

Welcome!

With nearly 800 acres of land, 44 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 offers 2,250 programs annually. These programs include athletics, early childhood enrichment, performing and cultural arts, figure skating, tennis, pickleball, swimming, golf, nature, gymnastics, and much more. 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. During 2025, the District embarked on another community-wide attitude and interest survey that is statistically based. It is being conducted by a third party. The results will be provided later in the year and will be used to help determine the new 10-year comprehensive master plan for the District that will be completed in 2026. 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 new 10-year master plan, currently being developed, 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 2024, including the purchase of several Parks vehicles and equipment; playground resurfacing and fence replacement at Danny Cuniff Park; parking lot reconstruction and drainage improvements at Deer Creek Racquet Club; locker room renovation at Deer Creek Racquet Club; replacement of air-supported dome and utility improvements at Golf Learning Center; concrete resurfacing, pool shell maintenance, and slide resurfacing at Hidden Creek Aqua Park; baseball field renovation at Larry Fink Memorial Park; playground replacement Old Elm Park; Site Master Plan Phase 1 improvements at Park Avenue Beach; playground replacement at Port Clinton Park; fitness equipment replacement at the Recreation Center of Highland Park; locker room improvements at the Recreation Center of Highland Park; replacement of cart paths and equipment at Sunset Valley Golf Club; Site Master Plan Phase 1 improvements at Sunset Woods Park; Compton Avenue trail connection at The Preserve of Highland Park; planning and design of the new facility and site improvements at West Ridge Park.

During 2024, revenues increased due to increased property tax extensions. Additionally, other general revenues increased due to high interest rates and continued aggressive investing in short term certificates of deposit. Also, there were significant donations and sponsorships received to be used for the building of a new pickleball/padel dome. Finally, donations were collected for the new Jeff Fox turf baseball field at Fink Memorial Park. Charges for services increased as the District experienced a “perfect” summer of weather with almost no closures at the golf course, beaches and outdoor pool. Congruently, indoor facilities, such as tennis and the recreation center, had much increased participation versus 2023. Pickleball offerings were increased at both of these indoor facilities, driving even more recreation revenue versus the prior year. Ice skating lessons and ice rentals also saw large revenue increases.

With an increase in service revenues, the District did also see an increase in expenses to provide those services, including increased bank charges and fees. More programming required more part-time staff, and the minimum wage was increased \$1 per hour versus the prior year. Additionally, seven new full-time staff members drove up salary expenses, as did increases in the cost of medical insurance. In 2024, there were many unanticipated equipment and building repairs at the District, especially at the water park and the ice arena.

The Capital Projects Fund reported an increase in fund balance of \$3,277,884, to \$23,179,283. This increase is due to the issuance of \$6,445,000 of general obligation limited tax park bonds on July 2, 2024. The debt issuance is being used to fund capital projects across the District, largely in order to improve or expand parks and facilities.

On December 31, 2024, the District’s Net Position totaled \$84.5M, of which \$39.5M is unrestricted and may be used to meet ongoing obligations. During 2024, the Park District of Highland Park invested \$10.5M 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 large and affluent tax base supported by growing property tax revenue, sustained increases in program participation, and prudent budget management. Additionally, in May of 2024, Moody’s Ratings (Moody’s) maintained the District’s Aaa rating on the District’s outstanding general obligation limited tax (GOLT) debt and assigned the same to its new General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2024.

Statement of Net Position as of December 31, 2024

summarized

Assets

Cash and Investments	41,632,101
Receivables - Net of Allowances	17,069,760
Inventory	22,264
Prepays	155,336
Net Capital	74,424,420
Other Non Current Assets	5,440,007
Deferred Outflows	2,424,452
TOTAL ASSETS	141,168,340

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	2,093,072
Accrued Payroll	485,250
Accrued Interest	65,122
Other Payables	2,756,810
Current Portion-Long Term Debt	2,246,760
Noncurrent Liabilities	33,010,660
Deferred Inflows of Resources	16,022,253
TOTAL LIABILITIES	56,679,927

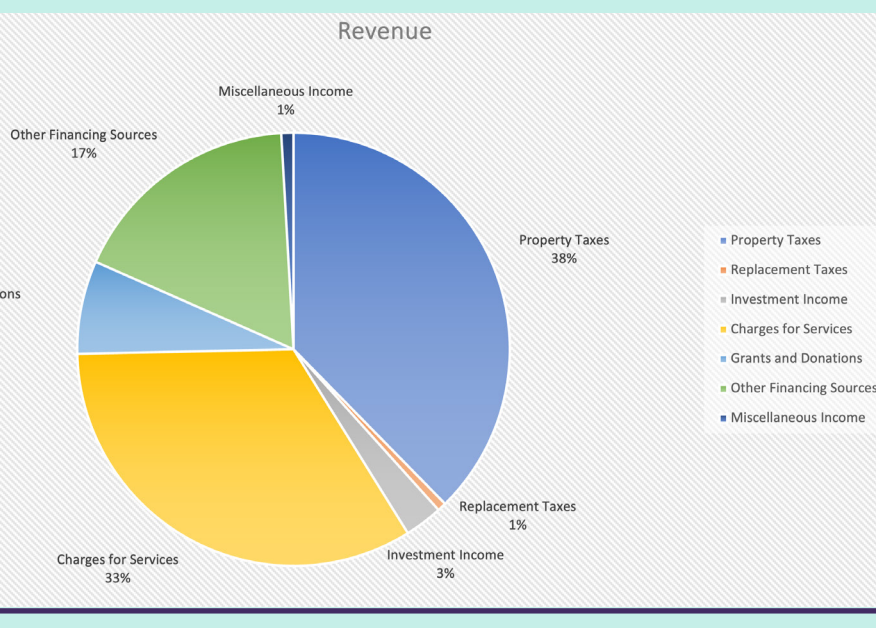
Net Position

Net Investment in Capital Assets	39,149,877
Restricted	5,824,850
Unrestricted	39,513,686
TOTAL NET POSITION	84,488,413

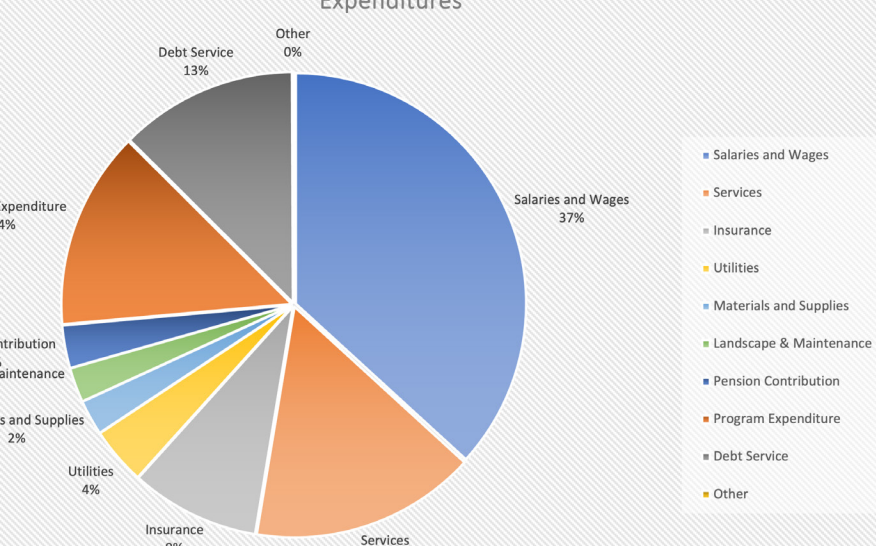
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET POSITION	\$141,168,340
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Park District of Highland Park Actual vs. Budget Year Ended 2024

Revenue	Actual	Budget	Variance
Property Taxes	15,418,150	15,003,447	414,703
Replacement Taxes	270,914	183,000	87,914
Investment Income	1,159,373	265,000	894,373
Charges for Services	13,733,161	12,020,936	1,712,225
Grants and Donations	2,848,361	930,000	1,918,361
Other Financing Sources	7,156,577	5,500,000	1,656,577
Miscellaneous Income	372,565	188,744	183,821
REVENUES	40,959,101	34,091,127	6,867,974



Expenditures	Actual	Budget	Variance
Salaries and Wages	9,915,259	11,183,052	1,267,793
Services	4,270,135	5,311,952	1,041,817
Insurance	2,444,858	2,702,637	257,779
Utilities	1,082,135	1,239,085	156,950
Materials and Supplies	663,727	787,879	124,152
Landscape & Maintenance	654,731	715,937	61,206
Pension Contribution	806,569	948,694	142,125
Program Expenditure	3,737,977	3,900,740	162,763
Debt Service	3,362,050	3,698,860	336,810
Other	18,459		(18,459)
EXPENDITURES	26,955,900	30,488,836	3,532,936
Capital Outlay	9,035,504	11,142,023	2,106,519
Net Change In Fund Balance	4,967,697	(7,539,732)	12,507,429



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

- 2023 Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting - The Park District has received this award for the 35th year in a row.
- IPRA Overall Agency Showcase Award - award is based on the highest score received across eight marketing categories – Club Pickle & Padel short form video, logo design, marketing campaign, website design, written content, large scale marketing, social media campaign, integrated photography
- IPRA Exceptional Workplace Award
- IPRA 3rd place short form video – Club Pickle & Padel
- IPRA People’s Choice – Overall Agency Showcase Award

