



# Park & Recreation 2020 Annual Report

January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020



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City of Bondurant, Iowa (Official)



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## Park & Recreation Team

The Park & Recreation Team consist of:

- Public Works Department
- Communications & Events Specialist
- Park and Recreation Board

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## Mission, Vision, and Goals

Programming was reduced in 2020 due to COVID-19 and some of the programs will not return.

### Mission:

Improve quality of **life** by **connecting** Bondurant residents to recreational activities, outstanding facilities, superior trails, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

### Vision:

Offer parks, programming, and amenities that meet the community needs. To achieve this vision, the Parks and Recreation Board and City staff will:

- Learn from the new and upcoming City Comprehensive Plan and Park Master Plan to guide the Park & Recreation vision;
- Re-diversify programming to meet all demographics, including youth, teens, adults, and seniors; and
- Find funding for additional storage, an indoor facility, and more staff for event needs.

### Goals:

The Park & Recreation Board has proposed and prioritized the following goals taking into consideration the 2013 Park, Trail and Greenspace Master Plan:

1. *Maintain or enhance current neighborhood park amenities; open shelter with picnic tables, play equipment, sidewalks, benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, park sign and planting.*
2. *Enhance Mallard Point Neighborhood Park; add an overlook to Eagle Park.*
3. *Develop Meadow Brook Neighborhood Park; current Park Master Plan proposes a trail system connecting to Gay Lea Wilson Trail along with native planting and park sign.*
4. *Maintain or enhance annual programming.*
5. *Update and enhance signage throughout the community; adding plantings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> St NE & Hwy 65 city welcome sign.*
6. *Develop Eagle Park with a trail system, stormwater treatment cells, butterfly garden, overlook, benches, interpretive signs, and native plantings.*
7. *Continue to enhance Lake Petocka; canoe landing, bank stabilization, security lighting, fishing dock, relocate ball field to BRSC, and additional parking.*
8. *Continue to enhance Bondurant Recreational Sports Complex; Provide additional parking.*

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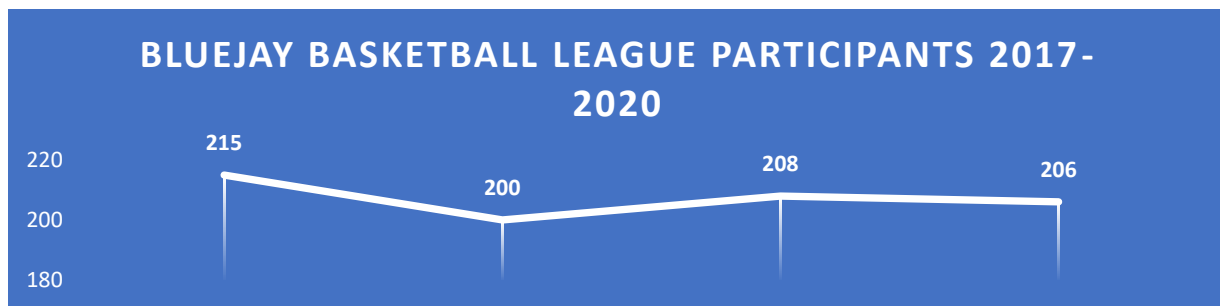
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9. *Continue to enhance City Park; incorporate a splash pad or relocate with the new and upcoming Park Master Plan, add more sidewalks, benches, and plantings.*
10. *Continue acquiring funding and planning for a Bondurant Dog Park; site has been established.*
11. *Continue to connect Gay Lea Wilson Trail to existing trail.*
12. *Evaluate the Park Site Dedication per city code.*
13. *Find funding via Iowa Economic Development Funding Assistance, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and other sources.*
14. *Establish a plan for the following projects that may be incorporated into the new upcoming Park Masters Plan:*
  - *Increase Green Space*
  - *Plant More Trees*
  - *Incorporate an Ice Rink*
  - *Incorporate a Pickleball Court*
  - *Incorporate a Community Garden or pocket gardens*
  - *Storage and facility options for the Recreation Department (Potentially with the City Park enhancement)*

## Recreation Overview

### Youth Basketball

Bluejay Basketball Club organizes a 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Basketball League while the city manages registration, finances, supplies, etc. This season 206 players registered which is consistent with past years.



### Public Fishing

This year the City expanded Fishing in Bondurant to showcase Wolf Creek West and Eagle Park North ponds. Lake Petocka has been a longtime angler destination. Iowa DNR has approached the city a few times to encourage public fishing at the many retention ponds Bondurant has. Catfish was stocked at Wolf Creek West in 2020. Eagle Park North will be stocked in the future. The two, new ponds are currently fished by residents, so signage and access are being enhanced.

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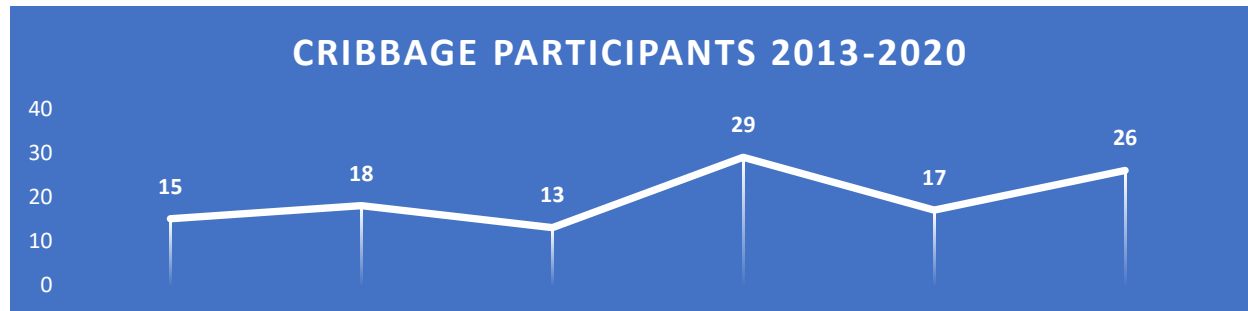
## Events & Programming Overview

Adult Open Gym and Family Open Gym is being phased out of programming after 2020. There is not enough use to justify the expense. This has been marketed as a family friendly winter activity.

The Iowa DNR has been stocking Lake Petocka with trout in the Winter and Fall. In 2020 trout stock was done unannounced to not attract crowds due to the global pandemic in 2020. This is marketed to encourage family friendly activities.

The 2020 Bricks-4-Kids Day Camp was hosted at the Bondurant Community Library. Registration was maxed out. This is marketed for 7 years or older.

The 2020 Annual Cribbage Tournament was hosted at Reclaimed Rails with 26 attendees. This is marketed for adults.



A Valentines-themed “Kids in the Kitchen” event was hosted at the Bondurant Community Library this past year. A total of 23 participants were spread among two classes. The Ankeny Hy-Vee dietician taught the class. This is marketed to 4–8-year-olds, but all age groups are allowed.

The St Patrick’s-themed “Kids in the Kitchen” was canceled due to COVID-19 and Hy-Vee disclosed that Hy-Vee Dieticians group will no longer offer this program off-site.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chowder Ride was hosted on the Chichaqua Valley Trail starting at The Depot traveling to Berwick and back. Reclaimed Rails, Founders Irish Pub, and Boxcar BBQ participated. There were over 40 bicyclists. There has always been good attendance. Live Health Iowa incorporated this into their *Keeping Active during the Winter Months* campaign. This is marketed as a family friendly winter bike ride.

The Iowa State Extension office taught a Babysitter Basics Course hosted at the Bondurant Community Library. Registration was maxed out. This is marketed to 5<sup>th</sup> graders and above.

The Mother & Son Dance theme was based around a Movie Night. 27 pairs attended. This is hosted at the Anderson Elementary School gymnasium and marketed for K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade; not to deter those with disabilities that are always welcomed.

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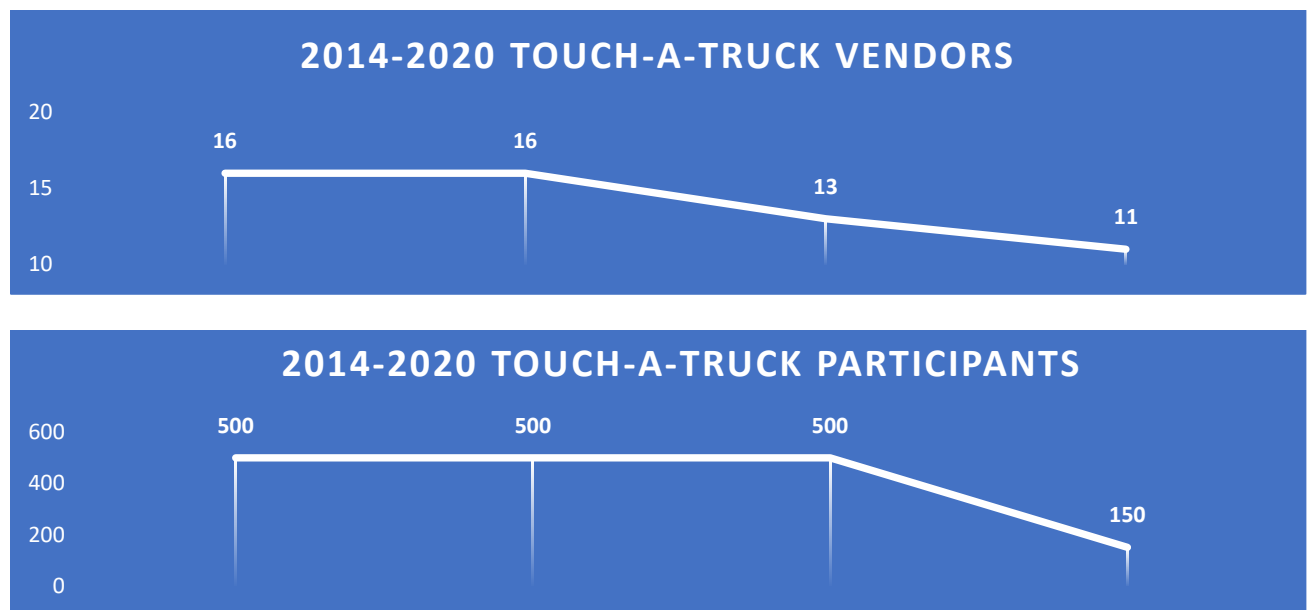
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The first Movie in the Park Summer Series was intended to be a 3-movie series. The first showing was cancelled due to COVID-19. June 26 and July 31 attracted approximately 30 people each evening. This is a well-received event that may be better hosted in the cooler months and when sun sets earlier in the evening. The goal for 2021 is to host it during the fall. This is marketed as a family friendly event for all ages.

The Touch-A-Truck event is a crowd favorite in most communities. There were approximately 150 participants in 2020, and special measures were taken due to the global pandemic. While participation was strong, it was still a 70% drop in participation. Vendors and participants were encouraged to wear facemasks, and all touched surfaces were sanitized. Some vendors chose to keep vehicles closed and locked to avoid high touch zones. The number of vendors that participated was lower, but the vendors who attended brought more vehicles. This is marketed for children of all ages, but mainly up to 7 years of age.



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The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bondu Blues & Brews attendance was down by 25% this past year. The homebrew competition attracted a larger selection of homebrews than in years past. This was marketed to all of Iowa Homebrewers, but was again impacted by COVID-19. Extra safety measures were implemented for the blues band and the crowd to maintain social distancing. Barricades surrounded the band and circles were painted in the grass for families to space out. About 150 people of all ages attended.



Creative Genius Art Camp was suspended then offered as a virtual program. There was no participation.

B-Safe Kids Camp was offered as an at-home program. There were seven participants. This program is better led in person but offers valuable skills for preschoolers preparing for kindergarten. The audiovisual materials developed or identified for the virtual program will be used in the future as well.

The first annual Fall Bags League was hosted in the grassy area across from Reclaimed Rails and Founders Irish Pub. Both local pubs sponsored the league. There were five teams that participated. They all offered positive praise and would enjoy playing again. Safety measures were implemented to maintain social distancing and a-bring-their-own cornhole bag set for game play was required. This is marketed for adults.

A new program was incorporated, a Wreathmaking Workshop by Life in Petals. The event was to be hosted at Founders Irish Pub, but due to COVID-19 restrictions was relocated to City Hall. There were 11 participants. They enjoyed the adult crafting time but would have preferred it at a different location.

2020 ended with the Christmas celebration in Bondurant. The Merry & Bright parade expanded its route to travel through all sections of town to prevent crowds. An addition of offering all households a parade watch bag full of goodies while enjoying the Merry & Bright Parade. Over 200 watch bags were produced and picked up.

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The Annual Tree Lighting ceremony was captured on video by the Mayor, City Council, and City Staff members while reciting a Bondurant version of the Night Before Christmas.

Cancellations due to COVID-19

- Spring Cornhole Tournament, March 14
- Bondurant Rocks Art Class, March 28
- Keep Bondu Beautiful, April 18
- Trails n' Trails Loop the Lake, April 29
- Movies in the Park, May 29
- Shoots & Ladders Mini Block Party & 5K, June 27
- Mayors Bike Ride, July
- Santa Social, December 5
- Parents Day Off to Shop, December 11

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## Park Enhancements in 2020

Physical park enhancements or expansion in 2020 include:

- New Bondurant Recreational Sports Complex (BRSC) sign to incorporate the land acquired to expand the complex in Fall of 2020 with soccer fields;
- Irrigation system at the new BRSC soccer fields, in partnership with Bondurant Soccer Club;
- Efnor Estates Park Shelter was complete in the Summer of 2020; and
- Land was acquired for the future Central Park Concept by purchasing the Hwy 65 & Grant (Down's) property in the Fall of 2020.

Future enhancements include:

- Secured Department of Transportation approval to move forward with the underpass under Highway 65 along the Gay Lea Wilson trail (Construction anticipated in Fall of 2021);
- Trail construction in front of the High School/Junior High;
- Trail construction on the north side of the houses bordering Aaron Avenue;
- Additional Central Park land acquisition (potential);
- Dog park development (potential – based on fundraising status); and
- Eagle Park planning/improvement/tree planting.

Additionally, a zero-turn mower and a 1-ton Pickup with plow are scheduled for purchase in the upcoming fiscal year for park maintenance.

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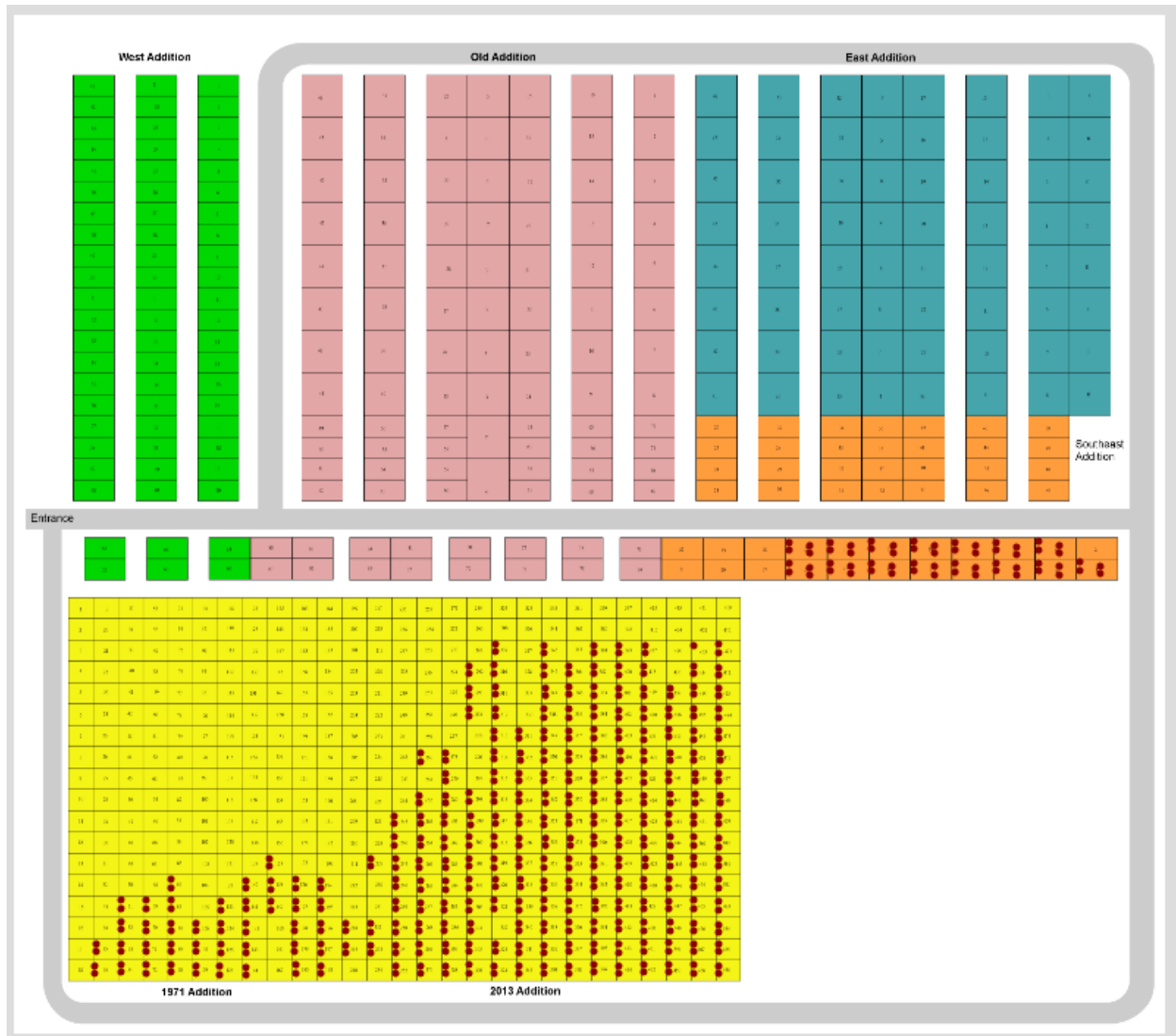
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## Bondurant Cemetery

There was a total of nine burials, six monuments placed, and seven plots purchased.

There are still several plots available for sale. The red dots below indicate spaces that are for sale and there are several spaces not staked.



Feedback from the public is that they would like another access road, paved roads, fencing and more trees planted at the Bondurant Cemetery. There is currently no funding available in that enterprise operation to support those expenditures.

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## Summary

*As Bondurant grows, it is essential to continue to develop our parks, trails, and greenspaces; offer quality programming for all ages;*

Programming was reduced in 2020 due to COVID-19 and some of the programs will not be coming back. After the global pandemic rates decrease, the state's authorities should lessen restrictions, the country can gather in-person again. At that time, new programming will be incorporated.

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