Oswegoland Park District Demographic and Economic Profile

All data and calculations underlying this report are available in the Oswegoland Park District Data Inventory file.

Contents

Introduction

In 2023, the Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies engaged with the Oswegoland Park District to assist the development of a strategic plan. This demographic and economic profile is intended to help inform the strategic plan by describing the trends affecting the park district and the surrounding region.

The demographic and economic information in this report shows census tract and ZIP code approximations of the Oswegoland Park District boundaries and a four-county reference region as context for the district. The data come primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau, Lightcast, and the Illinois Department of Revenue. More detailed explanations of the data sources are included in the Data Considerations section at the end of this report.

Economic and demographic data is typically not collected at a park district level. In this report, we approximate the park district boundaries with other geographies where data is more readily available. The Census Bureau collects data at a sub-county level by census tract, and the following group of census tracts in Kendall County offers the closest approximation available of the Oswegoland Park District boundaries: 8901.03, 8901.04, 8901.05, 8901.06, 8901.07, 8901.08, 8902.01, 8902.02, 8903.01, 8903.02, 8904.03. Figure 1 shows these census tracts in relation to the district boundaries. Although the district includes some residential areas in Will County, it is not possible to accurately include these in the demographic data, due to how census tracts are delineated. The census tract including the Will County portion of the park district also includes a majority of land outside the district. Similarly, the census tract corresponding to the southwestern portion of the park district covers a majority of land outside the park district.

Figure 1. Oswegoland Park District census tracts
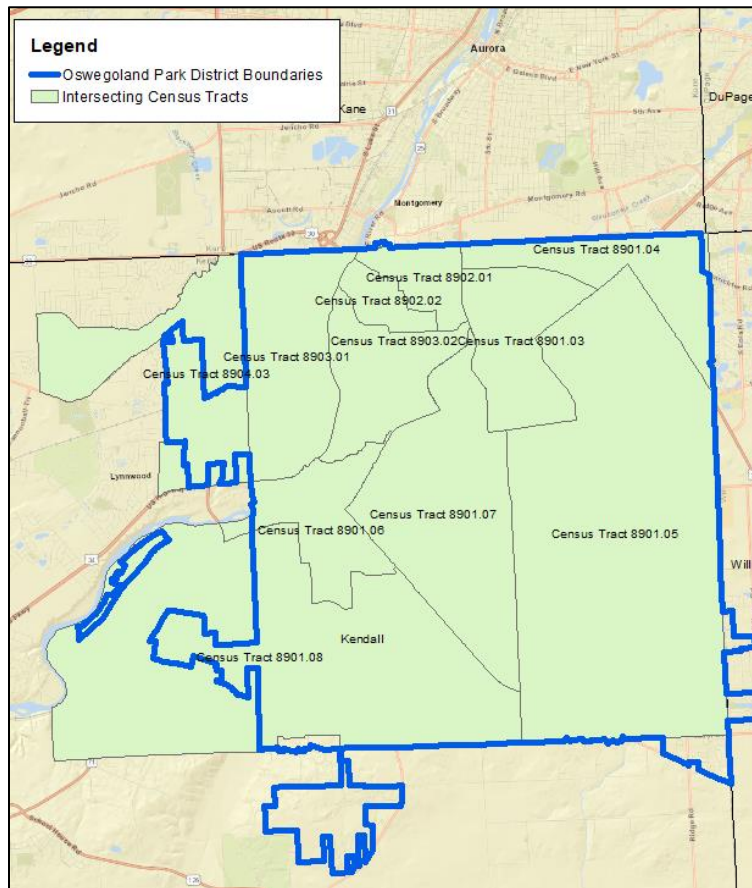
For instances where census tract data were unavailable, the next closest approximation of the Oswegoland Park District boundaries was the 60543 ZIP code. The 60543 ZIP code is used for population forecasting and current-year estimates where census data is unavailable or unreliable. The underlying assumption is that the district will follow similar trends to the ZIP code. Figure 2 shows the park district boundaries in relation to the ZIP code.

Figure 2. Oswegoland Park District boundaries and 60543 ZIP Code
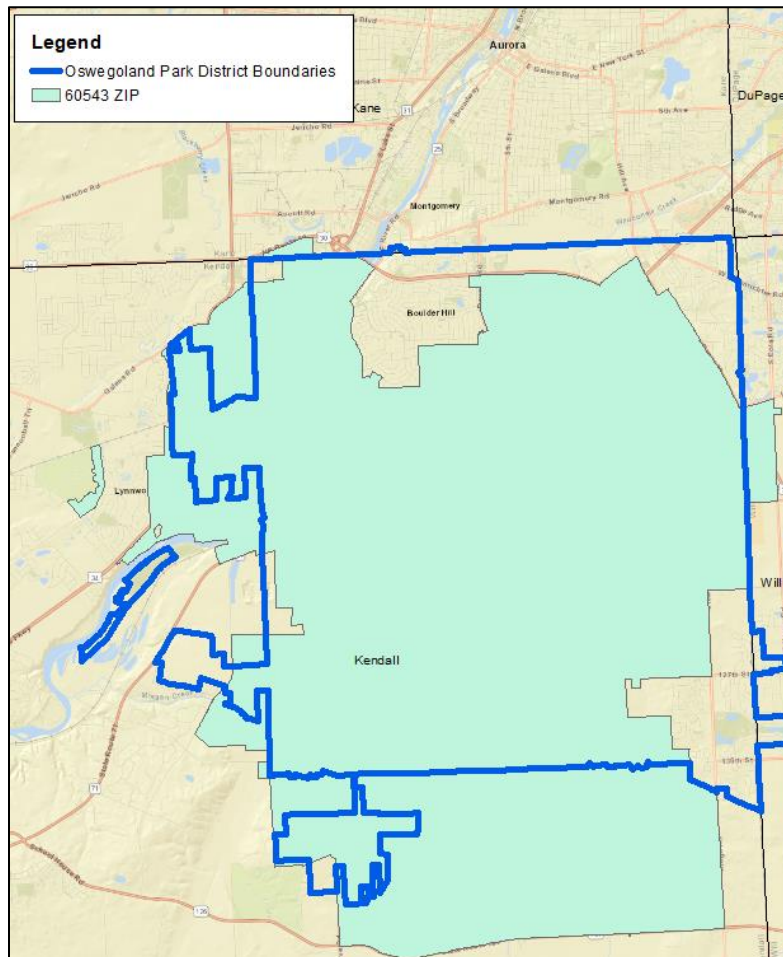
For broader context, we include comparisons against a reference region of the following four counties: Kendall, Will, Kane, and DuPage. The Park District occupies the northeast corner of Kendall County, sharing a border with Kane and Will Counties, and close proximity to Aurora and Naperville in DuPage County.

Key Trends

- According to the 2020 Census, the Oswegoland Park District has a total population of 61,621. Continuous population trend data is unavailable for the district, but according to estimates from Lightcast, total population in the 60543 ZIP code grew about 16.2% between 2010 and 2020. For reference, the total population in the four-county reference region increased 2.1% over the decade.

- The population in the park district census tracts has a similar racial and ethnic composition to the surrounding counties. About 1/5 of the population in both geographies identified as Hispanic in the 2020 Census. The majority of the population in both geographies is white (63.3% in the district and 60.5%) in the region. African Americans represent about 7% of the population in both geographies.

- The district is projected to become more diverse between 2022 and 2027. The total population in the 60543 ZIP code is projected to increase 10.0%, but the white population is projected to decline, while all other racial and ethnic groups are projected to increase in population.
- The population in the 60543 ZIP code skews somewhat younger than the surrounding four counties. About 11.7% of the population is over age 65 in the ZIP code, compared to 15.7% in the region.
- There are 18,463 households in the park district. The majority of households are married couples. About 49.0% of married-couple families in the district have one or more children under 18, compared to 44.1% of the region.
- The Oswegoland Park District has a tight housing market, with 99.0% of housing units occupied (84.9% owned and 14.1% rented) and 1.0% vacant. Most of the dwellings are owner-occupied as opposed to rentals.
- The housing stock in the Oswegoland Park District skews newer than in the surrounding counties as a whole. There are considerably fewer housing units built before 1970 (16.0% compared to 29.2% in the four-county region) and significantly more that were built in the 2000s.
- Compared to the region, the park district has a considerably lower proportion of residents in poverty. About 3.7% of all residents in the district have income below the poverty level, compared to 6.7% of the region.
- As is the case in much of the Chicago metro area, the Oswegoland Park District census tracts have significant commuter flows. Nearly all residents commute out for work, and 80.0% of the jobs in the district are held by inbound commuters.
- The three largest employment sectors located in the park district are educational services, retail trade, and accommodation and food services. These are also the three main sectors for employment of residents.
- About 86.6% of equalized assessed property value (EAV) in the Oswegoland Park District is residential, compared to 74.9% of property in the four-county region. Less than 2.0% of the taxable property in the district is industrial. Total property values in the district increased 30.0% over the past five years, compared to a 23.8% increase in the district.

Population

According to the 2020 Census, the census tracts that intersect the Oswegoland Park District have a total population of 61,621. Continuous population trend data is unavailable for the census tracts, but according to estimates from Lightcast, total population in the 60543 ZIP code grew about 16.2% between 2010 and 2020. For reference, the total population in the four-county reference region increased 2.1% over the decade. The population in the ZIP code is projected to increase 10.0% between 2022 and 2027, while population in the region is projected to decrease 0.4%. Figure 1 shows the population in the ZIP code and the region. To compare trends while controlling for differences in population size, we indexed population levels so that 100 is equal to the respective population level in 2010, 110 indicates a 10.0% increase from 2010, and so on.

Figure 3. Population relative to 2010 (100 = 2010), p = projected
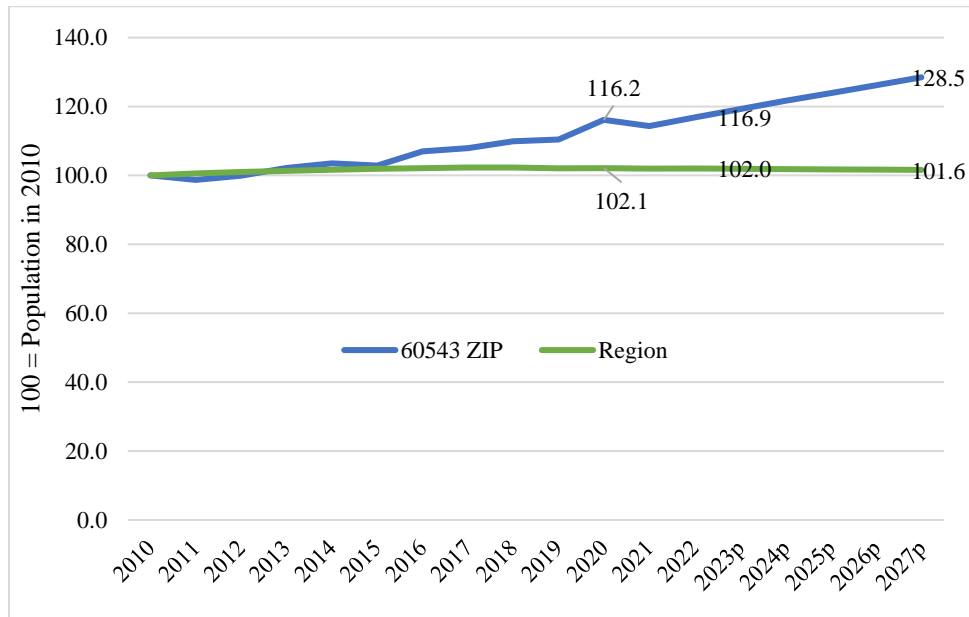
Source: Lightcast proprietary data, 2022.

The population in the park district census tracts has a similar racial and ethnic composition to the surrounding counties. About 1/5 of the population in both geographies identified as Hispanic in the 2020 Census. The majority of the population in both geographies is white (63.3% in the district and 60.5%) in the region. African Americans represent about 7% of the population in both geographies.

Figure 4. Share of population by race/ethnicity in 2020*
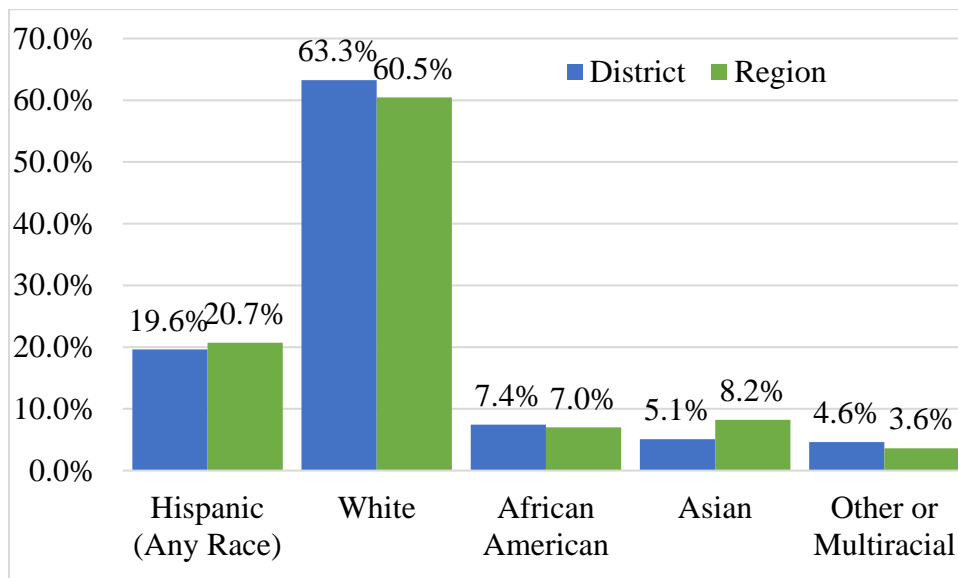
*Hispanic ethnicity includes all races. All other categories are non-Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Redistricting Data, Table P2.

According to forecasts from Lightcast, the population is projected to become more diverse between 2022 and 2027. The total population in the ZIP code is projected to increase 10.0%, but the white population is projected to decline, while all other racial and ethnic groups are projected to increase in population. The Hispanic population is projected to increase 31.5% and the African American population is projected to increase 28.3%. The population in the region is projected to decrease 0.4%, with a 4.9% decrease in the white population and slight increases in all other population groups.

Figure 5. Projected population % change by race and ethnicity, 2022-2027
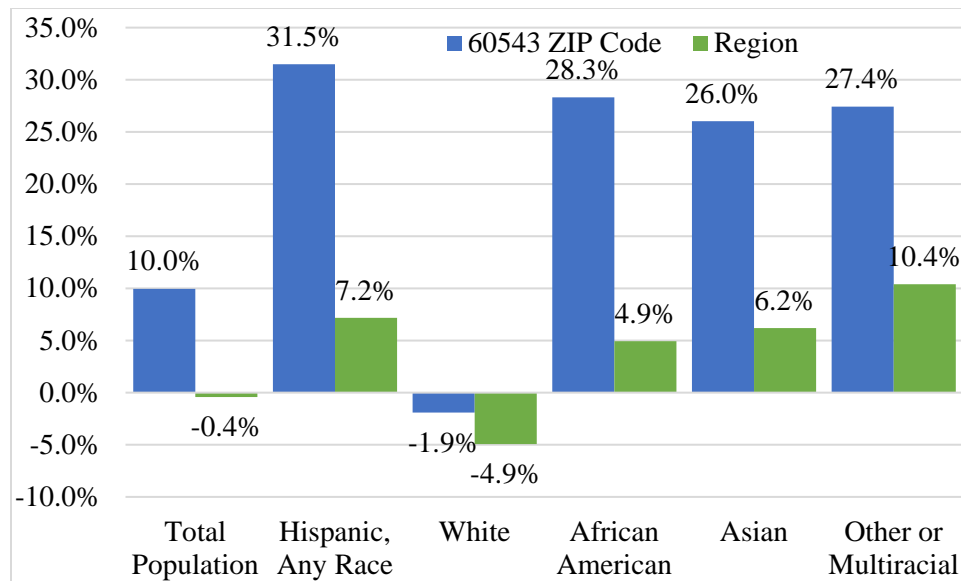
Source: Lightcast proprietary data, 2022.

The population in the 60543 ZIP code skews somewhat younger than the surrounding four counties. About 11.7% of the population is over age 65 in the ZIP code, compared to 15.7% in the region. There is also a larger share of youths under age 20, and more adults in the prime working ages of 25-64.

Figure 6. Share of 2022 population by age
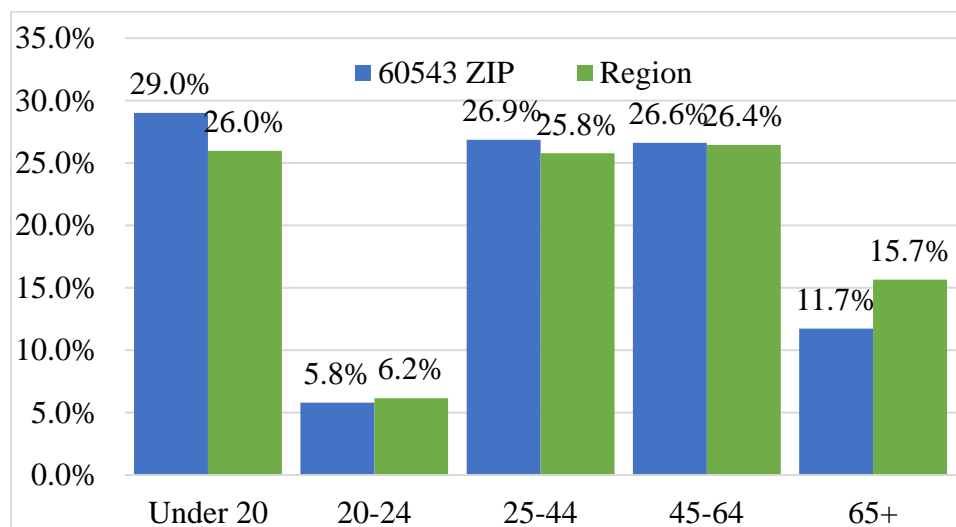
Source: Lightcast proprietary data, 2022.

The population is projected to age between 2022 and 2027. In both the ZIP code and the region, the fastest-growing age group is those over age 65. This trend is consistent with state and national trends, and it includes current residents reaching retirement age. The population is projected to grow across all age groups in the 60543 ZIP Code, but younger populations are projected to grow at a relatively slower rate. In the four-county region, the prime working-age population (25-64) is projected to decrease slightly.
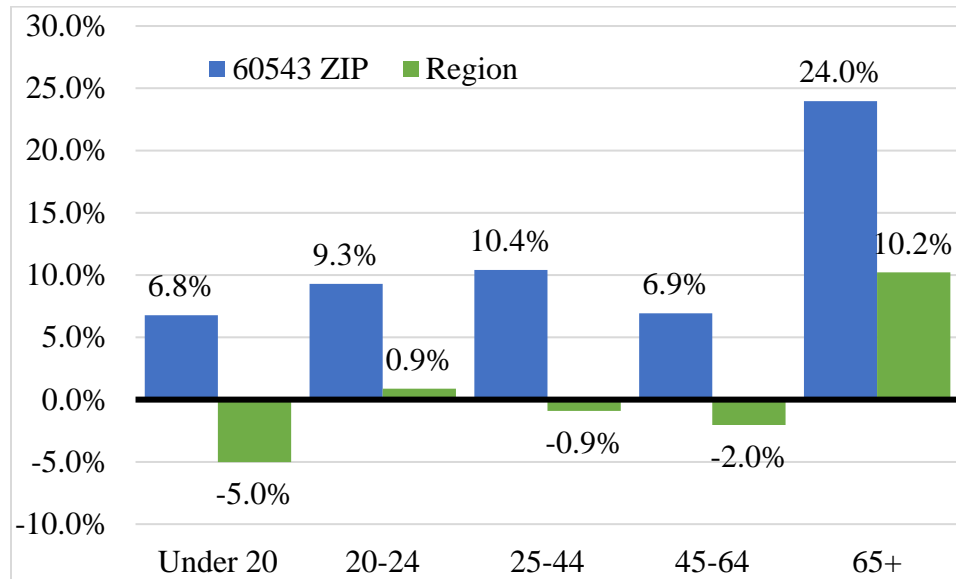
Figure 7. Projected % population change by age, 2022 - 2027

Source: Lightcast proprietary data, 2022.

Households and Housing

There are 18,463 households in the park district. The majority of households are married couples. There are relatively fewer single-person households (male or female) in the district compared to the region. In both geographies, cohabitating couples represent about 6% of all households. About 49.0% of married couple families in the district have one or more children under 18, compared to 44.1% in the region. As discussed previously, the population of the district trends younger than the region overall.

Figure 8. Share of households by type

Figure 8 bar chart data:

Household type	District	Region
Married Couples	63.3%	58.0%
Single Male Householder	11.2%	14.3%
Single Female Householder	19.4%	21.9%
Cohabitating Couples	6.1%	5.8%
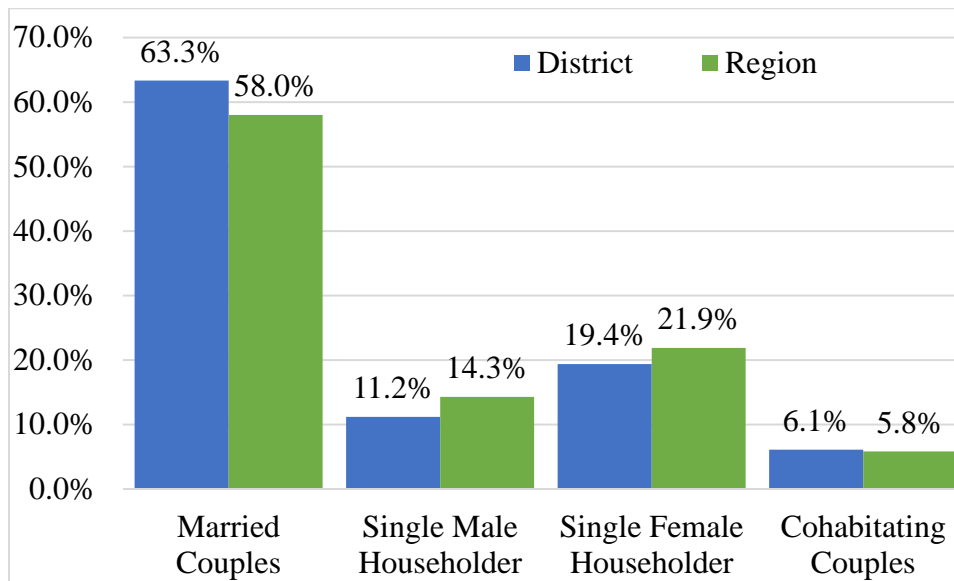
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey, Table DP02.

The Oswegoland Park District has a tight housing market, with 99.0% of housing units occupied (84.9% owned and 14.1% rented) and 1.0% vacant. The region has a larger share of rented dwellings (22.3% compared to 14.1%) and a somewhat higher vacancy rate. In both the district and the region, the largest share of vacancies was "other," meaning dwellings not for sale or for rent. This includes foreclosed properties and dwellings that were sold or rented, but not occupied. More detailed information on types of vacant housing units in the district (e.g., vacancies for sale vs for rent) is unreliable due to sampling error in the Census Bureau's survey of census tracts.

Figure 9. Share of housing units by tenure

Figure 9 bar chart data:

Tenure	District	Region
Owned	84.9%	73.4%
Rented	14.1%	22.3%
Vacant	1.0%	4.4%
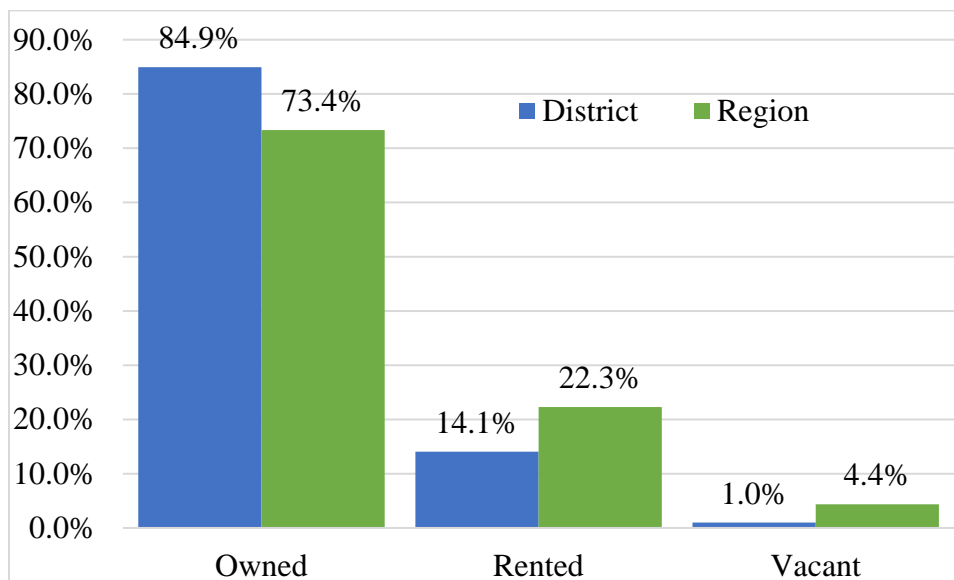
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey, Tables DP04 and B25004.

The housing stock in the Oswegoland Park District skews newer than in the surrounding counties as a whole. There are considerably fewer housing units built before 1970 (16.0% compared to 29.2%) and significantly more that were built in the 2000s.

Figure 10. Share of housing units by year built
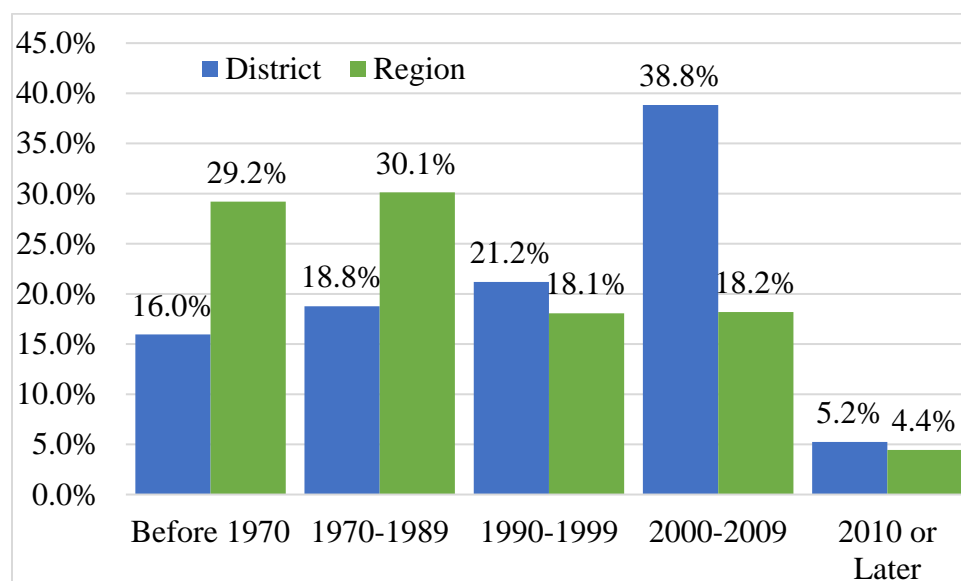
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey, Table DP04.

Income and Poverty

The income composition of the park district is similar to the region as a whole. About 48.6% of households in the district had incomes above $100,000, compared to 48.2% in the region. About one-third of households in the district had incomes between $50,000 and $99,999. There was a slightly smaller share of households with income below $50,000: 17.7% of the district and 23.3% of the region. Due to how the Census Bureau publishes income by census tracts, it is not possible to compute a median income for the district as a whole.

Figure 11. Share of households by income
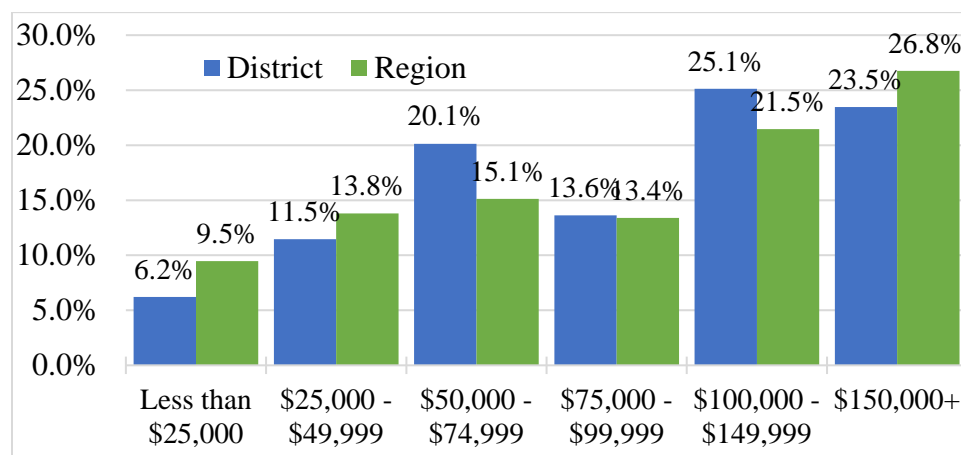
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey, Table DP03.

Compared to the region, the park district has a considerably lower proportion of residents in poverty. About 3.7% of all residents in the district have income below the poverty level, compared to 6.7% of the region. Although the American Community Survey includes information about poverty rates by race and ethnicity, this information is unreliable at a census tract level, with prohibitively high margins of error.

In both the district and the region, residents over age 65 had the largest percentage of persons in poverty. The district has a considerably lower share of children in poverty.

Figure 12. Percentage of persons in poverty by age
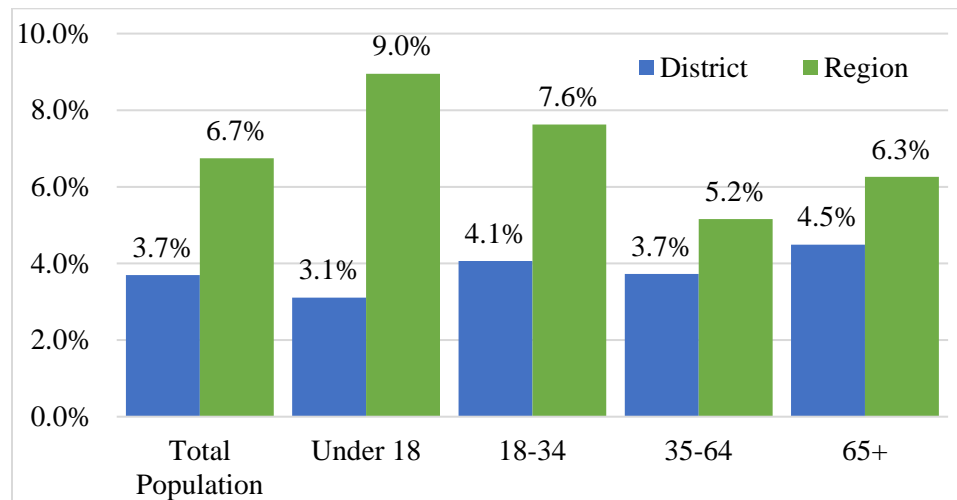
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey, Table DP03.

Employment and Commuting

As is the case in much of the Chicago metro area, the Oswegoland Park District census tracts have significant commuter flows. Nearly all residents commute out for work, and 80.0% of the jobs in the district are held by inbound commuters. There are 13,458 jobs in the district and 32,905 employed residents, of which 2,692 people live and work in the district. About 1/5 of the jobs are held by residents, and 8.2% of the residents work in the district. About 71.6% of workers in the district come from the four-county reference region, and 10.2% commute in from Cook County. About 26.4% of residents commute to Cook County for work, and 61.8% of residents commute within the four-county region.

Figure 13. Oswegoland Park District commuter flows

County of Residence for Workers	Count	Share
All Counties	13,458	100.0%
Kendall	3,948	29.3%
Kane	2,175	16.2%
Will	2,091	15.5%
DuPage	1,430	10.6%
Cook	1,375	10.2%
LaSalle	373	2.8%
DeKalb	303	2.3%
McHenry	228	1.7%
Lake	220	1.6%
Grundy	149	1.1%
All Other Locations	1,166	8.7%

13,458 jobs in Park District   **32,905 live in Park District**

10,766
Commute In
80.0% of Jobs

30,213
Commute Out
91.8% of Residents

2,692
Live and Work in Park District
20.0% of Jobs
8.2% of Residents

County of Work for Residents	Count	Share
All Counties	32,905	100.0%
Cook	8,717	26.5%
DuPage	8,677	26.4%
Kane	4,871	14.8%
Kendall	3,428	10.4%
Will	3,365	10.2%
Lake	1,077	3.3%
McHenry	394	1.2%
Winnebago	348	1.1%
DeKalb	341	1.0%
Grundy	195	0.6%
All Other Locations	1,492	4.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap, 2020.

The three largest employment sectors located in the park district are educational services, retail trade, and accommodation and food services. Between 2015 and 2020 (latest available at time of writing), the total number of jobs in the district increased 5.0%, and employment in the top three sectors grew somewhat faster than the overall total. Some of the largest employment declines were in wholesale trade, health care, and professional services such as accounting and architecture.

Figure 14. Jobs located in Oswegoland Park District

Industry	2015 Count	2020 Count	2020 Share	2015-2020 % Change
Total	12,816	13,458		5.0%
Educational Services	2,826	3,002	22.3%	6.2%
Retail Trade	2,688	2,931	21.8%	9.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	1,484	1,587	11.8%	6.9%
Construction	749	834	6.2%	11.3%
Wholesale Trade	845	763	5.7%	-9.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	578	698	5.2%	20.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	734	676	5.0%	-7.9%
Manufacturing	554	603	4.5%	8.8%
Administration and Support, Waste Management and Remediation	564	519	3.9%	-8.0%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	439	482	3.6%	9.8%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	461	334	2.5%	-27.5%
Finance and Insurance	179	251	1.9%	40.2%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	285	260	1.9%	-8.8%
Public Administration	119	220	1.6%	84.9%
All Other Sectors, <1% of Jobs Each	311	298	2.2%	-4.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap, 2015 - 2020.

The three largest sectors for employment of district residents were health care, retail trade, and education—the same as the three largest sectors for jobs located in the district. The total number of

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employed residents grew 9.9% between 2015 and 2020. Some of the largest employment increases were in health care, transportation and warehousing, and construction. The only sectors that lost employment for residents were arts/entertainment/recreation and management of companies.

Figure 15. Employment of Oswegoland Park District residents by industry

Industry	2015 Count	2020 Count	2020 Share	2015-2020 Change
Total	29,941	32,905		9.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,209	3,949	12.0%	23.1%
Retail Trade	3,686	3,837	11.7%	4.1%
Educational Services	3,228	3,458	10.5%	7.1%
Manufacturing	2,973	3,162	9.6%	6.4%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,297	2,579	7.8%	12.3%
Wholesale Trade	2,174	2,254	6.9%	3.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	1,992	2,112	6.4%	6.0%
Administration and Support, Waste Management and Remediation	1,917	2,014	6.1%	5.1%
Finance and Insurance	1,560	1,840	5.6%	17.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	1,252	1,618	4.9%	29.2%
Construction	1,261	1,523	4.6%	20.8%
Public Administration	1,029	1,125	3.4%	9.3%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	934	1,031	3.1%	10.4%
Information	567	594	1.8%	4.8%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	617	584	1.8%	-5.3%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	610	519	1.6%	-14.9%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	348	399	1.2%	14.7%
Utilities	220	233	0.7%	5.9%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	47	47	0.1%	0.0%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	20	27	0.1%	35.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap, 2015 - 2020.

Property Tax Base

About 86.6% of equalized assessed property value (EAV) in the Oswegoland Park District is residential, compared to 74.9% of property in the four-county region. Less than 2.0% of the taxable property in the district is industrial, compared to 9.3% of the region.

Figure 16. Composition of Equalized Assessed Value in 2021
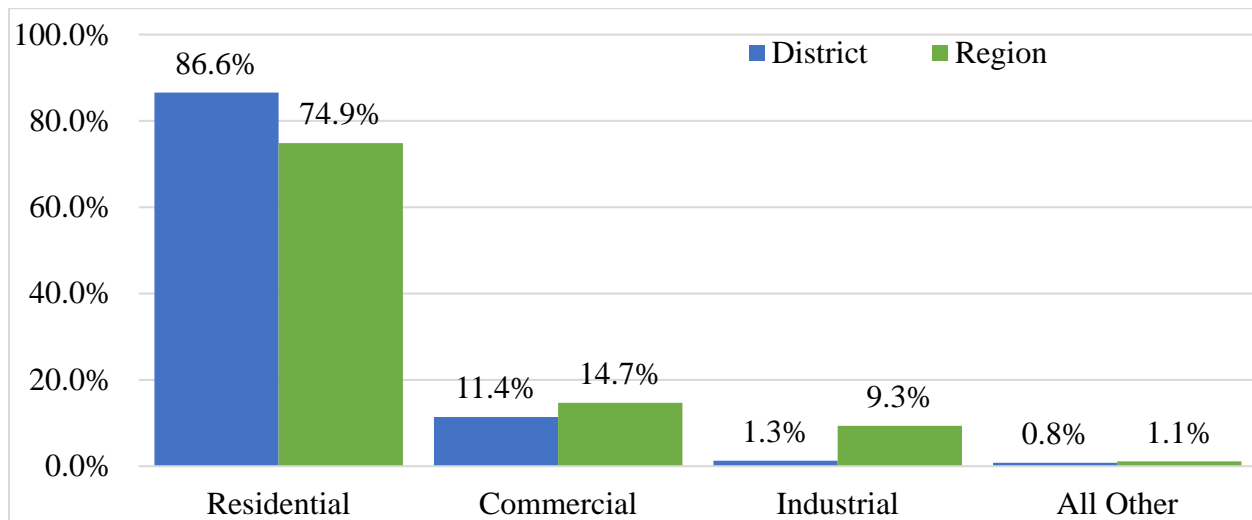
Source: Illinois Department of Revenue, Property Tax Statistics, Tables 15 and 28, 2021.

Total property values in the district increased 30.0% over the past five years, compared to a 23.8% increase in the district. Residential property represented the largest share of EAV in both geographies, so most of the total EAV growth is reflected in this category. Commercial EAV also grew faster in the district than the region. Industrial EAV decreased 3.9% in the district, while it grew 25.0% in the region.

Figure 17. % Change in EAV, 2016-2021
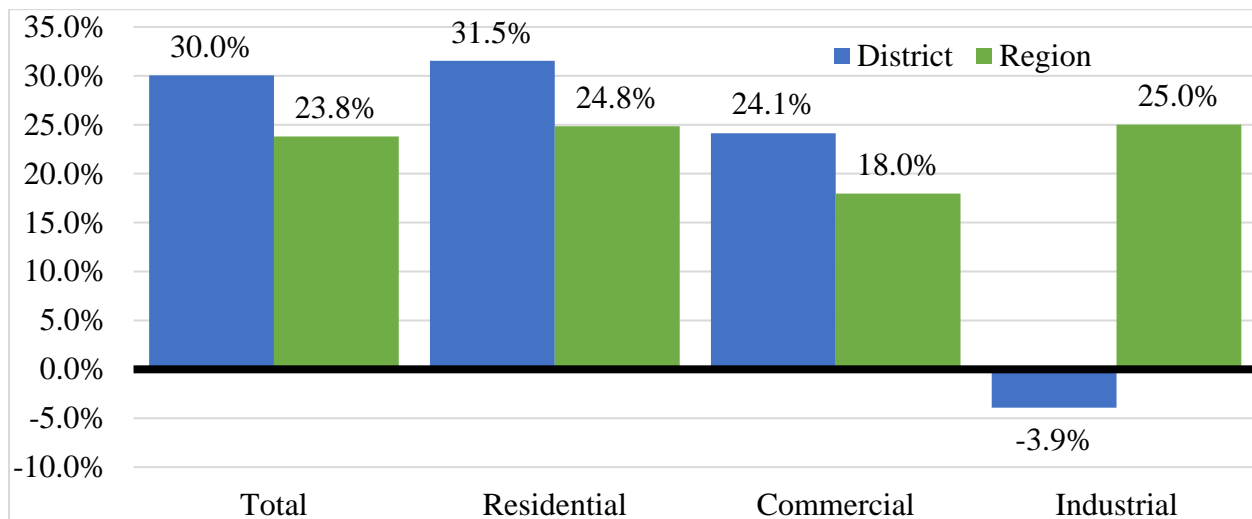
Source: Illinois Department of Revenue, Property Tax Statistics, Tables 15 and 28, 2021.

Data Considerations

All data and calculations underlying this report are available in the Oswegoland Park District Data Inventory file.

U.S. Census Bureau (ACS, Redistricting Data, LEHD)

American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a sample-based product produced by the U.S. Census Bureau. The ACS is conducted annually to collect demographic, social, economic, and housing information for communities. The ACS is not the same as the Decennial U.S. Census, which is conducted every 10 years. The ACS is based on a survey and is subject to error. The Census Bureau reports the accuracy of the data by providing margins of error. For some data elements, the margins of error are large compared to the estimate. In those cases, the margin of error has been noted.

The ACS estimates presented here are for the five-year period 2017-2021. These estimates do not describe any particular year in the period, only the average value over the full period. In this report, references to 2021 data from the ACS should be viewed as the average for the period.

The ACS includes information on race and ethnicity separately. In the interest of simplicity, in this report, the Hispanic or Latino ethnicity includes all races, and information on individuals by race excludes Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. For example, the population that identifies as Hispanic *and* African American is classified as Hispanic, and the population that identifies as African American, non-Hispanic is classified as African American.

Redistricting Data. The 2020 Census Redistricting Data includes the first available results of the 2020 Census of Population. It includes full counts of the population by race and ethnicity, but it does not include details by age, sex, income, education, etc. Full 2020 Census results are expected to be released later in 2023 and were unavailable at the time of this profile.

Longitudinal Employment Housing Dynamics (LEHD). The LEHD is a dataset providing information on employment and place of work. For example, it shows how many workers in one county commute to each other county. For this report, LEHD data was retrieved via the OnTheMap data tool provided by the Census Bureau. This dataset was created by linking Census Bureau survey data to wage records in the national unemployment insurance program. Due to extensive data validation requirements in this linkage progress, the data is susceptible to time lags. At the time of writing, 2020 was the most recent available. All LEHD data presented in this report is for primary jobs, defined as the jobs representing the largest share of a worker's earnings over the year. We use commuter counts by primary jobs to avoid double-counting individuals with multiple jobs, and to avoid emphasizing jobs that are part-time or seasonal when identifying major employment sectors.

Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR). IDOR maintains an annual property tax statistics database that includes Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) information for all local governments that levy property taxes, including park districts. They also provide countywide EAV—in other words, the total taxable property values across all jurisdictions within a county. Information is available on various property types, including properties classified as residential, commercial,

industrial, railroad, farm, and mining/mineral. In this study, EAV for railroad, farm, and mining/mineral properties are excluded because they collectively represent less than 1% of total EAV in the geographies profiled.

Lightcast. Formerly known as Emsi-Burning Glass, Lightcast provides economic modeling information emphasizing population and workforce/labor market data. They also provide population forecasts based on a cohort survival method and baseline data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.