

BYRON PARK DISTRICT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

The Byron Park District's 2021 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 2021 Annual Financial Report, which can be viewed online at www.byronparks.org.

Questions or feedback regarding the 2021 Annual Report or 2021 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



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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 Constellation Energy'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, special events, and theatre performances 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.



Joe Parks Athletic Complex/ Tennis & Pickleball Courts

The Joe Parks Athletic Complex is owned by the Byron School District. The Park District utilizes seven of the ten baseball/softball diamonds and a wide variety of soccer fields to provide youth athletic camps and leagues to the community. The complex also has a concession stand, covered dugouts, playground, restrooms, and a shelter. 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. 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
713

PUNCH CARDS SOLD
289

DROP INS
3,561

TOTAL FITNESS VISITS
40,719



RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

ARTS
85

AQUATICS
87

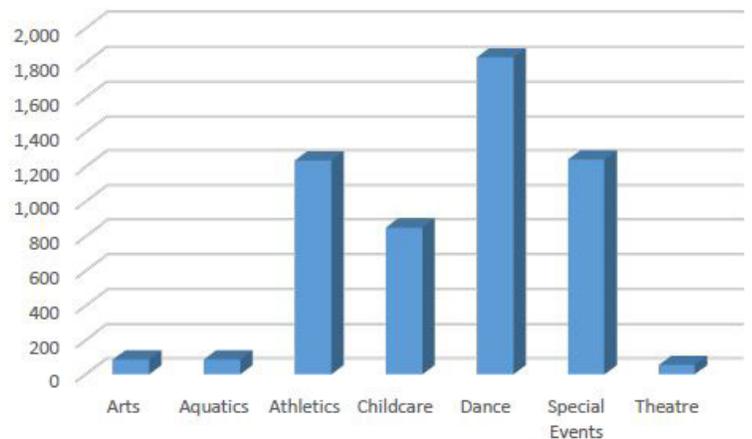
ATHLETICS
1,236

CHILD CARE
850

DANCE
1,831

SPECIAL EVENTS
1,242

THEATRE
55



2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Building Addition and Renovation at the Byron School District

Construction was completed on the 14,660 square foot facility addition in the first quarter of 2021. Monthly payments were made to Larson and Darby Architects and Russell Construction throughout the first two quarters of 2021. The final payment was issued to Russell Construction in the third quarter. The District also completed several items that were not included in the construction contract. These included new building signage, additional lobby and office furniture, and additional plumbing and electrical work.

Fitness Equipment

A multi-station cable crossover machine, a leg press machine, and several additional weighted bars were purchased for the free weight section of the fitness center. New stretching mats and brackets were purchased and installed. Refrigerators, blenders and various other pieces were purchased and installed for the new Juice Bar. A new washing machine, dryer and gym towels were purchased.

Technology Improvements

New security cameras, speakers, and wifi access points were purchased and installed throughout the facility. New televisions were purchased and installed in the dance studios, fitness center and conference room.



2021 REVENUES & EXPENSES

2021 Revenues

TAXES
\$932,648

CHARGES FOR SERVICES
\$602,503

OTHER INCOME
\$701,431

INTEREST INCOME
\$2,759

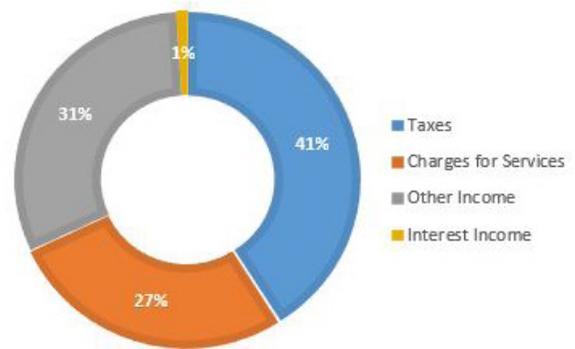
TOTAL REVENUES
\$2,239,341

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

The Byron Park District offers over 300 recreation programs in the areas of athletics, aquatics, child care, fitness, cultural arts, & special events.

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

Interest earned on invested District funds.



2021 Expenses

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
\$397,252

RECREATION
\$787,877

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
\$663,444

DEBT SERVICE
\$829,812

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$2,678,385

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

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

The cost of the 2021 capital improvement projects.

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

