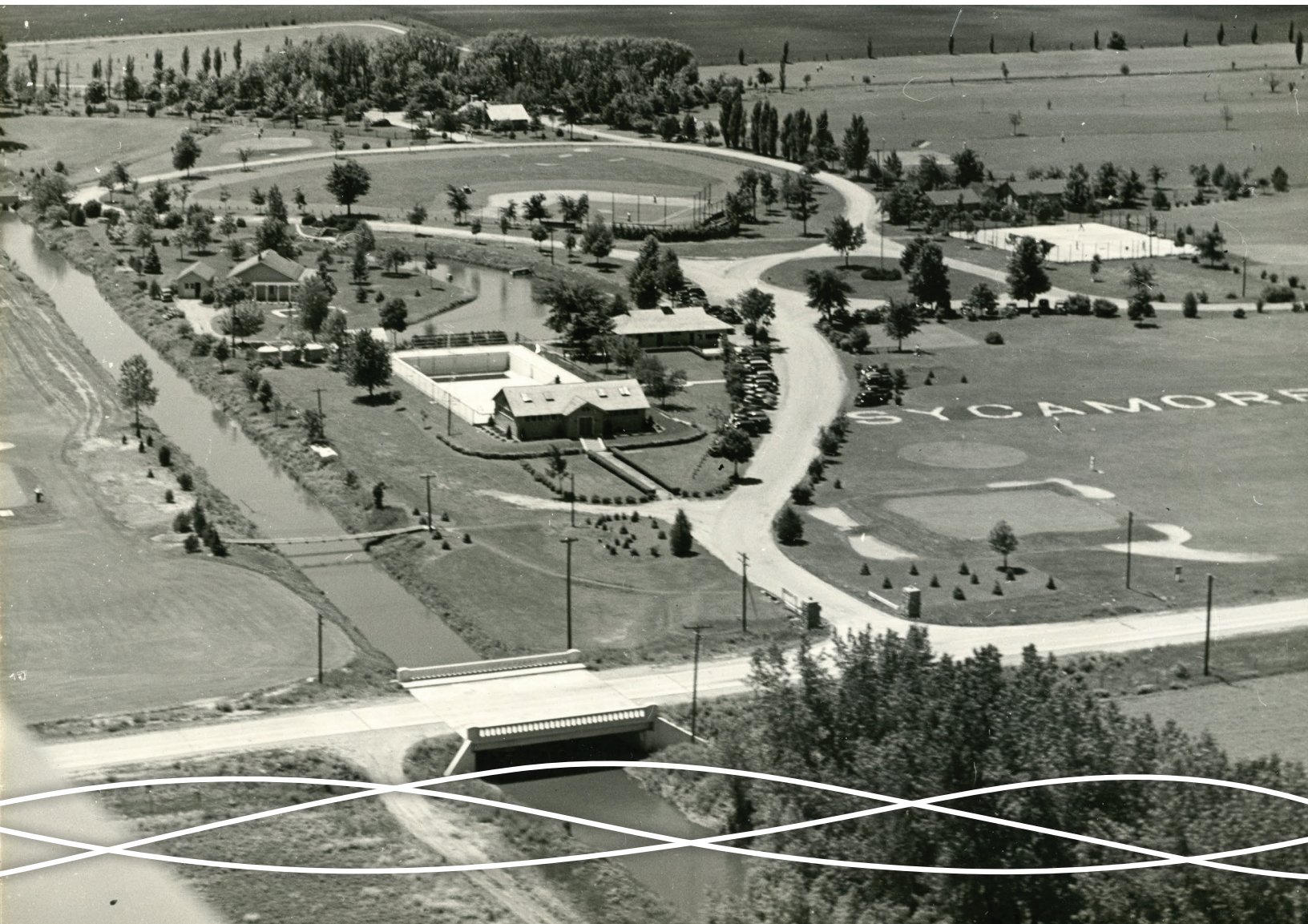




**SYCAMORE
PARK DISTRICT**

Annual Report 2023



**A YEAR OF CELEBRATING THE
PARK DISTRICT'S LEGACY & FUTURE**



SYCAMORE PARK DISTRICT

MISSION

Connecting Sycamore to wellness, nature, and each other.

VISION

To enhance the Sycamore community through wellness, recreation and greenspace, the Board and Staff take a responsive and inclusive approach to service, community relationships, and sustaining the Sycamore Park District legacy.

CORE VALUES

We value...

Equity by recognizing and serving all groups in our community, and continually seeking new ways to be inclusive and engage with diverse populations.

Transparency through fiscal responsibility, equitable policies, and pro-active communication.

Sustainability and are committed to the conservation of Sycamore's greenspace for recreation and the well-being of the community today and for future generations.

Connections that stem from the relationships that begin and grow through the opportunities and partnerships we maintain.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report provides highlights of the Sycamore Park District's finances, significant projects and initiatives, facility usage, and community relationships in 2023. It is also a chance to reflect on goals and values as we look towards the coming year.

Complete budget reports and other District information can be found on the Transparency Portal at sycparks.org. Questions and feedback regarding the information in this document can be sent to

Jonelle Bailey, Executive Director
jonelleb@sycparks.org | 815-895-3365.

You may obtain a paper copy at the Sycamore Park District Community Center, 480 Airport Road, Sycamore.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The Park District, established in 1923, is in the process of acquiring and developing park sites and open spaces to serve a growing community. Park sites, totaling 509 acres, include neighborhood parks, community parks, athletic fields, and natural areas. The Park District also maintains a Community Center, 18-hole golf course, dog park, sled hill, community pool, and splashpad. In addition, staff provides recreational and wellness programming throughout the parks and facilities.

Through the support of tax dollars, the Sycamore Parks Foundation, and partners, which include community groups and local bodies of government, the Sycamore Park District keeps Sycamore connected to wellness, nature, and each other.

YOUR TAX DOLLARS



The graph on the left shows how your 2022 tax bill (paid in 2023) is allocated among the various taxing districts in Sycamore.

● School District 427	62.2%
● DeKalb County	10.2%
● City of Sycamore	7.4%
● Sycamore Park District	6.8%
● CC 523 Kishwaukee	6.4%
● Sycamore Road & Bridge	2.5%
● Sycamore Library	2.5%
● Sycamore Township	1.2%
● DeKalb Count Forest Preserve	0.7%

CAPITAL BUDGET & ALLOCATING RESOURCES

The District has approximately \$425,000 available annually for the maintenance and upkeep of parks and facilities. The Board focuses funds on the highest priorities and most impactful ways to achieve sustainability.

Areas where these funds were divided in 2023 include:

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

GOLF COURSE AND CLUBHOUSE

TRAILS

SPLASHPAD

COMMUNITY CENTER

SPORTS COMPLEXES

EQUIPMENT

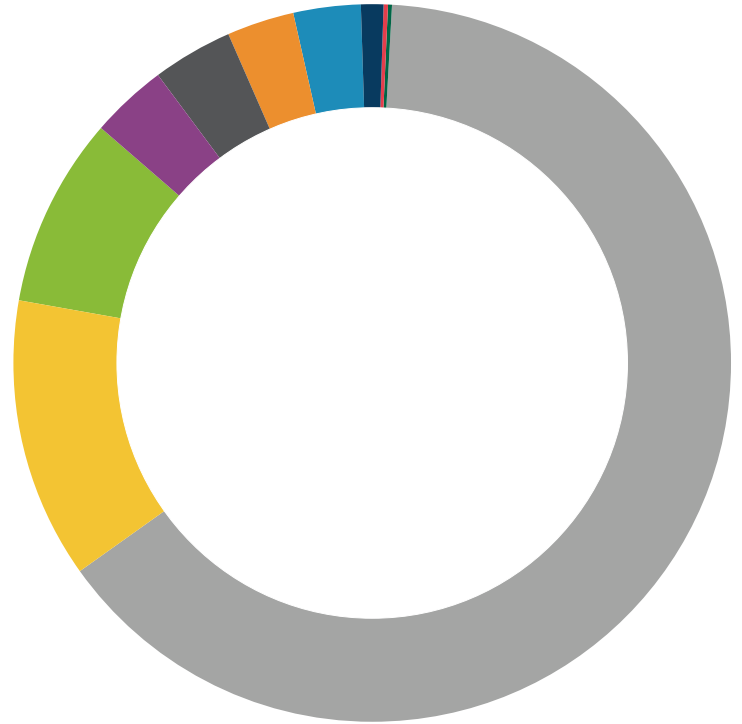
UPKEEP OF EQUIPMENT



OPERATING BUDGET

Revenue FISCAL YEAR 2023

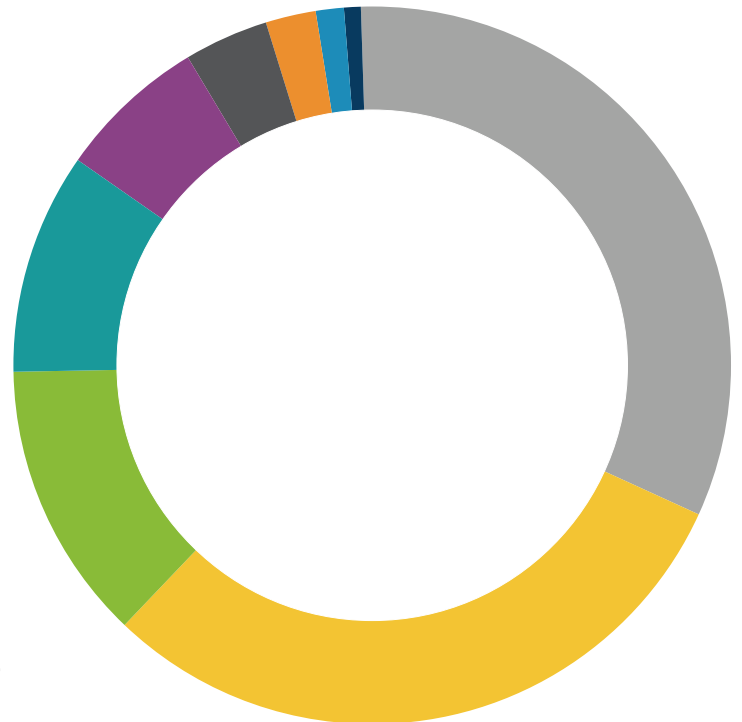
Property Tax Receipts.....	\$3,841,667	65.12%
Golf	\$745,830	12.64%
Grants & Donations	\$258,639	4.38%
Miscellaneous.....	\$236,675	4.01%
Concessions	\$200,670	3.40%
Program Fees	\$183,890	3.12%
Pathway Fitness/Gym.....	\$177,221	3.00%
Interest	\$172,484	2.92%
Rentals.....	\$59,182	1.00%
Aquatics.....	\$15,796	0.27%
Dog Park	\$7,558	0.13%



TOTAL..... \$5,899,612

Expense FISCAL YEAR 2023

Salaries & Wages.....	\$1,622,628	32.66%
Debt Service.....	\$1,493,535	30.06%
Materials & Supplies	\$620,105	12.48%
Employment Expenses	\$504,478	10.15%
Contractual	\$330,169	6.65%
Utilities.....	\$188,637	3.80%
Special Recreation.....	\$118,103	2.38%
Insurance	\$61,415	1.24%
Misc.....	\$28,948	0.58%



TOTAL..... \$4,968,018

FACILITY OVERVIEWS

SYCAMORE GOLF CLUB

- SAY-Golf Junior Lesson Program grew to 98 Participants
- New expansion of senior/ladies' tees on holes 8 and 13
- Senior League, Match Play and the new SAY-Golf Junior League showed an increase in participation.
- The 6X6X6 Ryder Cup tournament and The Frozen Fingers Open increased to accommodate the increased interest. Pumpkin Scramble filled the day registration opened and remains a sought after event.
- Superintendent of Golf Operations/Head Professional Kirk Lundbeck retires after 27 years of service.

Sycamore Golf Club	2021	2022	2023
Pass Holders	368	374	363
Rounds Sold	28,352	28,952	31,768
Outings	41	43	49
Total Revenue	\$607,255	\$597,047	\$755,002



LEGACY CAMPUS

	2021	2022	2023
Splash Fountain Visits	2,437	3,903	3,779
Dog Park Memberships	468	381	338
Community Center Daily Visits	40,121	52,764	54,100
Pathway Fitness Members	2021	2022	2023
24/7 Members*	244	279	312
Building Hours Pass Holders*	258	263	279
Track Only Passes*	197	234	270
Open Gym Passes*	251	304	337

*Average Active Members/Pass holders per month

Sustaining the Legacy: 2025

2021-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

The goal of this 5-year plan is to support and maintain what is currently part of the park system at a high level of care, improving program offerings, and increasing engagement and awareness with the diverse backgrounds in our community.

HERE ARE THE OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED IN 2023.

GOAL 1 FUNDING

Identified and prioritized new positions including a Recreation Supervisor and Marketing and Outreach Coordinator

Technology: Updated equipment, added safety measures

GOAL 2 GROWTH

Continually assessing program and facility use satisfaction with seasonal surveys

Producing printed seasonal program guide which the 2019/2020 survey indicated is an important communication tool for residents

Introduced a new community event: Art in the Park

GOAL 3 SUSTAINABILITY

Continued discussions with staff about career paths and succession planning

Began staff surveys to assess satisfaction and training opportunities

Created an Efficiency Committee made up of community members to study and report on efficiency throughout the agency.

Updated all building and outside lighting to LED through Com Ed incentive programs at very little cost to the District.



Parks in Progress

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Broke ground on the new **Reston Ponds Park Development Project**. Phase I Projects: Playground, Small loop trail, Picnic shelter, Soccer field, Pickleball court, Native landscaping buffer and educational sign. Additional amenities including a second pickleball court, large loop trail, tennis court, basketball court, and a parking lot will be phased in over the coming years.

AWARDS

National Gold Medal Award Finalist

The Sycamore Park District was selected as a 2023 National Gold Medal Award Finalist in Class V (population less than 30,000).



Awarded by the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration and National Park and Recreation Association, this award recognizes agencies nationwide that exemplify excellence in park and recreation management.

IAPD Best Friend of Illinois Parks

Doty & Sons Concrete Products won the Best Friend of IL Parks Award for their support of the Park District's mission and the community.

IAPD Give Us Your Best Shot

Natural Areas Specialist, Nicholas McCarney won second place in Nature/Landscapes Category and first place as well as honorable mention in the Wildlife Category for the Illinois Association of Park District's Give Us Your Best Shot photo contest.

Daily-Chronicle DeKalb County Top Workplaces Readers' Choice Awards

Winner in the municipalities category.



Celebrating 100 Years!

This year, the Sycamore Park District celebrated its 100th Anniversary! What began as a park and golf course in 1923 has developed into a vibrant 509-acre park system thanks to Sycamore's passionate and dedicated residents.

With value placed on equity, transparency, sustainability, and connections, we are on an exciting path toward making the next 100 years just as successful as the first!

FIRE & ICE FESTIVAL

January 14



100 Snowball Toss

HISTORY PROGRAM

August 3



DeKalb County History Center's Brown Bag Lunch/Local Lore Program

PUMPKIN FEST PARADE

October 29



FIREWORKS SHOW

November 18



100TH ANNIVERSARY FILM



VIRTUAL TIMELINE

July 1, 1996
Park District
Assumes
Recreational
Services Levy



In 1996, the Park District successfully negotiated with the city of Sycamore to take over the responsibility of the city's recreation commission and assume their levy for those services. With this 20-year

[Read More...](#)

Community Connections

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

City of Sycamore

Sycamore CUSD 427

Kishwaukee Special Recreation Association



FRIENDS, SPONSORS, & DONORS

Access to Growth Learning Solutions

Aggression Volleyball

Banner Up

Clean USA

Coroco Coffee

DeKalb Park District

Doty and Sons Concrete Products, Inc.

Edward Jones, Brittany Starkey

Engineering Resource Associates

EStreet Epoxy

First State Bank

Genoa Park District

Hauser-Ross Eye Institute

Illinois Crafted

Joiner History Room

Keep Clean Laundry

Kiwanis Club of Sycamore

Midwest Irrigation

MVP Sports Bar

OC Creative

Old National Bank

Orthodontic Experts

Pest Control Consultants

Pizza. Beer. Whiskey

Raph's Car Wash

ServiceMaster Restoration and Cleaning by Skip

Sycamore Lions Club

Sycamore Whiskey Club

Turning Back Time Car Club

AFFILIATES

AYSO Soccer

Kishwaukee Valley Storm

Sycamore Youth Baseball

Sycamore Girls Softball

PARTNERS

DeKalb County Forest Preserve District

DeKalb County History Center

Family Service Agency of DeKalb County

Kish Kids Outside

Kishwaukee Special Recreation Association

NIU Outdoor Adventures

Sycamore Parks Foundation

Sycamore Public Library



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Bill Kroeger
President



Ben Doty
Vice President



Ted Strack
Commissioner



Daryl Graves
Commissioner



Denise Ackmann
Commissioner

PARK BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Commissioners meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the Sycamore Golf Club Clubhouse, 940 E. State Street, unless otherwise noted at sycparks.org. The public is invited to attend.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Jonelle Bailey.....Executive Director, CPRP, MAOL
- Jeff Donahoe.....Superintendent of Parks & Facilities, GCSAA, CPO, CPSI
- Jackie Hienbuecher.....Superintendent of Finance & Business Services, CPA & CPRP
- Lisa Metcalf.....Superintendent of Recreation Services
- Paul Price.....Superintendent of Golf Services

ESTABLISHED
1923

20
PARKS

9.8
MILES
TRAILS

509
ACRES