



2020-21

Popular Annual Report



from the desk of

Shawn Roby
Executive Director

Saying that 2020 was challenging sums it up. The 2020 fiscal year began in March. By mid-March, the United States was in the grips of Covid-19 causing massive closures and restrictions that lasted the entire year. Add to that, several key staff members retired; we welcomed new staff; and park renovations proceeded on schedule. The Park District adjusted at every turn to meet the challenges while still moving the District forward.

The year had a fantastic start. The District once again received recognition as an Illinois Distinguished Agency and we procured another OSLAD (*Open Space Land Acquisition and Development*) grant. In March, the full swing of winter sports were ending, spring sports were about to start and summer preparations were underway. Then Covid-19 hit. By March 13, the District canceled all programs, soon followed by the closure of our buildings and membership suspensions for months.

The pandemic placed restrictions on the Park District, like all other industries, for our entire fiscal year. White Water Canyon Water Park did not open in 2020 due to delays in rule updates, Covid restrictions and the ability to train staff. Another wave of infections in the autumn forced us to adopt restrictive measures for operating Tinley Fitness and the recreation center, which carried us to the end of the fiscal year.

These restrictions hindered our operations but we still accomplished many things as originally planned for 2020. Staff stretched themselves in ways they never imagined.

Our staff reformatted programs into a remote format when possible. Other programs provided video access for parent and grandparents to watch their kids learning new skills remotely. The Park District upgraded the registration software in 2020. The upgrade provides considerably more flexibility for both staff and patrons. Patrons can now update household data online without having to contact the district. The new system has a ticket module allowing the District to sell event tickets without requiring participants to create an account.

Construction on the renovation project at St. Boniface Park started in August 2020. Funding for this park improvement project came from the District and a \$400,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources through the OSLAD program. The park now has an updated playground, walking path, parking lot, basketball court, pickle ball court, volleyball court, baseball/softball field and multipurpose field.

We said farewell and happy retirement to department heads Sandra Chevalier and Karol Komar. Each of these dedicated women contributed 20+ years of experience to our community. We also gained two new leaders within the agency, Meghan Fenlon and Sean Caddigan. Stepping in during Covid-19 allowed them to gain invaluable experience in their new positions and bring new energy to the District.

Amid the dark cloud of negatives, there was a bright, unforeseen positive effect from the pandemic. The community as a whole rediscovered the health benefits of the Park District's green space and park amenities for family outings and fun. People dusted off their bikes and hit the trails, took walks and enjoyed outdoor play. The local parks and trails saw a huge increase in use over that of recent years.

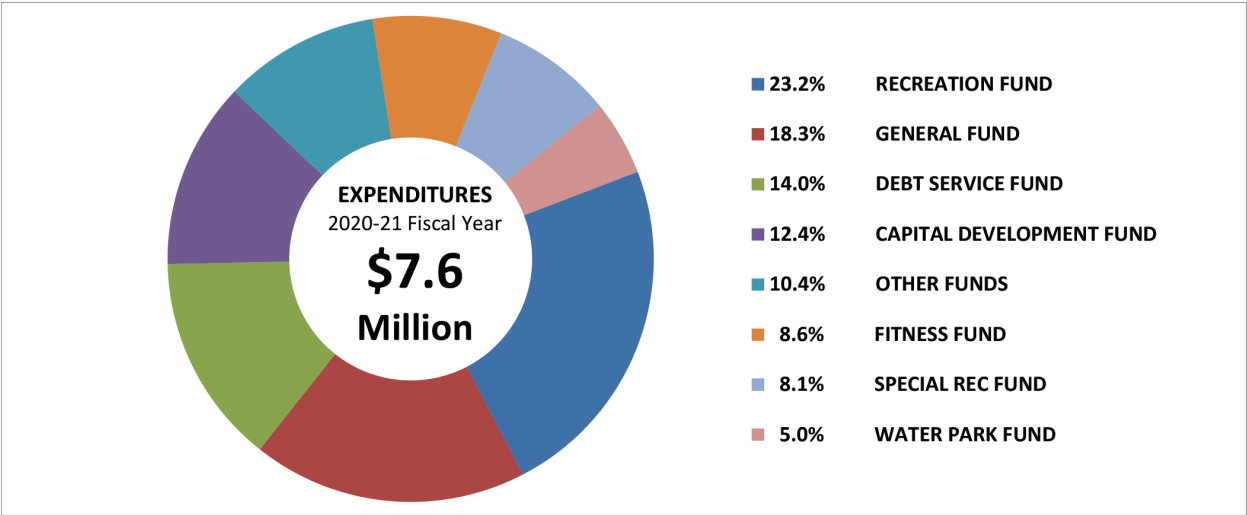
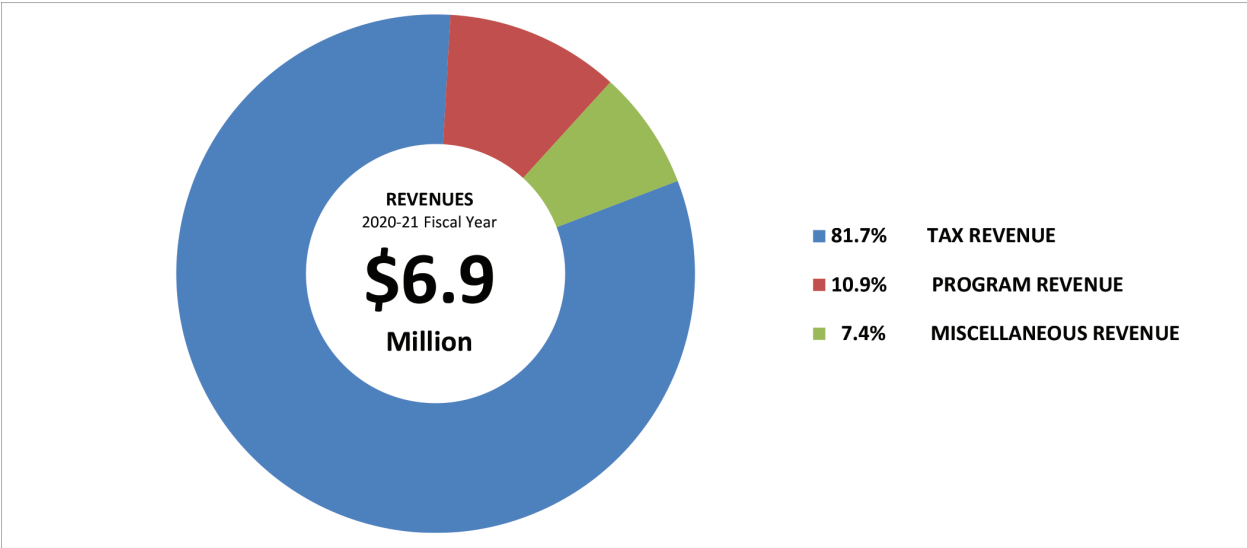
Our success was directly due to all the staff's professionalism and ability to rise to every challenge. They met revenue losses from Covid-19 restrictions with creative cost cutting efforts. They reimagined and reformatted classes and programs to fit the new restrictions. I cannot say enough about the creativity, dedication and tireless effort the staff poured into their work to continue providing the community with recreational opportunities.

Finally, thank you to the Board of Park Commissioners who donate their time to the betterment of the Park District and serving the residents of this great village. Their leadership and experience help guide us forward and their faith in staff is fantastic.

Shawn Roby

Executive Director
Tinley Park-Park District

The Tinley Park-Park District reported \$6.9 million in revenue from various sources during the 2020-21 Fiscal Year ending February 28, 2021. Whereas the Park District usually receives about two-thirds of its total revenue from property taxes and one-third of its total revenue from programs and membership fees, the make-up of the Park District revenue during 2020-21 significantly changed. During the 2020-21 Fiscal Year, program revenue decreased to 10.9% of the total revenue mainly due to Covid-19 restrictions curtailing programs and memberships.



The Tinley Park-Park District uses funds to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related laws and regulations. A fund is an accountability unit used to maintain control over resources segregated for specific activities or objectives. For example, the Recreation Fund is used for the majority of the programs and activities offered by the Park District, the Fitness Fund is used for the Tinley Fitness membership facility and the Water Park Fund is used for the outdoor White Water Canyon facility. The Park District reported a total of \$7.6 Million in expenditures for all its funds during the 2020-21 Fiscal Year ending February 28, 2021. The graph summarizes the percentages of expenditures by fund.



Tinley Park-Park District's Path through the Pandemic...

March 21, 2020

The statewide Stay at Home order begins the most unprecedented year any of us have ever experienced. Park District Staff did not skip a beat!



We immediately pivoted to the new normal providing many virtual and at home educational, fitness and recreation opportunities to help the community cope with their sudden confinement.



Enhanced cleaning protocols were implemented to thoroughly sanitize our facilities. Staff tackled large projects with no inconvenience to patrons.



New sidewalks were installed enhancing accessibility throughout the Community Park complex including the water park, fitness center and band shell.



Tinley Fitness

The Band Shell

Finally! On June 1 we received all the necessary guidelines regarding facility usage and programs for the summer.

We temporarily deferred payment for summer 2020 programs until it was certain the programs would run.



Tinley Fitness Reopens



Socially Distant Outdoor Concerts



Christmas in July



Back to School StoryWalk



197 Campers

Three Locations



Visit our website for a video about the rest of the Park District's 2020-21 pandemic year!

