



# Department of Parks and Recreation 2021 Budget Presentation



## **PARKS BUREAU – TYPICAL MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 36 public parks & playgrounds (2,000+ acres of park land/35+ miles of trails)
- 4 swimming pools/2 spray parks
- 1 golf course
- 1 dog park
- 1 stadium – Earl F. Hunsicker Stadium at Bicentennial Park
- 1 trout nursery
- 1 roller hockey rink
- 1 skate park
- 8 volleyball courts
- 10 handball courts
- 11 tennis courts
- 21 baseball fields
- 22 basketball courts
- Snow removal of park paths & 115 miles of Allentown west end streets
- Tree removals in public right-of-way as needed
- Dam maintenance for minimum 4 dams
- Several historic structures
- Lights in the Parkway set-up/removal



**ALL PARKS REMAINED OPEN  
RESTROOMS WITH RUNNING  
WATER REMAINED OPEN**

## IMPACT OF COVID-19

**ALLENTOWN MUNICIPAL GOLF  
COURSE REOPENED MAY 1, 2020**

**DANGER**

**STOP THE SPREAD OF DEADLY  
CORONAVIRUS COVID-19.**

- WEAR A FACE MASK.
- STAY AT LEAST SIX FEET APART FROM OTHERS.
- COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES.

*Thank You for Your Cooperation.*

## AMENITIES CLOSED



**DUE TO COVID-19,  
PLAYGROUND  
EQUIPMENT IS  
CURRENTLY CLOSED**

To protect the public from exposure to COVID-19 and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Allentown, high-touch surfaces such as playground equipment have been closed.

*Our City of Allentown parks remain open for other uses during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USING CITY PARKS DURING COVID-19:**

- ✓ Take advantage of the walking trails
- ✓ Practice social distancing while using the park, maintaining six feet of space between you and others
- ✓ Please do not use the park if you or your child is sick
- ✓ Wash your hands often for 20 seconds and do not touch your face, mouth or eyes

For more info see our social media pages:



**COVID-19  
LOCAL RULES**

- PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING BY MAINTAINING  
6 FT SEPARATION AT ALL TIMES
- LEAVE FLAGSTICK IN THE CUP AT ALL TIMES
- DO NOT TOUCH OTHER PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT  
OR COURSE ACCESSORIES
- IF CDC GUIDELINES ARE NOT FOLLOWED, YOU  
WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE COURSE

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

**DUE TO COVID-19, THE  
DOG PARK IS  
CURRENTLY CLOSED**

To protect the public from exposure to COVID-19 and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Allentown, high-touch surfaces and gathering places such as the City's Dog Park have been closed.

*Our City of Allentown parks remain open for other uses during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USING CITY PARKS DURING COVID-19:**

- ✓ Take advantage of the walking trails
- ✓ Practice social distancing while using the park, maintaining six feet of space between you and others
- ✓ Please do not use the park if you or your child is sick
- ✓ Wash your hands often for 20 seconds and do not touch your face, mouth or eyes

For more info see our social media pages:

**DUE TO COVID-19, THE  
KECK PARK SKATEPARK  
IS CURRENTLY CLOSED**

To protect the public from exposure to COVID-19 and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Allentown, high-touch surfaces and gathering places such as the Keck Park Skatepark have been closed.

*Our City of Allentown parks remain open for other uses during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USING CITY PARKS DURING COVID-19:**

- ✓ Take advantage of the walking trails
- ✓ Practice social distancing while using the park, maintaining six feet of space between you and others
- ✓ Please do not use the park if you or your child is sick
- ✓ Wash your hands often for 20 seconds and do not touch your face, mouth or eyes

For more info see our social media pages:



## PARKS MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES UNDER COVID-19

With exponential increase of park visitors came significant increase in litter

- Only 4 “critical” maintenance employees maintained parks & trails for 2 weeks

With spring weather rapidly approaching & mindful of COVID restrictions

- April 1 – COVID plan developed to gradually & safely return all maintenance employees
- April 6 - 17 employees returned to work
- April 20 - all 40 maintenance employees were fully-engaged
- Regular maintenance operations functioned daily
- Caution tape replaced almost daily around playground equipment
- Additional COVID signage placed/replaced weekly

Anticipating “Green” phase in summer

- 2 Pools made ready to potentially open July 4 weekend
- Sports fields periodically maintained

**Effect COVID-19**  
**No Summer**  
**Seasonal Hires**



## PARKS MAINTENANCE 2020 SUCCESSES

- Conducted daily maintenance activities in a manner to mitigate employee COVID-19 exposure risk and ensure safety of both employees and the public
- Conducted daily maintenance and regular sanitization of all public restrooms with running water (other restrooms remained closed)
- Regularly removed sports equipment placed on city sports fields by the public to deter organized sports activities during mandated “shut down”
- Completed following improvements
  - West Park bandshell
  - WPA projects
    - Lehigh Parkway wall – Phase 1
    - Junction Street
  - Mack Pool repairs, painting, electrical work
  - Lehigh Parkway “Fly Shop” – new roof
  - Dog Park at Dixon Street – replaced gate control system
  - Andre Reed Park & Roosevelt Park - installed pickle ball courts



## PARKS MAINTENANCE 2020 SUCCESSES (cont'd)

- Lehigh Parkway - completed milemarker project in collaboration with Lehigh Valley Roadrunners
- Trexler Park - extensive invasive tree removal/native tree replacement
- Addressed following issues resulting from Tropical Storm Isaias
  - Extensive tree removals in parks and streets/public right-of-way
- Cedar Creek Parkway
  - Park pathways - redressed
  - Asphalt repairs made
  - Cedar Pool - drained and cleaned due to flooding
- Jordan Meadows
  - Extensive removal of vegetation
  - Irrigation repairs to the football field
- Jordan Park & Trout Creek Parkway
  - Park pathways – redressed
- Lehigh Parkway – pathways reconstructed



## RECREATION BUREAU - TYPICAL ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

- Basketball – year-round & Queen of the Court (middle school)
- Volleyball – winter & summer
- Baseball – spring into fall
- Aquatics – year-round programs
- Summer Playground Program (8-weeks)
- Soccer
- Pickleball
- Summer Concert series, Saturday in the Park
- Special events
  - Romper Day
  - Fishing in the Park
  - Cedar Sports Day



## RECREATION BUREAU ACTIVITIES UNDER COVID-19

### Timeline

- March 16 – COVID restrictions in place at Parks/Rec office
- March 23 – all recreational activities cancelled
- March 30 - all office employees working from home
- April 20 – all office employees furloughed (excluding Rhoads & El-Chaar)
- June 15 – all furloughed personnel returned to full-time work with in-office presence; office opened to public with COVID restrictions
- Mid-July to early-August sports field rentals allowed, then shut down; pavilion rentals with COVID restrictions continued through end-October



## RECREATION BUREAU 2020 SUCCESSES

Due to inability of offering in-person recreational programs in addition to the recent announcement of ASD education remaining on-line through January 31, 2021, Rec staff created virtual programs to do at home or in a park

- Water Safety Wednesdays available mid-July onwards
- Queen of the Court – annual fall offering for middle school girls – basketball coach demonstrating skills/drills and guest speakers presenting life skills
- Mindful Mondays – relaxation, breathing & de-stressing techniques
- 5-day fitness programs – easy fitness activities for elementary-age children
- Soccer Saturday – soccer basics for elementary-age children
- Learn to Swim at Home – swim coach presents basic techniques for children and their caregivers
- DIY recreation activities

Introduction of MyRec software – web-based recreation facility management and registration software which provides for on-line payments and reservations at the convenience of the public.



## MyRec Recreation Management Software

- Contactless POS system for online registrations, reservations and payments (credit/debit cards)
- Household/Family user accounts for ease of use
- Paperless program management (forms/contacts/scheduling)
- Single management system for recreation/aquatics/concessions
- Online POS store capabilities
- Membership capabilities with photos
- Easy to access library of information about Parks and Recreation
- Overall improved customer service and streamlined operations



City of Allentown Parks & Recreation

Home Register Facilities General Info Contact Account

• REGISTER NOW •

Programs Log In New Account Contact Us

View our programs and activities

Let us serve you better! Create an Account

Go for a walk every day

View All

**Welcome to the City of Allentown Parks and Recreation Department**

We are proud to provide you with our activity registration system and website. To get started please [Create an Account](#) with all your household information. The data provided - emergency contacts, medical information, etc. - will help us better serve you. This info will also be automatically placed into your registration forms.

When you're ready to start registering for [activities](#), be sure to review the [How to Register for an Activity page](#).



## ALLENTOWN MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE ACTIVITIES UNDER COVID-19

- March 17 – April 30 Golf Course closed
- May 1 – Course reopened following CDC and Governor Wolf guidelines, reviewed by Vicky Kistler and Jeffrey Nelson
  - Point of sale contact – payment by credit card only
  - Scheduled separate riding and walking tee times
  - Sanitized golf carts after each use
  - Controlled social distancing of golfers at driving range
- Implemented programs to reduce mowing frequency, applied additional top-dressing and growth regulators
- Closing of the course to the public provided time to improve course turf quality



## KEY 2020 ALLENTOWN MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE SUCCESSES

- \$1.43 million in revenue (through October 31)
- Generated \$250,000 in driving range revenue; 45% ahead of 2020 projection
- Anticipate more than 40,000 rounds of golf for 2020 season
- Over 60 trees planted on the course in fall 2020
- *Turfgrass Disease Solutions* favorable report on course conditions
- Addressed issues caused by Tropical Storm Isaias and saved 3 greens and 4 tee complexes
- Golf Course Superintendent, Chris Reverie, won the Grassroots Ambassador Leadership Award presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America



## 2020 GRANTS

- \$1.0 million – PennDOT/TASA – Jordan Creek Greenway Trail construction
- \$500,000 – DCNR – Jordan Creek Greenway Trail construction
- \$250,000 – DCNR – Valania Park construction
- \$130,000 – NRPA/Niagara Bottling – Valania Park construction

## 2020 KEY PROJECTS

Auburn Cross Trails – design complete	Cedar Creek bridges – construction documents bid issued
Percy Ruhe Park-concession stand acquired	Jordan Skatepark – construction contract awarded
Martin Luther King, Jr. Trail - design contract awarded	Jordan Creek Greenway Trail – construction inspection contract awarded (via PennDOT)
Irving Pool - design contract awarded	Mack Pool – concession stand design in process
Bucky Boyle – property acquisition	Golf Course restaurant - award



## 2020 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



Funds saved due to COVID-19 reallocated to projects that will pay future dividends

Transfers from Aquatics/Recreation to projects:

Amount	Application
\$80,000	Bucky Boyle basketball court property acquisition
\$40,000	Percy Ruhe Park concession stand roof repair
\$25,000	Percy Ruhe Park master plan – matching grant requirement (DCED)
\$13,658	Jordan Creek Greenway trail – additional design work
\$7,200	Storage space rental for Parks equipment



## 2021 KEY GOALS/PROJECTS



Jordan Skate Park (construction)	MLK Jr. Trail (design)
Valania Park (construction)	Jordan Pool (design)
Jordan Creek Greenway Trail (construction)	Bogert's Covered Bridge (design)
Bucky Boyle spray park (construction)	Canal Park boat ramp (design)
Lehigh Parkway WPA (construction)	Little Lehigh River & Cedar Creek dams (maintenance)
Cedar Creek bridges (construction)	Trexler Park/Daddona Park waterways (maintenance)
Mack Pool concession stand (construction)	MyRec software roll-out
Percy Ruhe concession stand (construction)	Expand soccer, softball & pickleball sports programs
Irving Pool (design/construction)	Continue virtual sports/aquatics programs
Percy Ruhe master plan (design)	Allentown Municipal Golf Course restaurant (integration)