

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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# PARKS & RECREATION STAFF BIOS

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**ERIC DITMARS** *Superintendent of Parks & Recreation*

Eric has been the Auburn Parks Superintendent since 2015. He earned his B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from Ball State University and has held several positions in the field, including 9 years with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and 12 years as the Park Superintendent for Steuben County. He has a great love for providing recreational and resource based opportunities to the community.



**ERIN RAY** *Program Director*

Erin, whose love for Parks and Recreation began at her first job as a life guard in her hometown of Skokie, Illinois, has worked for Auburn since 2018. She studied at Indiana State University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation and Sports management with a concentration in Youth Leadership. She began her career in Greencastle, Indiana serving the City's Parks Department as the Assistant Director and Aquatics Director. Erin enjoys creating fun, family-friendly programs and special events for the community to enjoy.



**SARAH UMBDENSTOCK** *Recreation Coordinator*

Sarah recently moved to Fort Wayne from Cincinnati, Ohio and began working for Auburn in 2020. While in Ohio, Sarah graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from Miami University (OH) and a M.S. in Sports Administration from the University of Cincinnati. She then worked as the Marketing & Event Coordinator for a local Parks & Recreation Department. In her spare time, Sarah loves to play volleyball and go on adventures with her husband and dog.



**CRYSTAL BERHALTER** *Administrative Assistant*

Crystal began working for Auburn in September of this year. Prior to her new role with the Parks and Recreation Department, she worked in the printing industry for 7 years in billing and then in scheduling. In her free time, Crystal loves to go to concerts and spend time with her family.



**TIM SMITH** *Facility & Grounds Foreman*

Tim has worked for the Parks Department for over 12 years. He earned a degree in Natural Resource Environmental Management from Ball State University, and has previous experience working as a USA Health, Safety, and Environmental Engineer and as the owner of a lawncare and landscaping company. He enjoys all aspects of nature and the outdoors, and loves cruising!



**ABEL SALAS** *Maintenance Staff*

Abel has been a member of the Auburn Parks and Recreation Department since Fall 2018. He previously worked with the United Methodist Camp Association for 4 years in Central Oregon and is also a trained Chef with years in the food industry. He is native to Lima, Peru and enjoys outdoor activities, volunteering at local non-profits, archery, wood working, and soccer.



**TRENTON SCHOTT** *Maintenance Staff*

Trenton began working for the Parks Department in 2017 after graduating from Garrett High School. He is an avid soccer player and enjoys helping the Department with soccer activities during their Spring Break and Summer Camps. Outside of work, he enjoys snowmobiling and taking part in outdoor activities.



**JASON McCLURE** *Maintenance Staff*

Jason is graduate of Garrett High School and began working for Auburn Parks and Recreation in 2020. Other endeavors outside of parks include Garrett Camper Sales, Ben Davis, Ingersoll Rand, and LSC Communications. Outside of work, Jason enjoys golfing, riding bikes, and attending concerts.

# SUPERINTENDENT'S STATEMENT

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The need and desire for active and passive recreation over the last year has made Auburn Parks and Recreation Department's goal to assist the growing needs of our community more important than ever. We have recently conducted a comprehensive 5-year Master Plan that has helped us understand the needs of our current community. Upon receiving the study's results, the Department is excited to further explore and implement ideas set forth by this plan that will drive us into the future direction of our parks.

In addition to preparing for the future during this upcoming year, we will not lose sight of the community's needs for programming and leisure opportunities and will continue to provide educational and engaging programs and events to Auburn's residents.



Eric Ditmars

Auburn Parks and Recreation Superintendent

# **2021 PARK BOARD MEMBERS**

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**TADD BOMAN - PRESIDENT**

**LOU METELKO - VICE PRESIDENT**

**MIKE MAKAREWICH - SECRETARY**

**LOGAN ZUBER - MEMBER**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**THE AUBURN PARK & RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE QUALITY  
PARKS AND FACILITIES, OPEN SPACES,  
NATURAL AREAS, EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICES WHICH WILL  
ENHANCE THE WELL-BEING OF THE CITIZENS  
OF AUBURN AND SURROUNDING AREAS.**

# PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

## ADULT PROGRAMS

- 19 PROGRAMS
- 152 PARTICIPANTS

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

- 23 PROGRAMS
- 331 PARTICIPANTS

## SENIOR PROGRAMS

- 9 SENIOR SOCIALS
- SENIOR WALKING CLUB, 74 PARTICIPANTS
- SENIOR CARD CLUB, 40 PARTICIPANTS

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

- 19 VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- 6 SPECIAL EVENTS
- OVER 6,400 PARTICIPANTS

## CAMPS

- 1 SPRING BREAK CAMP, 12 PARTICIPANTS
- 2 SUMMER CAMPS, 22 PARTICIPANTS

### PROGRAM DIRECTOR NOTE:

A TOTAL OF 12 PROGRAMS WERE CANCELED THIS YEAR DUE TO LACK OF PARTICIPATION. THOSE PROGRAMS INCLUDE, YOGA IN THE PARK, KIDS' ZUMBA, BIRD IDENTIFICATION, AND SENIOR SOCIALS. AUBURN PARKS AND RECREATION DID NOT CANCEL ANY PROGRAMS DUE TO COVID-19.



# PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

## HALLOWEEN WALK

2021

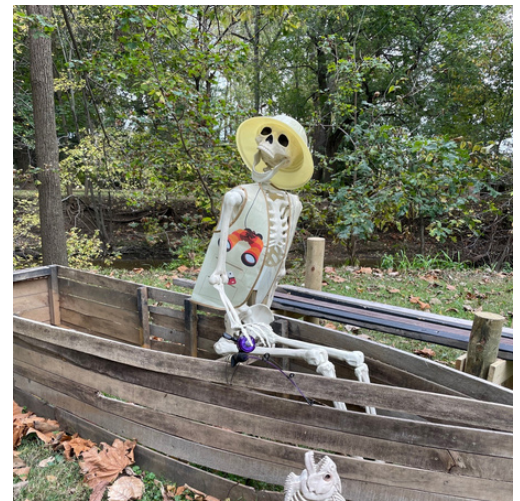
- 2,511 PARTICIPANTS
- \$1,548.52 IN DONATIONS
- \$1,500.00 IN SPONSORSHIPS
- \$3,272.44 IN EXPENSES

2020

- 4,696 PARTICIPANTS
- \$2,489.04 IN DONATIONS
- \$2,400 IN SPONSORSHIPS
- \$3,590.10 IN EXPENSES

2019

- 2,032 PARTICIPANTS
- \$3,709.00 IN REVENUE
- \$4,607.00 IN EXPENSES



# PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

## CHRISTMAS WALK

2021

- 3,418 PARTICIPANTS
- \$1,391.00 IN DONATIONS
- \$1,250.00 IN SPONSORSHIPS
- \$1,930.86 IN EXPENSES

2020 (SANTA ON THE GO)

- 1,717 PARTICIPANTS
- \$980.48 IN DONATIONS
- \$500.00 IN SPONSORSHIPS
- \$1,950.00 IN EXPENSES

2019

- 1,809 PARTICIPANTS
- \$2,683 IN REVENUE
- \$3,084 IN EXPENSES





# SOFTBALL STATISTICS

## TOTAL SOFTBALL REVENUE

- 2021: \$8,812.50
- 2020: \$5,312.50
- 2019: \$10,740.00

## TOTAL SOFTBALL EXPENSES

- 2021: \$6,485.89
- 2020: \$6,585.60
- 2019: \$9,382.19



# YOUTH SPORT STATISTICS

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## **AUBURN LITTLE LEAGUE**

- 354 PARTICIPANTS
- 42 TEAMS
- 253 GAMES PLAYED

## **ROCKET FOOTBALL**

- 147 PARTICIPANTS
- 34 GAMES PLAYED AT CARR FIELD
- 275 PRACTICES

## **AUBURN GIRLS SOFTBALL**

- 232 PARTICIPANTS
- 22 TEAMS
- 112 GAMES



# PROGRAM FINANCIALS

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## **TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME FOR THE NON-REVERTING FUND**

- 2021: \$25,157.05
- 2020: \$23,470.02
- 2019: \$11,008.36

## **TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES FOR THE NON-REVERTING FUND**

- 2021: \$23,454.78
- 2020: \$30,722.59
- 2019: \$23,487.60

# 2021 SPONSORS

## TREE SALE

- NUCOR BUILDING SYSTEMS
- AUBURN CONSERVATION TEAM
- DEKALB COUNTY SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT

## FISHING DERBY

- WALMART
- BEBER'S SHOT AND SINKER

## SHORT STACK 5K

- STEVE HOSTETTER MORTGAGE LENDER
- TOWN TAVERN
- ULTRAZONE

## BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

- METAL TECHNOLOGIES
- COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF DEKALB COUNTY
- AUBURN ESSENTIAL SERVICES
- AUBURN KIWANIS CLUB

## HALLOWEEN WALK

- STEVE HOSTETTER MORTGAGE LENDER
- BEN DAVIS AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
- NUCOR BUILDING SYSTEMS
- TEMPUS TECHNOLOGIES

## HUNT FOR GREAT PUMPKIN

- SCIENCE CENTRAL
- FORT WAYNE TINCAPS
- FORT WAYNE CHILDREN'S ZOO
- WALMART
- ULTRAZONE
- LASER X
- COMBAT OPS ENTERTAINMENT

## DISC GOLF COURSE

- AUBURN ESSENTIAL SERVICES
- LINKS CREATIVE ALLIANCE
- BYLER LANE WINERY
- RANGERS ACADEMY

## CHRISTMAS WALK

- AUBURN ESSENTIAL SERVICES
- LINKS CREATIVE ALLIANCE
- TEMPUS TECHNOLOGIES



# RENTAL STATISTICS

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## **TOTAL RENTAL REVENUE**

- 2021: \$22,166.27
- 2020: \$11,744.00
- 2019: \$22,793.00

## **TOTAL RENTAL REFUNDS IN 2021**

- \$190.00

## **TOTAL RENTAL INCOME IN 2021**

- \$22,166.27

ECKHART PAVILION: 24 Reservations

RIEKE LODGE: 122 Reservations

KIWANIS NORTH: 17 Reservations

KIWANIS SOUTH: 27 Reservations



# LIST OF COMPLETED PROJECTS FOR 2021

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The Maintenance Department had a busy year. We now employ four full-time maintenance staff and eight total staff members in the entire department, while also able to bring in several outside groups, United Way Day of Caring, DeKalb High School's Tennis Team, DeKalb High School's Basketball Team, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and work groups such as Faith in Action Day sponsored by area churches, helped to complete work that requires a lot of personnel such as mulching (playgrounds, flowering beds, and trees), painting restrooms and dugouts, picking up limbs after storms, edging sidewalks, and many other projects. A BIG THANKS to all those individuals who helped! Additionally, we are proud to have worked another year without a recordable accident for the third year in a row.

Despite the continuing Covid challenges, we were able to complete many projects. Two members of the maintenance staff mow all the Parks and Recreation grounds, which consists of 18 Parks and properties, totaling over 112 acres of mowed grass. They average approximately 70-man hours per week and over 2,000-man hours per year mowing.

Park rounds is another important job that the maintenance staff completes, which includes checking each park daily to clean restrooms, empty trash cans, check the ground for trash, and a variety of other tasks. We prepare and maintain two adult softball fields at Rieke Park, along with five other ball fields at various other parks. We also have two rentable buildings which require cleaning after each use. These tasks total over 3,132-man hours per year.

Throughout the winter months, we perform hourly mechanical service and routine maintenance on all the parks equipment, including changing the oil and other fluids needed, spark plugs, filters, bearings, greasing, and detailed cleaning performed. Anything worn or damaged is then replaced.

We were able to add a 48-foot used bucket truck to our fleet to aid in the proper maintenance of the park system trees. This allows us to better work on trimming, pruning, and dead wooding the trees. We completed over 100-man hours of this type of work during the year.

The following is a list of projects that the maintenance staff completed this year:

## General Park Maintenance:

- Removed multiple dead and hazardous trees throughout the park system
- Removed late falling and blowing leaves along fence lines as needed (winter/spring)
- Fall leaf removal in all parks completed as needed
- Put down new mulch around the trees in the downtown area
- Removed any weeds or suckers within the 3' square area prior to mulching
- Cleaned up storm damaged areas multiple times throughout the year
- Rolled all parks
- Aerated turf in all park areas
- Edged all sidewalks in park areas
- String trimmed all parks routinely
- Controlled ground moles in Eckhart Park
- Filled in holes in all parks and old tree stumps

- Checked all picnic tables for broken boards and missing nuts and bolts
- Checked all wooden benches in all parks for damaged/missing boards in all parks
- Power washed all open-air shelters (metal roofs, tables, concrete) in all parks
- Reset rebar in parking bumpers at all parks
- Ordered equipment
- Worked on F-250 electrical upgrades
- Trimmed shrubs at Van Buren trail and other parks
- Replaced bad/broken side boards on large trailer
- Designed and built new grinding and sharpening table
- Installed new cores in all locks and doors
- Added running boards to bucket truck

#### Eckhart Park:

- Repaired walking bridge
- Leveled Eckhart Park pavilion floor (40 X 60-foot building)
- Tore out tiles and replaced floor in pavilion
- Stained wood trim in pavilion
- Helped maintain flower beds
- Hauled in mulch for Boy Scout Trail
- Trimmed trees and removed dead branches
- Power washed the outside of the office
- Installed L.E.D. lights at maintenance shop and pavilion
- Changed out all electrical plug covers
- Repaired door in white storage building

#### Eckhart Park Skate Park:

- Ground Cracks in concrete and caulked
- Installed new down spouts
- Repaired damaged areas in the grass
- Designed, built, and installed two new sign holders

#### Rieke Park

- Trimmed overgrowth on the sides of Rieke Trail
- Installed L.E.D. lights in parking lot and maintenance shop
- Purchased and installed AEDs at North Quad concession stand and Lodge
- Helped maintain flower beds using Community Service
- Power washed the outside of the Lodge, North Quad Building, and South Quad Building

#### Other Amenities/Activities

- Worked on all fencing at Smith Acres Park
- Worked on fencing and wood backstop at Thomas Park
- Complete bushhog project at Don Lash area in June and Don Lash area in September
- Don Lash West End Project: Tilled and sprayed multiple times (wildflower area)
- Willennar North West Corner Project: Cleared out
- Designed and installed new drive at West end of Auburn Gear Park
- Installed fence at Smith Acres Park sledding hill

#### Restrooms:

- Opened all restrooms by April 15
- Installed new double roll toilet paper holders as needed
- Repaired sewer line at Eckhart Restroom, added soil, leveled, and seeded
- Closed all restrooms on October 15

### Playgrounds:

- Spread over 500 yards of playground mulch in all parks as needed
- Raked in mulch under playgrounds
- Hammered in post at all playground edging
- Started Playground Inspections
- Replaced damaged and leaning playground panels at all playgrounds where needed
- Power washed all park playground equipment in all parks
- Willennar Playground Project: Worked on Playground equipment replacement and layout
- Installed new Ten Spin at Memorial Park and Thomas Park

### Field Maintenance:

- Sprayed football fields for weeds
- Sprayed all fence lines (multiple times per year)
- Sprayed all ball diamond outfields for broadleaf weeds and sprayed infields for weeds and grass
- Power washed the inside and outside of all dugouts at Rieke Park, North Quad, and South Quad
- Replaced 36" walk in door and sliding door at Carr Field bleacher building

### Programming and Events:

- Assisted the Programming and Events team when needed
- Set-up/ tear down on Halloween Walk and Christmas Walk