



2023 Annual Report - Recreation Department

Jack M. Abbruzzese – Recreation Commissioner

Mission Statement:

To promote participation by all Brooklyn citizens through educational, park, recreation, sports, and leisure opportunities. To promote a more active Brooklyn community while working toward future facility improvements.

Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining all community outdoor parks, playgrounds, pavilions, athletic fields, greenspace, and structures. The department also maintains the John M. Coyne Recreation Center which includes an ice arena, indoor natatorium, outdoor pool, and community/fitness room. New for 2023, the recreation department added the Senior Center which houses bocce courts, activity spaces, and a full caterer's kitchen.

Staff breakdown for the department:

- FT Recreation Commissioner: Jack M. Abbruzzese
- FT Recreation Manager: Maria McGinty
- FT Recreation Coordinator-Ice Rink: Rachel Laskowsky
- FT Recreation Coordinator-Senior Center: Katie Tomek (New 2023)
- FT Maintenance Personnel: Shayne Thompson
- FT Maintenance Personnel: Chris Hovan
- FT Maintenance Personnel: Ryan Tolowitzki
- PT Payroll Coordinator: Linda Langermeier
- PT Head Cashier: Bonnie Johnson
- Approximately 75 Part-Time employees Year Round (Various Duties)
- 2023 FTE's (Full Time Equivalent staff hours) equals 23

The Recreation and Parks Department strives to provide quality programming for all residents. The department will continue to create and develop new and exciting activities for 2023.

- Summer Concert Series
 - Hosted 2 Weekend Concert Events with multiple bands
 - Hosted 1 weeknight concert in the park
- Christmas Holiday Event: Swim with Santa
 - Held at Brooklyn Recreation Center Ice Rink
 - 112 registered participants (approximately 250 total attendance)
- Halloween Trick or Treat @ Safety Town
 - 204 registered participants (approximately 350 total attendance)
 - Held at Safety Town and Upper Veteran's Park
- Easter Egg Hunt
 - Held at Brooklyn Memorial Park and Senior Center
 - 150 kids attended
- Fall Fest
 - We estimate over 1,200 people attended
- Memorial Day Parade
 - Parade and ceremony at Brooklyn High School Stadium

We continued renovation of Marquardt Park with the installation of lights and cameras in the main park area and completed renovations of the restroom facility. Lights and cameras to be active in early 2024.

Memorial 1 baseball diamond renovations began in late 2023 to include a new infield, fence, and lights. The project will be completed in 2024.

The final phase of the Memorial Park Path Renovation project included installation of a pedestrian foot bridge to connect the North and South sides of the path. This was complete in June of 2023.

We partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and Brooklyn Schools to offer Fall Fest 2023. All 3 groups were in agreement that the city should consolidate the 2 large summer events (Fall Fest & Concert in the Park) and combine efforts to offer Fall Fest as a joint venture. The event was a huge success and will continue to expand for years to come.

2023 saw the replacement of the Natatorium roof and skylight. These items were long in need of replacement due to age and deterioration. The roof/skylight replacement is the first step in the overall and long term upgrade of our Natatorium facility. We received \$150,000 in CDBG grant funding for this project.

As we look towards the future of our recreation center and facilities, we have been working with Behnke Landscape Architects to finalize a master plan for Memorial Park as well as separate plans for Brock Park, Kingdom Trail, and a new Dog Park. 2024 will be the beginning of construction in Memorial Park and the commencement of official planning for the other park improvements.

We continue to look for ways to improve and upgrade our indoor facilities and this will begin in a major way in 2024. In December 2023, we selected **Jeffrey A. Grusenmeyer and Associates** as the lead architect on the Natatorium facility renovation and redesign project. We will begin planning for this project in early 2024 with hopes to begin construction in 2025.

The recreation department officially inherited the senior center and its operations in 2023 as part of our overall department functions. We have implemented several new programs as well as brought back numerous popular events and activities as requested by our resident senior members. We aim to focus on upgrading old facility amenities and aesthetics as well as generating new members and increasing our outreach through new marketing and advertising efforts. We have transitioned finance tracking to MyRec from the old cash register system and have streamlined the communication and activity marketing process by including senior programs in our email marketing efforts.

Financial Report for FY2023

BRC Revenue
701,258.00
Senior Center Revenue
\$11,852.00

BRC Expenditures
1,675,885.00
Senior Center Expenditures
\$89,233.00

There is still a major lifeguard shortage nationwide that is effecting many local area pools, including ours. As a measure to keep our pool facilities open to the public as much as possible, we instituted a lifeguard financial incentive program in June to entice guards to work more shifts. This program was successful and we were able to stay open for the majority of advertised hours and close minimally in the summer.

Membership revenues increased due to the ending of extensions and refunds after the pool roof replacement project was complete.

The Brooklyn Recreation Department and City of Brooklyn welcomed Katie Tomek, the new full-time Recreation Coordinator for our Senior Center. In addition to this hire, we promoted Rachel Laskowsky to Recreation Coordinator of the ice Rink. Katie comes to us from the City of Fairlawn where she was the Assistant Recreation Director for nearly 5 years. She has been doing a tremendous job in working with our resident seniors and adding several new programs and activities. We are lucky and excited to have her on board.

Advertising & Sponsorship Partners

As costs continue to rise, the department seeks partners for special events and programs throughout the year. Several local businesses have been a crucial piece in offering our community events. Thank you to our partners!

Amazon

B.A. Sweetie

Brooklyn Figure Skating Club

BW3's

Dollar Bank

Dunkin' Donuts

Great Clips

Huntington Bank

Ice House Tavern & Grill

Memphis Kiddie Park

Raising Canes

Sam's Club

Texas Roadhouse

Dina's Pizza and Pub

Cascade Crossing

Hampton Inn

Technical Products Inc.

Loving Cup Kids Academy

Public Parks and Facilities Information

Veterans (Upper) Memorial Park

7619 Memphis Ave

- (1) Baseball/softball fields (1) lighted
- (2) Lighted outdoor basketball courts
- (2) Lighted outdoor tennis courts
- (1) Playground

Walking trail around perimeter of park

Public restrooms

- (1) Parking lots
- (1) Picnic Shelter

Lower Veterans Memorial Park

7619 Memphis Ave

- (1) Baseball/softball field
- (2) Picnic Pavilions

Nature trails throughout

Public Restrooms

Brock Playground

Vandalia Ave.

- (1) Playground
- (1) Shade Structure

Brooklyn Recreation Center

7600 Memphis Ave

- (1) Little League Baseball/Softball Fields
- (1) Ice Rink
- (1) Indoor Natatorium
- (1) Outdoor Pool
- (2) Parking Lots

Marquardt Park

9768 Brookhigh Dr.

- (1) 11v11 Soccer Field (80%)
- (1) 8v8 Soccer Field (60%)
- (1) Shade Structure
- (1) Playground

Public Restrooms

Walking trail around perimeter and interior of the park

Senior Community Center

7727 Memphis Ave

Public Restrooms

- (2) Community Rental / Activity Rooms
- (2) Bocce Courts
- (2) Corn Hole Courts
- (2) Arts / Craft Spaces
- (1) Kitchen

Membership Demographics for FY2023

Membership Type	Resident		Non-Resident		Total
BRC Membership - Adult - Annual Membership	47	64.38%	26	35.62%	73
BRC Membership - Adult - Corporate/Soza Annual	0	0.00%	9	100.00%	9
BRC Membership - Adult - Corporate/Soza Monthly	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
BRC Membership - Adult - Monthly Membership	16	26.67%	44	73.33%	60
BRC Membership - Adult - Partnership Annual	0	0.00%	17	100.00%	17
BRC Membership - Adult - Partnership Monthly	0	0.00%	12	100.00%	12
BRC Membership - Employee Membership - Annual Membership	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
BRC Membership - Family - Annual Membership	48	80.00%	12	20.00%	60
BRC Membership - Family - Monthly Membership	9	12.50%	63	87.50%	72
BRC Membership - Family - Partnership Annual	0	0.00%	17	100.00%	17
BRC Membership - Family - Partnership Monthly	0	0.00%	20	100.00%	20
BRC Membership - Husband/Wife & Partner - Annual Membership	22	57.89%	16	42.11%	38
BRC Membership - Husband/Wife & Partner - Monthly Membership	2	10.00%	18	90.00%	20
BRC Membership - Husband/Wife & Partner - Partnership Annual	0	0.00%	6	100.00%	6
BRC Membership - Husband/Wife & Partner - Partnership Monthly	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
BRC Membership - Senior - Annual Membership	81	64.80%	44	35.20%	125
BRC Membership - Senior - Annual Partnership	0	0.00%	18	100.00%	18
BRC Membership - Senior - Monthly Membership	0	0.00%	9	100.00%	9
BRC Membership - Senior - Partnership Monthly	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
BRC Membership - Senior Couples - Annual Membership	6	42.86%	8	57.14%	14
BRC Membership - Senior Couples - Monthly Membership	0	0.00%	4	100.00%	4
BRC Membership - Senior Couples - Partnership Annual	0	0.00%	6	100.00%	6
BRC Membership - Single Parent Family - Annual Membership	62	74.70%	21	25.30%	83
BRC Membership - Single Parent Family - Monthly Membership	0	0.00%	18	100.00%	18
BRC Membership - Single Parent Family - Partnership Annual	0	0.00%	4	100.00%	4
BRC Membership - Single Parent Family - Partnership Monthly	0	0.00%	2	100.00%	2
BRC Membership - Students - Annual Membership	3	75.00%	1	25.00%	4
BRC Membership - Students - Monthly Membership	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
BRC Membership - Students - Partnership Monthly	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	1
Silver and Fit - Annual Calendar Year	13	20.31%	51	79.69%	64
Silver Sneakers Membership - Annual Calendar Year	119	25.81%	342	74.19%	461
United Health Care/Renew Active - Annual Calendar Year	56	29.47%	134	70.53%	190
United Health Care/Renew Active - Annual Membership	8	27.59%	21	72.41%	29
Totals	492	34.07%	952	65.93%	1444

General BRC Membership Revenue: \$62,344.40
 Silver Sneakers / Healthways Revenue: \$58,406.00
 BRC Membership Revenue: \$120,750.40

Senior Center Resident Memberships 121 – 52.6%
 Senior Center Non-Resident Membership 109 – 47.4%
 Senior Center Membership Revenue \$948.00

Facility Rentals FY 2023

Pavilion Rentals

Total Permits Rendered 181
 Total Rental Revenue \$7,150

Ice Rink Rentals

Total Rental Groups 30
 Total Rental Revenue \$303,804

Pool Rentals

Total Rental Groups 15
 Total Rental Revenue \$16,358

Senior Center Rentals

Total Rental Revenue \$2,150.00

Youth Program Snapshot FY 2023

Program Name	Res Count	Non-Res Count	Total Count	Res Total	Non-Res Total	Totals
Learn To Skate	134	513	647	\$5,166.00	\$28,082.40	\$33,248.40
Learn to Swim	123	143	266	\$5,625.00	\$7,715.00	\$13,340.00
Lifeguarding Certification	15	41	56	\$775.00	\$3,025.00	\$3,800.00
Swim Team	4	10	14	\$380.00	\$1,187.50	\$1,567.50
2023 Community Enrichment Camp	85	0	85	\$59,548.00	\$0.00	\$59,548.00
BFSC ICE SHOW Registration	6	34	40	\$150.00	\$2,160.00	\$2,310.00
Easter Egg Hunt	101	49	150	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Free Fall Learn to Swim Classes	0	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Swim with Santa Event	59	53	112	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
It's Great To Skate	30	62	92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Learn To Skate - Holiday Mini Camp	2	8	10	\$90.00	\$440.00	\$530.00
Mini Canes Youth Soccer Camp	36	8	44	\$900.00	\$240.00	\$1,140.00
Safety Town 2023	16	14	30	\$490.00	\$540.00	\$1,030.00
Trick or Treat at Safety Town	125	79	204	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Baseball (8U-14U)	49	13	62	\$2,365.00	\$800.00	\$3,165.00
Youth Basketball Leagues (Grades 3-6)	40	4	44	\$1,980.00	\$120.00	\$2,100.00
Youth Soccer (Spring/Fall)	85	55	140	\$3,240.00	\$2,450.00	\$5,690.00
Youth Softball (8u-15U)	7	7	14	\$420.00	\$560.00	\$980.00
Youth Volleyball (Grades 3-6)	42	0	42	\$2,340.00	\$0.00	\$2,340.00
Totals	959	1,094	2,053	\$83,469.00	\$47,319.90	\$130,788.90

Administrative Goals and Objectives 2024

- Continue working with BCSD on youth sports programming
- Complete design phase for Natatorium renovation and upgrade project
- Evaluate current staffing plan to look towards future facility improvements and programming additions
- Put preliminary plan in place to address needs assessment items on the rink side and begin to plan for future improvements and upgrades

Park Goals and Objectives 2024

Park Master Plan

- Finalize design and begin construction for Memorial Park Master Plan Phase I and II
- Design and plan documents for Dog Park for 2025 construction project
- Begin community conversations and planning process for Brock Park
- Discuss future plans and potential trail locations for Kingdom Trail Park.

Brooklyn Recreation Center Goals and Objectives 2024

Ice Rink

- Evaluate and address needs assessment items annually
- Continue to plan for future improvements and upgrades through capital planning process

Natatorium

- Work with Grusenmeyer and Associates on planning and construction drawings for renovation and upgrade project

Senior Center

- Upgrade facility as noted in 2024 capital budget to include new flooring, lights, appliances, etc.
- Continue to improve on programming and activity offerings
- Work towards increasing memberships through open houses and other marketing events and online efforts.
- Continue to evaluate building policies to streamline rental process and increase revenue