

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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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 ELLIOTT** *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 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. Since joining the department, she earned her Certified Parks and Recreation Professional certification in July of 2022. 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 2021. Prior to her 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.



**BRIAN STEPHENS** *Maintenance Staff*

Brian began working for Auburn in August of 2022. He enjoys tattoos, concerts, and listening to music.



**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 Auburn Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to providing opportunities to get our residents outdoors to enjoy all of the natural experiences and events that we have come to know and love. We are proud of the City's parks which allows us to offer an exceptional level of recreational experiences in-line with the high expectations of our citizens.**

**One great example of this top tier service is our Rieke Trail System, which had nearly 43,000 recorded trail users in 2022. As we move into 2023, connecting with our users is a top priority and we look forward to serving you and your recreational needs.**



**Eric Ditmars  
Auburn Parks and Recreation Superintendent**

# **2022 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

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## ADULT PROGRAMS

- 28 PROGRAMS
- 217 PARTICIPANTS

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

- 21 PROGRAMS
- 226 PARTICIPANTS

## SENIOR PROGRAMS

- 10 SENIOR SOCIALS
- 70 PARTICIPANTS

## MISCELLANIOUS PROGRAMS

- 1 VIRTUAL PROGRAM
- 5 CRAFT KIT PROGRAMS

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 11 COMMUNITY EVENTS
- OVER 9,700 PARTICIPANTS

## CAMPS

- SPRING BREAK CAMPS, 11 PARTICIPANTS
- SUMMER CAMPS, 24 PARTICIPANTS



# PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

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## HALLOWEEN WALK

2022

- 5,138 PARTICIPANTS
- \$2,273.21 IN DONATIONS
- \$1,600.00 IN SPONSORSHIPS
- \$3,873.21 IN EXPENSES

2021

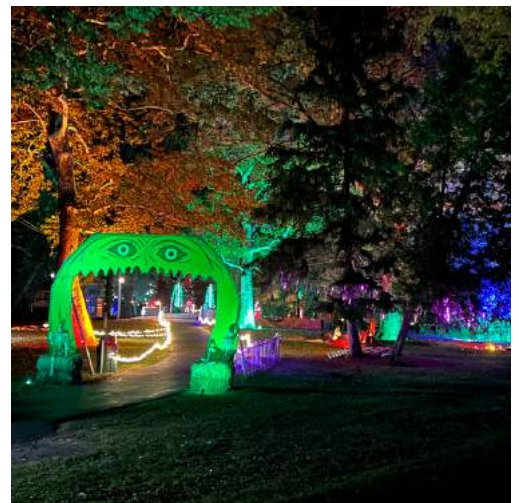
- 2,511 PARTICIPANTS
- \$1,548.52 IN DONATIONS
- \$1,500.00 IN SPONSORSHIPS
- \$3,272.44 IN EXPENSES

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

2022

- 3,459 PARTICIPANTS
- \$1,136.45 IN DONATIONS
- \$500.00 IN SPONSORSHIPS
- \$1,361.00 IN EXPENSES

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

- 2022: \$4,762.50
- 2021: \$8,812.50
- 2020: \$5,312.50
- 2019: \$10,740.00

## TOTAL SOFTBALL EXPENSES

- 2022: \$4,966.69
- 2021: \$6,485.89
- 2020: \$6,585.60
- 2019: \$9,382.19



# YOUTH SPORT STATISTICS

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## **AUBURN LITTLE LEAGUE**

- 322 PARTICIPANTS
- 39 TEAMS
- 282 GAMES PLAYED

## **ROCKET FOOTBALL**

- 155 PARTICIPANTS
- 35 GAMES PLAYED AT CARR FIELD
- 250 PRACTICES

## **AUBURN GIRLS SOFTBALL**

- 239 PARTICIPANTS
- 22 TEAMS
- 114 GAMES



# AUBURN TRAIL COUNTS

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## RIEKE PARK TRAIL

- **Total Users: 40,727 people**
  - December 2021: 1,386 people
  - January 2022: 1,460 people
  - February 2022: 1,826 people
  - March 2022: 3,841 people
  - April 2022: 3,129 people
  - May 2022: 4,985 people
  - June 2022: 5,876 people
  - July 2022: 4,772 people
  - August 2022: 4,133 people
  - September 2022: 3,836 people
  - October 2022: 3,405 people
  - November 2022: 2,078 people



## AUBURN WATERLOO TRAIL

- **Total Users: 5,672 people**
  - June 2022: 1,260 people
  - July 2022: 1,134 people
  - August 2022: 1,289 people
  - September 2022: 1,025 people
  - October 2022: 638 people
  - November 2022: 326 people



# PROGRAM FINANCIALS

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

- 2022: \$23,605.14
- 2021: \$25,157.05
- 2020: \$23,470.02
- 2019: \$11,008.36

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

- 2022: \$23,853.83
- 2021: \$23,454.78
- 2020: \$30,722.59
- 2019: \$23,487.60

# 2022 SPONSORS

## **BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**

- AUBURN KIWANIS CLUB
- METAL TECHNOLOGIES
- AUBURN ESSENTIAL SERVICES
- THE BROWN HOUSE

## **CINNAMON ROLL & RUN 5K**

- BEACON CREDIT UNION
- HEIRLOOM BAKERY
- FIVE LAKES COFFEE
- WALMART

## **DISC GOLF COURSE**

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

## **FISHING DERBY**

- WALMART
- BEBER'S SHOT AND SINKER

## **L.I.F.E. AFTER 50**

- INDIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY
- AUBURN VILLAGE
- LUTHERAN HEALTH

## **PAWS IN THE PARK**

- BARK ATTACK BISCUITS
- HOHAM FEED & SEED
- WESSON'S CANINE BAKERY
- PAWS TO HEART

## **STORYWALKS®**

- KELLY YORK  
REALTOR/BROKER

## **TREE SALE**

- NUCOR BUILDING SYSTEMS
- DEKALB COUNTY SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT

## **HALLOWEEN WALK**

- ELSIE MANUFACTURING
- RP WAKEFIELD
- AUBURN HARDWOOD MOULDINGS
- STEVE HOSTETTER MORTGAGE LENDER NMLS #454468
- BUSINESS IMPRESSIONS
- STEEL DYNAMICS, INC.

## **HUNT FOR GREAT PUMPKIN**

- SCIENCE CENTRAL
- FORT WAYNE TINCAPS
- CRAZY PINZ
- SKY ZONE
- FORT WAYNE MAD ANTS
- FORT WAYNE CHILDREN'S ZOO
- COTERIE PIZZA
- COMBAT OPS ENTERTAINMENT
- WALMART

## **HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST**

- AUBURN DAIRY FREEZE

## **CHRISTMAS WALK**

- TEMPUS TECHNOLOGIES

# RENTAL STATISTICS

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## **TOTAL RENTAL REVENUE**

- 2022: \$29,485.00
  - THE RIEKE PARK LODGE ACCOUNTED FOR \$23,940 OF OUR RENTAL REVENUE
- 2021: \$22,166.27
- 2020: \$11,744.00
- 2019: \$22,793.00

## **TOTAL RENTAL REFUNDS**

- \$1851.10 FROM 13 TOTAL CANCELLATIONS

RIEKE LODGE: 251 RESERVATIONS

ECKHART PAVILION: 97 RESERVATIONS

KIWANIS NORTH: 29 RESERVATIONS

KIWANIS SOUTH: 40 RESERVATIONS



# LIST OF COMPLETED PROJECTS FOR 2022

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THE AUBURN PARKS DEPARTMENT HAD ANOTHER BUSY YEAR AND IS PROUD TO HAVE WORKED ANOTHER YEAR WITHOUT A RECORDABLE ACCIDENT. THIS MAKES THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW!

THIS YEAR WE WERE ABLE TO BRING IN SOME OUTSIDE WORK GROUPS THAT WERE A HUGE HELP IN COMPLETING WORK THAT REQUIRES MORE PEOPLE THEN WE HAVE AVAILABLE, SUCH AS MULCHING (PLAYGROUNDS, TRAILS, FLOWING BEDS, AND TREES), PAINTING DUGOUTS, PICKING UP LIMBS AFTER STORMS, EDGING SIDEWALKS, AND MANY OTHER PROJECTS.

THANK YOU TO THE UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING, DEKALB HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM, DEKALB HIGH SCHOOL'S TENNIS TEAM, GIRL SCOUTS, AND WORK GROUPS FROM THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND TEMPUS TECHNOLOGIES FOR THEIR HELP. WE ALSO STARTED USING COMMUNITY SERVICE PEOPLE AGAIN AND HAD SEVERAL HUNDRED HOURS OF WORK PERFORMED THIS YEAR. ANOTHER HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR WAS WORKING WITH A BOY SCOUT AND ASSISTING HIM IN INSTALLING A BICYCLE REPAIR STATION AT RIEKE PARK TRAIL.

WE WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE MANY PROJECTS DESPITE THE CONTINUING COVID CHALLENGES. THE MAINTENANCE STAFF MOWS ALL THE PARKS AND RECREATION GROUNDS, WHICH CONSISTS OF 18 PARKS AND PROPERTIES AND TOTALS OVER 112 ACRES OF CUTTABLE GRASS. WE AVERAGE AROUND 70-MAN HOURS PER WEEK AND OVER 2,000-MAN HOURS PER YEAR SPENT MOWING.

PARK ROUNDS ARE ANOTHER IMPORTANT JOB THAT WE COMPLETE. WE CHECK EACH PARK DAILY TO CLEAN RESTROOMS, EMPTY TRASH CANS, CHECK FOR GROUND TRASH, AND A VARIETY OF OTHER THINGS. WE PREP AND MANAGE TWO ADULT SOFTBALL FIELDS AT RIEKE PARK AND HAVE FIVE OTHER BALL FIELDS THAT WE PERFORM MAINTENANCE ON. WE ALSO HAVE TWO RENTABLE BUILDINGS THAT WE MANAGE, WHICH REQUIRE A CLEANING AFTER EACH USE. ALL OF THIS TOTALS OVER 3,132-MAN HOURS A YEAR.

THROUGHOUT THE WINTER MONTHS, WE PERFORM A FULL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE ON ALL THE PARK'S EQUIPMENT. OIL AND OTHER FLUIDS ARE CHANGED AS NEEDED, SPARK PLUGS, FILTERS, BEARINGS, EVERYTHING IS GREASED, AND DETAILED CLEANING IS PERFORMED. DAMAGED AND WORN PARTS ARE REPLACED.

WE WERE ABLE TO ADD A F-650 DUMP TRUCK TO OUR FLEET TO AID IN THE PROPER MAINTENANCE OF THE PARK SYSTEM.

## ECKHART PARK

- MAINTAINED FLOWER BEDS
- RE-STRIPED THE ADA STRIPING FOR VAN ACCESS IN OLDER PARKING AREA
- HAULED IN 7 LOADS OF MULCH FOR BOY SCOUT TRAIL
- PAINTED WHITE STORAGE BUILDING
- PAINTED GRANDSTAND/STORAGE BUILDING
- DE-COBWEBBED AND POWER WASHED THE OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE
- ADDED AND REPAINTED HANDICAP PARKING SPOTS
- MOVED DISC GOLF BASKETS SEVERAL TIMES PER YEAR

## SKATE PARK

- REMOVED BRUSH FROM THE TRIANGLE ON THE NORTH SIDE
- ADDED CONCRETE TO HILL AREA
- GRINDED AND CAULKED CRACKS IN CONCRETE
- SEALED CONCRETE IN NEW AND OLD SECTIONS

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- ADDED CONCRETE UNDER THE DOG GATES AT THOMAS PARK
- TRIMMED SHRUBS AT VAN BUREN TRAIL AND OTHER PARKS
- REPLACED CLIMBING WALL AT MEMORIAL PARK
- REPLACED PICNIC TABLES AT MEMORIAL PARK SHELTER
- BUSH HOGGED DON LASH AREA IN MID TO LATE JUNE & SEPTEMBER
- TURNED ON AND OFF COURTYARD PARK FOUNTAIN
- REPAIRED FENCE AT WILLENNAR PARK
- PURCHASED NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR WILLENNAR PARK

## RIEKE PARK

- TRIMMED TREES AND REMOVED DEAD TREES AND BRANCHES ALONG TRAIL, TRIM BOTH SIDES OF TRAIL BACK
- INSTALLED TRAIL COUNTER ON AUBURN/WATERLOO TRAIL SYSTEM
- REPLACED PICNIC TABLES AT TRAIL BY RIEKE POND AND LODGE
- REBUILT SIGN FOR LODGE AND INSTALLED
- DE-COBWEBBED AND POWER WASHED THE OUTSIDE OF LODGE
- CLEANED LODGE AS NEEDED FOR RENTALS
- REPAIRED STORM DAMAGED ROOF OF LODGE
- PAINTED MEN'S/WOMEN'S RESTROOMS AT NORTH & SOUTH QUADS
- DE-COBWEBBED AND POWER WASHED THE OUTSIDE OF THE NORTH & SOUTH QUADS BUILDINGS
- REPLACED PICNIC TABLES AT NORTH & SOUTH SHELTERS
- ADDED AND REPAINTED HANDICAP PARKING SPOTS
- ADDED ADDITIONAL ADA PARKING AREAS
- SPRAYED ALL BALL DIAMONDS FOR BROADLEAF WEEDS
- PAINTED EXTERIOR DUGOUTS AT NORTH & SOUTH QUADS
- DE-COBWEBBED AND POWER WASHED ALL INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR DUGOUTS
- REPLACED BALL FIELD LIGHTS THAT WERE OUT WITH THE HELP OF THE AUBURN ELECTRIC
- REPAIRED RUTS IN 18,000 SQ. FT. AREA OF RIEKE PARK POND'S NORTH HILL
- COMPLETED POND EROSION CONTROL PROJECT
- MAINTAINED FLOWER BEDS
- BUILT AND INSTALLED NEW BENCHES
- REPLACED CLIMBING WALL
- REPLACED TWO PLAYGROUND SLIDES



## GENERAL

- PERFORMED PARKS ROUNDS EVERY DAY
- OPENED ALL RESTROOMS BY APRIL 15TH AND CLOSED ALL RESTROOMS BY OCTOBER 15 (WEATHER DEPENDING)
- REPLACED ALL RESTROOM MEN'S/WOMEN'S SIGNS
- CLEANED UP STORM DAMAGE AS NEEDED
- REMOVED LEAVES AND MULCHED IN ALL PARKS AS NEEDED, THIS INCLUDES REMOVING LEAVES FROM FENCE LINES AND TENNIS COURTS
- REMOVED LATE FALLING AND BLOWING LEAVES ALONG FENCE LINES AS NEEDED THROUGH THE WINTER AND SPRING
- ROLLED ALL PARKS AS NEEDED
- AERATED ALL PARK AREAS AS NEEDED
- RESEEDED PARK AREAS AS NEEDED
- PUT DOWN NEW MULCH AROUND THE TREES IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA
- PUT OUT MOLE BAITS TO KEEP THE MOLES DOWN
- FILLED IN HOLES PARKS AS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
- EDGED ALL SIDE WALKS IN PARK AREAS AS NEEDED
- EDGED SIDE WALK TRAIL THROUGH TOWN
- SPRAYED FOOTBALL FIELDS FOR WEEDS
- SPRAYED ALL FENCE LINES AS NEEDED
- SPREAD 200 YARDS OF PLAYGROUND MULCH
- PLOWED SNOW AS NEEDED DURING WINTER MONTHS
- PLACED STONE UNDER ALL BENCHES THROUGHOUT PARKS
- ASSISTED PROGRAMMING TEAM AS NEEDED
- STARTED SET-UP/TEAR DOWN HALLOWEEN WALK
- STARTED SET-UP/TEAR DOWN ON CHRISTMAS WALK
- WORKED ON HALLOWEEN ITEMS DURING WINTER MONTHS
- DREW AND PAINTED NEW CHRISTMAS ANIMALS FOR WALK COMPLETED
- STRING TRIMMED ALL PARKS AS NEEDED
- CHECKED ALL WOODEN BENCHES IN ALL PARKS FOR DAMAGED OR MISSING BOARDS
- CHECKED ALL PICNIC TABLES FOR BROKEN BOARDS AND MISSING NUTS AND BOLTS
- HAMMERED IN REBAR IN PARKING BUMPERS ALL PARKS
- HAMMERED IN STAKES/POST AT ALL PLAYGROUND EDGING
- PAINTED TRASH BARRELS GREEN
- PERFORMED PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS
- POWER WASHED ALL PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- POWER WASHED ALL OPEN-AIR SHELTERS, METAL ROOFS, TABLES, AND CONCRETE
- ADDED NO SMOKING SIGNS AT ALL PARKS AS NOTED
- REPLACED ALL PARKING BUMPERS MOVED DURING SNOW PLOWING
- REPLACED BROKEN PARKING BUMPERS
- REWORKED AND REORGANIZED WHITE STORAGE BUILDING
- REWORKED AND REORGANIZED STORAGE AREA IN MAINTENANCE SHOP
- INSTALLED BAND SAW
- ADDED AN F-650 DUMP TRUCK TO OUR FLEET OF VEHICLE
- SERVICED ALL PARKS EQUIPMENT
- REBUILT SMALL BLACK TRAILER