

BLUEASH

ASPIRE. ACHIEVE. ADVANCE.



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



HONORABLE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

It is with great pleasure to have our Administrative Team present this Annual Report for the 2020 calendar year. Please remember that this report is intended only to summarize the major achievements and accomplishments of each department and division of the City during the year. It is not intended to provide a comprehensive listing of all that the City of Blue Ash has to offer to those who live, work, and play in our community.

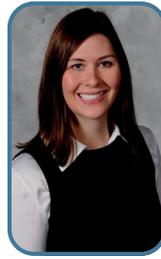
It is truly a privilege to work for the City of Blue Ash and its City Council. We look forward to continuing our efforts associated with the many exciting opportunities that face our community and its residential and corporate citizens. Thank you for your continued support and leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

BLUE ASH CITY ADMINISTRATION



DAVID WALTZ
City Manager



KELLY HARRINGTON
Assistant City Manager



SHERRY POPPE
Treasurer/Administrative
Services Director



SCOTT NOEL
Police Chief



CHRIS THEDERS
Fire Chief



GORDON PERRY
Public Works Director



BRIAN KRUSE
Parks & Recreation Director

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ADMINISTRATION

CORONAVIRUS IN 2020

In late 2019, a deadly coronavirus called COVID-19 emerged from China and spread to the U.S. by January 2020.

On March 24, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine closed all but essential services across the State of Ohio.

While the City continued to provide services to residents, adjustments were made to staff schedules and facilities in order to keep employees safe and healthy.

Meanwhile, City Parks and the Recreation Center were closed, much of the City's part-time staff was laid off, City Council meetings were held virtually over Zoom.

Over time, facilities were allowed to re-open, but under new rules developed by the Ohio Department of Health.

The rules varied at times, but generally included a ban on mass gatherings, the wearing of masks, reduced capacity in facilities, social distancing of 6', and enhanced cleaning protocols.

Residents were kept informed of pandemic developments through the weekly City e-newsletters, a COVID-19 webpage at blueash.com, social media, and local news sources.

City Hall remained closed to walk-in visitors for the duration of the pandemic and employee meetings were held remotely over audio or videoconference.

Much of the City's corporate offices were also closed and corporate citizens worked from their homes for the bulk of the year.

Employers were told to remit payroll taxes as they had pre-pandemic and therefore revenues remained steady.

Just before Christmas, Fire Department staff received the first of two vaccine doses, bringing hope for recovery in 2021.



Sam Mirizzi, Firefighter/EMS, wears a mask in a COVID-19 educational video created for residents.



A sign at Summit Park informs residents of Ohio Department of Health Regulations.

ADMINISTRATION

NEIGHBORHOODS AT SUMMIT PARK



The mixed-use building named “The Approach” was completed in 2020. COVID-19 affected occupancy levels at many apartment communities, and in December The Approach was 27% occupied. Furthermore, the commercial tenants who had entered into leases for the ground level retail space decided to delay buildout until the pandemic subsided. CA Senior Living Holdings continued its construction of the 200-unit senior living facility, “Anthology.” The building is expected to be completed in 2021. The Hamilton County Crime Lab neared completion at the end of the year and began planning its grand opening for March 2021. The master developers, Al. Neyer and Vandercar Holdings, applied for and received approval to construct a 3-story, 75,000 sqft multi-tenant office building in May. Unfortunately,

COVID-19 significantly affected the office market as well and, therefore, construction is not anticipated in the short-term. They also received approval on a master sign plan for “The District” portion of the development. They completed much of the Neighborhoods at Summit Park infrastructure in 2020 with all but sections of Parkview Drive, Carver Woods Drive, Summit Parkway, and Gateway Place left to construct. Finally, in partnership with the City, the developers applied for a Community Entertainment Designation to allow 15 additional D5J liquor permits in a designated portion of Summit Park and the Neighborhoods at Summit Park. Once an additional liquor permit holder operates in the space, the partners may apply for a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA).



ADMINISTRATION

REDISTRICTING

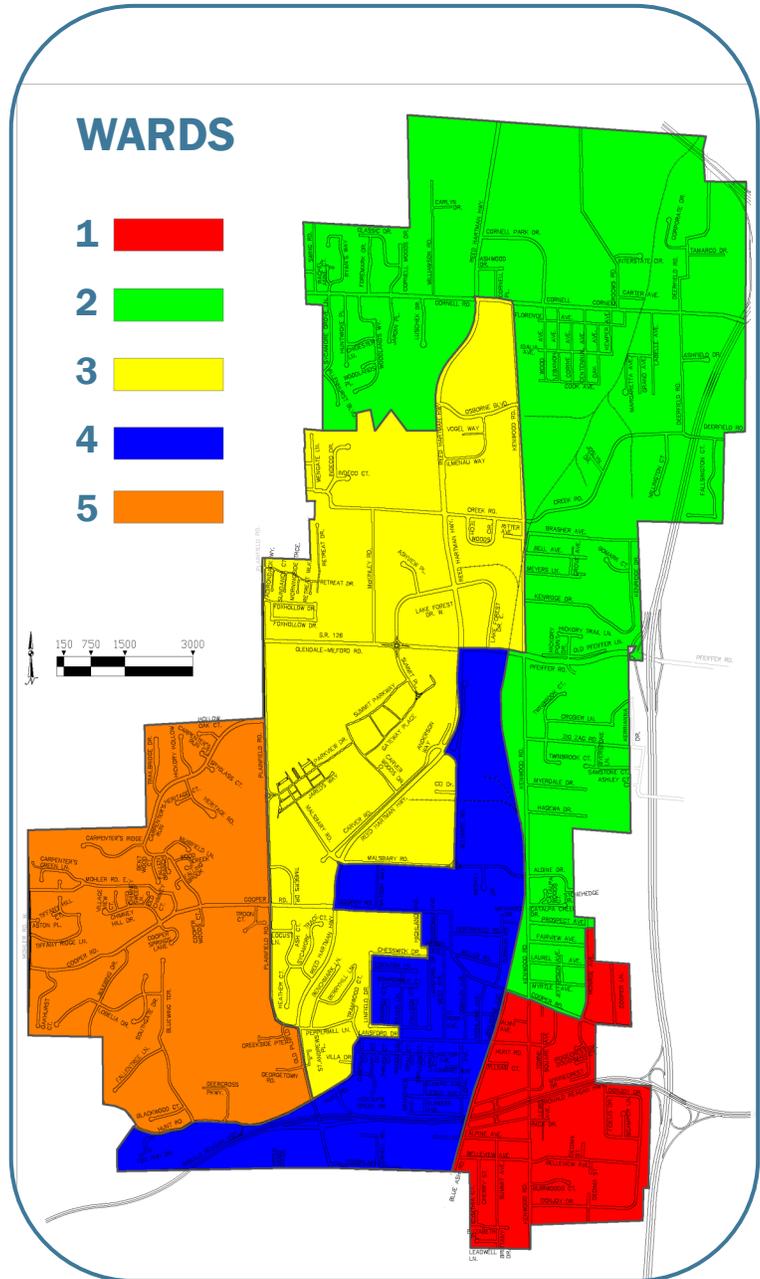
City Council previously adjusted ward boundaries in 2018 as the first step in a 2-step process to account for population growth within certain wards.

As nearly 600 additional housing units have been constructed or are under construction as of 2020, City Council further adjusted the ward boundaries at its September 10th meeting in order to balance population.

The changes included:

- Moving subdivisions along Cornell Road west of Reed Hartman Highway from Ward 3 to Ward 2
- Moving Conklin Road, Miller Road, and Northfield Road from Ward 2 to Ward 4
- Moving residences east of Monroe Avenue and north of Cooper Road from Ward 2 to Ward 1
- Moving most of Ravenwood (east of and “inside” of Lansford, Linfield, and Cheswick Roads) from Ward 3 to Ward 4
- Moving Villa Drive (Sycamore Meadows Condominiums) and St. Andrews Place from Ward 4 to Ward 3
- Moving Walnut Creek Townhomes from Ward 4 to Ward 5

With these adjustments, the approximate future household population in each ward would be as follows:



| Ward | Households | Difference from Average (1,210) |
|------|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 1,231 | +1.7% |
| 2 | 1,225 | +1.2% |
| 3 | 1,215 | +0.4% |
| 4 | 1,103 | -8.8% |
| 5 | 1,278 | +5.6% |

ADMINISTRATION

COUNCIL CHANGES



Blue Ash City Council appointed Jill Cole to City Council, filling the vacancy left by Nikki Yasbeck-Schwieter. Cole serves as Councilmember At-Large and was officially appointed to the position on June 11. Nikki Yasbeck-Schwieter announced in May that she would be resigning due to a move outside of the City.

CENTRAL CORRIDOR PIPELINE PROJECT

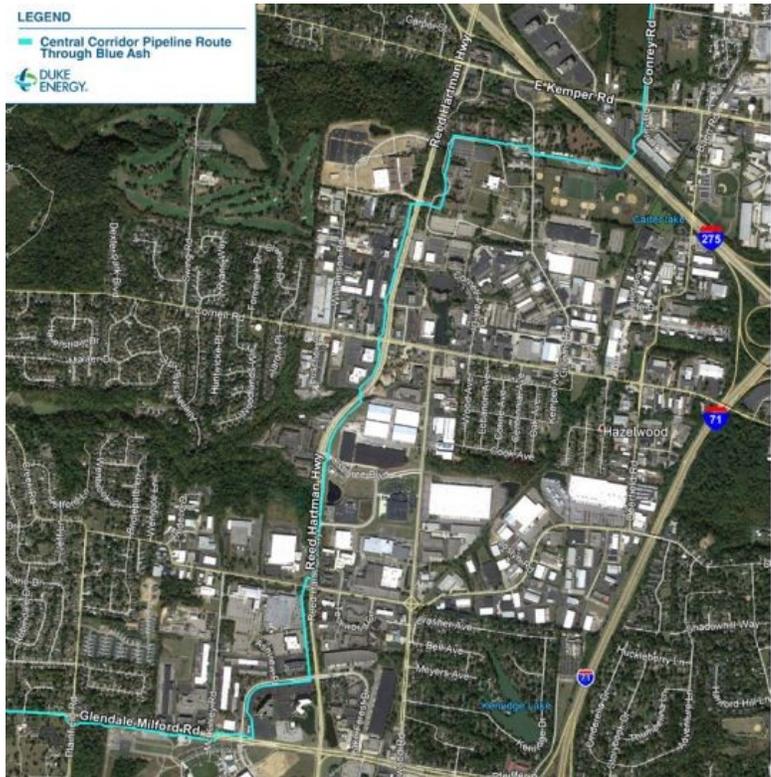
In late November 2019, the Ohio Power Siting Board approved Duke Energy's Central Corridor Pipeline Project along the western (alternate) route.

In April 2020, the City of Blue Ash filed a joint appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court opposing the Ohio Power Siting Board's approval of the Duke Energy Central Corridor Pipeline Project. Evendale, Reading, and NOPE were also parties in the joint appeal.

These parties also filed a motion for stay pending appeal, which was denied on June 17, 2020.

While the appeal continued, Duke began contacting customers along the route, as necessary, to gather additional information and/or acquire easements.

A final appeal hearing will be held on March 31, 2021, in front of the Ohio Supreme Court.



ADMINISTRATION

DOWNTOWN STRATEGY PLAN

The City of Blue Ash Downtown Strategy Plan, adopted in April of 2020, represents the development and public investment principles and policies of the City that supplement the City's Land Use Plan and codified Ordinances. This Plan is intended to be a fluid document that is updated on an as-needed basis. Development goals and policies change over time due to economic fluctuations, demographic shifts, available properties, and other similar factors. This Plan will allow the City to react to those shifts on a more frequent and on-demand basis.

1

Strengthen quality of place

- A. **Diversity of Uses.** Downtown should be a multi-functional destination, with local serving retail shops, restaurants, and entertainment, along with employment, residential and civic uses.
- B. **Vibrant and Family Friendly.** Downtown should be an inviting family and pet friendly place, and it should be vibrant and active in the evenings.
- C. **Pedestrian Friendly.** Downtown should remain a walkable pedestrian friendly environment, with amenities that support pedestrians and bicycles, such as seating areas and drinking fountains.
- D. **Human Scale.** Downtown buildings should be architecturally compatible with a human scale and pedestrian environment, with a strong physical relationship to pedestrian oriented streets.
- E. **Community Focal Point.** Downtown should be a central community focal point and gathering place.
- F. **Complementary to Summit Park.** Downtown should be distinct in scale, character, and design from Summit Park, which also serves as a community gathering place.
- G. **Residential.** Residential uses should provide activity and market support for downtown businesses, but they should not be the dominant land use.
- H. **Library.** The library should remain downtown and should be well-integrated into downtown design.
- I. **Towne Square.** The Towne Square should be repurposed and redesigned to remain an integral part of downtown.
- J. **Infrastructure.** Downtown should be supported by strong public infrastructure.
- K. **Parking.** Parking solutions should balance the need for efficient parking for visitors who visit, work, and live in downtown with the desire for a pedestrian friendly environment.

2

Actively manage change

- A. The City will be *proactive* in facilitating positive change through fiscally responsible actions and investments.
- B. The City will also be *flexible* in responding to and capitalizing on opportunities to facilitate positive change and improvements.

3

Set fiscal parameters

- A. The City will periodically set budget parameters for planning and investment strategies set forth in this and other City plans related to downtown.
- B. The City will consider the use of special tax and financing tools such as tax increment financing when it is determined that they are needed to facilitate development that furthers city downtown goals.

4

Use Planning and zoning tools

- A. The Land Use Plan will continue to guide downtown development and public investment decisions in concert with this strategy plan. It will be monitored and updated as needed.
- B. The Zoning Code will continue to regulate downtown private development activities in concert with this strategy plan. It too will be monitored and updated as needed, as was done in early 2020.

5

Control key properties

- A. The City will consider the acquisition of property when it is determined that City ownership can facilitate development that furthers downtown goals, and when there is likely to be an overall positive direct or indirect return on City investment.

ADMINISTRATION

City Council authorized the purchase of the Hosbrook property at its May 14th meeting and closed on the nearly 2.5-acre tract in December. The City plans to demolish the existing structures and hold the property for a future redevelopment opportunity which will be guided by the City's newly adopted downtown strategy plan. A private developer previously purchased Ringo Lanes and has a contract on the Blue Ash Chili property with similar intentions.



COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department is responsible for informing the public about news in the City through a wide variety of communications channels including the City's websites, social media, print and electronic newsletters, and media coverage.

18
AVERAGE
STORIES
GENERATED/
MONTH

COVID-19 CHANGES- E-news updates temporarily shifted to weekly and bi-weekly emails. A webpage was created as a one-stop location for City updates regarding the pandemic. Citizens of Blue Ash Academy became virtual with videos and online meetings taking the place of in-person interaction.

INTRODUCED IN 2020 – Economic Development Business Spotlight series, Citizen Spotlight.

FEEL GOOD STORIES –

- BAFD 9/11 Stair Climb and Light the Night
- BAPD organizes drive-by birthday parties
- First Responders Sycamore Graduation tribute video
- BAPD New cruiser design created by a Sycamore High student
- Towne Square Public Input

43
E-NEWSLETTERS
SENT



FINANCE & TAX

FINANCE OFFICE

The Finance Office is responsible for overseeing all areas of financial administration, including revenue recording, investments, expenditure tracking, financial records administration, budgeting, debt financing, auditing, payroll administration, and financial reporting.

BUDGETING:

- The City maintained budgetary compliance throughout the year.
- The 2021 Tax Budget was prepared and filed with Hamilton County in July, and the 2021 Proposed Budget was presented to and approved by City Council in December.

Where does the City's money come from?



THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF CITY REVENUE IS INCOME TAX

Because the City has a strong business base, only 4% of the income tax collected is from resident returns.

PROPERTY TAX REPRESENTS 5% OF TOTAL REVENUES

The majority of the resident property tax bill is allocated to the schools.

SPECIAL ACCOLADES:

- The City received its 33rd award of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the National Government Finance Officers Association for its 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This award represents the highest award available in governmental reporting.
- Upon the completion of the 2019 audit, the City of Blue Ash received the Auditor of State Award with Distinction. This award is presented to local government and school districts who meet the criteria of a "clean" financial audit.



In 2020, the City received **\$1.4M** in federal and state CARES Act funding and **\$800,000** in premium refunds through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

TAX OFFICE

The Blue Ash Tax Office is responsible for income tax collection, reporting, and enforcement of the City's Income Tax Code.

| Collections | 2019 | 2020 | % Change |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Withholdings | \$28,040,998 | \$27,877,918 | -0.58% |
| Net Profit | \$7,769,324 | \$7,530,388 | -3.08% |
| Gross Income Tax | \$35,810,322 | \$35,408,306 | -1.12% |

Withholding tax revenues represent approximately 79% of total tax collections, while net profit revenues represent approximately 21%. The staff processed withholding payments and annual reconciliations for over 2,300 accounts. The office also audited over 10,750 annual individual and business tax returns.

Brittany Campbell was promoted from within to join the Finance Team. Campbell is a U.C. graduate with a major in Finance and a minor in Business Admin. Campbell comes from the Recreation Department, where she has worked for the last four years.



HUMAN RESOURCES

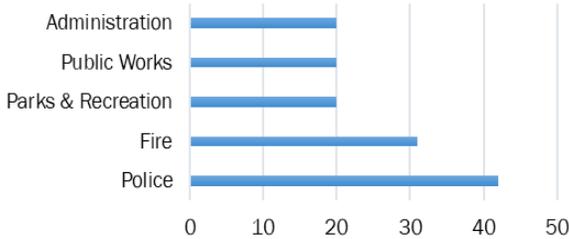
The Human Resources Department has a strong focus on providing support and guidance to employees and administration in the areas of staffing and recruitment, benefits administration, classification and compensation, workers compensation, legal compliance, employee relations, labor relations, and training and development.

EMPLOYEES

2020 was a year filled with challenges, changes, collaboration, and adaptability. The Human Resources Department always has a strong focus on our greatest asset: employees. COVID-19 provided more opportunities to look after employees as many questions arose. *What do employees need to be safe and healthy? How*

will the workplace be safe and compliant? How can employee exposure be minimized and how can outbreaks be prevented in the workplace? The Human Resources Officer, HR Administrative Assistant, and Administrative Clerk were up for these 2020 challenges.

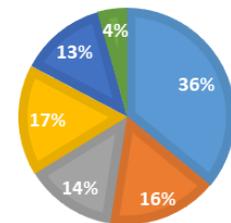
City of Blue Ash Full-Time Employees by Department



H.R. said goodbye to nine full-time employees who retired with over 210 years of combined Blue Ash experience. The Department hired and promoted some great people from within to fill those roles.

Years of Experience with the City of Blue Ash

- Less than 5 years
- 5-9 years
- 10-14 years
- 15-19 years
- 20-24 years
- 25+ years



2020 Hires

Police Patrol Officer: Abby Ballman & Pete Bronner
 Firefighter: Brian Lockaby
 Recreation Supervisor: Margaret O’Gorman
 Landscape/Irrigation Specialist: Steven Kelley
 Laborer II: Jake Caylor

2020 Promotions

Police Sergeant: Michael Jackson
 Firefighter: Brad Long
 Dispatcher: Barbara West
 Account Clerk I: Brittany Campbell
 Maintenance Technician: Kevin Asbrock

BARGAINING AGREEMENTS:

The Police Dispatcher contract was ratified in 2020.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS:

COVID-19 cut short the 2020 Blue Ash Academy, a 9-month interactive process allowing employees to visit, learn, and have hands-on experience in a variety of City departments and with community partners. Luckily, participants got to meet with students from Sycamore Schools in January 2020 and hear about exciting things going on in the school district.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIVE BACK:

City employees generously contributed gifts, clothes, and money to Operation Give Back to help needy families in the community.

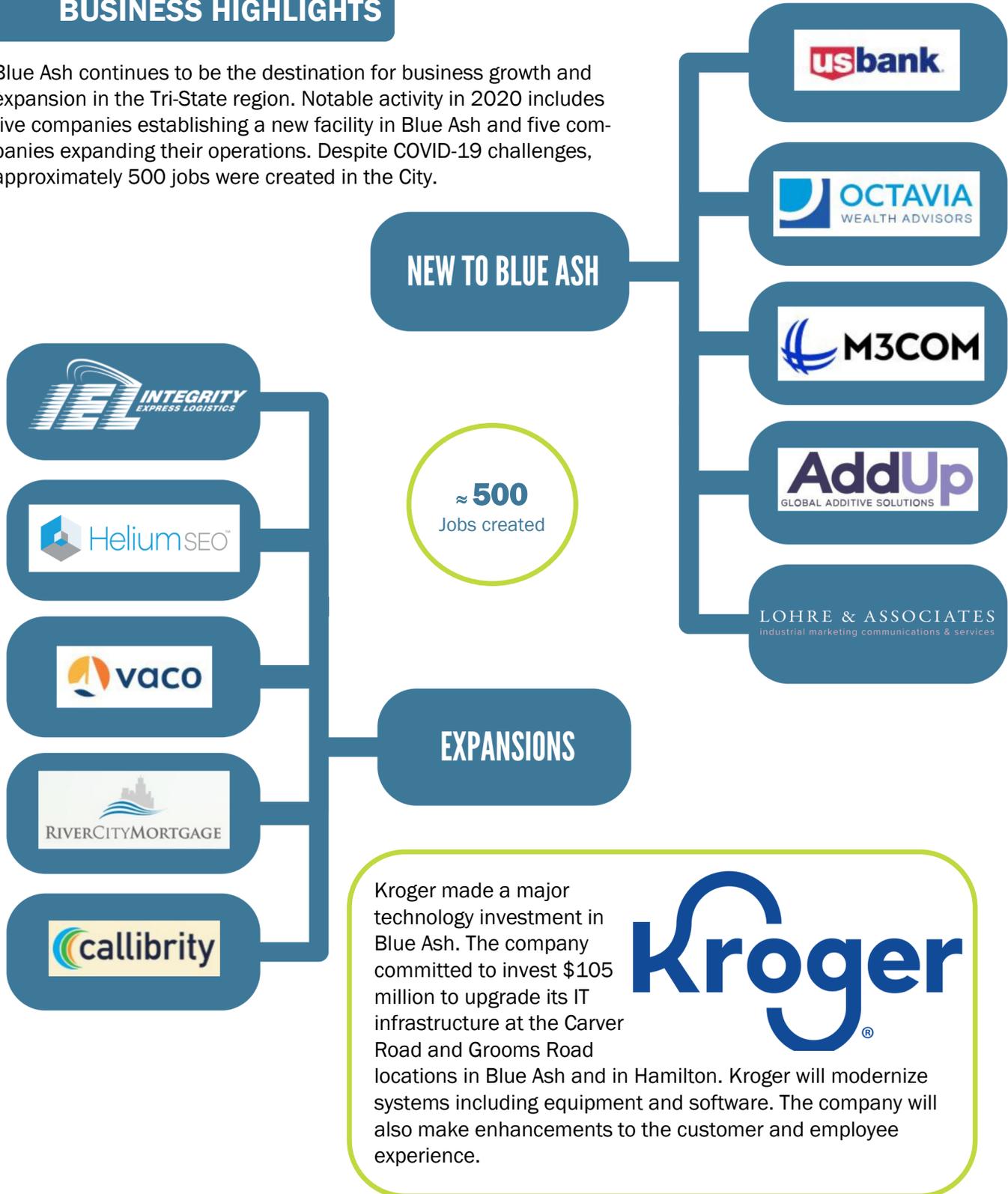


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development Department is responsible for improving the City's economy through job creation, job retention, and innovation. These efforts facilitate continued growth and provide a stable tax base, which in turn creates benefits for the entire community.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Blue Ash continues to be the destination for business growth and expansion in the Tri-State region. Notable activity in 2020 includes five companies establishing a new facility in Blue Ash and five companies expanding their operations. Despite COVID-19 challenges, approximately 500 jobs were created in the City.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Department includes building, planning and zoning, and code enforcement. These efforts are intended to help design and maintain an attractive, safe, and orderly City with stable property values and a positive environment for all people who live and work in Blue Ash.

OFFICE CHANGES

Due to COVID-19, a new process of applying for and receiving Building Permits through a contactless lobby was instituted in March and has proved to be very effective and efficient.

ZONING CODE UPDATE

Changes in workplace practices due to COVID-19 have resulted in rapid and potentially dramatic changes to the commercial property market in the past year. In December, City Council adopted Zoning Code amendments related to warehousing and light manufacturing in the Summit Park Zoning District. This allows for reasonable reuse of buildings that were constructed for light manufacturing and warehouse uses in cases where those properties are not conducive to office development or redevelopment.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA



Blue Ash approved 20 properties for tax abatement in 2020 totaling over \$10 million in new investment. Since the program's inception in 2014, \$38.7 million has been invested in the CRA neighborhoods.



CODE ENFORCEMENT

Throughout the year, the City addressed many code violations at residences and businesses. The majority of the violations fell in the category of cosmetic and minor structural issues.

277

Courtesy notices

104

Violation notices

50

High grass notices

| BUILDING PERMITS | 2020 |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Residential | 275 |
| Commercial | 367 |
| Est. Value of Construction | \$59.3M |

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Blue Ash Police Department (BAPD) consists of 33 full-time police officers, with a support staff of 12 full-time and part-time employees. The BAPD mission statement is “with courage, integrity, and compassion we serve, safeguard and educate our community by providing superior services that sustain a safe environment and high quality of life.”

STAFFING HIGHLIGHTS



BAPD welcomed Officers Abby Ballman and Peter Bronner in 2020.



BAPD congratulated Officer Jim Kelley for his retirement after 20 years with BAPD and 31 years in law enforcement.

BY THE NUMBERS

292

ARRESTS

378

TRAFFIC CRASHES
DOWN 36% FROM
2019

918

VACATION
CHECKS

1,252

REPORTS

3,012

TRAFFIC STOPS

7,965

DISPATCHES
DOWN 16% FROM
2019

9,047

SECURITY
CHECKS

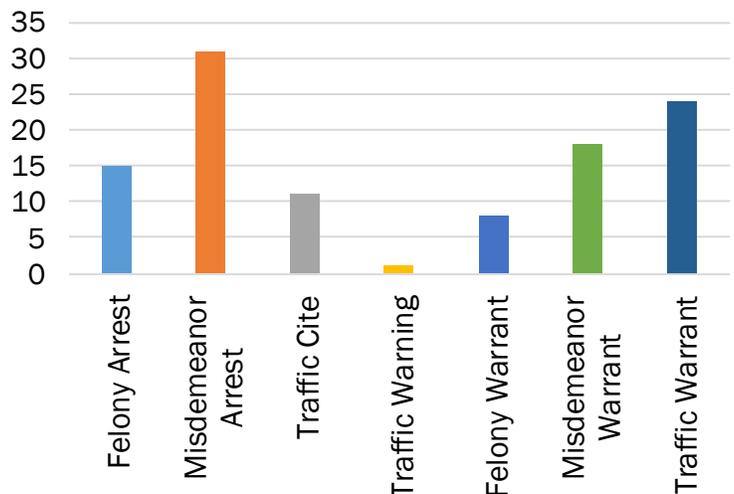
The Community Impact Unit (CIU), was tasked with a crime stopping operation at local hotels which lead to:

482 details

58 reports

48 people arrested/cited
some with multiple offenses

Arrests/Citations



POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



As with many events this year, the BAPD 2nd Annual Heroes and Helpers event looked a bit different due to the ongoing pandemic. Instead of shopping inside Target in

Blue Ash with their Police and Fire Department Heroes, children were treated to a festive, socially distanced, drive-thru event where they received gift cards for holiday shopping and fun, family activities.



The BAPD revealed a new vehicle design created by a Sycamore High School student. Chief Scott Noel wanted a modern upgrade for department vehicles and reached out to Sycamore High School Visual Arts Educator Elise Williams to see if her students might be interested in creating designs. Senior Abi Patel's design was selected.

RECOGNITION



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine selected Blue Ash Police Chief Scott Noel to be a member of the new Ohio Traffic Safety Council. "Members of this council all share the same goal - to drive down the number of people killed in traffic crashes," said Governor DeWine in a news release. "Their combined expertise, resources, and efforts will be a force multiplier in saving lives."



Officer Owens



Sergeant Cho



Officer Chahine



Officer Schrand



Officer Fritts



Officer Ballman



Officer Wiley

Seven Blue Ash Police Officers were recognized in 2020 for saving lives. Officer Ken Schrand received the **Life Saver Recognition Award** three times this year for administering Narcan to three overdose victims, saving them from certain death. Officer Mark Owens has received the

award twice. Officer William Fritts, Sergeant Jun Cho, Officer Abby Ballman, Officer Chady Chahine, and Officer Brentenn Wiley also each received Life Saver Recognition Awards for reviving overdose victims with Narcan.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Blue Ash Fire Department operates out of two fire stations and is committed to serving the Blue Ash community with a high standard of fire and emergency medical service. The South Station (Station 15) is located on Cooper Road and the North Station (Station 13) is located on Kenwood Road, which also houses the administrative staff. The Fire Department has a total of 44 full-time and part-time employees.

PERSONNEL



Brian Lockaby and Brad Long were sworn in as full-time firefighter/paramedics in 2020. BAFD also welcomed part-time firefighters Christine Nouhan, Haley Dannemiller, Zak King, and Dominic Sweeney. In January, Joe Henderson began working as the part-time fire inspector. In April, Don Morrison retired after serving the City of Blue Ash for a total of 40 years. Don began with the department in 1980 as a volunteer firefighter and ended his career in 2020 as a full-time firefighter/paramedic.



2020 HIGHLIGHTS



In January, BAFD welcomed new roommates when Sharonville Fire Department station 87 moved in to station 13 during the remodel of their fire station. The crews quickly bonded and spent several months eating, living, and training together. It was a very unique opportunity to support a neighboring department and community.



BAFD was fortunate to be able to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus for all staff. The SCBA bottles are smaller and easier to carry. The old equipment was donated to Great Oaks Schools.



4,485

EMS/Fire
training hours

Crews follow a rigorous, daily training schedule to address fire and EMS emergencies. The department continued utilizing acquired structures throughout the City to simulate realistic fire settings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

2020 STATISTICS

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total Fire Runs | 597 |
| Total EMS Runs | 1,645 |
| Emergency Room Transports | 1,132 |
| Busiest Day of the Week | Tuesday |
| Busiest Time of the Day | 12:00-1:00 pm |
| Overlapping Calls | 259 |
| Dispatch to Enroute Average Turnout Time | 1:25 |
| Dispatch to Arrival Average Response Time | 5:13 |

BUILD INSPECTIONS

| | |
|------------------------------------------|------------|
| Aboveground/Underground Sprinkler System | 93 |
| Aboveground Storage Tank | 4 |
| Duct Smoke | 2 |
| Fire Alarm | 37 |
| Final Build | 80 |
| Fire Pump | 1 |
| Hood | 4 |
| Suppression System | 7 |
| Underground Storage Tanks | 2 |
| Total | 230 |

2020 BY THE NUMBERS

CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTIONS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Annual | 2,470 |
| Re-inspection | 1,151 |
| Fire Protection | 24 |
| Permit | 13 |
| Other, Foster Care, Complaint | 25 |
| Mobile Food Vendor | 24 |
| Total | 3,707 |

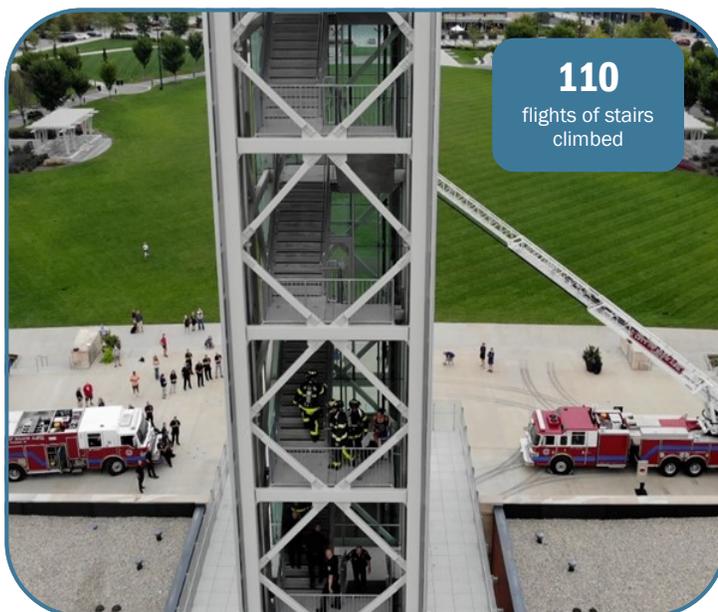


To ensure the safety of the community, BAFD spends a significant amount of time conducting yearly annual inspections to enforce fire codes. New construction fire system inspections are also completed to ensure fire codes are met. Preplans are set up for all businesses and updated annually and can be accessed on the way to the scene saving valuable time.

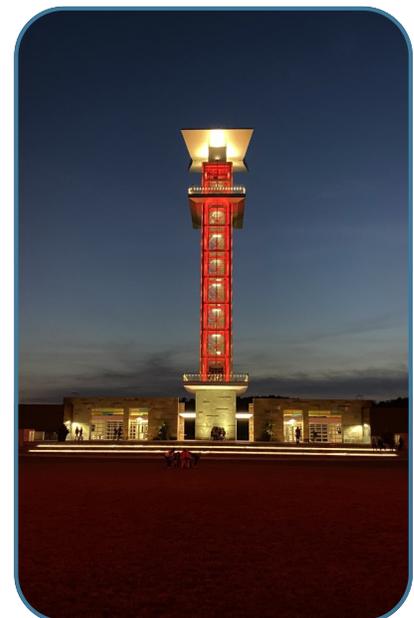
BAFD faced unprecedented challenges during 2020 due to the pandemic. Many of the normal operations, such as CPR classes and car seat checks, were suspended. PPE became required on every run to protect staff against the virus. Despite these obstacles, the Department stayed fully staffed throughout the year and received an outpouring of support from the Blue Ash community.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



In September, BAFD honored fallen firefighters with the Light the Night Event and the 9/11 Stair Climb.



PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department consists of Project Management, the Facilities Maintenance Division, and the Service Division. Public Works consists of a total of 26 full-time employees and 30 part-time employees. Public Works oversees issuing permits for roadway and right-of-way work, traffic and pedestrian signal maintenance and operation, administering the residential waste and recycling collection contract, and coordinating utilities.

WASTE AND RECYCLING



\$214,197

SPENT BY THE CITY ON RECYCLING PROGRAM

\$642,300

SPENT BY THE CITY ON WASTE COLLECTION

TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS



- ← **2** NEW CROSSWALKS WITH SIGNALS AT REED HARTMAN AND OSBORNE
- 46** TRAFFIC SIGNALS
- \$35,000** MAINTENANCE
- \$50,000** UPGRADES

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project Management is responsible for the administration of engineering services and overseeing all City construction projects including the yearly paving and sidewalk programs.



DONJOY BRIDGE PATH

A new 222' long concrete path featuring underdrains, decorative and chain link fencing, and gentle slopes that meets ADA standards.



GLENDALE-MILFORD ROUNDABOUT

This project is the recipient of the 2020 Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Award presented by American Society of Highway Engineers Triko Valley.



MUNICIPAL AND SAFETY CENTER ROOF REPLACEMENT

The City contracted with E Lee Construction to replace the roof on the MSC building.

GARAGE WALL REPAIR

The City performed a partial wall repair at the Blue Ash Service Garage. The project was contracted out to John P. Tumlin and Sons.



NEIGHBORHOODS AT SUMMIT PARK

The Project Management team assisted the developers with design, construction administration, inspection, and closeout for all the work taking place within the TIF portion of the project.

PUBLIC WORKS

PAVING AND CURB PROGRAM

11.07

MILES OF ROADWAY PAVED

25

CATCH BASINS REPLACED/ REPAIRED

4,300

TONS OF ASPHALT USED

22

ADA RAMPS INSTALLED

1,500

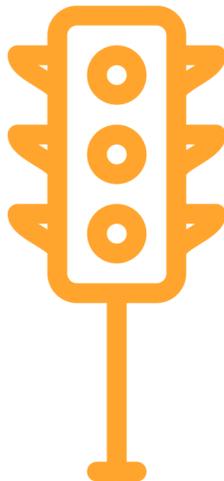
LINEAL FEET OF SIDEWALK REPLACED/ REPAIRED

7,900

LINEAL FEET OF CURB REPLACED/ REPAIRED

REED HARTMAN HIGHWAY LANE WIDENING PROJECT

The City contracted with J.R. Jurgensen to widen Reed Hartman Highway at the North Corporation Line. The project extended the right drop lane to Kemper Road 1,100 FT to the southern entrance of the Old P&G east campus. Construction of the extension took place to assist with future growth of motor vehicle traffic from the new business on the old west campus of P&G, home to Ensemble Health Partners. Over 6,800 Tons of Asphalt were applied during the project.



CENTRAL SYSTEM PROJECT

To assist the City in providing the most efficient traffic signal operation and traffic flow, Public Works started Phase One of the Central System Project, connecting 19 of the 46 signalized intersections. The City installed over 3 miles of fiber optic cable along Reed Hartman Highway from Glendale-Milford Road to I-275. Intersections were updated with new traffic equipment including traffic signals, traffic monitors, radar vehicle detection, 3 CCTV cameras, and pedestrian signals.



CARVER WOODS DRIVE RE-ALIGNMENT

As part of the overall traffic management plan for the Neighborhoods at Summit Park, Carver Woods was rebuilt with sidewalks and pedestrian lighting. The construction of Carver Woods Drive included re-aligning the old road to match the new road providing access into the Neighborhoods at Summit Park development.

PUBLIC WORKS

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

The Facilities Maintenance Team is responsible for the daily maintenance of all City facilities for the benefit of the City and public. The team has six full-time and 30 part-time employees.

1,310

maintenance requests Citywide were completed

400,000

square feet of area cleaned and maintained by part-time staff

2020 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Citywide – Repaired over 85 streetlights
- North Fire Station – Replaced flooring on the main floor
- Cooper Creek Event Center – Added a back-up boiler
- Service Dept. – Replaced shop lights with LED fixtures
- Recreation Center – Replaced parking lot lights with LED fixtures
- Service Garage – Replaced the HVAC unit
- South Fire Station – Repaired 2,500 sqft of concrete driveway apron
- Sports Center – Epoxied the restroom floors and replaced the maintenance building concrete apron
- Service Garage – Installed new epoxy flooring in the mechanics garage
- Nature Park Amphitheater – Replaced wood steps with concrete
- Council Chambers and lobby – Renovated

SERVICE DIVISION

The Service Division is responsible for a variety of major functions, including street and drainage maintenance, snow and ice removal, curbside removal of brush and leaves, support of City events, equipment maintenance and building maintenance support.



BY THE NUMBERS

- 8.2** INCHES OF SNOW
- 48** LINEAL FEET OF STORM PIPE REPLACED
- 68** SIGNS DESIGNED AND INSTALLED
- 69** MILES STRIPED ON STREETS AND PARKING LOTS
- 142** TONS OF ASPHALT USED
- 175** FREON APPLIANCES DISPOSED
- 239** MAN HOURS FOR SNOW EVENTS
- 606** TIRES COLLECTED AND DISPOSED
- 683** TONS OF SALT USED
- 976** CUBIC YARDS OF WOOD CHIPS COLLECTED
- 2,162** MILES OF PAVEMENT CLEANED BY STREET SWEEPER
- 2,500** GALLONS OF PAINT DONATED
- 2,765** MILES DRIVEN FOR SNOW EVENTS
- 2,985** CUBIC YARDS OF LEAVES COLLECTED
- 3,354** CUBIC YARDS OF BULK BRUSH COLLECTED



PARKS & RECREATION

Blue Ash Parks & Recreation is comprised of four departments: Recreation, Park Maintenance, Golf Maintenance and Cooper Creek Event Center. Combined, the Parks and Recreation Departments have 300 staff members, 20 of which are full-time employees.

RECREATION

400

COVID-19 specific signs created

5,000

minutes spent on Zoom by Recreation staff



COVID-19 precautions impacted Recreation operations significantly. Staff focused on implementing creative solutions for safely adapting programs and facilities to adhere to state and local health protocols.

RECREATION APP

Launched in 2020



NEW HIRES

G.M. of Programming and Events
Margaret O’Gorman
and
Marketing Assistant
Janine Wong



SUMMIT PARK PROGRAMMING

7,000

Ice rink visitors

5,300

Fitness class participants

1,200

Drive-In movie participants

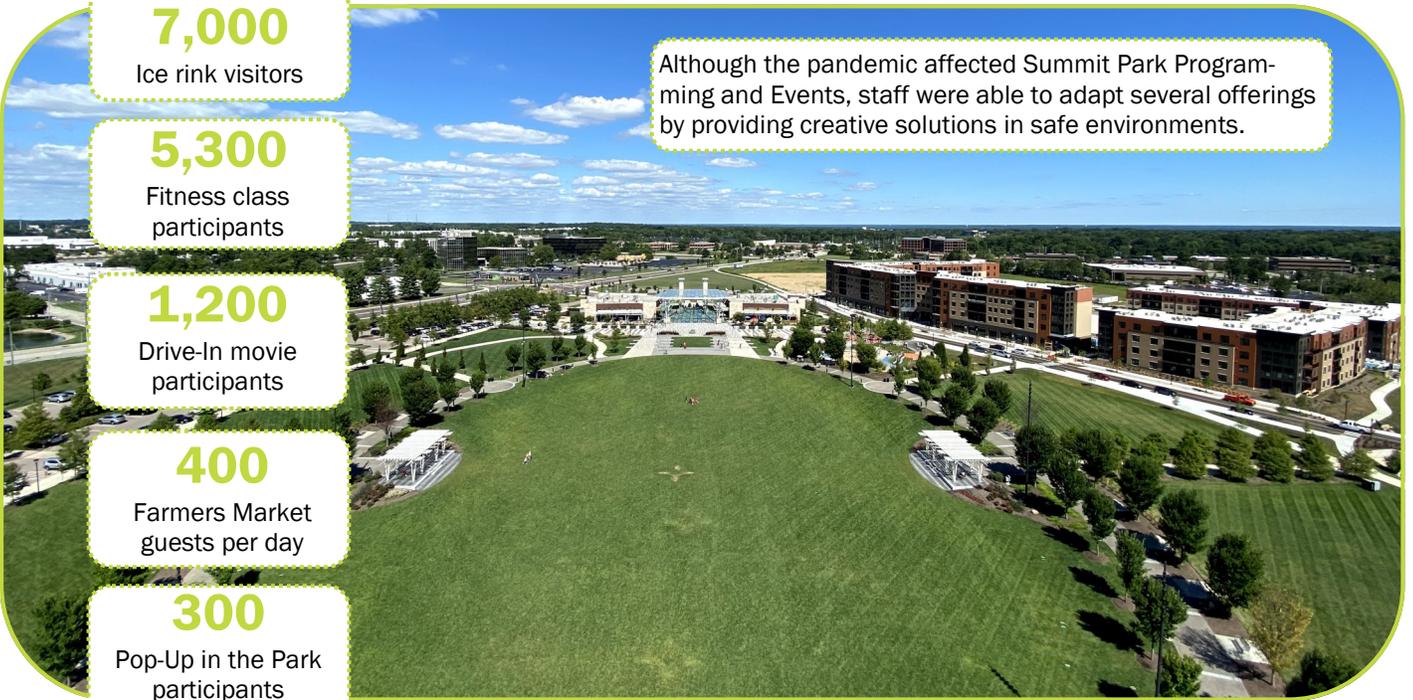
400

Farmers Market guests per day

300

Pop-Up in the Park participants

Although the pandemic affected Summit Park Programming and Events, staff were able to adapt several offerings by providing creative solutions in safe environments.



PARKS & RECREATION

AQUATICS

Opening the pool presented one of the biggest challenges of 2020 for the Recreation Department. After many conversations with health experts, the Recreation Center staff created a reservation system, sanitizing process, arranged chairs to encourage proper social distancing and even created a new position, the social distancing guru, to ensure full compliance with Board of Health regulations. The Blue Ash community was able to enjoy the pool this summer when many communities across the state were unable to open their pools.



33,899
POOL RESERVATIONS

484
PEOPLE VISITED THE
POOL PER DAY

BLUE ASH SPORTS CENTER

Shortly after a brief closure, the Sports Center hit its stride as leagues and organizations adapted to COVID-19 mandates offering safe opportunities for the return of youth sports. This coupled with an interest by many to be outdoors made for a busy season at the complex.



4,303

Hours of games and
practices scheduled

COOPER CREEK EVENT CENTER

The impacts of the pandemic on the operations of Cooper Creek Event Center were evident as staff worked side-by-side with hundreds of clients to alter and reschedule their events. At the start of the season, there were 230 events on the calendar with nearly 40 of them being weddings. The staff worked closely with the Board of Health by applying the State's evolving requirements. A portion of events were carried out under the necessary safety guidelines, while others opted for 2021 dates in hopes of less restrictive guidelines.



PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS MAINTENANCE

OAKWOOD PARK

The renovation project was managed by Parks and Public Works staff. It consists of a new shelter, grills, playground with a rubber solid safety surface, restroom, and basketball court.



ICE RINK

Park staff coordinated and installed the rink at Summit Park and the holiday decorations.



ROUNDBOUT

Staff designed and coordinated the Glendale-Milford Road roundabout landscaping and irrigation system.



MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Staff designed and installed rock work at the City Hall main entrance.

- 31,095** LABOR HOURS
- 585** YARDS OF MULCH INSTALLED
- 100+** ACRES OF GRASS MOWED
- 64** TREES PLANTED

STORYWALK ®

In coordination with the Recreation Staff, Parks Maintenance installed the new feature within the Nature Park.



ADDITIONAL PROJECTS:

- Regraded and repaired all the gravel paths in the Nature Park.
- Designed and contracted the creek restoration project at the south end of the Playscape.
- Designed a creative and attractive solution for the creek overflow area south of the Playscape bridge.

PARKS & RECREATION

GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

NEW IN 2020:

- Renovated bunkers on 10, 16, and 17 using the Better Billy Bunker (BBB) method.
- Constructed a new tee on 14.
- Continued 007 Creeping Bentgrass overseeding program on putting greens.
- Contracted Heatwole Golf Design to do a conceptual design for a warm-up area and an expanded practice area.
- Added new drainage on 6 and 15.
- Planted 1 acre of wildflowers.
- Constructed 50 bluebird boxes.



\$1,244,412

**RECORD HIGH
GREENS AND CART REVENUE**

40,417

ROUNDS



The Golf Maintenance team put a lot of effort into ensuring maximum safety for guests as well as employees:

- Adopted a no contact approach to golfing.
- Raised cups above putting surface. This later evolved into a golf ball ejector.
- Eliminated golf ball washers.
- Removed practice green flags.
- Eliminated bunker rakes.



66 new Club Car Golf Carts equipped with GPS capability were purchased. This technology provides real-time course information including hole information and distancing. Golfers can utilize the system to communicate with the Pro Shop staff, keep score, and even enjoy their own music via the Bluetooth function. The carts are also programmed to preserve the course and speed-up play by avoiding hazards, out-of-bounds areas, and wet spots.

VISION STATEMENT

We will continuously improve the quality of community life for all residential and business citizens to ensure Blue Ash is always the “City of Choice” through an enlightened, efficient, and dynamic unified municipal government.



MAYOR MARC SIRKIN
(WARD 5)



KATIE SCHNEIDER
(WARD 1)



JEFF CAPELL
(WARD 4)



JILL COLE
(AT-LARGE)



**VICE MAYOR
PRAMOD JHAVERI**
(WARD 3)



JOE LEET
(WARD 2)



LEE CZERWONKA
(AT-LARGE)

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide superior services, facilities, and activities for all citizens, utilizing key guiding principles of integrity, compassion, innovation, professionalism, and commitment.

