



Athens Clarke County
Leisure Services Department

FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Traveling back
through the year...



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MISSION STATEMENT



ACCGov Leisure Services builds a healthier and more livable community by providing opportunities to learn, to create, and to play in quality parks, programs, and facilities that are valued by our citizens.

OUR FACILITIES

- Athens-Clarke County Tennis Center
- Bear Hollow Zoo
- Ben Burton Park
- Bishop Park
- Boulevard Woods Park
- Dudley Park
- East Athens Community Center
- East Athens Educational Dance Center
- Firefly Trail
- Holland Youth Sports Complex
- Lay Park
- Lyndon House Arts Center
- Memorial Park
- Morton Theatre
- North Oconee River Greenway
- North Oconee River Park
- Quinn Hall
- Reese and Pope Park
- Rocksprings Park
- Sandy Creek Nature Center
- Sandy Creek Park
- Satterfield Park
- Southeast Clarke Park
- Walker Park
- Ware-Lyndon Historic House

HIGHLIGHTS

Switched in November, to a new online registration software program to improve customer service.

Presented four drive-in “Movies by Moonlight” outdoor movies in multiple locations throughout the community and welcomed hundreds of residents to safely enjoy films while socially distancing.



Introduced the Pop up Park program with custom artwork created by local artist Eli Saragoussi. The mini-bus visited 4 sites in its first four weeks, traveling 45 miles.



Received the Georgia Recreation and Park Association: State and District 7's Volunteer of the Year Award for the University of Georgia's Whatever it Takes Program for their volunteer service to the afterschool programs at East Athens Community Center and Rocksprings Park.



Opened newly completed section of the Athens-Clarke County portion of the Firefly Trail. This portion is approximately 1.5 miles long and located along the City of Winterville's historic Main Street and will eventually connect to downtown Athens and Union Point.

Conducted summer camp with 100% enrollment of 2,323 children and teens in a reduced COVID-19 camp season.

Received the 2021 award for Georgia Association of Museums' Exhibitions between \$1,000 and \$25,000 Award for "Paste: Works of Paper," which was developed by the Georgia Museum of Art and the Lyndon House Arts Center.



Accepted a \$5,120 donation to the Department's new "Go Beyond" teen program from Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley in recognition of recent retirees. The funds will be used to travel statewide to provide experiences for teenagers to explore new ideas and skills.



Presented the inaugural Light up Athens holiday event in December. Hundreds of people visited the City Hall area to enjoy the Christmas Tree, beautiful lights, and Santa, along with other costumed characters each Friday evening.



Opened a playscape at Sandy Creek Nature Center featuring natural elements. Highlights include movable forts, sculptures from local artists, and even a tree trunk slide. This amenity was privately financed by Sandy Creek Nature Center, Inc. and donated to ACCGov.

BY THE NUMBERS

514,715

people visited the Department's trails, **14,917** at the natural surface pedestrian and bicycle trails at Walker Park; **58,095** along natural surface pedestrian only; and **441,702** along paved multi-use trails.



\$48,400.30

in scholarship subsidies were awarded to **873** qualifying Athens-Clarke County children. The scholarships were used **1,746** times during the past year.



18,146

admissions to the five pools and two splash pads during the season.

397 children who learned to swim through aquatics programming.



17

Counselors in Training teens worked at East Athens Community Center, Lay Park, Lyndon House Arts Center, Memorial Park, Sandy Creek Nature Center, and Rock-springs Park summer camps. This seasonal program provided paid job training for area teens.



10

grants were administered through the Morton Theatre Corporation to area artists in an effort to amplify the Black Lives Matter movement. The Defiance Project Awards provided cash awards to Black or African-American identifying artists who presented short films or studio art created to document and/or explore the Black Lives Matter Movement and/or everyday experience of Blacks in America.



191

passengers in **108** cars enjoyed treats and fun in the inaugural "Drive Thru Boo" while simultaneously at four different department locations. The event included goody bags, inflatable characters, live music, and zombies



61

attendees participated in Grand Slam summer teen program at Lay Park, enjoying various activities like art, sports, swimming.



650 people attended the annual “Deck the Hollow” holiday lights program at Bear Hollow Zoo. The socially distanced program included a five night presentation showcasing the zoo illuminated with holiday lights and displays.



5,000 individuals participated in virtual “Scary, Oozy, Slimy Day,” “Snake Day,” and “Women in Science” annual events at Sandy Creek Nature Center. The events included streamed videos, guest speakers, and live animal demonstrations.



251 guests attended the Bears Birthday Party at Bear Hollow along with a guest appearance from Mr. Peanut, who fed the bears special treats.



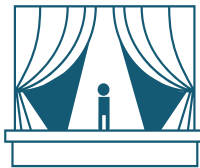
50 pre-teens and teens participated in the inaugural Beyond the Barre program at East Athens Educational Dance Center. Activities included a dance and drum circle, learning to play chess, writing and reciting spoken word, creating products and learning about becoming entrepreneurs, and much more!



3 Teen Tech Labs developed at East Athens Community Center, Lay Park, and Rocksprings Park. These areas will provide programming and educational opportunities, as well as include a social component for teens.



12 exhibitions were presented at Lyndon House Arts Center featuring **1,774** pieces of art. The Juried Exhibition brought in **720** works of art, in a wide variety of media, from **270** area artists for the annual show. This year's guest juror selected **161** pieces for the exhibition, created by **116** artists to be displayed during this six week exhibition.



13,535 patrons participated in virtual theatrical programming through Athens Creative Theatre, includes Digital Script Series, Live Art production, Live Drawing Portrait of Mona Lisa performance, Misery production, Virtual Choir Series.



3,467 children used the Remote Learning Zones that were set up at **14** different department sites. This partnership between Athens-Clarke County Unified Government and Clarke County School District provided wifi access to all students at Leisure Services parks and facilities.

LEISURE SERVICES AT WORK

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74

Full Time
Employees

147

Seasonal
Part-Time Staff

95

Part-Time
Employees

4

Promotions

562

individuals contributed 7,082.71 hours in volunteer service. Using the \$27.20 hourly value of volunteerism established by the Independent Sector, that works out to \$192,630!

3,307

Work Orders
Completed

213

Playground Inspections
utilizing approximately 1000
hours of staff time

FINANCIALS

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Operating Budget: | \$8,534,958 |
| Total Expenditures: | \$7,798,148 |
| Rental Revenue: | \$36,604 |
| Value of Volunteer Service: | \$192,630 |
| Expenditure for SPLOST projects: | \$6,715,055 |
| Scholarship Subsidies Issued to Qualifying Individuals: | \$48,400.30 |

YOUR FEEDBACK

Summer Camp Guardian Responses

The counselors and schedules are wonderful. Both of my girls come home excited and can't wait to tell me about what they learned.

He loved it! Appreciate the health and safety protocols in place.

This was our first time doing a full day camp and my child loved it. I will definitely sign her up again!

Austin L. *regarding Ben Burton Park*

Epic park with way more hiking trails than it would seem possible to fit into this space. Easy access to a small river beach area where you can wade in the water a bit, a cool old stone bridge structure, and plenty of cool mushrooms and plants to entertain a naturalist.

Jason H.

On behalf of my family, I just wanted to pass on kudos to the staff and the department as a whole for the work you all do. My family and I had a great afternoon Saturday at the Rocksprings pool and then had a blast Sunday in some rented canoes on Lake Chapman.

Amanda Jane *regarding Lyndon House Art Center*

The facility is great, the people are wonderful, the studio is the best I've worked in, and I absolutely love teaching as much as making my own work. It's been the highlight of my decade much less the last 2 years.

Allison G. *regarding Swim School*

It was amazing! My child was able to track so well with the lessons, which he has never done before with swim coaches because of ASL! He loved it! Thank you!

Tea R. *regarding Morton Theatre*

Love the inclusiveness and diversity of their casts.

Rosie C. *regarding Bear Hollow Zoo*

Great place for alone time or for families with small children... This has great photo opportunities!.. and guess what? It's free!

Alec H. *regarding Sandy Creek Nature Center*

My 2-year old has a blast here everytime we go. Everything is maintained very well and there is a lot to see and do!



Athens Clarke County
Leisure Services Department

Photography
Aimee Cheek and Brian McGhee

Design
Nick Williams