



# Oswegoland Park District

# 2009 *Annual Report*



*“Creating Opportunities for a Healthy Community.”*

# Mission Statement Oswegoland Park District

*It is the Mission of the Oswegoland Park District to effectively and responsibly:*

*...plan, acquire, develop, maintain and preserve parks, facilities, and natural and historic areas.*

*...provide diverse, accessible, high quality services and programs.*

*...provide our community with opportunities to play, gather, celebrate, learn, and enjoy nature.*

*...provide the leadership, staff, and volunteers with the resources and environment to create a park district that reflects the spirit of our community.*

Adopted -  
September 20, 1996

Executive Director  
Bill McAdam

Deputy Director  
Richard Zielke

Executive Secretary  
Peggy Krahn

Director of Finance  
Nancy Woods

Director of Recreation & Marketing  
Ginny Bateman

Director of Planning & Development  
Grant Casleton

Director of Operations  
Mike Fee

## Message from the President . . .



Dear Oswegoland Park District Resident,

We are pleased to present this annual report highlighting the finances and activities of the Oswegoland Park District for the fiscal year 2009. The year was certainly a challenging one for our community and agency, yet it gave us the opportunity to improve services and operational efficiencies.

The Park District operates under a balanced budget and employs a staff of 48 full time professionals, 208 year round part time employees, and 71 seasonal employees all dedicated to serving the District's 20,000 households.

The Board of Commissioners receives a thorough financial audit of District operations and participates in the Master Planning process. As your elected officials, we are responsive to your input and participation through monthly board meeting attendance, phone calls, emails, or a chat on the street.

It is an honor and privilege to represent you, and I ask that you peruse this report to become informed of the ways your park district is planning, restoring, partnering, celebrating, and responding to your needs by providing recreational opportunities for you and your family.

*Bob Mattingly*  
Robert Mattingly  
Park Board President

## Your Park District

The Oswegoland Park District is a governmental agency responsible for acquiring, developing, and maintaining natural areas, parks, and leisure time facilities for area residents. The District also plans, develops, and implements a wide range of recreational programs and activities that reflect the interests of all age groups.

The Park District was established by referendum in 1950. It is a separate governmental entity known as a "special district" and serves all of the residents who live within this District's approximately 36-square-mile service area. This service area includes the Village of Oswego, parts of Montgomery, Aurora, and Plainfield, and all of Boulder Hill. The Oswegoland Park District also includes the surrounding countryside of Oswego Township and a tiny portion of Will County.

Park District operations are funded by revenue generated through program fees, tax dollars, grants, donations, and interest. These funds pay the staff members who care for parks and facilities, plan and supervise programs, and help you register for classes. They also pay for all the materials, supplies, utilities, and other resources required to keep your public places functional, attractive, and safe. Your Park District responsibly uses available funds to purchase, plan, design, and construct new facilities, renovate existing facilities, and acquire equipment needed to care for all of the places and spaces you and your neighbors enjoy.

A board of five elected commissioners set policy and carry out the official business of the District. Park Board Commissioners serve six-year terms, without pay. Any resident who is a registered voter may run for a park board seat when elections are held in odd-numbered years.

# Plan

## Oswegoland Park District

### Providing quality parks, trails, and facilities in 2009 . . .



The playground at **Pearce's Ford Park** in the Mill Race Creek subdivision was renovated and opened for play in May. The new playground is handicap accessible and has the District's first poured in place rubberized surface. Improvements include a new playstructure, swings, picnic table, benches, and bike rack.

Development of **Tuscany Trail Park** was completed in July and includes the District's first two story MegaTower playstructure as well as swings, sand box with backhoe diggers, shelter, half court basketball, soccer goals, neighborhood ballfield backstop, walkways, and bike trail extension.

Oswegoland Park District's first concrete skate park located at **Prairie Point Community Park** was completed in November. The precast concrete elements were transported to the site on five flatbed trucks, and a large crane was used to lift the pieces, weighing 6,000 to 15,000 pounds each, and lower them painstakingly and precisely in place. The precast concrete elements include a five foot high bowl, grind rails and ledges, hubba ledges, speed ramps, stairs, and benches. The site was graded and seeded so the grass will be ready to grow in the spring.



At **Community Park at Grande Park**, two new football/soccer game fields were constructed and the existing gravel parking lot was expanded by an additional 68 spaces. The fields were seeded in October and should be ready for use in fall 2011. Also at Community Park at Grande Park, 220 native trees were planted creating groves. Both of these projects were funded by a State of Illinois grant.

6 ½ miles of the **Park District's trails** and paths received a facelift this fall. Cracks were filled, the surface was seal coated, and the center line was repainted on the trails.

### Planning Ahead in 2010 . . .

Prairie Point Community Park Phase II will begin in the summer/fall of 2010 and will include construction of a splash playground, large shelter with restrooms, and ballfield lighting. The project will be funded in part by an OSLAD grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

One of the park district's oldest playgrounds is scheduled for replacement in 2010. The Civic Center Park playground renovation project will include a new playstructure, swings, sitting area, shelter and picnic tables.

The main entrances and pool locker room doors at the Civic Center will be replaced to provide handicap accessibility and energy efficiency. The Oswegoland Park District is a member of the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association which allows this project to be funded by Section 5-8 funds.

### The Oswegoland Park District provides the community with diverse outdoor recreational amenities including:

- 55 park sites on 900+ acres
- 32 picnic areas
- 16 small picnic shelters
- 5 group picnic shelters
- 31 playgrounds
- 9 tennis courts
- 35 game fields
- 24 basketball courts
- 1 disc golf course
- 13 miles of biking and hiking trails
- 367 acres of natural area
- 160 acre golf course

# Recreate

## Oswegoland Park District

Providing a wide variety of programs all year long . . . :

2009 was a busy year for Oswegoland Park District program supervisors and instructors as 22,200 registrations were processed for a wide variety of recreational and educational programs including:

- 3,780 Gymnastics
- 3,531 Fitness
- 2,115 Soccer
- 1,600 Swim Lessons
- 1,070 Basketball
- 969 Baseball
- 837 Dance
- 640 Kid's Connection

completed online!



60% of all program registrations are



The Oswegoland Park District is a member of the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association which provides recreational opportunities for children and adults with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities. More information about FVSRA is available online at [www.fvsra.org](http://www.fvsra.org) or contact them at 630.907.1114.



# Celebrate

PrairieFest - Brought to you by the Oswegoland Park District, Presenting Sponsor Allied First Bank, generous business sponsors, civic organizations, and hundreds of volunteers. Join us June 17-20, 2010 for *The Best of Times* in Oswego!



# Restore



## *Oswegoland Park District*

### Enlisting the help of community volunteers to restore natural areas . . .

Local citizens, high school and middle schools students, scouting groups, church groups, corporations (Whole Foods, Starbucks), and university students work countless hours removing invasive plants, collecting prairie seed, and planting native plants in natural areas.

#### Clearing Invasive Plants

Removing aggressive, non-native plant species allows native prairie plants to thrive. Clearing invasive plants is the first step in prairie restorations.

#### Gathering and Planting

The Park District is continually expanding the capability of growing our own plant material. Thousands of dollars are saved by our in-house nursery propagation effort. Gathering seeds from native plants and growing plants throughout the winter months assures that the District has a ready stock of plants for special projects and early spring planting.

#### Burning

Oswegoland Park District operations crews burn many acres of natural areas each fall and spring. This effective land management practice helps the prairies, wetlands, and woodlands thrive. Burns, in combination with the removal of invasives and the planting of native species helps contribute to the diversity of native plants, insects, birds, and mammals now found in our natural areas.

#### Educating

Natural Resource Manager Dave Margolis is working with District 308 school children to implement natural area landscapes at many Oswego schools. Students are turning turf grass into prairies, vegetable gardens, shrublands, natural playgrounds and wetlands. These onsite outdoor classrooms provide many benefits including valuable lessons in humanity (the food pantry gardens), ecology, maintenance, botany skills, landscape skills, and teamwork. Thompson, Boulder Hill, Long Beach, and Grande Park are planning natural area/outdoor classrooms in 2010.

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#### The Benefits

The benefits of these conservation efforts are noticeable as prairie plants and flowers are thriving in many of the District's natural areas. A diverse variety of native plants are sprouting along the Waubonsie Creek where fields of Canada Thistle once dominated.

Connecting fragmented parcels of land with school ground prairies has produced a large connected wildlife corridor. Ospreys, hawks, song sparrows, mink, weasels, coyote, owls, dragonflies, butterflies, frogs, and other critters of prairies, wetlands, and woodlands are now returning to:

**Cooks Savanna • Lakeview Prairie • Morgan Creek • Waubonsie Greenway  
Ashcroft Wetland Detention • Fox River Trail • Prairie Point Detention  
Victoria Meadows • Winrock Lake • Farmington Lakes**

#### *Thank You!*

The Oswegoland Park District extends a heartfelt thank you to our conservation volunteers. It's important work that is making a difference! If you would like to join the team, contact Dave Margolis at [dmargolis@oswegolandpd.org](mailto:dmargolis@oswegolandpd.org) or 630.554.1010.

The Oswegoland Park District offers you and your family an abundant variety of special events throughout the year. There is something to look forward to every month . . . and more!

## 2010

Teen Snowboard Trip  
**-January-**



Daddy Dancing with the Stars  
**-February-**



Lunch with the Bunny  
**-March-**



Big Mouth Adventure Race  
**-April-**



Fox River Canoe Trip  
**-May-**



PrairieFest  
**-June-**



Concerts in the Park  
**-July-**



Pig Pen Afternoon  
**-August-**



Kids' Triathlon  
**-September-**



Monster Mash Bash  
**-October-**



Gobbler Hobbler 10K  
**-November-**



Oswego Holiday Express  
**-December-**



### Special Events coming in 2010 include:

Stick Horse Rodeo  
Blackhawks Game  
Flashlight Egg Hunt  
Iron Icicle/Indoor Triathlon  
Town & Country Art Show  
PrairieFest 5K

Jackson Street Sounds  
Movies and a Moment  
Terror Trail Run  
Gingerbread House Party  
Family Night Under the Stars  
Fido Fest

Wheels Go 'Round  
Earth Day Kite Fly  
Neighborhood Nights  
Puddle Jumpers Mornings  
Fishing with Dad

# Partner Partner

The Park District is able to better serve the residents of the community through valuable partnerships with other governmental agencies, the school district, the local business community, and hundreds of volunteers.

In 2009 . . .

- Business sponsorships resulted in \$69,000 in support of our programs, events, and facilities.
- Grants received from the state of Illinois contributed \$800,000 toward projects at Prairie Point Community Park, \$150,000 toward projects at Grande Park Community Park, and \$150,000 toward projects at Fox Bend.
- Partnerships with the school district resulted in gym and gamefield use increasing the Park District's program offerings.
- Over 1,200 volunteers gave their time to help make our parks and natural areas beautiful, our events memorable, and our programs successful.
- The Park District provided fresh produce to needy families of Kendall County through a volunteer maintained vegetable garden behind Prairie Point Center.



Pearce's Ford playground, the District's first fully accessible play structure was built in partnership with the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association. FVSR contributed \$130,740 toward the poured rubberized surfacing making the equipment safe and great fun for all ages and abilities.



Fresh produce enroute to the Kendall County Food Pantry.



## The Park Foundation



Volunteers gathered at Prairie Point Community Park in October to plant trees and perennials donated by the Park Foundation whose goal is to plant a grove of native trees leaving a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

The Oswegoland Park & Recreation Foundation was established in 2005 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. It is a tax-exempt public foundation operating for the benefit of the Oswegoland community. Its board of directors is made up of citizens who operate independently of the Park District, yet in support of its mission.

How can you help? Purchase an engraved brick paver to be placed along the walkways at Hudson Crossing Park, make a donation to the Foundation, or become a Friend of the Parks.

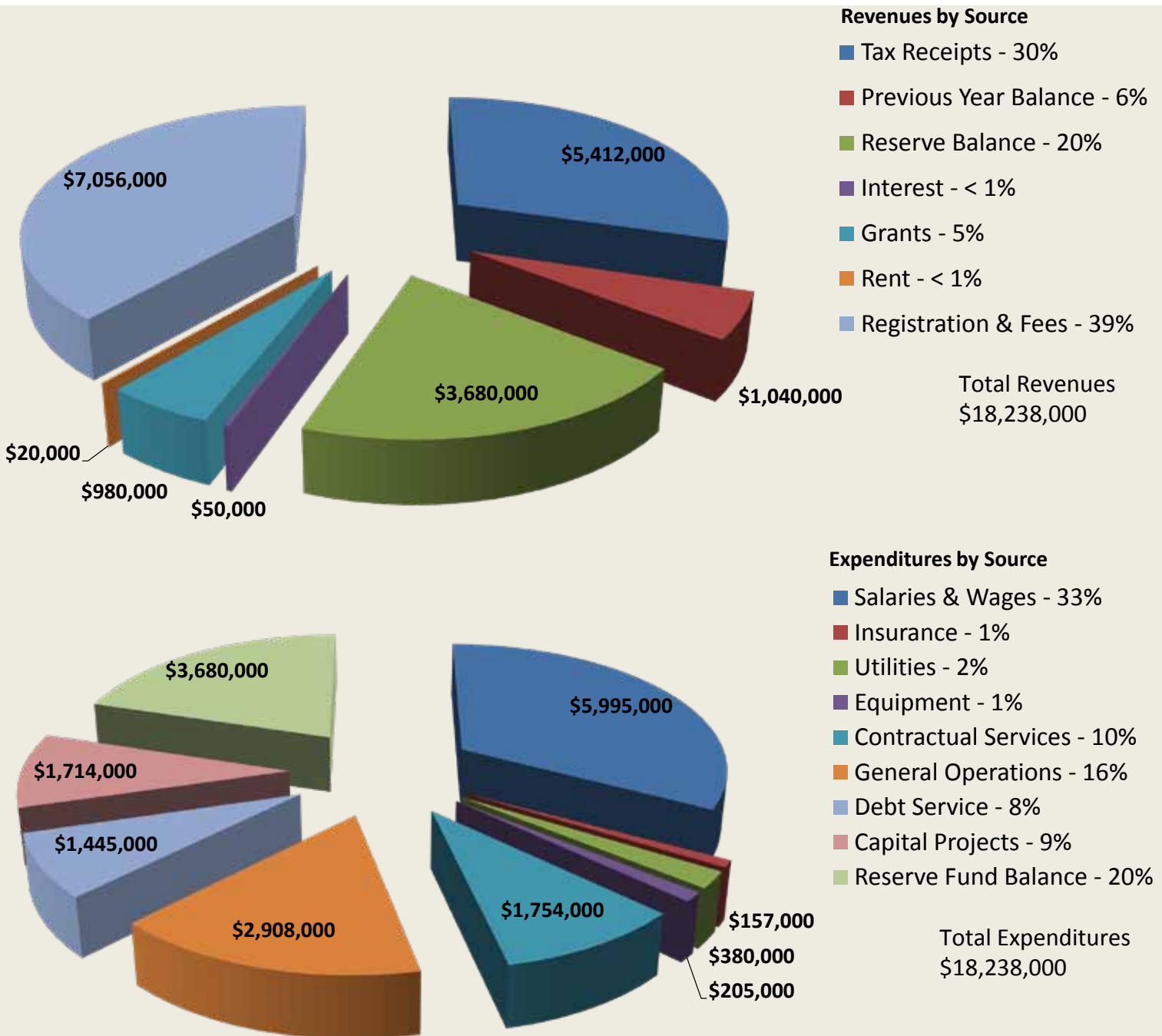
All donations are tax deductible. For more information, contact Park Foundation Chair Candice Hadley at 630.554.1865.

*Working for a greener tomorrow . . .*



# Fiscal Responsibility

## Oswegoland Park District 2010 Operating Budget January 1 - December 31



Complete audit report and operating budget available for viewing.  
[www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org](http://www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org)

## Facilities

### Prairie Point

313 E. Washington  
Oswego, IL 60543  
FAX 630.554.1577

### Civic Center

5 Ashlawn Avenue  
Montgomery, IL 60538  
FAX 630.896.2058

### Boulder Point

ZERO Boulder Hill Pass  
Montgomery, IL 60538  
FAX 630.896.5265

### South Point

810 Preston Lane  
Oswego, IL 60543  
FAX 630.554.4979

### Aquatic Center

5 Ashlawn Avenue  
Montgomery, IL 60538  
630.554.1010

### Fox Bend

#### Golf Course

3516 Route 34  
Oswego, IL 60543  
630.554.3939  
FAX 630.554.9771

### Little White

#### School Museum

Jackson & Polk Streets  
Oswego, IL 60543  
630.554.2999  
FAX 630.554.0716

All Facilities:  
630.554.1010

## From the Director . . .



Dear Friends,

During the past few years our community has experienced significant changes and challenges. Years of rapid growth and development transitioned to the recent economic downturn. The economy affects us all, and as a district, we know that now more than ever you and your family need affordable recreational choices and peaceful places in nature to center and contemplate.

Park District staff works creatively every day to create spaces and activities that help our residents gather, share ideas, and create a sense of community. As we respond to your needs, we are also simultaneously responding to a decrease in operating funds. The staff began to prepare for this budget shortfall over a year ago by cutting expenses, eliminating two full time positions, and implementing an across the board wage freeze. These actions were, and continue to be necessary in positioning the District for what may be an even leaner year ahead.

None of us can know what the next months and years may bring, but you can rest assured that your park district will continue to work for you in maintaining the quality of our programs and in keeping your public spaces safe, clean, and welcoming.

*We know that now more than ever you and your family need affordable recreational choices and peaceful places in nature to center and contemplate.*

We look ahead to 2010 with anticipation! Planning and development has some exciting projects in store, PrairieFest promises to be a fun-filled weekend of free family entertainment, and the Oswegoland Park District will be celebrating a 60th anniversary. Sixty years devoted to "Creating Opportunities for a Healthy Community." Now that's something to celebrate!

William G. McAdam  
Executive Director

## Meet Your Commissioners

Meetings of the Oswegoland Park District Board of Commissioners are generally held on the fourth Thursday of each month at South Point, 810 Preston Lane, Oswego, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend and *Recognition of Visitors* is a standard agenda item. To confirm meeting information and view the agenda, visit [www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org](http://www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org) or call 630.554.1010.



Bob Mattingly  
President



Deb Krase  
Vice President



Ken Holmstrom



Danielle Ebersole



Mark Slover