

PARK DISTRICT NEWS


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This insert is a new partnership of the Oak Park Public Library and the Park District of Oak Park to increase community collaboration and better leverage your investment in the Oak Park community.

It's not easy, being green

It's not easy **Being Green**, it takes **I**ntention, **p**lanning and **p**artnership.

In 2015, the Park District installed the first cistern on park property at the Oak Park Conservatory. Since then, a total of four cisterns are saving taxpayers \$68,000 and over 1,000,000 gallons of water annually. The newest cistern at Field Park alone repurposes 22,000 gallons of water per week, in the summer months, from the splash pad to irrigate the fields.

The Park District is also a leader in solar power within Oak Park—reducing our carbon footprint as well as saving tax-payer dollars. Three sites in the park system currently generate over 125kW of renewable energy.

The Austin Garden Environmental Education Center (AGEEC) is awaiting certification as a net-zero building. Once certified, the AGEEC will be the first commercial building certified net-zero in the state of Illinois.

The Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex solar project is a partnership with Realty Energy Services. As a result, the Park District incurred zero costs for the solar panel installation project which will save between \$20-30k annually on energy costs.

Other sustainability efforts include: 11 Summer Concerts in Scoville Park with 97% landfill diversion rate, expanded fen in Taylor Park to increase native plantings and butterfly habitats and an added rain garden at Euclid Square Park to increase biodiversity.

The Park District of Oak Park received the following recognition and awards for sustainability efforts in 2017:

- **LEED Platinum Certified Building Award** for the Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center
- **LEED Gold Certified Building Award** for Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex
- **Best of the Best Award in Green Practices** from the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Village of Park Green Award for the Ridgeland Common Solar Project.
- **National Sports Field of the Year Award** for Longfellow soccer field, from the Sports Turf Managers Association, for using repurposed water as well as no pesticides or herbicides on the field.



Above, the award-winning turf field at Longfellow park. Below, the cistern installation project at Field Park.



New! Adult Tastes on Tap

Get a flavor for what the Park District has "on tap" for today's Millennials, Gen X'ers, Baby Boomers and Active Adults. Join us at Cheney Mansion on Friday, January 26 to sample some of our popular programs and activities just for adults. Enjoy pizza and beer and neighborly camaraderie. Need childcare? No problem, we've got you covered. For program details and to buy your tickets, visit www.pdop.org/tastes.

Facebook: @parkdistrictofoakpark Twitter: @ParkDistOakPark Instagram: @parkdistoakpark

Customer Service Locations

Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex, 415 Lake Street
Gymnastics and Recreation Center, 21 Lake Street
 M-F 8:30am - 7pm; Sat & Sun, 8:30am - 5pm (708) 725-2000

Spring is right around the corner!

Look for our Spring Program Guide delivered to residences beginning February 24. Spring resident registration begins on March 3.