



RECREATION SNAPSHOT 2020

City of Sharonville Recreation Department Annual Report



Message from The Director

I am proud to present the City of Sharonville Parks & Recreation Department's 2020 Annual Report. This report includes many of the great things that our department was able to accomplish in the past year.

The department faced one of the most challenging years in recent memory in 2020 with the global pandemic and multitude of burdensome restrictions that put an abrupt end to our wave of momentum. It became clear early in the pandemic timeline that the impact to our operation would be widespread and last for quite some time.

We quickly turned our focus to finding opportunities to keep our members and community engaged and entertained. With an already existing captive audience through our Facebook page, our department was one of the first in our region to take our operation virtual. Multiple posts were published daily for the duration of quarantine including activities, trivia, recipes, important updates, and much more.

As the pandemic became more serious and quarantines extended, the need for our department to be a source of fun and normalcy during a challenging time grew and grew. Our staff, across all areas of the building, met virtually countless times to discuss ways that we were going to be successful and safe upon reopening. When the guidelines became available our department was well ahead of the curve for implementation. We are proud that we led the recreation industry in our area and the state in a responsible restart. Our communication to the public was clear and widespread. Our safety procedures went above and beyond the best practices established by the state and CDC leading folks returning to our building to feel safe and more importantly a sense of normalcy.

Our clear goal in January 2020 was to turn our focus to customer service in an effort to deepen connections and relationships with our community. I believe that what our department does is critical to our community's well-being. We are not first responders because we do not react to situations. We are creators because we are proactive to meet the needs of our community. We are vital because at the end of the day, everything that we do as a department extends people's lives and makes their lives better.

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Department Overview

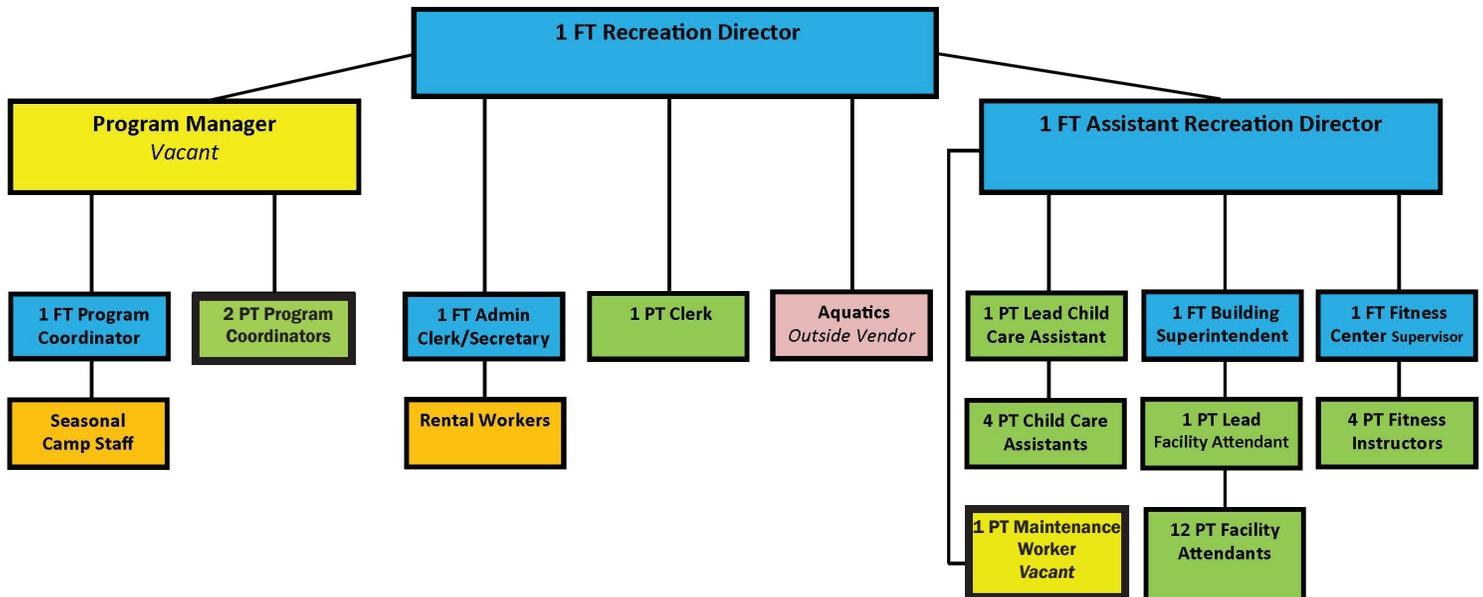
The Sharonville Parks & Recreation Department team currently consists of 6 full time employees, 25 part time employees, and 12-18 seasonal staff. Our responsibilities are broken down in to several broad categories including administration, programming, fitness, facility operations, and child care. The organizational chart below outlines the internal structure of our department.

Our Community Center doors are open for operation 7 days a week for a total of 86 hours.

- Monday thru Thursday - 15 hours (per day)
- Friday - 13 hours
- Saturday - 9 hours
- Sunday - 5 hours

Our facilities include a 50,000 square foot Community Center with 3 basketball courts, an indoor track, a fitness center, 5 multipurpose/programming spaces, a nursery, an aerobics room, and locker rooms. We have 4 large parks across the city with multiple outdoor sports fields, playgrounds, and shelters. We have an outdoor aquatic facility including some of the nicest pools in the region.

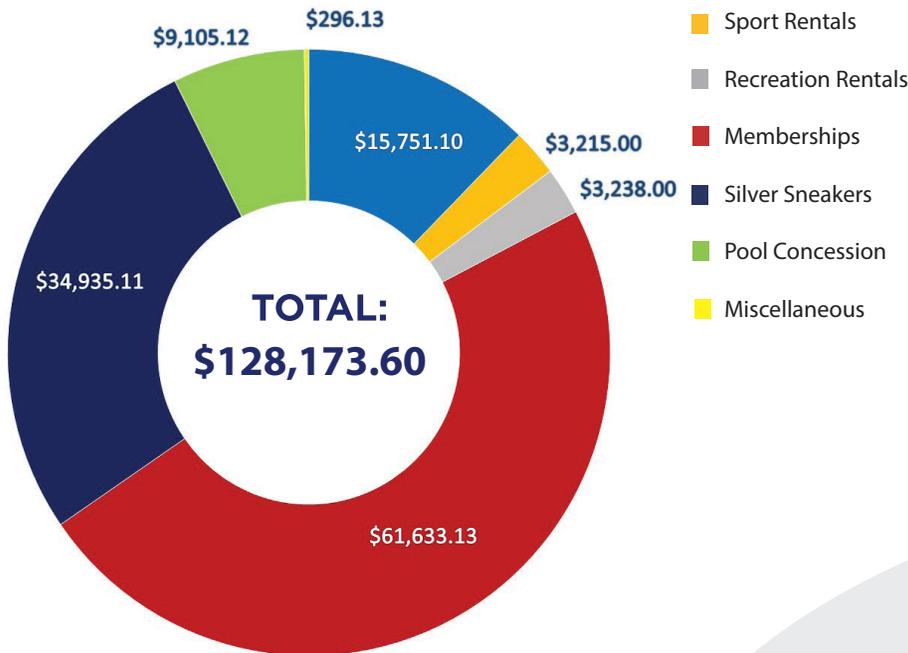
The Recreation Department staff works diligently to fill these facilities with top notch amenities, programs and events for residents and members of all ages and abilities. Additionally, we pay close attention to our spaces to ensure safety, security and cleanliness.



Budget Recap

The department's budget was hit hard as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. With an anticipated major dip in revenue, our expenses were basically frozen in an attempt to preserve our cost recovery. Additionally, many large capital projects were put on hold.

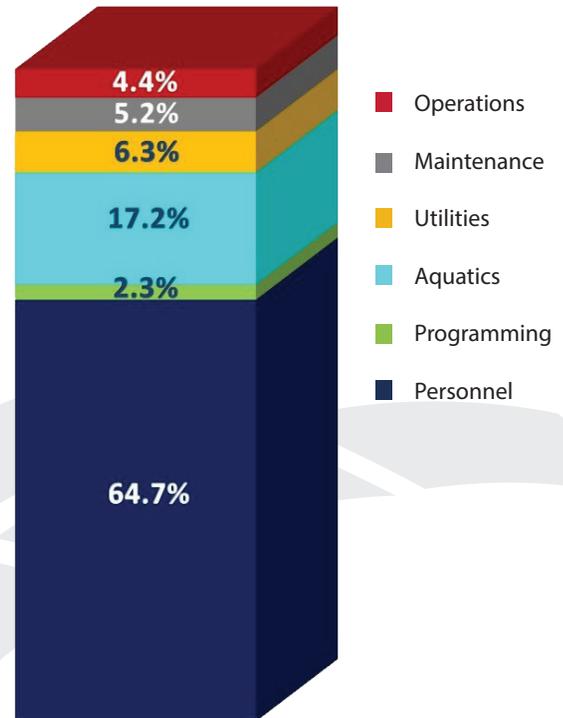
2020 Revenue



COST **8.5%**
RECOVERY

2020 Expenses

TOTAL: \$1,502,518.83



Project Success



GORMAN PARK PLAYGROUND

As part of the first phase of the Gorman Park Redevelopment plan a brand new playground was installed at the park. The playground, which includes multiple slides, play panels, climbers and swing bays is appropriate for ages 12 & under. Careful consideration was put into the design of the playground's colors, layout and shading to work with any and all future phases of construction. The playground was a bright spot in the middle of the pandemic that gave residents the ability to get outside and enjoy new park amenities. We are excited to continue the addition of new amenities at Gorman Park into the future.



PICKLEBALL COURTS

New outdoor pickleball court lines and nets were installed on 1 of the 3 existing tennis courts at Gower Park in September 2020. This project was a result of the continual growing demand for pickleball at the Community Center; currently we have 6 indoor courts. The courts were used regularly well into the Fall and even on warm days during the Winter months. Our staff continues to find ways to offer this exciting new trend in recreation.

2020 Timeline



March 13, 2020

Community Center Closed. Administrative staff continued to work in facility until Stay at Home order was issued.

May 2020

Rec staff plans for June 1 facility reopening. Barriers are installed, signage created & ordered, sanitizing procedures developed, communicated plans to public.



June 8, 2020

Aquatic Center reopens with strict guidelines regarding capacity and cleaning.



September 2020

Community Center hours increase to 2 hour slots. First in person event since February: outdoor movie night.

December 2020

After hundreds of holiday events are cancelled around the city, Santa still comes to Sharonville.



March 22, 2020

Admin staff begins to work from home. Staff starts Facebook programming, supply purchasing, & Zoom meetings.



June 1, 2020

Facility reopens to public with limited capacity.

Summer 2020

Gymnasiums reopen and Silver Sneakers comes back to the facility. No staff/member cases to date. Continued digital programming and aquatics.

October 2020

More programs are including Fossil Day @ Trammel & Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat. Basketball returns with many new rules.



Programs & Participation

Our department prides itself on our unique ability to offer programs for ages 0-99, and beyond. Programs are a great way for our residents, members and guests to get fit, make new friends, learn a new skill, or just have some fun. For many participants, our offerings are a way for them to continue a healthy lifestyle through fitness, exercise, or athletics. For others, it is a way to connect with friends, family and neighbors. Above all, we believe that our programs are a way for people to build memories that will last a lifetime. Our 2020 programs were our most challenging yet, but we succeeded.



Take home programming was a big part of 2020. From pottery to puppets, and sports bags to windsocks; members had the ability to pick up their program at the Community Center.



Keeping our youth engaged and active was critical in 2020 and will be for years to come. Our teen trips continued after quarantine following all guidelines but still having fun. Our zoom and in person kids programs became a big part of people's daily routines.



Physical and mental wellness took centerstage with a lot of our virtual programming. We encouraged folks to exercise their body and their mind with challenges, recipes, and more.



Looking Ahead

Our department is committed to continue the excitement and momentum into this year with great projects, programs, and a deepening of relationships with our community. The services that we provide are essential to the health, happiness, and physical & mental well-being of the public. We look forward to continuing to meet the many different needs of each person that walks through the Community Center's doors.

We are thrilled to be planning some fantastic projects that will continue to add to the positive experience of our members and guests. The Community Center walking/running track will be replaced in May 2021 with a more durable and functional product that will make one of our most used amenities even better.

Gower Park will be receiving a brand new installment of playground equipment to complement Gower Tower. A portion of the equipment is the result of grant dollars awarded to the Recreation Department by the Cincinnati Development Business Grant program. This equipment will be inclusive in nature and will offer outdoor recreational opportunities for folks of all abilities. Additional equipment will include 3 sets of beautiful new swings.



The Gorman Park project has come to the forefront in 2021 beginning with the demolition from our own Public Works department, and construction on the new shelter & restroom building, splashpad, parking and more.

The City of Sharonville, State of Ohio & United States faced many challenges in 2020 and still sees obstacles into 2021. Our department is in an excellent position to safely provide recreational opportunities for folks to return to a sense of normalcy. Current plans for some of our biggest and most popular offerings including Aquatics, Camp Sharonville, and the 4th of July are being finalized for a summer filled with fun.







