

BYRON PARK DISTRICT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



BYRON
PARK
DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

The Byron Park District's 2020 Annual Report provides highlights of the District's activities, accomplishments, and finances throughout the past year. Several summaries and charts have been included to illustrate the District's financial position and value to the community.

The financial data provided in this report was drawn from the 2020 Annual Financial Report, which can be viewed online at www.byronparks.org.

Questions or feedback regarding the 2020 Annual Report or 2020 Annual Financial Report may be directed to Executive Director, Paul Zepezauer at pzepezauer@byronparks.org.

MISSION

"To enhance the quality of life within our community by providing parks, recreational facilities and recreational program opportunities in a fun, safe and fiscally responsible manner."

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



RACHEL ORACKI
President



JEFF WILMARTH
Vice President



BRUCE BOYLE
Treasurer



JUDD GRIFFITH
Secretary



SCOTT JEFFREY
Commissioner

BACKGROUND

The Byron Park District was established in 1980 at the same time as the Byron Forest Preserve. While the two entities work together, they are completely separate entities. The Park District focuses on offering neighborhood parks and recreation programs to the community. The Forest Preserve focuses on preservation, education and outdoor recreation.

The Park District primarily operates within the Byron School District facilities. Through an Intergovernmental Agreement, the Park District is able to offer recreation programs and facilities to the community utilizing the School District's facilities. The Park District contributes to capital improvements to the recreation facilities.

Park District operations are primarily funded by revenue generated through program fees, tax dollars, grants, sponsorships, and interest. These funds provide for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities and recreation programs. The Park District's taxing district follows the School District's boundaries with the exception of Exelon's Byron Generating Station.

A board of five elected commissioners set policy and carry out the official business of the Park District. Park District Commissioners serve six-year terms, without pay. The Executive Director, who is hired by the Board, manages the day-to-day operations of the Park District and oversees a staff of approximately 6 full time and 65 part time employees.

Regularly scheduled Park District Board Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Byron PE Center at 6:00 PM, unless otherwise noted. The most up to date Board Meeting schedule may be found on our website, www.byronparks.org. The public is invited to attend and may address the Board during the public comment portion of the meeting.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Conservation and Resiliency

Through effective land management methods and green infrastructure investments, parks and recreation make communities more resilient to natural disasters, reducing disaster recovery and insurance costs.

Health and Wellness

Parks & Recreation promotes improved physical and mental health, which helps lower medical and insurance costs for those people taking advantage of facilities and activities.

Property Values

Economic research has demonstrated consistently that homes and properties located near parklands have higher values than those further away.

Visitor Spending

Park visits and recreation programs such as athletic leagues and tournaments, dance recitals, and special events generate economic activity including increased sales at restaurants, grocery stores, and gas stations.

PARKS & FACILITIES

Blackhawk Meadow Park

In 2001, Byron Park District purchased 9.38 acres of land on Mill Road for the first park in the District's history. Amenities within the park include: two backstops, two permanent Bag Game sets, large picnic pavilion, and four outdoor fitness equipment stations located along a 1/3 mile perimeter walking path. Blackhawk Meadow Park is an on-leash dog friendly park.



Byron PE Center

The original Byron PE Center was a shared facility constructed in 1996 for the School District and the Park District. The original building included two fitness rooms, an aerobics room, indoor track and four basketball courts. In 2020, the Byron Park District completed a 14,660 square foot facility expansion featuring a 6,000 square foot fitness center, two 1,800 square foot dance/aerobics studios, a centralized lobby and registration area, a Park District staff office area, and a parking lot addition. Renovations were also completed in the adjacent interior hallways and locker rooms.



Donald B. Johnson Riverfront Park

Donald B. Johnson Riverfront Park was acquired in 2019 through a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. The park is currently 10 acres of undeveloped riverfront property. The future plans are to develop the property through the State of Illinois Open Space and Land Acquisition grant program.



Hamas Park

In 2014, ownership of Hamas Park was transferred to the Park District. In 2017, the park was completely regraded and now has a new playground, boat docks, kayak launch, shelter, parking lot, walking trails, landscaping, and site furnishings.



Tennis & Pickleball Courts

The Tennis and Pickleball Courts are located behind the PE Center on Maple Street. There are a total of eight tennis courts with two courts designed to serve as pickleball courts.



Tiger Town Park

In 2014, ownership of Tiger Town Park was transferred to the Park District. This newly renovated, dog friendly park, features an inclusive playground, zip line play unit, Dynamo swings, bocce ball court, full-sized basketball court, and a game plaza with permanent ping pong and chess tables.



FACILITY USAGE

MEMBERSHIPS ISSUED
413

PUNCH CARDS SOLD
246

DROP INS
2,982

TOTAL FITNESS VISITS
21,287



RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

ARTS
57



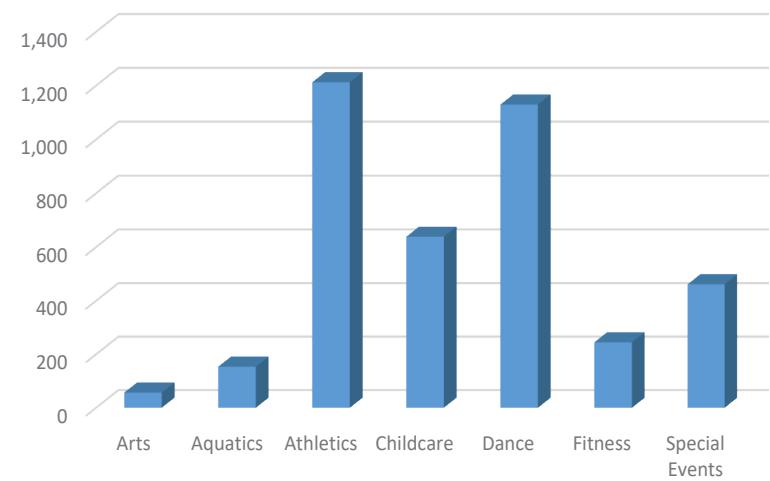
AQUATICS
154



ATHLETICS
1,213

CHILD CARE
639

DANCE
1,130



SPECIAL EVENTS
462

2020 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Baseball & Softball Field Improvements at Byron High School

New concrete pads, new dugouts, and new foul line and dugout fencing were completed on the t-ball and coach pitch fields. A new portable pitching mound was purchased for the 13-14 baseball league.

Building Addition and Renovation at the Byron School District

A 14,660 square foot facility addition was completed at the Byron PE Center located between Byron High School and Mary Morgan Elementary School. The addition features a 6,000 square foot fitness center, two 1,800 square foot dance/aerobics studios, a centralized lobby and guest services desk, Park District Administration Offices, and a parking lot addition.

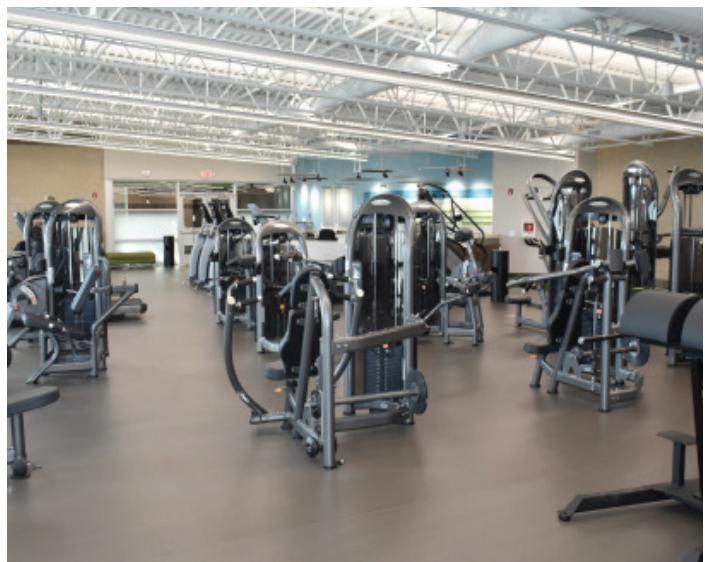
Renovations were also completed in the adjacent interior hallways and locker rooms. The new fitness center includes cardio equipment, a 20 piece weight circuit, free-weight equipment, and an astroturf training area. The dance/aerobic studios have wood sprung floors, mirrors, barres, and AV equipment.

Fitness Equipment

Several pieces of free weight equipment was purchased for the new fitness center. Three power rack cages, platforms, benches and accessories, four free weight benches, new barbells, new dumbbells, new weight plates, and several other smaller pieces of equipment were purchased.

Technology Improvements

The District purchased a new MacBook Air for the Cultural Arts Department and additional wi-fi access points for the facility addition.



2020 REVENUES & EXPENSES

2020 Revenues

TAXES
\$888,164

The Park District receives less than 6% of the total property tax levied on Byron property owners.

CHARGES FOR SERVICES
\$318,613

The Byron Park District offers approximately 310+ recreation programs in the areas of athletics, aquatics, child care, fitness, fine arts, & special events.

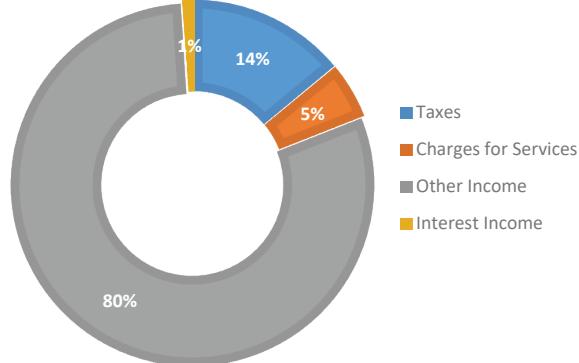
OTHER INCOME
\$4,870,257

Other income is comprised of bond issues, grant proceeds, insurance reimbursements, and miscellaneous revenues.

INTEREST INCOME
\$19,826

Interest earned on invested District funds.

TOTAL REVENUES
\$6,096,860



2020 Expenses

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
\$406,218

The administrative and maintenance cost of operating the District and its parks.

RECREATION
\$510,478

The cost to operate the District's recreation facilities and programs.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
\$4,230,894

The cost of the 2020 capital improvement projects.

DEBT SERVICE
\$585,338

Debt service pays the principle and interest payments, along with issuance costs for bonds and debt certificates sold on behalf of the District to fund capital projects

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$5,732,928

