



## CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF MAJOR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The following list represents a historical overview of recreation programs, services, and events organized or co-sponsored by Milwaukee Recreation to meet the changing interests and needs of the community.

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- 1911** - By action of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors, the Division of Municipal Recreation and Community Education was started (Extension Fund).  
Introduction of the Lighted Schoolhouse Program (public schools used as community recreation centers).
- 1912** - Ice Rinks
- 1913** - Citizenship Preparation Classes
- 1915** - Summer Playground Dance Classes
- 1919** - Municipal Athletics for Men
- 1920** - Junior Optimist Clubs  
Summer Playground Art Classes
- 1924** - Scouts - Resolution by School Board to allow room use.
- 1925** - Children's Swim Classes at City Natatoria
- 1926** - Municipal Hiking Association
- 1927** - Street Trades Work Permit Office (Newsboys Republic)
- 1929** - Municipal Basketball Leagues for Girls
- 1931** - Men's Municipal Center  
Mid-Summer Festival at Lake Front  
Milwaukee Folk Council HARVEST FESTIVAL  
Milwaukee Players Drama Group formed.
- 1932** - Boys' Clubs  
Municipal Chess Association
- 1933** - Girls' Guardian Clubs  
Milwaukee Women's Municipal Athletic Association (MWMAA)

- 1934** - All-city Weaving Studio
- 1935** - Florentine Opera Company  
 Name changed to Department of Municipal Recreation and Adult Education.  
 Works Progress Administration (WPA) activities instituted.
- 1936** - Boys' Stars of Yesterday Baseball Leagues  
 Playground Nature Appreciation Jaunts
- 1937** - Consolidation of city parks with county park system.
- 1938** - Boys' Summer Baseball School
- 1939** - High school gyms used for Municipal Athletic activities.  
 Milwaukee Civic Light Opera Company
- 1941** - All-city summer playground chess tournament
- 1945** - Outdoor recreation land spatial and jurisdictional standards adopted by the city/county/School Board.
- 1948** - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Club
- 1949** - City-wide Halloween programs in cooperation with the Fourth of July Commission, City of Milwaukee.  
 Golden Age Clubs
- 1950** - All-city weightlifting and conditioning  
 Boys' Baseball Camps (Spring)  
 Summer Playground Trailer Theatre
- 1951** - Summer Playground Puppet Theatre
- 1952** - Children's All-city Saturday Arts Workshops  
 Referral Guidance Program
- 1953** - Just for You Health Classes for Parent/Child
- 1954** - High School Baseball Leagues
- 1956** - Year-round Outdoor Education Program  
 Name changed to Division of Municipal Recreation and Adult Education.
- 1957** - Family Camping Association  
 Ice Meets and Carnivals  
 Palmyra Outdoor Education Center

Spring Softball Training (Girls)

Supervised play at county park locations in the City of Milwaukee.

**1958** - Adult Centers

Boys' Basketball Schools

**1959** - Boys' Baseball Day Camp

**1960** - Traveling Star Wagon (Planetarium Observatory)

**1961** - Recreation for physically and mentally handicapped children

**1962** - Nature Workshops for adults

Swim classes in high school pools

**1963** - Municipal Co-Rec Volleyball

Summer Youth Band

XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) recreation for older men

**1964** - Golden Age Drop-In Center opened.

Municipal Athletics Married Couples Volleyball

Work-Recreation Program

**1965** - Children's After School Orchestra

NYC (Neighborhood Youth Corporation) - federally funded program

Summer Youth Orchestra

**1966** - Adult Recreation Orchestra

Museumobile

Nature Study Classes (in-service credit courses for teachers)

**1966** - Family Swimming

**1967** - Municipal Touch Football League

Planetarium Program

Teen Centers in Junior High Schools

**1968** - Board of Government Operations (BOGO) Program

Picnic Clinics

Recreation for deaf and emotionally disturbed children

- Year-round classroom nature interpretive trips
- Year-round Hawthorn Glen Nature Center
- Year-round Palmyra Nature Center (in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources)
- 1969 - Milwaukee Municipal Orchestra, Life-Long Music Program**
- 1970 - Bits and Pieces Musical Revue Group**
  - Developmental program for physically handicapped and retarded pre-school children and parents
  - Housing Authority Recreation Program (HARP)
  - Neighborhood Youth Corp -- Support Program (RSP)
  - Recorded message telephone service instituted
  - Roving playleaders
  - Summer Youth Chorus
- 1971 - Adult Tennis Classes**
  - City of Milwaukee Beautification Program
  - Community School Center (secondary schools)
  - Enrichment program offered in summer schools
  - Ice Hockey Rink
  - Model Cities
  - Oak Ridge Demonstration Farm
- 1971 - Scuba Diving**
  - Summerfest participation
  - Outdoor recreation land spatial and jurisdictional standards revised by the city/county/School Board.
  - Division A finalist in the National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Award Competition.
- 1972 - Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Company "Play-Go-Round Theatre" at playground locations.**
  - Wilderness Encounter (WE) Outdoor Education Program.
  - Senior Men's Swim Meet
  - Lighted Schoolhouse Program, First National Seminar.
  - Division A finalist in the National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Award Competition.
- 1973 - Gymnastics instruction for youth**

Leisure Counseling Model

Division A finalist in the National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Award Competition

Affiliation with NCSL (Neighborhood Children's Sports League) to serve the growing Northwest side of the city.

**1974 -** Competitive Swim for Youth

Golden Age Swim Program

Division presented National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Award for the outstanding program in the nation

**1975 -** Lighted Schoolhouse Programs funded by Community Development Agency, City of Milwaukee

Playground Day (Brewer Baseball Game at Milwaukee County Stadium)

Leisure Counseling, Second National Seminar

Hawthorn Glen Nature Center Fieldhouse and Museum rebuilt

**1976 -** Pepsi Hotshot Basketball Competition

Name changed to Division of Municipal Recreation and Community Education

All-volunteer recreation centers

**1976 -** All-volunteer ice rink

U.S. Bicentennial Programs

Hillside Terrace Recreation Expansion Program

Pabst Theatre - new home of the Milwaukee Players

The 4th "R" (Human Relations) Program

**1977 -** Handicapped Day Camp (Hawthorn Glen)

Ice Rink coordination with County Park Commission

South Division Community Center opened

South 78th Street Fieldhouse piloted exterior anti-vandalism construction design

Golden Age Tennis Instruction

Sixty Plus Calico Craft Faire

**1978 -** North Division Community Center opened

Soccer Stars Program for Youth

Soccer Program (instruction, clinics, and league play - Grades 1 through 6 - indoor/outdoor)

Volunteer Leadership "Arts and Crafts Workshop" for teachers of children

Contract professional entertainment in recreation centers

Old Timers' Softball Slow Pitch League

Winterfest at Wick Field

First Volunteer Awards Banquet

PPT (Primary Playtime) begun to serve the needs of the very young child

**1979 -** Lifetime Recreation Skill Schools for Special Populations (formerly called "handicapped").

Summer mass registration all-city for playground activities/instruction and workshop sessions.

Super/Satellite playground concept

Computerized attendance procedures

Ground breaking ceremony for Beulah Brinton, December 12, 1979 (South Bay and Potter Streets) \$1.6 million.

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPRRA) (\$770,000 grant) matching funds CDA

**1979 -** \$400,000 for remodeling of Sixty-Plus Senior Program.

Contract entertainment offered to schools

Riverside Community Center opened

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPRRA) preliminary action plan completed

Professional entertainment at neighborhood playgrounds

Barnyard Friends traveling van

Super Snake Show

Collective Bargaining Unit 888-J formed (part-time seasonal personnel)

Sixty-Plus Men's Softball

First Wisconsin Bank Youth Baseball Program T-Shirt funding

**1980 -** Bell Outdoor Sports Complex Ground Breaking - City of Milwaukee developed.

Roller skating traveling van

High Impact Program (HIP) Recreation Centers National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) "Life, Be In It" national campaign in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Muni Athletic Office coordinated NBA Basketball Program

Recreation shared facilities computerized scheduling system

Hawthorn Glen Outdoor Education Center developed as a major multi-use community facility.

Division Operational Handbook developed.

Chronological documentation of Division history begun.

Plant operation agreement - charges based upon hourly use per site.

Fall Recreation Tabloid mailed to all city residents.

Playground concerts and disc jockey playground dances

Silver Star Award for Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association for creative programming lifetime skill schools for exceptional education students.

**1981** - Division coordinated all schools conference for MPS.

Beulah Brinton Community Center dedicated (site and building development cost \$2 million).

**1981** - Milwaukee Players 50th Anniversary

Harvest Festival 50th Anniversary of ethnic dances at Marshall High School and Pulaski Stadium.

Primary Play Time: City-wide summer pre-school and primary school program

Tiny Tot Swim Program for children 3-6 years with parent

Volunteer Helping Hands Award Banquet at Pabst Blue Ribbon Hall

Olympic Ice Rink Skating Program in cooperation with Rexnord

Children's drama play at Juneau

Golden Age/Extra Years of Zest Program name changed to Sixty-Plus "Senior" Program.

Golden Age Clubs changed to self-governing clubs.

Keep Active Program for seniors started at Marshall High School.

Ward Memorial Hall (Theatre) - Wood, WI. New rehearsal home for Milwaukee Players.

South 24th Street (Sixty-Plus "Senior" Center) remodeling and building addition.

Performers Showcase reviewed at Lincoln Center for the Arts.

FLEX (Foreign Language Exploration) for elementary schools after school programming.

F.L.A.I.R. program begun (Future Leaders Active in Recreation).

**1982** - Roller skating and carnival van program added to After School Recreation Program.

Athletic Task Force set participation standards of interscholastic athletics, intramurals, and recreation sports programs. Identified cooperative and coordinated programming.

High Impact Program expanded to 42 locations (After School Recreation Program).

Summer and fall mail-in registration for all playground and recreation center youth activities initiated.

Infant Swim Program - children 6 months to 3 years

Youth Sports Program services expanded. Coaches and official clinics initiated with professional training films.

All Schools Conference coordinated by Division.

Building Plant Operation charges established on a formula basis associated with actual use.

Summerfest play area under the supervision of the Division.

Intergenerational program started in the Sixty-Plus Program providing senior volunteers in schools.

FLEX Program - elementary schools during the noon hour

**1982 -** Super Run for Parks and Recreation sponsored by the NRPA, Holiday Inn, American Express, Milwaukee Striders, and Division (10k race).

**1983 -** Safety Awareness Program safe street crossing, child abuse, poison, and personal safety to pre-school and primary school children.

Dedication of remodeled Sixty-Plus Senior Center.

Construction of the Vincent High School Sports Complex started.

Vincent Community Center opened.

Division A finalist in the National Sports Foundation Gold Medal Award Competition.

Summer computer camps for children and youth.

Contract Entertainment name changed to Artists and Educators in the Schools.

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPRRA) funding grant of \$750,000 received for reconstruction of seven wading pools.

Circus Train added to Summer Playground program.

Ward Theatre Preservation Committee organized (Soldiers Home Foundation).

Elderly Nutrition Program began at Beulah Brinton.

**1984 -** Washington Community Center opened.

FLAIR Program (Future Leaders Assisting in Recreation) introduced.

Milwaukee Municipal Arts Academy opened at the Milwaukee High School of the Arts.

Division of Information Systems conducted in-depth study of the Recreation Division's computerization needs.

Latch Key Task Force started to evaluate and promote before and after-school child care services.

Safe Halloween Program at 12 community centers offering children and families a safe alternative to Trick or Treating.

Municipal Athletics develops computer program for officials and league scheduling.

**1985 -** Youth Commission started by action of the Mayor's Office.

Municipal Athletics starts adult co-ed softball.

Phone registration service via major credit card billing offered to Milwaukee Players patrons.

Program for Exceptional Students and Disabled Adults a finalist in National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Competition for Program Excellence.

Children's Fest Day started with the Greater Milwaukee Public Recreation Association, Summerfest, and Milwaukee Safety Commission.

**1985 -** User attendance exceeded 4.5 million.

Division liaison established with the Gang Crimes Unit of the Milwaukee Police Department.

**1986 -** Silver Star Award from Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association for Creative Programming Children's Fest Day.

Municipal Athletics starts fall softball for adults.

Program for Exceptional Education Students and Disabled Adults a finalist in National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Competition for Program Excellence.

Division presented Wes Francis Audiovisual Award of Excellence for the 75th Anniversary Slide Show from the National Park and Recreation Association.

Division staff planned and implemented the Sesquicentennial celebration for the Milwaukee Public Schools.

Division program for Exceptional Education Students and Disabled Adults a finalist in the National Recreation and Parks Association competition.

Infrastructure study (city/division) establishing a computerized maintenance and capital improvement inventory for open space recreation land playgrounds and playfields.

Crunchy, the talking garbage truck, planning completed.

Winter Recreation Guide introduced.

**1987 -** Cooperative Tutoring Center Program started between the Division and central city churches.

Division Program for Exceptional Education and Disabled Adults a finalist in National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Award Competition.

Fire Education Center planning started.

Crunchy, the talking garbage truck, operational - first appearance Hawley School.

Central Office computerized registration process and audit trail system developed.

City/division establishes standards for purchase of tot lot resilient surface material.

**1988 -** Award of Excellence from Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful for the development of Crunchy.

Silver Star Award for Creative Programming from the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association for the development of Crunchy Program.

Division Program for Exceptional Education Students and Disabled Adults presented National Recreation and Parks Association Gold Medal Award for the Outstanding Program in the Nation.

Milwaukee Municipal Band and Municipal Choir started under the Life-Long Music Program.

Community based programs started at satellite locations in central city churches and community based organizations with adult education, Sixty-Plus activities.

**1988 -** Parent Education Program implemented for parents of elementary school students, K-4 through Grade 3.

Grant of \$180,000 received from the Allstate Insurance Foundation for Fire Education Center.

Mayor's Hot Weather "Splash" Program.

Coca-Cola "Three on Three" Basketball Competition.

Milwaukee Players relocates performances from Pabst Theatre to Alverno College.

Collaboration with Holton Youth Center/ESHAC for teen programming.

**1989 -** Comprehensive study of all division programs and services made via a Recreation Task Force.

Staff transitional team prepares response to findings and recommendations of Recreation Task Force-Board of School Directors received report June, 1989.

One thousand residents attend Recreation Task Force Public Hearings -- Voice strong support for Division programs -- Task Force Report very favorable.

Division recreation areas and districts realigned to correspond with MPS Service Delivery Areas.

Division name changed to Department July 1, 1989 -- part of MPS major reorganization plan.

Extended School Day Program (AM and PM) started at newly renovated Brown Elementary School.

Community Outreach Program started in central city.

Summer Playground "Cool Spots" Program started -- sprinkler spray systems used to discourage illegal use of fire hydrants.

Summer PAL (Police Athletic League) started in cooperation with division.

Division support teams assigned as resource staff to Community Superintendents.

Summer elementary schools extended day coordinated with afternoon registered playground activities at 38 sites. Food service featured at 14 locations.

1st Annual Washington Park Easter Egg Hunt.

- 1990** - Consultant retained to study department operations and make recommendations for restructuring; accepted by School Board in May.
- Department initiated 14 of 15 changes recommended by consultant.
- Transfer of Recreation Service and Maintenance function to Department of Facilities and Maintenance Services.
- Senior Fest and Polish Fest cooperate with joint program date.
- 1991** - Department renamed Department of Community Recreation and Educational Services.
- First Service Area (Districts I & 2) Newsletter - North by Northwest.
- 1991** - Department reorganized into six Community Recreation Districts.
- First joint soccer program with Milwaukee Kickers.
- New job descriptions created for all full-time personnel.
- Three Service Centers created with two districts assigned to each.
- Municipal Athletics renamed Sports, Fitness, and Aquatics.
- New mission statement developed.
- Relocation of Districts 5 and 6 staff to Service Center III at 24th & Mitchell.
- Development of Grand Avenue Lighted Schoolhouse Program through City funding.
- Children's Fest achieves new attendance high (29,450).
- Collaboration with Mary Ryan Boys and Girls Club and Milwaukee County Parks for programming at Sherman Park.
- Children's Fine Arts Program (START) begun at Elm Creative Arts School to serve inner city children.
- 1992** - Completion of the Fire Education Center/Survive Alive House.
- Outdoor Education Program received a grant from the Milwaukee Foundation to provide environmental education in-services and activity books for elementary teachers.
- Transfer of Board Funded field trips from Curriculum and Instruction to the Department including sole responsibility of Potter's Forest, Planetariums and the Zoo Lab.
- Interscholastic Athletics joins the Recreation Department.
- Adult Sports begins community basketball league for unemployed adults.
- Development of 17 all-day six week Summer Recreation Enrichment Camps for children K5- Grade 6.
- Reallocation of program funds based upon highest need priorities. Summer funding increased.
- Development of Needs and Resource Assessments by six Recreation Districts.
- Initial development of a five-year operational plan.

Increased emphasis on partnership programs and department role changing from sole provider to resource coordinator wherever possible.

Creation of the first Recreation District Advisory Council - District 3.

First issue of "Focus on Recreation", a bimonthly department newsletter.

Relocation of Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Office to Central Office.

Relocation of Districts 4 and 5 staff to Service Center II at Milwaukee Education Center (former Schlitz building).

**1992 -** Transfer of Crunchy to City Department of Sanitation.

Creation of a Sixty Plus Trust Fund to support senior citizen activities.

Sixty-Plus Senior Program name changed to Fifty-Five Plus Program.

Milwaukee Players office relocated to S. 24th Street; costumes to Lewis Field; scenery to Custer Stadium.

Saturday ASRP programming begun at Burroughs.

Collaborative with Milwaukee Kickers/Uihlein Field Soccer Initiative begun.

Collaboration with KIDS IN CONTROL (KIC) to develop after school play center at 31st Street School.

**1993 -** Facilities and Maintenance Services merges with the Recreation Department to become Department of School and Community Services.

9th Annual Children's Fest

Recreation Division receives money from Greater Milwaukee Committee for the purpose of increasing programming for teens at 3 high school locations (Summer Stars).

Recreation Division creates mascot: Ricky Rec-asaurus.

Interscholastic Academics named under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Athletics.

Interscholastic Academics Advisory Committee formed.

Created Administrative offices for All-City Programs at South 24th St.

Establishment of a "Customer Service" philosophy and operational guide.

High school youth work programs developed with P.I.C.

Development of summer play center concept at 31st and LaFollette Schools.

Collaborative Golf Program with Professional Golf Association and Milwaukee County Parks.

Mandatory city-wide ASRP coaches clinics developed for Basketball, Soccer and Volleyball.

Camp Thoreau after school child care program developed with Thoreau principal and parent organization.

1st Annual Survive Alive Golf Outing held. Run in conjunction with the Milwaukee Fire Department.

**1994 -** Funding and dates for Children's Fest not available.

Adams Playfield renamed Emigh Playfield in honor of Clarence H. Emigh for Department Assistant Superintendent (1965-1969).

**1994 -** Oakridge Farm hosts the Waukesha Dairy Producers "Breakfast of the Farm"; 3,000 people enjoy a pancake feast, farm tours, hay rides and more.

Summer Stars enters second year of funding.

First Annual Halloween at the Haunted Glen.

Recreation Division receives money from the City of Milwaukee to increase teen programming throughout the school year. Matched contribution from Summer Stars (GMC) Program.

Recreation Division gives 3 presentations at NRPA convention, St. Paul, Minnesota in October.

Formulation of season regulations for Interscholastic Academics.

Team sports office reorganized within Interscholastic, adult and youth sports programs all under one administrator.

Seniorfest moved from Summerfest Grounds to State Fair Park.

Criminal background checks and proof of Citizenship required of all employees.

Collaborative spring soccer programs developed with Wendy's Inc. and Milwaukee County Parks.

Brewer Carnival Fest developed with the Milwaukee Brewers.

Cooperative sports camps developed with Milwaukee County Youth Services at northwest SREC sites.

Vincent Summer Teen Center opened summer, 1994.

**1995 -** Camps for Kids program begins providing nominated MPS Elementary students the opportunity to attend a residential summer camp.

Began coordinating a 5-State effort to form a Midwest Recreation and Prevention Association to emphasize the importance recreation plays in crime and violence prevention and to enable recreation agencies to compete for federal dollars.

Received over \$165,000 in federal and state Weed & Seed grants to support evening and Saturday recreation programs.

Began Total Quality Management training for Recreation Division staff.

Recreation Division personnel give 6 presentations at the NRPA convention, San Antonio, Texas.

Established the Committee to Revitalize Aquatics in Milwaukee (CRAM).

Implementation of the MPS Ropes and Challenge Education Course at Potters Forest.

Collaborate with Red Cats to provide youth tackle football.

High School Boys Volleyball League started at Brinton.

Seniorfest wins Silver Star Award from the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association.

**1996 -** Initiated collaborative agreement with the County to supervise the "7" MPS wading pools. In return, MPS Recreation agreed to supervise "7" playgrounds on county park sites.

Initiated collaborative with Marquette High School, Merrill Park Neighborhood Association, the city and private sectors to raise \$330,000 to rehabilitate Merrill Park.

Initiated proposal with MPS-Music Dept. to have the Recreation Division take over the 6-week Summer Music Camp.

Began collaboration with the Tyme Out Youth Center to provide nominated MPS middle school students the opportunity to attend a week-long residential specialty camp at no charge.

Initiated a Neighborhood Planning Committee to study operations at the Beulah Brinton Community Center and recommend a 5-year operational plan.

Coordinated an agreement between Hamilton High School, Division of Insurance & Risk Management and the Easter Seal Society to provide an after-school recreation program for MPS students with disabilities.

Developed a proposal for a Golf Learning Facility as a school-to-work initiative of the Recreation Division.

Collaborated with Fritsche Middle School, the United Cerebral Palsy Association and the Easter Seal Society to develop a written and phone survey to identify parent's interests in supporting a fully-inclusive after-school recreation program called "Club Fritsche".

Developed Safe Haven program at Clarke Street school.

Worked with neighborhood groups to solicit funds from area businesses to enable the Recreation Division to hire staff to operate a playground during the summer (Cass Street and Bryant).

Coordinated efforts to have a Girl/Boy Scout barter agreement for meetings conducted at MPS facilities and the Girl/Boy Scout offices.

Ten (10) recreation staff volunteered to be Math Buddies for students at North Division High School preparing to take the math proficiency exam.

Initiated a meeting with the Title I Office and interested principals to establish summer school recreation partnerships.

In cooperation with the Pettit National Ice Center and the MPS-Physical Education Department began offering skating lesson opportunities to K-1st graders.

Spring recreation guide introduced.

Partnered with the Milwaukee Bucks to run 2 Ball Basketball Tournament.

Recreation Division gives 7 presentations at the NRPA convention, Kansas City, Missouri.

Started Brewers Children's Baseball League in conjunction with the Milwaukee Brewers.

**1996 -** Milwaukee Players closes its curtains after 65 years.

Started Fall Flag Football League for youth.

Initiated resolutions with the Common Council, County Board of Supervisors and MPS Board of Directors to re-establish a special committee on policies relating to recreational matters.

Initiated an internal technology committee to devise a technology plan for the Recreation Division to include a new software activity registration system.

\$10,000 grant from Kraft Dairy Trust. Installation of milking machine at Oak Ridge Farm also used during school visits for milking demonstrations.

**1997 -** 4 sand volleyball courts constructed at Brinton.

Began selling ads in recreation guide.

Alternative High School Flag Football League started.

Created an Advisory Committee for Beulah Brinton Community Center.

Initiated 34 Before and After School Child Care sites to support the state's new W-2 (Wisconsin Works) Programs.

Started women's and co-ed golf leagues.

Started summer T-ball league for youth.

Established an agreement with DNR for Oak Ridge Farm & Palmyra Camp.

\$10,000 grant from the National Fire Protection Agency. Implementation of a school-based "Learn Not To Burn" Program (LNTB) in the Milwaukee Public Schools taking fire education into the classroom.

Acquisition of a mobile "Survive Alive" fire education unit.

Expansion of Special Olympics School Program to include adults and all MPS schools.

**1998 -** Included 3-5 year olds in the Summer Recreation Enrichment Camps in order to provide full day program options for working parents.

Implemented new computerized registration program (RecWare) to replace Unisys.

First year of Summer School Wrap-around Recreation Programs.

Received \$4.5 million dollars (\$1.45/year for 3 years) from US Department of Education to open 11

Community Learning Centers (CLC).

First year of Women's Flag Football League.

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Superintendent's High School Scholar Athlete Awards Banquet held.

**1998 -** Collaborated with the United States Army's 961<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion to construct retaining walls at Hawthorn Glen to prevent further environmental erosion.

**1999 -** Received \$4.2 million (\$1.4/year for 3 years) from US Department of Education to open 8 additional Community Learning Centers bringing total number of CLCs to 19.

Received sponsorship dollars from Beverly Healthcare to support the Senior Adult Appreciation Event.

MPS Office of Interscholastic Athletics establishes the Southeastern Wisconsin Commissioners' Alliance to assist with the training and assigning of athletic officials.

Expanded pool of teams eligible for Women's Open City Softball Tournament to include all interested teams versus top two teams in each league.

First year of Women's Par 3 Tour Golf Program.

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Touch Football Classic featuring top flight teams from the midwest.

1<sup>st</sup> Annual MPS Hoop Basketball Officials Camp – over 150+ in attendance.

Designated the Hawthorn Glen Field House/Museum as the Martin E. Schreiber Nature Center named after the former Milwaukee Common Council President and 7<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman.

Jan Doleschal, Commissioner of MPS Interscholastic Athletics/Academics is inducted into the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame.

Assisted with the planning, development and opening of the Alice B. Kadish Memorial Weaving Center at Gaenslen School.

**2000 -** Received \$4.2 million dollar grant from the Department of Work Force Development to create partnerships with MPS and child care providers in order to increase quality and provide continuity of care.

Developed RBI (Reviving Baseball in the Inner City) Baseball League in collaboration with the Milwaukee Brewers to expose central city youth to the sport.

Collaborated with the Girl Scouts of Milwaukee Area Inc., United Way of Greater Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Brewers to create the Girls of Summer Softball League. 12 teams/220 girls participated.

Began Smoke Free Sports program in an effort to educate student athletes about the dangers of smoking.

Received \$6.4 million (\$2.1 million per year for 3 years) from US Department of Education to open 13 additional Community Learning Centers bringing total number of CLCs to 32.

Midwest Quadrugby tournament held at Riverside HS. 75 participants representing 3 teams from Chicago, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee.

**2001 -** Recreation Division becomes Department of Recreation and Community Services. Facilities and Maintenance Division reports to Department of Business Services. Recreation Department reports to Deputy Superintendent.

Recreation Department takes over Driver's Education from Vocational Education. Evening classes offered starting in January 2001.

Developed a 5-year Outdoor Recreation site cyclic maintenance program.

Formulated a Youth Sports Summit committee comprised of representatives from MPS, City, County, Sports Authority and Finance, to deal with gaps in recreation facilities throughout Milwaukee County.

Extensive Fall marketing campaign developed inclusive of television commercials, and billboards. Recreation guide also reformatted.

Fall Celebrity Lecture Series developed. 21 Milwaukee personalities participate.

\$20,000 grant received from the Helen Bader Foundation, Inc. to help fund the Rec 'N Roll Mobile –

Milwaukee Recreation's Playground on the Move. Equipped with games, skates, sports equipment, craft supplies, etc., the Rec 'N Roll Mobile delivers recreation programming to underserved areas of the city.

Redeveloped Pulaski Street Playground into a total green space park.

Received \$7.9 million (\$2.6 million per year for 3 years) from the US Department of Education to open 14 additional Community Learning Centers bringing total number of CLC's to 46.

\$19,000 grant received from Baseball of Tomorrow Funds. Dollars were used to expand the Girls of Summer Softball League to 16 teams and the RBI League to 14 teams.

Received \$5 million to continue developing partnerships with MPS and neighborhood child care centers.

Received \$299,999 from the U.S. Department of Education to provide computer aided career guidance at 7 high schools.

Received \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Justice for continuation of the Summer Stars Teen Recreation Program.

\$1.275 million earmarked by Congressman Barrett to continue the original 11 Community Learning Center sites for 1 additional year of funding.

**2002 -** Celebrated the Survive Alive House 10th anniversary in February. 250,000 - 2nd and 5th graders have experienced the fire safety program since its inception.

600 youth took part in Milwaukee Recreation's World Cup Soccer Tournament. The tournament was the culmination of a four-week summer soccer camp for elementary students. The camps were instructed by MPS high school soccer athletes.

1,600 Milwaukee youth viewed T.A.G. (Teens Against Guns) You're It, an anti-violence theatrical performance written and performed by Milwaukee Public Schools high school students during the summer. This program was a collaboration with CEASEFIRE, Marquette University's Department of Performing Arts, and Theatre X.

Received \$1.8 million from the State Department of Public Instruction to help sustain 18 Community Learning Centers.

Received the National Recreation and Park Association's Kudo's Award for "Best Overall Communicator"; the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association's Silver Star Award for "Creative Programming for Hard to Reach Populations" in recognition of the Rec 'n Roll Mobile; and the Golden Web Award for Sports and Recreation from the International Association for Webmasters and Designers.

Distributed 25,000 tickets donated by baseball player Jeffrey Hammonds to send youth to a Milwaukee...

**2003 -** Selected by Sports Illustrated Magazine and the National Recreation and Park Association as the #1 Sportstown for the state of Wisconsin because of its comprehensive sports programming for children, teens, adults and seniors.

Collaborated with Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture and many volunteer coaches, chaperones, parents and donors to send 67 Milwaukee boys and girls ages 11-15 to the 37th Annual U.S. Youth Games in San Francisco. "Team Milwaukee" participated in Soccer, Tennis, Golf, Bowling, Flag Football, Volleyball and Academic competitions.

Launched internet registration for subscribers of Recreational Reader.

Received 2 grants totaling \$3 million from the Wisconsin State Department of Public Instruction to help sustain 33 Community Learning Centers.

Collaborated with the Hunger Task Force, Wisconsin State Department of Public Instruction, Social Development Commission, Department of Health and Human Services, The Salvation Army, America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and IMPACT, Inc. to provide thousands of youth with free meals during the summer at selected recreation sites.

- 2004 -** Milwaukee Recreation and the MPS Division of Nutrition Services partnered with the Harley-Davidson Foundation, Hunger Task Force, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Social Development Commission, Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Salvation Army, IMPACT Inc., and the 12 Community Learning Center (CLC) Lead Agencies to provide over 380,000 free meals for Milwaukee's youth throughout the summer. MPS, a partner of "Fueling Young Minds" has been selected as the United States Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) 2003-04 National Summer Sunshine Award winner in the Partnering with Other Organizations or Groups category.

The Public Policy Forum recognized Milwaukee Recreation's partnership with the City of Milwaukee Health Department, Wisconsin Division of Public Health, American Cancer Society, and American Lung Association of Wisconsin. The organizations received the Award for Excellence in Government for the Tobacco-Free Sports program, which teaches young athletes the importance of staying "smoke free." Over 1,400 MPS students received this message.

Journey House presented Milwaukee Recreation with the 2004 Community Development Award for dedication and commitment to youth soccer. The South Division/Journey House collaboration served over 1000 youth in indoor/outdoor soccer leagues and over 54,000 spectators attended indoor games.

Milwaukee Recreation, the MPS Office of Wellness and Prevention, and the MPS Summer School Office created the 8th Grade Summer Literacy Program and helped 301 MPS students meet the requirements to enter 9th grade. Thanks to funding from Safe & Sound Inc., the youth also participated in team-building activities and ropes course challenges, safe night dances, AODA workshops, and a unique mentorship program that allowed them to become "reading buddies" for kindergarteners.

With generous financial support from the Connecting Caring Communities Project, Milwaukee Recreation was pleased to open a new state-of-the-art fitness center and community café in the 55+ Center, 2414 W. Mitchell St.

- 2005 -** Milwaukee Recreation received a 2005 Milwaukee Award for Neighborhood Development Innovation (MANDI) from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) for its commitment to feeding children during the summer of 2004. The Recreation Division shared the honor with the Milwaukee Public Schools Office of School Nutrition, the Harley-Davidson Foundation, Hunger Task Force, Social Development Commission, IMPACT, Inc., and The Salvation Army. The partnership continued in 2005, when over 537,000 meals were served.

Milwaukee Recreation jumped on the "wristband wagon" by selling its own "Experience Life" wristbands. Funds raised from the sale of the \$1 bands will be used to support youth recreation programs.

Milwaukee Recreation, in collaboration with the MPS Summer School Office and 10 Community Based Organizations, provided 6-weeks of academic instruction and 8-weeks of recreation enrichment at 31 Community Learning Centers to over 6,300 youth during the Summer of 2005. Funding for this critical program was provided by a \$1 million dollar Federal Earmark from the U.S. Department of Education.

In collaboration with the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and a host of Private Sector volunteers, Milwaukee Recreation provided seven weeks of "daily" emergency support and recreation services (9:00am - 10:00pm) to 572 evacuees of Hurricane Katrina at the Wisconsin State Fair Park.

Milwaukee Recreation changed the name of its popular 55+ Senior Center, 2414 West Mitchell Street, to the OASIS (Organization for Active Seniors in Society). The name change coincided with efforts to expand program offerings and cater to the needs of today's more active older adults. The center now boasts an expanded course selection, the Senior Cafe, a state-of-the-art fitness center, a computer lab with high-speed Internet access, multipurpose rooms, and an information center.

MarCom Creative Awards presented Milwaukee Recreation's marketing efforts with the "Gold Award" for its "Vote For The Snow" entry and the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association awarded the Division the 2005 SPECTRUM Award of Merit for "Snow Day in July" and "Free Summer Meals for Milwaukee's Youth".

- 2006 -** Milwaukee Recreation (Milw REC) launched a new on-line registration system for improved customer service and office efficiency.

Milw REC started the first MPS wheelchair basketball team – The Milwaukee Heat.

Milw REC received a three-year grant of over \$700,000 from the Helen Bader Foundation to operate the Homework First Program in 40 elementary schools.

Milw REC partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs and Mother Daniels Community Center to provide the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual March of Champions Middle School Basketball Tournament.

Milw REC opened three new neighborhood recreation centers at Alcott, Cooper and 81<sup>st</sup> Street Schools.

Milw REC partnered with the United States Tennis Association to provide adult tennis instruction and league play. Participation increased by 25%.

Milw REC in partnership with Dell, Inc., MPS Technology Division and Career & Tech Ed., offered middle school youth the opportunity to learn how to disassemble and reassemble the hardware of a Dell computer and install software. Upon completion of the program 258 students received a free refurbished computer for their home.

Milw REC secured \$4.3 million to operate 43 Community Learning Centers for the 2006-2007 school year and raised \$366,000 in private funding to support the operation of 33 summer CLC sites. Special thanks to our summer CLC Lifesavers for supporting Milwaukee's youth.

Milw REC received a \$1 million boost in their Tax Levy to be matched by local arts organizations and artists in order to expand art-related experiences for Milwaukee's youth.

- 2007 -** Milwaukee Recreation (Milw REC) received a Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association 2007 Silver Star Award for the Summer Community Learning Center (CLC) EXciting Camps for Enrichment and Learning (EXCEL) Program. CLC EXCEL has provided Milwaukee's teens with a window into future educational and career opportunities in utility construction, aviation, information technology, cosmetology, metal fabrication, plumbing and construction, printing and graphic arts, karate, archery and aquatics.

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Brandon Sprewer Classic Special Olympics Basketball Tournament was conducted.

Established the first Milw REC Goal Ball Team and Power Soccer Team.

Expanded Driver Education program offerings and increased participation over 20%.

Milw REC along with 15 Community-Based Organizations (CBO's) registered over 2,700 teens for the Summer Stars Teen Program funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Leveraged \$1 million allocation in MPS funds to generate another \$951,000 from community partners to support community arts experience.

Milw REC partnered with the Hunger Task Force Coalition and served 49,300 lunches at 28 summer playground locations.

Milw REC collaborated with the Milwaukee Tennis and Education Foundation (MTEF) to provide a year-round lesson and league program which set new attendance records and resulted in the formation of the new USTA Milwaukee Metro League, utilizing previously underused public courts.

Milwaukee REC received additional funding to create Wellness Centers in after-school programs and support for Summer CLC programs.

Over 60 schools participated in the MPS School Based Adaptive Athletics program – highest number to date.

Successful implementation of an Invasive Species Removal Project at Hawthorn Glen.

The Aquatics program developed a Surf and Turf class that combined both land and water workouts.

**2008 -** Coordinated inaugural MPS Run Back to School. Over 500 runners, walkers, volunteers and sponsors helped to kick off the 2008-09 school year on a healthy note.

Created a training video on recreation inclusion that was viewed by part and full-time recreation staff in an effort to ensure employees provide opportunities for people of all abilities to recreate and interact together.

Enhanced Summer Playground experience for 1,270 youth by offering six *Traveling Adventures* field trips with support from the Helen Bader Foundation.

Received \$1,053,272 federal earmark award to support Summer Community Learning Centers.

Created the Summer Stars Unified Basketball League to provide an opportunity for teens with disabilities and their non-disabled peers to play basketball together in a competitive, structured league.

Attained national recognition as a Paralympics Sports Club for offering comprehensive adaptive athletic programs to youth and adults with physical and visual disabilities.

Supported the work-force of Milwaukee by proudly employing over 2,500 City of Milwaukee residents to deliver quality recreation programs for the community.

**2009 -** Served over 23,000 youth and adults in 1,960 enrichment programs at 17 Community Recreation Centers.

Selected as host city for 2010 U.S. Youth Games to provide over 850 athletes from across the country with an opportunity to compete in Olympic-style events featuring 9 different sports and academic activities.

Reopened Juneau Campus Recreation Center with a focus on providing specialized programs for individuals with disabilities.

Partnered with over 300 community based organizations, businesses, community groups and churches to provide academic support, and recreation activities for more than 20,000 youth in grades K5-12 through 4 major after school programs: Child Care Camps, Community Learning Centers, Cooperative Tutoring and Safe Places.

Awarded 3 year, \$315,000 Federal Recreation Grant for inclusive recreation programming to increase disability awareness, parent involvement, and Unified programming while also developing a communication forum to connect individuals with disabilities to community resources.

Expanded revenue generating opportunities through paid advertising in schools, on district premises, and in

district publications to assist schools and departments in maintaining appropriate levels of academic and enrichment activities.

- 2010 -** Received 2010 Dorothy Mullen Arts and Humanities Award (for cities with a population of over 250,000) from the National Recreation and Park Association in recognition of the MPS Partnership for the Arts. The award honors the most innovative and effective arts and humanities programs across the nation. In 2010, the MPS Partnership for the Arts supported over 32 arts based agencies, and served 29,000 youth.

Hosted 2010 US Youth Games. Over 400 athletes from 5 states competed against their peers in 9 sports, and an academic bowl.

Awarded a \$280,000 matching grant from the Department of Natural Resources for trail renovation and improvements at the Hawthorn Glen Nature Center.

Served 22,994 youth and adults in 1,848 enrichment programs at 17 Community Centers.

Opened 5 new Community Learning Centers, ensuring even more students have access to academic enrichment, and recreational opportunities, as well as a safe environment with caring adults during non-school hours. Over 14,800 youth attended one of 56 CLCs during the 2009-10 school year.

Sent 6 athletes and 3 coaches from Team Milwaukee and MPS Special Olympics to the National Special Olympics competition in Nebraska. All 6 athletes, representing Team Wisconsin, medaled.

Continued the Lighted Schoolhouse tradition of welcoming the community into our schools by issuing 444 permits to non-school groups over a 7-month period, thereby making multiple use of school facilities.

- 2011 -** Celebrated Milwaukee Recreation's 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary throughout 2011 by providing programs, special events, and promotions dedicated to 100 years of service to the Milwaukee community. Received the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Silver Star Award in recognition of these efforts.

Received a \$30,000 grant from the United States Olympic Committee to provide Adaptive Sports programming for veterans with disabilities.

Launched a bat compliance testing program and approved 1000+ bats for play in Men's Softball Leagues and City Tournament thereby increasing the safety of all participants.

Provided thirty-eight teens from 21 Milwaukee area schools with paid internship opportunities to explore careers in the arts while also gaining practical and applicable job skills and work experience in partnership with local arts organizations.

Instructed a record number of participants in the Learn to Swim program. Over 7,400 youth and adults developed invaluable life saving and lifetime activity skills.

Partnered with over 50 colleges and vendors to initiate the inaugural Fresh Coast Classic College Fair providing post secondary information to over 2,000 MPS high school students.

Introduced over 700 children in the Summer Recreation Enrichment Camps to enhanced visual and performing arts, and comprehensive health and wellness programming taught by professional artists and MPS Physical Education Instructors.

Offered over 100 new classes to fulfill our mission of enriching the lives of Milwaukee's youth, teens, adults, and seniors.

- 2012 -** Received a \$15,000 grant based on votes earned through the national Sprite Spark Parks Project to refurbish the outdoor basketball courts at Juneau Playground.

Celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Survive Alive House. In partnership with the Milwaukee Fire Department, over 350,000 children have experienced the fire safety program since its inception in 1992.

Introduced competitive basketball league play for girls via the Summer Stars Teen Program which provided a variety of recreation opportunities to over 1,700 teens during summer evenings in partnership with 10 Milwaukee area community based organizations.

Collaborated with MPS School Nutrition Services, Hunger Task Force, Milwaukee Center For Independence, The Salvation Army and Social Development Commission to extend summer programming into August at high volume meal sites while collectively serving 231,821 dinners thanks to support from the Kohl's Serving Up Supper for Kids initiative.

Coordinated the efforts to unify 6 Milwaukee area tackle football organizations to provide competitive league play for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth while creating a single set of rules, offering coaches training, centrally assigning officials, creating league schedules, and organizing league championship games.

Realized a 26% increase in youth participating in the CLC Summer EXCEL Camps. Youth were given opportunities to enhance their skills in cooking, digital photography, technology, music, leadership, and aquatics.

Entered into a partnership with the Department of Natural Resources to expand Educational Field Trip opportunities to Lapham Peak State Park.

Expanded participation at the Fresh Coast Classic College Fair to include all MPS 11th graders in an effort to expose students to post high school educational and job training opportunities.

Maintained and prepped 57 softball diamonds, 20 soccer fields, 7 wading pools, 32 tot lots, 34 fieldhouses, and 100 tennis courts during the spring and summer seasons.

**2013 -** Developed five-year-action plan to address gaps in recreation services and improvement in program quality.

Welcomed over 4,000 youth to Oakridge Farm, Palmyra Camp, Lapham Peak and Hawthorn Glen during the summer months to experience our natural world. A 51 percent increase from 2012!

Coordinated activities and entertainment for MPS Enrollment Fair Block Parties and Playground Activity nights at 9 schools to help promote district services and kickoff the 2013-14 school year.

Set an all-time record of 636 dads and their daughters at the 2013 Daddy Daughter Dance. Visit [www.milwaukee recreation.net/daddy/](http://www.milwaukee recreation.net/daddy/) for information on the 11<sup>th</sup> annual event, February 15, 2014.

Initiated Adaptive Athletics Volleyball Skills Competition for 145 MPS students with disabilities thereby increasing their exposure to additional recreation activities.

Hosted 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Football Classic at Custer Stadium involving 5 Milwaukee-area youth football organizations, over 350 athletes, and more than 1,000 spectators.

Introduced Lions Quest, a self-confidence, conflict resolution, and goal setting program, to more than 250 youth. Six (6) successful service learning projects were completed by the students involving work with the Wisconsin Humane Society, City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works, the Hunger Taskforce, and assisted living centers.

Collaborated with 41 agencies via the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities which served over 33,000 participants in various after-school and summer arts and humanities related activities.

Provided work experience for 57 teens in partnership with the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment

Board. Job placements exposed youth to the invaluable work that occurs on summer playgrounds, in summer enrichment and therapeutic recreation camps, and outdoors at Hawthorn Glen.

Issued over 600 permits to help facilitate community use of playfields and fieldhouses throughout the city of Milwaukee.

- 2014 -** Broke ground on a major renovation of South Stadium. The-original facility, which served the community for 90 years, was demolished and is being replaced with a turf field, new seating, team rooms, and a mosaic tile wall created by MPS students.

Introduced an MPS Learning Journey at Oak Ridge Farm for all K-5 students (roughly 6,000). Classrooms will visit the 200-acre 'working farm' throughout the year to connect standards-based classroom instruction with real-world,foaming opportunities.

Received the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association's Silver Star Award for the *Now Playing Everywhere* marketing campaign to promote Summer Playgrounds in partnership with the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works.

Expanded dinner within afterschool programs to 45 locations ensuring over 3,600 youth have access to a nutritious meal at the end of every school day.

Improved the infrastructure of recreation facilities at Beulah Brinton, Hawthorn Glen, Survive Alive House, and Wick Field. Currently completing a comprehensive facility assessment of all MPS programmed outdoor recreation facilities to identify and prioritize future facility improvements, and enhance recreational offerings.

- 2015 -** Received the National Recreation & Park Association's 2015 Kudos Award for marketing excellence.

Congratulated four Recreation staff who became Certified Park and Recreation Professionals and one who achieved Certified Park and Recreation Executive status.

Selected as the 2015 USTA / Midwest SectionMember Organization Award winner.

Welcomed over 3,100 fans to inaugural City Review showcasing MPS Athletics.

Over 1,600 youth registered for after-school programs

Over 5,000 hours logged by 44 high school arts interns

1,349 registered participants for Run Back to School, an all-time high

Opened two new athletic stadiums

- 2016 -** Launched MPS Drive – free driver education for MPS students. 99 percent permit passing rate for outh enrolled in pilot program

Awarded Silver Star from Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association for Turn on the Talent show

Opened three Twilight Centers via MPS C.A.R.E.S. initiative

Finished third in WaterStone Bank's 95th Anniversary Video Contest result in \$10K for youth scholarships

Successfully integrated online time and attendance system resulting in faster and more accurate payroll processing

2,020 hygiene kits donated to MPS students by the Ladies of Lambeau

70 teams in the Brandon Sprewer Special Olympics Basketball Classic, an all-time high

222 high school coaches certified in CPR/AED

**2017 -** Completed Equity Prioritization Model to ensure playfield redevelopment investments are equitably targeted.

Celebrated two Recreation staff who proudly represented MPS at NRPA Annual Conference with a "Diving into Diversity" presentation and receipt of a Young Professional Fellowship.

Received 2 SilverStar Awards from the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association for the MPS Run Back to School and MPS C.A.R.E.S.

Partnered with 16 arts organizations to provide 51 high school students with a paid internship opportunity to explore careers in the arts. Students earned a combined total of \$43,000 from their hands-on work experiences.

800 students attend MPS Twilight Centers on average each night

1,584 teens served through MPS Drive

\$579K secured from external resources for MPS Playfield reconstruction projects

Expanded Midnight League programming to include soccer. Serving 8 teams and 80+ participants.

Launched #whyplay marketing campaign to encourage participation in high school athletics.

**2018 -** Awarded Silver Star Award from Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association for MPS Drive.

Received a grant from the Packers, the NFL Foundation, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to install a turf field at Pulaski Stadium.

Celebrated milestone years for Seniorfest (35) and Halloween Glen (25) with a combined participant total exceeding 1,300.

Expanded Midnight League programming to include a north side basketball league.

19 percent CAPRA accreditation work completed

2 Groundbreaking ceremonies held for Vincent Stadium and Columbia, Custer, and Southgate playfields

1,315 MPS students who received their driver's licenses through MPS Drive

2,000 Participants who attended Twilight Center Eggstravaganza and Twilight & Treat events

- 2019 -** Partnered with Layton Boulevard West Neighbors to convert Burnham Playfield tennis courts to futsal  
 Hosted grand reopening celebrations at Columbia and Custer Playfields. The upgraded play spaces feature age appropriate play structures, walking paths, basketball courts, and seating areas.
- Held groundbreaking ceremony to kick off revitalization work at Clovernook and Franklin Square Playfields.
- Opened 8th Twilight Center at Andrew Douglas Middle School.
- Kicked off partnership with American Red Cross Aquatics Centennial Campaign to offer \$5 swim lessons for adults and children.
- Received \$48,940 from the Justin J. Watt Foundation to purchase basketball, cheer, and volleyball uniforms for middle school athletes at 22 schools.
- 58 percent CAPRA accreditation work completed
- 1,315 MPS students who received their driver's licenses through MPS Drive
- 326 Scholarships provided via Everyone Plays program
- 2 Ribbon-cutting ceremonies held for grand reopening of Pulaski and Vincent Stadiums
- 400 Trees planted at playfields in partnership with City of Milwaukee Forestry Services
- 47 Record number of projects funded through Partnership for the Arts and Humanities
- 2020 -** 3 Playfield renovations completed at Southgate, Clovernook, and Ohio.
- 390+ virtual Rec at Home classes offered since March.
- 483 participants registered for first ever virtual Run Back to School Challenge.
- 212 virtual Therapeutic Recreation at Home videos shared featuring storytelling, cooking activities, crafts, science experiments, adaptive workouts, and a daily news show.
- 1.25 Acres of asphalt replaced with green space at Southgate Playfield.
- 4,000+ toys and games distributed to youth via Mobile Recreation program.
- 33 High school students placed in paid, summer internships to explore careers in the arts.
- 310 care packages of enrichment and sports activities delivered to Adaptive Athletics participants.
- Launched #StayReadyMPS campaign to keep high school athletes motivated during the postponement of sports.
- Received over \$50,000 in youth sports equipment donations from GloBall, Good Sports and the Green Bay Packers.
- Initiated the installation of 14 aquatic controllers throughout the District to improve pool operations.

Initiated the installation of 14 aquatic controllers throughout the District to improve pool operations.

Implemented Ephesoft file scanning system to store more than 5,000 part-time employee files electronically.

Developed comprehensive protocols and safety procedures to guide operations at 49 summer after-school programs, 7 Twilight Centers, and 7 Community Centers during COVID-19.

Received 2020 Mayor's Design Award for the transformation of Columbia Playfield.

**2021 -** 3 K3 Wrap-Around classrooms opened at Fratney, Maple Tree and Siefert to provide half-day three-year-old kindergarten programming.

100 individuals served in the Men Moving Forward program targeting African-American prostate cancer survivors. The partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin focuses on physical activity, nutrition and cancer awareness.

2 murals created in partnership with local artists at Southgate and Pulaski Playfields.

125 vehicles that brought participants to the first ever Milwaukee Recreation Drive-in Movie Day.

347 PPE kits packed for distribution to local day care agencies.

55K total webpage visits in June 2021, setting an all-time monthly record for mkrec.net.

546 participants served in \$5 swim lessons thanks to partnership with American Red Cross Centennial Water Safety Program.

Joined the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Received \$25K sponsorship from Auto Club Group (AAA) for MPS Drive program.

Received 2 MANDI (Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation) Awards for Arts Internship Program (Chase Economic Development Award and the Wells Fargo People's Choice Award).

Received 2021 Mayor's Design Award for the transformation of Southgate Playfield.

Introduced the Video Game Van to Mobile Units program bringing family friendly video games and activities to 18 summer playgrounds.

Received helmet and uniform donations valued at \$30,000 from the Green Bay Packers to support MPS high school athletes.

Awarded the 2021 WPRA Park Design award for the "Over \$1 Million" category for renovations at Clovernook, Franklin Square, and Southgate Playfields.

Received \$15,000 from Special Olympics of Wisconsin Unified School of Champions program to create a more inclusive school setting for students with disabilities and their peers.

**2022 -** 2,500 seats added to MPS Drive (free driver education for MPS students).

890 individuals registered for 15th annual MPS Run Back to School.

2 Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association (WPRA) Outstanding Park Design Awards for the revitalization of Burnham and Green Bay Playfields in partnership with Site Design, LLC.

19,556 tickets sold for fall high school sports season via new online ticketing system.

205 teams participating in the fall 2022 youth sports programs.

1 newly branded Rec. 'N Roll Mobile.

504 scholarships awarded via Everyone Plays! To ensure all youth have access to quality recreation services.

Received 2022 Mayor's Design Award for the transformation of Franklin Square Playfield.

Reopened Burnham and Green Bay Playfields following a comprehensive renovation, which included new play structures, basketball courts, splash pads, and lighting. Burnham also received a synthetic turf soccer field, while Green Bay added tennis courts and an obstacle course.

Hosted inaugural MPS Ultimate Sports Day on Aug. 6. A total of 247 youth registered for this free event to experience new activities and learn sports fundamentals.

Received Bader Philanthropies grant for the Summer Playground Traveling Adventures program to offer free field trips to 682 playground participants.

Launched equine therapy program in partnership with MKE Urban Stables to build confidence, communication, trust, and social skills for therapeutic recreation participants.

Developed a STEAM Challenge for summer after-school programs that culminated in a STEAM showcase for more than 200 youth.

**2023 -** Celebrated 30 years of Halloween Glen.

Using ESSER III funding, sent 163 MPS students to overnight summer camp at no cost to the family.

Received MANDI award for transformation of Burnham Playfield.

Offered 3,240 sections of enrichment programming.

Planted 68 trees at Milwaukee Recreation playfields.

Saw a 26 percent increase in teams participating in winter youth sports leagues compared to 2022.

Implemented a Tree Keeper asset management system to monitor network of 2,200+ trees.

Received \$45,000 from AAA and Educators Credit Union to support MPS Drive.

Partnered with Children's Wisconsin to provide athletic training services for Milwaukee City Conference high school athletic competitions.

Launched online registration portal for before- and after-school camp registration.

Received three WI Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architect awards, and two Mayor's Design Awards for playfield renovation work.

Hosed first-ever Bubble Bash foam party at six summer playgrounds.

**2024 -** 1,300 students, families, MPS staff, and community members participated in the 17th annual MPS Run Back to School.

Held two ribbon-cutting ceremonies for renovated playfields at Carmen and Stark.

Planted 430 trees at Milwaukee Recreation playfields.

1,017 school-based youth sports teams participated in 2024 spring, fall, and winter leagues.

Sent 273 MPS students to overnight camps across Wisconsin.

158 youth participated in the summer ASPIRE fashion design, dance, and music camps.

65 Special Olympics Team Milwaukee athletes qualified for state flag football, bocce, and softball tournaments.

400 students from 16 schools received life-saving swim lessons.

25 high school teams and 107 total students participated in the inaugural MPS Esports League.

Received a Bader Philanthropies grant for the Summer Playgrounds Traveling Adventures program, offering free field trips to 682 young people.

Completed 47 athletic facility projects using ESSER III funding.

Received the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association's Excellence and Best in Category awards for the Milwaukee City Conference design and branding campaign.

Completed a citywide assessment to evaluate recreation program and facility needs throughout Milwaukee.

**2025 -** 24 high school basketball teams participated in the inaugural Milwaukee City Conference summer basketball league.

6th annual Mother & Son Superhero Night with 181 moms and their superhero sons.

250 summer aquatics classes programmed with approximately 2,700 participants.

2nd annual Women's Wellness Day celebrating Women's Health Month at the OASIS Community Center.

7th annual Yoga Fest, with 205 participants joining free yoga classes to ring in the new year.

400+ different field trips for participants from summer camps, CLCs, and Safe Places.

40 Special Olympics athletes competed in the Exceptional Abilities Flag Football Tournament.

2nd annual Milwaukee Wellness Day for residents to celebrate the city on 4/14 with free classes.

28 students from the MKE Mountain Bike team competed in the state championship.

MPS Drive program reached a milestone of 10,000 participants earning their probationary licenses.

Provided 51 Milwaukee-area high school students with paid arts internships with 14 local arts organizations.

Launched an internal data dashboard to improve data-driven decision making.

Celebrated the grand reopenings of Wick Playfield and Modrzejewski Playfield.

Hosted the inaugural Healing the Dream Black History Month wellness event.

Hosted the inaugural Family Day of Play for 194 participants.

Earned reaccreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

Partnered with the Medical College of Wisconsin to offer cancer prevention and cancer survivorship programs.

Over 5,000 people participated in our community wellness programs throughout the city.