

COLUMBUS parks & recreation department 2010 ANNUAL report



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greetings from columbus parks & rec!

2010 has been a year of change for us at Columbus Parks & Recreation Department. In June of this year our leader for the past 33 years, Chuck Wilt, retired as our Director. I thank Chuck for his leadership and guidance and look forward to working with him as a member of our Columbus Park Foundation Board.

2010 has also meant change in the way we manage our facilities. Several of our staff are now working to manage multiple facilities and are learning about new programming opportunities for our community. In addition, as we approach 2011, we are privileged to be taking on the management of one of the most highly anticipated additions to our community, the Commons.

The Commons will work in concert with facilities like Donner Center to insure that community members have many opportunities to host events and activities in first class facilities.

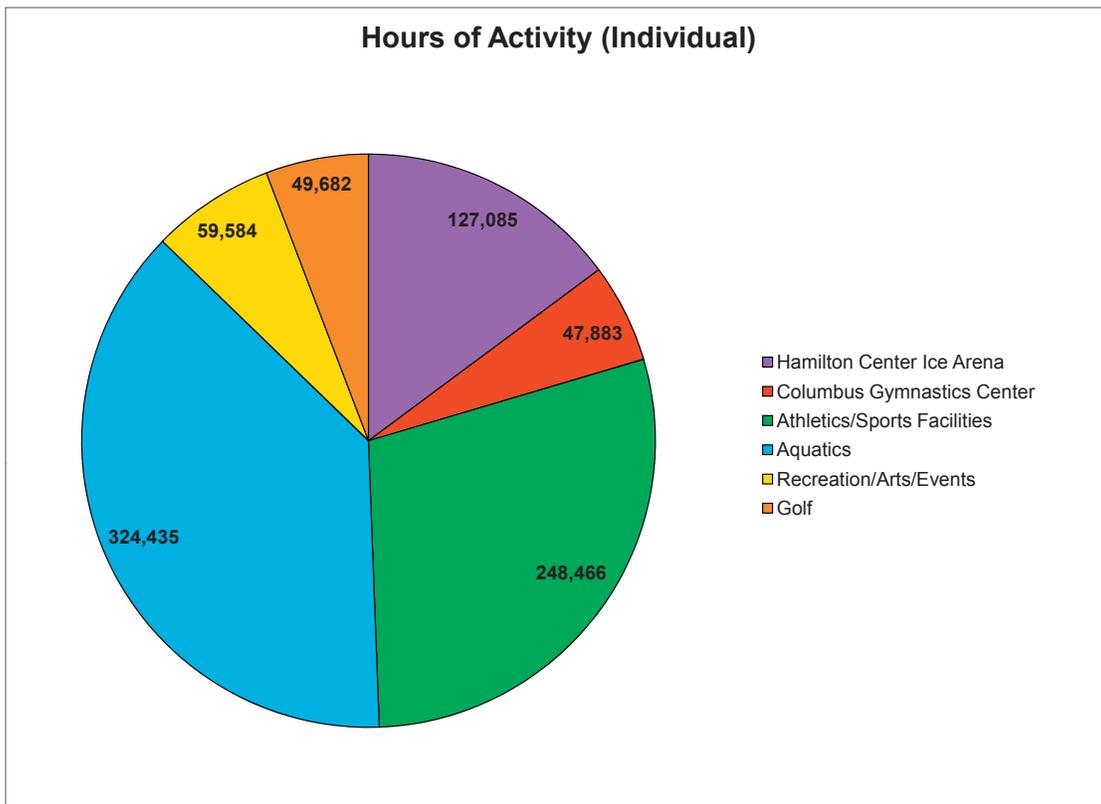
We look forward to 2011 and are proud to serve our community. Thank you for supporting us and our mission: "Enriching Lives, Building Community".

Sincerely,



Ben Wagner, Director

programs at a glance



In 2010, Columbus Parks & Recreation Department began tracking the "hours of service" we provided to our users. This year, we provided over 857,000 hours of service (the equivalent of 35,714 days) to our users. This does not include users of our People Trails and parks which, while not measured, is considerable. Of that amount, 38% of our customers spent time participating in aquatics based activities at Donner Aquatic Center and Foundation for Youth, 29% of customers spent time

participating in athletics based activities at various facilities and 15% spent time at Hamilton Center Ice Arena. By switching to "hours of service" as a measure, we are able to compare all programming areas equally and can better measure the impact that Columbus Parks & Recreation has on the health and well being of our citizens.

program highlights

Athletics

- 4,874 youth participated in sports programs in 2010. Popular programs continue to be youth soccer and Express soccer programs, youth baseball and sports camps.
- In 2010, there were 5,674 adults that participated in softball, kickball, volleyball, soccer, rugby and 3 on 3 basketball.
- This year, 420 teams (approximately 5,600 players) participated in tournaments in various sports, including slow pitch softball, fast pitch softball, soccer and rugby. The year included our hosting our seventh USSSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball World Series and our third USSSA Baseball World Series.

Columbus Gymnastics Center

- In 2010, we continued special open gyms for children in the MOMS Club and MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) groups. These two groups have combined to bring over 1,000 additional children into the facility this year.
- We have reintroduced the use of skills sheets to test children on skills they are learning in Advanced Fun Tots, Kids Fun 3 & 4, Girls 1-2 and Girls 3-4 classes. Instructors are now teaching the same skills to all classes, giving a much needed continuity to our class program. We are also now recognizing children's birthdays with our "birthday bulletin board" – each child now receives a birthday card in the mail good for an open gym session. We are also giving cards to children who have their birthday party in the Gymnastics Center.

Donner Aquatic Center

- Donner Aquatic Center enjoyed another successful summer despite a change in hours to accommodate a reduced budget. 34,048 visits were recorded at our public sessions, Master swim and private rentals. Free sessions were attended by 10,915 free swimmers. Over 100 children participated in private swim lessons this year.
- Our American Red Cross Swim Lessons were attended by 843 students this year (up 123 students from 2009).

Hamilton Center

- The annual Pucks and Paws event, hosted by Columbus Youth Hockey, raised \$7,100 for the Bartholomew County Humane Society. In addition, one cat and one dog were adopted. The three year total raised for the Bartholomew County Humane Society is now just under \$20,000!
- The first annual Ice Extravaganza in September was a great success, with nearly 100 adults and kids who attended to learn about our programs, including several who did not even know that we were an ice rink. We had several demonstrations and free lessons that day, resulting in new registrations and interest in our activities.
- In 2010, Hamilton Center began offering speed skating as a drop-in programming option. Participation grows every week. We hope that the speed skaters will become a full user group in 2011 as a result of the growing interest.
- Broomball has doubled in size from 4 to 8 teams and continue to play on Sunday evenings at the rink.

- Cummins Inc. engineers, along with energy experts from Duke Energy, are working together to increase energy efficiency at the 35 year old Hamilton Center Ice Arena. They are in the process of evaluating equipment, monitoring peak usage and offering alternatives in an effort to cut energy costs at the facility by 50 percent. They have been volunteering their time and expertise.

Recreation and Special Events

- The "Come Out & Play" free, supervised playground program for ages 6-12 continues to be very well attended. Attendance totaled 1,337 children this summer. The Thursday field trips had the highest attendance numbers than any year in the past several. The field trip to Donner Pool more than doubled in attendance (from 22 in 2009 to 52 for 2010), the trip to Lincoln Park for the batting cages also doubled (from 37 in 2009 to 78 in 2010). The field trip to Columbus Bowling Center had over a 115% increase in attendance from 2009 to 2010 (44 in 2009 to 97 in 2010) and a new trip this year to kidscommons & the newly opened Zaharako's attracted 102 children.
- Another highlight for the playground program was the addition of weekly visits from the "Book Express" van. This is a program through BCSC. The van visited Ninth Street and Pence Street parks every Wednesday during the 7 week program to distribute books to the children. These were books they could keep. The entire program was free to our participants.
- A new addition to our day camp schedule this summer that was very popular was the "American Girl Doll Camp Fun" for ages 5-10. Only one session for 25 children was originally scheduled. This session became full in less than 2 weeks so another session was added due to the large wait list. Another 20 children registered for the 2nd session.
- The 2nd annual Mill Race Rummage Sale held on Sept. 18 again attracted a large number of vendors & crowd to shop. Over 600 attended the sale and over \$800 was raised for the Park Foundation for free and low cost children's and family programming.

Park Operations

- For Arbor Day 2010, Park Operations teamed up with FFY and their student gardening club and gave away 75 red maples and planted three cherry trees for their garden. Park Operations also received a grant and installed a bioswale at McCullough's Run Park.
- The crew at FFY received a grant for more energy efficient lighting for their gymnasium, gymnastics center and pool. Surge Protectors have been installed at the Service Center and we are expecting up to a 20% reduction in electrical usage.
- Park Operations employees collectively attended 160 hours of workshop and seminar training plus 160 additional hours of health and safety training.
- All 190 work orders were completed on time, and we received an extremely high customer satisfaction rating on event support.
- Over 1,450 volunteer hours were recorded working with 14 different groups or agencies on 14 different projects. We also supported an Eagle Scout project at McCullough's Run and a Senior project at the Park Operations Service Center.

Dogs and Humans Rejoice: The Dog Park is a Reality!

After three long years of research, filing for non-profit status and fundraising, and long days and nights of work by many community volunteers, the Columbus Indiana Dog Park Association Board members realized their dream with the Grand Opening of the dog park on October 23. Approximately 100 dogs of all sizes and breeds attended including Miles, Hotel Indigo's resident dog. The Board President, Amy Kilby, introduced the board and gave a short history. The Board thanked all donors including the Heritage Fund, Haddad Foundation, Columbus Parks and Recreation Department, Pia O'Connor and Hotel Indigo, among others, as well as past board members and all volunteers. The founding members were announced and given their key cards, allowing them to use the park any day from dawn to dusk. A yearly membership costs \$100 for up to three dogs. A proof of rabies vaccination must be submitted with each membership application. The dog park is part of Clifty Park on Marr Road and is a great valuable addition to our parks, adding to the community's quality of life. Funding is still needed for enhancements. **For more information about donating to the Dog Park or how to obtain a membership, contact CIDPA at www.columbuslovesdogs.com.**



Tour de Trails sets participation and fundraising records in 2010

Once again, our friends and neighbors came out in record numbers to support the Columbus People Trails through their participation in the Tour de Trails 8K Run, 5K Run and 5K Walk on April 17 and the Tour de Trails Bicycle Challenge on May 15.



Sponsors were also on the rise in 2010, with over 42 sponsors signing on to support these events. Special

thanks goes out to our sponsors, especially our Tour de Trails Run/Walk media sponsor, QMIX 107.3 FM, and our Tour de Trails Bicycle Challenge media sponsor, 104.9 FM The River, for their donation of air-time and support the day of the event to encourage persons to participate, and to Tropical Smoothie Café for donation of smoothies to all participants at both events.



Mark your calendars now and remember to sign up online beginning January 1, 2011 for both events! **Register online at <http://www.signmeup.com/73805> (run/walk) or <http://www.signmeup.com/73806> (bike). We hope to see you this spring!**