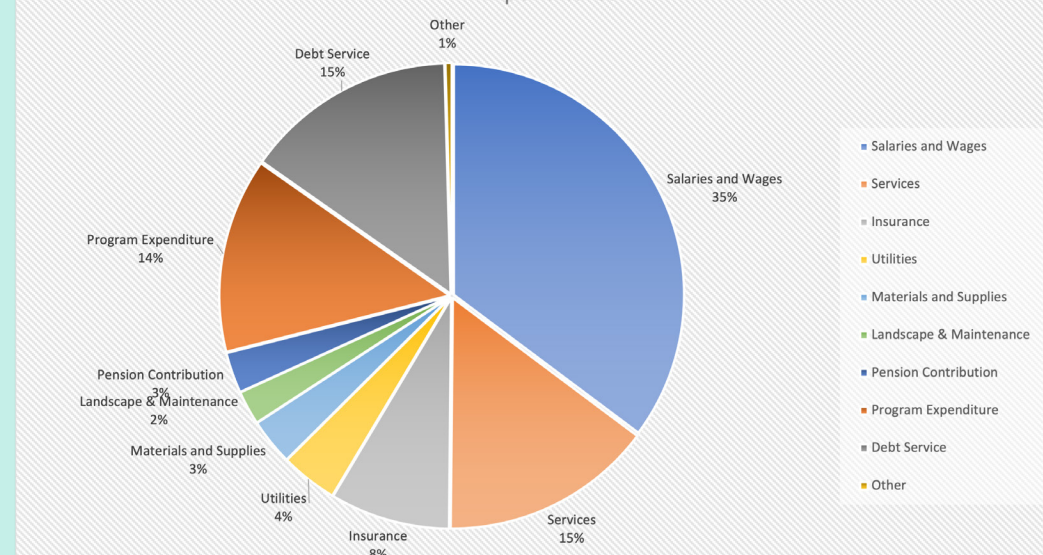
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET POSITION	\$123,799,228
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Park District of Highland Park Actual vs. Budget Year Ended 2022

Revenue	Actual	Budget	Variance
Property Taxes	13,529,634	13,138,990	390,644
Replacement Taxes	274,203	160,000	114,203
Investment Income	10,783	15,000	(4,217)
Charges for Services	9,319,930	7,247,659	2,072,271
Grants and Donations	890,948	375,172	515,776
Miscellaneous Income	324,417	245,630	78,787
REVENUE	24,349,915	21,182,451	3,167,464



Expenditures	Actual	Budget	Variance
Property Taxes	14,026,903	13,646,336	380,567
Replacement Taxes	554,810	180,000	374,810
Investment Income	408,968	6,000	402,968
Charges for Services	10,608,738	10,263,102	345,636
Grants and Donations	451,871	702,000	(250,129)
Miscellaneous Income	569,266	227,451	341,815
EXPENDITURES	26,620,556	25,024,889	1,595,667



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

- 2021 Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting - The Park District has received this award for the 33rd year in a row.
- IPRA Chairman's Award – Staff & Board (related to the Highland Park Shooting)
- IPRA Outstanding Special Event Award (Día De Los Muertos)
- IPRA 1st Place Website Design (Park District of Highland Park)
- IPRA 2nd Place Logo Design (The Preserve of Highland Park)
- IAPD 1st Place Photography (Nature)

