

DECATUR PARK DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT



2019 Highlights

NextGen Committee Formed

In an effort to attract and retain young professionals to Macon County, the District joined together with The Community Foundation and other leaders to form Next Gen Community Connection, with a mission to cultivate and strengthen connections supporting a vibrant group of ambassadors engaged in making a positive, lasting impact on the Macon County community.

Rotary Notes and Litter Critter Expand Public Art at Overlook

After identifying a need for public art to make our community more vibrant and attractive, we incorporated public art at Overlook Adventure Park. Partnering with The Decatur Rotary Club, we erected an all-inclusive sensory musical play structure called "Rotary Notes". For environmental education the District partnered with the Beautify Decatur Coalition to erect a "litter critter" statue and filled it with trash from the surrounding neighborhood.

DPS Land Exchange Agreement

A creative land exchange with Decatur Public Schools (DPS) resulted in the development of a new inner-city magnet school, expansion of the Decatur Soccer Complex and a strategic relocation of our senior center. This exchange doubles acreage available for soccer field development and repurposed our recently closed Scovill Golf Course club house to accommodate our growing senior services.

Selected New Air Service, United Express Operated by Sky West at Decatur Airport

At the Decatur Airport, the District welcomed Sky West Airlines, our new Essential Air Service Provider operating United Express 50-passenger jets. This new air service will change the landscape of what leisure and business travelers experience in our region by providing quick, reliable service at an affordable price.

The Devon G. Buffett Lakeshore Amphitheater Added to Nelson Park

Park District leaders, City officials and Park Board Foundation members celebrated the grand opening of The Devon G. Buffett Amphitheater in May, thanks to a generous donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The venue hosted 22 shows, resulting in over 40,000 visitors from 26 states and 2 countries in its first season.

Did You Know?

In 2019, the Decatur Park District maintained a PDRMA excellent Level A membership status. This rating represents our continued commitment to the prevention of unforeseen injury and the ongoing safety of employees and patrons.

The Decatur Park District spends thousands of dollars each year to repair damage caused by vandalism. The Park Watch program offers rewards for information leading to the arrest of individuals responsible for these crimes. If you witness suspicious activity or have a tip, call 422-5911. You will remain anonymous.

Volunteers donated 20,621 hours to Scovill Zoo, park clean-up efforts, recreation programs, arts performances, Special Recreation events, soccer tournaments, and golf tournaments. The District is grateful for their service!

In partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education, the Park District provided 31,513 meals and snacks at 31 Summer Lunch Program sites, including Old King's Orchard and the Boys & Girls Club.

The Park District hosted major soccer, tennis, softball, and golf tournaments, as well as the IHSA Class A and AA girls' golf championships and cross-country sectionals in 2019, contributing to 1,133 room nights and nearly \$272,000 in community tourism benefits.

The Decatur Park District was proud recipient of the following 2019 H&R Readers' Choice Awards. Hickory Point Best Golf Course (1st) Scovill Zoo: Best Place for Family Fun (1st) Favorite Weekend Activity (2nd), Best Children's Entertainer (2nd), Best Place for Kids' Parties (2nd), Best Family Fun Overlook Adventure (2nd), Poage ARC Best Dance Studio (3rd), Hickory Best Event Facility (3rd), Red Tail Run Best Golf Course (3rd), Overlook Adventure Best Place for Kids' Parties (3rd), Thank you for your support!

Train Expansion at Scovill Zoo Connects to Children's Museum

Thanks to the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, an expanded train route now connects riders to the Children's Museum of Illinois. The expansion doubles the length of the ride and adds a depot location near the museum for riders to get on and off. The train saw an additional 12,000 rides due to the expansion.

Midstate Outdoor Service Building Opened

In August, a ribbon cutting celebration at the Decatur Soccer Complex recognized the completion and opening of Midstate's brand new concession building, a milestone of their Vision 2020 fundraising project. The building provides a pavilion for shelter, indoor restrooms and concession options for games and tournaments.

IAPD Best of the Best Awards

In October, the Park District was honored to receive two IAPD Best of the Best Awards at the annual IAPD gala in Wheeling, IL. Refreshment Services Pepsi was recognized as Best Friend of Illinois Parks - Small Business, and the City of Decatur received the Intergovernmental Cooperation Award for its work with the Decatur Park District on Lakeshore Landing.

Commissioner Chris Riley Received NRPA Robert M. Artz Advocate Award

In September, Chris Riley, former Decatur Park Board Commissioner received the Robert M. Artz Advocate Award by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) during the 2019 NRPA Annual Conference in Baltimore. The Robert M. Artz Award recognizes an advocate, an elected or appointed official, or volunteer who has demonstrated outstanding efforts to forward public parks and recreation through education and activating the public in their community, state or at the national level.

Community Partners

Thanks to our valued community partners, the Decatur Park District is able to enhance the health, fitness, education, and quality of life for all in the greater Decatur area.

The Park District's summer baseball program benefits from the support of ADM; DMH is our valued golf partner; athletic programs and Staley Striders are made possible thanks to Tate & Lyle; and Scovill Zoo has been supported by the generosity of First Mid Illinois Bank and Trust. A long-term partnership with Millikin University affords shared facilities like the DISC, as well as professionals in sports and the arts. Neuhoff Media is our valued media partner. Midwest Fiber is presenting sponsor of MidState Soccer Club.

Looking Forward

Since 1924, the Park District has fulfilled our community's needs for physical well-being, productive leisure activities, and outdoor parks and recreation spaces. 2020 will be a year of celebration, as we welcome Splash Cove to Lakeshore Landing and host another exciting season at The Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater. Collaborations with the City of Decatur, DPS#61 and other partners will ensure the continued development of activities and events, benefiting local residents and visitors to our community.



Decatur-parks.org

