

# OTTAWA

## ORC

### RECREATION COMMISSION

## 2022 Annual Report



Welcome to the Ottawa Recreation Commission's Annual Report. 2021 brought a lot of change as the world adjusted to a "new normal", but our focus for 2022 was to take care of the people right here in our local community through quality recreation programs and facilities.

Over the last year we have welcomed new staff, introduced new programs, updated existing facilities, and continued providing essential recreation services to the community.

### About the ORC

Established in 1947, the Ottawa Recreation Commission is responsible for providing well-organized and diverse recreation programs for the citizens of the USD 290 school district. Our mission is to improve the mental and physical well-being of the members of our community.

The Ottawa Recreation Commission is an autonomous governmental body governed by a 5-member volunteer Board appointed by the Ottawa City Commission (2 members), USD 290 School Board (2 members) and a single at-large member. Commissioners, by law, are not paid and volunteer their time to represent the community. The ORC Board of Commissioners meet monthly and are responsible for establishing the written policies, rules, and regulations which govern ORC property, operations, programs, and safety.

### Adult Sports & Fitness Programs



The need for adult sports continued into 2022 with 48 total teams participating in our adult sports leagues. This was a slight decrease from the 53 in 2021, but the overall participation rate still falls close to the average of the last 10 years.



Similarly, our fitness and wellness programs also continued their successful participation rates. Our senior fitness class "Silver Sneakers" is on pace to surpass the 2021 totals, with other programs like Chair Yoga, Yoga Basics, Zumba, and Taekwondo expected to do the same.





Youth Programs



Summer Camp and the After-School Program both saw a record number of registrations in 2022. Staff worked hard to start diversifying activities by taking trips to local businesses, City Hall and the Fire Station to name a few. These new additions focused on providing our youth an inside look into all of the great things going on in our community.



**Total Participation**

2022: 1,736

2021: 883

Youth Sports

The ORC defied nationwide trends of decreased youth sports participation rates, seeing a 14% overall increase in our programs. We had over 1,350 kids participate across our 12 youth sports leagues this year, compared to the 1,200 in 2021.

2022 also brought an increase in participation for our local scholarship program. USD 290 families qualifying for free or reduced lunches are able to register for our youth sports programs at a discounted cost. Overall, about 15% of our participants utilized the scholarship program.

Finally, this all wouldn't be possible without the help of our volunteers. Over **150** individuals volunteered as youth sports coaches in 2022. Across the 12 leagues, those volunteers devoted over **3,750** hours of their time to provide the kids a positive and enjoyable experience. **Thank you coaches!**



**Registrations**

	2022	2021
Fall Soccer	266	231
Flag Football	91	95
Volleyball	69	62
Basketball	257	235
Cheer	42	27
Spring Soccer	310	194
Baseball	214	215
Softball	119	140

+ 14%



## Aquatics

The Forest Park Pool is owned by the City of Ottawa and operated by the Ottawa Recreation Commission. In 2022 the pool was opened in full capacity for the first time since the COVID pandemic. Swim lessons, party rentals, and even aqua-aerobics returned along with several community partner events like the Prairie Paws Animal Shelter “Pooch Plunge”.

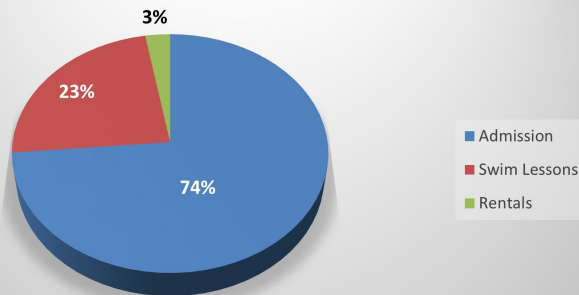
We’re often asked questions about the pool season dates. Opening and closing dates are determined by the availability of our lifeguard staff, and the current dates have been unchanged for quite some time. In order to properly train staff and prepare the facility, the pool opens about 1-week after USD 290 classes end, and closes about 1-week prior to classes beginning again. Our facility requires no fewer than 8 staff to open on any single day (6 lifeguards, 1 cashier, 1 supervisor); we simply can’t open if we don’t have 8. The 2022 staff was made up of 26 local high school and college-aged individuals, so once classes begin, our staff is essentially no longer available.

With nationwide lifeguard shortages making headlines the last few years, and multiple pools closing in our local area due to staffing shortages, we were fortunate to be fully staffed this summer. This hasn’t always been the case for our pool. **If you know anyone looking for a summer job, please suggest they consider joining our pool staff!**

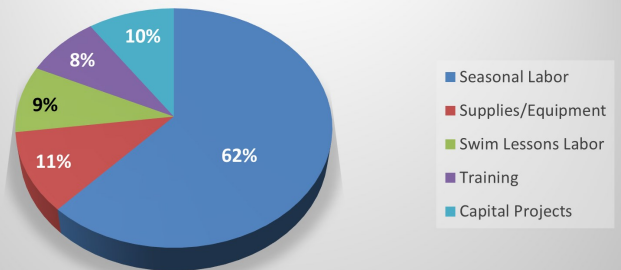
### Pool by the numbers:

	2022	2021
<b>Pool Visits</b>	12,236 (174/day)	12,438 (164/day)
<b>Swim Lessons</b>	233	301
<b>Aquacise</b>	416 (34/class)	0
<b>Rentals</b>	28	0
<b>Staff</b>	26	17

### Revenue - \$44,968



### Expenses - \$66,160





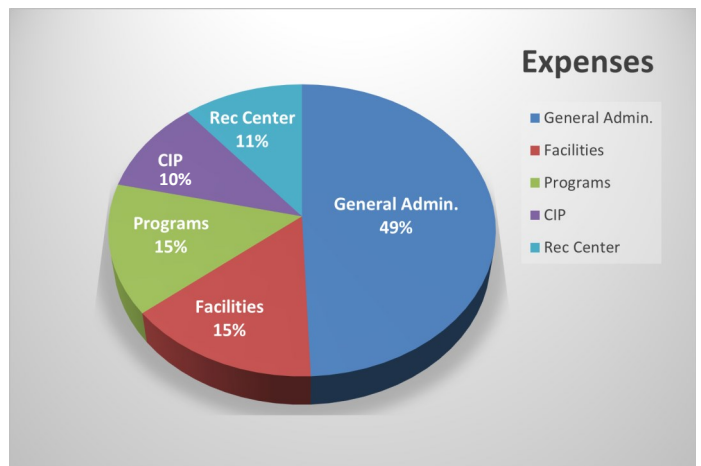
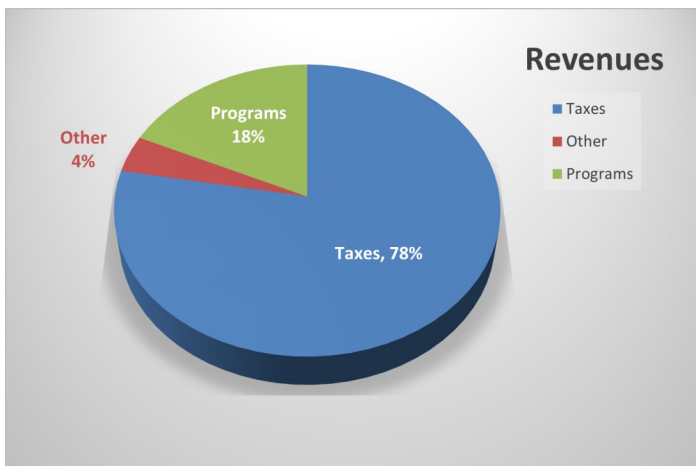
**New Programs & Special Events**

Recreation is not just sports. The last few years have proved the value of recreation activities and the associated benefits whether physical, mental or emotional. The ORC has expanded our program offerings to include more activities unrelated to sports. Some of the new offerings include cookie decorating classes, DIY craft classes, and trips for our 50+ crowd.

Our focus for 2022 was to better serve our local community. We were able to participate in different partner special events like the Bike Safety Program which provided safety training and education for all USD 290 2nd grade students. We launched the first ever Christmas Lights Contest, hosted an Ottawa University Women’s and OHS boys volleyball tournament, as well as several rained out field trips. In 2023, we’ll continue to explore new programs and community events.



**Fiscal Year 2022 Report**



The Ottawa Recreation Commission’s budget is executed over a fiscal year beginning in July and ending in June. The ORC is primarily funded through property taxes levied by USD 290.

Administrative costs, Capital Improvements, and other operating expenses such as facility maintenance are primarily funded by tax dollars. Programs are generally funded through registration fees, grants, and corporate sponsorships; however, supplemental tax funding allows us to keep user fees low compared to other recs.

In 2022, the ORC received nearly \$20,000 in grants from local sources like United Way of Franklin County, the American Eagle Outfitters Foundation, Walmart, and Royals Charities, the charitable foundation of the Kansas City Royals. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the great organizations both mentioned, and not, who support the ORC and our mission.

Board of Commissioners



Left to Right: Scottie Vink (City of Ottawa, 2024), Casey Chapman (Chairman, At-Large, 2026), Matt Schurman (USD 290, 2024), Bruce Tate (City of Ottawa, 2025), Ashley Gillaspie (Vice-Chair, USD 290, 2026)

Staff



**Levi Meyer**  
*Executive Director*



**Glenda Guge**  
*Office Manager*



**Josh Blanco**  
*Facilities Manager*



**Amy Carlson**  
*Program Manager*



**Matt Parenti**  
*Program Coordinator*



**Payton Whaler**  
*Sports Coordinator*



**Lanny Diel**  
*Facilities Supervisor*



# From the Director

Throughout 2022, our local community proved the importance of recreation and wellness programs, as the ORC experienced an overall increase in participation rates compared to 2021. Additionally, more people visited local recreation facilities like the ORC Goppert Building and City Pool. These increases resulted in the highest rates of participation for the ORC since 2017. The physical and mental health benefits from recreation programs are great, and we appreciate the opportunity to be your local provider.

During this season, it's important to celebrate the successes in 2022, while also looking ahead to 2023. Next year we have several exciting projects planned. We are beginning the process of developing a new strategic plan, which will guide our resources over the next 5+ years based on the expressed needs of the community. Feedback is an integral part of that process, ensuring our future programs, services, and facilities fulfill your needs. We hope you choose to participate in that process! All planned Capital Improvement Projects should be completed by June, including the already finished Goppert Building window tinting, a new batting cage and netting updates at Orlis Cox, and many more! Finally, be on the lookout for new and exciting programs like more 50+ activities, more classes, and even a trip to Memphis to name a few.

Last but not least, our success in 2022 wouldn't be possible without help of our volunteers and community partners. The individuals who volunteer within our programs make sure participants have an enjoyable experience, hopefully encouraging lifelong participation in recreation activities. The ORC is thankful for the support we receive from our community partners like USD 290, the City of Ottawa, and many other local businesses who all assist with shared facility usage, marketing assistance, and operational resource support. Our partners help ensure the ORC can execute our programs and services successfully.

For 2023, our goal is to continue improving our ability to serve the community. We recognize the impact and importance of youth programming like sports and camps, so we will continue to focus on developing those programs. The ORC also believes recreation represents more than traditional sports. We will continue to push for more innovative and diverse programs to reach individuals who aren't interested in our sports offerings. Finally, we will continue providing safe, enjoyable, and clean recreation facilities for the community.

While we look forward to continued progress, new developments and opportunities in 2023, you can count on your Ottawa Recreation Commission to continue providing the highest quality of life services for our community. Thank you for choosing the ORC and supporting our mission to improve the overall health and wellness within our community, it is our pleasure to serve.

- Levi Meyer, Executive Director

