

2022

ANNUAL REPORT





Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Plainfield Park District Friends and Families:

Rise Up! The Plainfield Park District did just that in 2022. After a handful of challenging years, we saw a resurgence in program participation and park usage. The resilience that parks and recreation saw in 2022 proves how important quality programming, amenities, and open space is to a community. That's just what we will continue to do in providing exceptional and equitable recreational programming and amenities to all of you, our residents.

The Park District team continued to strive for excellence in programming with our overwhelmingly popular special events such as Daddy Daughter Dance, Egg-citing Activities, Flashlight Egg Hunt, Party in the PARC, Haunted Hayrides, Grinchmas on the Green, Breakfast with Santa, and Journey to the North Pole. A revamped and improved Autumn Family Fun Fest saw record participation. The District also collaborated with Romeoville Parks and Recreation for a successful Community Day of Play at Kiwanis Park (a collaborative park and playground between the two government agencies). Youth athletic leagues also continued to grow with huge increases in youth T-Ball, flag football, and indoor Futsal (soccer).

The District progressed with our aggressive capital development plan, working hard to improve amenities and open spaces. In 2022 we saw the grand re-opening of Eaton Preserve, a \$1 million-dollar community park renovation, as well as several neighborhood park replacements at Aspen Meadows, Auburn Lakes, Vintage Harvest and Wexford. Additionally, we saw improved amenities in the Ottawa Park court renovation, that also brought three dedicated pickleball courts.

The District was awarded a \$400,000 Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant for a \$900,000 Van Horn Woods renovation. This project, anticipated to start in the summer of 2023, will bring improvements to the bike course, trail system, dog park, and playground while also adding a 9-hole disc golf course.

District trail ways and paths remain a focal point. Planning team members are working on an improved mapping of all District and ancillary trail and pathways to assist in connectivity. There continue to be strides in the acquisition of Bentley properties that would aid in the connection of the DuPage River Trail between Riverside and Sunset Parkway, ultimately connecting into the Hammel Woods pathway system. There were also great improvements made to our water trails as well to accommodate those who like to paddle their canoe or kayak. Renovated launches at Eaton Preserve and Riverside Parkway allowed for safer and smoother access to the DuPage River. A stone-stepped outlet point with improved grade was created at the District's Electric Park outlet that also improved river access.

Two thousand twenty-three promises to be a great year. We will continue our dedication to our mission and our values in serving all of our residents. Key focal points are Community; Fiscal Responsibility; Stewardship and Natural Resources; Health and Wellness; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The Plainfield Park District is here for you and as always, we Welcome Everyone.

Carlo J. Capalbo

Carlo Capalbo, MPA, CPRE
Executive Director

Our Mission

The Plainfield Park District seeks to enhance lives through equitable and accessible exceptional recreation opportunities for all.

Our Vision

We aspire to be innovative, diverse, and inclusive in administration, recreation and preservation.

Our Values

Our values center on Community, Fiscal Responsibility, Stewardship of Natural Resources, Health & Wellness, and Diversity, Equitability and Inclusiveness.

Board of Commissioners

Bill Thoman | 2023
President

Heath Wright | 2027
Vice president

Mimi Poling | 2023
Commissioner

Syed Abedi | 2025
Commissioner

Colette Safford | 2027
Commissioner

Debra Narducci | 2023
Commissioner

Nuhie Faheem | 2023
Commissioner

Financial Profile

Excellence in Financial Reporting

For the 17th straight year, the Plainfield Park District Finance Department's comprehensive annual financial report was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The District first won the award in 2006.

A press release issued by the GFOA stated, "The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

In addition to earning the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the Plainfield Park District was honored with the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the sixth straight year (first award was in 2017).

To earn recognition, budget documents must meet program criteria and excel as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication tool.

Congratulations to the Finance Team, who oversees the finance department, as well as human resources and information technology.

Property Taxes and the Park District

For every \$1 paid in property tax, just 3 cents goes to the Plainfield Park District, which we use to maintain park space and facilities, fund recreation programs, and put on special events throughout the year.



How Do We Measure Up?

The Plainfield Park District staff works hard to provide the most recreation opportunities and park space at the lowest cost possible for our residents through advanced planning, stringent budgeting, and an ongoing eye toward process improvements. Take a look to see how far your tax dollars go compared to neighboring park districts:



Autumn Family Fun Fest



2022 Recreation Programming Rundown

A Somewhat Return to Normalcy

By March of 2022, mask mandates were lifted and programming was mostly back to normal. Registration numbers surged in winter/spring programs such as early childhood, dance, Spring T-Ball, and riding lessons at Normantown Equestrian Center. Special events such as Daddy-Daughter Dance, Egg-citing Activities, Bunny Hop Fun Run and Flashlight Egg Hunt also saw large increases in enrollment.

Summer kicked off in June with the Annual Party at PARC, a Welcoming Everyone (WE) event, free to all. Patriotic Picnic, a partnership with the Village of Plainfield, returned after a two-year hiatus with activities and fireworks for the community. Summer Camp attendance reached all-time highs, and youth athletic programs such as flag football, volleyball and futsal also took off. The District partnered with the Plainfield Public Library on Travelling StoryWalks, which occurred at Village Green, Van Horn Woods and the renovated Eaton Preserve. Other summer events such as Ice Cream Social and Unplug Illinois Day also proved popular with residents.

Ottawa Street Pool and Village Green Splash Pad offered relief from the heat all summer long. Swim Lessons at Ottawa Street Pool were filled to capacity, teaching participants life-long safety skills. OSP also hosted \$1 Friday Nights, Teen Nights and a Tiki Bash.

The Annual Autumn Family Fun Fest was a big hit in September, with attendance over 1,000 people. Other fall events such as the Spooky Sprint Fun Run, Enchanted Ball, Haunted Hayrides, and Frankenstein's Kiddie Carnival delighted attendees of all ages. Fall fitness classes made a comeback with program offerings of Strength & Cardio for Active Adults, High Intensity Interval Training, Kickboxing, Yoga, and Pilates.

The holiday season kicked off with the always-popular Grinchmas on the Green and Second Annual You Can't Catch Me Fun Run. Basketball participation experienced a 25% increase from 2021, with total enrollment over 900. The Breakfast with Santa and Journey to the North Pole events sold out in December, followed by Noon Year's Eve to bring 2022 to a close.

Throughout the year, active adults at Plainfield Township Community Center enjoyed an abundance of activities including BUNCO parties, jigsaw puzzle contests, line dancing, holiday celebrations, lunch and learns, fitness classes, and a return of trips.

Great Beginnings (preschool prep) and Great Adventures Preschool returned to pre-pandemic levels and offered our youngest residents opportunities for social, intellectual, physical, and emotional growth through a balance of both child-led and teacher-guided play.

Recreation by the Numbers



Total Program Registrations



Ottawa Street Pool Daily Passes Sold



Special Event Enrollment



NTEC Riding Lessons



Athletic Classes



Summer Camp Enrollment



Ottawa Street Pool Swim Lessons



Ottawa Street Pool Memberships



Preschool Enrollment

2022 Planning & Risk Overview

Park Improvements & Additions

A number of projects were completed in 2022 regarding trail connections and development that provide lasting value and unique recreational opportunities.

Eaton Preserve Renovation

(more to the right)

Funded in part by grants, offsetting over 50% of the total cost. New and/or enhanced amenities included accessible walking paths and trails, interpretive signage, lighting at the silo and at the shelter, playground expansion, games plaza, a pollinator garden and added seating along the newly resurfaced trail

Trails

Trails at Clearwater Springs, Farmstone Ridge, Harvest Glen, Bott Park and other sites were seal coated or repaired/resurfaced. In addition, a new trail connection was added connecting Mather Woods to Renwick Road and Settlers' Park.

River Access

Boat launches at Eaton Preserve, Riverside Canoe Launch and Electric Park were improved and enhanced.

Playgrounds

Aspen Meadows, Auburn Lakes & Vintage Harvest playgrounds were renovated.

Ottawa Park Courts

The Ottawa Park court area was resurfaced and re-purposed to feature one tennis/pickleball court and the first three dedicated pickleball courts in the District.

Looking Ahead

The Plainfield Park District has a lot of plans for 2023. Please scan the QR code to read about what's up and coming.



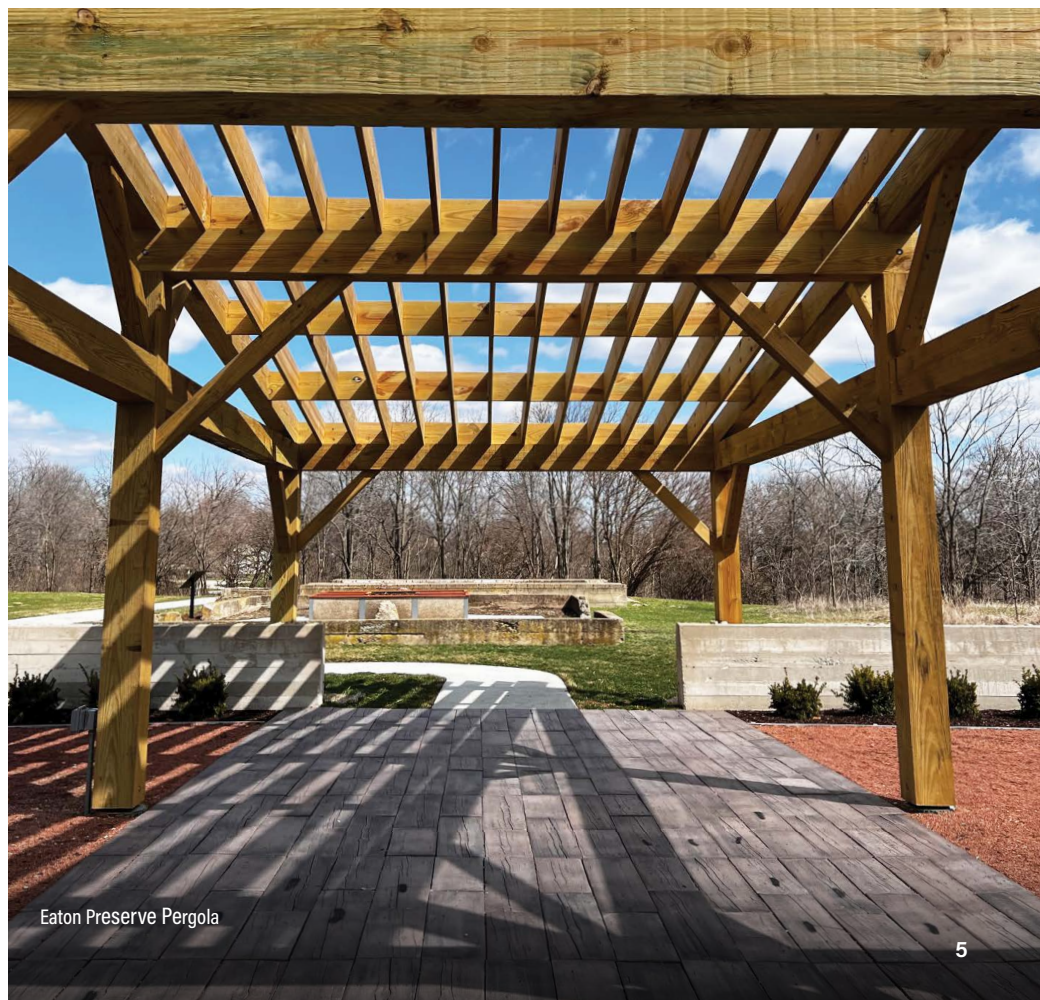
Eaton Preserve Grand Re-Opening

After undergoing an \$850,000 renovation over the past two years, a Grand Re-Opening for Eaton Preserve was held June 24, 2022.

The 75-acre parcel along the DuPage River received \$400,000 in funding from the State of Illinois Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD) Grant program for improvements in 2020. The four phase project began in earnest in 2021 and included:

- ▶ Pollinator garden
- ▶ Scenic hill outlook
- ▶ River outlook
- ▶ Silo roof and view access and lights
- ▶ Nature- and farm-themed playground
- ▶ Volleyball court with improved access
- ▶ Pergola and barn frame on site of the old barn
- ▶ Installation of two pollinator bee hives
- ▶ Interpretive signage highlighting historical and natural significance of the site
- ▶ Benches along the path and improved access throughout
- ▶ Improvements to existing shed and main shelter
- ▶ Canoe launch upgraded to concrete access and area graded to reduce erosion
- ▶ Path and parking lot resurfacing

A brief summary of the renovation was given by Park District Director of Planning Bob Collins, followed by a ribbon cutting, light refreshments, and the opportunity to explore the park and its amenities.



Eaton Preserve Pergola



Best of 2022

District Earns National Accreditation in Parks and Recreation

In September, the District joined the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.



"This was a huge undertaking in which the District met all 159 standards of evidence of compliance," said Plainfield Park District Executive Director Carlo Capalbo. "There was

a lot of hard work and time placed in the process from the leadership team, a variety of other team members, and specifically Executive Assistant Heather Caldwell and Administrative Assistant Donna Martin."

The process for accreditation involved a formal application, self-assessments, a site visit by a team of trained visitors that results in a written report, and a hearing with the commission to grant accreditation.

"This is something we all can be proud of," Capalbo added. "In Illinois, only 10 other park districts have currently achieved this honor."

The Commission is comprised of representatives from NRPA, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials, the International City/County Management Association, the Academy for Leisure Sciences, the Armed Forces Recreation Network and the Council of State Executive Directors.

District, TR Miller honored at Best of Best Awards Gala

In October, the Plainfield Park District announced that TR Miller Heating, Cooling & Plumbing was honored as Best Friend of Illinois Parks - Mid-sized Business by the Illinois Association of Park Districts. Park District and TR Miller representatives officially received the award at the IAPD's Best of the Best Awards Gala held October 14 at Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling.

"TR Miller has been a great supporter and partner to the District," said Plainfield Park District Executive Director Carlo Capalbo. "I think we get along so well because we both have a commitment to community as part of our core values."

TR Miller is a longtime supporter of the Park District, sponsoring events dating back to 2016.

Best of Will County

In October, the District was chosen as one of the best park districts in the 2022 Herald-News Best of Will County Readers' Choice Awards. Executive Director Carlo Capalbo accepted the award at a special celebration held November 29 at Syl's Chophouse in Rockdale.







Staff & New Notes

In February of 2022, Human Resource Manager Linda Shredl attained her Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) Certified Professional accreditation. The globally-acknowledged certification demonstrates mastery of the competencies and knowledge most important to organizations as defined by the SHRM Body of Competency & Knowledge. It recognizes Linda as an expert and leader in the HR field. In preparation for the 180-question test, Linda took a 12-week class in the fall through SHRM and Northern Illinois University. Linda, a Plainfield resident, started at the Plainfield Park District in April of 2021.

Director of Marketing & Community Outreach Josh Hendricks attained Certified Park & Recreation Professional (CPRP) status in September. The CPRP certification is the national standard for all parks and recreation professionals who want to be at the forefront of their profession. Josh started at the District in December of 2021.

New faces in new places

A number of new staff joined the team in 2022 including:

-  Joseph Quinn started as Division Manager, parks and grounds, in the parks and planning department in April. Joe came to Plainfield after serving as the athletic field specialist at Addison Park District.
-  Brie Hurley joined the team in August as Accountant in the finance department. Brie previously served as the office manager at The Fields on Caton Farm, Inc.
-  Ken McEwen was named the new Director of Parks in September after serving as the parks maintenance manager at Bolingbrook Park District the past 8+ years.
-  Sue Rohner also came on board in September as Planning Manager in the planning department after previously serving as the senior landscape designer at Terra Engineering.

Board Updates

Plainfield Park Board Commissioner Syed Abedi was honored in January for attaining Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Master Board Member status within the IAPD Board Member Development Program. Master Board members must attain 750 board member units (BDUs) through participating in educational programs, volunteer participation, event attendance, legislative communication, local board service, agency development and other various endeavors. Syed was elected to the Plainfield Board in 2019 and is the chairperson of the Personnel & Policy Committee and co-chair of the DEI Committee.

Debra Narducci was formally inducted onto the Plainfield Park District Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held July 13 at PARC. Narducci was appointed to the Board and filled the term of former commissioner Rob Ayres, who passed away May 12. Debra is the chairperson of the Recreation & Marketing Committee and co-chair of the Finance & Liability Committee.

Nuhie Faheem was formally inducted onto the Plainfield Park District Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held September 14. Nuhie was appointed to the Board and filled the term of former commissioner Jason Rausch, who stepped down from the board in July after moving out of District. Nuhie is the co-chair of the Capital & Development and Recreation & Marketing committees.

In June, the Plainfield Park District Board of Commissioners issued a resolution dedicating the Eaton Preserve bee hives in honor of former commissioner Rebecca Hosford, who passed away in 2019. The resolution was passed at the regular park board meeting held June 8. Effective June 8, 2022, the hives were dedicated as the Hosford Apiary for her commitment to the environment and extraordinary contributions to the Plainfield Park District.



Syed Abedi
Commissioner



Debra Narducci
Commissioner



Nuhie Faheem
Commissioner



Bee Hives at
Eaton Preserve

PLFD



Prairie Activity & Recreation Center
24550 West Renwick Road | Plainfield, IL 60544 | 815-436-8812

plfdparks.org