



# RECREATION SNAPSHOT 2023

City of Sharonville Recreation Department Annual Report



# Message from The Director

I am proud to present the City of Sharonville Parks & Recreation Department's 2023 Annual Report. This report includes many of the great things that our department was able to accomplish in the past year.

Our department has worked incredibly hard in previous years to help bring things back to normal after COVID. In 2021 we adapted, in 2022 we added, and in 2023 we accelerated. The wave of momentum that you have heard me talk about many times before increased from waist high to a tidal wave. Numbers across the board increased from participation in programs and events to memberships, leading us to one of our biggest years in the history of our department.



To say that I am proud of what our department has accomplished in this time would be an understatement. From renovations and projects, to staffing challenges and increased demand, our department has been incredibly busy. None of this would be possible without the continued drive from my staff to offer the best experience possible when folks visit our facilities. The Recreation Department is extremely blessed to have such loyal and resident focused people working in all areas of our operation. I want to take time to say Thank You to each one of them for everything that they do to continue to provide a high level of customer service.



Our success in 2023 has spread to every area of our department's operation. Memberships and renewals are up, program registrations and participation are up, fitness center and track visits are up, and the aquatics flame is alive and well. Pre-Covid numbers are a thing of the past as we have exceeded them in multiple areas. Our Recreation community is fully recovered, and the Community Center has once again become the hub of activity in Sharonville for folks of all ages and interests.

Recreation continues to be the best option for people to connect, regardless of how they choose to participate. We recognize the importance of the work that we do and take the responsibility of being a big part of people's everyday lives very seriously. No matter if you are here for physical activity, friendship, or to make a family memory, we are always here to help.



Michael Blomer | Recreation Director | Office: 513.563.2895 | Mobile/Text: 513.543.2963

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MBL".

# Department Overview

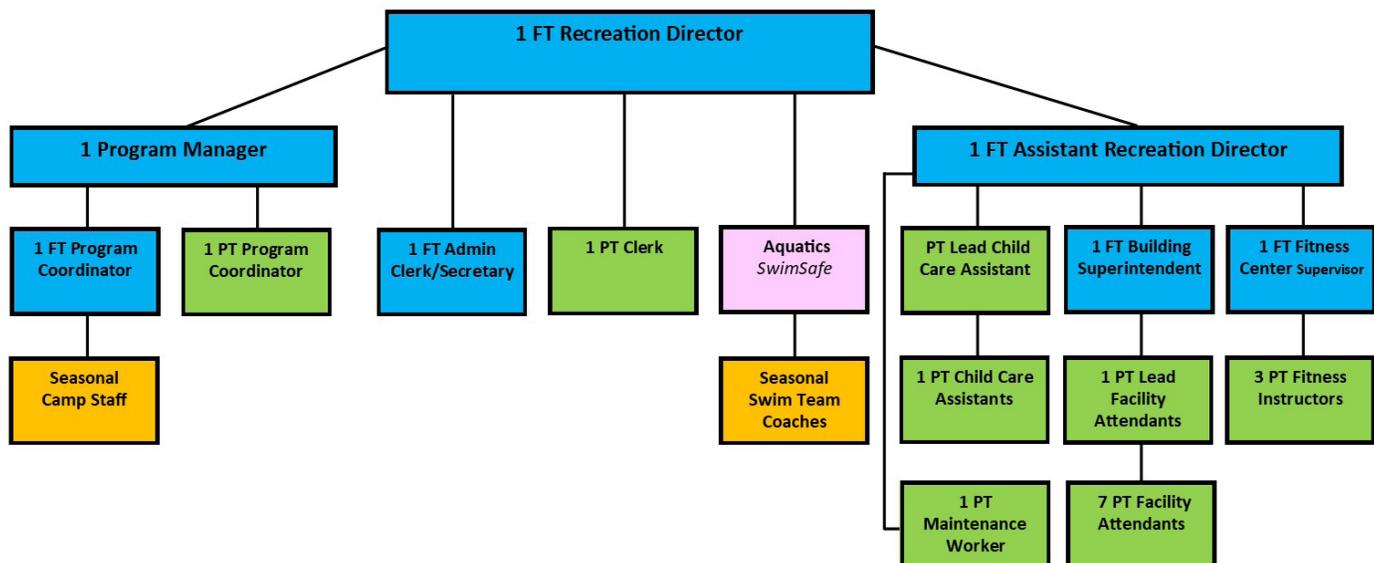
The Sharonville Parks & Recreation Department team currently consists of 7 full time employees, 14 part time employees, and 14-18 seasonal staff. Our responsibilities are broken down in to several broad categories including administration, programming, fitness, facility operations, and child care. The organizational chart below outlines the internal structure of our department.

Our Community Center doors are open for operation 7 days a week for a total of 86 hours.

- Monday thru Thursday - 15 hours (per day)
- Friday - 13 hours
- Saturday - 9 hours
- Sunday - 5 hours

Our facilities include a 50,000 square foot Community Center with 3 basketball courts, an indoor track, a fitness center, 5 multipurpose/programming spaces, a nursery, an aerobics room, and locker rooms. We have 4 large parks across the city with multiple outdoor sports fields, playgrounds, and shelters. We have an outdoor aquatic facility including some of the nicest pools in the region.

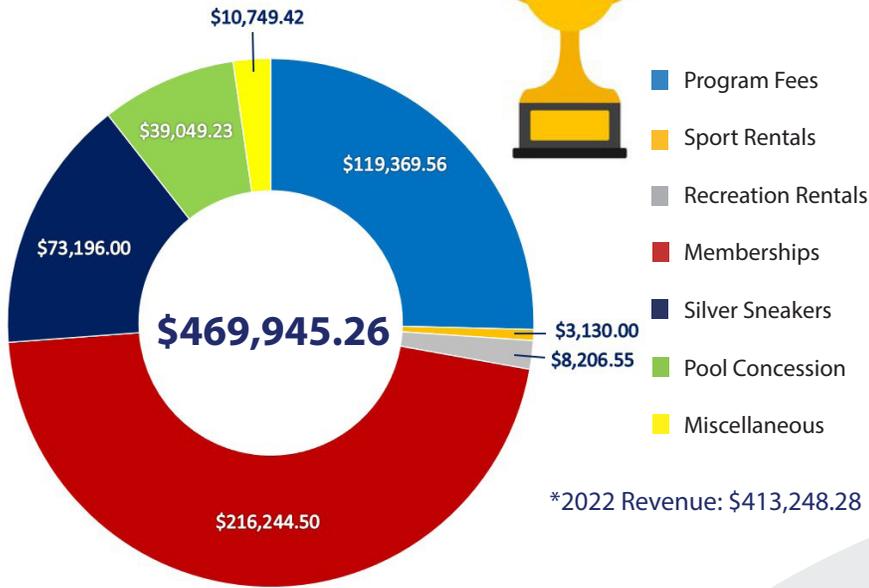
The Recreation Department staff works diligently to fill these facilities with top notch amenities, programs and events for residents and members of all ages and abilities. Additionally, we pay close attention to our spaces to ensure safety, security and cleanliness.



# Budget Recap

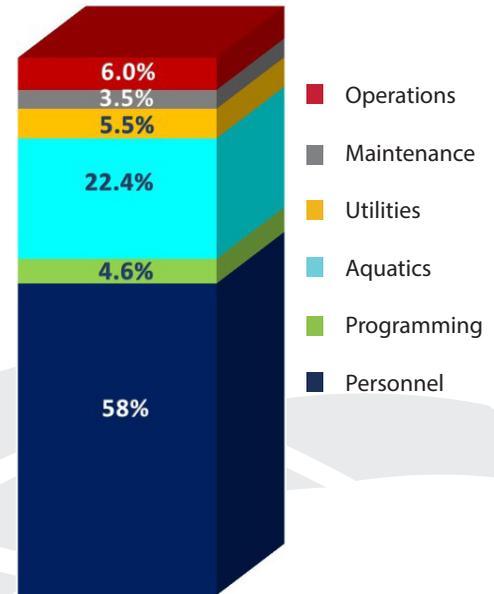
The department's revenue budget set a Department record in 2023, primarily due to large increases in participation from a membership and program standpoint. With an increase in revenue, came an increase in overall expenses, with the largest expense increases coming from aquatics and operations.

## 2023 Revenue



## 2023 Expenses

TOTAL: \$1,917,400.79



\*2022 Expenses: \$1,725,777.25

COST **24.5%**  
RECOVERY

# Project Success



## COMMUNITY CENTER ENTRANCE

The main entrance of the Community Center received a much needed refresh with the removal of the 26 year old pavers. The brand new concrete was designed to match the theme and color of the newly paved areas in downtown Sharonville at the Loop. In addition to the new concrete, brand new landscaping was added around the main entrance for a complete look.

## CONCESSION UPGRADE

Since 2018, we have seen the continued increase in participation at the pool. With that increase has come the demand for more options at the concession stand. In 2023, we replaced multiple appliances in the stand to be able to offer more options and quicker service. One new option in particular, soft serve ice cream, sold over 1400 cones and cups.



## NEW ELEVATOR

The 26 year old hydraulic elevator inside the Community Center was replaced in 2023 with a brand new all electric model. The new elevator will cut down on continued maintenance, and trying to find replacement parts that had been discontinued. The new elevator cost was over \$128,000.00 and was entirely paid for with grant money through CDBG.

# Programs & Participation

Programming continues to be one of the most impactful things that we offer as a department. For many participants, our offerings are a way for them to continue a healthy lifestyle through fitness, exercise, or athletics. For others, it is a way to connect with friends, family and neighbors. Last year saw continued surging participation numbers across the board. From pickleball to silver sneakers to camp to preschool make a mess class, our offerings for ages 0-99 were in high demand.



Major Recreation events had over 4500 participants throughout 2023.

27,242  
TOTAL PROGRAM  
PARTICIPATION



The addition of Aaron Iplady as Program Manager and Bethany Ahr as FT Program Coordinator have helped tremendously.



Pickleball participation growth has been overwhelming with 7,620 visits.



The Touch A Truck program with the Fire Department was a huge success.



Camp Sharonville continues its sold out streak with over 675 campers.

# Community Partnerships

Our department continually looks for opportunities to partner within our Community and Region to find win-win solutions to our needs. Many of these opportunities are in the form of grant applications to help with funding major and minor projects, but not every partnership has to be large.

A new park bench was installed near the Gower Park playground for parents to enjoy watching their children play. The bench was donated by The Rotary Club of Northeast Cincinnati as part of their Community Outreach Grant Program. This is the second year in a row that the Recreation Department has been a recipient of this grant.



Princeton Sharonville Kiwanis continues to be an outstanding community partner for the Recreation Department. Their organization allowed us to provide additional quality programming in 2023 and financial sponsorship for children to attend Camp Sharonville. The Kiwanis put on the Halloween Party, The Holiday Craft Show in November, and participated in the Recreation Department's Annual Trunk or Treat event.

# Looking Ahead

In 2019, I presented my first report to council that communicated my hopes as a new director to increase our participation and attendance with everything that we do. We wanted our programs to sell out. We wanted our parks and pools to be crowded. We wanted our Community Center to be bursting at the seams. We wanted people to meet new friends and neighbors, get healthy, have fun, and build lasting memories.

At that time, we were working on many ways to achieve those goals. We wanted to make programs easier to afford and attend. We wanted to add more program options to accommodate more people. We started finding ways to expand from within by re-imagining spaces and adding amenities. Above all, we wanted to grow; and in those 5 years we believe that we have taken many steps towards making those goals reality. Indoor renovations, outdoor construction projects, new amenities, and a continued focus on cleanliness and safety are just a few of the boxes we have checked. But looking ahead we plan to do even more to help the Recreation Department take big steps forward.

Already happening in 2024, we are completing the total refurbishment of the slides and tower at the pool. Following the rehabbing of the slide tubes, the tower was stripped, repainted, and every single step is being replaced and will be ready for opening weekend. More pool projects like the resurfacing of the locker room and bathroom floors, concrete deck work, pool painting, and lane line replacements are getting us ready to host the best Swim Team Championships that our region has ever seen on July 15th and 16th this summer.



Even more excitement continues to build within our department as we finalize the studying of the lower level of the Community Center as well as our beloved Gower Park and the Upper Grove for future improvements. We are working hard to dream up ideas to share with Council and the Community for what the future of these spaces could be.

We will continue to work hard to make our space what we now know it can be. Our Recreation Department is unlike any other. We are unique in what we offer, what we provide, and most importantly how we make people's lives better. I am excited for what we have already accomplished as a team and look forward to the future.



thank  
you









City of  
**Sharonville**  
PARKS & RECREATION

*Join us for a*

# RIBBON CUTTING

*to celebrate*

# GORMAN PARK

**Wednesday, May 22nd @ 5:00pm**  
**12153 Centerdale Road**