

Aaron Reinhart

Bio: I have been in the sports business for 25 years with a degree in agronomy/soil science. I began participating in sports when I was barely able to walk and I participated through college, so it only made sense that I combine two of my passions and make it a career path. Before arriving at FVPD, the first 17 years of my career were spent maintaining golf courses in Virginia and Illinois. This transition has been a blessing for me as I still get to be heavily involved in sports while providing high-quality playing surfaces so every kid can feel like he or she is in the big leagues. My passion has always been sports, so being blessed to truly do what I love is evident in the finished product we provide to all athletes that come our way. I was raised in central Illinois and grew up farming and playing sports year-round. I met my wife at the University of Illinois and we currently reside in Aurora, which is where Kate was born and raised. We have three children – 11, 8 and 6 who are all active in school or District-run sports. They love coming out to work with me on the weekends to see what's happening and I'm grateful that they're able to do that with me as we're creating what I hope to be lifelong memories for both myself and them.

How did your career in the parks & recreation industry begin?

My career began almost 9 years ago. With most of my career being spent providing plush conditions on a golf course, there was an opportunity to do the same with our District's course, Orchard Valley.

Describe the main responsibilities of your role:

In my time with the District my position has evolved from only overseeing the golf course into the golf course plus the District's outdoor athletics amenities, which include 58 baseball fields, 20 soccer pitches, the nation's third largest sports complex per total acreage, and the District's turf maintenance programs.

What do you enjoy most about working for the Fox Valley Park District?

My life revolves around sports and maintaining the manicured natural playing surfaces they're played on. This position has been the perfect fit – it allows me to do something different every day, teach and train staff to advance their careers and, most importantly, watch my own three children grow up and play on fields I maintain and seeing the enjoyment and growth they get from participation in sports.

What traits do you feel lend well to a career in parks & recreation?

I love talking with and meeting new people as well as providing some of the best fields around for youth to develop their skills as an athlete. These together have made us a juggernaut in the world of youth sports.