

Allegheny County Controller Chelsa Wagner's
Allegheny County Parks
Fact Sheet
March 2020



Allegheny County operates nine regional parks, which together comprise nearly 12,000 acres. These parks offer a wide range of amenities including wooded areas with nature centers, biking, and walking trails, picnic grounds, a golf course, the only downhill skiing available in Allegheny County, and other year-round sports and recreation facilities.

While more than \$40 million was spent on the Parks in 2018, sources outside County government and revenue generated in the Parks themselves covered more than three-quarters of that spending, meaning County property tax dollars covered less than \$10 million in Parks spending for the year.

Revenue

The Parks are funded in large part through the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD), which receives one-half of the additional one percent sales tax in Allegheny County. In 2018, RAD provided the parks \$20.61 million in operating funding.

Another \$4 million has been provided to the Parks annually in recent years from Allegheny County's Hotel Tax, a 7 percent tax on hotel stays devoted to promoting tourism to the County.

The parks themselves generated another \$6.38 million in revenue: of that, \$1.29 million came from natural gas drilling royalties; \$3.37 million came from equipment & activity fees (like ski rentals and pool fees); and the rest came from food & beverage sales, and rentals of park shelters, stables, and other facilities.

Spending

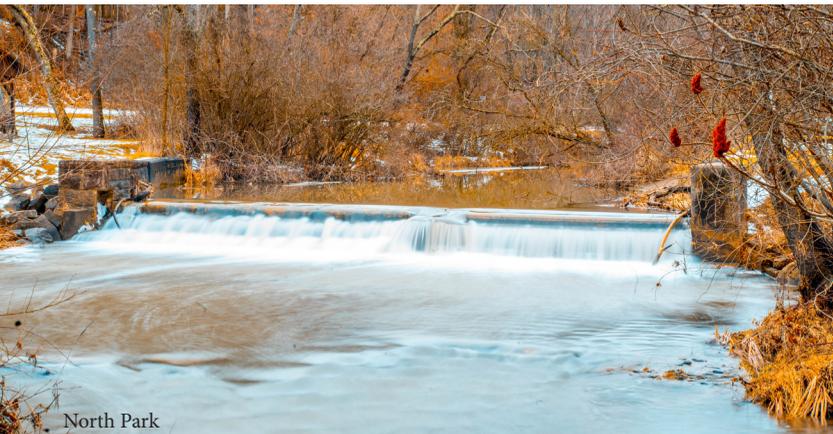
The 2018 operating budget for the Parks department was \$18.3 million: \$12.5 million of that went to salaries and benefits; \$4.3 million went to services (mainly utilities); and the rest went to supplies, materials, repairs and maintenance, and equipment.

The Parks Department had 458 employees in 2018: 317 seasonal and/or part time workers, and 141 full-time. Of those 458 employees: 309 worked in recreation, 114 worked in maintenance, 22 worked in the park rangers division, and 13 worked in administration.

Other County departments including the County Police, Public Works, and Facilities Management spent more than \$10 million on work in the Parks during 2018, which is recouped for the County's General Fund from the Parks' RAD funding and generated revenue.

In 2018, the County allocated \$6.3 million to capital projects in the Parks. While the primary source of capital spending is borrowing by the County, an additional \$965,000 was received from RAD for park facility and shelter improvements and restroom renovations.

(see reverse for details)



North Park

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