



Foundation 2020 Annual Report President comments

Thank you for supporting Bowling Green Parks through your membership in the park's foundation. This past year (2020), our parks provided a welcomed relief from the many restrictions of the pandemic. Now more than ever, we have recognized the importance of parks for our well-being. Attendance at the parks throughout the year was at record levels and so was the need for their maintenance. Chris Gajewicz, the Natural Resources Coordinator for BG Parks, estimated a ten-fold increase in daily visits to the parks.

Typically, in late April or early May, the park's foundation organizes a thank-you breakfast for its members. Unfortunately, this is the second year in a row that we were not able to do it due to pandemic restrictions. In lieu of the breakfast, and just for your information, the foundation put together this website to let you know what we were able to accomplish this past year with your support.

The west addition to Wintergarden Park is now complete. This foundation-supported project not only increased by 20% the area of our beautiful nature preserve, but also put an easement on the whole park, so it will stay intact as a nature preserve for the foreseeable future. The Foundation also supported the purchase of 12 Adirondack chairs for the new Veterans' building as a fundraising event where people could purchase name plaques for them. The chair naming opportunities quickly sold out. We also funded skate stoppers for the Veterans' building patio, and a freedom climber (rock-climbing treadmill wall for all ages) for the Community Center. The Foundation is also helping the parks with the expenses of Carter Park's new shelter.

Our main fundraiser event of the year, the Wine & Cheese Social, did not take place in-person, but was virtual this past year. Though not as successful as usual, we were able to raise around \$12 K for the parks...so thank you! This year's Wine & Cheese will take place in the new Veterans Building on September 24th. Please let all your friends know about it!

Last year, due to all the issues related to the pandemic, the Foundation did not have a recipient for the Spirit of the Foundation Award. However, this year we are very happy to present the award to the Black Swamp Conservancy. The Black Swamp Conservancy is a respected, non-profit, regional land conservation trust serving northwest Ohio. It was due to their efforts and diligence that we were able to acquire the last undeveloped land next to Wintergarden Park. BG Parks staff had been interested in purchasing that property to add to Wintergarden Park for several years. Unfortunately, they had not been successful, and the Black Swamp Conservancy was not successful the first time they tried it either. It took persistence, and a grant from the Clean Ohio Fund for which the Black Swamp Conservancy did all the paperwork, and due diligence to be successful. The Foundation only had to provide its share of the monies (thanks to all of you that made it one of the quickest fundraisers for the Foundation!) So, for all the hard work that the staff at the Black Swamp Conservancy put in for several years to acquire the west addition to Wintergarden property, they are our 2020 Spirit of the Foundation awardee.

Let me finish this President's comments by letting you know that now more than ever the Foundation needs your help to keep supporting our BG Parks. The pandemic had a financial impact not only on the parks' budget, but also on the Foundation. Last year we didn't have but one fundraising event, and we saw a sharp drop in our membership. Please encourage your friends to join us and participate in our fundraising events.

Thank you for supporting our parks, where all BG residents are no more than 1.5 miles from a park.

Enrique



2021 Financial Report

Simpson Garden Park Endowment

Toledo Community Foundation
\$103,024

Mutual Funds
\$445,967

Total
\$548,991





Cash Accounts

Total \$127,674

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|----------------------|----------|
| Wintergarden Grows | \$2,127 |
| Building on Nature | \$14,008 |
| Undesignated Funds | \$50,496 |
| Simpson GP Fund | \$5,072 |
| Nature Preserve Fund | \$6,628 |
| Carter Park | \$11,600 |
| Ridge Park | \$9,621 |

2020 Income

Total \$92,377

Wine & Cheese Virtual Event \$14,789

Membership Drive \$12,692

Conrad Trust \$7,047

Simpson Endowment \$21,868

Simpson Designated Gifts \$10,625

Wintergarden Grows Campaign \$2,025

P&R Programming \$4,686





2020 Expenditures

Total \$223,361

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|---------------------|-----------|
| Simpson Garden Park | \$66,127 |
| Wintergarden Grows | \$113,306 |
| Nature Preserve | \$2,868 |
| P&R Programming | \$11,207 |
| Carter Park | \$16,862 |
| City Park | \$2,013 |



Questions?

Dear BGPR Foundation Members,

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

This is my usual message to you on annual basis but for your support in 2020 I had to actually scream it. We literally could not have continued to provide the services that we did to the community in 2020 without your continued support!

Last year was unprecedented and difficult for all of us, no doubt, but for BG Parks & Recreation we saw one third of our revenue (what we generally bring in from fees and charges) go away and usage of our parks themselves go through the roof – or should I say trees 😊! That is a model that is very difficult to sustain. However, we have you all and the Foundation so we got through it. There is still a lag effect and even though we march toward normalcy every day our budget is still experiencing a COVID lag effect. You are still critical and I encourage you to help spread the word about this wonderful foundation!

BG Parks & Recreation services are essential, we already knew that, but now so many more people know that as well!

Thanks again for being a member and supporting these essential services!

See you in the Parks,

Kristin

Kristin Otley, CPRP

City of Bowling Green

Parks & Recreation Director