



2015

BALTIMORE CITY
RECREATION & PARKS

ANNUAL REPORT



STEPHANIE
RAWLINGS-BLAKE
MAYOR



BALTIMORE CITY
RECREATION & PARKS
ERNEST W.
BURKEEN, JR.
DIRECTOR



Director Ernest W. Burkeen, Jr. with Baltimore City Mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

BCRP'S MISSION

To improve the health and wellness of Baltimore through quality recreational programs, preserving our parks and natural resources, and promoting fun, active lifestyles for all ages.

BCRP'S VISION

To build a stronger Baltimore one community at a time through:

Conservation—Parks are critical in the role of preserving natural resources that have real economic benefits for communities. We are the leaders, often the only voice in communities, for protecting open space, connecting children to nature, and providing education and programming that helps communities engage in conservation practices;

Health and Wellness—BCRP leads Baltimore in improving the overall health and wellness of communities. We are essential partners in combating some of the most complicated and expensive challenges our city faces—poor nutrition, hunger, obesity and physical inactivity;

Social Equity—Universal access to public parks and recreation are a right, not just a privilege. Every day we are working hard to ensure that all members of your community have access to the resources and programming we offer.

NEED A REASON TO GET OUT AND GET ACTIVE? WE HAVE PLENTY!

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks is the city's leading provider of affordable, year-round leisure and recreational activities for citizens of all ages and abilities. Beautiful parks, trails and waterways provide the perfect urban oasis. Start here to find your fun!

- 4,600+ acres of parkland
- 262 parks
- 120,000 trees
- 120+ playgrounds
- 170 athletic fields
- 110 tennis courts
- 101 basketball courts
- 18 picnic groves
- 12 pavilion groves
- 2 dog parks
- 25+ miles of biking and hiking trails
- 32 historic structures

Our parks offer more than grass, flowers and trees. Beautiful indoor spaces like the Baltimore Rowing and Water Resource Center, Carrie Murray Nature Center, Cylburn Arboretum and the Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and Botanic Gardens of Baltimore offer a respite from the fast pace of life. The Mt. Pleasant Ice Arena and Dominic "Mimi" DiPietro Family Skating Center offer you a chance to take a spin on the ice. Our facilities are all located in or near a park!

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BCRP CONGRATULATES

Kate Blom

on winning the
2015 Richard A. Lidinsky Sr. Award
for Excellence in Public Service



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Baltimore, Md. 21217
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Bureau of Parks Administration
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Baltimore, Md. 21217
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Permits Office
Druid Hill Park
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Baltimore, Md. 21217
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Aquatics Director
410-396-3838

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Division Chief, Special Populations
Division
410-396-2920

Bob Signor
Therapeutic Recreation
410-396-1550

Special Facilities

Carrie Murray Nature Center
410-396-0808

Cylburn Arboretum
410-396-0180

Dominic "Mimi" Dipietro Ice Rink
410-396-9392

Howard Peters Rawlings
Conservatory and Botanic
Gardens of Baltimore
410-396-0008

Mt. Pleasant Ice Rink
443-984-4075

Northwest Park Golf Driving
Range
410-664-2824

Upton Boxing Center
443-984-2588

William J. Myers Pavilion
410-396-5782

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

- 26th and Calvert
- ABC (Catherine St.) Park
- Abell Community Association
- Alhambra Playground
- Ambrose Kennedy Park
- American Academy of Pediatrics, MD Chapter
- AmeriCorps, Corporation for National and Community Service (NCCC)
- Arnold Sumpter Park
- Attorney General's Office
- B Scene
- Baltimore City Health Department
- Baltimore City Public Schools
- Baltimore Ecosystem Study
- Baltimore Green Works
- Baltimore Heritage
- Baltimore Rowing Club
- Barclay Park
- Betty Hyatt Park
- Blue Water Baltimore
- Bolton
- Boy Scouts
- Calvert Street Park
- Canton Dog Park
- Carrie Murray Nature Center
- Carroll Mansion
- Carroll Park
- Cassidy Turley
- Chesapeake Center for Youth Development
- Chinquapin Park
- Cimaglia Park
- City Springs Park
- Clifton Park
- Comcast Corporation
- Constellation Energy
- Cricket Wireless
- Cylburn Arboretum Association
- Daisey Field
- DeSoto Road Park
- DeWees Park
- Druid Hill Friends of Tennis
- Druid Hill Park
- Duburns Soccer, Coppermine Terrace
- Earthforce
- Easterwood Park
- Ellwood Park
- Elm Street Playground
- Elmley Avenue Playground
- Eutaw Medians
- Evesham Park
- Farring Baybrook Park
- Federal Hill Park
- Franklin Square
- Goucher College, Goucher Connects program
- Greater Baltimore Children and Nature Collaborative
- Gwynns Falls Conservation Trail
- Gwynns Falls Trail Council
- Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hanlon Park
- Harlem Inner Block #125
- Harlem Square
- Harris Creek Park
- Harwood Community Association, President
- Henry Highland Garnett Park
- Henry Street Park
- Herring Run Park
- Hooper & Rockrose Park
- Horseshoe Casino
- Irvin Luckman Park
- Johns Hopkins University Center for Social Concern
- Johns Hopkins University CIIP Internship Program
- Joseph Lee Park
- Lafayette Square
- Latrobe Park
- Lehigh and Gough
- Leon Day
- Little Lithuania Park
- Locust Point Civic Association
- Lowes Home Improvement
- Luzerne and Biddle
- Maple Leaf Park
- Margaret Brent
- Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature
- Maryland Zoo in Baltimore
- McKim Park
- Middle Branch Park/Reedbird Park
- Miles Avenue Park
- Morrell Park
- Mt. Royal Terrace
- Mt. Vernon Children's Park
- Mt. Vernon Conservancy
- Mt. Washington Arboretum
- Mullan Park
- National Aquarium in Baltimore
- National Recreation and Parks Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- Natural History Society of MD-MD Community Naturalist Program
- Nature Art in the Park
- O'Donnell Square, Canton Community Association
- Olmsted Parks
- Park Avenue Meridians
- Park Friends Groups
- Parks & People Foundation
- Patterson Park
- Public Safety, Baltimore City Police Department
- Remington Neighborhood Association, Miles Avenue Park
- Riverside Park
- Robert C. Marshall
- Roosevelt Park
- Ruppert Landscaping
- Rutter's Mill Park
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity
- Shoe City
- Skatepark of Baltimore
- Solo Gibbs Park
- St. Helena Playground
- St. Leo's Bocce Court
- St. Mary's Park/ Seton Hill Community Association
- Stoney Run Park
- Thames Street/Fells Point Greenspace
- Towanda Park
- Traci Atkins Park
- Two Rivers Park
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife
- Union Square Park
- Union Square Park Conservancy
- University of Maryland Interns, URI and Medical students
- U.S. Navy, Comrel
- Violetville Park
- Volunteer Maryland
- Volunteering Untapped
- Waverly Mini Park
- Western Run Park
- Willow Avenue
- Wyman Park



VOLUNTEERS

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Logged 209,340 volunteer hours and 17,500 total volunteers. This equals 209,340 hours x \$22.55 MD volunteer rate = \$4,720,617 150+ volunteer events, including events sponsored by volunteers (Friends Groups)*
- Facilitated five GROW Workshops and two Open Houses that provided networking experiences for 141 adult community park activists.
- Volunteer Recognition event in Druid Hill Park

MAJOR EVENTS/PROJECTS

- Lowes project at Vincent Street Park – painted & mulched playground, added a flower bed and trees, removed trash, prepped basketball court for painting.
- Ruppert Landscaping service day in Carroll Park – 500 employees
- Navy Comrel clean-up with middle school students in Carroll Park– 290 volunteers
- Project Clean Stream: over 80 park stream clean-up sites and 93,000 lbs of trash removed by volunteers
- Comcast Cares Clean-Up Day: 400 volunteers in Middle Branch Park who removed over 2,000 gallons of trash, painted park benches, mulched trees, and removed more than 200 cubic feet of invasive species.
- “Before-and-after” transformations completed by Friends Groups and various community volunteers at several parks, such as the stripping and repainting of the Joseph Lee Park field house – previously heavily vandalized. Friends of Joseph Lee Park volunteers helped clean and repaint the field house.
- Held a training for recreation center staff to learn about how to lead outdoor nature activities. Led by Greater Baltimore Children and Nature volunteers.
- Held a “hike and seek” event for recreation center children named Grow Outside.
- Held more than 20 Docs in the Park/park

prescription info sessions at community health fairs and park events. Participants included MD AAP Chapter Pediatricians.

- Served on the Cross Agency Health Task Force and participated in the Park Heights Health Day.
- Served on the MD AAP Children and Nature Task Force
- Co-presented at the MD Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Annual Conference
- Coordinated “Fun Wagon” to serve Docs in the Park programs. Coordinated efforts with Recreation and the BCPD provide the Fun Wagon at events and during after-school hours in underserved areas.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE IMPROVEMENTS

Created work plan template and process, allowing Friends of groups to delineate maintenance/events for the following year. A meeting is then arranged with the Friends of group, park district manager and volunteer coordinator to discuss how to best work together. This procedure greatly improved communication between the city, community members and helped foster a relationship of mutual respect and produces efficiency.

MAJOR PARTNERSHIPS

Maryland Department of Natural Resources, National Wildlife Federation, Lowes, Ruppert Landscaping, U.S. Navy, Parks & People, Blue Water Baltimore, Friends of Parks groups, Baltimore City Public Schools, Boy Scouts of America, Goucher Connects, Natural History Society of Maryland, Attorney General’s Office, Baltimore Green Works

GRANTS

Received funding from the National Wildlife Federation to add a native plant flower bed and signage at Recreation and Parks headquarters.

CAPRA AGENCY ACCREDITATION

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) recognizes park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. Charged with providing high quality services and experiences, park and recreation agencies across the United States turn to CAPRA Accreditation as a credible and efficient means of achieving these goals, while providing assurance to the public that the agency meets national standards of best practice. CAPRA accredits departments and agencies that provide park and recreation programs and services.

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks began the process for CAPRA accreditation in 2014. Accreditation will provide BCRP with the following:

- Assurance and validation of well-administered services in accordance with approved professional practices
- Potential for external financial support and savings to the public
- Improves customer and quality services
- Increased efficiency and evidence of accountability
- Answers the question, "How are we doing?" through extensive self evaluation
- Identifies areas for improvement by comparing an agency against national standards of best practice
- Enhances staff teamwork and pride by engaging all staff in the process
- Creates an environment for regular review of operations, policies and procedures, and promotes continual improvement
- Forces written documentation of policies and procedures

Accreditation Process Accreditation is based on an agency's compliance with the 151 standards for national accreditation. To achieve accreditation, an agency must comply with all 37 Fundamental Standards and at least 85% of the remaining 114 standards (97).

List of Fundamental Standards

- Source of Authority
- Mission
- Agency Goals and Objectives
- Vision
- Administrative Policies and Procedures
- Agency Relationships
- Involvement in Local Planning
- Park and Recreation System Master Plan
- Strategic Plan
- Community Involvement
- Organizational Structure
- Internal Communication
- Public Information Policy and Procedure
- Management Information Systems
- Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual
- Code of Ethics
- Equal Opportunity Employment and Workforce Diversity
- Background Investigation
- Staff Qualifications
- Job Analyses for Job Descriptions
- Chief Administrator
- Fiscal Policy
- Comprehensive Revenue Policy
- Fiscal Management Procedures
- Purchasing Procedures
- Accounting System
- Independent Audit
- Annual or Biennial Budget
- Recreation Programming Plan
- Program Objectives
- Outreach to Diverse Underserved Populations
- Maintenance and Operations Management Standards
- Codes, Laws, and Ordinance
- Authority to Enforce Laws by Law Enforcement Officers

CAPRA accreditation is a five-year cycle that includes three phases, development of the agency self-assessment report, the onsite visitation, and the commission's review and decision. The onsite visitation follows the agency's development of its self-assessment report. If accreditation is granted by the commission at its meeting following the onsite visit, the agency will develop a new self-assessment report and be revisited every five years. Within each of the four years between onsite visits, the agency will submit an annual report that addresses its continued compliance with the accreditation standards.



CAPRA
ACCREDITATION



FISCAL SERVICES

The Fiscal Services Division continues its efforts to improve the financial management and control in the agency:

- In November 2014, the Division presented its corrected responses to the audit findings as prescribed by the Audit Department to the Board of Estimates in April 2014. All the findings were addressed and/or corrected.
- The agency's Financial Operations Manual was completed and presented to the BOE.
- The Division's role in the implementation of RecPro continued to increase as more centers/facilities are brought into on-line operation. More internal controls have been put in place to control revenue collection as credit/debit card revenues continue to increase and reconciling these items has become a challenge.

- Community recreation centers' individual budgets are now fully integrated in to the budget process and loaded into the budget system (BPFS). Each recreation center will have its own budget in FY 2015/2016.
- All Fiscal Service Division staff was trained on Lean Government. The purpose of the training was to provide staff with the knowledge and opportunity to observe their work areas and recommend changes that will bring about efficiency, effectiveness, eliminate waste and add value to their work.

GRANTS RECEIVED

- NRPA/Walmart - \$41,689.40 received to assist with providing nutrition literacy programs for youth at Cahill, Carroll Cook, Cecil Kirk, Coldstream, Curtis Bay, Farring Baybrook, Fred Leidig, Lillian Jones,

Medfield, Mora Crossman, Patapsco, Rita Church, Roosevelt, Solo Gibbs, Woodhome recreation centers.

- Hampden Community Council / Clear Channel - \$550 received to benefit 10 swim scholarships at Roosevelt Pool
- CDBG - \$276,776 received to benefit youth programs at C.C. Jackson, J.D. Gross, Fort Worthington, Greenmount, J.E. Howard, Mt. Royal recreation center and the citywide Pop Warner Football youth program.
- Chevy / CBS Eco Media - \$8,500 received to provide swim suits and swim equipment for the Baltimore City Swim Team

OPERATING BUDGET FY14
\$15,345,000



CHERRY HILL FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER RENDERINGS



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

CAPITAL PROJECTS COMPLETED

Park and Playground Renovations

- Wyman Park Dell
- Georgetown and Desoto Park
- Traci Atkins Park
- Federal Hill Park
- Elm Avenue Park
- Mullen Park
- B&O Museum Park
- Islamic Way Park
- Latrobe Park Playground (Under Armour)

Park Facilities and Improvements

- Morrell Park Recreation Center

- Patterson Park entrances
- Druid Hill Park picnic area
- Cimiglia Park/Ft. Holabird Park
- Radecke Park athletic fields, field house replacement and playground
- Latrobe Park Banner Field (Under Armour)
- Caroline and Hoffman basketball court
- Myers Pavilion (HVAC)

CAPITAL PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Playgrounds

- Joseph Lee Park
- Radeke Park comfort station

Park Facilities

- Rita Church Recreation Center Gymnasium
- Herring Run Greenway Phase I: Sinclair Lane to Morgan State
- C.C. Jackson Recreation Center Expansion
- Druid Hill Park Neighborhood Access (park entrance along Druid Lake Drive)
- Cylburn Arboretum Park signage
- Howards Park Dog Park

CAPITAL BUDGET FY14
\$36,208,265



COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks continues to make strides in improving its outreach to the public. As part of that effort we have hired a digital media specialist to manage the agency website, social media presence and other digital mediums. As a result our website is updated more consistently and our social media engagement has improved. We have expanded our social media reach and ventured into new platforms such as Periscope that allows to broadcast live from events. We now offer two citywide weekly eblasts that provide information on agency achievements and events. Our advertising methods continue to expand. This year we shot our first television commercial to promote our summer camp, Camp Baltimore.

Throughout the year the agency has been featured in various media outlets:

Print:

The Baltimore Sun, City Paper, National Recreation and Parks Magazine, The Baltimore Guide

Television:

WBFF, WBAL, WJZ, WMAR, Comcast News, CBS/EcoMedia

Radio:

National Public Radio (NPR), WEAA, WYPR and WBAL Radio

Online:

Capital Gazette, Baltimore Brew, Baltimore Magazine, The City Paper, Towson Patch, NPR, Examiner, Bay Journal
One of the ways we serve the community is through our special events. In addition to our standard offerings we added two new events, the Oldschool

Playdate at Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park and Breakfast with Santa at Cylburn Arboretum. This year we also rebranded the annual Easter Egg Hunt to the Annual Spring Carnival. This allowed us the opportunity to expand our audience and provide new activities such as carnival rides. In the upcoming fiscal year we plan to offer at least one new event geared toward adults.



PERMITS OFFICE

Effective January 1, 2015, BCRP provided one parks coordinator to assist the transition of all special event applications being submitted to the special event office at Department of General Services.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES IMPROVEMENTS

- Updated the Inner Harbor Run routes to assist the flow of the Inner Harbor pedestrian traffic and minimize impact on the Harbor Place businesses.
- Created a programming permit to assist with organizations who would like to teach and provide classes and programs in the parks.

- Created a market application to promote use of park spaces for farmers markets to provide local fruits and vegetables to the community.
- Created, coordinated and implemented a boating permit to assist marine police for WTMD First Thursday Concert Events.

FY 2015/2016 GOALS

- Increase our permitted activities and revenue to recoup loss due to merger with DGS and work to increase that original number by 10%.
- Maintain consistent staffing for the permit office year-round with one staff designated for general park use, one staff designated for special events,

- one staff designated to fields and one office manager.
- Update parking plans and procedures for special events at Druid Hill and Patterson parks
- Implement new wedding guidelines and procedures for high visibility locations throughout Baltimore parks.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

C.I.S.O (COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS OPERATIONS)

- Installed new workstations in 33 computer labs
- Upgraded four sites network connections to high speed fiber optic technology
- All Rec and Parks special facilities now accept credit cards
- Outdoor Recreation's boats and bikes programs now accept credit cards

RECPRO

- 7,421 program registrations
- 2,690 online course registration, 2,541 total transactions (multiple registrations per transactions)
 - 204 online summer camp registrations
- 231,529 membership scans
- 6,495 new registered memberships (10,951 total memberships)
- 30 BCRP facilities using Recpro on a daily basis.
- 14,933 rentals/permit reservations captured
- \$648,740.21 in credit card revenue

Programs online for registration/reservations

- Sports leagues
- Summer Camps
- Aquatics Courses
- Outdoor Recreation
- BCRP Special Events
- Environmental education (Carrie Murray)
- City Farms
- UTZ Field/Mimi DiPietro available

SERVICE ORDER REQUEST SYSTEM

- Processed 1,520 orders

COMPLETION OF MAJOR PROJECTS

- Annual gutter cleaning and roof drain maintenance at 18 locations.
- Preventive maintenance service to all of our heating and air conditioning equipment for spring air conditioning and fall heating change more than at 59 locations.
- Aquatics: repaired leaks in return and supply lines at Roosevelt Pool. Repaired, installed water tower on the splash pad. Repaired leak in supply line at Cherry Hill Pool. Completed plumbing repairs to various pools in preparation for the summer season.
- Installed new roof at Druid Hill Forestry Building, Leakin Park Trail House, and Liberty Pavilion.
- Performed truss repairs to Druid Hill Mechanic shop.
- Installed new garage doors at Druid Hill and Cylburn Greenhouse.
- Removed overhead cabling, data lines in Druid Hill Park and ran them underground.
- Performed heating upgrades to Crimea Mansion in preparation for projected conversion from oil to gas. Installed 33 new wall units with associated piping, removed underground oil tank, installed two new above ground tanks, renovated the Mansion ballroom (plaster repair and paint).
- Performed wood floor refinishing at Chick Webb, Roosevelt and Gardenville recreation centers.
- Performed urethane gym floor refinishing at Greenmount and Roosevelt recreation centers.
- Replaced cracked boiler at Chick Webb Recreation Center.
- Performed painting projects at 15 locations.

- Installed floor air conditioning system at Myers Pavilion.
- Winterized pipes and converted heating system at Madison Square Recreation Center for efficient operation while the adjacent school continues to be closed. Made numerous repairs due to vandalism.
- Performed 34 roof repairs at various locations.
- Installed new rubber flooring, lobby benches and completed painting at Mount Pleasant Ice Arena.
- Relocated the cooling tower to a new level and structurally sound platform at Mimi DiPietro Ice Rink.
- Installed energy efficient lighting upgrades, in cooperation with Department of General Services, at 27 locations including gymnasium lighting at Robert Marshall Recreation Center.
- Replaced front entrance doors for security purposes at Curtis Bay, Northwood and Cecil Kirk recreation centers.
- Completed restoration work, front doors and transom, painting to Rawlings Conservatory.
- Renovated, constructed additional office space at 3001 East Drive administration building and Druid Hill Park maintenance offices.



CONTRACT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR



RECREATION CENTERS

- Recreation Center Operating hours increased to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the summer and for scheduled full-day Baltimore City Public School closings to meet the needs of the communities, families and programs.
 - We implemented Healthy U, Health and Wellness, Reading by Grade 3 and individual recreation center evaluations initiatives
 - Opened two Youth Connection Centers, Lillian Jones and Collington Square and one Youth Connection Daytime Curfew Center at Greenmount Recreation Center
 - 2014-2015 afterschool adventures enrolled 2100 participants.
 - August 2014: Culminating Summer Camp Picnic (more than 2500 campers in Druid Hill Park for a day of fun)
 - October 2014: six recreation centers participated in a Heart Health and Wellness event and Ed Block Courage Awards Celebrity Golf Tournament (12 youth participated in a golf tournament for the awareness of child abuse and neglect)
 - 2014 Camp Baltimore registered 2,596 participants enrolled in summer camp. (1795 in 2013).
 - In partnership with Baltimore City Health Department, Family League, additional city agencies and private organizations, BCRP provided program space at two recreation centers for post-partum, obese women to achieve weight loss and healthy lifestyles through the B'More Fit for Healthy Babies Program.
 - In partnership with Share Our Strength and Baltimore Family League, five recreation centers conducted nutrition workshops and shopping challenges for parents to raise awareness of healthy shopping choices on a budget.
 - D.E.A.R - Drop Everything and Read, NASA Project
 - Nutrition Education
 - Mad Science – 24 recreation centers offered a leading science enrichment program to provide educational and entertaining science enrichment opportunities for children in grades K-6 delivering unique, hands-on science experiments to reinforce learning during out of school time.
 - Dance Baltimore taught various dance routines and techniques at 15 recreation centers.
 - Art with a Heart offered various forms of art to participants at 5 recreation centers.
 - Always Ginga Fit Zumba offered fitness for health and wellness to youth and adults at 10 recreation centers.
- ### COLLABORATIONS
- Community advocacy, networking and introducing and/or building upon relationships with stakeholders, community leaders. (Family League, BCPS, BCPD, Johns Hopkins University, American Heart Association, West Baltimore Cares (HEZ), Morgan State University, Loyola University, Towson, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Share our strength, The Family Tree, BCHD.MPCJ
 - Eleven recreation centers participated in the B'More Healthy Communities for Kids program with Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health with parents and children documenting and critiquing their neighborhood's food environment.



OUTDOOR RECREATION

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Expanded canoe & kayak programs to a second location, Baltimore Inner Harbor through a collaboration with the Waterfront Partnership, Waterfront Wellness Program. Sunday Programs were established during summer 2014.
- Expanded Middle Branch Canoe & Kayak Programs by adding a Friday evening Open Row program.
- Fleet of kayaks was increased by 17 boats thanks to a donation from Waterfront Partnership.
- Outdoor Recreation Program was highlighted in several newspaper articles; Bay Journal and Baltimore Sun.

- Rails to Trails and M&T Bank donated \$9,675 to purchase 40 beach cruiser bikes that were stolen from the Ride Around Program, May 2014.
- Conducted Saturday learn to kayak programs in BCRP public pools.
- Developed and coordinated tour of Baltimore parks and outdoor recreation opportunities for national convention of the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals. Two hundred and thirteen participated in the tour.

GWYNN FALLS WATERSHED

- Partnered with Waterfront Partnership to maintain Federal Hill Park.
- Installed 9 trash cans at Latrobe Park that community purchased.
- Partnered with community groups at St. Mary's, Riverside, Leakin and ABC parks to provide tools, clean supplies and mulch for volunteer activities in parks.
- Repaired three baseball fields at Solo Gibbs, Easterwood and Florence Cumming that have not been used in years.



YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS

Myers Pavilion hosted the following events and leagues:

- Ring of Honor Wrestling drew 400+ spectators generating \$3,000 in profit
- Six boxing events
- Hosted American Heart Association recess Baltimore culminating event
- University of Maryland Baltimore County women's soccer league
- Matthew Steeples Indoor Football
- Night Hawks (ladies football)
- Three adult soccer leagues each season
- BCRP Therapeutic Recreation Division Bocce Ball tournament
- Hosted Baltimore indoor football league Coach Robert Holmes
- Maryland Major Soccer League

Mimi DiPietro

- Broomball winter and spring sessions
- Floor Hockey spring and summer sessions
- Youth instructional skating fall and winter sessions
- Adult softball spring, summer, and fall sessions
- Summer PlayBall program with the Manny Machado Foundation
- Annual Frog Hop
- Turtle Derby
- Summer youth fishing program
- Skate with Santa
- Facility Manger appointed to the Steering Committee for Patterson Park
- Facility manager received a Mayoral Certificate of Recognition
- First complete painting of the interior of the facility in eight years
- First painting of the ice-boards in over ten years

Basketball

- BNBL – registered 90 teams. This is an increase from 30 teams in 2014.
- B'More Night Hoops registered 16 teams
- 50 and over league registered 6 teams

Football

- Registered 16 teams. In FY 15/16 we will merge with the American Youth Football League (AYF) for a total of 88 teams this year.

Mount Pleasant Ice Arena

- Summer camp increased from four to six weeks
- Hosted two Performance Troupe productions
- Our three basic hockey/power skating Series attracted more than 100 participants
- Hosted annual Skate With Santa event
- Host site for Special Olympics for Baltimore and received plaque for continued support
- Hosted seven Learn to Skate sessions two times per week averaging 150-200 participants. Summer participation averaged 75 skaters.
- Holiday events including Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, President's Day Public Sessions and Christmas Holiday Break average more than 500 skaters.
- Hosted Laura Stamm Hockey Clinic in July.

Upton

- Upton Boxing competed in the Junior Olympics' Tournament
- Hosted first Boxing Clinic
- Began a mural project
- Hosted Save Our Sons community event
- School of Boxing program
- Free drop-in training services

Baseball Program

- Baseball RBI League fielded 45 teams: ages 13-15, 12 & under, 15-17, 16-18 and girls unlimited
- Hosted 10 little league programs
- Total baseball participants: 3,560
- Charm City Lacrosse Program
- Registered 650 participants

Soccer Program

- 450 kids in program
- Coed: 11 vs. 11; 102 teams
- Mens: 36 teams
- Womens: 8 teams
- Mens indoor: 36 teams

Skateboard & Bike Playground at Carroll Park

- 400 kids use the skateboard park each month

Track and Field

- Forty youth registered for the summer clinics
- 69 Athletes sent Track and Field National Championship

Tennis

- Registered 110 kids for the All Star Tennis summer camp. This is an increase from 60 registered participants in 2014.





AQUATICS

For the third year, all pools opened to the public Memorial Day weekend. To date we have served more than 350,000 swimmers.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMING

- American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim
- Aqua Boot Camp
- Aqua Zumba
- Baltimore City Swim Club (BCSC)
- Dive-in Movies
- Early Bird Swim
- Family Fun & Open Swim
- Fluid Movement synchronized swim performances
- Friends & Family Day
- Holiday themed events
- Kayak Roll Clinic
- Scuba diving class

- Splash Expo!
- Water Aerobics
- Water Exercise

CAMP W.A.T.E.R.S. (Water-Adventure-Training-Enrichment-Rowing-Swimming)
Operated in partnership with Reach High Baltimore, youth build skills and confidence through swimming, rowing, canoeing, kayaking, environmental projects, varied enrichment projects centered on the abundant waters of the Middle Branch Basin and nearby Cherry Hill Splash Park.

GOALS FOR FY 2015/2016

Establishing water safety and in-school aquatic programming in Baltimore City Public Schools

Many cities face issues with accidental drowning involving children making water safety education invaluable. BCRP Aquatics is developing a strategy to visit schools, K5 through 8th grade, to educate children on the importance of water safety rules. Through Q&A sessions, activities, and activity sheets, a Water Safety Guide, and Water safety tips for students will be developed. The materials and information we provide will help children recognize things they should not do and who to call when someone is having trouble in and around the water. Additionally, BCRP would like to provide various aquatics programs during the school day at the schools with swimming pools all year long.

The Senior Citizens Division hosted a variety of well attended special events for active seniors throughout the fiscal year. The highlights of these include the following:

Partnered with the University of Maryland Medical System to conduct our annual Senior Splash in Patterson Park. With the youth back in school, the seniors were able to enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the pool under the warm sun. This health promotion event included water aerobics, a picnic lunch, games with prizes and old school music. The afternoon's festivities concluded with the ever popular water balloon toss! Winners were awarded prizes provided by University of Maryland Medical System.

2014 ended with our very popular Pre New Year's Senior Extravaganza at Martin's West. On Dec. 30, more than 900 seniors from across Baltimore City joined together to celebrate the coming New Year. They danced the afternoon away and had a Soul Train line dance!

In recognition of Heart Health Month, the senior citizens hosted an annual healthy heart event entitled "Shake, Rattle and Roll for Your Heart Health." About 350 Baltimore City seniors from across the city gathered at the Patterson Park Recreation Center for a day of fun, fellowship and fitness. The dance floor was full with happy line dancers all afternoon and Elvis even made an appearance! The participants took advantage of the health information and blood pressure checks offered by your nursing students and benefited from the presentation on how to read food labels to manage their sodium, sugar and fat intake.

BCRP partnered with the University of Maryland Medical System and the Baltimore City Health Department's CARE Services to engage and educate Baltimore's older adults in the importance of maintaining an active, heart healthy leisure lifestyle in their golden years.

More than 200 seniors from across the City attended the Senior Citizens Division's health promotion event, "Walk the Zoo for a Healthier You!" Older adults from sites across town were transported to the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore for a walking tour. Division staff were stationed at various exhibits throughout the Zoo. Senior walkers who did the most walking were awarded prizes. The day included a visit from zoo representative, "Louie," a colorful Macaw which many seniors were photographed with. After the zoo walk, participants visited vendor tables and enjoyed a relaxing picnic lunch.

The Cherry Hill Senior Center, operated by Catholic Charities, recently closed its doors and older adults residing in that community no longer have a meeting place for recreational programs and related senior services. The Health Department's CARE Services provided BCRP with Older American Act Title IIIB grant funding to offer senior recreational programs in the community. On June 4th, the Senior Citizens Division began operating The Cherry Hill Senior Program at the Rowing Center, providing transportation and recreational programs for older adults one day a week. The facility currently serves as an office for the Aquatics Division, houses rowing machinery in the lower level and the multi-purpose room on the main level is rented out for meetings, special events and other programs.



SENIOR CITIZENS



THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

RECFEST 2014

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks' Therapeutic Recreation Division partnered with the Mayor's Office on Disabilities and the non-profit organization Global Abilities Foundation in conducting our first RecFest. RecFest is designed as a one-stop shop for persons with disabilities to expose and engage them in a multitude of different activities. Our vision was to provide an inclusive community recreation expo for all ages and abilities. Partnerships were key to the success of the event as we reached out to Maryland School for the Blind, the Kennedy Kreiger Institute and Towson University Occupational Therapy Department amongst others to serve on our planning committee. RecFest was held in Baltimore's popular Patterson Park. Sponsorships and vendor fees enabled us to offer this event free of charge to all participants.

The goals for the event were to: 1) provide adapted and inclusive recreation opportunities for persons of all ages and abilities, 2) educate the public about the capabilities of persons with disabilities, 3) increase collaborations between separate organizations that provide disability resources and 4) to help organizations reach out to potential clients, participants, and volunteers with and without disabilities.

Through the tremendous efforts of BCRP and its partners, more than 400 people with and without disabilities participated in this event, which is already in the planning stages for later this year.

INCREASED THERAPEUTIC RECREATION PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES

We significantly increased specialized programming opportunities. The Division added nine new programs providing fun, active and informative opportunities for participants with disabilities. New programs included goalball, water fitness, canoeing and nature education programs. The TR Division accomplished the new programming initiatives while decreasing part-time employee hours by almost 25%.

CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS MARYLAND

We continued to expand its strong partnership with Special Olympics Maryland. This partnership has allowed the Special Olympics program to increase the number of athletes participating in day care oriented programming and community based programming. The Therapeutic Recreation Division has taken a leadership role in these programs providing staffing, coaches, facilities, and administration of the programs.

During FY 2015, over 600 athletes participated in 13 different programs in the sports of basketball, bocce ball, kickball, soccer, and softball. The bocce ball and basketball programs included teams that were administered by BCRP staff, participated in two multi-county competitions, and in the Maryland Special Olympics state games. This was the first year for the community based basketball program for young adults and culminated in the gold medal at the state games.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEW PROJECTS

The division was able to eliminate the City's entire backlog of service requests for tree pruning and removal – despite limited funding and personnel. This was accomplished through the hard work of our urban foresters and tree crews, and through a new, more efficient tree maintenance contract.

Through our TreeBaltimore program, the City's coordinated effort for all tree planting within the city, over 7,500 trees were planted over the past twelve months. Community engagement occurred with schools, neighborhoods and individual residents to ensure trees were planted where they would do the most good for combating heat island effect, lowering utility bills, and decreasing air and water pollution.

This spring the Mayor's Office awarded Urban Forestry enhancement and innovation funding to initiate a citywide tree inventory, begin proactive tree pruning in our neighborhoods, and work toward a zero-waste facility at the city's wood dump site at Camp Small.

As part of the department's effort to protect its woodlands, we also received funding to develop forest management plans for our major parks and have revived the Weed Warriors Program to combat invasive species.

MAJOR PARTNERSHIPS

For the care and expansion of Baltimore's tree canopy, our critical partnership continues with the Departments of Planning and Public Works, Parks and People Foundation, Blue Water Baltimore, Civic Works, and the Baltimore Tree Trust. In addition to our capital improvement funds (our primary source of funding for tree planting), we have also engaged the Association of Baltimore Area Grant Makers for funding – as well as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Maryland's Critical Areas Program.

GOALS FOR 2015/2016

Our goals are to expand the annual number of new tree plantings – with the caveat that we and our partners continue to ensure proper follow-up care. We will also begin the first phases of our tree inventory, proactive pruning program, and stepped-up recycling efforts at Camp Small.

The forest management plan for Gwynns Falls Leakin Park is scheduled for completion in 2016. We will continue to increase stewardship and community engagement by certifying additional TreeKeepers and Weed Warriors, by targeting more neighborhoods as part of the Baltimore Energy Initiative, and by coordinating and hosting TreeBaltimore events throughout the year.



URBAN FORESTRY



HORTICULTURE

Rawlings Conservatory: 27,917 visitors including special events, rentals and all programs.

- Served 49 organizations for tours; hosted 37 permitted events including 18 weddings.
- Created two seasonal flower displays:
 - “It’s a Wonderful Life” for the holidays;
 - “A Garden Galaxy” for spring, including display of mosaics by local artist Yulia Hanansan. Also partnered with MICA to produce and host an artists’ exhibit: “Nature Indoors”
- Three hundred and seventeen (317) volunteers put in 3,683 hours of volunteer time at the Conservatory.
- Held community Gardening Day, using volunteers to successfully plant, water & mulch the 2015 Rawlings Conservatory exterior garden in 3 hours. Partners include:
 - U.S. Navy,
 - Patterson High School
 - Frederick Douglass High School
 - Edgcombe Circle Elementary School
 - Horticulture Society of Maryland
 - Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland
 - and additional volunteers

Cyburn Arboretum: 38,704 documented visitors for special events, meetings, rentals and all programs (does not include walk in visitors)

- This is up about 5% from FY14, due to increases in the rental program, a highly successful summer jazz series, and Tour Dem Parks.
- Served 23 organizations for tours (does not include tours by partners)
- Hosted 135 permitted events including 40 weddings

- Hosted 35 workshops or walks by partner organizations or staff
- Hosted 110 meetings, trainings, programs by partner organizations including 27 BCRP events such as Tree Baltimore Gatherings, retirement parties, Youthworks Financial Literacy, Project Clean Stream Training and more.

City Farms Program

- Increased garden plots at Rockrose and Upton City Farms to have more participants in those locations.
- More than 575 families are gardening in 731 plots throughout the 12 locations.

PERSONNEL

- Support 16 part-time employees on earned revenue
- Support 3 contractual positions (36.6 Hr/week) on earned revenue
 - Event/Rental Coordinator
 - Event/Rental Associate
 - Conservatory Volunteer Manager/Webmaster
- Filled vacant Park Maintenance Supervisor position
- Created contract position for City Farm Coordinator
- Hired seven seasonal or part-time employees from the Jobs, Housing and Recovery Program (men recovering from addiction). These men have been standout employees on their own but even more so in comparison to employees hired from other sources.

MAJOR PARTNERSHIPS

- **Friends of Druid Hill Park:** Completed successful season Four Druid Hill Park Farmers Market in the fall of 2014. In 2014, FoDHP distributed about \$5,000 in Market Money to SNAP/WIC eligible clients to purchase fresh foods. Market sales and participation were up across every measure. Season 5 began June 3, 2015.
- **Baltimore Conservatory Association:** Co-sponsor several friend/fund raising events with more than 900 total participants (Cocktails in the Conservatory, Summer Solstice Concert, Seersucker and Sundresses, Partners Appreciation Happy Hour)
- **Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland**
 - Raised more than \$16,000 to replace two sets of doors at the entrance of the historic Palm House at the Rawlings Conservatory in Druid Hill Park.
 - Provide 8 public gardening and nature programs.
 - Granted \$2500 to Cylburn Association for Garden Intern Program.
- **Horticultural Society of MD**
 - Installation of new and renovated gardens in front of Vollmer Center adjacent to the doors.
 - Granted \$1,200 to the Rawlings Conservatory to provide buses and food for the 2015 Community Gardening Day.
 - Granted \$2,500 to Cylburn Association for Garden Intern Program.

• Cylburn Arboretum Association

- Installed temporary sculpture by Paul Daniel at Cylburn Arboretum.
- Provide educational, art, and music programming that brought in 6,793 visitors (up 11% from same time last year) including jazz concerts, Ar-BOO-return, walks and talks, and Market Day.
- Provided about \$25,000 of natural trail maintenance.
- Nature and Art Camps hosted about 120 students ages 5 to 11.
 - Art Camp created a Recycling and Water Cycle Mural for the garden
 - Recycling was a major component of the camp curriculum.
- Provide website marketing
- Support three part time gardeners and oversight for garden intern.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS/REPAIRS/ RENOVATIONS AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

Rawlings Conservatory

- New Palm House doors, two sets, exterior and interior, milled from Spanish Cedar, with sandcast Victorian brass hardware and marine-grade paint.
- Upgraded lighting in office and support areas—replaced old fixtures with LED and other energy efficient lights (with Department of General Services/BGE grant).

Cylburn Arboretum

- New boiler installed at Greenhouse, replacing the 1959 model of inefficiency.
- Replaced garage door at Greenhouse; significant additional heating repairs.

- Continued work on HVAC at the historic Mansion (updated controls to reduce heating costs) with Department of General Services.
- Replaced exterior basement doors at Cylburn Mansion.
- Upgraded lighting in Mansion and exterior of buildings – replaced old fixtures with LED and other energy efficient lights (with Department of General Services/BGE grant).

City Farms

- Installed new fence at Rockrose City Farm, with \$10,000 in from a National Recreation and Parks Association/Darden Restaurants grant.
- Completed fencing and gates at Upton City Farms.
- Increased garden plots at Rockrose and Upton City Farms to have more participants in those locations.
- Installed a 200 foot linear dry well at Dewees City Farm to manage rainwater coming off slope with the National Conservation Corp Volunteers.

Miscellaneous

- Kicked off a campus wide recycling program
 - Grant from Keep America Beautiful/Dr. Pepper provided 6 park recycling cans.
 - Cylburn Association purchased educational recycling /trash cans for 2 interior locations.
 - Purchased recycling dumpster to support recycling at the Conservatory.
 - Held third annual Green Bridal and Event expo to encourage eco-friendly events in all venues.





BALTIMORE CITY
RECREATION & PARKS

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