

# Illinois Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act Report

## Dieterich Park District

Dieterich, Illinois  
Effingham County

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### Introduction

This report presents an overview of the Dieterich Park District in accordance with the Illinois Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act. Our park district is dedicated to serving the community of approximately 900 residents and is governed entirely by volunteers.

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### Committee Members

- Nick Gipson
- Traci Bruns
- Mike Campbell
- Valerie Sanguinetti
- Travis Kessler
- Sarah Campbell
- John Bruns

### Meeting Dates

- May 25, 2023, at 6:00 PM
  - October 10, 2024, at 6:00 PM
  - October 10, 2024, at 6:45 PM
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### Park District Overview

- **Annual Appropriation Budget:** \$80,500
  - **Equalized Assessed Valuation (2024):** \$3,000,000
  - **Population:** Approximately 900 residents
  - **Employees:** 0 (entirely volunteer-run)
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### Importance of Local Park Districts

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*Michelle Kaebler*  
COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER  
EFFINGHAM COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Having a local park district that operates separately from other taxing bodies is crucial for several reasons:

1. **Focused Governance:** A dedicated park district allows for specialized management of recreational facilities and programs, ensuring that decisions are made with the community's recreational needs in mind.
  2. **Tailored Services:** Local Park districts can develop programs and services that reflect the specific interests and demographics of their communities, fostering greater community engagement and satisfaction.
  3. **Efficient Resource Allocation:** Operating independently allows park districts to allocate resources specifically for recreation and community programs without competing for funding with schools, municipalities, or other entities.
  4. **Increased Accountability:** A separate governing body enhances accountability to the community, as residents can directly participate in decision-making processes and hold park district officials responsible for their management of public spaces.
  5. **Enhanced Funding Opportunities:** Independent Park districts often have access to specific grants and funding opportunities tailored for recreational services, allowing them to improve facilities and expand programs without burdening local taxpayers.
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## Public Engagement

The Dieterich Park District values community feedback and encourages residents to communicate with board members. The public has many opportunities to provide both positive and negative feedback. We meet every month on the **second Wednesday at 6:00 PM** at the **Dieterich Village Hall**. Residents can also reach out via email at **DieterichPark@gmail.com** to express their thoughts and suggestions.

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## Current Programs Offered

The Dieterich Park District provides a variety of recreational programs, including:

- T-Ball
- Baseball
- Softball
- Soccer
- Pickleball
- Basketball

**Future Program Opportunities:** We are exploring the potential to offer additional programs, such as tennis and fishing.

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## **Service and Intergovernmental Agreements**

Currently, we do not have any formal service agreements, as all operations are conducted in-house by our dedicated volunteers.

### **Intergovernmental Cooperation:**

Our park district has enhanced efficiency through collaboration with local entities:

- **Dieterich Unit 30 Schools:** We share the use of ball diamonds in the summer for T-Ball, Baseball, and Softball leagues, which saves rental costs. We cover the outside lighting bill during the summer months.
  - **Village of Dieterich:** We have a priority rental agreement for the Wright Family Center for our basketball and winter pickleball leagues, reducing our rental costs.
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## **Examples of Efficient Operations**

- Our operations are exclusively volunteer based, allowing for community engagement without the burden of employee costs.
  - We actively seek sponsorships for our leagues to lessen the financial burden on taxpayers.
  - Collaboration with neighboring park districts allows us to reduce travel costs for families participating in games.
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## **Achievements and Community Impact**

Over the past decade, we have successfully introduced soccer, basketball, and pickleball leagues. Our intergovernmental agreement for the Wright Family Center has been instrumental in expanding our basketball program. We prioritize timely communication with residents and have expanded our district by annexing more households.

The Dieterich Park District provides essential recreational activities, fostering physical health, social interaction, and community cohesion. Our parks serve as safe spaces for youth, promoting teamwork and personal development.

Additionally, our activities enhance property values, attract visitors, and support local businesses, contributing to economic vitality.

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## **Challenges Due to State Inefficiencies**

Local park districts face several challenges exacerbated by state inefficiencies, including:

