2021
YEAR IN REVIEW
City of Boca Raton Recreation Services
Dear Friends of Recreation Services,

Thank you for recreating with us in 2021 – another challenging and exciting year for us all. In these pages you will see how your recreation team adapted, adjusted, and reimagined the services we provided. I am proud of each and every member of our Recreation Services family and recognize that they’re working extremely hard to serve the residents of our fantastic city.

At the heart of our green spaces is the ability to build community, engage in exciting activities, relax, and escape to enjoy the beauties of nature. Our patrons have embraced self-directed recreation, and I have met many of you who strived to get healthier in mind, body, and spirit. In the past year, you, our Boca Raton citizens, have shown that our parks, beaches, playgrounds, and more are important and for that I am so appreciative.

It has also been a fruitful year for Recreation Services – some of our key accomplishments are highlighted in this review. One of our proudest moments was the completion of a Needs Assessment, in partnership with the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District. Additionally, the City accepted the generous donation of the Boca Raton Golf and Racquet Club and opened for play on November 1.

As I mention every year, much of what we achieve is made possible by the support and thoughtful guidance of our Boca Raton City Council and City Manager’s Office, the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District Commission and Executive leadership; our Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; our Library Board; and our partner departments. I’d also like to recognize the Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards, the Friends of the Library, and our other treasured collaborators.

I hope you make lasting memories in our parks. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Michael J. Kalvort, CPRE
Recreation Services Director

WHO WE ARE

We are a diverse, multi-cultural department with over 800 full-time and part-time team members enthusiastically serving our community.

ST R O N G

Our mission is to enrich the life of each resident and to contribute to the enhancement of Boca Raton as a community by providing exceptional recreational, educational, and municipal programs, facilities, and sites in a fiscally responsible manner.
KEY MOMENTS

AWARDS

• City Spirit Award - Awarded by the Florida League of Cities for the City of Boca Raton Public Library’s StoryWalks.

• Traveler’s Choice - Awarded by TripAdvisor to Gumbo Limbo Nature Center for being ranked #1 out of 196 “Things to Do in Boca Raton.”

• USTA Outstanding Facility Award - Awarded by United States Tennis Association to the Swim and Racquet Center for excellence in the construction/renovation of their tennis facilities.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Through a joint effort, the City of Boca Raton and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District completed a Needs Assessment. It identified strengths and areas of opportunity to continue providing exceptional services to our community.

MIZNER PARK AMPHITHEATER

The Mizner Park Amphitheater team joined Recreation Services and combined their efforts with our Community Events team.

SWIM CENTER

To provide our community’s swimmers with more opportunities to use the Swim Center facilities, the hours of operation were expanded.

THE BOCA RATON GOLF & RACQUET CLUB

The 18 hole golf course opened for public play on November 1st. Recreation Services crews are working diligently on the course, and to improve landscaping and amenities.
HUGHES PARK
This 11,500 square foot renovation provides accessible play, new seating, a shade structure, and rubber safety surfacing. This project was made possible through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

PICKLEBALL COURTS
Patch Reef Tennis Center added six new pickleball courts to embrace the need for more places to play this popular racquet sport.

PINE BREEZE PARK
The park renovations included a new basketball court, pavilions, and an ADA-certified walking path; the park re-opened in November.

POOL RESURFACING
Both pools received a facelift this year! Meadows Park Pool was resurfaced to increase the lifetime and durability of the pool. Additionally, the Swim Center pool deck was resurfaced.

SAND PINE PARK
Expected to be completed in 2022, renovation of the park will include a new restroom, picnic pavilion, field surfacing, sports lighting, court surfacing, playground, and fitness equipment.

SILVER PALM + WILDFLOWER PARK
Renovations began in early 2021. It will provide new pedestrian walkways, terraced steps and seating, an event lawn, interactive art/play/water features, an event pavilion, and much more!
SERVING THROUGH COVID

SAFETY MEASURES
Ensuring our community’s and team members’ safety was our utmost priority. Sanitizing our facilities, social distancing, facial coverings, and creative scheduling helped to promote health and safety standards.

CURBSIDE SERVICES
The Library offered curbside pick-up and drop-off of borrowed items. Children’s Science Explorium and Community Centers distributed fun activities for children to do at home.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS
Gumbo Limbo, Community Centers, Athletics, Children’s Science Explorium, and the Library provided many virtual offerings to educate minds and exercise bodies during the pandemic.

VACCINATION SITE
Recreation Services worked closely with Emergency Management, Boca Raton Police Department, and Fire Rescue to provide COVID vaccination site.
COMMUNITY EVENTS
After holding virtual celebrations, we were happy to have the community come together again and celebrate!

VETERANS DAY
In recognition of those who served, a Veterans Day concert and ceremony were held at the Mizner Park Amphitheater.

NOON YEAR’S EVE
A daytime family-friendly event with photo ops, dance party, and a beach ball drop at noon.

MERRY IN MIZNER
Visitors experienced pop-up entertainment and activities sprinkled throughout Mizner Park over several weekends.

LIGHT THE LIGHTS!
A celebration with a holiday tree lighting, a movie, and family fun.

HOLIDAY STREET PARADE
The 50th Holiday Street Parade entertained viewers with dance, lights, and songs featuring the theme “What Are You Streaming?”

HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE
The 47th Holiday Boat Parade lit up the beautiful intracoastal waterway to the delight of onlookers.
Swim lessons resumed during the summer of 2021. 1,248 children were waterproofed!

During the pandemic, we were able to offer various summer camps. Children participated in activities like Surf Camp, Junior Lifeguards, Tennis, Environmental Camp, and Science Camps.

For the 5th year, Recreation Services offered STEAM programs for explorers ages 5-12. This year was a series of exploring science, technology, engineering, art, and math throughout the City.