

ANNUAL YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

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Superintendent of Parks, Recreation, Youth and
Community Services

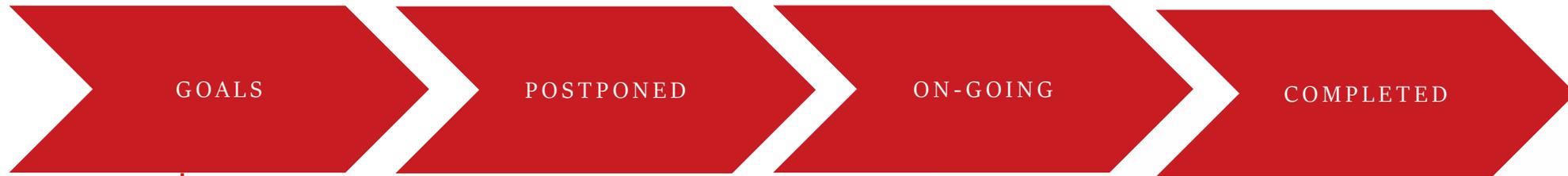


Overview

- Review of 2020 Goals (established in December 2019)
- Impacts of Covid-19 on Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services
- Completed Department Projects
- Accomplishments and Highlights by Division
- 2021 Goals: What's Next?



Review of 2020 Goals (established in December 2019)

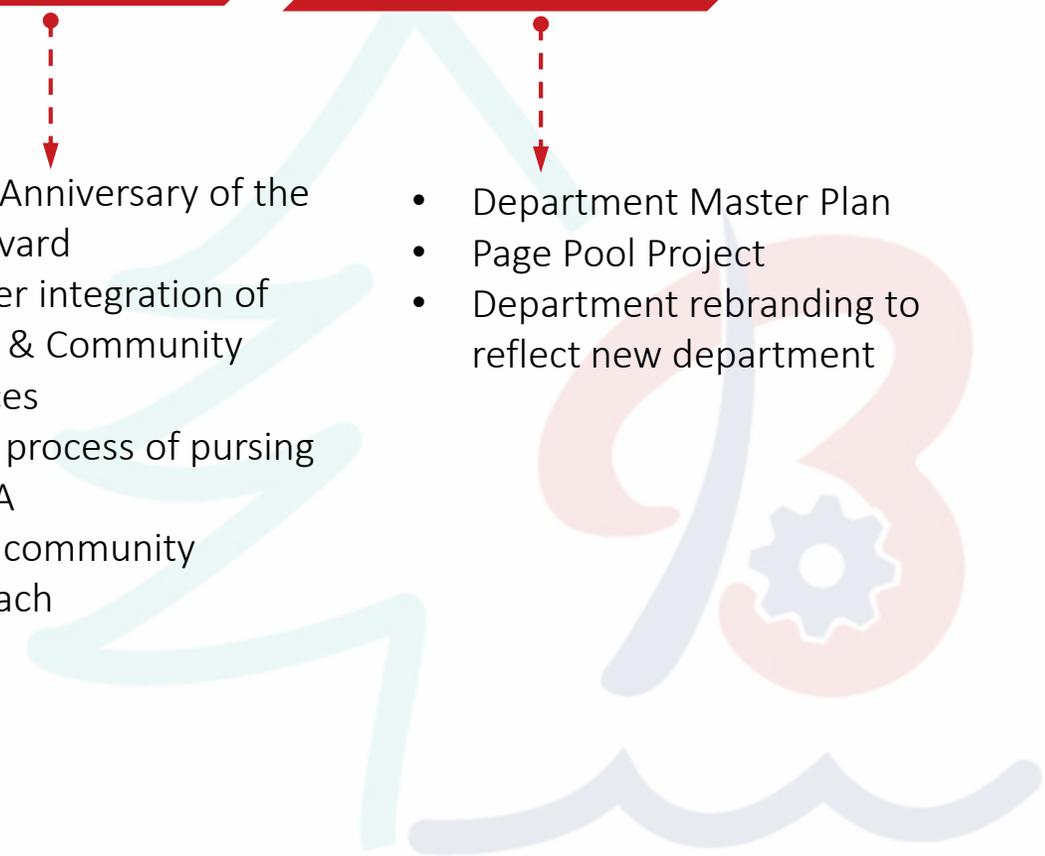


- All Heart Pop-Up Parks
- Department Master Plan
- Page Park Pool
- 100th Anniversary of the Boulevard
- 2 major fundraising events
- Further integration of Youth & Community Services
- Begin process of pursuing CAPRA
- Department rebranding to reflect new department
- More community outreach

- All Heart Pop-Up Parks
- Grand opening of Page Pool
- 2 major fundraising events

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- Department Master Plan
- Page Pool Project
- Department rebranding to reflect new department



The impact of COVID-19 on Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services

- Bristol parks are more relevant than ever before
- Parks remained open throughout the pandemic with select recreational amenities closed March- June 2020.
- Expanded open space opportunities by closing streets on the Memorial Boulevard to create passive recreation opportunities to accommodate increased usage overflow.
- Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services offered essential services to the community:
 - Continued care and maintenance of public open space and parks
 - Child Care
 - Swimming Pools
 - Opportunities for residents to receive social, mental and physical health benefits through programs
 - Counseling and social services to youth and families in need

Actions taken surrounding COVID-19 by Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services

- Pivoted to remote work for select office staff and instituted staggered schedules for parks crew
- Offered dozens of virtual programs and on-your-own activities for the community (All-Heart Park Packs, cookie decorating).
- Developed policies and procedures for the administration of safe programs.
- Enhanced safety/cleaning protocols across the system (Sanitized playgrounds, Covid-19 signs for parks and BOE).
- Provided leadership for community youth sport organizations including a Virtual Forum to help non-profit sport organizations navigate sector rules and guidelines.
- Strong network with surrounding communities and CRPA to support decision making
- Professional staff provided state level leadership by presenting on Covid-19 topics at CT Parks Association and CRPA Conferences
- Tracked expenditures, prepared requests and documents to Comptrollers for FEMA reporting
- Engaged in regular on-going communications with staff throughout the pandemic

Completed Projects

- **Major Projects**
 - Dennis Malone Aquatics Center Renovations
 - Page Park Pool Renovation
 - Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Master Plan
 - Muzzy Field Renovation
- **Smaller Scale Projects and Improvements**
 - Rockwell Park Rain Garden
 - Skate Park Repairs and Enhancements
 - Installed safety lights and new logo decals on park vehicles
 - External painting of the Page Park Recreation Building
 - Signage and miscellaneous upgrades at Roberts Property Park
 - Established formal Pickleball Courts at Seymour Park



Dennis Malone Aquatics Center Renovations

- Renovated locker rooms and family changing room
- UV Sanitation System
- Fire Alarm Control Panel



Page Pool Renovation

- Reconstructed pool shell which includes an ADA accessible zero depth entry
- Spray features in shallow end
- Renovated locker-room, family rooms and new bathhouse space
- Repainted parking lot, established sidewalks and additional site features including a new grass area inside the pool.



Master Plan

- Partnered with Activitas and Pros Consulting
- Scope:
 - Review of existing site conditions
 - Needs assessment with a statistically valid community survey
 - Virtual public meeting engagement sessions and interviews with boards and community stakeholder groups
 - Development of program assessment, maintenance standards, CIP and more.
- Next steps: Formal adoption of the Master Plan document and development of a Strategic Plan



Muzzy Field Renovations

- Full field renovation including new sod and irrigation system.
- Removed existing lighting and installed a new LED light system controlled through Musco Lighting.
- Installation of MuscoVision.
- Additional project monies to be used for installation of new fencing and bathroom upgrades.



Additional Projects

- Established formal Pickleball Courts at Seymour Park (top).
- Rain Garden established in partnership with the Farmington River Watershed Association (bottom left).
- New sign installed and site upgrades to Roberts Property Park (bottom right).



Accomplishments & Highlights by Division

- Core Values Designations: Commitment To...
 - To Service (*S*)
 - Partnerships (*P*)
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (*DEI*)
 - Stewardship and Conservation (*SC*)



Administration

- Policy and Ordinance Change prohibiting Smoking in City Parks (February 2020) in partnership with BEST, Park Commission and Youth Commission *(P), (SC)*.
- Empaneled the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee *(DEI)*.
- Secured a \$66,000 NRPA Play and Youth Sports Grant *(P)* to support the pump park and creation of All Heart Parks Gear Shop *(DEI)*. Press conference held on September 23, 2020.
- Provided leadership to the Board of Education surrounding Covid-19 protocols, signage and coordinated Senior Nights on the Boulevard *(P)*.
- Continued to restructure and refine the internal budget process to create new levels of accountability and skill building for department supervisors.

Outreach, Marketing & Events (Administrative Division Support Service)

- Established the Movies on Main Street Drive-in movie series (summer-fall 2020)
- Represented the department and supported the Mayor and the United Way at the Farmers to Families weekly event
- Developing rebranding efforts to support the incorporation of Youth and Community Services (i.e. new logo, vehicle decals).
- On boarded the new Community Engagement Coordinator, Erica Benoit (*S*)
 - Monthly Marketing Committee
 - Marketing Calendar/Release Strategy
 - Training for department staff on branding, website administration and software (*S*)
 - Sponsorship Package/Strategy for Bike Bristol (*P*)
 - Multi-lingual park surveys/signs across the system (*DEI*)
 - Development of Park Ambassador program for summer 2021 (*SC*), (*S*)
 - Bench Program established and added to Park Memorial Packages (*S*)

Administration

- Play and Youth Grant Award press conference (top)
- Outreach at Annual Chamber of Commerce Home and Business Show (bottom left)
- Letters to Santa at Federal Hill Green (bottom right)



Parks, Grounds & Facilities

- Maintained the city's open space and public parks throughout the pandemic (*SC*). Delivered a fast turn around of re-opening recreational amenities and fields when the state re-opened (*S*).
- Continued to make training and education a priority (CPR/First Aid, NARCAN training, CPSI, AFO, ABI training) (*S*).
- On boarded new park maintainers bringing the Parks Division to full capacity.
- Managed clean up and repairs for major storms including Tropical Storm Isaias which devastated the city (*SC*).
- Prepared parks for hosting Black Lives Matter demonstrations at both Federal Hill Green, Brackett Park and a community conversation with the Mayor's Office, Board of Education and Bristol Police Department (*P*), (*DEI*).
- Continued efforts to address long standing issues along the Pequabuck River at Rockwell Park including partnering with the Wetlands Commission and environmental specialists (*SC*).
- Coordinated with local resident to expand holiday light displays at Page Park (*S*), (*P*).

Parks Division

- Black Lives Matter demonstration at Federal Hill Green (top)
- New park maintainers Marc Davis and Craig Vibert (bottom left)
- Parks crew repairing cracks and painting lines for the new pickleball courts (bottom right)



Park Division

- Tropical Storm Isaias devastated the park system late summer. The Parks Crew engaged in an extensive clean up effort across the park system. Parks Crew was also redeployed to partner with Public Works on removing downed trees in the city streets.



Recreation

- Recruited and on-boarded a new Recreation Supervisor, Amry Shelby (August 2020) who hit the ground running with day to day oversight of summer programming and coordination of fall activities.
- Secured and finalized a lease agreement with the Montessori School to help close the gap of indoor space deficit facing the Bristol parks system **(P)**. The site was and continues to be an essential facility housing Fall Cares.
- Launched a new Fall Care program in conjunction with the Youth and Community Services Division to support the Board of Educations hybrid 50% remote learning model. In a very short turn around the division developed schedules, secured program staff, and policies to ensure the program was safe, affordable and met the needs of residents **(P),(S)**.
- Modified long standing programs like the *Turkey Shoot Basketball Contest* to keep tradition alive while also implementing virtual programs including weekly online *Yoga, Art Lessons* and new classes such as *Lifestyle Photography, Culinary Classes, Chess Lessons and Storybook Science (S)*.
- Developing the *All-Heart Park Packs* to provide residents with FREE recreation equipment, crafts, books, educational materials, board games, and more. To eliminate traditional barriers including cost and transportation; our department implemented a contactless delivery plan at no charge to Bristol residents **(DEI)**.

Pine Lake Adventure Park (Recreation Division)

- Superior Electric Remediation Project began on site. Superintendent negotiated a \$90,000 business interruption agreement with ERM.
- Rebranded the Pine Lake Challenge Course to the Pine Lake Adventure Park.
- Pine Lake Adventure Park was closed to the public in March 2020 due to COVID-19. The Superintendent recommended the continued closure of the facility due to business analysis and remediation interruptions. The closure was approved by the Board of Park Commissioners at their regular meeting May 2020.
- Recreation Supervisor, Amry Shelby launched the Pine Lake Adventure Park Committee, which includes department staff, to help formulate the final business plan for the park *(P)*.
- Department staff toured the High Ropes Course at Winding Trails in Farmington to help inform decisions for our business plan.
- Funded a new Pine Lake kiosk at the main entrance of the park in partnership with the Pine Lake Committee/Forestville Village Association *(P)*.

Recreation Division

- The 23rd Annual Turkey Shoot Basketball Contest moved outside (top).
- Despite Covid-19 we hosted the 9th Annual Retiree Golf League (bottom left).
- Men's 40+ Fall Softball League Champions (bottom right).



Kyrie Adams
&

Matthew Achim
&

Amari Walker
&

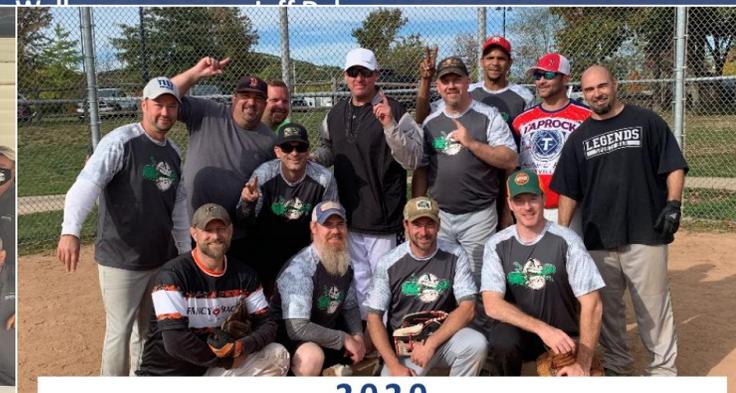
Lukas Dahn
&

Naseem Walker-
Jenkins
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9TH ANNUAL
RETIREE GOLF LEAGUE

2020



2020
MEN'S 40+ FALL SOFTBALL
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Pickles

21

Aquatics

- The Dennis Malone Aquatics Center and Rockwell Park Pool opened for summer 2020 with capacity modifications and new protocols dictated by the state. Traditional summer swim lessons could not be offered but a new Family Swim Lesson program was created. DMAC remains open at this time providing essential service to residents **(S)**.
- Continued enhancements at all facilities remained a priority in 2020; this included DMAC renovations, Page Pool renovation and misc. repairs and upgrades at Rockwell. The aquatics facilities will be in premier shape for the 2021 season.
- Partnered with BEST for Teen Night Socials and a Summer Splash Bash at Rockwell. Partnered with Youth and Community Services by requiring gift donations at Scuba Santa to be provided to the Annual Holiday Gift Giving Program **(DEI), (P)**.
- Training continues to be a priority for both full time and part time staff at the pool. Aquatics Supervisor Jaimie Clout presented at both NRPA and CRPA conference. Aquatics Coordinator and Facilities Tech also attended CRPA conference/trainings **(S)**.
- The Aquatics Division received a Gold Medal Award from the American Red Cross for our Learn to Swim program and the divisions Lifeguard Training program was recognized in the *Best of 2020 Edition of Aquatics International Magazine*.

Aquatics Division

- Olympian Swimmer Phillip Adejumo visits DMAC (top)
- Nationally recognized lifeguard training program (bottom left)
- New event Scuba Santa (bottom right)



Youth & Community Services

- Promoted Office Assistant Kyana Anderson to the role of Youth and Family Coordinator and recruited mental health professional and Bristol resident Aubrey Minkler to the role of Community Services Coordinator **(S)**.
- Successfully navigated a complicated integration and lease agreement with Bristol Health Woman, Infant and Child (WIC) program in July 2020 **(P)**.
- Facilitated the merge of Bristol Health Parent and Child Center into the Youth and Community Services division in July 2020. This led to increased efficiencies with service delivery fulfilling the vision for 51 High Street to be a full service facility covering birth, youth service to adult community services all in one resource center **(S), (P)**.
- Facilitated the development of a *Pride in the Park* event in conjunction with the BEHS/BCHS Gay, Straight Alliance and the Bristol Blues. Unfortunately the event was postponed due to COVID-19 cancelling the Bristol Blues season **(DEI), (P)**.
- Created new programs including Young People of Color and LGBTQ groups **(DEI)**. Administered the Mayor's Youth Cabinet until Covid-19 shut down.
- Supported more families in need than ever before with the Annual Holiday Gift Giving Program **(DEI)**. The program was a success thanks to staff efforts and various city partnerships including Spare Time Bowling, Bristol Hospital and more **(P)**.

Youth & Community Services Division

- Annual Youth Recognition Award Ceremony was held in person at Page Park Pavilion (top).
- One of the sites for Fall Cares was held at 51 High Street, led by Youth and Community Services staff (bottom left).
- Annual Holiday Gift Giving program (bottom right).



Drug Free Communities (BEST)

- DFC program team became fully staffed with the hiring of Jenelle Howard, Project Coordinator in (April 2020), Thomas Fulton, Project Associate in (May 2020) and a new part time position, Project Assistant in (November 2020) funded through AmeriCorps Prevention Corp program (*P*). Position was filled with former recreation intern Hannah Goodwin.
- The B.E.S.T.-4- Bristol Coalition was rebranded to *BEST* which included the roll out of a new logo, online press conference, and bolstered social media campaign to better inform the community (*S*).
- Refreshed the popular Teen Night Social events which included paint night, minute to win it, nature scavenger hunts, pool party, cooking class and more. There were 12 Teen Nights with nearly 100 participants total.
- Two virtual Narcan/QPR trainings were held to inform the community about opioid overdoses, available resources, types of Narcan and how to use it.
- Relunched the BEST Coalition and Youth Coalition to further the work of DFC. There are over 15 active members participating monthly.
- Increased profile in the community by holding a BEST booth at 5 Farmer's Markets. Coordinated with the Mayor's Office and Economic and Community Development to offer a Halloween event (*P*).

Drug Free Communities

- Special event held at Brackett Park to commemorate International Overdose Awareness Day (top).
- BEST and Youth Services staff and commissioners teamed up to provide materials at BOE food distribution at Rockwell Park (bottom left).
- Teen Night Socials were a big hit this summer (bottom right).



2021 Goals: What's Next?

- Formal adoption of the Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Master Plan (Winter 2021)
- Development of the Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Strategic Plan/Committee (Winter 2021)
- Relaunch and rebrand of the Pine Lake Adventure Park (Late Spring/Early Summer 2021)
- Grand re-opening of the Page Park Pool (Summer 2021)
- Construction of the Rockwell Park Pump Park (Winter/Spring 2021)
- Page Park Pavilion Renovation Phase 1 (Winter/Spring 2021)
- Opening of the All Heart Parks Gear Shop (Summer 2021)
- All Heart Pop-Up Park Series (Summer 2021)
- 100th Anniversary of the Memorial Boulevard: History, Evolution, Celebration (Fall 2021)
- Apply for CAPRA (Commission of Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies) TBA 2021

Final Thoughts & Reflections

