

# Member Profile: Oswegoland Park District

The Oswegoland Park District is the 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 for all age groups in the Oswegoland community.

The District was established by referendum in 1950 as a separate governmental entity known as a “special district.” The Park District serves all of the residents who live within this district’s approximately 36-square-mile service area, including all of 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 small portion of Will County. Today, the Park District successfully serves approximately 20,000 households.



patrons are utilizing. The commitment to provide exceptional customer service across a variety of programs, special events, facilities, and grounds is a direct link to the high

approval rating we receive from our residents. Forty-four percent of our staff is age 25 or younger. In many cases, we are their first employer, and they remain with us throughout their high school and college years.” Mr. Zielke continued, “We are also

business sponsors, civic organizations, and hundreds of volunteers who help host this annual celebration.



Oswegoland Park District became an IPARKS Member in 2001. “What we do and offer is unique and dynamic,” observed Mr. Zielke. “IPARKS understands our role in the community and what we are trying to accomplish. Their expertise and resources play a key role in providing park and recreational opportunities throughout our community. I would recommend IPARKS. They have been a pleasure to work with over the years, accessible, and available when needed. The resource library and training materials they make available is an added value.”

IPARKS extends its appreciation to Oswegoland Park District for its participation and ongoing support. For more information about Oswegoland Park District, we invite you to visit in person or online at [www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org](http://www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org). If you would like to learn more about how IPARKS can benefit your park, recreation or conservation district, forest preserve, river conservancy district or special recreation agency, please call 800-748-0554 and ask to speak with an IPARKS Representative.

extremely proud and appreciative of the relationships that have been established with our community partners.”

Just one of the many events offered by the District and conducted in conjunction with community partners is PrairieFest, an Oswegoland community celebration held on Father’s Day weekend for the past 28 years. The four-day festival is attended by approximately 60,000 guests, who are treated to free admission, free parking, national entertainment and many events free of charge thanks to the generous

Mr. Richard Zielke, Executive Director, recently commented on the key to the Park District’s success, “We are most proud of our staff. It begins and ends with them, no matter what service our

