

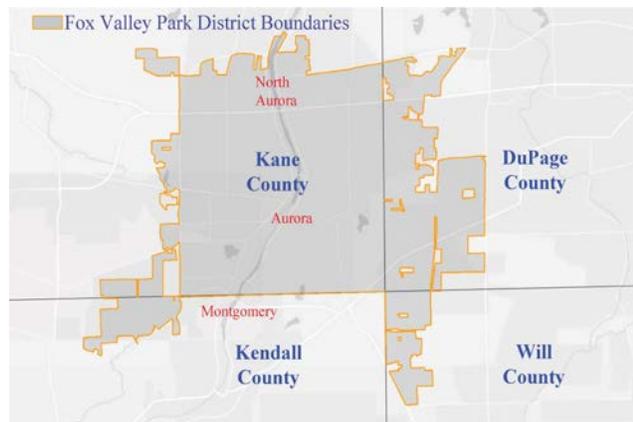
Agency Profile

FY 2015-16 Budget

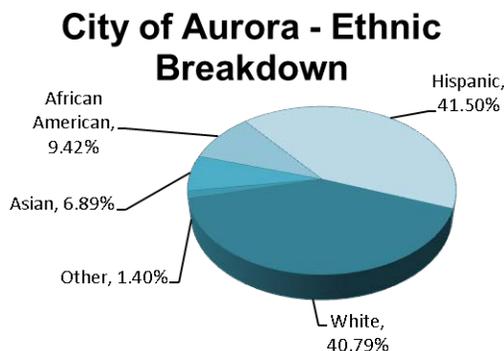
Park District Service Area

Located in the beautiful Fox River Valley in the Chicago Metropolitan area, the Fox Valley Park District is a premier park and recreation organization serving an expanding and diverse customer base in one of the fastest growing regions in the Midwest.

Based on population served, the Fox Valley Park District is the second largest Park District in the State of Illinois. Prior to the 2010 census we estimated our service area at about 200,000 in population but more current information shows us that the District serves a population of more than 233,000 people in a rapidly growing region. The majority of the District's residents live in the City of Aurora, which is the second largest city in Illinois. The District also serves the Villages of Montgomery and North Aurora and several unincorporated areas. It currently encompasses an area of 65 square miles. It is located in Kane, DuPage, Kendall and Will Counties in Illinois and is approximately 40 miles west of downtown Chicago.

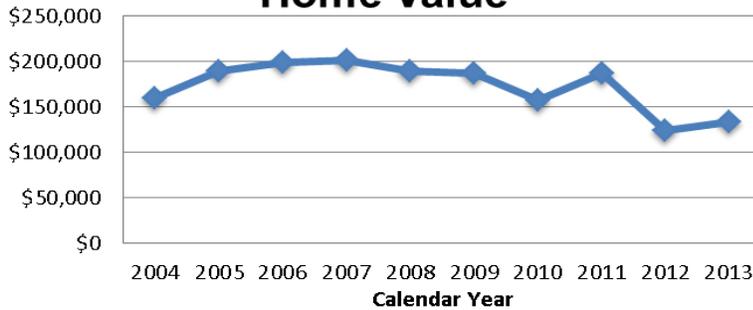


The Park District service area also overlaps six unit School Districts, including Indian Prairie School District 204, Yorkville School District 115, East Aurora School District 131, West Aurora School District 129, Kaneland School District 302 and Oswego School District 308. The school-age population of the Fox Valley Park District is expanding as evidenced by three of the School Districts being the fastest growing in the State of Illinois (Indian Prairie School District, Oswego School District and Kaneland School District.)



The City of Aurora's average household income is \$62,589 with an average household size of 3.13 and median age of 31. 40.79% of the population in the city is White, 9.42% is African American, 6.89% is Asian, 41.50% is Hispanic, 1.4% of the city's population claims "Other".

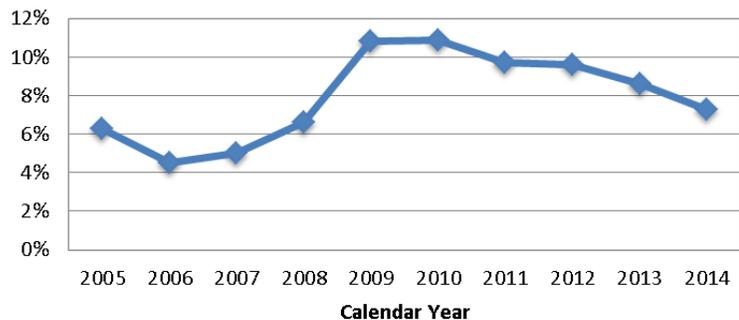
City of Aurora - Median Home Value



The median home price based on most recent home sales is \$133,500 and average property taxes are \$3,614.

Major employers in the area include Caterpillar Inc., Rush-Copley Medical Center, Hollywood Casino, Provena Mercy Medical Center, City of Aurora, Aurora School Districts #129, #131 and #204, City of Aurora, Dreyer Medical Clinic. Top taxpayers include Simon/Chelsea Development LLC (Chicago Premium Outlet Mall), Westfield Shoppingtown, Liberty Illinois LP, Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. Inc., and Aurora Industrial Holding Company. The unemployment rate is 7.30%

City of Aurora - Unemployment Rate



Park District Overview

The Fox River runs through the center of the District, with 22 miles of river shoreline under its ownership. The assets of this Park District are significant in terms of parks, special facilities and land. The District currently owns and maintains 165 parks, 48 miles of trails, 25 lakes and 63 park shelters, providing over 2,500 acres of parkland and open space. Park facilities include 96 playgrounds, 48 basketball courts, 27 outdoor tennis courts, 107 ballfields and 86 soccer fields. New parks are developed on an as needed basis when residential developers provide land to the District in accordance with local land-cash ordinances during a stabilized housing market.

Major facilities include Eola Community Center and Prisco Community Center, both expanded in 2004 to accommodate the growing demand for recreation programs. Eola Community Center accepts the majority of the program registrations; the center's primary users are preschool through elementary-aged children. Prisco Community Center also offers programs to this age group and is used for programs and events for seniors and teens and is a major conference/meeting center for businesses and community groups.

The 225,000-square-foot Vaughan Athletic Center facility includes a field house for multi-sport use, nine indoor tennis courts, three indoor pools and a large fitness and group exercise center. With the completion of the Vaughan Athletic Center, indoor recreation space at the three major facilities (Eola, Prisco, and Vaughan) results in a combined total of more than 500,000 square feet. Major renovations are planned for the Prisco Community Center including a new 5,000 square foot fitness center. Additionally, portions of the building are to be renovated to include new locker and rest rooms, additional multi-purpose rooms, two music rooms, an elevator and renovated mezzanine level, and significant ADA related improvements.

In 2014-15, the Park District welcomed more than 1.5 million guests to facilities through a wide variety of recreation programs. Programs offered must meet the needs of a diverse and growing population as well as balance the need to provide many programs and services at little or no cost with the need to generate program revenue. Currently, about 55.2% of the District's operating revenues are supplied through property taxes. To aid in offering services to the disabled population, the District is a member of the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association (FVSRA). FVSRA serves seven area park districts by providing recreation activities for residents with disabilities and inclusion services to help special needs residents take part in mainstream Park District programs when appropriate. The Fox Valley Special Recreation Association's offices are housed at the Vaughan Athletic Center.

In February 2008, the District was successful in passing a \$44,850,000 referendum with 65.4% voter approval. All of the referendum bonds have been issued. The funds have been used to acquire and protect land for nature areas, open space and park and recreation purposes, to improve and develop trails, and to improve and renovate neighborhood and community parks. The referendum funds are only part of the source of revenue for the District's \$65,450,000 six-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Special Facilities

Special facilities include two outdoor aquatic parks, an 18-hole golf course, a nature center, a living history museum/theme park and a regional sports field complex. Each of these facilities presents unique operational challenges and park, recreation and education leisure opportunities for our guests. The District also operates its own police and public safety department to keep its facilities and public safe and secure.

The two outdoor aquatic parks—Splash Country Water Park and Phillips Park Family Aquatic Center—are jointly owned by the Park District and the City of Aurora. The Park District operates the facilities, and a board consisting of representatives from the Park District and the City provides policy direction. Phillips Park opened in 1991 and is located on the southeast side of the community. Its features include a zero-depth entry main pool, children's spray ground, three body slides, two drop slides into a plunge pool, a sand play area, sand volleyball courts and concession stand. Splash Country opened in 1998 and is located on the far west side of the District. Its features include a zero-depth entry main pool, children's spray ground, one open and one closed body slide, 1,100-foot Lazy River with interactive water play elements, a sand play area, sand volleyball courts and a concession stand. A contracted vendor runs concession stands

at both parks. Jeff Ellis and Associates manage aquatic operations at both facilities along with the pools at the Vaughan Athletic Center.

The District's championship 18-hole golf facility is Orchard Valley Golf Course, located on the west side of Aurora. This 18-hole championship golf course with a full-service bar and restaurant is rated as one of Chicagoland's top public courses and is designated as a four and a half-star facility by Golf Digest Magazine. Orchard Valley is also a three-time host of the Illinois Open. The District has gone through its fifth year of the agreement with Billy Casper Golf Management Company to manage all of the operations at Orchard Valley Golf Course. The District is guaranteed an annual payment along with percentages of revenue above a threshold amount. In 2014-15 revenues included a \$226,667 annual license fee and an \$80,000 capital contribution.

The Red Oak Nature Center is a natural history museum surrounded by 40 acres of woods along the Fox River and the Fox River Trail in North Aurora. The building includes a variety of interactive natural history exhibits encouraging visitors to better understand the natural world. The grounds include a large observation deck offering panoramic views of the Fox River, a picnic area with pavilion and fireplace, one of the few caves in the Chicago area and four wood chipped hiking trails designed to show a variety of habitats. The nature center is open year round and is free of charge. The nature center has had been phasing in renovations for both indoor and outdoor features. The completed upgrades include an update to 14-year old exhibits, a new lobby concept with views to the woodland, a new floor that mimics a natural woodland floor, interactive exhibits with an information center and touch screen smart board, and an interactive forest mural. New habitat exhibits were installed in the wildlife room and includes amphibian habitats, animal enclosures and a new turtle pond. Additional completed renovations included updates to the bird and bee exhibit and to the tree and leaf rooms. Outdoor updates included new signage and trails.

Blackberry Farm is a 54-acre living history museum featuring the history of rural Northern Illinois from the 1850s to the 1920s. This unique facility also features amusement rides, costumed demonstrators and exceptional perennial gardens. Admission is charged to supplement operations, and the facility is open from May through October. A \$2.5M renovation project was approved as part of the 2008 Referendum. Renovations completed in 2013 include a new 2,500 square foot performance shelter, new restroom building, new boathouse shelter/pavilion and dock to accommodate paddle boats and a new adventure play center. A short zip line was included as well.

The Stuart Sports Complex, located in Montgomery, had been approximately 40% developed when the Park District entered into a land-swap intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Montgomery. With the construction complete it offers 320.3 acres dedicated to baseball, softball and soccer fields. An expansion was completed at the south end of the complex to bring 11 more soccer field and four new ball fields with lights. In all the featured amenities include 37 soccer fields and eight lit ball fields. Additionally the complex has a 9-acre dog park, and full-service concession house with modern restrooms. The District's in-house soccer league, adult soccer associations, traveling team associations and ten baseball and softball organizations use the fields.

Copley II Boxing and Training Center has been home to the Jesse “The Law” Torres Boxing Club and Youth Drop-in Center for over 16 years. A new 4,100 square foot structure has been completed and programming began in Fall 2014 along with continuing to host the outreach boxing programs.

Governance

The Fox Valley Park District was organized by voter approval in 1947. It is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees. The County Board Chairs appoint the Board in the counties that have a proportionate share of the population in the District. Currently, the Kane County Board Chair appoints six members and the DuPage County Board Chair appoints one member. The Board of Trustees appoints the Executive Director and the Attorney of the Park District. The Board approves all policy decisions.

Separate boards govern specific aspects of the District. The District participates with six other Park Districts in Fox Valley Special Recreation Association. A Board represented by the seven Districts governs FVSRA. The Fox Valley Park Foundation is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization developed to aid the Park District in the acquisition, conservation, preservation and development of land and open space and to provide funds for youth enrichment recreation programs. Its board is comprised of Park District Trustees and members from the community. The two outdoor aquatic centers are jointly owned with the City of Aurora, and are governed by a Board with representatives from City Council and the Park District Board of Trustees and the community.

Sources of information for graphs and charts

City of Aurora Comprehensive Annual Financial Report 2013
City of Aurora public records
Illinois Department of Employment Security
Fox Valley Park District Official Bond Documents