Budget Snapshot:

SUMMARY:

BCRP will receive $41 million of ARPA funding to improve recreation spaces across the City.

1. Pools $10 million (24.3%)
2. Recreation Centers $19.9 million (48.5%)
3. Playgrounds $5 million (12.3%)
4. Trails $1 million (2.4%)
5. Athletic Courts $2.2 million (5.4%)
6. Administration $2.9 million (7.1%)

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) has been the heartbeat of the city and its recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. In addition to providing recreation spaces, BCRP distributed meals to older adults, families, and youth; facilitated back-to-school education for youth through virtual learning centers; provided safe summer and after-school care options; and utilized agency staff and spaces to support COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites. Increased use of these facilities causes a demand for more modern infrastructure to better serve Baltimore residents.

When gyms closed due to COVID-19, more people turned to local parks, trails, and recreation facilities for essential physical and mental health benefits. Unfortunately, Baltimore’s recreational spaces and parks have been historically disinvested, and investments in the city’s parks and green spaces are not keeping pace with needs.

Improvements to recreation centers, pools, and associated amenities will enhance overall user experience, reduce operating costs, ensure compliance with all health and safety codes, increase environmental sustainability and allow opportunities for enhanced programming.