



Beech Grove Parks Department

For 2019, the Parks Department maintenance staff consisted of one full time and four part time employees. These employees are responsible for maintaining the City's four parks, Emerson Avenue right of ways from Subway to the 465 interchange, Main Street from 11th Ave to Emerson Avenue, and South 9th from Don Challis Park to North Bend. These areas were mowed 56 times this year and trimmed and edged 13 times (edging and trimming the walks and curbs covers approximately 15 miles each time)

Our focus for early spring was the demolition of playgrounds in Don Challis and Sarah T Bolton parks. Parks staff did about half of the demolition and our contractor completed it. Installation of the new playgrounds, although delayed by one of the wettest springs ever, was completed before the end of June. These projects were completed with funds from the Mayor's Dinner for Parks, a grant from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Association, Franciscan VNS, and the Beech Grove Redevelopment Commission.

Trash collection is another part of maintaining our properties. Trash left on the ground and left from picnics and other events totaled over 20 tons. This total was down a little from 2018 due to a smaller turnout for All American Day.

A list of the wildlife we observed in our parks this year would include White tailed deer, opossum, raccoon, mink, muskrats, coyote, ground hog, rabbits, squirrels, Red fox, Red-tailed hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine falcon, Barred Owl, and a Great Horned Owl.

The Park Department maintenance employees completed over 6 thousand hours of work this year with no reportable injuries.

The Hornet Park Community Center has one full time facility manager and 8 part time employees. These employees have planned, facilitated, and/or supported multiple public programs and events throughout the year inside the center and the parks. In addition, the facility is used daily by the schools, local organizations, and for private events.

Many of our programs are either free to the public or at very low cost. These events include:

Mini Monday: Free weekly program for preschool age youth. Educational and hands activities focusing on a new theme each week. This takes place every Monday morning at 10am. This program averages 25 youth per week.

Community Dinners: Free weekly program for our community members of all ages. Each week we offer an engaging activity as well as a sharing table of food pantry items. With the partnership of Second Helpings this year, we have been able to provide over 6,000 hot meals and have kept our food sharing table stocked with produce and non-perishables available for all those who attend. Grants in the amount of \$500 each were awarded by Wal-mart and Sam's Club for this program.

Hornet Pantry: Due to our partnership with Second Helpings and receiving many generous food donations from organizations and citizens, we have been able to keep a small food pantry stocked and available to those in need. This pantry is always open, but it is mostly used to stock our sharing tables at the community dinners.

Going Green in the Grove: We held this event on April 27. 600 trees were given out along with over 200 plants and packets of native wildflower seeds. We also held our first youth art contest and created a collaborative art project that currently hangs on the community center wall.

Community Gardens: In the spring we planted our first community garden beds. The produce from these four beds went directly to our community through the community dinners. Our youth programs used these beds to learn about gardening and our volunteers helped to maintain them. In 2020 we will install 6 more garden beds.

Summer programs were offered for 45 days in June and July. We organized a new activity each day and Chartwells offered a free lunch to all kids who attended. Each week we used Hornet Park on Monday and Tuesday, Don Challis on Wednesday, and Sarah T Bolton on Thursday and Friday to host these programs. Our average attendance each day was approximately 40 youth.

Our paid programs this year have been very successful and have generated revenue to be used to sustain and grow our future programs without using the city budget.

Buzz Club has over 120 students grades k-6 registered for the 2019-2020 school year. This program offers homework help, art instruction, fitness, and meals, led by Beech Grove Teachers and assistants, for only \$30 per week per student. In 2019, we had our first Summer and Fall

Buzz Camp for out-of-school time which was very successful and is expected to grow in 2020. To raise funds to support our Buzz Club program, we held our first fundraiser "Fun Lunch" on October 3. From this, we received just under \$10,000 in donations. These funds are used to offer help families with weekly fees, purchase program supplies, and fund field trips during our Buzz Camp weeks.

Safety classes were offered this year as well: The BGF D offered quarterly CPR/AED training and we offered Self Defense classes for Women and Teens. All classes are priced to cover cost only and were well attended.

Group exercise fitness classes returned this year. We offer yoga and high intensity interval training classes 4 days a week. Each class costs just \$5 to attend.

Our team (employees, program staff, and volunteers) all work to build community by providing a safe place to connect with others and to enhance the quality of life for all Beech Grove citizens. We do this through environmental, recreational, cultural, educational, and wellness programs created for people of all ages. Our vision is to serve, connect and build community.