

## WHAT DO YOUR TAX DOLLARS SUPPORT?



PARK DISTRICT  
of OAK PARK



## 2021 Annual Report: A Year of Adapting

The Park District of Oak Park welcomed 2021 with vigor and hope that the pandemic would slow and mitigations would loosen. While Covid-19 continued to challenge us, our commitment to serving the community remained steadfast. We earned top honors and awards in parks and recreation, finance, and aquatics. We secured multiple environmental grants to support our sustainability efforts. And most notably, we secured funding allowing us to proceed with construction of the highly anticipated and much-needed Community Recreation Center.

### Sustainability remained at the forefront of operations.

We installed solar panels on the roof of two more Park District buildings for a total of 10 facilities benefitting from solar power. With the assistance of a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, installation of a Geothermal HVAC system commenced at Pleasant Home. The project will be completed in the spring of 2022, and will provide air conditioning and heating to aid in the preservation of this historic building.

**For the first time since 2019, we opened both Rehm and Ridgeland pools** and welcomed thousands of visitors from Memorial through Labor Day. Despite the myriad of restrictions in place at any given moment, we adapted operations to ensure that we could safely host as many visitors as possible.

**Rehm Park playground was renovated** and opened in the fall with accolades from adults and kids alike. A grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and community input helped to bring many inclusive elements and dedicated playground equipment to the design inviting patrons of all abilities to play together.

### The most exciting initiative of 2021 was the success of the Parks Foundation in securing 75% of the capital funds needed to build the Community Recreation Center.

Following this monumental achievement, we launched a Tribute Brick Paver program to support the Community Capital Campaign; awarded construction contracts to build the CRC, including 29% to Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBE); and, earned a grant to construct the CRC as a Net Zero building. Construction will begin in the spring of 2022, and will be completed in the spring of 2023.

### Awards & Recognition:

- Recognized as one of four finalists for the National Recreation and Parks Gold Medal Award
- Received the 2021 Platinum International Aquatic Safety Award from Jeff Ellis & Associates
- For the 13th year in a row, received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, with special recognition for performance measures from the Government Finance Officers Association
- Received the award for the Comprehensive Annual Financial report for the 9th year in a row

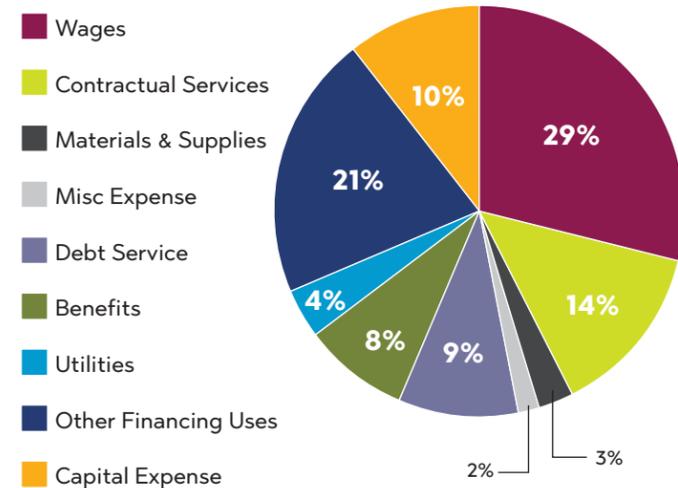
### Capital Projects

- 75% of funding secured by the Parks Foundation to construct a Community Recreation Center
- \$1.78 million grant secured from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation to apply toward the cost of making the Community Recreation Center a Net Zero facility with another \$400K coming from the Village of Oak Park's Sustainability Fund
- 22 new construction contracts awarded with 29% from MWBE contractors to build the Community Recreation Center
- 12 underground wells installed 500' deep to support the geothermal HVAC system at Pleasant Home
- 8 recycled park benches, 4 park benches, 4 picnic tables, 1 picnic pavilion, 1 bottle-fill water fountain, and 1 new Portland Loo restroom installed at Rehm Park
- 1 new park green space added as part of Carroll Center expansion
- 2 new playgrounds with inclusive and natural play features installed in our parks
- 2 new, highly efficient electric heat pumps installed at Field and Longfellow Centers

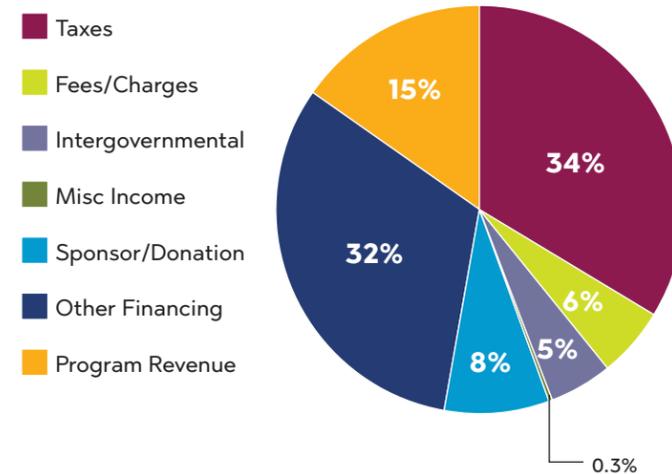
### New Initiatives

- In collaboration with the Parks Foundation, launched the Tribute Brick Paver program to support the capital campaign for the CRC
- CRC construction will begin March 2022

## 2021 EXPENSES



## 2021 REVENUES



## \*ENROLLMENT STATS 2021

Activity	2021	2020	2019
Adult Athletics	389	156	1,260
Frank Lloyd Wright Races	483	652	2,128
Community Programs	5,083	2,329	5,270
Active Adults	993	211	1,303
Early Childhood	439	200	1,181
Visual and Performing Arts	3,855	829	3,104
Health, Fitness, Martial Arts	1,586	1,687	1,521
Gymnastics	4,648	1,145	5,393
Ice	4,606	3,255	5,979
Aquatics	1,989	151	1,872
Teens	531	155	991
Youth Athletics	5,315	1,518	5,572
Nature/Environmental	5,445	2,018	2,528
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,362</b>	<b>14,306</b>	<b>38,102</b>

## \*PROGRAM PARTICIPATION BY YEAR

2021	35,362
2020	14,306
2019	38,102

## PASS SALES

2021	11,223
2020	2,740
2019	14,077

## Green Initiatives

27 trees were planted in our parks.

66 new solar panels were installed with 22 at Stevenson Center and 44 at the Administration Building.

1,500+ plants were grown at the Conservatory for sale and planted in our parks.



90% of materials collected during the Kenilworth home demolition were diverted from landfills for reuse.

4,000+ tulips and daffodils were planted in our parks.

\$85,000 in savings were gained over 15 years due to a community solar agreement.

240 gallons of compost and 480 gallons of recycling were collected at summer Concerts in the Parks.



483 walkers and runners participated in the virtual Frank Lloyd Wright races.

20 teens participated in a teen mental health passport program.

270 children participated in Clubhouse afterschool programs.

One spring dance recital was held at Mills Park, the first since 2019.

## Recreation

50+ one-day art workshops welcomed participants of all ages.

One outdoor musical theater production of *The Little Mermaid Jr.* was held at Scoville Park.



## Community Engagement & Customer Service

\$74,889 in fee reductions were provided to 85 families and 114 children as part of the Childcare Discount Membership Program.

\$49,002 in scholarships were redeemed benefitting 201 households and 485 individuals.

Engaging more residents through digital content; significant increase in social media engagement and followers; initiated program specific enews.



## Technology

One public-facing calendar was created.

5 swim pass scanners were utilized to help expedite entrance to our pools.

5 Plant Sales were held online for the Conservatory.

Online Scholarship during registration was implemented.



PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK



One Synchronized Skating team formed this year.

The GRC celebrated its 8th Anniversary.



## Special Facilities

55 skaters participated in our Holiday Skate Exhibition.

3,000 swimmers were served opening weekend at Rehm and Ridgeland pools.

6 Ice Bears Hockey teams competed, including one girls' team.

## Partnerships

529 pounds of produce was donated to local food shelters from Cheney Mansion garden.

Repair Cafe was established with volunteer community members.

Developed New Partnership with the AMENS group which helped us to identify and reward 29% CRC construction contracts to MWBE contractors.



7 well-deserving residents received Community Service Awards from the Park District.

1,976 kids served through sports programming partnerships with local organizations.



## Historic Properties

4,000 hours of time were donated by Conservatory volunteers.

25,000+ visitors enjoyed the Oak Park Conservatory.

40 weddings took place at Cheney Mansion.

2 television shows were filmed at Cheney Mansion and Pleasant Home.



## Special Events

4 Movies in the Park and 8 Concerts in the Park were held.

Hundreds of families safely enjoyed holiday special events hosted throughout the year.

3,000 community members attended our Fall Fest celebration.

3 free scavenger hunts were held in the community.

