

Bluffton Parks Department 2020 Annual Report

January

Rock Steady Boxing is a year-long program that runs 3 x's a week with averages of 15 per class

Weekday Walking Jan-Mar	174	Hue Can Paint	10
Tot Police Department Visit	67	Tot Time Jan – March	54
Hooked on Crochet	7	2 Farm Wagons	106
Theater Thursday	43	Homemade Cards	6

February

Chilly Chili Run	123	2 Farm Wagons	115
Hooked on Crochet	7	Mother Son Dance	96
18th Dad/Daughter Dance	234	Theater Thursday	41
Homemade Card Class	3		

March

Spring Color Contest	115	Farm Wagon	272
Hooked on Crochet	7	Gold Hunt/Bank Tour	29
Tot Block Party	12	Silly Face Contest	28
Going on A Bear Hunt	1680 post engagements	Beautify Bluffton	5

April

Cake Wars Home Edition	44 entries/ 4,418 votes	Online Color Contest	26
Silly Pet Costume Contest	17	Funny Baby Photo Contest	9
Post Your Puzzle Game	28	Egg Decorating Contest	5
4 Farm Wagons	469	Marker Stacking Contest	2
I Scream for Ice Cream Contest	37	Clue Park Edition	85+
Virtual 5 K	54	Coast to Coast in 13 days	35
Silly Hair Contest	5	Route Art	2
Online Coloring Contest	21		

May

Rollin by the River 8/16-mile	22	Lego Challenge	40
4 Farm Wagons	431	36 Yarn Bombs	22
Bike and Spy Scavenger Hunt	5	Face Smash Contest	12
Decorated Golf Cart Caravan	27 carts with 2 – 6 people each		

June

The Bluffton Cycling Club	8	5 Farm Wagons	589
Tot Bubble Day	3	4 Weeks of Craft Club	160
Tot Chalk It Up	4	5 Weeks of Art in the Park	133
Candle Making at Bijou	6	2 Mad Science Mondays	104
Tot Scavenger Hunt	7	Egg Drop Challenge	41

June Continued

Tot Lego Day	6	Lego Day	16
Father's Day Safari	172	Princess Jasmine Tea Parties	73
Matchbox Car Play Day	25	Yoga in the Park	15- 20 avg
Animal Explorers	82	Fuse Bead Magnets	22
Loom Hot Pad	19	Tot Puzzle Day	7
Stuff & Fluff	48	Dinosaur Dig	21
5 Day Nature Program	88		

July

Summer Striders 2	7	Shaving Cream Fight	10
Jr. Veterinarian Day	18	Wabash River Paddle	81 kayaks
Paper Skyscraper	9	Running Rogue	14 teams
Zoso Concert	400+	Fastest Kid in Town Race	80+
Ax Throwing	33	Bubble Dash	10
Farm Wagon	415	Bucket Drumming	46
Chicks Run	150	Dog Obedience	10
Musical Zoo	29	5 Weeks of Tennis Lessons	647
Hooked on Crochet	5	Wildlife Education	23
1988 Concert	425+	Sweetwater All-Star Concert	223
Hue Can Paint	6		

August

4 Farm Wagons	495	2x's a week Indoor Yoga	13-15 avg
Derek Jones Concert	350+	Dirty Deeds Concert	635+
Bike & Brew	30	Magic Bus Concert	477

September

5 Farm Wagons	630	Harvest Hustle	50
Golf Cart Caravan	43 carts with 2-6 people/ 450+ spectators		

October

Food Budgeting Class	10	5 Weeks of Crochet	7
Weekday Walkers Oct 1- Dec	138	2 Classes of WWII Vets	18
Egypt Travelogue	16	Farm Wagon	519
Your Immune System	11	Mexico City Travelogue	14
Theater Thursday	8	Meals in a Mug	10
Birds, Bugs, Blooms	14	Germany Travelogue	15
Outsmarting Scammers	6	Castles of Europe	18
Diversity Equity, Inclusion	6	Drive Thru Boo	491 cars, 2K

November

Open Gym Nov	56	Ancient and Nobel People	16
American West Travelogue	18	Aging Well in Place	8
Virtual Costume Contest	58 entries, 7,284 votes	4 Buckets of Medicare	6
Farm Wagon Nov	502	Hooked on Crochet	4
Hue Can Paint	5	Woof Trail Run	150
Santa's Mailbox	145	Flu Shot Clinic	16

December

Gingerbread House Contest	14 entries, 992 votes	Giant Coloring Contest	197
Santa Claus on a Fire Truck	750	Farm Wagon	624
Special Needs Christmas	6	December Dash	45
IPRA District Meeting Presenter	48	Santa Photos in Fire Truck	100
Spot the Grinch	63 entries	40,101 reached, 9295 engagements, 781 shares	
Positivi-tree	124	13,179 reached, 1,238 engagements, 215 shares	
Open Gym December	118		

Programs/Events Total: 205 (not including each open gym, tot time, weekday walking, Yoga, Tennis and RSB)

Participants: 15,893 (not including weekly yoga, RSB classes)

Volunteer Hours: 1416 hours

Grants received:

3 Batting Cages \$2,280.70
Cement Cornhole Game \$995.00
Seal Basketball 2 Courts \$6,600.00
Bike Repair Station \$1,530.00
Kehoe Concert Series \$6,000.00

Improvements:

New LED Digital Sign at Common's Parking Lot
New batting cage at Jefferson and 2 at Roush
Reseal City Gym Basketball Court and add Pickleball Lines
Install 2 new Horseshoe games at Washington
Cement Cornhole Game at Washington Park
Installed Bike Repair Station at Kehoe Park
Added Mulch in Playgrounds
New lights at Washington Park
Replace Basketball Courts and the x Path
New sink and counter at women's Kehoe
Paint Men's & Women's Restroom at Kehoe Park
Remove Girls Press Box and Add New Roof
Seal Red Covered Bridge and Interurban Pedestrian Bridge
Repaint Red Bridge Labor and Paint Donated by Yaste
New flooring in Men's Restroom
New trash can at Angel of Hope from Wells County Foundation
Purchased 2 new trucks and 1 new mower for maintenance

Income:

Pavilion Rentals - \$13,030.00
Gym Rentals - \$880.00
Diamond Rentals - \$4,200.00
K-9 Kommons - \$850.00
Gym Memberships - \$14,260.00

Memberships

Gym memberships: 389
K-9 Kommons Members 59

Magazines:

Profile: Bluffton Parks Department Gets Creative with Programming during Pandemic
Outdoor Indiana
Whatzup Magazine: Bluffton's Kehoe Park Sponsors Free Concerts
Profile: Awards of Excellence Winners

TV News Stations:

WFFT FOX 55 reporter Jentill Neal came to hear about the NEW Drive-Thru Boo Event. OCT 13th
Wane Channel 15 News Report about Golf Cart Parade. Sept 25th (see link below)
Bay News Channel 9 Citrus County Florida Clue Program. Sept 24th (see link below)
Wane Channel 15 News Report for #EndHunger Campaign July 6th

Reader's Choice Awards:

2nd Place Best Park: Washington Park
2nd Place Best Community Event: Kehoe Concerts
3rd Place Best Park: Roush Park

Indiana Parks and Recreation Association Award:

Creative Event Award for Yarn Bomb Bluffton

National Recreation and Park Association:

Cortney Weinstock (BCRP) from Baltimore MD shared our COVID adapted programs at the National Conference Oct 2020.

News Articles:

The Journal Gazette: Parks Department 'jewel in our town'
The Journal Gazette: Rocks Bring Joy

Compliments 2020**Creative Program State Award**

Susan- Bluffton parks has the greatest programs. Thank you for all you do. You definitely deserve this award and more.

Vickie - Thank you Bluffton Parks for everything you do! Congratulations

Robin - Congratulations, I am excited to be participating in this event this year.

Suzette- That's awesome-a well-deserved award!

Lisa - Bluffton Parks deserves an award. Great job.

Marcia - Congratulations to the Parks Department and all the "yarn people"!

Jennifer- This is awesome! Congrats Pam & Brandy! You both are a blessing to our community

Janet- So happy to see that your hard work and dedication is rewarded. Pam and her crew, not only are the best in our state, but the best in all the 50 states. Wishing you the best!

Robin - We are blessed with a great team in our parks department.

Sheila - You are all doing a wonderful job. Your creativity is amazing. Keep up the good work.

Karen- Totally agree with all of the above! Keep up the great work!!

Emily - Just looking into for the future for graduation options.... thanks. We live in Berne but I am impressed often with things Bluffton offers! – Washington Park pavilion

Kevin This is a great needed facility for our great city! Well done Parks Department!

Linda - Doesn't surprise me a bit that Bluffton parks is being mentioned in Fort Wayne paper! We have the best park manager and a staff to match! Bluffton is forever coming up with new ideas to keep the county as active as they want to be. Congratulations Pam and your great team.

Chilly Chili

Sandy -Excellent chili! Thanks to everyone that helped.

Marsha - Thanks Bluffton Parks department for another great day!

Judy - I love seeing what people are doing to stay fit in a covid19 world. :) This makes me miss living in the Parlor City. Your parks department is innovative!!! -Virtual 5 K

Sheila Bluffton Parks Department... you ROCK! Look at all the smiles you put on these faces today

Clue

Nikki - This is awesome

Sarah- This is amazing! So creative!

Jada -who doesn't love a good murder mystery? Love the idea Bluffton Parks!

Alison - this looks awesome!

Kasia -This sounds so FUN!

Tiffany - I love Clue!!! Great idea!!!

Janell - looks like fun! We can definitely try giving it a go

Kasia - Any chance you would share your format?? We are loving your idea!!

Jason - great idea! Could you share details of your game/layout.

Amy - Would love to get additional information on what the clues looked like, the layout. Super fun and innovative!!

Armando - Would love to get additional information on what the clues looked like, the layout. Super fun and innovative!! If you are willing to share, you can send to

Shannon - this is really cool!!

Jill - Thanks parks recreation, we had a great time and it entertained all of us! We solved it and had 6 detectives

Becky - Thank you so much Bluffton parks recreation for all u do for kids and family.

Rebecca - We solved it! So.much.fun! There are 5 of us.

Deloris - We have solved the crime! We have 3 detectives in our family

DeeAnna - Solved it!!! Family of 4!!! Our 4 yr. old had a blast!!!!

Liz - We had so much fun solving this mystery! We had 5 detectives that enjoyed the outside and we even learned about a few things in Bluffton. Thanks,

Stephen - We solved it! So much fun! 2 detectives

Yarn Bombing

Megan -Bluffton is fabulous!!

Lora - Bluffton is a magical place.

Samuel This was a great idea!

Amy-You guys are amazing and very creative!! Thanks for sharing all of your awesomeness!!

Skylar- Aww love this

Nicholas- Super cool!

Jeanne These look so cute!

Marge - They look great! Makes me smile every time I drive that way!

Kathy - Thank you to all the people for putting their time and talent to help beautify our greenway. Great job!

Austin - Just got done running 4 miles on the greenway and I loved them all!

Susan - Those are very creative. Thank you to all involved.

Terri - Glad it is able to be seen by everyone. Great job

Peggy - These are so beautiful. I had to stop and look closely at the intricacies!!!

Shelly - They are awesome thank you

Sue - Such a colorful gift to our community! Bless each set of hands that did this work!

Sarah - We have been SO impressed w the variety of activities your parks dept offers; being new to the community, this has been one of the most pleasant surprises in Bluffton! :)

Rick and Kathy - Just signed up! Thanks for the great events parks department. Wells county can't be beat!
(Endless summer virtual run)

Megan - I would just like to say "thank you" to the Bluffton Parks Dept for updating Washington Park with new playground equipment, new light poles, a new pavilion, and today spreading mulch. I enjoy walking my dog through this park. It makes me want to get my basketball out and shoot hoops again like I use to years ago. I truly thank you for all your time and sweat making Bluffton a great community!

Sharilyn - Just wanted to give you girls a shout out!! You all do such a fabulous job and we are blessed to have such a wonderful Parks Department!!! Keep up the great work!!! (Sept e-mail blast)

Golf Cart Caravan

Deena - So much fun to watch!

Patty - It was awesome!

Marcia - We enjoyed watching the parade! Great job on the cart decorations. Great job Parks Department for coordinating the event and bringing some enjoyment to the community.

Jessica- My kids were jumping up and down with excitement during the parade! Thank you for putting it on!

Tim - So fun to be a part of our grandkids loved it so much!

Tammy - Thank you for the great job you do!

Shirley- Fun time and loved it!!!!

Sheila - Love it

Karen - SO MUCH FUN!!!!!!

Rita – Roush Park looks Beautiful! I feel blessed to be able to sit on my front porch and have such a Beautiful View. Also, Bluffton Athletic Department. Kicked in to help with the mulch. That made quick work out of a big job. (Aug 7th, park clean up and mulch)

Bike repair kit

Lisa - This is awesome

Diane - I love Bluffton!

Vickie - That's pretty awesome! Thank you

Kayla - This is such a good idea!!! Thanks for ALL of the improvements that have been made around Bluffton!

Christine- What a great update!

Sandy- Awesome idea!

Erin -What an amazing idea! I hope people appreciate how much hard work and thought go into these things that make our community so amazing.

Nick- Bluffton Parks keeps impressing me more every day! Thank you!

Susannah -That's amazing! Thank you!

Maxine- A good idea and I hope the people if they use them or not will appreciate having that available and take care of them.

Randy Bluffton Parks along with The Wells County Foundation is doing a great service for the community.

Carissa- Really Awesome!! Good job Bluffton!

Jennifer- this will be nice if our seats need adjusted!

Twyla- Bluffton has the Best Parks Department in the State!! What a Great Team!!

Cheyenne -This is an amazing idea! (positivi-tree)

Stephanie - Please tell Santa thank you! My kids were shocked that their elf on the shelf actually delivered the letters to Santa and Santa wrote back!

Melinda - Bluffton is amazing with creativity when it comes to children and the community! I love this! (Spot the Grinch)