



Park & Recreation 2021 Annual Report

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021



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Park & Recreation Team

The Park & Recreation Team consist of:

- Public Works Department
- Communications & Events Specialist
- Park and Recreation Board
- City Administration
- City Planning Staff

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Mission, Vision, and Goals

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 identified the following goals in 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 landscape.*
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. *Update and enhance signage throughout the community; adding plantings to the 2nd St NE & Hwy 65 city welcome sign.*
5. *Continue to enhance Lake Petocka; canoe landing, bank stabilization, security lighting, fishing dock, relocate ball field to BRSC, and additional parking.*
6. *Continue to enhance Bondurant Recreational Sports Complex; Provide additional parking.*
7. *Evaluate the Park Site Dedication per city code.*

Updated Goals from the Park and Recreation Board include:

1. *Develop Eagle Park with a trail system, stormwater treatment cells, butterfly garden, overlook, benches, interpretive signs, and native plantings.*
2. *Maintain or enhance annual programming.*
3. *Continue to enhance City Park; use the 2021 City Park Master Plan to guide the progress.*

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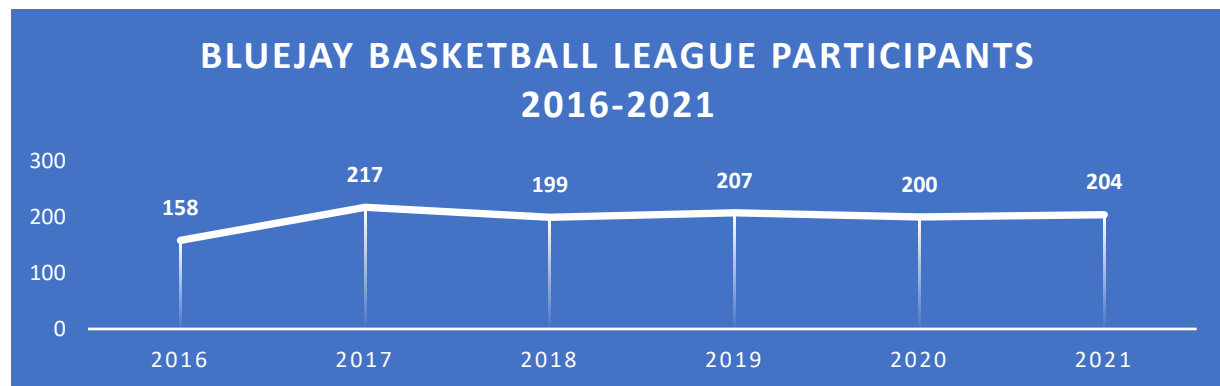
4. *Continue acquiring funding and planning for a Bondurant Dog Park; site has been established and a committee was formed to fundraise.*
5. *Continue efforts to connect Gay Lea Wilson Trail to existing trail.*
6. *Find funding via Iowa Economic Development Funding Assistance, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and other sources.*
8. *Establish a plan for the following projects that may be incorporated into the new upcoming Park Masters Plan:*
 - a. *Increase Green Space*
 - b. *Plant More Trees – enhance tree canopy (2021 was a great year that contributes to a lot of enhancements within the community)*
 - c. *Incorporate an Ice Rink*
 - d. *Incorporate a Pickleball Court (this is included in the 2021 City Park Master Plan)*
 - e. *Incorporate a Community Garden or pocket gardens*
 - f. *Storage and facility options for the Recreation Department*

Recreation Overview

The following event highlights are only a portion of the programming that the Parks and Recreation Department hosts.

Youth Basketball

Bluejay Basketball Club organizes a 3rd-6th grade Basketball League while the city administers registration, finances, supply orders, etc. This season 204 players registered which is consistent with past years.



Public Fishing

Lake Petocka has been a longtime angler destination. Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages public fishing at the City owned retention ponds in Bondurant. Last year public fishing expanded to Eagle Park Ponds and the Wolf Creek West Pond.

This year the City expanded public fishing to the Parkside Pond and installed a concrete walking path to provide safe access to the Wolf Creek West. The next step will be to install Iowa DNR issued signs.

Eagle Park is designated as a creek entry spot for the Regional Water Trails Plan. Currently, design and planning are underway to begin major enhancements of this park that will include pedestrian walking paths including access the public fishing areas.

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Events & Programming Overview

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has stocked Lake Petocka with trout during the winter and fall seasons. In 2021, trout stock was done unannounced to not attract crowds due to the global pandemic. This is marketed to encourage family friendly outdoor recreational activities.

Due to the global pandemic some programming was cancelled. The Bricks 4 Kidz organization was not hosting winter programming. The Annual Cribbage Tournament was cancelled due to the surge of COVID-19 cases. The Chowder Ride was canceled due to closing of the traditional warming station location. The Iowa State Extension organization was not hosting programs at the start of 2021, so the Babysitting Basics Course was also cancelled.

The Mother and Son Dance was canceled due to the Bondurant-Farrar school district prohibiting facility rentals during the beginning of 2021. Community members hosted a fundraiser for the Bondurant Men's Club, which included a Mother and Son Dance at Brickhouse Fitness. They hosted a successful fundraiser similar to the Daddy/Daughter Dance hosted by the After Prom Committee each year. City staff suggests this event would be a good candidate to continue begin organized by community members for fundraising.

The Annual Poker Tournament hosted by the Bondurant Parks and Recreation department was canceled due to the surge of COVID-19 cases. It was evaluated by City staff this event will no longer be offered through the City due to cash management practices.

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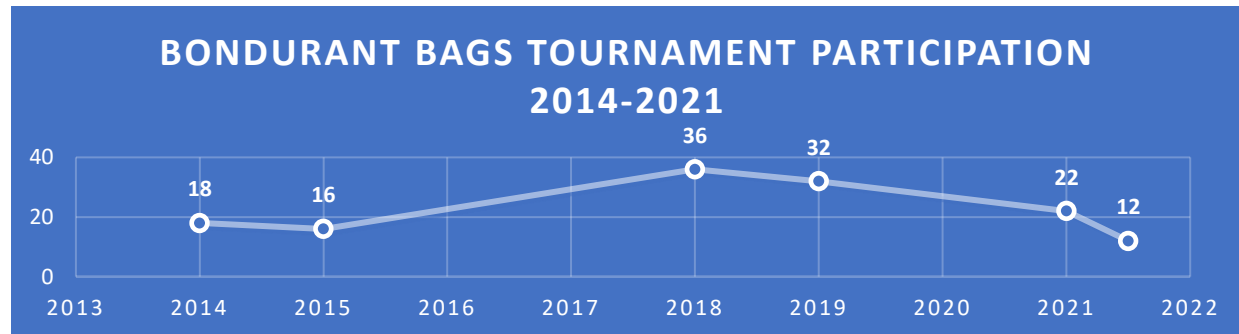
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Bags Tournaments

Extra precautions were implemented during the Spring Bags Tournament to offer a safe event for all. It was offered again in the fall. The participation is volatile, but overall is a fun event to get community members outdoors to socialize and stay active in the community.



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Keep Bondu Beautiful

Keep Bondu Beautiful was hosted on Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to noon. A total of 124 including the Bondurant-Farrar football teams, local cub scout troop and girl scout troops, the Lutheran Church of Hope Bondurant Congregation members, and community members volunteered in the efforts to clean up the community. It was well attended. Metro Waste Authority donated the use of litter grabbers, high-visibility vests and the Iowa DOT donated garbage bags. Several donations by Casey's General Store and the Bondurant Community Foundation. It was a great year!



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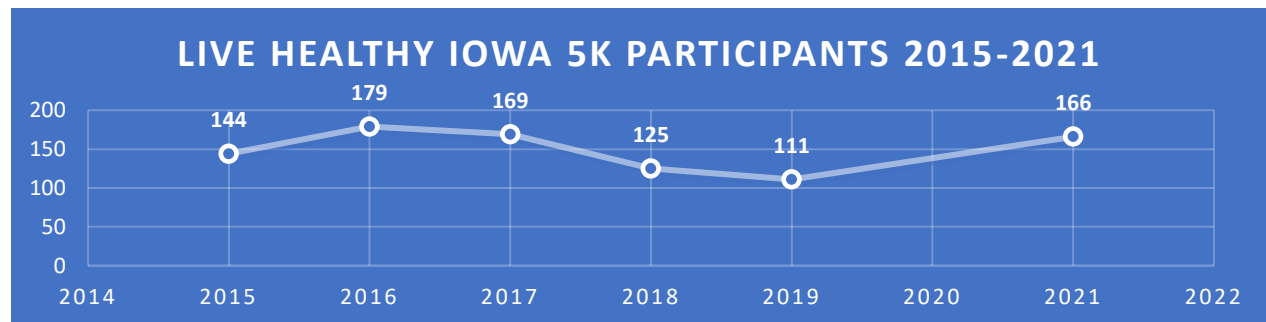
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Live Healthy Iowa 5K/1K

This year Bondurant Parks and Recreation Department facilitated the Live Healthy Iowa 5k/1k hosted by the Live Healthy Iowa Organization. This was Bondurant's 7th year facilitating. Bondurant is the only central Iowa site for the Live Healthy Iowa 5k/1K. Kasey Leigh Dance Studio and Bondurant Physical Therapy offered a warm-up routine to prepare the runners and walkers. Body Temper Iowa was on site offering mini tempering session to race participants and volunteers. Several prizes were raffled off that were donated by The Lyman and Robinson family, plus Kyle's Bike Shop, and Somewhere in the Middle Coffee Shop.



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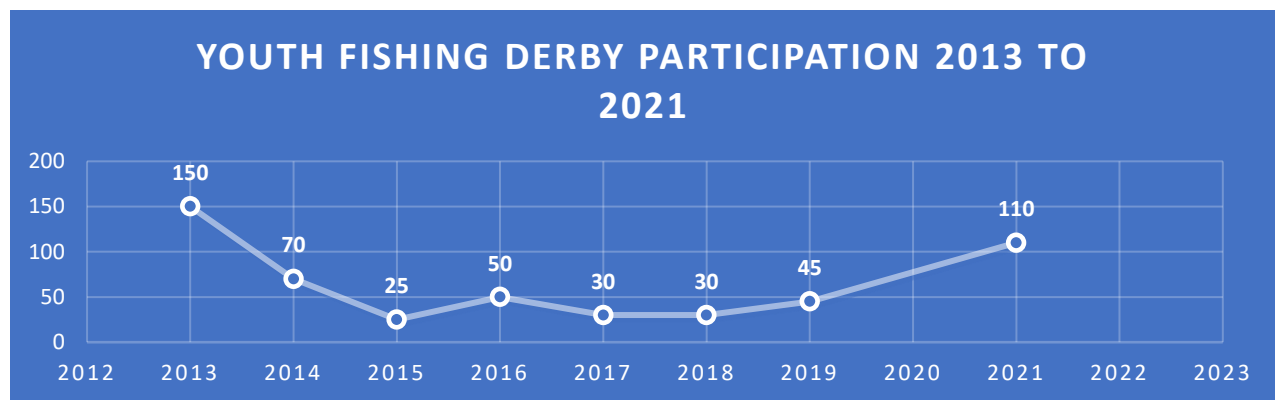
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Youth Fishing Derby

New this year during the Youth Fishing Derby were educational stations including Water Safety, Fishing Regulations and Ethics, Fish Identification, Tackle Types, Knot Tying and Tackle Assembly, Casting, Hooking and Landing the Catch, and Fish Cleaning. It was a lot of information for the participants that helped them build skills. There were many prizes raffled off to the participants. The generous donors were Casey's General Store, Great Escapes, Bondurant Men's Club, Generational Guns, Blank Park Zoo, and Bondurant Civic Club. This year there were 44 kiddos and many family members that brought the total to 110 people. It was a good year for fishing, as there were several kids who caught their first fish. This is a great activity for the youth and their families to get outdoors in one of Bondurant's largest parks.



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Bondu Blues and Brews Festival

The Bondu Blues and Brews is in its third year being hosted by the Bondurant Parks and Recreation Department. The budget for this event is \$3,250. This includes an hour for the opening act, two hours for the headliner, homebrew trophies, operating supplies, bounce house rental, and balloon animal entertainment. This year marked the highest attendance in Bondurant history of 400 people coming out to enjoy the festival. The Bondu Blues and Brews Festival is facilitated at the Bondurant Regional Trailhead, which may not be enough space to accommodate much more. There were six vendors including, Reclaimed Rails Brewing Company, Whimsical Wine Trailer, Grandpa's Waffles, Red Top Taco Truck, Sweet Swirls, and Just Chillin' This event is the most sought event each year, as community members come together, enjoy the nice weather, and enjoy great music, food, and entertainment.

City staff coordinates this event with the Bondurant Community Foundation's Sidewalk Chalk Art Festival. Combining these events adds more interest and helps attract more participants and the City appreciates the partnership with the Foundation.



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Movies in the Park

Movies in the Park was moved to the fall season when the sun sets earlier, and the weather is cooler. Movies were hosted the last Friday of August and September, then ended the series on the first Friday of October. The average attendance was approximately 44 people. The most that have attended a movie in the park is approximately 100 people when it was hosted at Lake Petocka in 2014. Attendance is on a decline, but it is always a fun event to host. New for 2022 a community survey was published. Another community survey will be published mid-summer to allow community members to vote on the flicks that are shown. It is free to attend, and popcorn is served at no charge. This is a good program to get people in the parks and enjoy the open green space that Bondurant offers. It was moved from Lake Petocka after 2015 because of the mosquitos, but we may consider moving this to the Bondurant Regional Trailhead this coming year and hosting on Saturday evening to not compete with school activities then see if that impacts attendance.

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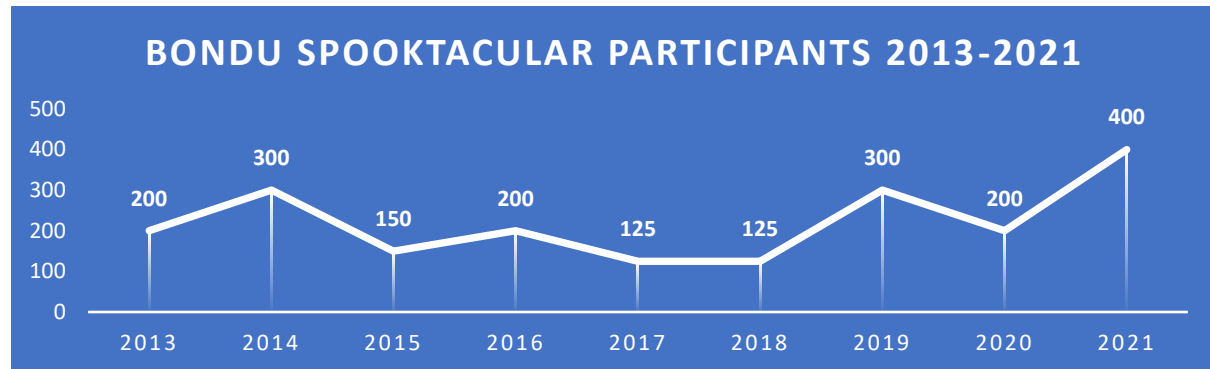
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Bondu Spooktacular

It was the 10th Annual Bondu Spooktacular in 2021 and the attendance shows how popular this event is. Lines were long and booths were busy. There are growing challenges that all booth participants will have to anticipate for years to come. The City Park space is almost not large enough to accommodate a crowd of 400+ This program is a great opportunity for community members to get outdoors and enjoy one of Bondurant's famous parks.



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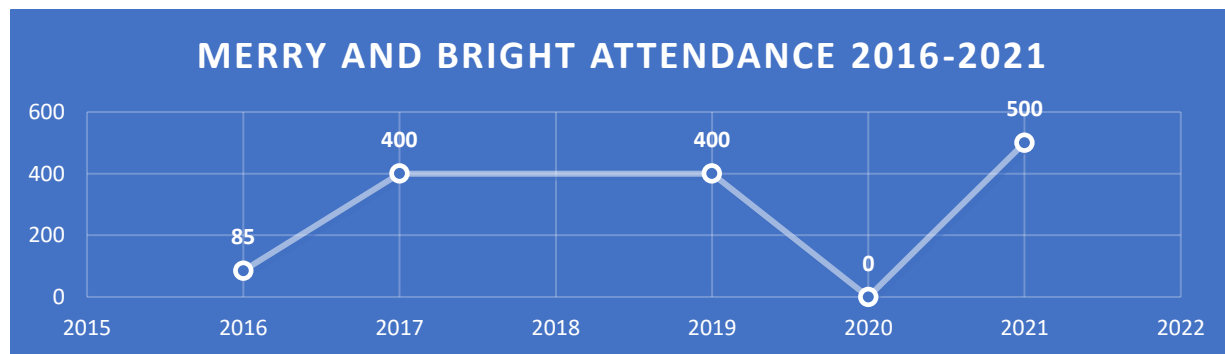
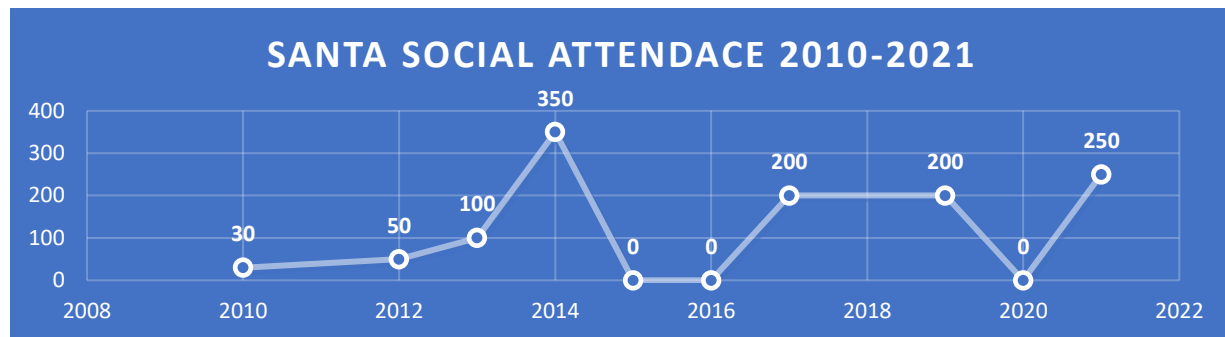
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Christmas in Bondurant

Christmas in Bondurant has evolved over the years. The first tree lighting ceremony was hosted in 2010. The first lighted holiday parade was in 2015. I don't know when the Santa Social began but it was prior to 2010.

City staff coordinates the Santa Social event with the Bondurant Community Library. They organize youth crafts, while Santa is available for visitors. Combining these events adds more interest and helps attract more participants and the City appreciates the partnership with the library.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony has been organized several different ways. The past few years a video parody has been published in place of this charming event. The Merry and Bright Parade has grown in popularity. New this year the route was extended, and it began an hour earlier which worked perfectly.



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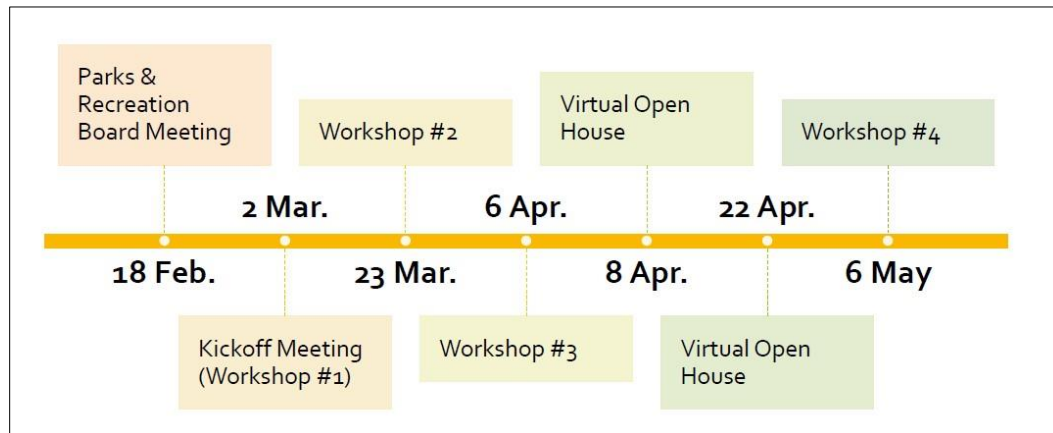
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Park Enhancements in 2021

City Park Master Planning

Late January, the Bondurant Parks and Recreation Board reviewed four City Park Master Plan Proposals submitted by Bolton & Menk, Confluence, RDG Planning and Design, and Shive-Hattery. A motion was made to recommend hiring RDG Planning and Design to produce the City Park Master Plan.

In early March, the Bondurant Parks and Recreation Board served as the Advisory Committee for the City Park Master Planning process. Five Advisory Committee meetings were conducted, which included two workshops facilitated by RDG Planning & Design staff members, Molly Hanson, the Community Engagement Lead, and Colt McDermott, Landscape Architect.



City Park is deemed a Community Park in Bondurant, which often serves a larger group than a neighborhood park and is designed to meet the needs of the community in consolidated areas that are programmed with a specific purpose in mind.

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Metrics (5.4.2021)

Committee Meetings = 5

Interviews = 6

Facebook Interactions

Likes = 323

Shares = 15

Comments = 95

Survey Responses = 460

Virtual Open Houses = 2

Interview Themes

Love the small-town feel

See a lot of people use the basketball court and the playground

We're community-oriented

People get out and walk (dogs) around the park

Love the shelter for events and nice bathrooms

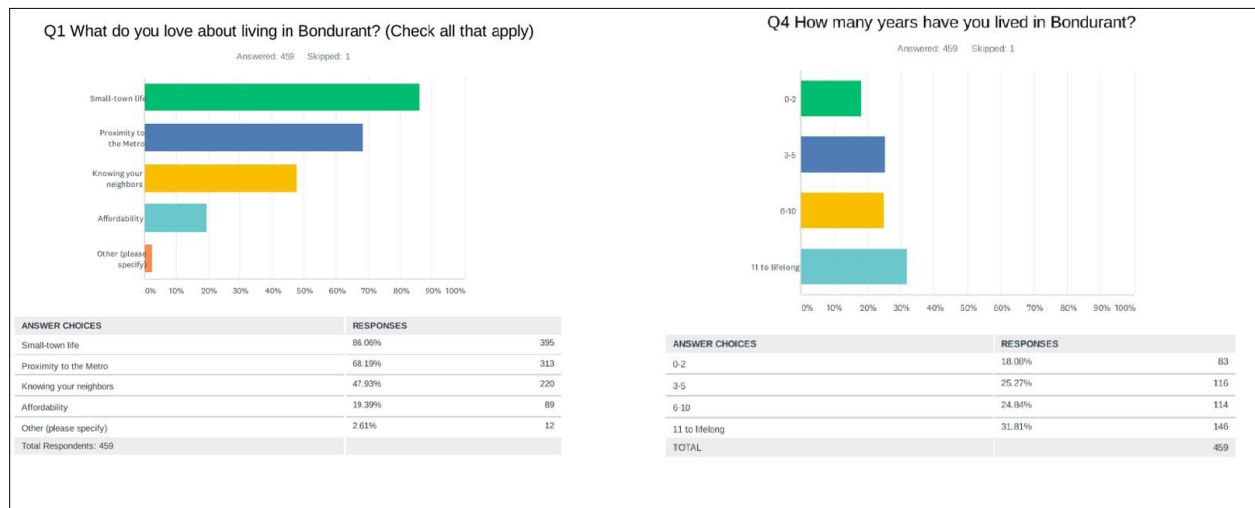
Splash

Would love a space for events

Cyclists are around and using the trail

Green space is important

The RDG Planning & Design staff hosted two public virtual open houses, which displayed three concepts of the reimagined City Park. Additional input was collected by community members and stakeholders who attended. Stakeholders included Bondurant-Farrar student council, Bondurant Farmers Market organization, Bondurant Chamber of Commerce, Bondurant Community Foundation members, Youth Bluejay Basketball Club, Chichaqua Valley Friends member, and a Morris Elementary administrative staff member. The community survey that was conducted brought a lot of impressive data and metrics.



Following these meetings, RDG staff streamlined the feedback into one draft concept. The Parks & Recreation members provided additional feedback and presented before City Council the Final City Park Master Plan for adoption in 2021. This plan also was awarded the Urban Design Award in 2021 by the American Planning Association – Iowa Chapter.

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Brickhouse Fitness Offering Parcel for a Potential Splashpad

City staff collected a Scope of Work from Waters Edge Aquatic Design that detailed the planning process of a splash pad in the parcel proposed, including meeting with city staff, design concepts, and cost associated with construction. A motion was made to table this discussion until further information was obtained from the landowner.

2020 Urban Forest Management Plan Presented

Emma Hanigan Urban Forestry Coordinator presented the 2020 Urban Forest Management Plan to the Park and Recreation Board. The shared Bondurant tree canopy inventory and recommendations.

In 2020, a tree inventory was conducted using Global Positioning System (GPS) data collectors. The inventory was a complete inventory of street and park trees. Below are some key findings of the 541 trees inventoried.

- Bondurant's trees provide \$52,302 of benefits annually, an average of \$96.67 a tree
- There are over 52 species of trees from 29 different genera.
- The top three genera are: Maple 21%, Apple 11%, and Catalpa 9%
- 18% of trees are in need of some type of management
- 45 trees are recommended for removal.

The core recommendations including The Emerald Ash Borer Plan includes management recommendations as well. Below are some key recommendations.

- Of the 45 trees needing removal, 7 trees are over 24 inches in diameter at 4.5 ft and must be addressed immediately *City ownership of the trees recommended for removal should be verified prior to any removal*
- 28 of the 49 ash trees should be carefully examined, as they have one or more symptoms that could be related to an EAB infestation
- All trees should be pruned on a routine schedule- one third of the city every other year
- Plant a diverse mix of trees that do not include: ash, maple, cottonwood, poplar, box elder, Chinese elm, evergreen, willow or black walnut
- Check ash trees with a visual survey yearly

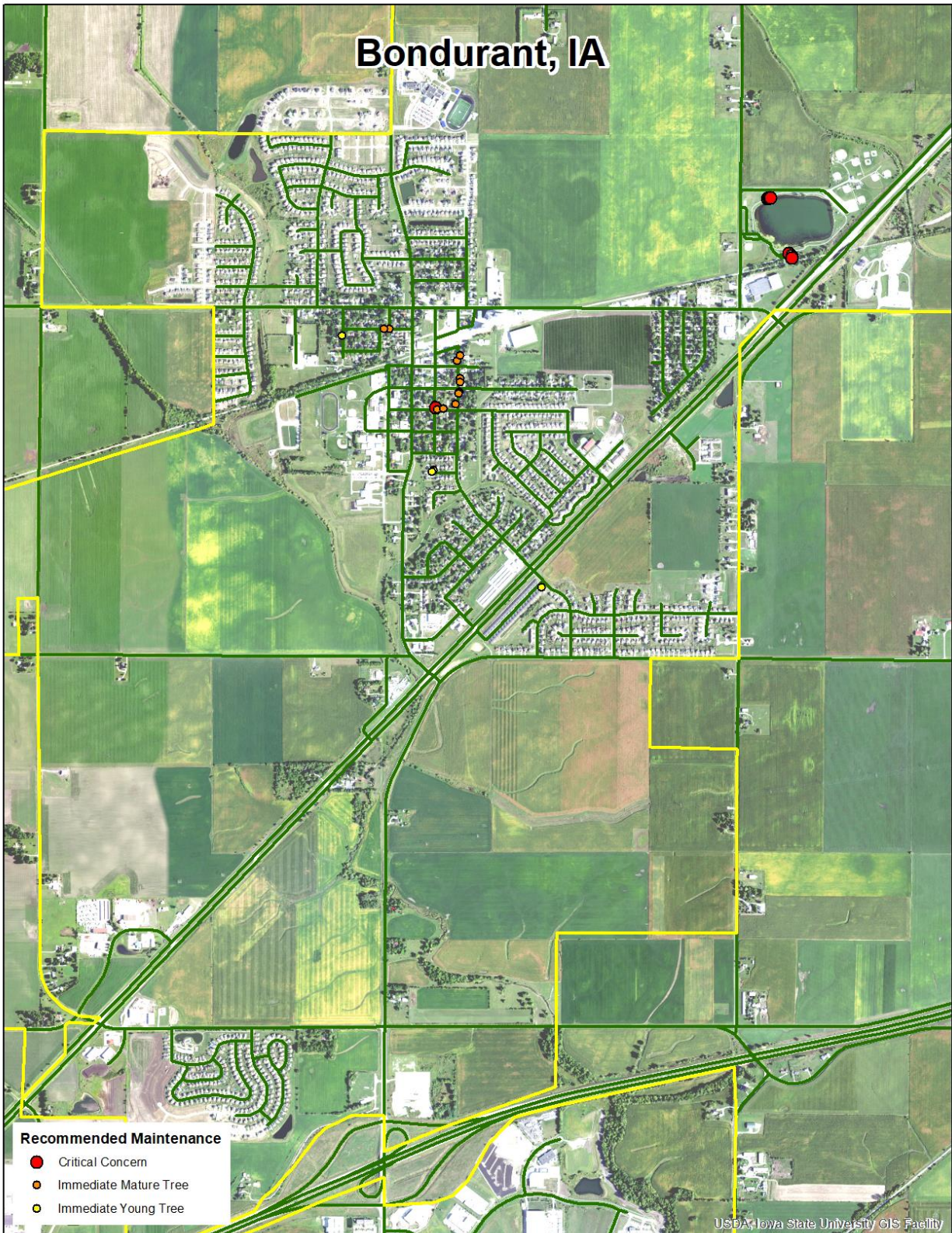
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Updated January 2022		
Project	Status	Construction Timeline
BRSC New Sign	Complete	Fall 2020
Assisted Bondurant Soccer Club in establishing irrigation at the new BRSC soccer fields	City Council approved additional funding and Lake Petocka water use.	Underway. Summer 2021
Efnor Estates Park Shelter	Complete	Summer 2020
Wolf Creek SW Fishing Pond Hard-surfaced Access Path	Complete	Summer 2021
Eagle Park	Ongoing	\$150K Facebook/Meta grant secured, as well as \$100K REAP grant. MidAmerican Trees Please! Grant will also be solicited.
Underpass	Approvals secured from DOT. Funding agreement is scheduled for January 19, 2021, council meeting. Design is 99% complete. Right-of-way acquisition underway. Hoping to bid project in winter 2022	Bids will be solicited during February 2022 with construction beginning in Spring 2022. Work is slated to be completed by the end of calendar year 2022.
Park Side Pond	Fishing Pond	Established 2021
Hwy 65 & Grant, Down's Property, Acquired for future	Complete	Fall 2020

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Central Park Concept (Regional Park)		
Dog Park (Specialty Park)	Donations have been accumulating. Staff secured a \$20,000 Rural Innovation Grant for the dog park, using past donations as the grant match.	Summer 2022
City Park (Community Park)	Master Planning complete. Schematic Design in process.	Unknown. Once schematic design is completed, staff will work with consultant to recommend phasing of improvements to be incorporated into the capital plan.
High School/Junior High Trail	In process	Summer 2022
Sankey Summit Trail	Complete	Summer 2021
Central Park (Regional Park)	City council approved design contract in fall 2021. Planning is underway.	Unknown
Lake Petocka Dock (Community Park)	\$50k – must obtain funding. Staff researching dock possibilities.	FY24
Skate Park (Specialty Park)	RFP for planning in process.	Unknown
Pave Cemetery Road	\$50k – must find funding	2025
BRSC Improvements (tentative) - Parking (Specialty Park)	\$250k – must find funding (\$15K secured by Little League through Prairie Meadows)	2024

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Additional trail and downtown/trailhead parking (expand on trail/parking currently in railroad right-of-way area)	TBD	Unknown
Additional parking for City Park (Community Park)	Land acquired in 2021.	Demolition of house on current property to occur in 2022 however construction of parking lot timeline is unknown at this time.
Christmas Lights	Select and purchase new holiday lighting for the City.	FY2024
Joint Sports Courts	Partner with Bondurant-Farrar Community School District to construct joint sports courts on School Property.	Unknown
Future Parks:		
Bluejay Landing (Neighborhood Park)	Pending planning	Unknown
Harvest Meadows (Specialty Park)	Pending development	2026
Sankey Summit (Specialty Park)	Pending planning	Unknown
Prairie Point View Park (Neighborhood Park)	Pending development	Unknown
Parkside Park (Neighborhood Park)	Pending development	Will be stocked with fish in 2022. Has a trail.

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Awards and Recognition

The City Park Master Plan was recognized with a 2021 Urban Design Award issued by the Planning Association-Iowa Chapter. This award honors the efforts of strong collaboration to create a sense of place. The City Park Master Plan present a visionary approach and innovative concept to address the needs of the community. Various public interests were involved and there was a high level of collaboration between leadership and competing interests.

The City of Bondurant City Park Master Plan is the culmination of a several-month effort to engage the general public as well as specific stakeholders on the vision for the future of one of the City's community parks. The Park Board served as the steering committee and engaged in a game board exercise, sifted through nearly 400 responses to a public survey (representing nearly 19% of the City's 2,128 households), engaged the general public through virtual open houses and booths at public events, evaluated conceptual designs, engaged specific stakeholders through interviews (the Farmers' market coordinator, Chamber Director, downtown business people, adjacent property owners, and members of the student council for a younger viewpoint) and participation in virtual discussions and combined the amenities of greatest community demand into a final master plan that was adopted by the City Council July 19, 2021.



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Planned Enhancements in 2022

The City's Comprehensive Planning efforts are kicking off and the timeline to update the current Parks Master Plan is anticipated to begin following the adoption of the overall Comprehensive Plan.

The Park and Recreation Board will continue the Schematic Design Planning of City Park, in order to start planning the construction phases before the end of 2022. They will also serve as the Advisory Committee to the Central Park Master Plan that will be complete before the end of 2022.

Eagle Park planning is underway by the Public Works Department to conclude the park design. Design and a construction plan should be finalized before the end of 2022.

The expansion of future parks in Bondurant will need to include specific planning surrounding the basic amenities and unique elements in each neighborhood park to keep our parks appealing to all. Community surveys will be gauging what Bondurant residents want to see in the parks.

Bondurant has been selected for a Rural Innovation Grant for the City's proposed Dog Park. The Bondurant Dog Park Committee has worked hard to raise the funds that provided the match for this grant. Construction is estimated to begin 2022.

The Street Trees Project during 2021 included replanting many trees devastated by the Derecho, which brought about the amendment of the Tree Ordinance to include allowing street tree plantings. All community members now have the opportunity to plant trees along the street after submitting a permit application.

The most anticipated project will be the highway 65 underpass that will offer a safe pedestrian connection from the south to the rest of the community.

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Outside Funding Sources

To help fund all of the improvements the City is undertaking in parks, the City, as well as other civic organizations with common goals, has applied for funding or received funding from donors. Below is a list of some of the secured resources for recent/upcoming projects.

Recent Parks & Recreation Grants and Donations		
Source	Purpose	Amount
IEDA Rural Innovation Grant	Dog Park	\$20,000
DNR	Eagle Park	\$100,000
Facebook	Eagle Park	\$150,000
DNR	Derecho Trees	\$13,875
BDI (pass through for Donor)	Eagle Park	\$6,950
Trees Forever	Community Trees	\$5,000
Prairie Meadows (Community Grant to Little League)	Parking at BRSC	\$15,000
Dog Park Committee	Dog Park	\$10,462
Prairie Meadows	Chris Norton Event Sponsorship	\$5,000

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Bondurant Cemetery

There was a total of six burials, five monuments placed, and two 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.



The derecho (land hurricane) destroyed and uprooted trees across Iowa on August 10, 2020 and damaged many trees throughout the community. Through the Derecho Community Grant Program offered through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the City has been able to replant and strengthen the City's Tree Canopy. Several trees were planted in the Bondurant Cemetery in late fall of 2021 due to grant funding.

Feedback from the public is that they would like another access road, paved roads, fencing and more trees planted at the Bondurant Cemetery. During 2021 trees were planted, but there is currently no funding available in that enterprise operation to support these expenditures.

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Shelter Reservations

This past year has been the year to use Bondurant Shelters. Due to COVID-19 restriction during 2020 from April-May the parks were not open for use, so the total during 2020 may have been different if they were available for rent.

During 2021 there was an increase in park use for events largely due to the Bondurant Farmers Market moving to City Park. The 2021 Farmer's Market was held in City Park weekly for 26 weeks. According to the market coordinator the weekly turnout varied, but they had 75 total vendors, including 12 food/drink vendors, 8 community organizations, and 5 local musicians.

Moving the Bondurant Farmers Market to City Park made a positive impact to the community, by:

- Raising awareness of City Park.
- Connecting the community to a wide variety of fresh, healthy products.
- Supports local businesses and local producers.
- Increasing the use of City Park.
- Bring people to the thriving downtown.
- Reinforce traditions based on healthy living in the heart of Bondurant.
- Preserve rural livelihoods and farmland.

According to the market coordinator the Farmer's Market is a great way to engage our community and we received lots of positive feedback from the marketgoers:

- "Awesome little town market in the park. It was nice."
- "Love the neighborhood."
- "We love our town farmers market – lots of veggies, honey, locally raised pork and beef, craft items, t-shirt stands, plants, flowers, homemade wooden signs, bird feeders, scrubbers, so many things and some are there weekly, some different. It's a nice, relaxed atmosphere."
- "Thank you for hosting such a WONDERFUL event, can't wait until next year."

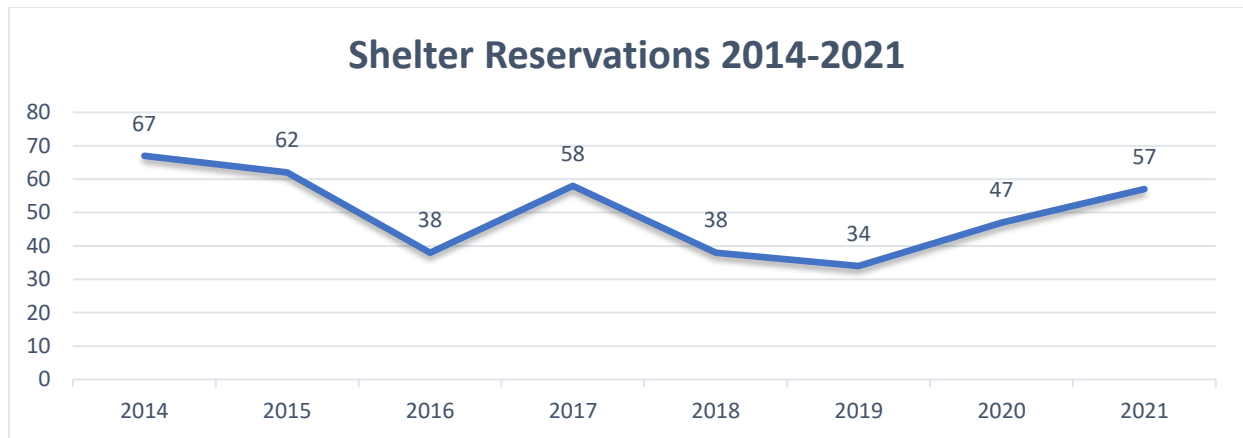
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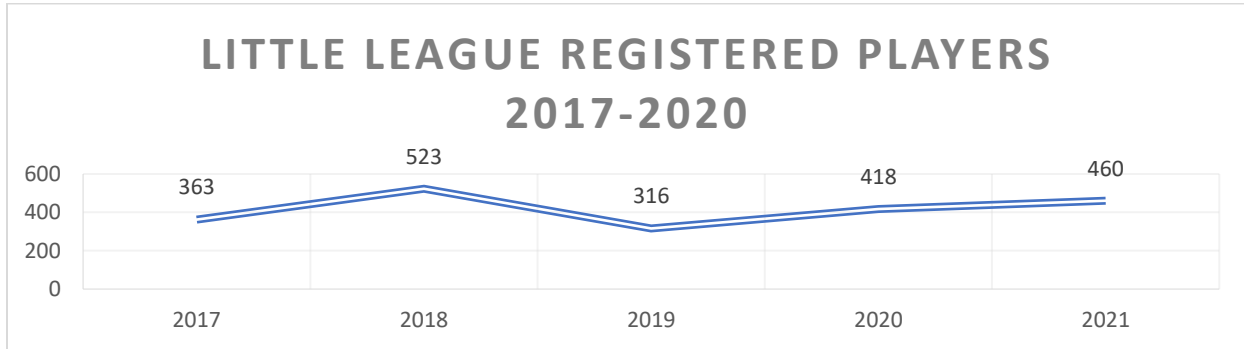
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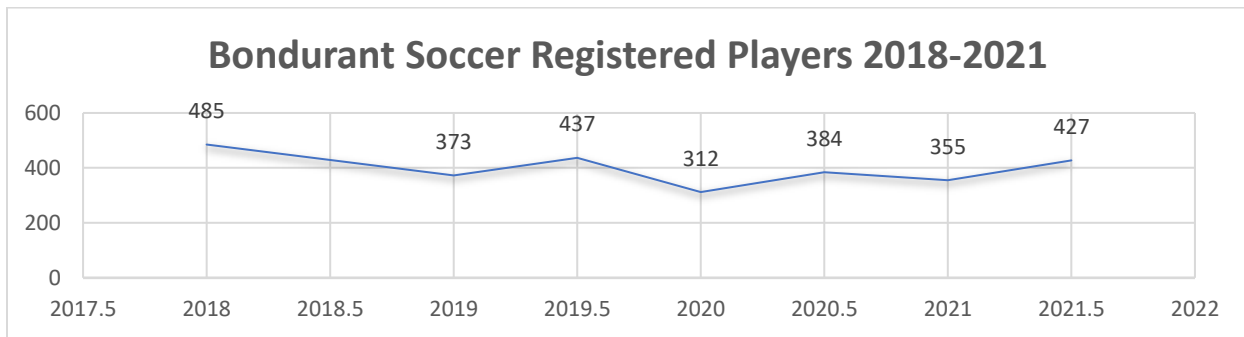
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Other Organizations

The Bondurant Little League leases the fields at Bondurant Recreational Sports Complex. Their Lease Agreement is set to expire October 31, 2023. Their registration numbers have been steady.



The Bondurant Soccer Club leases fields at the Bondurant Soccer Complex and at the Bondurant Recreational Sports Complex. Their Lease Agreement is set to expire October 31, 2026. The Bondurant Soccer Club spring season ended with 355 players registered and the fall season ended with 427 players registered.



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Summary

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

Programming was reduced in 2021 due to COVID-19 and some of the programs will not be coming back. As 2021 progressed the global pandemic rates decreased, the state's authorities lessened restrictions, and the country was able to gather in-person again. At this time, the omicron strain is still causing illnesses, but Bondurant Parks and Recreation has been able to host events in a safe manner.

As we move into 2022, the City is poised to undertake multiple park enhancements, cultivating even greater excitement and participation throughout the community.

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