

Annual Report 2021-22



— PLAY NATURALLY —
BLUE SPRINGS
— PARKS & RECREATION —



A Message from the Director

There is so much that can be said about the last year that runs from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. Just over that time, we have completed several capital improvement projects such as Hidden Valley Sports Complex concession/restroom roof replacement and parking lot and trail paving; Woods Chapel Park playground resurfacing; Grounds Park Trail; Pink Hill Park shelters; new pickleball courts at Ward Park; and Wheelchair Swing and gazebo renovation at Rotary Park to name just a few, thanks to the residents of Blue Springs.

In the last year, we have seen so much growth throughout the entire parks & recreation department, and that is proven by the popularity and quality of our programs and events as numbers of participants continue to increase. We even had growth to our staff, by adding positions to our recreation and maintenance teams to continue to provide quality programs and activities.

And speaking of maintenance, we have done our best to feature the work the team has done throughout our parks and facilities each week in our Maintenance Spotlight on social media. Their continued efforts each day are what keeps our parks looking clean, safe and beautiful.

One of the projects we are most excited about is the new Blue Surf Bay Waterpark, scheduled to open in Spring of 2024. Ground was broken in November 2022, and this was the culmination of two years of planning, research and design to bring an extremely high-quality, yet budget-conscious indoor/outdoor waterpark to the Blue Springs community and surrounding areas.

You can read about all of these programs, projects and events in the following pages. The department is fortunate to have a highly skilled and dedicated staff. They work tirelessly to deliver quality facilities and programs to meet the demand of the community. The achievements the department has experienced are due to the daily effort of each of our full-time and part-time staff members. We are proud to share our successes with you, and most importantly, know we could not have done any of this without you, the citizens of Blue Springs. We look forward with excitement on what the future has for the Parks & Recreation Department.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Dovel".

Dennis Dovel
Director Parks & Recreation



About Blue Springs Parks & Recreation

The City of Blue Springs, Missouri Parks & Recreation Department has more than 800 acres of parkland (developed and undeveloped) with 14 public parks and over 14 miles of trails. It strives to create outstanding recreational, cultural and natural experiences to enrich and enhance the quality of life for the community today and for future generations.

Blue Springs Parks & Recreation provides comprehensive year-round sports and recreation programs for all ages, and operates and maintains the Blue Springs Fieldhouse, offering a wealth of activities, including a fitness center, basketball courts, field turf, fitness classes, pickleball and more. The department also manages Vesper Hall, a nationally accredited Senior Center that offers a variety of activities for individuals ages 50 and older. The facility also hosts many Parks & Recreation classes open to all ages and community events.



The Fieldhouse is approximately seven years old and will soon undergo a facelift with new siding and the addition of a waterpark that will take approximately 18 months to complete. The waterpark is scheduled to be completed by Spring of 2024. Planning and design occurred throughout 2022 with construction beginning in November 2022.

Also a part of the department is Adams Pointe Golf Club, an 18-hole public course designed by noted local architect Don Sechrest. It is one of only a handful of ADA compliant golf facilities in the country. Adams Pointe is managed by Orion Management.

Blue Springs Parks & Recreation has been a proud recipient of the annual “Tree City USA” award since 1990. Established by the National Arbor Day Foundation, this honor recognizes select communities for their support of municipal tree betterment programs and projects.

Our Mission

Recognized as an indispensable community asset that creates a healthy, livable and sustainable community through enhanced quality of life for residents and visitors while generating economic vitality.

Our Vision

Creating outstanding recreational, cultural and natural experiences to enrich and enhance the quality of life for our community today and for future generations.

NUMBERS GAME



All Youth Sports Programs 4,591 Participants



Little All-Stars

1,881 Participants
Basketball, Cheerleading, Flag
Football, Soccer, T-Ball
Spring, Summer, Fall



Youth Baseball/T-Ball

476 Participants
Ages 5-10
Boys & Girls



Youth Basketball

747 Participants
Kindergarten-Fourth Grade
Boys & Girls



Flag Football

319 Participants
Kindergarten-Sixth Grade
Boys & Girls



Youth Soccer

492 Participants Fall League
676 Participants Spring League
U6-U13
Boys & Girls

All Adult Sports Programs Approximately 2,200 Participants



Adult Basketball

30 Teams
Approximately 220 Participants
Winter, Summer



Adult Cornhole

23 Teams
46 Participants
Spring, Fall



Adult Pickleball

60 Teams
120 Participants
Winter, Summer, Fall



Adult Softball

162 Teams
Approximately 1,700 Participants
Men's, Women's, Coed
Spring, Summer, Fall



Adult Volleyball

5 Teams
Approximately 40 Participants
Spring

NUMBERS GAME



Parks

- 14 Developed Public Parks
- 6 Undeveloped Parks
- 1 Dog Park
- 2 Skateboard Parks
- 1 Disc Golf Course
- 1 BMX Track
- 599 Total Park Acres
- 388 Developed Park Acres
- 138 Undeveloped Acres
- 28 Preserved Park Acres



Trails

- 8 Walking/Jogging Trails
- 14 Park/Trail Miles



Shelters & Gazebos

- 17 Park Shelters
- 2 Gazebos



Playgrounds

15 Playgrounds



Courts

- 21 Tennis Courts
- 4 Pickleball Courts
- 10 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 7 Basketball Courts



Fields

- 15 Softball Fields
- 7 Baseball Fields
- 12 Soccer Fields
- 3 Football Fields
- 3 Practice Ball Fields



Lakes & Ponds

- 2 Lakes/3 Ponds
- 4 Fishing Areas

Summer Day Camp

2022 NUMBERS

REVENUE: \$228,727.00
PROFIT: \$119,811.50
SPONSORSHIPS: \$700.00

Registration Fee: \$105.00
 Weekly Fee: \$140.00
 Late Fee: \$160.00
 Forgotten Lunch: \$5.00

277 Campers

- 1430+ campers over a 12 week period
- 294 increase from 2021

24 Staff Members

- 6 camper groups
- 10:1 Camper to staff ratio
- 2 Floaters

47 Field Trips

- 21 visits to the pool
- 12 visits to the parks
- 2 guest speakers
- Most popular: Shatto Milk Farm, Science City, Wonderscope!

Park Sales Tax



In 2017, Blue Springs residents approved a 1/2-cent sales tax for five years which has been a catalyst to the improvements made throughout the community to our parks, including paving projects at Keystone Park, Hidden Valley Sports Complex and Pink Hill Park, the addition of a wheelchair swing and renovations to the gazebo at Rotary Park, and new pickleball courts at Ward Park to name just a few.

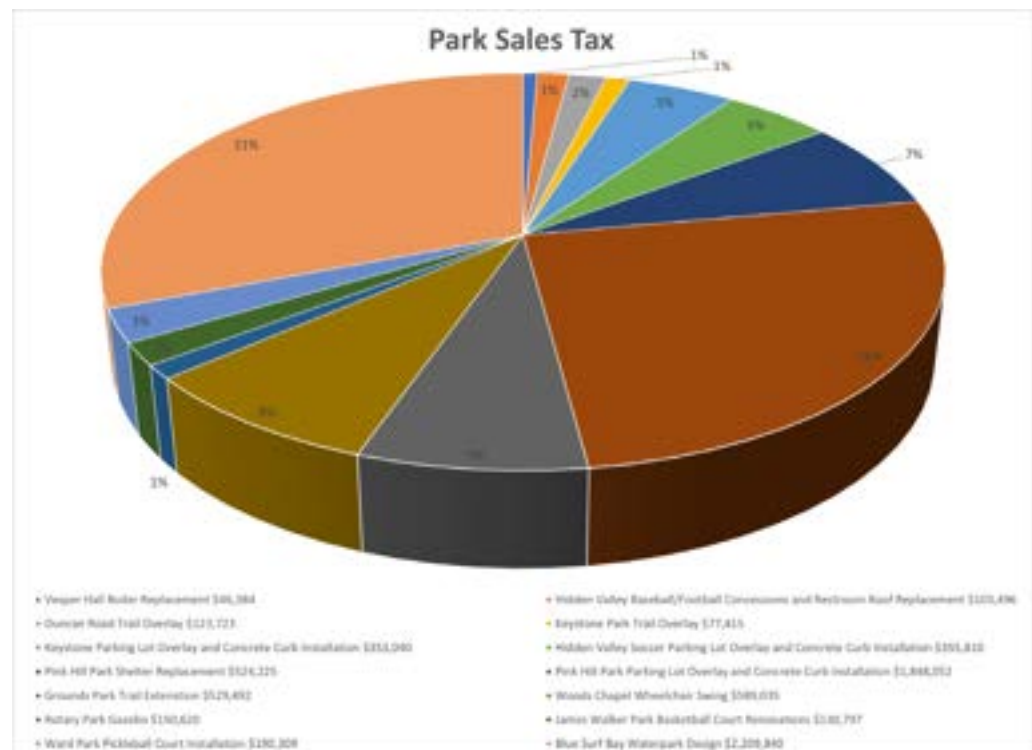
With the end of the original five-year park sales tax approaching in 2022, the department went back to voters for approval to extend the 1/2 cent sales tax with no sunset.

On Tuesday, April 6, 2021, the voters of Blue Springs passed the extension of the parks sales tax with an overwhelming positive response. The renewal passed with an 80 percent “yes” vote.

The renewal of the park sales tax will allow annual funding to be allocated to maintain current facilities including playgrounds, shelters, trails, athletic fields, tennis courts, roads, restrooms and other facilities. This renewal has allowed for the construction of the new Blue Surf Bay Waterpark, which replaces the 40-year-old Centennial Pool Plex.

The sales tax also provides funding for the development and construction of Southwest Park. This park is located along the north side of Wyatt Road and west of 7 Highway. This new park will provide residents in southern Blue Springs with a park facility.

The department’s intention is not to just build new facilities, but to also ensure continued operation and maintenance needs are met.

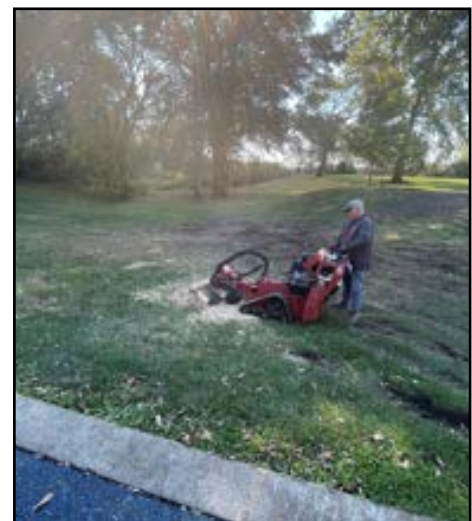




Park Maintenance

One of the biggest changes over the past year for the Maintenance Team has been the 60% turnover in staff due mainly to retirements. With a change in hiring practices and a reorganization, the department was able to assemble a team that works together completing all tasks assigned instead of having specialized employees. This helped in taking a big step toward efficiency and effectiveness. Some highlights include:

- Contractual mowing – With reallocation of expenditures within the maintenance budget and support from city administration, staff was able to expand park mowings to a seven-day cycle. The contractor brought eight employees to spend a day and a half mowing, trimming and blowing all 131 acres of turf including, ditch lines, fence lines and all open spaces. The contractor effectively hit the target on all 26 guaranteed mowings.
- Focus on landscaping – The team took on the development of a landscape maintenance plan in the parks and right of ways. The plan consists of 12 steps throughout the calendar year consisting of preventative chemical applications each month. The focus early was on city buildings and bringing them up to a standard that could be maintained throughout the year. Staff also started in February hitting their target on all 12 objectives of the landscape plan. They successfully cut all ornamental grasses, applied a granular preventative chemical twice, mulched 80% of right of ways and building landscapes, applied liquid non-selective herbicide, applied liquid preventative, and made several right-of-way median improvements.
- Maintenance Spotlight – The Maintenance Spotlight addresses specific needs in the parks. It was designed to take one day where the entire team or smaller groups go out to one park or several parks and complete assigned tasks. In fall 2022, the team made an impact on each park and city building. The tasks ranged from trash removal, playground repairs, retaining wall repairs, tree planting, tree removal, signage and cleaning.
- Mulching program – The Maintenance Team completed 60% of the mulching to landscapes. However, this project would not have been completed without volunteers. In April, Blue Springs Parks & Recreation schedules and works with nearly 100 volunteers throughout the parks. This past spring, they helped mulch landscape beds around right of ways, the Fieldhouse and Burrus Old Mill Park.



Fieldhouse

Opportunities at the Blue Springs Fieldhouse remained abundant throughout the 2021-22 fiscal year. During that time, the facility hosted:

- Agape Basketball Tournaments: December 11-12, 2021, January 15-16, 2022, January 29-30, 2022, Feb. 26-27, 2022
- Grain Valley High School Volleyball Tournament: October 16, 2021
- Blue Springs South High School Volleyball Tournament:
- Ignite Teen Event: April 30, 2022
- DeportesEnKC/LA Liga: Men's Soccer League (Games each Sunday, November-April)
- KC Athletics Futsal Games: various Friday and Saturday nights (December-February)



Total visits to the Fieldhouse totaled 211,579 (not including day passes) for the fiscal year. There were 24,426 Day Passes purchased and 1,245 rentals. Average monthly membership units (individual/family) was 1,675.

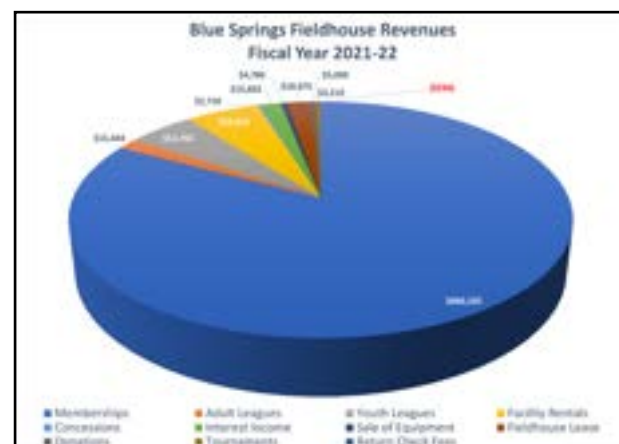
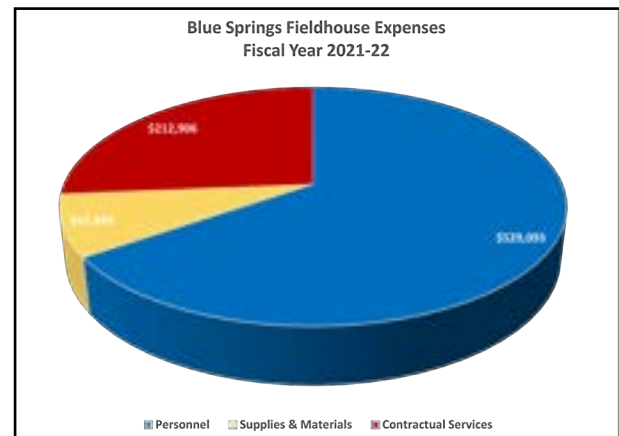
Memberships for the whole family include use of the Fitness Center, free Group Classes and On-Demand Classes, free Spin Classes, free Child Watch, Toddler Time, use of courts during open play, Turf Field, Indoor Tracks, and other features.

Our Child Watch services for kids three months to 10 years old averaged approximately 350-400 kids per month throughout the year. Toddler Time, a program that allows parents to bring children six months to five years old to play in an indoor, controlled environment throughout the winter months had 379 participants over a nine-month period (18 Fridays).

Personal trainers were added to the staff leading to personal trainer hours steadily increasing through the summer (See graph).

Finally, improvements made to the Fieldhouse throughout the year included:

- Installation of pads on southwest wall on turf
- Installation of pads on south wall of courts 1 & 2
- Purchase of two new Concept2 rowers replacing the old rowers in the Fitness Center
- Completion of the wall on southwest side of front entrance to reduce noise from field turf. Project funded by COVID relief funds under CARES Act to help create another barrier in facility for airflow.





Vesper Hall

There were several changes over the last fiscal year at Vesper Hall, including the hiring of a new Administrator and the installation of a new HVAC system at the facility.

Vesper Hall hosts several events throughout the year, including holiday and themed luncheons, fitness classes, dances, bingo, arts and crafts, and other fun activities for seniors. Nearly 200 people attended both the Thanksgiving and Christmas lunches. Additionally, 12,866 congregate meals were served throughout the past year along with 10,792 home-delivered meals.

The transportation program at Vesper Hall continues to run strong, providing rides for residents 60 years and older and ages 18-59 with disabilities. Door-to-door pickup and return to Vesper Hall is co-sponsored by Mid-American Regional Council's Commission on Aging. There were 2,923 persons who utilized the site transportation, while 2,289 took advantage of the community transportation services.





Adams Pointe Golf Club

It has been another successful year for Adams Pointe Golf Course. The 18-hole, 6,938 yard, par 72 course is located on the east side of Blue Springs. With more than 43,000 rounds of golf played over the course of the year, the facility earned over \$2.1 million in total revenues.

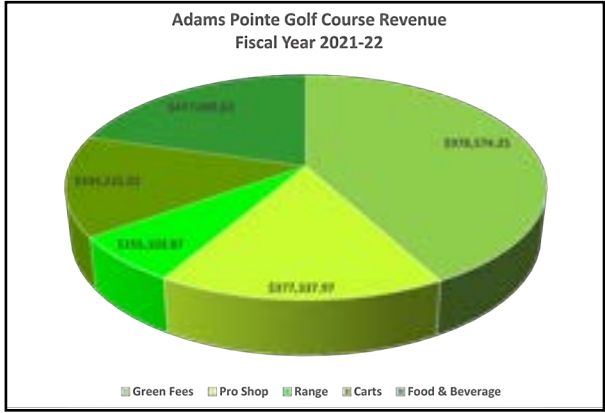
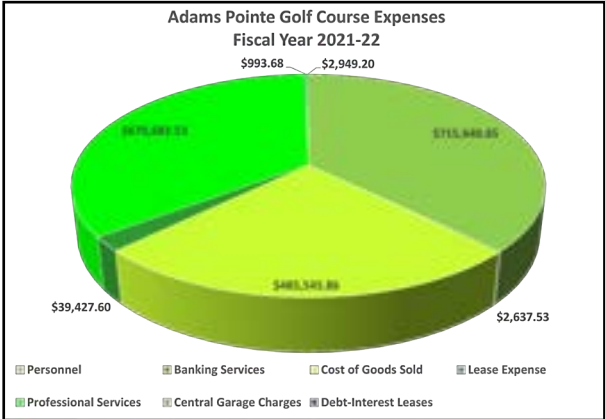
Throughout the year, the golf course hosted 56 different tournaments, including 11 in-house tournaments, a men’s college tournament in the spring and a women’s college tournament in September.

With all that golf, comes the unique mode of transportation that encourages faster play: the FINN Scooter. These single-rider carts help speed up the pace of play with an average pace of 7.5 minutes per hole, and Adams Pointe rented out 600 uses during the past fiscal year.

Adams Pointe also hosts several non-golf related events in its banquet facility, including dinners, luncheons, meetings and weddings. The Rotary Club holds its weekly meeting there, and there were 53 other functions throughout the rest of the year.

Youth programs are vitally important to Adams Pointe in teaching the game of golf to kids. All four summer junior camps sold out, averaging 40 kids per camp, and the Fall Junior Camp session sold out as well.

Finally, in 2018, there was a complete overhaul to the bunkers at Adams Pointe; however, not much work outside of raking and trimming around the edges had been done until 2022. The crew focused a lot of effort on the bunkers over the summer. Over time grass and weeds can encroach into the bunkers. The Bermuda grass in the rough will quickly send runners into the bunker and root itself in the sand. These runners will form a full stand of grass over time in what used to be the bunkers edge. The crew spent the better part of this past summer digging the grass all the way back to the bunker liner to reestablish the original edge to each bunker on the property. Sand also has been added to areas of bunkers that were low due to play and/or wind.



Marketing

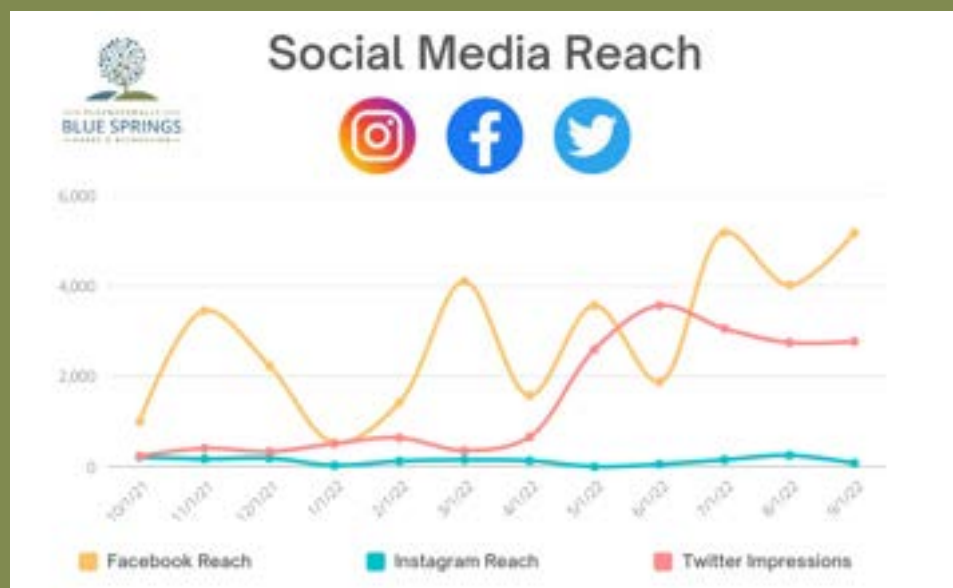
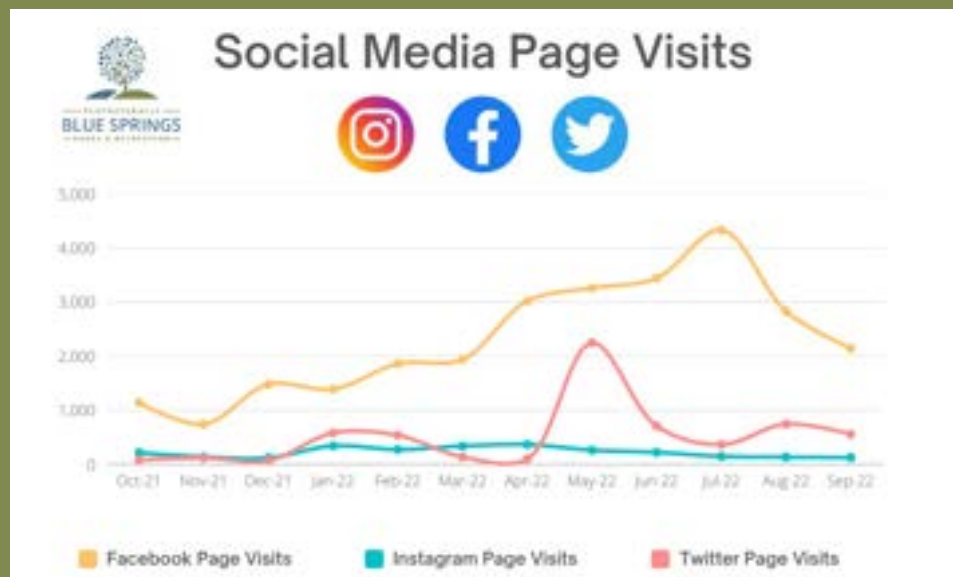


For the past year, Blue Springs Parks & Recreation Marketing has made a concerted effort to promote its programs and events in a more streamlined and efficient way through social media in addition to its traditional means.

By focusing on shorter posts with images rather than flyers, people are able to see more of a story about each program or event. Additionally, boosted posts help reach a more targeted audience.

The Social Media Page Visits is the actual number of times our pages were visited. Between Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, there was a total of 36,459 page visits over the past year.

Social Media Reach is the number of people who saw any content from our page or about our page, including posts, stories, ads, social information from people who interact with our page and more. Reach is different from impressions, which may include multiple views of our posts by the same people. This metric is estimated.

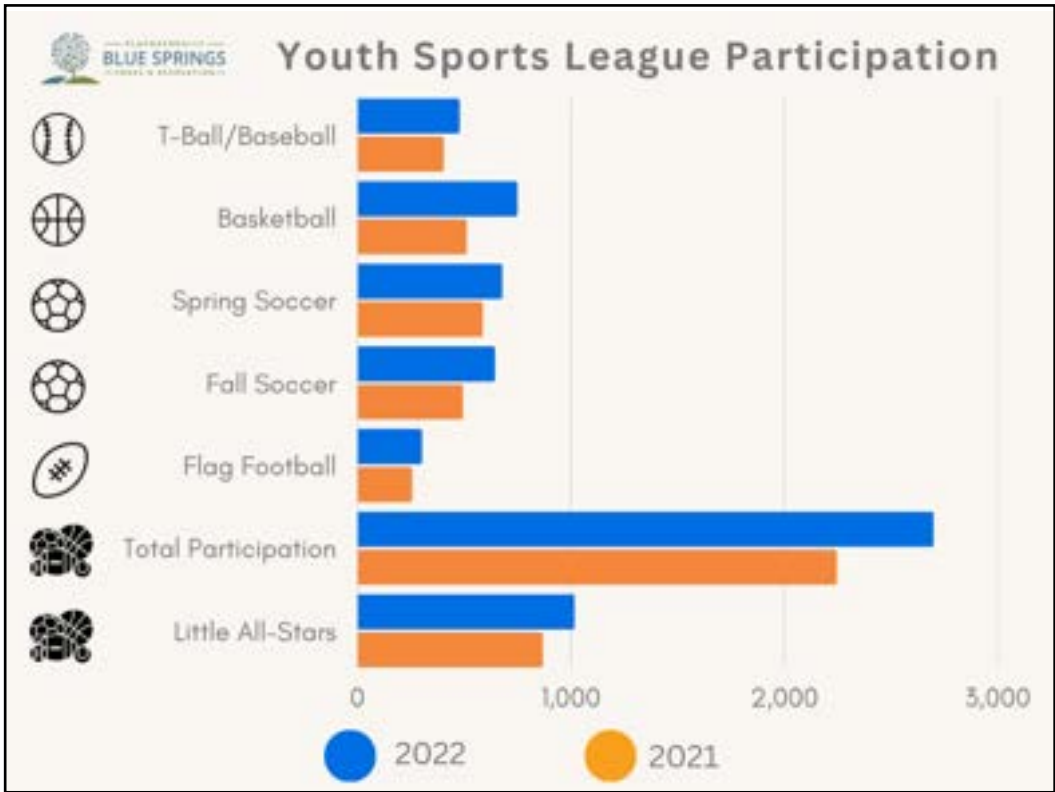




Youth Sports

The objective for Blue Springs Parks & Recreation's youth sports programs is for all participants, both parents and children, to have an enjoyable sporting experience.

Skill development is the main component of our youth sports programs. Non-competitive games are a part of every season in which each player receives an equal amount of playing time and opportunity. At this level, it is not about winning yet. Learning the fundamentals of the game, making friends and having fun are the goals we set for our programs.



The youth athletic programs have grown exponentially over the last two years. With offerings of basketball, soccer, baseball and flag football, each individual sport has seen a jump in participation. Participation overall in 2022 across all sports was 2,858, compared to 2,243 in 2021, an increase of 27 percent. In the spring of 2023, fast pitch softball will be added to the lineup.

Additionally, the Little All-Stars program for three- and four-year olds had 1,015 participants for basketball, cheerleading, flag football, t-ball and soccer in 2022, compared to 866 in 2021, a 17 percent increase. Of those activities, soccer and t-ball are the two largest among the kids and continue to grow in popularity each year.

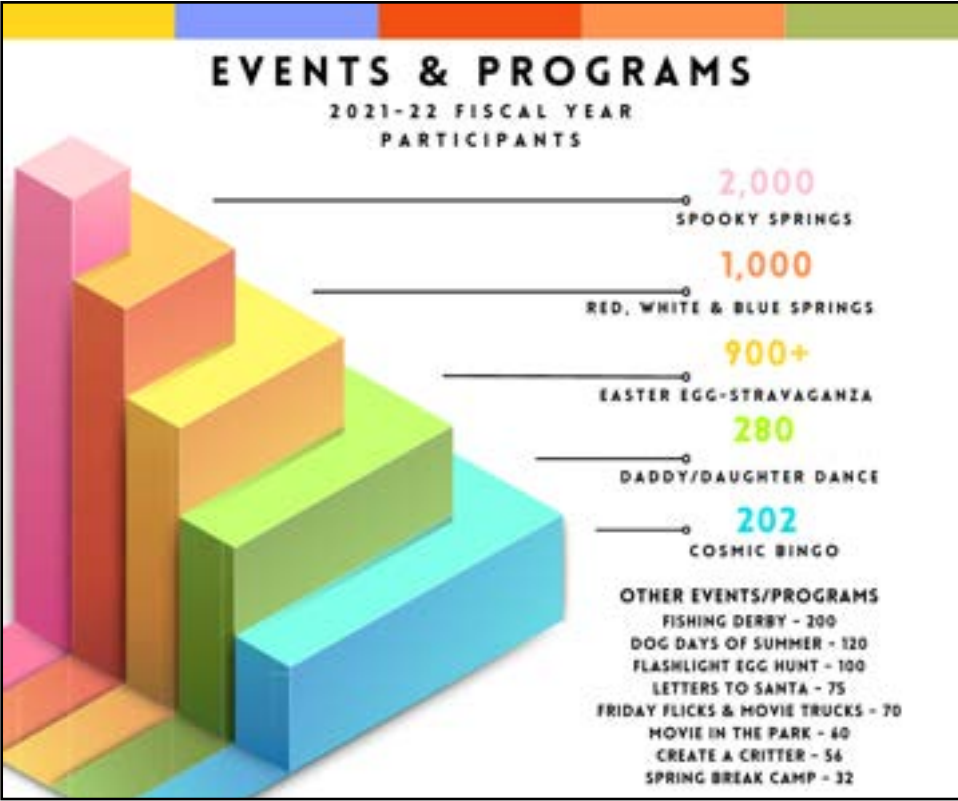


Events & Programs

Blue Springs Parks & Recreation has been more than just “parks and recreation.” Over the last year, the department stepped up its game, so to speak, by offering a mix of new; along with some of the more established special events and programs for the whole family.

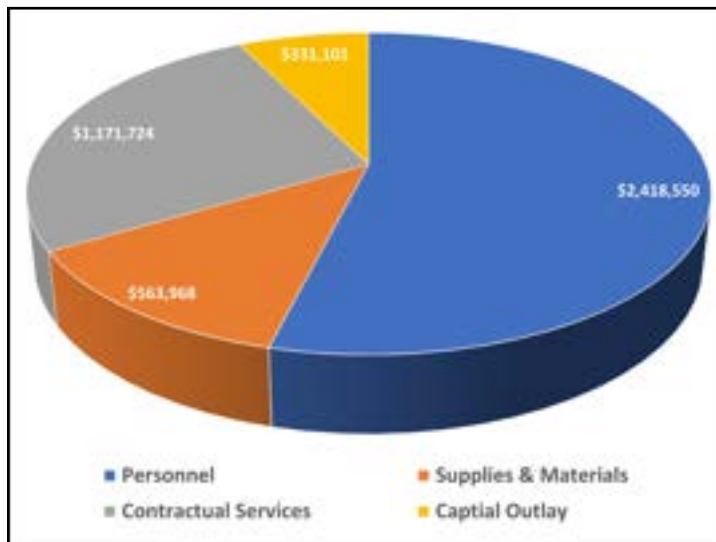
These have included large events like the Easter Egg-Stravaganza, Red, White & Blue Springs, and Spooky Springs and slightly smaller events and programs like the Daddy/Daughter Dance, Fishing Derby, Summer Camp (see Page 5 for statistics), Dog Days of Summer and Cosmic Bingo.

Each of these programs and events have seen significant growth from the previous year, and new programs like Nailed It! Holiday Bake Off have proven popular enough to bring back for a second year.

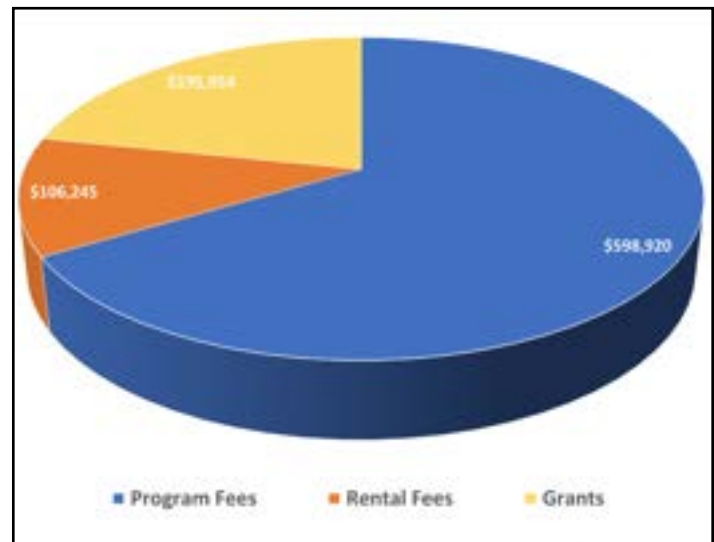


Financials & Park Commission

BLUE SPRINGS PARKS & RECREATION EXPENSES FISCAL YEAR 2021-22



BLUE SPRINGS PARKS & RECREATION REVENUES FISCAL YEAR 2021-22



2021-22 Park Commissioners

Keith Hannaman	Chair
Joe Burke	Vice Chair
Nicholas Brummel	Member
Almitra Buzan	Member
Debbie Canfield	Member
Ken Horrell	Member
Tony Lopez	Member
Gabriel Mejia	Member
Susan Culpepper	City Council Liaison

Blue Springs Park Commission Chair Keith Hannaman helps light the Mayor's Christmas Tree



The Park Commission is responsible for guiding the operations and growth of the Parks & Recreation Department, making recommendations on the acquisition of land to be used for park sites, and the supervision, improvement, care and custody of city parks to the Mayor and City Council.

Staff & Contact Information

Management Staff

Dennis Dovel
Director of Parks & Recreation

Justin Stuart
Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation

Mary Herrington
Recreation Superintendent

Matthew Asikainen
Manager of Recreation

Rhonda Pycior
Vesper Hall Administrator

Derek Mayden
Superintendent of Parks-Buildings and Grounds

Steve Moore
Park Maintenance Supervisor

Jeff Ketchum
Building Maintenance Supervisor



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Blue Springs Parks & Recreation

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www.bluespringsgov.com/parks

Grounds Park Trail Construction

Before



After



Red, White & Blue Springs



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