

**COLUMBUS RECREATION AND PARKS**

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
RECREATION AND PARKS

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Photo by Randall L. Schieber







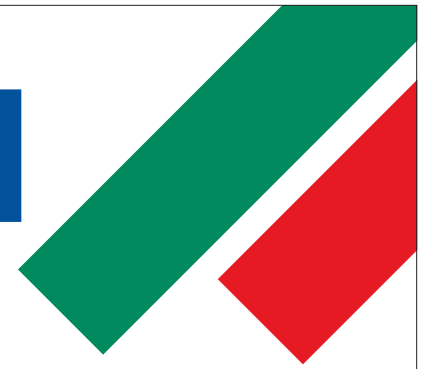
**COLUMBUS**  
RECREATION AUTHORITY

**SCIOTO SOUTHLAND  
COMMUNITY CENTER**  
3901 PARSONS AVENUE



# INTRODUCTION

## 2020 MILESTONES



**A**t the start of 2020, no one could have anticipated the incredible and necessary pivot our community would take to battle the economic and societal challenges of COVID-19. However, after an unprecedented year, with many twists and turns for Columbus' working families and youth, one thing rang true – the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department stood tall with Columbus residents every step of the way.

With the support of strong leadership from Mayor Andrew J. Ginther and the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Commission, our employees re-imagined, pivoted and expanded services to ensure the department could continue to fulfill its mission.

Our open spaces continued to serve as a vital resource for Columbus neighborhoods. With a dedicated team, the department's over 400 parks and 230 miles of regional trails remained open during the pandemic.

We re-imagined summer camps and programming by providing virtual programming and modified summer

camps for kids. Additionally, with many camps and daycares closed, we knew our camps weren't enough to meet the community's needs. To help fill the gap, we distributed \$2 million in grants, supported by the CARES Act, to support 40 nonprofits offering summer camps.

We made investments in capital projects by building the Linden Community Center, remodeling the Scioto Southland Community Center and purchasing the Douglas Arts Complex. In the future, we hope the new arts complex will foster community engagement with the arts.

We expanded access to trails by completing the Bethel Road trail connector. The Olentangy is one of the most populous trails in central Ohio. Residents near the Bethel Road and Olentangy River Road intersection can now easily access the 13.2-mile Olentangy Trail. In addition to trails, we continued to work on the Urban Forestry Master Plan, which will provide Columbus residents with a plan for cleaner and more prosperous neighborhoods by supporting plenty of green space, air that's easier to breathe and safe

drinking water. This is a monumental step forward for the department and aligns with the City's equity agenda.

Last, and most importantly, we focused on building a department that truly cares for the wellbeing of every resident we serve. A few years ago, we took on the task of defining our department's vision of a socially equitable city. Last year, we established a committee to hold our commitment to this promise. This year, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, we finalized the department's first-ever Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy with actionable goals and steps to meet the diverse needs of our community.

We rose to meet the community's needs in 2020, and I'm proud of every employee, volunteer and community member who made it a year to remember.

**Paul Rakosky, Interim Director**  
*Columbus Recreation and Parks  
Department*





# WHAT WE ARE

## RECREATION



**28**  
COMMUNITY  
CENTERS

+ facilities for cultural arts, outdoor  
education and therapeutic recreation

**5** ATHLETIC  
COMPLEXES



**6** GOLF COURSES



**8** OUTDOOR  
POOLS



+ AN INDOOR AQUATIC CENTER



**6** SPLASH PADS  
AND INTERACTIVE  
FOUNTAIN

## PARKS



**400**  
PARKS

**13,749** ACRES OF  
PARKLAND



**230**

MILES OF REGIONAL TRAILS

**3** RESERVOIRS

TOTALING 4,240 ACRES



**19** NATURE  
PRESERVES



**2** SKATE PARKS

for BMX, skateboards  
and rollerblades



**5** DOG  
PARKS



## RENTAL SPACES

**13** ENCLOSED  
VENUES

**20** OPEN-AIR  
SHELTERS





# WHO WE SERVE



# 16,060,993

## PEOPLE REACHED

via in-person and virtual events / programs and online content, email campaigns and social media



# 98,584

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AT  
5 ATHLETIC COMPLEXES



# 2,804

FITNESS ROOM VISITS



# 3,918

VOLUNTEERS

# 64,473

tournament / league participants and guests at  
**BERLINER SPORTS PARK**



# 28,751

COMMUNITY RECREATION  
PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS



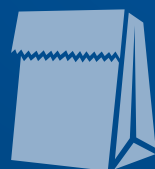
# 12,981

CELEBRATED A SPECIAL OCCASION  
AT DEPARTMENT RENTAL FACILITIES



# 7,969

PARTICIPANTS IN AQUATICS PROGRAMS



# 453,855

FREE MEALS SERVED  
through summer/afterschool food program



# 12,351

RESIDENTS WITH URGENT NEEDS  
ASSISTED VIA DIRECT OUTREACH

# 172,255

GOLF PARTICIPANTS



# 1,652

INDIVIDUAL YOUTH GRANT RECIPIENTS  
THROUGH THE **PLAY** PROGRAM



# 3,138

CULTURAL ARTS CENTER  
VISITORS AND CLASS PARTICIPANTS





# HOW WE CONSERVE



**21,638**  
TOTAL NUMBER OF  
**PARK TREES**

**2** GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROJECTS IN 2020 

 **500** NATIVE  
PLANTS  
PLANTED

**79**   
TOTAL COGO STATIONS



**94,500**  
BAGS OF TRASH  
REMOVED FROM PARKS

**35** LBS  
PRAIRIE  
SEED

SPREAD AT WHETSTONE PRAIRIE



**30.88**  
TOTAL ACRES OF  
POLLINATOR HABITAT

**33** POLLINATOR  
GARDENS 



**22,997** kWh  
FROM SOLAR PANELS  
ON OUR NET-ZERO BUILDING  
at the McKnight Outdoor Education Center

**936** 

STREET AND PARK  
TREES PLANTED IN 2020



**8.94**  
MILES OF STATE-DESIGNATED  
**WATER TRAIL**  
ON OLENTANGY RIVER



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION





**B**uilding a socially equitable city is the driving vision for the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. As the department developed the 2019-2024 Mission Forward Strategic Plan, this vision needed to become a tangible reality. Thus, in 2020, the department formed the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (D.E.I.) Committee and adopted an official D.E.I. policy to

guide the department's work in tandem with the organization's strategic plan.

Over the years, the department has worked to hire a diverse workforce, leverage minority- and female-owned businesses' expertise, and communicate via multicultural channels to support its mission. However, as Columbus continues to flourish, the department must take a pro-active and thoughtful approach

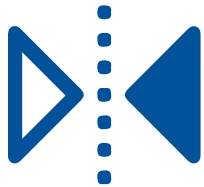
to exceed community expectations for equity.

Through the D.E.I. policy and committee, the department aims to ensure everyone has access to exceptional parks and recreational opportunities. More specifically, the department seeks to unite and utilize the City's diversity by connecting all people to the highest quality of service, access, and inclusion. The department values a culture

that holds employees accountable for maintaining a safe and discrimination-free environment for people of any race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment), national origin, disability, ancestry, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or military status.

Over the next several years, the department will prioritize four goals to achieve its vision.

## GOALS



### Goal 1

Have a **workforce broadly reflective of the community.**



### Goal 2

Attract, train and retain a workforce **skilled at working in a diverse and inclusive environment.**



### Goal 3

Create equitable processes, policies, plans, practices, programs and services that **meet the diverse need of those we serve.**



### Goal 4

Leverage established procurement systems to enhance equitable processes, policies, plans, practices, programs and services that **meet the diverse needs of contractors, vendors, consultants and those with whom we conduct business.**

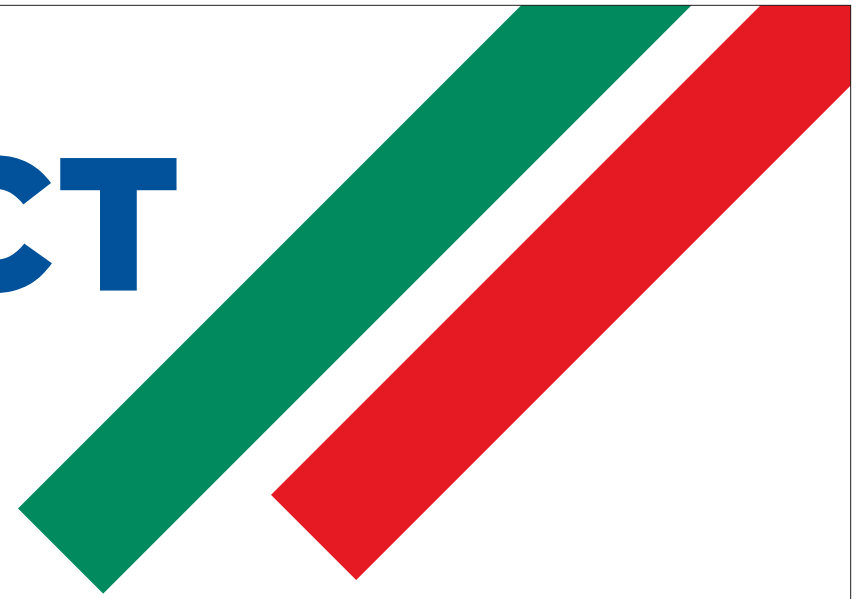






# OUR IMPACT

## CREATIVITY HELPS BATTLE PANDEMIC STRESS



**T**he arts can reduce stress and increase one's sense of well-being. In 2020, the department knew that helping residents tap into their creativity was more important than ever to reduce the anxiety and feelings of isolation brought on by the pandemic.

With facilities closed, the department introduced several at-home arts programs to help engage residents in artistic endeavors. Programming focused on a variety of age groups and experience levels, including **Create @ Home** for adults and **Art with Kids @ Home**. Videos were streamed on social media and were available online after the live event. The team also launched a series of

art challenges to offer art education and create a sense of community. Some challenges focused on a specific technique to enhance a skill, while others asked residents to share work focused on a common theme that residents could share with each other.

Virtual programming helped residents engage in the creative arts from the safety of their homes. The Cultural Arts Center (CAC) reimaged Conversations and Coffee, the City's longest-running artist talk series, into a virtual format. Carriage Place Players, a theater group out of the Carriage Place Community Center, recorded then broadcast "Humbug on a String." This new take on the classic A Christmas

Carol featuring puppets added a little spirit to the holiday season.

The CAC's classes as well as some exhibits are made possible thanks to its faculty. With the arts community hit hard by the pandemic, the CAC wanted to show support for these talented and dedicated artists. A new online store, **CREATED**, moved the CAC's gift shop online, offering a new way for faculty to sell their work. An online faculty exhibit enabled faculty to feature their work while the gallery was closed.

Finding new ways to engage residents in creative efforts helped the community navigate the stress brought on by the pandemic.

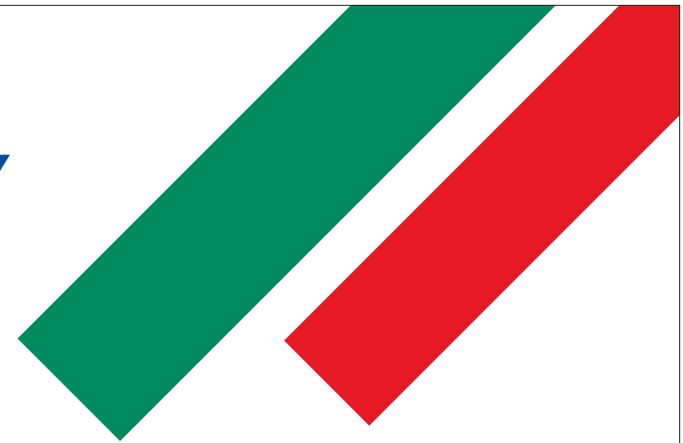




“There is a huge love for soccer within our community and the mini-pitch will offer our youth endless hours of opportunity to practice, play and master their craft...”



# COMMUNITY PARTNER



## COLUMBUS CREW SC CONTINUES MAKING SOCCER ACCESSIBLE TO THE COMMUNITY

**C**ommunity partnerships play a significant role in helping some of the City's most vulnerable residents to access state-of-the art recreation facilities.

In 2020, Columbus Crew SC and the Columbus Crew SC Foundation donated two soccer mini-pitches at Sullivant Gardens Community Center and Blackburn Community Center. The mini-pitches offer residents a safe place for soccer practice and games. The lighted all-weather surface is safe and inviting, especially as the sun starts to go down.

"Increasing access to safe places to play soccer helps to improve lives and communities," said Crew SC Executive Vice President and Chief Business Office Steve Lyons. "Beyond the health benefits of exercise, physical activity

and the positive influence on the mental well-being of children, our mini-pitches provide a place that brings youth and families together through soccer."

This brings to eight the number of Field Development Projects, all of which are located around the Central Ohio area and are fully-funded by the Crew SC Foundation.

"There is a huge love for soccer within our community and the mini-pitch will offer our youth endless hours of opportunity to practice, play and master their craft," said Mike Terlecky, center manager for Sullivant Gardens. "I'm also hoping that, with the addition of the mini-pitch, soccer continues to grow within our community, offering everyone a place to go, be active and have fun learning this great game."


The partnership also brings Soccer for Success programming, a free after-school program that helps children establish healthy habits and develop critical life skills through trained coach-mentors and community engagement.

This partnership, along with access to state-of-the-art facilities, is making a difference for area youth. Recently, Sullivant Garden's top 13-year-old player was signed to the Columbus Crew SC Academy, further emphasizing the benefit – and need – for courts like this in inner city communities.

Community partnerships play a significant role in helping some of the City's most vulnerable residents to access state-of-the art recreation facilities.







“ The department is  
dedicated to ensuring  
Columbus continues  
to be America’s  
Opportunity City...” ”



# BUDGET



The 2020 operating budget totaled \$56,353,000. Charged with a commitment to conservation, health and wellness, and social equity, the department is dedicated to ensuring Columbus continues to be America's Opportunity City.

This is accomplished through sustainable programming, connecting

neighborhoods and being open for all. The 2020 budget included funding that supports the City of Columbus priorities, the department's daily operations, diversity and inclusion training and building strategic partnerships and programs to support cost-recovery initiatives.

## \$54,242,515

2019 BUDGET | ACTUAL

## \$56,353,000

2020 BUDGET | ACTUAL

## \$53,456,642

2021 BUDGET | PROPOSED

# STAFF

## 345 + 1,304 =

FULL-TIME

PART-TIME

## 1,649



2018 TOTAL # OF EMPLOYEES

## 356 + 1,361 =

FULL-TIME

PART-TIME

## 1,717



2019 TOTAL # OF EMPLOYEES

## 353 + 1,414 =

FULL-TIME

PART-TIME

## 1,767



2020 TOTAL # OF EMPLOYEES



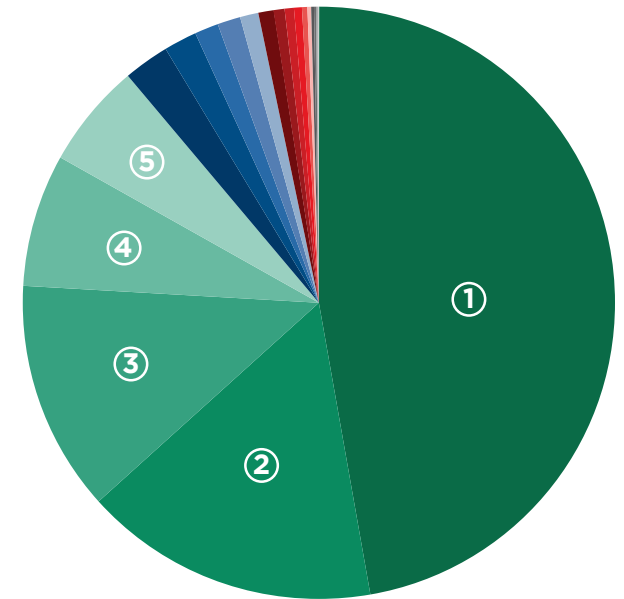




# 2020 REVENUE

## TOP 5 SOURCES

- ① **Golf** 47.2%
- ② **Adult Sports** 16.1%
- ③ **CIP Reimbursement** 12.6%
- ④ **Rental Services** 7.2%
- ⑤ **Recreation Centers** 5.7%



Golf.....	\$4,119,361
Adult Sports .....	\$1,405,465
CIP Reimbursements .....	\$1,099,294
Permits.....	\$630,533
Community Centers .....	\$499,828
Outdoor Recreation .....	\$217,173
Cultural Arts Center .....	\$157,279
Summer Camps .....	\$113,661
Boat Clubs .....	\$108,156
Aquatics .....	\$87,365
Youth Sports .....	\$72,969


Activenet Transaction Fees .....	\$52,717
Rent.....	\$44,208
Play Grant Distribution .....	\$37,647
Therapeutic Recreation .....	\$25,515
Fitness.....	\$17,886
Special Activities Permits.....	\$13,246
Refunds.....	\$10,188
Misc. Revenue / Other .....	\$4,373
Senior Community Centers .....	\$4,186
Tennis .....	\$3,600
Recreation Center IDs.....	\$745



## TOTAL EARNED REVENUE:

# \$8,725,395

## GRANTS, SPONSORSHIPS, DONATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS:


**\$7,798,945** CASH + **\$573,294** IN-KIND = **\$8,372,239** <sup>TOTAL</sup>







# TOP 10

## HIGH-IMPACT PROJECTS

2020 CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
BUDGET TOTAL:

**\$26.9  
MILLION**

*based on account deposits*

**New  
Development**  
28%

**Program  
Projects**  
10%

**Acquisitions**  
6%

**Emergency**  
3%

**Quickstrike  
Opportunity**  
3%

**Renovation**  
50%

- 1 Community Creative Campus Design
- 2 Glenwood and Windsor Outdoor Pools Design
- 3 Olentangy Trail: Northmoor to Clinton-Como Park Engineering
- 4 North Bank Park and Goodale Park Shelterhouse Improvements
- 5 Playgrounds and Amenity Replacements
- 6 Energy Efficiency Upgrades
- 7 Community Sports Park Design
- 8 Hoover Reservoir: Public Dock and ADA-compliant Fishing Pier Engineering
- 9 Tuttle Park: Field Redevelopment and Skate Park
- 10 Urban Forestry Master Plan Implementation



# OUR MISSION

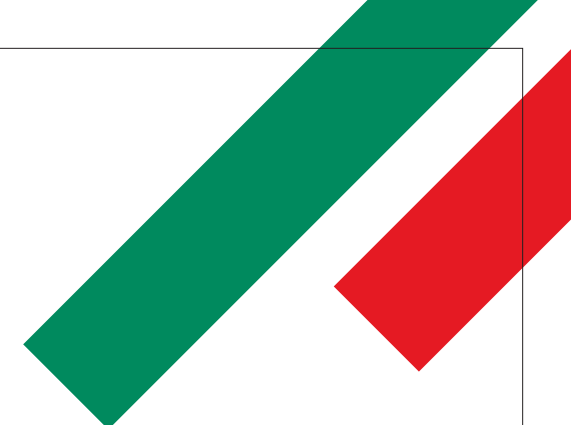
**WE CONNECT THE PEOPLE  
OF OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE POWER OF  
NATURE, WELLNESS AND CREATIVITY.**





# OUR VISION

A SOCIALLY  
EQUITABLE CITY



## OUR VALUES



### Joy

Our programs and activities are fun, celebrate culture and add to our quality of life.



### Nature

As stewards of the land, we invest heavily in conserving our natural environment.



### Legacy

Our assets are entrusted for generations to come, which is why we plan for tomorrow, not just today.



### Community

We embed in our neighborhoods, know our participants and serve as a gathering place for all.

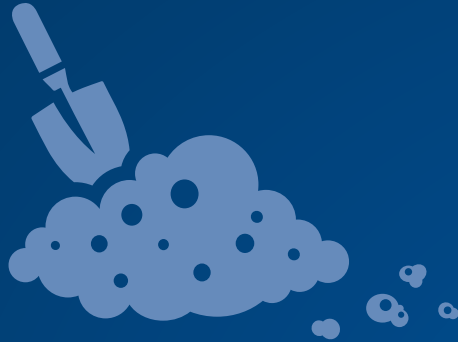


### Open

We communicate in multiple languages, design for accessibility, program for inclusion, and hire to represent the people we serve.



# CULTIVATING SUCCESS



## OUR MAYOR'S GOALS

- ▶ Public Safety and Health
- ▶ Neighborhoods
- ▶ Economic Development
- ▶ Early Childhood Education
- ▶ Diversity and Inclusion
- ▶ Smart Columbus
- ▶ Operational Efficiencies



## OUR COMMISSION'S GOALS

- CRPD Master Plan**
- ▶ Parks and Facilities
  - ▶ Community Centers / Programs
  - ▶ Organizational Development



## OUR PROFESSIONAL GOALS

- National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Pillars**
- ▶ Conservation
  - ▶ Health and Wellness
  - ▶ Social Equity





# HOW WE **PRIORITIZE** AND MAKE **DECISIONS**

## THE SUN

Nurtured by our **Key Success Factors**, the seeds take root and begin to sprout.

- ▶ **Smart Growth**  
Investing, innovating and embracing change
- ▶ **Sustainability**  
Finding efficient, cost-effective solutions and community partnerships
- ▶ **Communicate Value**  
Sharing our story and making connections
- ▶ **Organizational Development**  
Organizing, educating and empowering staff
- ▶ **Culture of Excellence**  
Delivering a market-based approach to better serve our community



## THE RESULT

Columbus Recreation and Parks helps Columbus grow toward becoming **America's Opportunity City.**



# OUR LEADERSHIP

## Our Mayor

Andrew J. Ginther | Mayor

## Our City Council Department Chair

Elizabeth C. Brown | Councilmember

## Our Commission

Derrick R. Clay | President  
Terrie TerMeer | Vice President  
Jennifer Adair, Esq.  
Gregg Dodd  
Alvis Moore  
Letha Pugh  
Karla Rothan  
Bettye Stull  
Jamie Wilson

## Our Department Leadership

Paul Rakosky | Interim Director  
Eric Brandon | Assistant Director  
Troy Euton | Assistant Director  
Bernita Reese | Assistant Director  
Sophia Fifner | Community Relations Chief  
Cindy Farson | Director, Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging

*Current as of March 2021*







# CONNECT WITH **US**

[ColumbusRecParks.com](https://ColumbusRecParks.com)



@ColumbusRecParks



@ColsRecParks



@ColsRecParks

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department | 1111 East Broad Street | Columbus, Ohio 43205 | 614.645.3300

