



# 2018 Township Report

Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio

The Prairie Township Board of Trustees remains committed to the improvement of communications and financial transparency. This summary report provides an overview of the Township's financial information, priorities and accomplishments from 2018, as well as goals and challenges for 2019.

# 2018 Township Report

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## **Township Trustees:**

### **Steve Kennedy**

Mr. Kennedy is serving his 4<sup>th</sup> term as a Trustee. His current term expires on December 31, 2021. He served as Chairman in 2018.

### **Cathy Schmelzer**

Mrs. Schmelzer is serving her first term as a Township Trustee in 2018. Her current term expires on December 31, 2021.

### **Doug Stormont**

Mr. Stormont is currently serving his 4<sup>th</sup> term on the Board. His current term expires on December 31, 2019. He is serving as Chairman in 2019.

## **Fiscal Officer:**

### **Dan McCardle**

Mr. McCardle is serving his 3<sup>rd</sup> term in office as Prairie Township Fiscal Officer. His current term expires on March 31, 2020.

# 2018 Highlights

## Military Hometown Hero Banner Program

This was the first year for this program and it was a success. The Township took up to 15 participants, creating banners honoring and recognizing Prairie Township residents and Westland High School graduates, who are serving or are veterans who have served our country in the United States Armed Forces. The banners were displayed along West Broad Street near the street the service member resided.

## Shared Services through Agreements with Grove City

As a follow-up to the fiber optics and dispatching efforts with Grove City, Prairie Township contracted with Grove City for IT service beginning in 2018. This new opportunity allows Prairie Township to make some upgrades among its departments as well as maintain our technology assistance for smooth day-to-day operations.



## Rebuilding a Healthy Neighborhood

Rebuilding Together Central Ohio and Prairie Township, along with hundreds of volunteers, worked to revitalize the Little Farms area in 2018. Volunteers were out in full force on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Projects includes work on several homes within the Little Farms area and included landscaping work as well as interior and exterior repairs. Improvements were focused on seniors in the area. The project’s goal is to improve quality, safety and appearance for our resident’s and the neighborhood. \$50,000.00 in funding was provided by Prairie Township for the project. Volunteers also cleaned up litter and graffiti in the neighborhood as well as distributed safety kits to 100 households and provided free air conditions to those in need. This project is expected to take place in 2019 and 2020. Total dollars invested during the first program were approximately \$400,000.00

## Prairie Community Fund

The Prairie Community Fund was established in 2018. Eight members have been appointed to serve three-year terms as charter members of the Community Foundation board of directors. The Prairie Community Fund was established under the Columbus Foundation. One of the 1<sup>st</sup> major goals of the foundation will be to raise money for an artificial turf field. This field will be the first of its kind. The cost for this portion of the project is \$1.8 million. Prairie Township has been awarded a grant from the state capital budget, leaving the Township and Foundation \$1.3 million to raise. The Township consulted with Mollard Consulting to determine the feasibility of raising the funds and the study indicated that this is a good project and likely able to raise the estimated funds to complete the project.

## Lincoln Village Curb Ramp Improvements

In 2018, the Board of Trustees approved the Ohio Public Works Commission Lincoln Village Curb Ramp Improvement Project. The contract for the OPWC project was awarded to Strawser Paving at a cost of \$297,098.27. This grant was a 100% funded project that improved 38 intersections in Lincoln Village North and Lincoln Village South. The work began in the spring of 2018 and was completed early fall of 2018.

# 2019 Priorities

## Rebuilding Together

Rebuilding Together Central Ohio will be back for a second year in 2019. This is part two of the “rebuilding Healthy Neighborhoods” program. Prairie Township has budgeted \$50,000.00 again this year to contribute towards the project. \$20,000.00 will go to the base project and \$30,000.00 will be put towards exterior projects. This amount is also going to be matched by Franklin County, AEP, Nationwide, and IBEW #683. This year’s program will take place on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and plans to target the Little Farms area which was also part of the program last year.

## 2019 Fire Department Medic 241

In January of 2019, the Board of Trustees approved up to \$180,000.00 to Horton Emergency Vehicles to upgrade Medic 241. The plan is to remount and recondition the 2009 medic to a 2019 medic vehicle on a Ford chassis. The plan is to also purchase new cots, mounts, radio installation, and lettering for the vehicle. A cot will also be installed in Medic 243 once the new medic is complete. This will improve the safety and reliability of the vehicle for our medics and patients.

## Website Upgrade

The Township is currently working to update its current website to feature a new layout and design. The company, CivicPlus, is providing the Township with a free web redesign which will make navigating the site simplified, information more accessible, and aesthetically appealing.

## New Electric Aggregation Plan

The Township entered into a new electric aggregation program for March 1, 2019 to November 2021. The vendor for this program is Volunteer Energy Services and the township locked in a rate of 5.05 cents per Kwh which is a savings compared to our previous electric program.

## Fundraising for the Prairie Fund

Fundraising efforts by the Community Foundation will begin in 2019. The goal will be to raise \$1.3 million for the completion of an artificial turf field at the Galloway Sports Complex. The turf field will be specifically designed for individuals with special needs. It will allow everyone to use the field to play soccer, football and other field sports. Donations to the Community Fund can be made through our Giving Tree located at the Community Center, which was erected in 2018, and other ways that are outlined on our website.

## Phones Services with the City of Grove City

The Board of Trustees has approved a proposal for phone services from the City of Grove City who also provides the Township with IT and dispatching services. Every department in the Township will be upgraded to the new phone service. This new service will save the Township a significant amount while also providing improved services through one provider.

## Revenue Coming into the Township

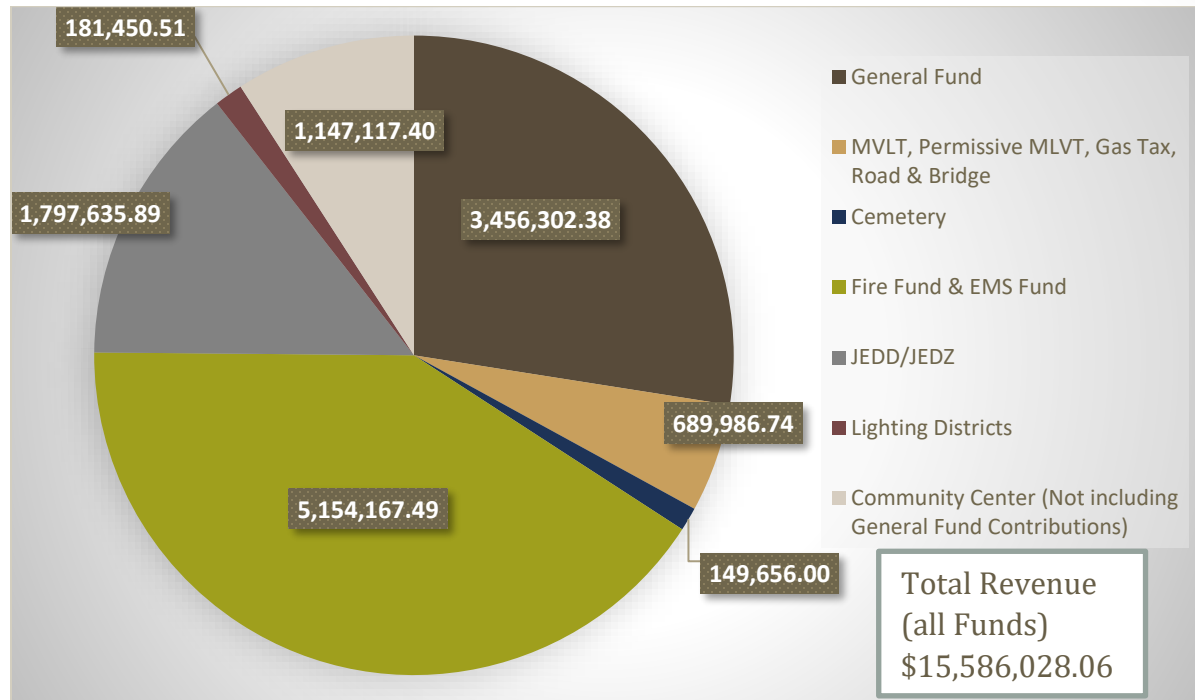


Figure 1 illustrates Prairie Township's 2018 revenue from outside sources for its major operating funds.

Revenue in 2018 was \$207,319.64 (approx. 1.5%) higher than 2017.

### Highlights:

- The General Fund revenue totals were \$531,020.38 higher than expected in 2018.
- JEDD revenue exceeded the expected amount by \$13,767.90 and JEDD revenue exceeded the expected amount by \$63,867.99.
- All Fire and EMS Funds exceeded the estimated amount.

#### Township Funds Receiving Transfers from Other Funds

Road District:	\$250,000.00 (General Fund)
OPWC Payments:	\$93,207.36 (General Fund)
EMS Capital:	\$97,000.00 (EMS Fund)
Community Center:	\$500,000.00 (JEDZ, JEDD, General Funds)

**Total: \$940,207.36**

## Expenditures (Major Funds)

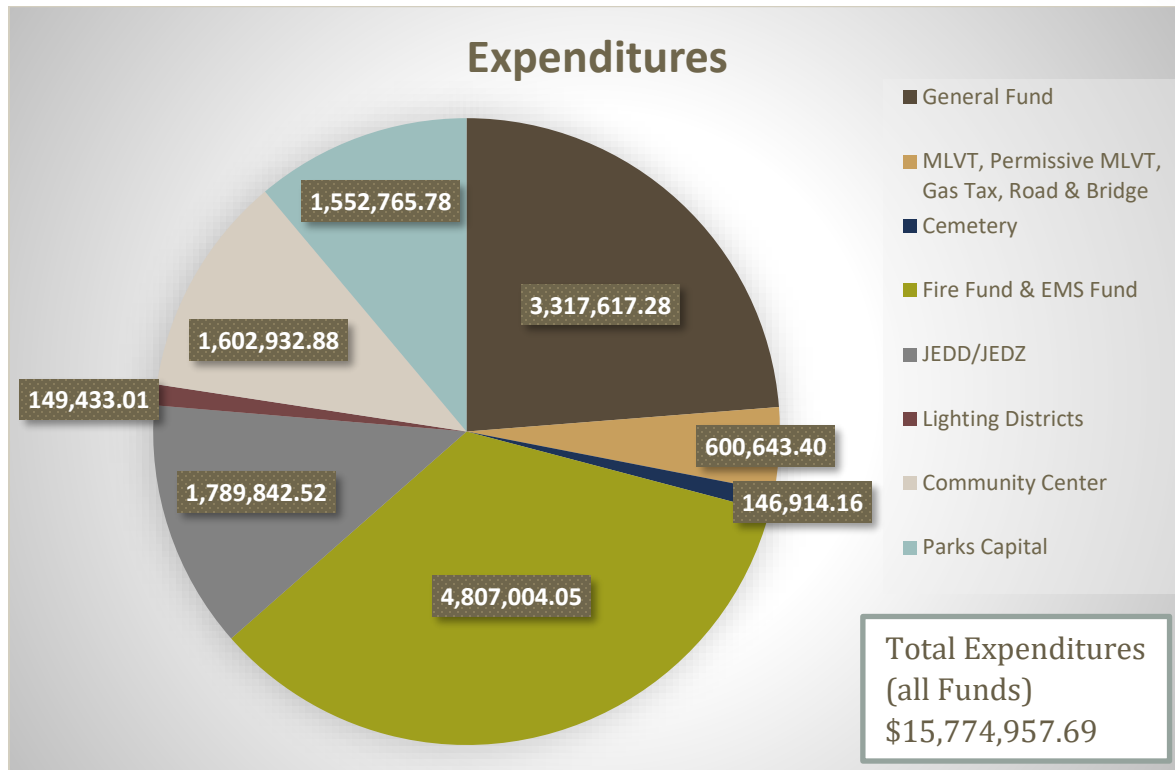


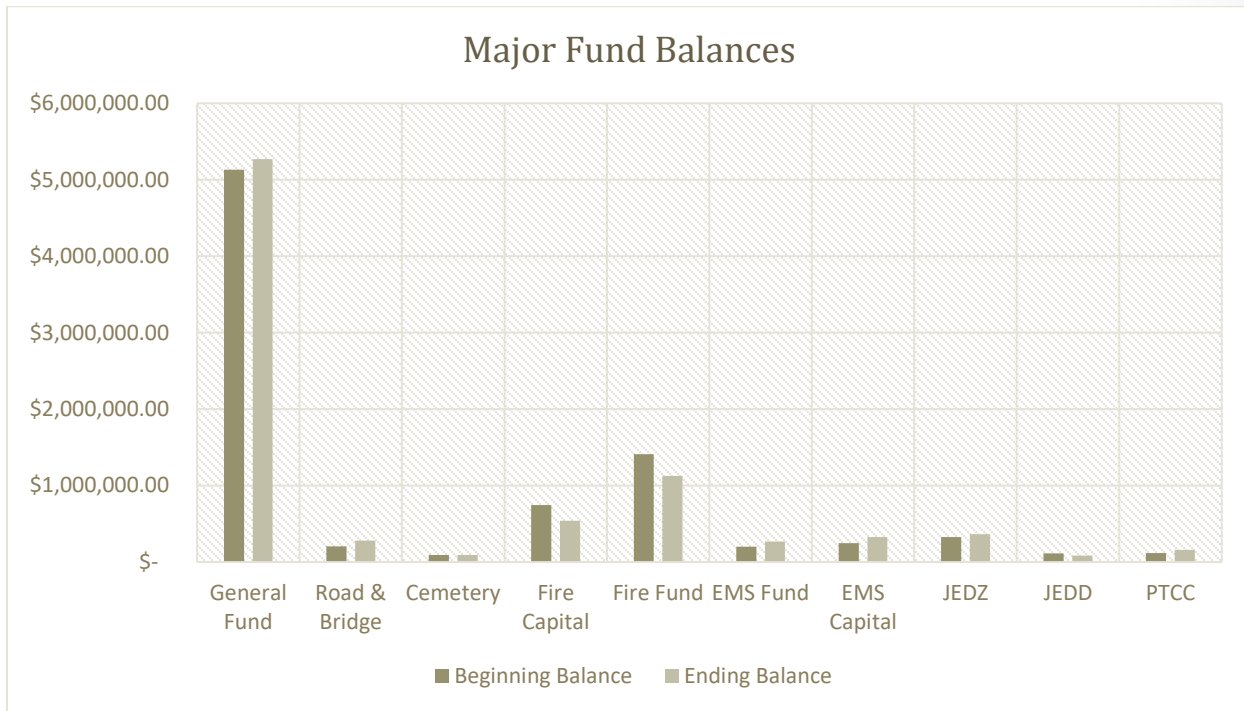
Figure 2 illustrates expenses from the townships major operating and capital funds

### Highlights:

- Franklin County Sheriff's Contract totaled \$890,938.04 (\$32,387.98 higher than 2017) and was split between the General Fund (18%) and the JEDZ Fund (82%).
- Legal expenses totaled \$150,931.79 which was paid from General Fund and the Fire Fund
- The Community Center used \$221,711.24 (95%) of the budgeted appropriations for Contracted Services and Operating Supplies.

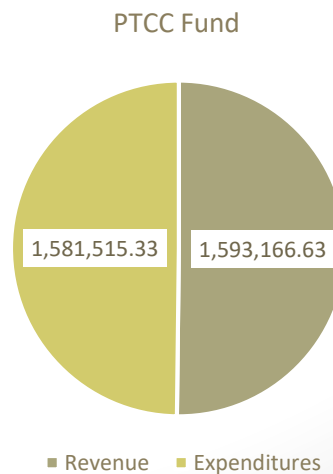
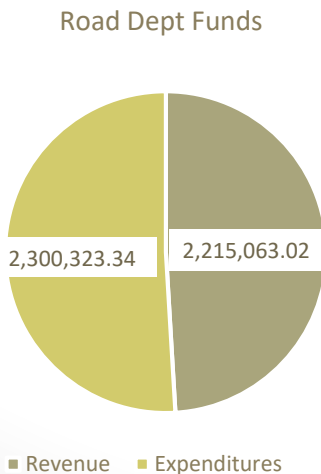
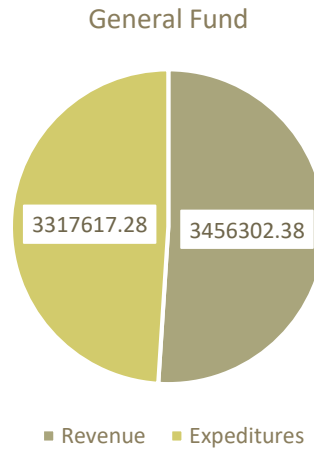
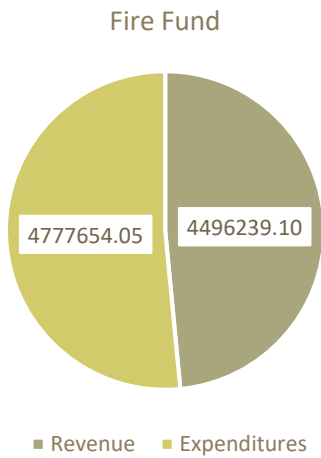
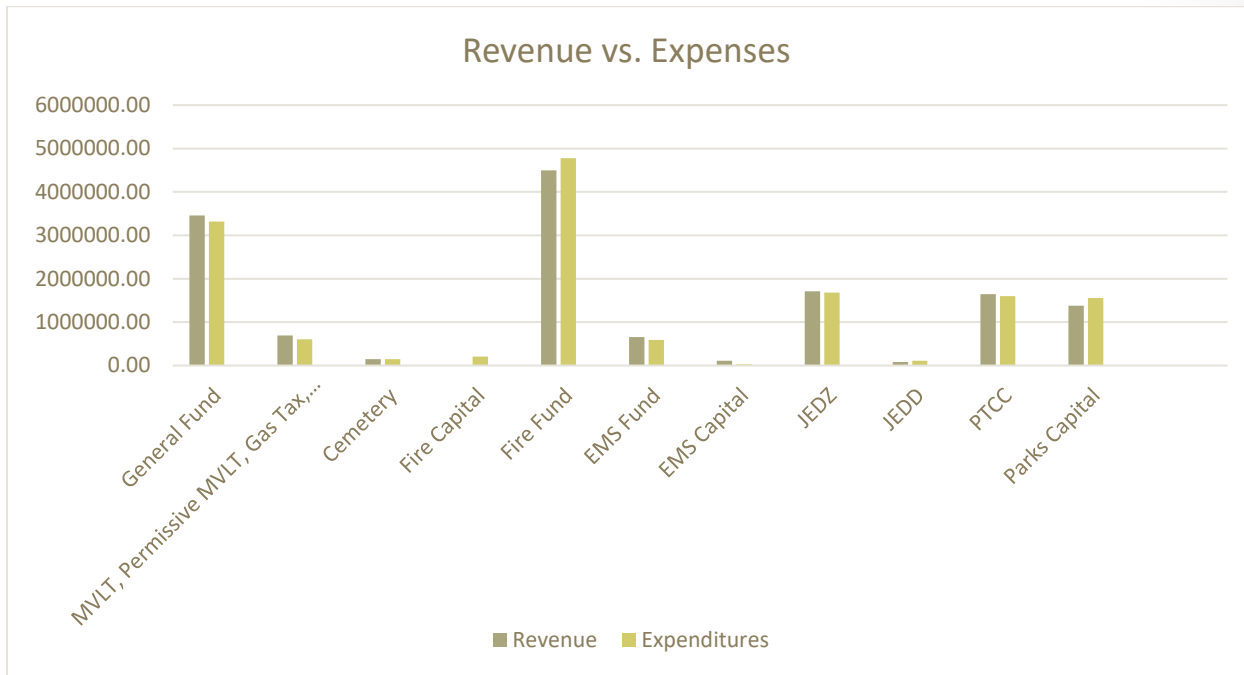
Expenditures for 2018 (all funds) were \$71,935.13 higher than in 2017.

# Fund Balances



Fund Balances	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
General Fund (1000)	5,132,247.10	5,270,950.20
Motor Vehicle License Tax (2011)	5,419.33	8,344.51
Gasoline Tax (2021)	41,969.26	47,037.70
Road and Bridge (2031)	204,883.84	279,799.60
Cemetery (2041)	90,711.65	93,453.49
Fire Capital (2111)	743,991.71	538,873.14
Road District (2141)	825.00	0.00
Fire Levy (2191)	1,409,351.57	1,127,936.62
Permissive Motor Vehicle License (2231)	23,197.10	29,631.06
Emergency Medical Services (2281)	199,929.70	267,401.94
EMS Capital Fund (2282)	248,706.15	328,056.15
Lighting Districts	294,888.60	326,906.10
JEDZ (2903)	328,401.38	364,166.53
JEDD (2904)	113,972.18	86,000.40
Community Recreation Center (2905)	115,680.47	159,864.99
CRC Bond (4101)	0.00	0.00
Parks Capital (4301)	281,655.43	104,309.93
OPWC Project Funds (4401- 4408)	14,853.71	10,854.55
Cemetery Bequest 1 & 2 (4952)	2,054.59	5,054.94
Developers Escrow (9001)	3,600.00	0.00
Road Cut Permits (9002)	1,944.00	5,544.00
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>9,258,520.79</b>	<b>9,069,591.16</b>

# Revenue vs. Expenses





# Zoning Department Statistics

## REVENUE

COMMERCIAL REVENUE	\$ 73,151.39
ZONING REVENUE	<u>\$ 37,180.26</u>
TOTAL	\$ 110,331.65

## PERMITS

ZONING PERMITS	265
COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS	64
GARAGE SALE PERMITS	27
TRANSIENT VENDOR PERMITS	2
LAND USE DISTURBANCE PERMITS	15

## NUISANCE COMPLAINTS

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	453
INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	1038
DOOR HANGERS PLACED	390
DECLARED BY TRUSTEES	199
NOT DECLARED BY TRUSTEES	228
ABATED BY ROAD DEPARTMENT	43

## ZONING COMPLAINTS

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	332
INSPECTIONS COMPLETED	676
DOOR HANGERS PLACED	76
VIOLATION LETTERS SENT	597

## PUBLIC HEARING APPLICATIONS

VARIANCE APPLICATIONS	11
CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATIONS	1
REZONING APPLICATIONS	0
APPEALS	2
AMENDMENTS/EU MOD	0

## 2018 Spring Clean Up

(3) 30 yard trash dumpsters (At Stations 241 and 243 and Road Department)

TOTAL TRASH DUMPED: 36.16 TONS

(1) 30 yard tire sumpster (At Road Department)

TOTAL TIRES DUMPED: 12.77 TONS

TOTAL COST FOR CLEAN-UP: \$11,149.20

# Fire Department Highlights

## 2018 Accomplishments and Updates

The Fire Department passed a 3.61 mill Levy in May of 2018 that is currently budgeted to take them to 2026 while addressing their operational and capital needs. This additional revenue will allow the Fire Department to maintain its current level of services as well as a capital improvement plan that would allow for truck replacement and equipment purchases. Thank you to the residents of Prairie Township for their continued support and trust in our Department.

Settled a 3-year contract with our Union, IAFF Local 2985.

Completed an ISO review that brought us from a 5 to a 2 that should have a significant impact to our residents in homeowners' insurance rates.

Completed an extensive station remodel that accommodates our female firefighters

Contracted for a full-time IT Director through the City of Grove City and hired an Administrative Assistant within the department.

Reached out to over 3,000 kids through our Fire Prevention Month efforts.

Complete transformation of IT and technology throughout the Fire Stations. New workstations, reporting hardware, and mobile data terminals in all of the front line equipment. A new software program was implemented that puts all of our inspections, EMS and fire reporting on one platform.

Most importantly, our firefighters have delivered excellent quality of service to our residents and surrounding areas thru nearly 4,000 EMS responses and 1,200 fire responses by our fulltime and part time staff.



# Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department Highlights

## Street Sweeping

Prairie Township continued its contract with Contract Sweepers and Equipment for two street sweepings in 2018 for the township roads that have curbs and gutters. The Service Director believes this is a valuable service to the residents as upkeep of their neighborhoods and maintenance of township storm sewer systems. West Broad Street also received eight sweepings in 2018 from April through November. Street sweeping will also be conducted in 2019.

## 2018 Sidewalk Program

The sidewalk program was another success. This program has ran since 2003 and has been increasingly successful every year. This year we had 117 participants, which includes both voluntary participants and non-voluntary participants. The total assessment for the program was \$125,005.75, which will be recuperated through the tax assessments against the properties who participated. This program offers repayment over ten years interest free.

## Curbside Leaf Pickup and Chipping

The Road, Cemeteries and Parks Department continued picking up leaves, tree and shrub trimmings in 2018. This is a great opportunity for residents to keep the landscapes maintained. Leaves are picked up from mid-October to early December.

# Community Center Highlights

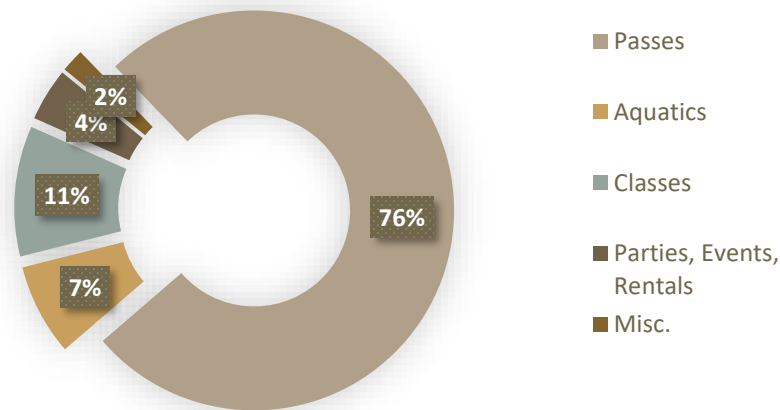
## Cost Recovery for 2018

The cost recover for 2018 was 72.5%. The Community Center will continue to work towards 80% cost recovery in 2019 by increasing class and program offerings and growing current classes and programs.

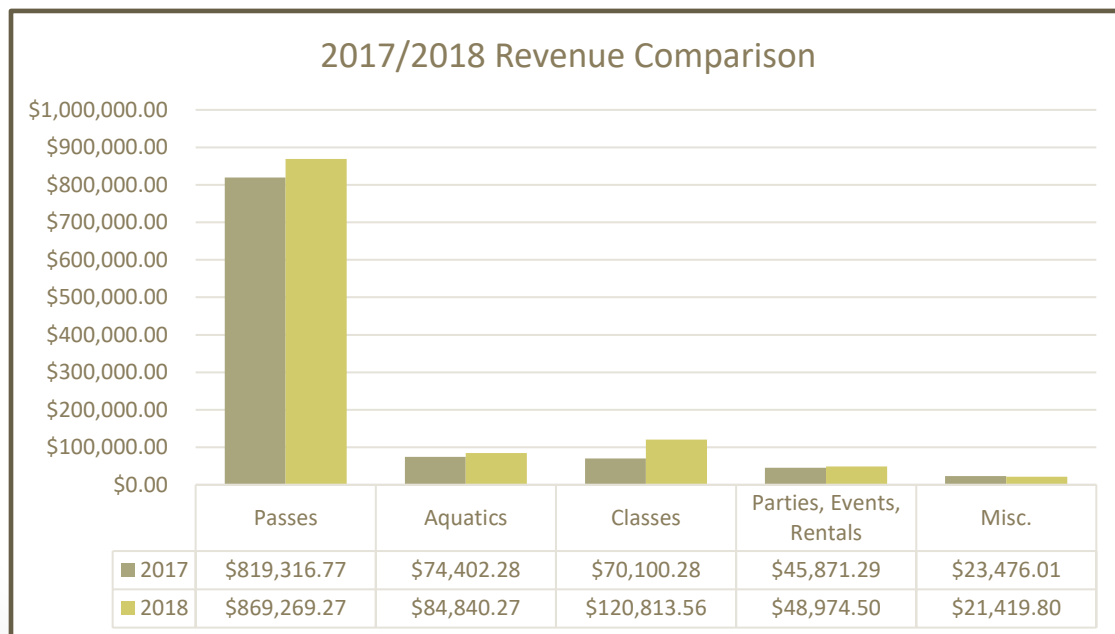
## Membership and Class Totals

Primary Pass Memberships	3,092
Primary and Secondary Memberships	5,394
Day Passes	10,457
Class Registrations	2,355
Drop In Class Visits	11,844

## 2018 Community Center Revenue



## 2017/2018 Revenue Comparison



**Total Community Center Revenue for 2018 was \$1,147,117.40.**