



Oak Brook Park District

A National Gold Medal Agency

2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT



OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT

1450 Forest Gate Road. Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

www.obparks.org



Oak Brook
Park District
A National Gold Medal Agency

2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement:

To provide the **very best** in **park & recreational opportunities, facilities,** and **open lands** for our community.

Vision

To provide a diverse, inclusive and holistic range of opportunities designed to keep the community happy, fit and active.

About this report

This report highlights progress, accomplishments, goals, and initiatives of the Oak Brook Park District, as outlined in our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.

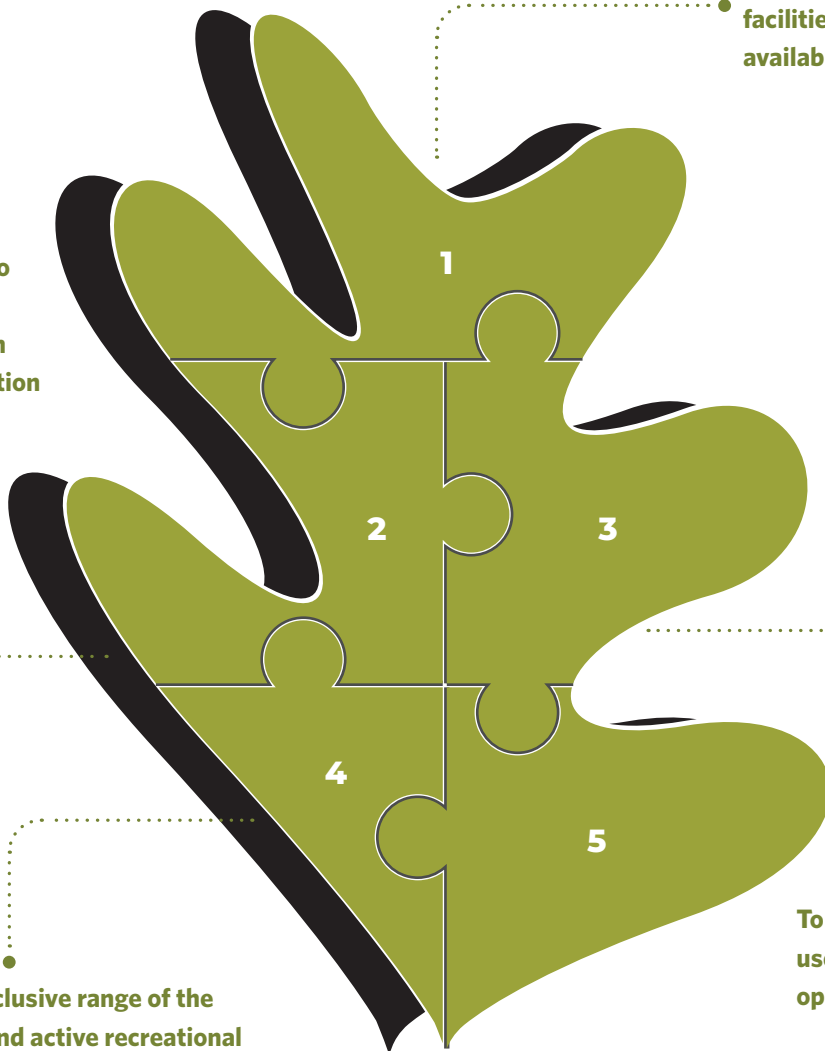
The report follows our five **STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**, developed through our Strategic Planning process. They focus on developing a tactical and adaptive working plan linking our mission, vision, and core values with policy making and organization.

This will ensure the operational goals for the next year fall within the parameters of our mission and vision.





5 Strategic Initiatives



To provide the very best in park and open space to our constituents and to be a community leader in environmental conservation and stewardship.

To provide an all inclusive range of the very best passive and active recreational programs and opportunities to our entire community.

To ensure that the very best facilities are accessible and available.

To foster a diverse work environment that encourages collaborative teamwork and the development of the very best in park and recreation professionals.

To prioritize the fiscally responsible use of resources in all aspects of our operations.



To ensure that the very best facilities are accessible and available.



Phase II construction north of Ginger Creek was completed! The concession/restroom building, Oaks Amphitheater, Ginger Creek Pavilion, a fitness challenge course for all ages, table games including ping pong, chess, and checkers, as well as a bocce court, are all open for use.



NEW Picnic Area at Tennis Center:
Improvements were made at the Tennis Center patio so that a new and accessible family picnic area could be created!



The Tennis Courts at Chillem, Saddle Brook, and Forest Glen Parks were resurfaced. Additionally, a tennis court at both Forest Glen and Saddle Brook Parks were converted into pickleball courts.



The Central Park West facility restrooms were also remodeled for ADA compliance while adding two exterior-facing all-gender restrooms for public use.



To provide the very best in park and open space to our constituents and to be a community leader in environmental conservation and stewardship.



The team worked with the Village of Oak Brook to celebrate "OakTober." This initiative included a mural that the community decorated with fall leaves, a tree and sapling giveaway, and several educational videos on social media.



Oaktober

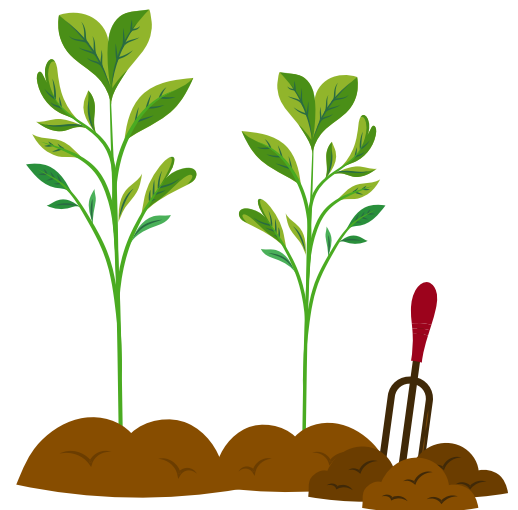
Putting the "Oak" in Oak Brook



The Sustainability Team hosted a month-long celebration for Earth Day in April! Tree saplings were available for pickup at the Family Recreation Center entrance. Reusable grocery bags, kneelers and hand shovels were also handed out at the Family Recreation Center. The Team also hosted a lunch and learn in April! Staff gathered at the Forest Glen Park to plant a pollinator garden.



The Park District also received a tree donation through the Morton Arboretum! 20 new trees were planted.





To foster a diverse work environment that encourages collaborative teamwork and the development of the very best in park and recreation professionals.

- The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), announced the Oak Brook Park District as a finalist for the 2024 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.



- Team Education Brings New Offerings: In aquatics, Caroline Reimann and Michaela George were awarded a scholarship to become certified in adaptive aquatic instruction through the Swim Angelfish Organization! This certification will provide them with experience to best accommodate swim lesson patrons with special needs.

Planning for Future Success: Staff and Commissioners attended a series of workshops and meetings to create the goals and objectives for the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.

- Director of Recreation and Communications, Robert Pechous and Superintendent of Aquatics and Maintenance, Rob Bond obtained their CPRE (Certified Parks and Recreation Executive) certification through NRPA.



- Kate Sniegowski, Recreation Manager and Rachel Jones, Corporate and Community Relations Manager received their CPRP (Certified Parks and Recreation Professional) certification through NRPA.







To provide an all inclusive range of the very best passive and active recreational programs and opportunities to our entire community.



Protecting Swimmers

In July 2023, the Park District in partnership with IDPH and DuPage County Health Department hosted a media event about swimmer safety. The event took place at Splash Island and featured speakers such as 3x Olympic Gold Medalist, Matt Grevers, and representatives from the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, DuPage County Health Department, and Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago.

Ginger Creek Bridge & Shoreline Project

The Oak Brook Park District was awarded a \$1,466,279 Grant from the Federal Government with the support from Senator Sean Casten, for the Ginger Creek Accessible Pedestrian Bridge and Shoreline Improvement project. This project is expected to commence in the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year.

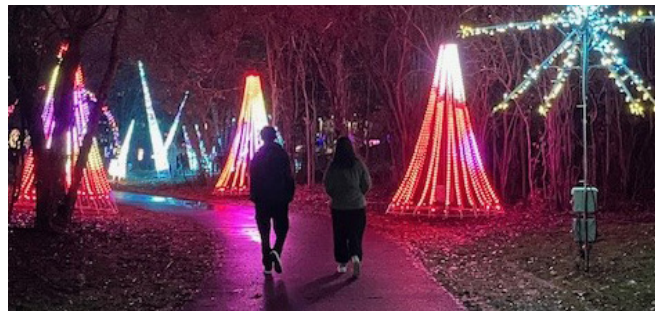


New Inclusive Programs Launched

Staff implemented several new inclusive programs such as Adaptive Private Swim Lessons, Adaptive Tennis, and Sensory Sensitive Hours at both the Family Recreation Center and Family Aquatic Center.

Winter Lights Record Trail Attendance and Donations

Over 48,720 people walked the trail which makes this the most attended year ever for this event. The total cash and online donations collected was over \$8,400 which was split between the Oak Brook Park District Foundation and People’s Resource Center.





503,554
patron visits to the
Family Recreation
Center.

**FAMILY
RECREATION CENTER**

**GROUP
FITNESS CLASSES**

26,383
check-ins were
recorded for group
fitness classes!



PINK 5K
THE Pink 5k
Oak Brook Park District

RAFA NADAL CAMP

Over \$24,000
raised for the
Hinsdale Hospital
Foundation Open
Arms Breast Cancer
Outreach Fund!

OPEN ARMS
BREAST CANCER OUTREACH FUND
Hinsdale Hospital Foundation



164
participants
registered for this
national camp!



Agency Financial Recap

5 To prioritize the fiscally responsible use of resources in all aspects of our operations.

Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Revenues

Charges for Services and Programs
47% | \$6,338,543

Sponsorships, Donations & Grants
2% | \$220,319

Miscellaneous
5% | \$703,547

Interest
3% | \$405,890

Property Taxes
40% | \$5,408,280

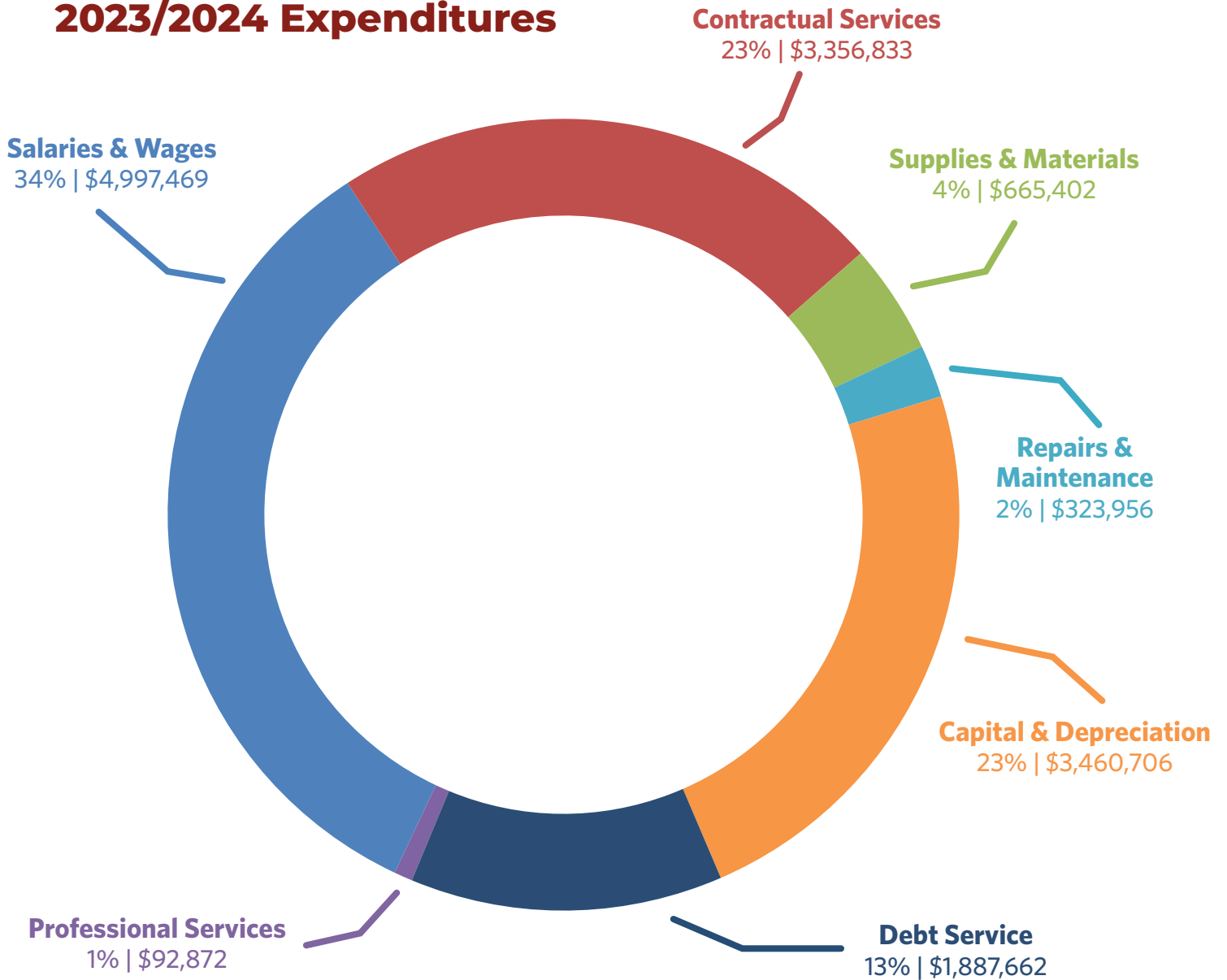
Other Taxes
3% | \$441,599



For a more in-depth look at agency financials, consult the 2024 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at www.obparks.org.

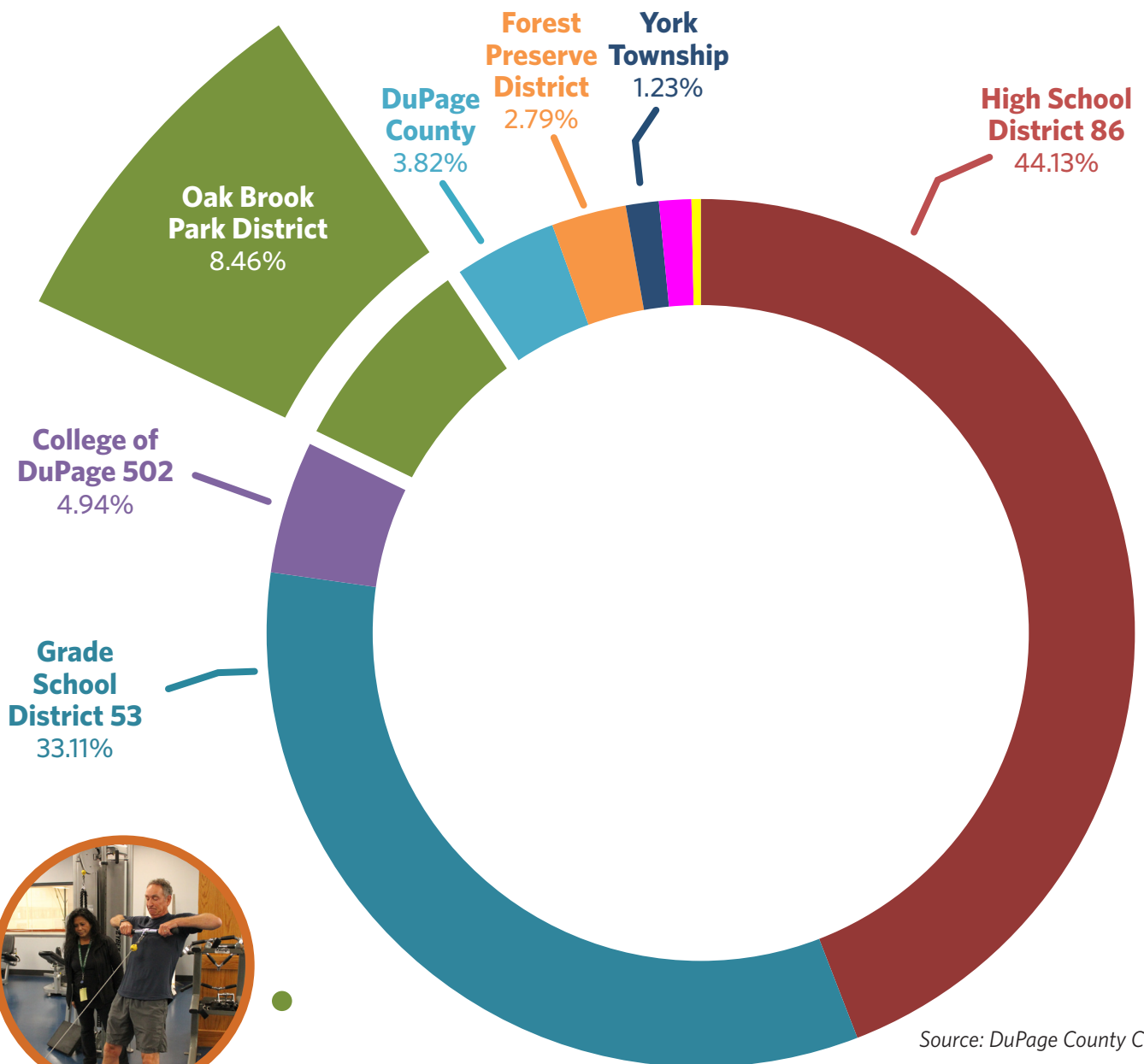


2023/2024 Expenditures





2023 Property Tax Distribution: Oak Brook, York Township



Source: DuPage County Clerk





Cost Saving Measures

Fresh and Ready for USE! With the financial support of Evergreen Bank Group, the synthetic turf soccer field has been replaced! Construction was completed in August 2023.



The Park District has developed a partnership with a dedicated volunteer bee keeper at our Bee Apiary located at the Dean Nature Sanctuary. Dale's hive management and extra help has helped the district save \$5,000 annually by not utilizing an outside vendor.

Staff recognition

Laure Kosey was elected to the IPRA Board. Haley Colucci and Bob Johnson were elected by members of IPRA to serve as the Communications Directors for the Diversity Section and Park and Natural Resource Management Section.



Laure L. Kosey, Ph.D., CPRE

Staff attended the 2024 Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) and 11 staff members presented educational sessions!



Bob Johnson - CPRP, CPSI



Brian DeWolf was elected to serve as the committee treasurer for the Suburban Park and Recreation Association (SPRA).



Brian DeWolf, CPRP

Haley Colucci completed her first year at the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Directors School and was awarded the Edroy Jenkins Scholarship to attend her second year. Haley also received the Young Professional Fellowship to attend the NRPA 2023 Conference in Dallas, free of charge. NRPA recognized Haley as one of the "30 Under 30" Young Professionals. This recognition program is a joint effort by the NRPA Young Professional Network and Parks & Recreation magazine, honoring 30 of the top young professionals who serve as everyday champions in their communities.



Haley Colucci, CPRP



