



INSPIRING MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

SINCE 1946



**2021 ANNUAL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT

2021 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Winter



JANUARY



**EXCEPTIONAL
WORKPLACE AWARD**

Presented by the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA)

FEBRUARY



**EXCELLENCE IN
FINANCIAL REPORTING**

Certificate of Achievement
presented by GFOA

MARCH



**GOLF COURSE
OPENED**

Record-setting season with
44,717 rounds played in 2021

APRIL



ARBOR DAY

Planted 3 trees with 1st grade
students and distributed
600 seedlings to residents

MAY



**SUMMER
CONCERT SERIES**

Offered 13 weeks of concerts
and welcomed 10,000 visitors

JUNE



75TH ANNIVERSARY

Began a year-long
celebration of the District's
75th anniversary

Summer



JULY



**PRINCE POND
GRAND REOPENING**

Celebrated the completed pond
renovations with activities

AUGUST



**BBQ BOLT
RUN/WALK**

Hosted the 3rd annual BBQ Bolt
Run/Walk with 259 participants

SEPTEMBER



**WALNUT PARK
OPEN HOUSES**

Hosted 3 community open
houses and gathered feedback

OCTOBER



**OAKTOBER OAK
AWARENESS MONTH**

Increased oak awareness with
planting events and giveaways

NOVEMBER



**ILLINOIS
DISTINGUISHED
ACCREDITED AGENCY**

Awarded by IAPD & IPRA

DECEMBER



RECREATION PROGRAMS

Ended the year having offered
2,300 total programs including
113 brand new programs

Autumn





INSPIRING MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES SINCE 1946

For the last 75 years, the Downers Grove Park District has enriched our community through natural area preservation and exceptional recreation, parks, and facilities that inspire memorable experiences. With almost 600 acres of parks and facilities, there are thousands of opportunities for individuals of all ages and interests to grow, play, imagine and explore.

In 2021, Downers Grove Park District kicked off a year-long celebration of our history with a look ahead to the future through a plethora of events and activities.

2021 celebrations included:

- Growing the Grove Tree Donation Program
- 75th Anniversary History Exhibit at Downers Grove Museum
- Parties in the Park at Hoopers Hollow, Prince Pond and Gilbert Park
- Miner Mike's Adventure Golf Special Discount Days
- Picture This! 75th Anniversary Scavenger Hunt
- "It's a Wonderful Life" Trivia Night
- Special giveaways and more!



THE BIG BASH

Saturday, May 14, 2022 • McCollum Park
The District's 75th anniversary celebrations will conclude with a large community event featuring free activities, food, music and more!

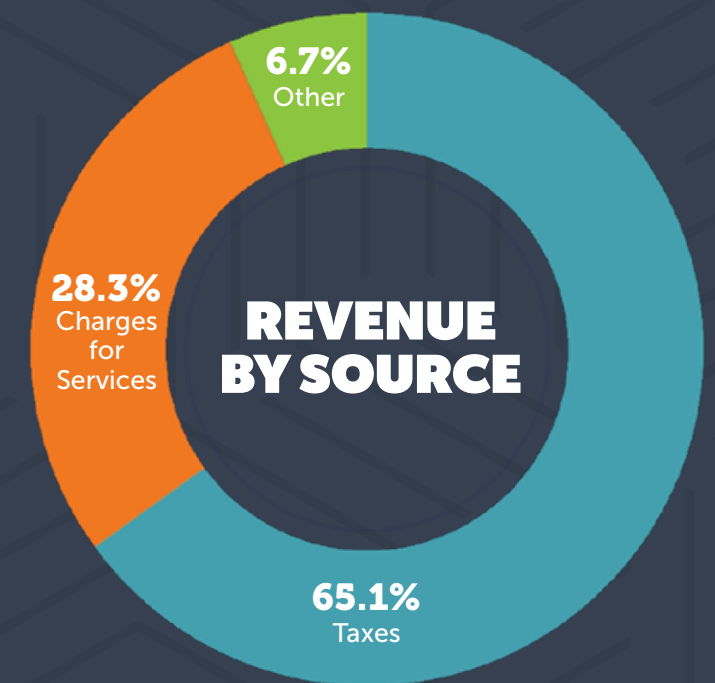
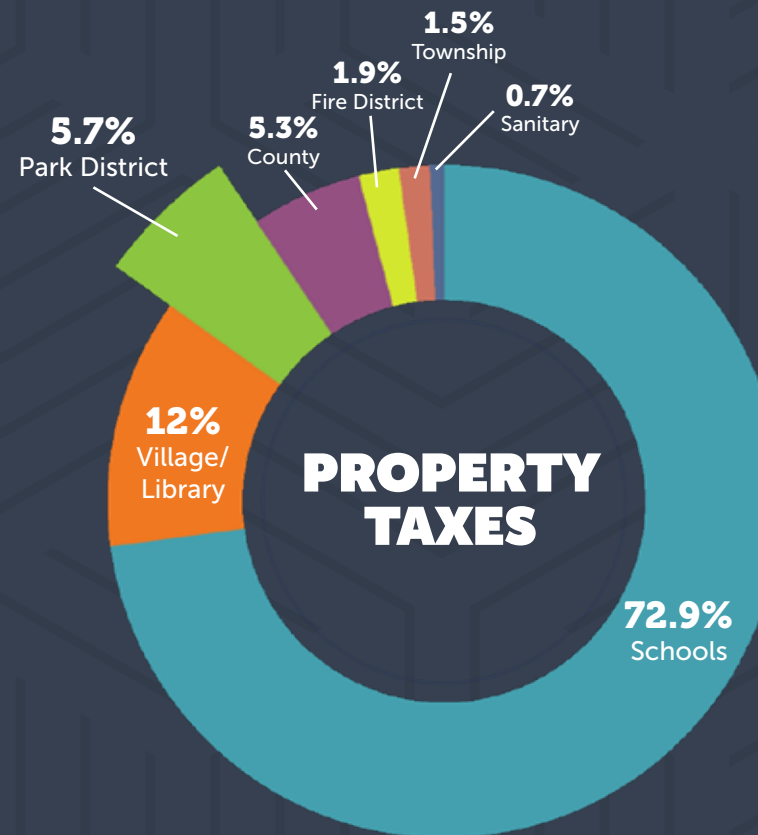
ILLINOIS DISTINGUISHED ACCREDITED AGENCY

Downers Grove Park District has been recognized as an Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency by the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The two statewide associations administer the Illinois Distinguished Accreditation program with the goal of improving the delivery of park and recreation services to Illinois residents.

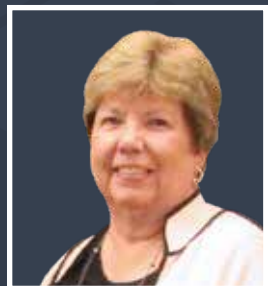
The District received a 99.25% on the review with high marks for clear and transparent District goals and Master Planning, extensive community engagement and communication, development of vital partnerships with local agencies and organizations, excellent financial operations and comprehensive budgeting, and outstanding implementation of safety practices and staff training.



Financial INFORMATION



Board of COMMISSIONERS



President
CATHY MAHONEY



Vice President
SANDRA MCDONNELL



Treasurer
JON DAHLSTROM



Secretary
BOB KOTULA



Commissioner
BRET BENDER



Special INITIATIVES

- **ARBOR DAY:** Celebrated Arbor Day by planting three trees with students from Whittier School and through a partnership with Living Lands and Waters, the District distributed approximately 600 seedlings to residents at Hummer Park, O'Brien Park and the Recreation Center.
- **GROWING THE GROVE:** Launched the Growing the Grove Tree Donation Program to receive donations to plant 75 new 15-gallon trees at 2 new groves at Hoopers Hollow and O'Brien Park.
- **OAKTOBER OAK AWARENESS MONTH:** Hosted the annual Oaktober Oak Awareness Month program in partnership with Goldfinger Brewing Company resulting in 75 oak trees given to the community and \$500 donated to the Growing the Grove Tree Donation Program.
- **HISTORY OF DOWNERS GROVE DISPLAY:** Installed a graphic timeline at the 1846 Pioneer Blodgett House to illustrate the history of Downers Grove from 1760 to present day.
- **75TH ANNIVERSARY DISPLAY:** Developed a large graphic display at the Recreation Center to recognize the history of District parks and facilities.
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** Fostered partnerships with 30 local businesses to provide opportunities to connect with targeted audiences in the community, which resulted in \$21,137 sponsorship and advertising revenue.
- **PERSONNEL MANUAL:** Completed a comprehensive overhaul to the District's Personnel Manual including new policies.

- **RECORD ROUNDS:** 44,717 rounds played in 2021—over 5,000 more rounds played in 2021 compared to 2020.
- **REVENUE INCREASE:** \$1,783,874 in total revenue for 2021—a \$372,476 increase over 2020.
- **DRIVING RANGE:** 2,344,690 total golf balls were purchased at the driving range—a 15% increase over 2020.
- **GOLF COURSE MOBILE APP:** Launched a Downers Grove Golf Club mobile app to provide golfers with an enhanced experience on the course including a GPS yardage finder, new loyalty program perks and discounts, an interactive scorecard, live leaderboards, push notifications and more.
- **PRIVATE LESSON TEE:** Renovations were made to the short game area of the driving range to create a new private lesson tee. A new short game green and bunker were created behind the lesson tee for use of the students and public.

Finance and INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- **BUDGET:** Provided a balanced budget for 2021, maintaining conservative revenue projections that show program and facility revenues growing throughout the year.
- **GFOA:** Awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
- **OFFICE SUPPLIES:** Implemented a centralized office supply ordering process, which will decrease costs and better manage the amount of inventory on hand.
- **INVESTMENTS:** Deployed a new approach to interest and investment earnings, by partnering with an Investment Manager who will oversee management within State laws and District policies.
- **MANUALS:** Created District-wide Finance and IT Manuals that include policies, processes and procedures, which align with best practice.
- **IT STAFF:** Expanded the Information Technology Department through the addition of an IT Technician.
- **SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM:** Began the process of updating the camera surveillance systems throughout different sites in Park District with the most current technology.
- **SERVERS:** Replaced two non-critical servers in-house by repurposing the server equipment that was replaced at the COLO location back in 2019.
- **ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES:** Implemented electronic signature software to allow the District to become more efficient in collecting signatures internally and externally.
- **ACCESS CONTROLS:** Expanded access control software to Fishel Park and Lyman Woods.
- **FIBER INTERNET:** Through an RFP for Fiber internet services, the IT Department was able to save over \$61,000, lowering costs by 48%.



RECREATION GUIDE

23,000 *Delivered per Season*
35,147 *Online Views*
107% INCREASE IN VIEWS



WEBSITE

712,090 *Views*
493,587 *Users*
274% INCREASE IN USERS



SOCIAL MEDIA

4 *Platforms*
10,024 *Facebook Followers*
27% INCREASE



EBLASTS

88 *Emails Sent*
30,965 *Subscribers*
27% INCREASE



Parks, Planning, Facilities & NATURAL RESOURCES

- WALNUT PARK MASTER PLAN:** Developed a draft master plan for Walnut Park and launched a major outreach effort including three open house events to gather community feedback, which will help guide future plans.
- PRINCE POND:** Completed renovations at Prince Pond and held a grand reopening celebration on July 29 where more than 100 visitors enjoyed free activities and fishing.
- BALLFIELDS:** Made significant improvements to ballfields at Doerhoefer #1; McCollum # 1, 3, & 4 and at Memorial North field. Staff laser graded the fields to improve drainage and playability and added over 52 tons of infield mix amongst the five fields.
- ICE SKATING:** Ice skating was not available at Prince Pond in 2021. The rink installed at McCollum Park recorded 5 skateable days while the rink at Doerhoefer Park recorded 17.
- FORESTRY:** Forestry staff removed 83 trees and contracted to have an additional 30 removed. Many of the removals were ornamentals and evergreens that began to die off as they reached their life expectancy.
- TREE PLANTINGS:** Planted 73 trees throughout the District.
- TORNADO AIDE:** Forestry staff assisted Woodridge Park District with tree cleanup after the June 20 tornado.
- MONARCH WAYSTATION:** A Monarch Waystation was installed, registered and approved at the Administration building by a natural resources internship student working with staff over the summer.
- 40TH & GLENDENNING WETLAND (WALLINGFORD PARK):** An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was completed with the Village of Downers Grove for the long-term care and maintenance of the 40th and Glendenning wetland parcels near Wallingford Park. The original IGA from 1997 is set to expire in May of 2022.
- FISH HABITATS:** Staff built and installed four fish habitat structures for Prince Pond prior to having it stocked to re-introduce game fish into the Pond.
- PARKING LOT AND SECURITY LIGHTING:** 48 light fixtures were replaced with energy efficient LED fixtures at Whitlock, Ebersold and Lyman Woods.
- ASSET INVENTORY:** Planning staff completed an outdoor asset inventory of all physical assets in the District's 48 parks. The inventory includes GPS location and photos that are entered into our GIS mapping software.

Recreation PROGRAMS



- YOUTH SOCCER:** Youth Soccer had the highest total registration ever. The spring season had 1,063 players (30% higher than average totals were for past seasons) and the fall season had 1,368 players for a grand total of 2,431.
- YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL:** Experienced an increase in participation with 330 players in the spring season and 495 players in the fall season for a grand total of 825 players. Past totals averaged 700.
- LYMAN WOODS:** Participation in programs at Lyman Woods increased by 2,279 (46%) to 4,897.
- DOWNERS GROVE MUSEUM:** Developed a special temporary exhibit in honor of the 75th anniversary highlighting the history of Downers Grove Park District.
- 4500 FITNESS:** Despite having capacity requirements until June 1, Fitness Center usage increased to 84,000 from 67,000 in 2020.
- NEW EQUIPMENT:** Entered into a lease agreement for 3 upright bikes, 5 ellipticals, 3 treadmills, and purchased a new 8 stack weight machine for the fitness center.



- SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:** Featured 13 weeks of music from May 25 to Aug. 17 and welcomed nearly 10,000 onsite visitors, 4,524 YouTube views and 16 sponsors including the Eric Hamilton Team at Guaranteed Rate as the presenting sponsor.
- HATCH OUT 5K:** The District's first all-virtual race ran with 17 participants.
- POKEMON GO COMMUNITY DAYS:** Held 2 Pokémon Go Community Days to encourage families to get outdoors and explore parks using the Pokémon Go augmented reality game.
- TRIVIA NIGHTS:** Hosted 2 Trivia Nights, Brews with the Griswolds and It's a Wonderful Life, with 52 total participants.
- BBQ BOLT RUN/WALK:** Held on Aug. 29 with 259 registered racers and 3 sponsors.
- CANDY CANE LANE:** Developed a new event featuring holiday-themed activities and a visit with Santa, which welcomed 159 families.



23,000
TOTAL PROGRAMS
113 Brand New
45 Virtual



\$1.8 MILLION
PROGRAM REVENUE
47.1% Increase



19,000+
PARTICIPANTS
73% Increase



36,000
TRANSACTIONS
Processed



OUR MISSION

Enriching our community through natural area preservation and exceptional recreation, parks and facilities that inspire memorable experiences.

[LEARN MORE AT DGPARKS.ORG](https://www.dgparks.org)