

SUSTAINABILITY

We began **converting over 5 acres of turf grass to native pollinator species** at Lake of the Woods and Middle Fork River Forest Preserves. As a result, we will reduce staff mowing time, reduce the carbon output of our mowers, remove some troublesome wet areas from the mowing rotation, increase our carbon sequestration capacity and provide additional high quality habitat for preserve wildlife. The pollinator planting near Elks Lake Pavilion will also provide a resource for education programs.

We took advantage of the **Ameren IL Energy Efficiency Program for lighting** to retrofit the majority of fluorescent lights at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve to LED. The Ameren program covered nearly half of the cost (\$22,720 total, with CCFPD paying \$11,631), and the lighting is predicted to pay for itself in energy use reduction savings within three years.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Native plantings

- Planted a total of **17.88 acres** in cleared or degraded areas
- Trees/shrubs
- River Bend Forest Preserve
 - **1,700** bare root seedling trees
 - **12 memorial trees** planted and fenced
 - **121 container trees** throughout preserves planted and fenced

Invasive species control

- Cleared and treated **62 acres** of invasive woody plants
- Mowed **244 acres** for annual and biennial weed control
- Hand pulled herbaceous plants throughout **403 acres**

Prescribed fire

- Burned **18** ecological management units, totaling **190 acres**

Seed collection

- Collected native seed from **50** species of plants and **85** different plant populations

Volunteer hours

- Hosted **16** volunteer events for a total of **204** people who contributed **393 hours** of service

Projects on new land acquisitions

- Heron View Forest Preserve understory clearing



PARTNERSHIPS

In the spring of 2021, The Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD), Urbana Park District (UPD) and the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation - Ag in the Classroom (CCFBF) created and distributed **1,492 Free At-Home Exploration kits to 2nd graders in Champaign County**.

These kits included six activities aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core that helped students answer the question: "How and why is the Earth constantly changing?" All materials needed to complete the activities were included in the kits.

These kits were provided at no cost to the students. Funding for the kits came from a generous grant from the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois grant as well as funding from the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation, Urbana Parks Foundation and the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation.



CCFPD Financials



- Wages & Salary: \$2,645,003
- Other Operating: \$1,352,508
- Projects & Equipment: \$1,153,268
- Benefits: \$756,503
- Debt Service: \$86,206



- Taxes: \$5,154,596
- User Fees: \$877,038
- Grants & Donations: \$463,513
- Merchandise: \$316,600
- Other: \$97,528



- Preserves/Natural Resources: 38.5%
- Capital Projects: 21.1%
- Golf: 16.0%
- Education: 13.9%
- Foundation: 4.5%
- Rentals: 3.7%
- Camping: 2.3%



- Preserves/Natural Resources: 31.2%
- Capital Projects: 29.9%
- Golf: 14.9%
- Education: 14.5%
- Foundation: 4.0%
- Rentals: 3.1%
- Camping: 2.4%

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





CCFPD Letter from the Executive Director

It is with pleasure that we present the Champaign County Forest Preserve District's 2021 Annual Report. This report provides a sampling of some of the incredible outcomes we have achieved in service to Champaign County residents and in support of our mission to protect Champaign County's natural and cultural resources and inspire people to care for, enjoy, and explore their natural world.

As a result of the successful referendum in 2020, we were able to get started on the backlog of maintenance and capital projects and completed an additional 12 projects that we would not have been able to do otherwise.

We continued to steward over 4,000 acres of land, through clearing hundreds of acres of invasive plant species, collecting native seeds, and planting more than 1,700 trees.

Our commitment to high-quality environmental and cultural education continued to adapt to the changing pandemic

landscape by providing in-person or online program as appropriate and reaching more than 20,000 participants.

The CCFPD remains fiscally sound and responsible. We were awarded nearly \$2 million in grant funds, which were then leveraged through the fundraising efforts of the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation. The Foundation raised more than \$175,000 to provide matches for grants and to fund other projects and programs. Both our campground and golf course saw exponential growth in use, with the campground more than doubling its revenue from 2020 and the golf course welcoming the highest player total since 2007 and yielding more than \$900,000 in revenue.

The successful outcomes reflected in this report are attributable to the support of the county residents, donors, partners, and hundreds of volunteers including our dedicated five-member Board of Commissioners. Thank you, all, for your efforts in helping us shine throughout 2021.

A Year of IMPROVEMENTS



Bike Path Maintenance



Replaced Windows



Replaced Roofs



Updated Restroom

After receiving the support of the Champaign County residents in the 2020 election, the Champaign County Forest Preserve District used the increase in funds from the approved referendum to get to work right away in 2021 making good on the promise of maintaining and improving the infrastructure, buildings and facilities in the District!

Improvements included:

- Bike Path Maintenance
- Window Replacement at the Golf Course Pro Shop
- Updated shower house doors
- Replaced roofs on Walnut Hill Shelter, Elks Lake Pavilion, and Izaak Walton Cabin
- Replaced split rail fence at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve and Homer Lake Forest Preserve

12 capital projects completed

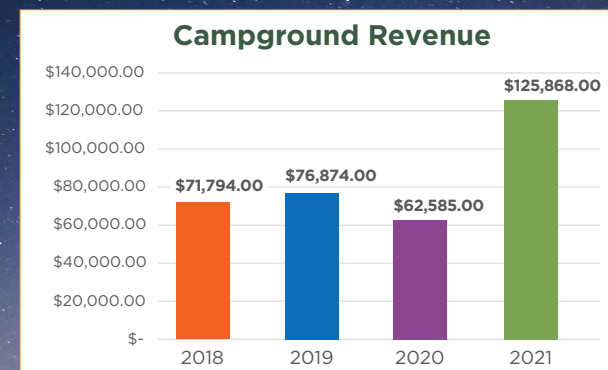


Replaced Fencing

HARRY L. SWARTZ CAMPGROUND at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve

Total Revenue for 2021 **\$125,868** (101% increase)

Sunday through Thursday camping increased **30-40 percent**. Visitation impacted by the opening of the Rantoul Sports Complex and dark sky viewing.

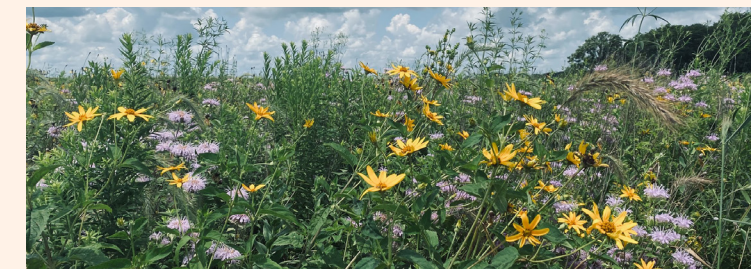


Museum & Education

MUSEUM OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE (MGP) **3,779** visitors

HOMER LAKE INTERPRETIVE CENTER (HLIC) **1,505** visitors

- **In-person Public Programs: 55** in-person programs with a total of **3,736** program attendees
- **On-line Events: 78** total program opportunities offered online
- **Live Stream Views: 30** new live streamed programs amassing **11,471** views
- **Recorded Video Programming** (Public, School, & SYS): **32** new videos amassing **4,330** views
- **Zoom Programs: 16** Zoom Programs with **633** total attendees

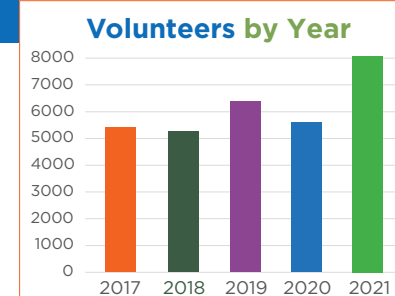


- **Self-Guided Opportunities** (Seasonal Activity Guides, Story Walks, Scavenger Hunt, etc): **11** opportunities offered
- **School Programs: 3,949** students reached by way of in-person, Zoom, or pre-recorded programming and outreach kits/loan tubs
- **Summer Camps: 141** (81 in-person, 60 camps in a bag)

VOLUNTEERS

In 2021, CCFPD was the grateful beneficiary of at least:

8,075 VOLUNTEER HOURS



48 volunteer events, **676** volunteers

About 60 of those individuals were skilled presenters who freely gave their time to make events or opportunities more engaging for our community. These events generated about **2,500** volunteer hours and often serve as education opportunities in addition to service opportunities.

43 of our regular volunteers are **MASTER NATURALISTS** and they gave **2,050** hours

EAGLE SCOUTS performed **6** projects: **64** volunteers and **490** hours

LAKE OF THE WOODS Golf Course



Highest Player Total since 2007!

Total Rounds **36,702**

18 Hole Course **32,833**
Par 3 Course **3,869**

FOOT GOLF **345** Rounds

Anniversary 2-year Passes Sold
5-Day Anniversary: **502**
7-Day Anniversary: **485**
Platinum Season Pass: **79**

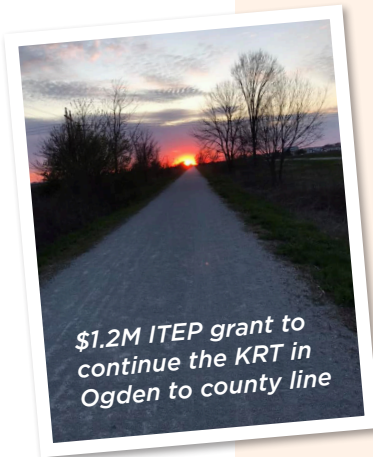
Total Revenue **\$902,686**

CCFPD Foundation

TOTAL FUNDS raised in 2021

\$175,189.22

625 donations
436 donors
48% Donor Retention Rate



\$1.2M ITEP grant to continue the KRT in Ogden to county line

TOTAL GRANTS received in 2021

\$1,928,442

3 The District received **three** grants **\$1,886,555**

6 The Foundation received **six** grants **\$41,887**