



# **2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**PRESIDENT** | BOB GELWICKS

**VICE PRESIDENT** | TOM SALABA

**TREASURER** | CATHY MAHONEY

**SECRETARY** | FRANK LIVORSI

**COMMISSIONER** | SANDRA MCDONNELL

## DISTRICT STATS



**600**  
ACRES



**48**  
PARKS



**24**  
PLAYGROUNDS



**48**  
FIELDS

## ANNUAL PARTICIPATION



**20,000+**  
EVENT  
ATTENDEES



**56,500+**  
PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANTS



**29,000+**  
ROUNDS  
OF GOLF



**150,000+**  
FITNESS CENTER  
VISITORS

## ONLINE ENGAGEMENT



**5,800+**  
FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS



**1,250+**  
TWITTER  
FANS



**161,500+**  
WEBSITE  
VISITORS



**6,200+**  
EMAIL  
SUBSCRIBERS

## AWARDS

- Awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- Earned a number 43 ranking as a 2018 Best Green Fleet by The 100 Best Fleets in the Americas.
- Received a \$5,000 Urban Forestry Grant from the Morton Arboretum's Community Trees Program, which will help the District develop a long-term Urban Forest Management Plan in 2019.
- Awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Timken Foundation for the interior renovation of the 1846 Blodgett House at the Downers Grove Museum.
- Reinstatement of a \$135,000 grant awarded by the Illinois Department of Resources to complete interior renovations of the 1846 Blodgett House.
- Received accreditation and achieved an overall score of 98.84% from the Park District Risk Management Association (PDRMA) for the Loss Control Review (the Parks Division).
- The Field to Fermenter program was chosen as the 2018 Outstanding Program or Event by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA).
- Awarded 1st place Agency Showcase Display and 3rd place overall for marketing materials entered in the IPRA Agency Showcase Competition.

## SPECIAL INITIATIVES

- Launched a new District website with an updated look, improved navigation and engaging content.
- Offered a free "Ready, Set, Go! Path to Fitness and Fun" program to children grades K to 6 to encourage physical activity throughout the summer.
- Participated in the National Recreation and Parks Association's July is Parks & Rec Month.
- Collected 159 recycled Christmas trees at McCollum and Whitlock Parks to be used for District-wide mulching.
- Completed an Athletic Field Study and continued the Master Planning Process.
- Hosted the 2nd Annual Hootenanny staff training day in February.

## GREEN INITIATIVES

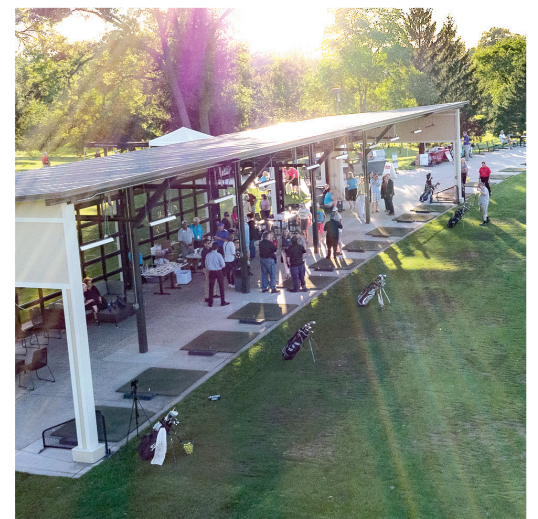
- Distributed 50 free one-gallon oak trees to the community and planted 15 oak trees at Lyman Woods Nature Center in celebration of the Oaktober Oak Awareness Month.
- Planted 8 trees with 3 school groups and distributed an additional 400 seedlings for the Arbor Day Program.
- Installed 20 solar roof panels to offset energy costs at the Driving Range Shelter at the Downers Grove Golf Club.

# FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES

- Successfully implemented the ADP payroll system and self-service portal for employees.
- Implemented new BS&A financial software and corresponding chart of accounts, which provides staff with increased versatility, efficiency and data analysis opportunities.
- Developed partnerships with over 30 sponsors to provide opportunities to engage with the community at special events and programs throughout the year.
- Improved the online recruitment process and promoted open positions with local partners.
- Received 4,000+ hours of service from community volunteers.

# PARKS & FACILITIES

- Replaced the synthetic turf field and completed a new retaining wall, along north end zone, at Doerhoefer Park. A grand opening celebration was held on August 30.
- Replaced 30-year-old water lines and added raised garden beds with accessible walkways at Mar-Duke Farm in cooperation and support from with Grove Foundation.
- Held a grand opening celebration for the new Driving Range Shelter at the Downers Grove Golf Club on September 12. The new shelter covers 10 of the existing hitting stations to provide a comfortable golfing experience on cold, hot or rainy days.
- Completed a dredging project at the Downers Grove Golf Club to remove 2 to 3 feet of accumulated sediment from within the two "canal" ponds located on Holes #2 and #3, restoring them to their original depths and improving the condition of the ponds.
- Renovated the first floor locker rooms at the Recreation Center including new tile, shower fixtures, sinks, countertops toilets, urinals, paint, mirrors, etc.
- Replaced over 45 fitness machines at 4500 Fitness.
- Replaced door handles at the Lincoln Center with new ADA-complaint hardware.
- Extended baselines to accommodate 90' bases including additional fencing along the left field line at McCollum Park Field #3.
- Completed the installation of a connecting walkway and new playground featuring an Omni® Spinner and Track Ride at O'Brien Park.
- A herd of goats and sheep assisted with natural brush management over 5.8 acres at the Belmont Prairie Buffer and 1.2 acres at Patriots Park.
- Completed the planning and design phases for the renovation of the parking lot located at the Recreation Center.
- Completed a location study in preparation for the upcoming splashpad project.



# SPECIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- Welcomed over 15,000 visitors to the Summer Concert Series.
- Developed and began implementation of a three-year Recreation Center Improvement Plan.
- Introduced new lower enrollment fees at 4500 Fitness.
- Increased annual fitness memberships by 5% with an average of 3,550 total members.
- Tripled enrollment of Early Childhood Enrichment programs with 106 participants in the fall.
- Welcomed 64 participants to the Link Before and After School Program.
- Enrolled Link participants in 20% more additional youth classes at the Lincoln Center.
- A total of 488 campers attended Lyman Woods Nature Camps—a 43% increase from 2017.
- Held the first-ever Fall Break Camp at Lyman Woods with 157 participants over three days.
- Volunteers at Belmont Prairie uncovered species of plants (Fen Loosestrife, Purple Joe Pye Weed, Fragrant Bedstraw and Lance Leaved Loosestrife) that have never been catalogued at the Prairie.
- Increased participation in half-day Museum Camp at Downers Grove Museum by 44%.
- Doubled public program participation at the Downers Grove Museum with 1,167 participants in 2018.
- Over 1,700 youth participated in the Youth Basketball Leagues and another 1,800 participated in Youth Soccer Leagues in 2018.
- A total of 346 teams and 3,114 adult participants enrolled in Adult Basketball, Volleyball and Softball Leagues.
- The Passport to Safety/Wheely Big Trucks event engaged over 500 children with healthy and fun hands-on activities.
- The Polar Express: Storytime Train created magical memories for 356 youth participants.
- The all-new New Year's Eve Countdown to Noon rang in 2019 with 229 children and their families.



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## OUR MISSION

ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION AND EXCEPTIONAL RECREATION, PARKS AND FACILITIES THAT INSPIRE MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES.