

# BYRON PARK DISTRICT

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



## INTRODUCTION

The Byron Park District's 2019 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 2019 Annual Financial Report, which can be viewed online at [www.byronparks.org](http://www.byronparks.org).

Questions or feedback regarding the 2019 Annual Report or 2019 Annual Financial Report may be directed to Executive Director, Paul Zepezauer at [pzepezauer@byronparks.org](mailto: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 Excelon'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 5 full time and 60 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](http://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 Byron PE Center was constructed in 1996. The PE Center consists of an aerobics/dance studio, batting cages, child care room, fitness center, four basketball courts, indoor 200-meter track, multipurpose gym, racquetball courts, and a 25-yard swimming pool. The entrance to the PE Center is located between Mary Morgan Elementary School and Byron High School at Door #54.



## 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  
980

PUNCH CARDS SOLD  
558

DROP INS  
6,269

TOTAL FITNESS VISITS  
43,338



# RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

ARTS  
305

AQUATICS  
323

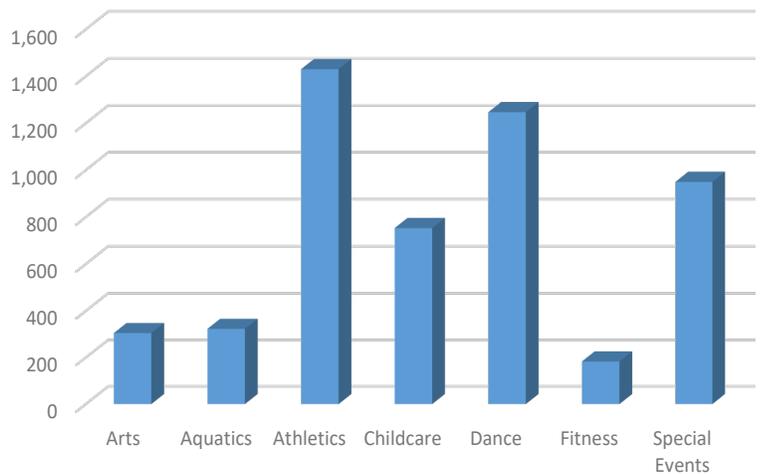
ATHLETICS  
1,430

CHILD CARE  
753

DANCE  
1,247

FITNESS  
183

SPECIAL EVENTS  
950



# 2019 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

## Baseball & Softball Field Improvements at Byron High School

New scoreboards and new player benches were installed on four fields. New concrete pads, new dugouts, new dugout fencing and new portable pitching mounds were added on two fields. A new playground was installed to serve both the baseball/softball fields and the soccer fields.

## Equipment Purchases at Byron High School

New fitness equipment was purchased for the free weight room. The backboards and rims were replaced in the Mary Morgan Elementary School Gym.

## Donald B. Johnson Riverfront Park Acquisition

The 10 acre property was purchased utilizing a grant from the Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund. The grant paid for approximately one third of the acquisition costs.

## Park Improvements

Baseball infields were installed at Blackhawk Meadow Park. New railings and ADA accessible benches were purchased for the boat docks and kayak launch at Hamas Park.

## Planning

The District began planning for a 15,000 square foot addition to the Byron PE Center for a new fitness center, fitness and dance studios, and staff offices. As a part of the project, the parking lot will also be expanded and 8,000 existing square feet will be renovated to provide additional space for child care and new programs.

## Slope Mower Purchase

A slope mower was purchased for Hamas Park so staff may safely mow the steep banking from the top of the park to the river.

## Technology Improvements

The District purchased several pieces of hardware and software. They include an email archiver, human resource management software, and workstations.



# 2019 REVENUES & EXPENSES

## 2019 Revenues

**TAXES**  
\$859,882

**CHARGES FOR SERVICES**  
\$613,398

**OTHER INCOME**  
\$514,207

**INTEREST INCOME**  
\$18,494

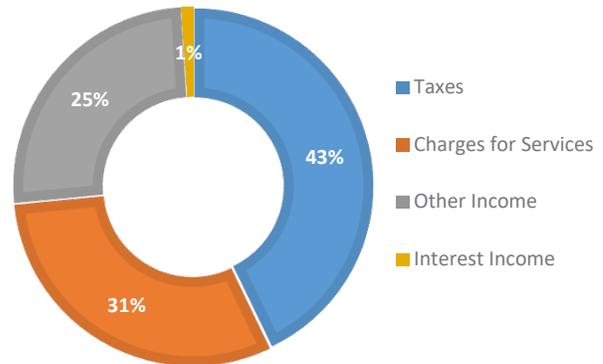
**TOTAL REVENUES**  
\$2,005,981

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

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

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

Interest earned on invested District funds.



## 2019 Expenses

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**  
\$353,961

**RECREATION**  
\$755,010

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**  
\$582,265

**DEBT SERVICE**  
\$448,337

**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
\$2,139,573

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 2019 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

