

Providing the very best in park and recreational opportunities, facilities, and open lands for our community.



# Oak Brook Park District

*A National Gold Medal Agency*

## 2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT**

1450 Forest Gate Road. Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

[www.obparks.org](http://www.obparks.org)



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# Mission Statement:

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

## Vision

To provide a diverse range of opportunities designed to keep the community happy, fit and active while being its very best and feeling its very best.



## About this report

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

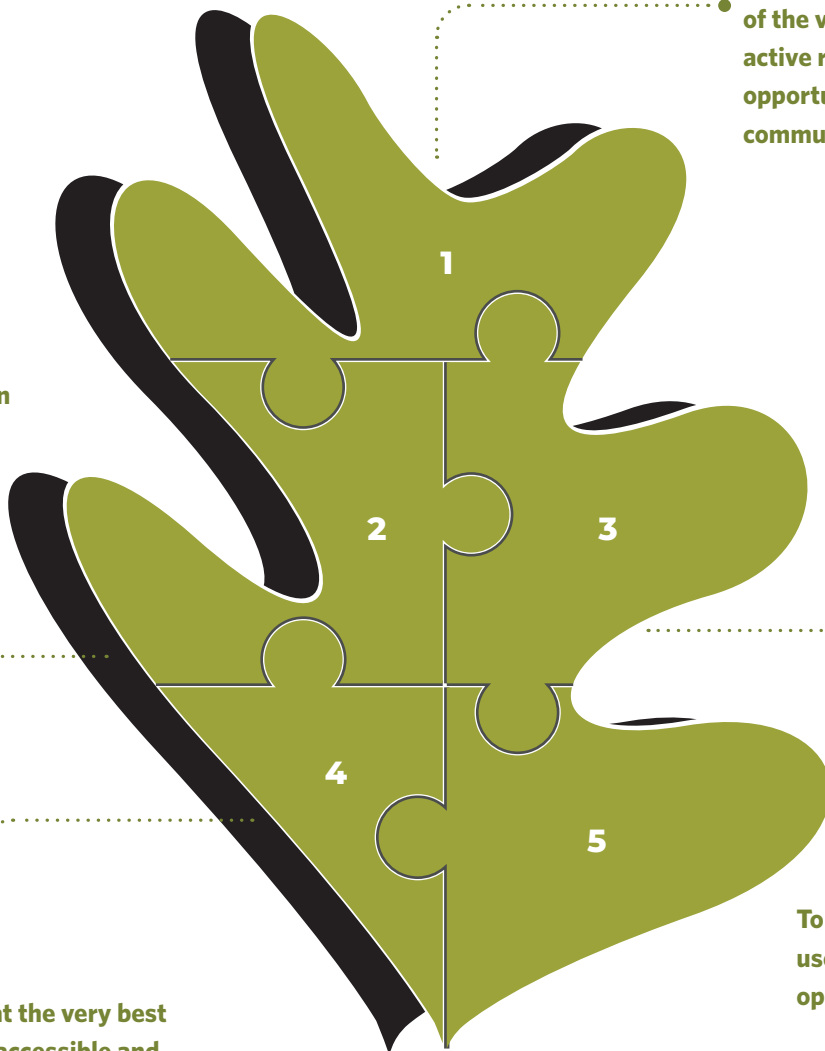
The report follows our five **STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**, developed through our Strategic Planning process. They focus on developing a tactical and adaptive working plan linking our mission, vision, and core values with policy making and organization. This will ensure the operational goals for the next three years 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 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.

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

- **Three NEW pickleball courts** have replaced the basketball courts near Central Park West. Since 2021, pickleball programming has been offered 5 days a week!
- Six signs including a QR code linked to a full map of amenities in Central Park have been placed throughout Central Park!
- The Oak Brook Park District was granted \$500.00 from PDRMA for Emergency Trail Stickers! Be on the lookout for seven emergency stickers attached to the wayfinding sign posts throughout Central Park.
- In September of 2021, the Park District held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of phase 1 at the Central Park North Athletic Fields (see more on page 9). In addition to updating and replacing Central Park wayfinding and rules signage, monument signs were added to the Central Park North Athletic Fields.
- In the winter of 2022, the Park District partnered with Neelyx Labs to offer free COVID-19 PCR tests at the Family Recreation Center. This effort continues as of today!



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



- **OH! Bee Parks Honey** - The Park District re-established 4 new honey bee colonies at the Dean Nature Sanctuary in 2021.
- **The Sustainability Team**, staff, and preschool students planted a pollinator garden in front of the Family Recreation Center as part of an "Earth Day in the Parks" grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
- **Celebrating Earth Month** - The Sustainability Team also hosted a month-long celebration for Earth Day in April! Tree saplings were available for pickup at the Family Recreation Center, and reusable grocery bags were also given to members and guests at the Park District.
- **Community Shredding Event** - Last year, the Park District conducted a community shredding event with over 200 attendees.



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

- **Champions for Change** The Park District was the recipient of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) “Champions for Change” award. The Champions for Change Award recognizes agencies with unique and exemplary practices of increasing access and fostering diversity and inclusion within their community or organization.
- Multiple bilingual staff worked together to translate the Park District’s Personnel Policy Manual for our Spanish Speaking staff.



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



**New Special Events and Programming!**

- The Great Pumpkin Roll was new in 2021! Families and children met at the sled hill to roll their old Halloween pumpkins down the hill!
- Staff obtained an additional \$20,000 in sponsorships to cover the costs for Winter Lights at Central Park - a FREE recreational event open to everyone. Cocoa Cabin was also new in 2021! Families could stop in after their walk and purchase treats and cozy beverages!
- The Park District’s first-ever Pickleball Tournament took place in April, with 24 participants!

**Monthly Celebrations**

Each month, the Park District celebrated a national holiday internally and with the community!

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| ▪ May - Pets       | ▪ September - Sustainability    |
| ▪ June - Pride     | ▪ October - Cancer Awareness    |
| ▪ July - America   | ▪ November - Military           |
| ▪ August - Culture | ▪ December - Holiday Traditions |

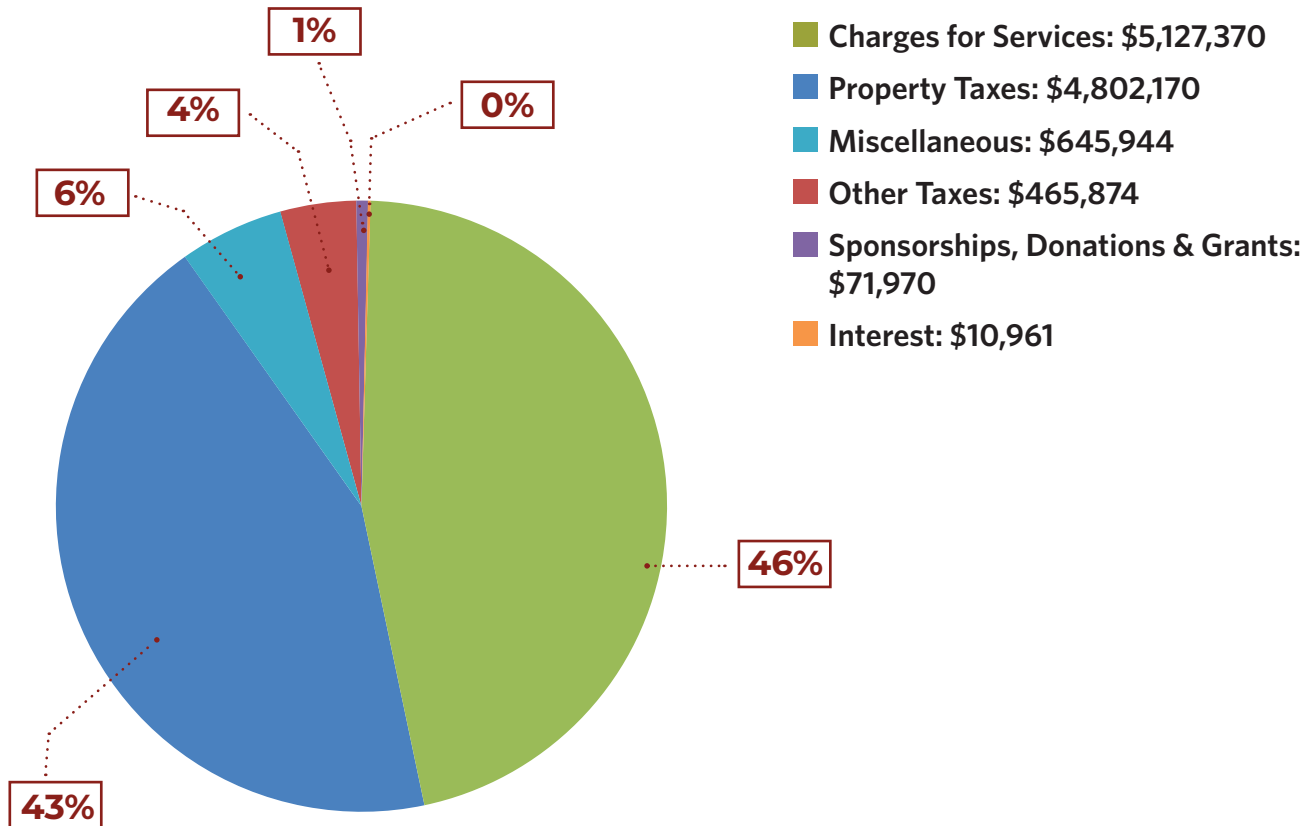


# Agency Financial Recap

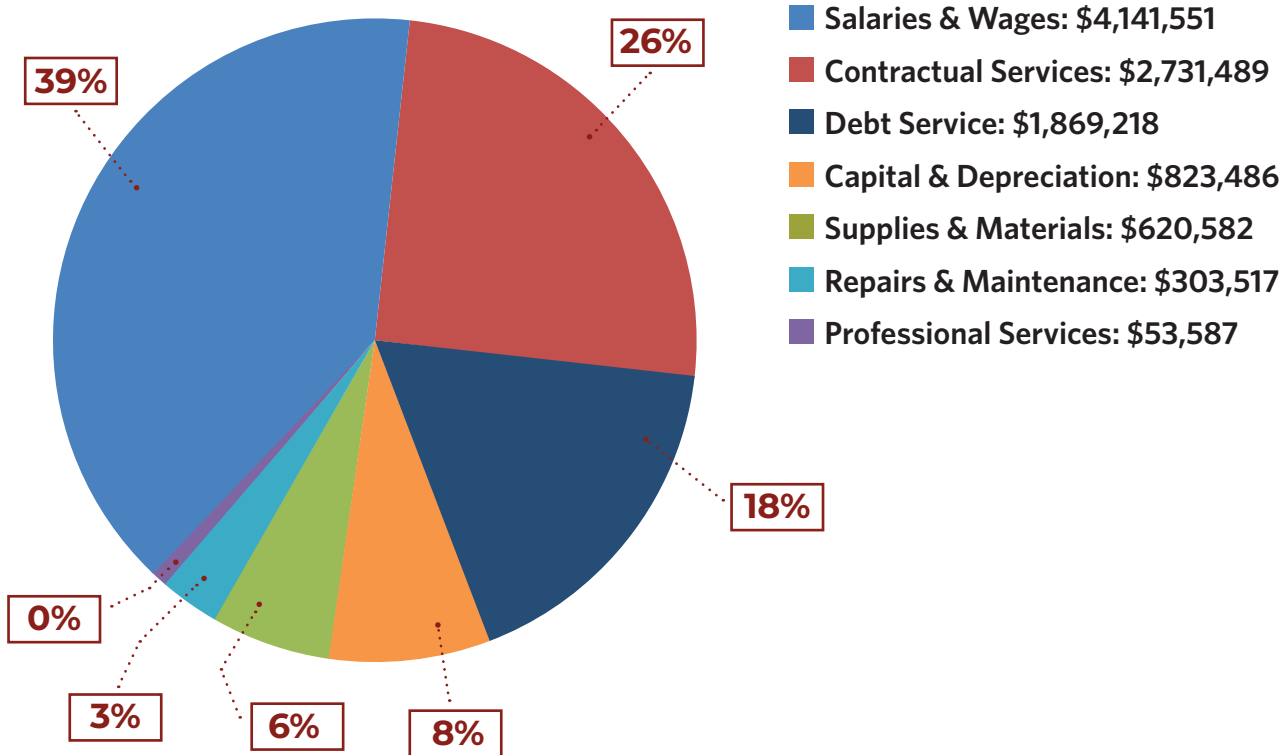
**5** To prioritize the fiscally responsible use of resources in all aspects of our operations.

Fiscally responsible practices were imperative during the pandemic. The Park District Board of Commissioners supported the district’s decision to draw from accumulated reserves, to help mitigate the loss of revenues that was precipitated by the pandemic. Additionally, the Park District was able to save substantially on utility expenses with our indoor facilities.

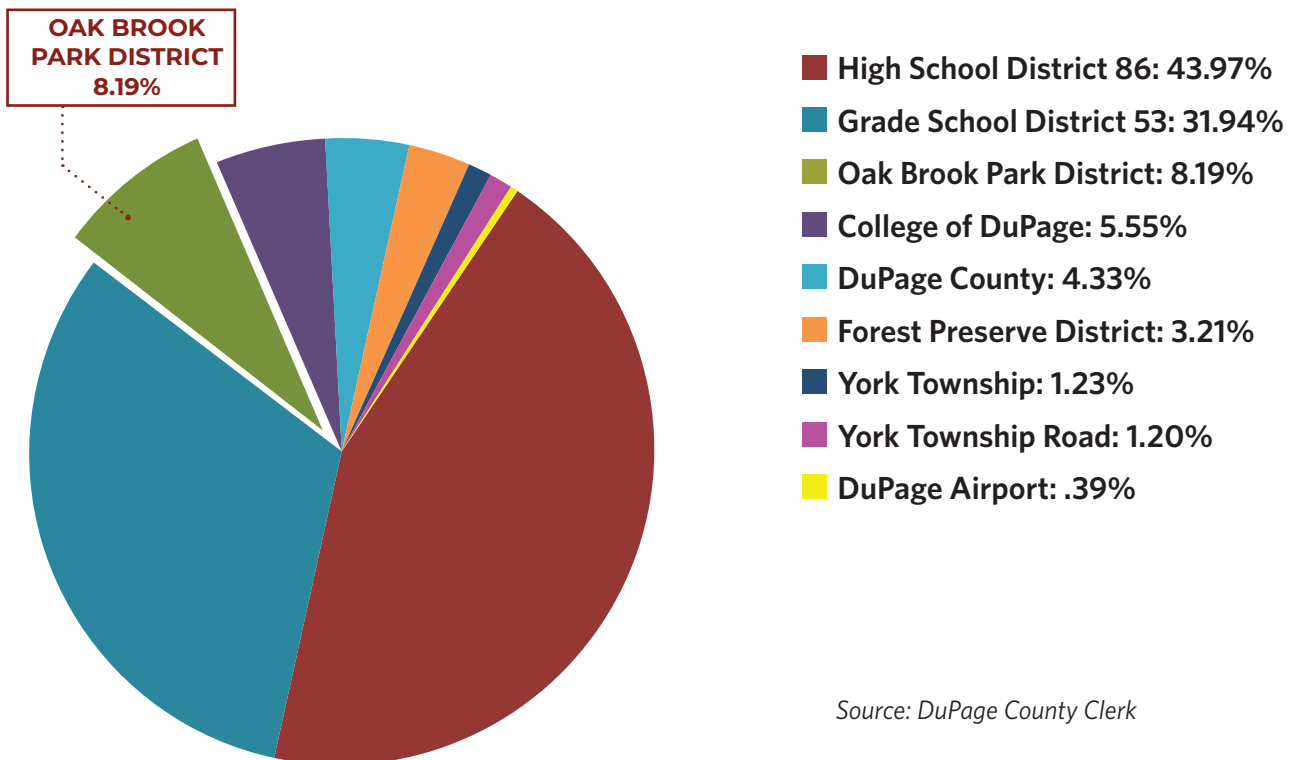
## Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Revenues



## Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Expenditures



## 2021 Property Tax Distribution: Oak Brook, York Township



Source: DuPage County Clerk



## Developing the North Athletic Fields at Central Park

Through a successful 2018 referendum, the Oak Brook Park District purchased the 34-acre parcel of land north of Central Park. Staff gathered community input, and working with architects and engineers, developed a phased approach for improving and developing the site.

After securing a \$400,000 OSLAD grant, the Park District went to bid and broke ground in the early summer of 2020 for Phase I development. The park was opened for use the following spring. Improvements to the site include a mile-long looping trail that connects to several existing walking trails, a paved parking lot with capacity for 200 vehicles, development of two full-sized illuminated and irrigated soccer fields, two basketball courts, and picnic shelters, as well as fitness stations and bag-toss games.

In 2022, the Park District was granted \$480,000 from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The Oak Brook Park District will allocate the grant funds to build a restroom and concessions building at the Central Park North Athletic Fields. Construction of the restroom, concessions, and storage building will be completed by March of 2023.

Executive Director, Laure Kosey said, "We couldn't be more excited to begin Phase II of this long-term vision for the development and improvement of Central Park. Obtaining the funds from this DCEO grant could not have been possible without the help of the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), Senator Suzy Glowiak-Hilton, and Representative Terra Costa Howard. We would also like to express our gratitude to Beth Marchetti and her team from the DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau, for helping the Park District throughout this DCEO grant process."



# Awards

## CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE

The Oak Brook Park District is honored to have received the Champions for Change Award at this year's IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The Champions for Change Award recognizes agencies with unique and exemplary practices of increasing access and fostering diversity and inclusion within their community or organization.



TOP  
WORK  
PLACES  
2021

Chicago Tribune

## Chicago Tribune Top Work Places

The Oak Brook Park District was awarded a Top Workplaces 2021 honor by The Chicago Tribune Top Workplaces! The list is based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey administered by employee engagement technology partner Energage, LLC. The anonymous survey uniquely measures 15 culture drivers that are critical to the success of any organization: including alignment, execution, and connection, just to name a few.

## Illinois Association of Park Districts Best of the Best Awards

The Oak Brook Park District nominated and accepted an award on behalf of Ace Hardware Corporate Headquarters as a "Best Friends of IL Parks," for their dedication and abundant product donation to the Winter Lights at Central Park. This event could not have been possible without their support, and the Park District is forever grateful.

THE BEST OF THE  
*Best*  
AWARDS GALA



## Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the District for its annual comprehensive financial report (ACFR). This was the **twenty-seventh** consecutive year that the District has received this prestigious award.

