

2009 COMMUNITY IMPACT

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- The groundbreaking for the Commons was held in early September, with construction starting this fall. The Department has been a collaborative partner for the maintenance and operation of the old Commons since 1988 with the Commons Board, the Irwin Sweeney Miller Foundation and the Columbus Area Arts Council. A plan will be developed for the maintenance and operation of the new Commons before it opens in late 2010.
- The groundbreaking for the new Mill Race Center was held on September 24. Construction will start soon with completion of the project forecasted for late 2010. Senior Center Services and the Department continue their long-term collaboration. The new facility will be on park property as the current one has been since 1973.
- The Columbus Park Foundation continues to raise funds for youth scholarships, free programs and capital projects to help replace lost tax revenues due to the economy and new state laws. They have raised over \$121,000 in cash and \$166,000 through in-kind donations this year for the following: 272 youth scholarships, People Trails repairs, Hamilton Center repairs, funding for the playground program at Pence Street Park, including supplies and healthy snacks, new playground equipment for Ninth Street Park and Donner Park, repairs to the Jolie Crider Skate Park, new equipment for the Columbus Gymnastics Center and trees for erosion control.
- In collaboration with Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation, the Department is helping renovate baseball fields at Clifty Park to provide North High School a place to play in 2010.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Commission have included a section in their latest promotional brochure about available parks and recreation programs and facilities. Parks, trails, recreation programs and facilities are looked upon as major selling point for new business. These features attract the new generation of workers who rank "quality of life" as a major reason to start a new business or relocate.
- Sports tourism has become a major part of the community economic development strategy. The collaborative partnership between the Columbus Area Visitors Center and the Department has resulted in making our community a major center for sport tournaments. This has influenced the construction of sport facilities, new hotels, restaurants, and retail businesses, resulting in new jobs for the community. Over 50 sports events were held in Columbus in 2008, which brought over 44,000 participants and spectators to Columbus. The economic impact to the community of these events exceeded \$13 million. Last year, the Visitor Center spent \$35,725 in bid/event fees to attract outside events to the community and over \$43,000 for umpires/officials hotel rooms. Annually, the Visitor Center spends in excess of \$100,000 directly related to sports development in addition to staff salaries. These costs also include marketing and tradeshows as well as hospitality expenses.



Parks and Recreation Employees work to save money

During 2009, Parks and Recreation Employees were challenged by Management and responded with over \$50,000 in new revenue and reduced expenses. Some examples of these Continuous Improvement Projects include: email newsletters, postcards, and receipts to save paper and postage, modifying public pool schedule to reduce resources needed but allow free swim each day, reduced printing and postage cost by moving to an annual Fun Guide and printing in-house supplemental guides and installation of programmable thermostats in several locations.



We are proud of these accomplishments and look forward to more creativity in years to come.

COLUMBUS PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



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greetings from columbus parks & rec!

2009 has proven to be a year of ups and downs. The obvious "down" has been our 2009 budget, which suffered a \$1.6 million reduction. This has required our Department to carefully consider our expenses and has not allowed us to replace employees we have lost through attrition and retirement. It also requires those employees that remain to do more with less. The "up" of our year has been that, despite the budget limitations, our Department has continued to offer high quality parks and recreation opportunities to the citizens of Columbus and Bartholomew County. We continue to work to improve our processes (a few examples are seen on the back cover as part of our Continuous Improvement Project list for 2009), utilize volunteers and rely on fundraising via the Columbus Park Foundation to offset

our funding shortfalls.

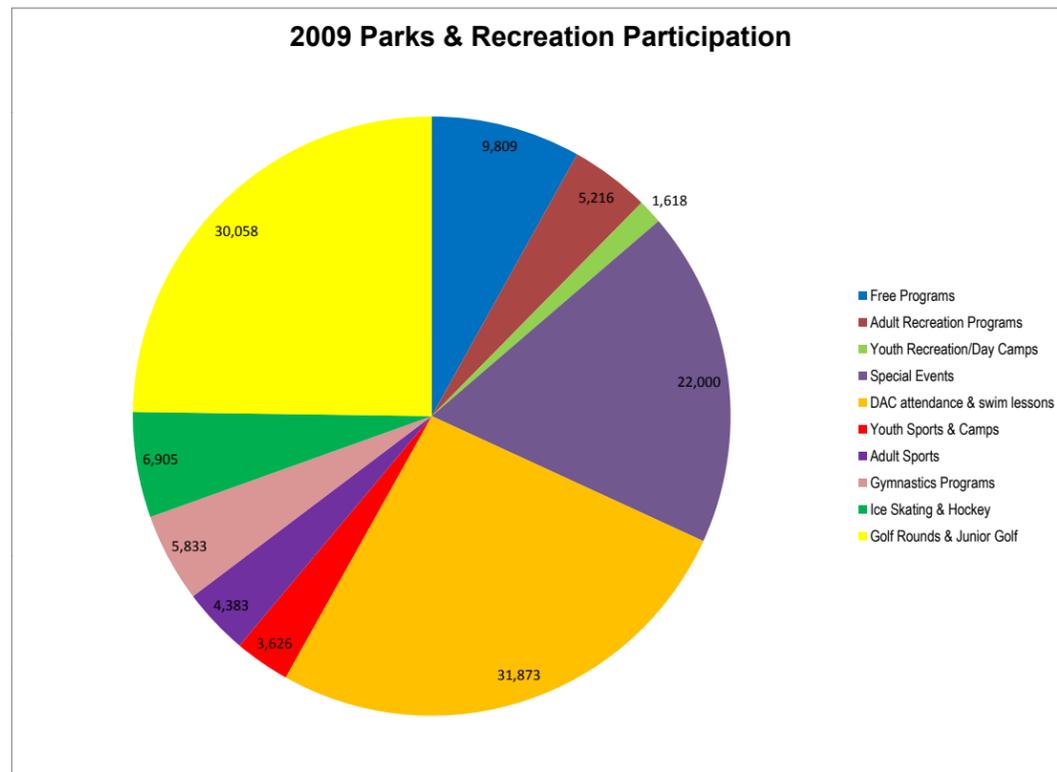
We look to 2010 as another challenging year, but one that we as a team can face with confidence. We look forward to serving our community and are encouraged by the outpouring of support many in the community have offered us this year.

Sincerely,



Chuck Wilt, Director

programs at a glance



In 2009, Columbus Parks and Recreation Department served over 120,000 visitors at various venues and facilities. Over half of our visits were generated from users of Greenbelt and Rocky Ford Par-3 Golf Courses and swimmers at Donner Aquatics Center. Special events, such as two USSSA World Series events at Lincoln and Clifty Parks, concerts at Mill

Race Park (including the annual Rock the Park concert and the Hospice of South Central Indiana benefit concert) generated 18% of our total visitors this year. Youth events, primarily those geared toward kids ages 3-12 years of age, proved to be popular once again in 2009.

program highlights

Athletics

- 3,626 youth participated in sports programs in 2009. Youth soccer continues its success with over 2,000 participants. Youth baseball saw an increase to 638 youth participants. Sport Camps had 579 youth learning new skills in a variety of sports which include baseball, softball, soccer, basketball and volleyball. Nearly 400 participants enjoyed our tennis program this year. Special thanks to Mike Burt, Director of Tennis, and his instructors, Columbus Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) and the Babe Ruth/Columbus Parks and Recreation Baseball Board for their hard work and dedication, and to all Baseball sponsors for their financial support.
- In 2009, there were 4,383 adults that participated in softball, kickball, volleyball, table tennis, soccer and 3 on 3 basketball. The Columbus Softball Association (CSA) provided programming for 203 teams and over 3,000 participants in summer and fall softball leagues. Kickball has annually grown in numbers to 14 teams and 210 participants in 2009. Volleyball maintains strong numbers with 860 adults participating in winter, spring, summer, and fall leagues. Adult soccer is growing again, with over 223 participating in both our summer league and the new fall league.
- Tournaments continue to be a big business for the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. In 2009, there were over 700 teams and nearly 11,000 participants visiting Columbus to participate in tournaments, resulting in over \$13 million to our community. The USSSA Girls Fastpitch World Series was a big hit again this year with 66 teams and 990 athletes. The USSSA Baseball World Series also enjoyed great participation in its second year with 44 teams and 660 athletes.
- Athletics facilities and staff greatly benefitted from the help from volunteers via the Atterbury Job Corps. Students with the Job Corps worked over 1,012 hours, saving the Department about \$7,337 in labor costs during 2009.

Columbus Gymnastics Center

- Gymnastics classes have once again been well attended in 2009.
- Birthday party and private rentals at CGC increased by 7% in 2009 over 2008 rentals. CGC hosted 167 birthday party rentals and 64 private rentals in 2009.
- CGC became the host facility for Rita Fisher, a local fitness instructor. Rita is teaching bootcamp and kickboxing classes on Monday - Wednesday evenings at the facility. This rental opportunity has brought in even more users to the facility.

Donner Aquatic Center

- Donner Aquatic Center enjoyed a successful summer despite a change in hours to accommodate a reduced budget. 20,238 paid swimmers attended our public sessions. Free sessions were attended by 10,915 free swimmers. The pool also hosted 24 private rentals.
- Our American Red Cross Swim Lessons were attended by 720 students this year.

Hamilton Center

- Hamilton Center Ice Arena had over 6,000 people visit the rink to skate during public sessions in 2009. Nearly 1,500 people participated in Drop In Hockey, with another 54 adults playing in the Adult league hockey over the summer.

- Youth hockey and figure skating lessons were popular again in 2009. 450 children participated in figure skating lessons while another 170 children participated in hockey lessons through Intro to Hockey program.
- Lincoln Center Figure Skating Club presented 4 successful "Ice Tunes" skate shows, as well as 3 test sessions throughout the year. LCFSC, with the help of the IU Figure Skating Club, hosted a 7 college figure skating competition in the winter. Columbus Youth Hockey (CYH) put on a 14 team, 4 age bracket tournament with Hall of Fame NHL player Bobby Hull as a special guest. CYH also hosted their first annual "Pucks for Paws" event that raised over \$6,000 for the Bartholomew County Humane Society.

Recreation and Special Events

- Interest in summer day camps for ages 5-14 increased by almost 25% in 2009. Our new camp, "Jump Into Fun" for ages 6-12 and "Go Green" for ages 8-12 increased day camp registrations by 40 children. Our popular Project D*R*A*M*A camp registrations increased by 20 children in 2009.
- The "Come Out and Play" free playground program was expanded at Ninth Street Park to include 4 and 5 year olds through a partnership with the Council for Youth Development. The Council provided funding for 5 additional staff members to oversee specific activities for this age group. This is one of many partnerships that allowed us to expand programming in 2009 despite a decreased budget. In total, over 9,800 persons attended free programs in 2009, approximately 2,500 lower than in 2008 due to decreased free programming opportunities which were cut as a result of budget reductions.
- Our first annual "Mill Race Rummage Sale" in September 2009 was a successful fundraiser for the Columbus Park Foundation's fund for youth programming. Over \$1,000 in proceeds from booth space and table rentals will benefit free children's and family programming. Thanks to the 60 booth renters and over 600 people who came out to take advantage of the sale.

Park Operations

- For Arbor Day 2009, Park Operations teamed up with the Boy Scouts and planted 20 trees on the new roundabout. Park Operations gave away 50 white flowering dogwoods.
- Even with budget reductions, Park Operations was able to maintain the integrity of the park system through short-term concessions and without long-term repercussions. All work orders were completed on time, and we received an extremely high customer satisfaction rating on event support.
- Park Operations employees attended 235 hours of seminar and workshop training in 2009. These included: Indiana Green Expo, 6 Sigma Training, Bartlett Tree Workshop, County Extension Workshop on controlling Canadian Geese, IPRA NRTG Facility Accessibility Workshop, Pool Certification Training, and ISA Conference & Trade Show.
- Park Operations employees also received 187 hours of health and safety training in 2009. This included Department Safety Committee meetings and monthly employee health and safety meetings covering topics: heat stress, playground safety, chain saw safety, bloodborne pathogens, poisonous plants/bugs/critters, preventing back injury, pandemic flu preparedness, and CPD presentation on narcotics.