INSPIRING MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT

2022 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
**2022 Season Highlights**

**Winter**
- **January**
  - Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency
  - Awarded by IAPD & IPRA
- **February**
  - AAA Bond Rating
  - Highest available from Standard & Poor’s
- **March**
  - New HRIS System
  - Selected Paycor as the District’s new system for recruitment, timekeeping and payroll

**Spring**
- **April**
  - Growing the Grove
  - Planted 75 new trees at Hoopers Hollow & O’Brien Park through donations
- **May**
  - The Big Bash
  - Hosted a free day-long festival to celebrate the District’s 75th anniversary
- **June**
  - Summer Concert Series
  - Offered 13 weeks of concerts and welcomed 18,000 visitors

**Summer**
- **July**
  - 1846 Blodgett House
  - Hosted a donor reception to celebrate the completed renovation
- **August**
  - McCollum Park Groundbreaking
  - Celebrated the start of construction at McCollum Park
- **September**
  - Recreation Center
  - Installed new fitness flooring and equipment, new pickleball courts in the gym and more

**Fall**
- **October**
  - 4500 Fitness Website
  - Launched a new fitness website to provide easy access to membership info and more
- **November**
  - Belmont Golf Club
  - Announced the rebranding of the golf course in honor of its 130th anniversary
- **December**
  - Financial Assistance Program
  - Launched a program to provide financial support for programs
ABOUT US

Downers Grove Park District serves a population of approximately 50,000; has an assessed valuation of over $2.8 billion; oversees 615 acres of parks and facilities; provides 40,000 rounds of golf, along with leisure programs to over 50,000 participants annually.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VALUES

To be the community resource encouraging PLAY for L.I.F.E: Leadership. Imagination. Fulfillment. Enjoyment.

2022-23 DISTRICT GOALS

MASTER PLAN

The District is working to develop a new comprehensive Master Plan to meet the evolving needs of the community with improvements or additions to our parks; facilities and recreation programs.

GELWICKS PARK & BELMONT PRAIRIE

The Park Board of Commissioners has renamed Walnut Park to Gelwicks Park in honor of past commissioner, Bob Gelwicks. The District is working to select a firm to assist with a feasibility study including financial forecasting and strategies, which will help the District to determine next steps in the master planning of the site.

In addition, a Prairie Buffer and Gelwicks Park Management Plan has been developed with the goal to restore the area to a more naturalized state to help protect the Belmont Prairie, improve hydrologic processes and water quality and provide additional habitat for local flora and fauna.

RECREATION CENTER & 4500 FITNESS MATRIX

The District continues to evaluate the future utilization of the programming at the Recreation Center and 4500 Fitness. In 2022, the District converted the existing child care space into a new preschool classroom for our growing program. In addition, new flooring was installed in the multipurpose room to create a more flexible space for programming and rentals.

GREEN TECHNOLOGY

With a commitment to sustainability and green practices, the District continues to identify opportunities to utilize renewable energy. As part of the McCollum Park Improvement Project to be completed in 2023, the sprayground has been engineered with a water recirculation system, an eco-friendly option that continuously recycles, filters and disinfects the water supply. New LED lighting at the McCollum tennis/pickleball courts will result in significant reduction in energy consumption.

AFFILIATE AGREEMENTS

Downers Grove Park District is proud to partner with volunteer-led affiliate organizations who provide sports programs to youth in the community. In 2022, the District updated our affiliate agreements to reflect increased operating expenses associated with field maintenance.

INCLUSION, EQUITY & DIVERSITY

The District is committed to fostering, cultivating and preserving a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion across all public spaces, places, facilities and programs. In an effort to provide recreation, health and wellness opportunities to all residents, including those who are experiencing financial hardships, the Downers Grove Park District established a Financial Assistance Program (FAP) in 2022. In addition, a new committee will be formed in 2023 to develop and implement initiatives to better serve our community and our employees.

DISTRICT AWARDS

ILLINOIS DISTINGUISHED ACCREDITED AGENCY
Awarded by the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association
Recognized as a park and recreation agency that goes above and beyond in dedicating themselves to offering quality programs and services designed to fulfill their community’s needs

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BILL MCADAM
Professional of the Year Recognized by the Illinois Park & Recreation Association
American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration
Elected as a Fellow into the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION
Certified Park and Recreation Professionals
Dawn Hartman, James Less, Michelle Pusateri and Danielle Strohmier
Certified Park and Recreation Executive
Erik Brown

PROPERTY TAXES

72.9% Schools
12% Village/Library
5.7% Park District
1.9% Fire District
1.5% Township
0.7% Sanitary
30.3% Charges for Services
6.7% Other
63% Taxes

REVENUE BY SOURCE

63% Taxes
30.3% Charges for Services
12% Village/Library
5.7% Park District
1.9% Fire District
1.5% Township
0.7% Sanitary

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT
Presented by the GFOA for Excellence in Financial Reporting
MARKETING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

• 75TH ANNIVERSARY: Implemented a social media campaign highlighting the District’s history.

• BELMONT GOLF CLUB REBRANDING: To honor its legacy and in celebration of its 130th anniversary, the District rebranded the historic golf course to the Belmont Golf Club.

• 4500 FITNESS WEBSITE: Launched an all-new 4500 Fitness website to provide easy access to membership information, class updates, facility news and more.

• GROWING THE GROVE: Utilized donations received through Growing the Grove Program to plant 75 new 15-gallon trees at Hoopers Hollow and O’Brien Park.

• COMMUNITY ART WALL: Relocated the Community Art Wall display to the Lincoln Center to assist with promoting the District’s art programs.

• AWARDS DISPLAY: Created an awards display in the lobby at the Recreation Center.

• JULY IS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH: Recognized July as National Parks & Recreation Month with a calendar of free or low-cost activities and events.

• MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK: Worked with the Fitness Team to host a Member Appreciation Week at 4500 Fitness from Sept. 12 to 18 featuring 5 sponsors, free giveaways, goodies and promotions.

• WELCOME SIGNAGE: Installed new welcome signage in facility lobbies to greet visitors.

• PARTNERSHIPS: Fostered partnerships with 20 local businesses to provide opportunities to connect with targeted audiences in the community, which resulted in sponsorship and advertising revenue totaling $32,945.

• SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: Welcomed approximately 18,000 visitors to the Summer Concert Series on Tuesday evenings over 13 weeks. Partnerships with our presenting sponsor, the Eric Hamilton Team at Guaranteed Rate, 7 additional sponsors and 8 food vendors helped to create a fun, family festival experience each week.

• THE BIG BASH: Concluded the District’s 75th anniversary year on May 14 with the Big Bash Anniversary Celebration featuring live entertainment, free activities, contests, food trucks and more.

• DOG DAZE: Hosted the inaugural Dog Daze event with nearly 1,000 people and pups plus 7 community partners.

• MCCOLLUM PARK GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY: Held a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off the construction of the McCollum Park Improvement Project on Aug. 4.

• DONOR RECEPTION: Hosted a Donor Reception to celebrate the completed renovation of the 1846 Blodgett House at the Downers Grove Museum on July 14.

• PARTY IN THE PARK EVENTS: Welcomed approximately 200 visitors to Party in the Park events at Washington Park on June 9 and Ebersold Park on Aug. 11.

• HOLIDAY GLOW DECORATING CONTEST: Encouraged the community to participate in the Holiday Glow Decorating Contest.
**FINANCE & IT**

**FINANCE**
- **BOND ISSUANCE:** Received a AAA Bond rating, the highest available from Standard & Poor's, and issued $3.5 million in bonds for the McCollum Park Improvement Project.
- **ANNUAL AUDIT:** Received an unqualified audit opinion with a clean audit from Sikich LLP.
- **BUDGET:** Ended 2022 with a balanced budget with considerable dollars allocated for capital projects.
- **COST RECOVERY ANALYSIS:** Completed a Residential Service Sustainability Strategy and an analysis of financial data to determine revenue earned versus the costs spent for each program area. This will assist staff in determining cost recovery goals and areas for potential growth.
- **MANUALS:** Completed updates to the Finance and IT Manuals followed by staff training on new and improved policies, procedures, and processes.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
- **ECO COUNTERS:** Installed new Eco Counters at Lyman Woods, the Recreation Center, and the Lincoln Center to count visitors and provide accurate usage data.
- **CYBER SECURITY:** Implemented dual authentication software and White Knight Phishing Service for increased cyber security.
- **PARK & FACILITY SECURITY:** Installed additional access controls at various facilities and installed new security cameras throughout the District.
- **SHAREPOINT:** Expanded use of SharePoint to enhance staff communication and access to files.
- **MOBILE DEVICE MANAGEMENT:** Introduced a new management system to track District-owned tablets and mobile phones.
- **SERVER AND FIREWALL:** Replaced the District's server and firewall with updated and enhanced systems.
- **SERVICE FEES:** Renewed the District’s co-location center services at a reduced rate and signed a 3-year extension for IT Managed Services with no rate increase.

**PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION**
- **PATRIOTS PARK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT:** Replacement of the 45-year-old pedestrian bridge located at the east end of Barth Pond. The new bridge was constructed of weathering steel with hardwood decking, and is now 10 feet wide to allow easier crossing for pedestrians, bicycles, and wheelchairs.
- **DOERHOEFER PARK IRRIGATION REPLACEMENT:** A new irrigation system was installed, which increased operational efficiency by including web-based monitoring and control, and increased water efficiency through the use of flow sensors and in-ground moisture sensors.
- **DOERHOEFER PARK TENNIS/Pickleball COURTS:** The courts were resurfaced in 2022 with new acrylic color coating, and continue to feature 2 permanent outdoor pickleball courts.
- **MCCOLLUM PARK SPRAYGROUND & TENNIS IMPROVEMENTS:** This project includes a new sprayground, renovated tennis and pickleball courts with new LED lighting, a renovated concession plaza, plus widening and resurfacing of the existing asphalt perimeter pathway. Construction began in August 2022, with project completion anticipated for summer of 2023.
- **DUNHAM PLACE PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT:** Installed a new ADA-compliant playground, with new concrete walkways, benches, mulch safety surfacing, and drinking fountain.
- **1925 CURTISS STREET DEMOLITION:** Located in Sterling North Park, the property at 1925 Curtis Street contained a single-story house and garage structure. Staff prepared bid documents, secured a demolition permit from the Village of Downers Grove, and managed the removal of the structures, including backfilling the foundations and restoring the site to turf grass.
- **ADA IMPROVEMENTS:** The FY2022 budget included funds allocated for accessibility improvements within existing parks and facilities. Improvements were completed at Dunham Place Park along with the playground renovation project, and at McCollum Park as part of the pathway renovation.
- **OSLAD GRANT APPLICATION:** Prepared and submitted an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant application, for proposed improvements at Constitution Park. Administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Park District was awarded this grant in March of 2023. The Constitution Park Renovation project will include a renovated playground, new walking paths and a new picnic shelter.
- **NATURAL AREAS MAINTENANCE:** Staff managed the contractual maintenance of natural areas within Lyman Woods and at the 40th & Glendenning Wetland Bank with removal and treatment of invasive woody and herbaceous plant material at both locations.
- **ANNUAL MAINTENANCE, REPAIR & REPLACEMENT:** Staff managed several projects including fencing replacements, playground mulch replenishment, fish stocking, and asphalt sealcoating throughout the District.
RECREATION, GOLF, FITNESS, ATHLETICS, & CUSTOMER SERVICE

RECREATION

• STAFF: The Recreation Department was restructured to consolidate all programming activities under the supervision of the Superintendent of Recreation. As a result, two Division Manager positions were created to assist with this. Josh Williams was promoted to the Division Manager of Fitness & Athletics while Samantha Donovan was promoted to the Division Manager of Recreation Programming.

• ePACT: Implemented and began utilizing ePACT for electronic emergency/participation forms for The LINK, Summer Camps, Day off of School Camps, Preschool and NaturePlay School.

• PRESCHOOL: Morning Preschool was offered at the Recreation Center for the first time for the 2022-2023 school year in the former Kid Zone child care space.

• SWIM LESSON PARTNERSHIP: Entered into a Swim Lesson Partnership with the Indian Boundary YMCA to allow Park District residents the opportunity to enroll in YMCA swim lessons at their member rate.

• DANCE RECITAL: Held our first ticketed Dance Recital at the Recreation Center in May with 850 in attendance and 177 dancers.

• OUTDOOR EDUCATION: Participation in outdoor education programs increased by 37% to 7,822.

• HALLOWEEN PARADE: The Lyman Woods first-ever Halloween Parade was a hit with over 77 participants in attendance.

• NATURE CAMP: Lyman Woods summer camp was the highest ever participation with 1,258 participants.

• LYMAN WOODS: Lyman Woods Staff completed several improvement projects. The middle Wild Woods area was renovated, a new native garden and a new picnic area were installed and 30 trees and shrubs were planted around the edible garden.

• BEE APIARY: The maintenance of the bee hives transitioned from a contractual service to an in-house, part-time employee which will be more cost effective and allow staff to have an active role in the care of the bees and in honey production.

• 1846 HOUSE: The 1846 Blodgett House was completed and opened to the public with a grand opening ceremony at Downers Grove Museum on July 14.

GOLF

• 130TH ANNIVERSARY: Celebrated the course’s 130th anniversary with a rebranding to Belmont Golf Club.

• ROUNDS: Exceeded 42,000 rounds of golf for the second year in a row.

• REVENUE: Total golf revenue exceeded $1,800,000—an increase of over $21,000 from 2021.

• LESSON CANOPY: A new canopy was installed over the teaching area.

• PATIO: The outdoor patio adjacent to the Clubhouse was renovated.

• BUNKERS: Bunkers on holes 4 and 8 were reconstructed.

FITNESS

• IMPROVEMENTS: Recreation Center and Fitness Center renovations were completed in August 2022 which included new Fitness Center flooring, new fitness equipment, expanded pickleball courts to 9 courts with permanent striping, and fresh paint in the Fitness Center.

• MEMBERSHIPS: 2,758 fitness memberships were sold in 2022—an increase of 680 memberships.

• REVENUE: Total fitness revenue increased to $662,405—an increase of $154,813 over 2021.

• USAGE: Usage of all fitness components increased from 84,000 in 2021 to 94,322 in 2022.

• LEASE AGREEMENT: Entered into a lease agreement for 8 pieces of cardio equipment as well as an assisted dip machine.

ATHLETICS

• YOUTH LEAGUES: Participation in youth athletic leagues increased by 31% to 6,162. This included a record high in participation for many leagues such as 2,215 participated in basketball, 2,763 in soccer and 1,041 in flag football.

• COMBINE DAY: Offered our first-ever Flag Football Combine Day with 158 participants.

• TINY TOTS TRACK MEET: Offered our first-ever Tiny Tots Track Meet with 46 participants.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

• FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Financial Assistance Application was revised to make it easier to apply and was made available on the District’s website. Approved applicants will then be able to register online for their own programs.

• COMMUNICATION: Develop new staff communication form to include items such as class cancellations, refunds, time changes and additional classes all on one document.

• SELF TRANSFER: A self transfer form was created to allow patrons to submit their own request online to transfer from one recreation program to another.

• REFUND POLICY: New refund policy was developed in the fall of 2022 and will be implemented beginning Jan. 1, 2023.
• TREE INVENTORY UPDATE: 1,500 data points (trees), in 13 parks, were updated by Graf Tree Care.

• BELMONT PRAIRIE PRESCRIBED BURN: Natural Resource Management (NRM) completed an effective burn across the entire prairie site (7 acres).

• NICOR EASEMENT PROJECT: The NICOR easement at Concord Square was cleared using a FECON mower and conventional tree removal methods. Invasive woody species, buckthorn and honeysuckle, made up the majority of the vegetation removed. NICOR later seeded the area to native vegetation.

• ARBOR DAY: NICOR volunteers planted 15 trees at Concord Square and mulched approximately 200 other trees in the park. Two Swamp White Oak Trees were planted at Patriots Park by the first graders from Whittler School. Each student was given a seedling and a pollinator seed packet to take home. Living Lands & Waters provided 4 species of seedlings for distribution to residents and program participants.

• MCCOLLUM PARK 75TH ANNIVERSARY PREPARATION: The park was given a thorough spring cleanup including mowing, mulching, pruning and turf restoration.

• PROGRAM SUPPORT: Staff assisted with preparation and setup for the Concert Series, Dog Daze, Movies in the Park, Museum Donor event, Ebersold and Washington Parties in the Park, and Lincoln Center Summer Camps.

• WALNUT PARK FENCE INSTALLATION: Due to repeated vandalism to the soccer field turf, a post and rail fence was installed around the parking lot to prevent unauthorized access to the park.

• RECREATION CENTER POLLINATOR ISLAND: walnut park fence installation allowed for better clearance and visibility.

• LINCOLN CENTRAL: Multiple projects were completed contractually including replacing the roof and painting of the gazebo; replacement of the flooring and a drinking fountain in the Montrew Dunham History Center; the rebuilding of 2 sets of stairs on the front porch of the 1892 Blodgett House; painting the exterior of the 1846 Blodgett House.

• LYMAN WOODS INTERPRETIVE CENTER: Projects completed contractually include coating the roof over the multipurpose room; painting the exterior of the building; painting the interior of the multi-purpose room; hanging new cabinets in the multi-purpose room.

• FACILITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Worked with the architecture firm Wight and Company to complete a Facilities Condition Assessment for 21 district buildings. The assessment identified $15,578,849 of needed maintenance repairs and replacements. Upon review, staff determined that there were no safety issues and that some repairs could possibly be done at a cost savings. In addition, staff completed some of the projects on the list in 2022.

• RECREATION CENTER HVAC REPLACEMENT: A contract was awarded to Midwest Mechanical Group to replace 16 HVAC units. The units were ordered in February 2022 for installation the last week of August, however, due to supply chain issues, the units were not received by Midwest until the end of November. Therefore, the project had to be rescheduled to the week of March 27, 2023.

• MUSEUM CAMPUS: There were multiple projects completed contractually including replacing the roof and painting of the gazebo; replacement of the flooring and a drinking fountain in the Montrew Dunham History Center; the rebuilding of 2 sets of stairs on the front porch of the 1892 Blodgett House; painting the exterior of the 1846 Blodgett House.

• FACILITIES

• BELMONT PRAIRIE HERBICIDE APPLICATIONS: LRM treated invasive herbaceous plants (reed canary grass, spotted knapweed, cattails and purple loosestrife) at the Prairie, and phragmites plants (reed canary grass, spotted knapweed, cattails) at the Prairie, and phragmites.

• LYMAN WOODS & BELMONT PRAIRIE HERBICIDE: Natural Resource Management (NRM) treated invasive herbaceous plants (reed canary grass, spotted knapweed, cattails and purple loosestrife) at the Prairie, and phragmites...
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