

# BYRON PARK DISTRICT

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Dance Program 2024

## ■ INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The Byron Park District's 2024 Annual Report provides highlights of the District's activities, accomplishments, and finances throughout the past year. The financial data provided in this report was drawn from the 2024 Annual Financial Report, which can be viewed online at [www.byronparks.org](http://www.byronparks.org). Questions or feedback regarding the 2024 Annual Report or 2024 Annual Financial Report may be directed to Executive Director, Nick Warrner at [nwarrner@byronparks.org](mailto:nwarrner@byronparks.org).

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, recreation facilities, 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 facilities and programs 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 facility fees, 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 4 full time and 75 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.

## ■ 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



**Bruce Boyle**  
President



**RACHEL ORACKI**  
Vice President



**JUDD GRIFFITH**  
Treasurer



**Jeff Wilmarth**  
Secretary



**Seth Newton**  
Commissioner

## ■ 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 baseball/softball fields, two basketball goals, two permanent Bag Game sets, large picnic pavilion, and a Playground located along a 1/3 mile perimeter walking path. Blackhawk Meadow Park is an on-leash dog friendly park.



### Donald B. Johnson Riverfront Park

Donald B. Johnson Riverfront Park was purchased from the Johnson family in 2019. The 10 acre property is located on the southwest side of Byron. A portion of the purchase was paid by a grant awarded through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Through an additional grant, the site was further developed in 2022 & 2023 to include a playground, parking lots, sidewalks, asphalt & natural trails, a picnic shelter, a fishing station, and a river overlook area.



### Hamas Park

In 2014, ownership of Hamas Park was transferred to the Park District. In 2017, the park was completely regraded and has a 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 the 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.



### Tiger Town Park

In 2014, ownership of Tiger Town Park was transferred to the Park District. This 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.



### Byron PE Center

The original Byron PE Center was a shared facility constructed in 1996 for the School District and the Park District and included two fitness rooms, an aerobics room, an indoor track, and four basketball courts. In 2020, the Byron Park District completed a 14,660 sq. ft. facility expansion featuring a 6,000 sq. ft. fitness center, two 1,800 sq. ft. 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 & locker rooms.

# 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

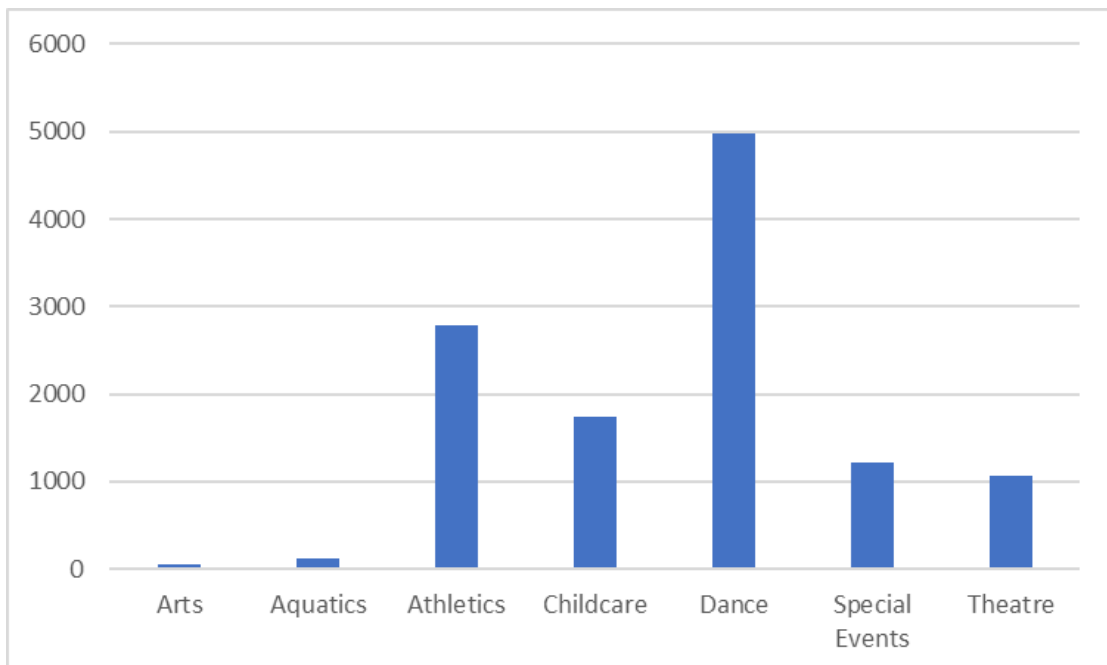
Park visits and recreation programs such as athletic leagues and tournaments, dance recitals, special events, and theatre performances generate economic activity including increased sales at gas stations, grocery stores, and restaurants.

# FACILITY USAGE

<b>Memberships Issued</b> .....	<b>3,219</b>	<b>Drop Ins</b> .....	<b>4,333</b>
<b>Punch Cards Sold</b> .....	<b>222</b>	<b>Total Fitness Visits</b> .....	<b>57,164</b>

# RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

<b>Arts</b> .....	<b>62</b>	<b>Dance</b> .....	<b>4,978</b>
<b>Aquatics</b> .....	<b>125</b>	<b>Special Events</b> .....	<b>1,213</b>
<b>Athletics</b> .....	<b>2,793</b>	<b>Theatre</b> .....	<b>1,070</b>
<b>Childcare</b> .....	<b>1,745</b>		



# ■ 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

## Johnson Park Improvements

New benches, drainage materials, and signage were installed.

## Facility Improvements

A new multipurpose room construction was completed.

## Fitness Equipment

Several new pieces of equipment were purchased.

## IT Equipment

Several new workstations were purchased to replace old and expiring hardware.

# ■ 2024 REVENUES & EXPENSES

## 2024 Revenues

### TAXES

**\$1,113,876**

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

### CHARGES FOR SERVICES

**\$1,190,190**

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

### OTHER INCOME

**\$9,225**

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

### INTEREST INCOME

**\$29,049**

Interest earned on invested District funds.

### TOTAL REVENUES

**\$2,342,340**

## 2024 Expenses

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

**\$426,912**

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

### RECREATION

**\$1,627,551**

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

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

**\$89,288**

The cost of the 2024 capital improvement projects.

### DEBT SERVICE

**\$126,639**

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

**\$2,181,102**