

# Bloomington Parks & Recreation



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
Parks and Recreation





# Why We Exist

**The Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide the highest quality parks, recreation services and greenspace to enhance the quality of life in our community.**




# Overview

**2,300**  
acres of  
property




**301,774**  
participations  
in 2020

**\$7.2**  
**million**  
in Park Bond  
projects



**\$34 million**



**SWITCHYARD PARK**



**27**  
hole  
golf  
course



**34** parks



**19**  
tennis  
courts



**28**  
playgrounds

at **24**  
sites



**245**  
community  
garden  
plots

**8**



pickleball  
courts



**38**  
miles of trails

**300** sports  
& recreation  
programs  
annually



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
Parks and Recreation

**CAPRA**  
Accredited



**16**  
ballfields



**17** outdoor  
**6** indoor  
basketball  
courts





# Our Mission

... to provide essential services, facilities and programs necessary for the positive development and well-being of the community





# Background

- 56 Full-time employees
- 60 FTE - seasonal employees
- Includes Administration, Operations, Recreation and Sports Division
- Major initiatives:
  - Recreation/sports programs and events
  - Volunteer and sponsorship opportunities
  - Asset management
  - Health and well-being
  - Equity and access to parks, programs, and facilities
  - Parks, trails, and facilities maintenance
  - Capital improvement projects
  - Trees and landscaping
  - Natural resources management and sustainability initiatives



# Board of Park Commissioners

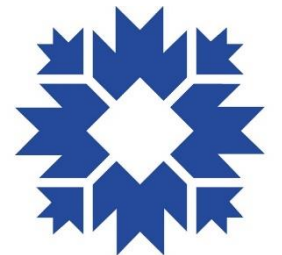
- ▶ The policy-making authority for the Parks and Recreation Department
- ▶ Four member citizen board appointed by the Mayor to four-year terms
  - ▶ Kathleen Mills, President
  - ▶ Ellen Rodkey, Vice President
  - ▶ Israel Herrera, Plan Commission Representative
  - ▶ Jim Whitlatch





# Department Funding

- ▶ Annual Budget: \$9.5 million
  - ▶ \$6.5 million in property taxes
  - ▶ \$3 million in program fees
  - ▶ Grants



# Grants and Recognition

## Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies

- Re-accredited in June 2021
- Met all 154 standards of operation - 100% score



## Grants and Awards

### •2020

- \$79,976 from Bloomington Health Foundation to triple Farmers' Market Nutrition Program benefits for seniors and WIC participants
- \$80,000 from Nat'l Recreation and Park Assoc. and the Walmart Foundation for Parks as Community Nutrition Hubs: Expanding Access to Healthy Food grant for the Banneker Community Center

### •2021

- Gold Leaf Award from the Indiana Arborist Association
- Tree City of the World designation by The Arbor Day Foundation
- Tree City USA Growth Award from The Arbor Day Foundation







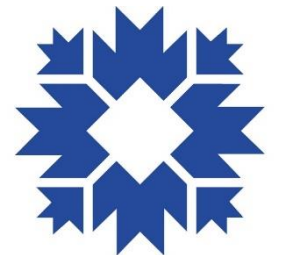
SWITCHYARD PARK

BLOOMINGTON INDIANA

# Switchyard Park

## ► Vision:

- Boldly transform an industrial legacy site into a signature urban park through innovative design and forward thinking, restorative, environmental strategies
- A park that:
  - recalls the sites unique history and identity
  - reconnects the city
  - inspires social interaction and civic celebration
  - catalyzes future development in the surrounding community



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# PROJECT TIMELINE

- ▶ **1853** - Railroad service begins in Bloomington
- ▶ **1892** - Switchyard with Roundhouse constructed
- ▶ **1910** - Named McDoel Switchyard – 700 rail car capacity
- ▶ **1967** - Train passenger service ends
- ▶ **2000** - CSX Railroad contacts COB about possible sale of rail corridor
- ▶ **2005** - 3.1 mile rail corridor purchased
- ▶ **2009/2011** - Phases I and II of B-Line Trail completed
- ▶ **2009** - COB purchases Switchyard property
- ▶ **2012** - Switchyard Park Master Plan completed
- ▶ **2013** - “Triple C” property (Rogers St.) acquired
- ▶ **2015** - Park design begins, “Wee-Willies” property (Walnut St.) acquired
- ▶ **2018** - Construction begins (May)
- ▶ **2019** - Sections of the park open for public use (November)
- ▶ **2021** - Final completion





# COVID-19 Challenges

- ❖ Participant and Employee Safety
- ❖ Program/Event Cancellations
- ❖ Facility Closures
- ❖ Public Health in Parks and Recreation
  - ✓ Parks and Recreation Reopening Plan
- ❖ Program Revenue Impact
- ❖ Responding to community needs





SWITCHYARD PARK  
BLOOMINGTON INDIANA

**North to South**





# Pickleball Courts





# Community Gardens





# Activity Lawns





# Skate Park





Pavilion





Pavilion





# Community Foundation Switchyard Plaza Spray Pad





# Performance Stage





# Picnic Shelter





Playground





Dog Park





# SWITCHYARD PARK

BLOOMINGTON INDIANA

[bloomington.in.gov/switchyard](http://bloomington.in.gov/switchyard)

**812-349-3961**

Hsiung Marler, General Manager

