

Clinton Parks and Recreation Department Annual Report

2019 has been an incredible year for the City of Clinton Parks and Recreation Department. The Department has seen continual growth and participation through our youth sports, adult sports, and other special events throughout this year. The great relationships formed between the Parks and Recreation Department and our youth associations are what gives the ability for so many kids to have an enjoyable experience participating in youth sports in Clinton. With over 1,600 kids participating in youth sports in Clinton, we are able to provide a positive influence for these kids and help give them a place where they belong.

The Parks and Recreation Department hosted 12 weekend youth tournaments this past year and already have as many on the books for 2020. For the 8th year in a row, we hosted the NJCAA Softball National Championship Tournament in Clinton, which is still the only pre-determined collegiate National Championship in the state of Mississippi. For the 2nd year in a row, we hosted the LAMBRA Capital City Cycling Championships, in which 250 riders from throughout the southeast came to Clinton to participate in a road race through the City of Clinton and Hinds County. We are excited to announce the city did such a great job with this one-day event that it will now be a 3-day event located in downtown Clinton. In 2019, we were able to continue to bring people to Clinton to spend money in our city and in 2020 we will continue to do that.

Renovations to all of our parks and construction of a new park in town is what 2019 will most be remembered. In 2019 the City of Clinton, through our Mayor and Board of Aldermen, designated over \$2.5M to park renovations in Clinton and the construction of the new fully accessible Lion's Club Park. Those funds were used to directly improve Traceway Park, Robinson Park, Kids' Towne Park and the construction of Lion's Club Park. Traceway Park is in the process of getting all new fencing, backstops, and a new concession stand at the softball 4 plex. Robinson Park is in the process of getting a new playground, which will be open by February 2020, and will also be receiving a permanent restroom. Kids' Towne Park will be receiving a much-needed renovation by adding a brand-new playground large enough to accommodate the many kids that utilize that park. Kids' Towne playground was built by the community 23 years ago and that playground served its purpose for those 23 years. We are excited to bring a new playground that will give children the ability to play safely for another 23 years.

New parks also came to Clinton in 2019. In October, we opened our very first Bark Park in the City of Clinton located between Fire Station 2 and Kids' Towne Park. The 2-acre dog park is open to all dogs that are allowed in the City of Clinton. Since its opening it has been a huge hit and a great place for people to come together and meet people in their community while allowing their animals to have fun and burn some energy. On the day of the grand opening, we had over 70 dogs at the park in one day. The dog park is the only public dog park west of I55 in MS. The Bark Park has allowed people who never had a reason to enjoy one of our parks find a place where they belong.

The new Lion's Club Park will also be a great new addition to our city and the downtown area. Lion's Club Park will allow any child regardless of their circumstances to go and enjoy a park in Clinton. It will be completely handicap accessible and open to everyone. Along with the new playground will be an Amphitheatre and pavilion for families to enjoy. We look forward to having a place where families and communities can gather in Downtown Clinton and enjoy a day in the park.

As exciting as 2019 has been we are looking forward to continuing our great work in the City of Clinton and providing a place where we can proudly You Belong Here!