

2019 Annual Report

BLUFFTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Presented by: Pam Vanderkolk, Superintendent

January

Weekday Walkers - 196 (for season)
Crochet Lessons - 7
Tot Time - 100 (for season)
Hue Can Paint – 6
Ronald McDonald Health Visit - 2
Rock Steady Boxing - 30 registered / average 20 attend each class
Homemade Card Class - 6
Theater Thursday - 24
Open Gym - 989 (for season)
Farm Wagon – 50, 25

February

Tot Block Party - 25
Chilly Chili Run – 120
Mother/Son Dance – 92
Theater Thursday – 39
Farm Wagon – 45, 40
Crochet Lessons – 7
Daddy/Daughter Dance – 252 (18th year)
Homemade Cards – 5

March

Spring Coloring Contest – 61
Theater Thursday – 35
Hue Can Paint – 13
Crochet - 5
Tot Gold Hunt/Bank Tour – 36
Homemade Card Class – 6
Farm Wagon – 45, 60

April

Snow White Tea Party – 186
Theater Thursday – 37
Senior Carry-In - 50
Underwater Egg Hunt – 240
Senior Exploration – 52
Farm Wagon – 60, 70, 60

May

Summer Striders – 33
Pee Wee Swim Lessons - 16
Homemade Card Class – 3
Hue Can Paint – 12
Farm Wagon – 60, 70
Swim Lessons – 158
Theater Thursday – 34
Women Self Defense Class – 43
Yarn Bombing - 19 participated

June

Craft Club - 34, 24, 14, 18
Art in the Park – 55, 119, 43
Tot Clay Day – 17
Simple Slab Pottery – 32
Mini / Beginning Cheer – 3
Coupon Class - 10
Farm Wagon – 80, 80
Tot Bubble Day – 18
Dinosaur Dig – 67
Bead Happy Jewelry – 28
Robotics Encounter - 16
Chicks Run – 215
Mini Pinch Vessel – 38
Pee Wee Cheer – 7
Butterfly Release – 100
Creedence Revived concert – 465-500
Squish & Sculpt – 36
Outdoor Pursuits – 17
Mini Me Geology - 58
Theater Thursday - 31

June (continued)

Bowling – 40+
Tennis Lessons – 539 for summer
Bike & Brew – 40+
Touch-A-Truck - rained out
Yoga Wine Down – 20
Puzzling Picnic - 61
Rock Painting - 68
Pee Wee Painters - 16
Hair Styling Lessons – 6
Homemade Card Making Class – 4
Fuse Bead Magnets – 13
Paper Skyscraper - 7
Drawing Camp – 16, 14, 12
Hungry, Hungry Human game – 34
Farm to Fabric Demo – 44
Running Mechanics Clinic – 15
Mad Science Mondays – 66, 75,
Wednesday Night Yoga – avg 10-20 per night (8 nights)

Shaving Cream Fight - 200 +
Egg Drop Challenge – 45
Funky Flip Flops - 27
Road Challenge - 40
Pee Wee Painters - 16
Running Rogue - 115
Pee Wee Dance – 20
Mini Dance - 12
Foam Party - 200
Animal Explorers - 72
SLR Camera Workshop - 5
Matchbox Car Play Day - 74
Stuff & Fluff – 47
Polar Bear Plunge – 21
Wabash Ride & Run 30+
Messy Art Mondays – 45, 24, 44
Daddy/Daughter Hair School - 10

July

Scavenger Hunt - 7
Styrofoam Printing – 11
Yoga Paint & Sip – 24
Summer Striders II – 8
Art in the Park – 48
Parrots of the Caribbean Concert – 600+
45 RPM Concert – 130 (inside)
Angry Bird Slingshot - 25
Dog & Jog – 30
Theater Thursday - 56
Hue Can Paint - 6
Loom Hot Pad - 7
Tot Fire Dept Visit – 51
Bubble Dash – 115
Running Rogue - 115
Beginning Tumbling – 5
Messy Art Mondays – 37, 32
Mad Science Mondays – 45, 50

Community July 4th Celebration - 300+
Old Crown Brass Band Concert - 210
Employee Picnic - 68
Ronald McDonald Health visit - 7
Craft Club - 18
Mini Tumbling - 5
Scavenger Hunt - 7
Ax Throwing – 16, 12, 11
Pee Wee Tumbling - 12
Paper Sculpting - 4
Yoga Paint & Sip - 25
Abstract Organic Sculpture - 8
Wabash River Paddle - 66
Farm Wagon – 70, 68
Preserving Nature's Bounty - 7
Eat It or Wear It Challenge – 47
Tot Ice Excavating – 29

August

Groundbreaking at Washington Park – 25
Heartache Tonight Concert – 700+
Cornfield Mafia concert - 130
Theater Thursday – 39
Giant Slip & Slide / Watermelon Drop - 194
Farm Wagon – 60, 85, 55
Mud Fest – 208

Yoga Brunch - 22
The Sound Concert - 135
Little Big Band Concert - 180
Homemade Card Class – 5
Squirt Gun Fight- 129
Ronald McDonald Health visit – 4

September

Fall Coloring contest – 57
Harvest Hustle 5K – 105
Fall Senior Exploration – 52

Farm Wagon – 60, 55
Shakespeare in the Park – 108, 152, 70
Theater Thursday – 36

October

Tot Fire Dept. visit – 95+
Card making class – 4
Great Pumpkin Hunt/Star Gazing – 360
Autumn Adventure – 1,500
Farm Wagon – 65, 70, 70

Theater Thursday – 39
Senior Carry-in - 43
Ronald McDonald Health Visit - 5
Fall Senior Exploration – 52

November

Tot Post Office tour – 29
Homemade Card Class - 4
Crochet Class - 9
W.O.O.F. Race (5 mile & 15 mile) – 125

Theater Thursday – 38
Thanksgiving Day Run/Walk - 42
Farm Wagon – 70, 67
Hue Can Paint - 3

December

Tot Candy Cane Hunt - 49
Winter Wonderland – 304
December Dash 5K - 60
Santa's Mailbox – 201
Gingerbread House Contest - 14
Special Needs Christmas – 15
Tot Christmas - 47

Paws & Claus – 96 humans, 70 pets
Winter Coloring contest – 58
Farm Wagon – 61, 59
Theater Thursday - 56
Pressure Cooking – 13
Christmas w/Mrs. Claus – 23

Free Summer Lunches served by BHMSD at Roush Park – 2,614

Programs/events held: 178

Participants: 18,160 estimated

Volunteers: 181 Total hours: 1920 (approximate figures)

Grants received: \$15,550.00

Improvements made: \$550,437.98 including what has been paid towards the Washington Park pavilion

Improvements include: replaced the covered bridge deck, planted new trees, replaced the Senior Girls Softball Diamond backstop, painted inside the large Roush Park pavilion, repaired the Lion's Park restrooms, installed 13 new benches on the Interurban Trail, repaired flood damages on Interurban Trail, replaced remaining wooden fence at K-9 Kommons among many other repairs or replacement and/or repair of equipment

Income:

Roush #1 Concessions - \$13,586.90

Roush # 2 Concessions - \$3,690.70

Jefferson Concessions - \$854.95

Pool Concessions - \$14,362.96

Pool Admissions - \$27,941.29 / Pool visitors - 11,670 / 64 days

Pavilion Rentals - \$1,145.00 – No Washington Park rentals due to construction

Roush Park large pavilion – 14

Roush Park small pavilion - 7

Lion's Park pavilion - 1

Kehoe gazebo - 1

K-9 Kommons Members – 56 / Income: \$825.00

Pool rentals - 29 / \$8,390.00

Gym memberships:

City employees: 36 Single: 140 (2 are Non-WC residents) Family: 129 Total: 305
Income: \$16,096.00

COMPLIMENTS:

Carla - recommends Bluffton Parks: amazing!! great opportunities for kids.

Betsy - I think this is a great idea for those in our community who are in need of any of these services and may not have any other options. Thanks for all you do for our community, Bluffton Parks Dept! (Ronald McDonald Mobile Care Unit Visit)

Kayleen - recommends Bluffton Parks. Most events are free, well organized, safe and family-appropriate. Many events for all ages.

Matt - Can you pass on a big thanks to the crew who clears the interurban and river greenway. As an early morning runner it is great to have a safe place to run when it is cold and snowy.

Bluffton Parks Department is amazing! They have made moving to Bluffton entertaining and there's always something to do! We loved the free concerts last summer! One of the highlights of the summer for us!!

Betsy - This year will be the 7th for my husband and girls. We have started a tradition that, once our daughters turn 3, they're able to go with daddy and the other girls. They have loved every dance because they get to be dressed up and play Cinderella for the evening. My husband loves the chance to pour into his girls. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to make so many great memories ♥

Jenn - We have went the past 2 years and it really is a blast!! It's amazing how much fun this is!! (foam party post)

Rebekah - There are so many things for kids here. I love it!

Andy - Wow! 114 events in Bluffton in Wells County with Bluffton Parks! (about summer rec post)

Cindy Collins - Your organization is an exemplary example of a parks department getting it right for kids and families! Your partnerships, creative efforts and hard work put into coordinating and communicating with the public fun & engaging events and programs for all ages is excellent! Kudos to you!! (underwater egg hunt)

Andrea - I believe we have the best parks dept. thanks to you, your team and hard work! Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for our community!

JoAnn - I think everyone enjoyed the class. The girls have loved practicing the pressure points on their dad! Now if they can only remember it's supposed to be a defensive move not an offensive tactic on each other!

Ashley - I cannot tell you how much I love seeing this! It makes me smile! - Yarn Bomb

Rhonda - We have the BEST Parks Dept! Other counties and towns would do well to follow their example!

Susan - It's a fun game, not to mention grandma gets a walk in and we have to play at each park we visit. Love Bluffton parks events. (Parker the Roaming Gnome)

Gda Cona - 1st time @Wells Community Pool clean, friendly staff. Adult swim is a great program for our community. Cheap way to get exercise especially for arthritis & seniors, Thank u!! Hope more people can support this. ☐♥

Rick - Great job by everyone involved. I was nervous at first but met some really amazing people. Bluffton is awesome! (Road Challenge)

Jeff - This was a awesome concert to kick off the summer concert series!

Sheila - We had so much fun digging up dinosaurs ☐ ☐ bones ☐. Thank you!

Journal Gazette Article: Bluffton Parks Dept "Jewel in our Town"

Amy - Hands down, best parks & rec dept in existence today!!!! I can't even imagine how all of those activities are so fluidly arranged, all the kudos to Pam & the gang 🙌🙌🙌

David - shared a live video. This was an awesome program tonight put on by the Bluffton Parks & Rec Dept! So much fun to watch so many from the community show up and get some exercise on the Wabash ~~to~~v! " The sense of Community is always directly proportionate to the sense of Happiness!"
👉😊

Jenny - you guys have one of the best parks and recreation around! I wish we lived closer so we could do more of the activities offered. And i wish our parks and recreation would take a more active roll in the community like you do.

Stinson - I've never seen a full production of Shakespeare anything or had to read a Shakespeare book in school ...so... I was thoroughly thrilled and completely surprised by the production.... Completely met any expectations I could have had and beyond