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ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
LEISURE SERVICES





TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 MISSION STATEMENT
& OUR FACILITIES

3/4 AROUND ATHENS

5/6 BY THE NUMBERS

7 LEISURE SERVICES
AT WORK & FINANCES

8 AWARDS

9/10 HIGHLIGHTS

MISSION STATEMENT

Leisure Services promotes lifelong recreation, cultural, environmental, and educational opportunities for Athens-Clarke County's diverse communities. We contribute to Athens' health and wellness by providing connections to parks, facilities, programs, and community.

OUR FACILITIES & PARKS

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

"The Rainbow Forest" dedication took place August 19, 2021. The installation was designed by artist Andrew Kovacs



IT'S HARD TO BE BORED IN

ATHENS!

I ❤ PUBLIC ART

Public art has been popping up all over the Classic City! The Leisure Services Department is the home base for the ACCGov public art program which is administered by the Public Art Coordinator. A total of six county funded public art projects were dedicated:



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Bear Hollow Zoo has welcomed several new residents. All Zoo animals are considered to be "non-releasable" due to an injury or having been someone's pet. New residents include:

- American Alligators
- An Eastern King Snake
- A Spotted Skunk & Striped Skunk
- A Barn Owl



TEEN PROGRAMS

The Department offers a variety of teen programming including:

- Beyond the Barre
- Counselors in Training (CIT)
- Go Beyond
- Grand Slam
- Teen Camps/Teens in Action
- Teen Tech Lab
- Teen Sewing Club
- Teen Cartoon Club
- The Accelerated Dance Program
- The Naturalists Assistance Program

ALL OVER TOWN

Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services offers...



42.48 Miles of Trails



35 Athletic Fields



33 Tennis Courts



20 Acres of Dog Park



24 Pavilions



15 Outdoor Basketball Courts



16 Playgrounds



6 Pickleball Courts



5 Pools



3 Teen Tech Labs



2 Splash Pads



2 Theatres



Arts Center



Dance Center



Historic House Museum



Nature Center



Planetarium



Pop-Up Park



Skate Park



Zoo

FEELING THE LOVE

“ Nice little community skate park. Some guys were there that had been skating it since the park was built 15 years ago. My 9 year old granddaughter loved it.”

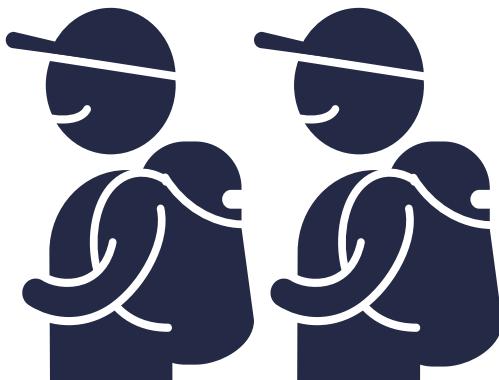
“ My friend and I hiked 7.1 miles at Sandy Creek Park yesterday. I do not think words can express the beauty and perks of the park, so you should check it out! If you don't like critters or snakes, I would do everything but the hikes and trails.”

“ This [Bear Hollow] zoo is great. It is small as some reviewers say but they should keep in mind it is a free zoo for rehabbed animals. We saw owls, bears, turkeys, river otters, a bald eagle, a gator and more. My 7 year old didn't want to leave. We all had a great time and will be back.”



NUM BY THE BERS

1075



TEEN REGISTRATIONS

113,855

Sandy Creek Park visitors



551 PEOPLE
TAUGHT
TO SWIM

2,9

10,960

Public Swim attendees for the
months of June and July 2023



Clarke County
School District
students visited
parks through
the Shared Use
Agreement
between CCSD &
Leisure Services.



REGISTRANTS
for day camps and
775 registrants for
mini camps in FY22.



***31 POP
UP PARK**

visits, **206** miles
traveled, and **1,984**
individuals served.

LEISURE SERVICES AT WORK



PARK UPKEEPING

The issue of homelessness continued to impact parks.

Department staff spent **400+ hours** assisting with contracted clean ups. During FY22, more than **\$13,000** was paid to a private contractor to remove homeless debris—including clothing, drug paraphernalia, furniture, and human waste—from Leisure Services properties.



Photos show
an area on the
North Oconee
River Greenway

672 individuals volunteered for a total of 8843.23 hours. Using the \$29.95 hourly value of volunteerism established by the Independent Sector, that works out to \$264,854.74!

TRAINING

- ▷ 63 Individuals completed Mandated Reporter Training
- ▷ 4 CPO's / 2 CPSI's (Certified Pool Operators) (Certified Playground and Safety Inspectors)
- ▷ 50 staff recertified in CPR/ First Aid

FINANCES

TOTAL REVENUE

\$ 1,088,681.35

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$ 8,430,006.98

SPLCOT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

\$ 7,164,429

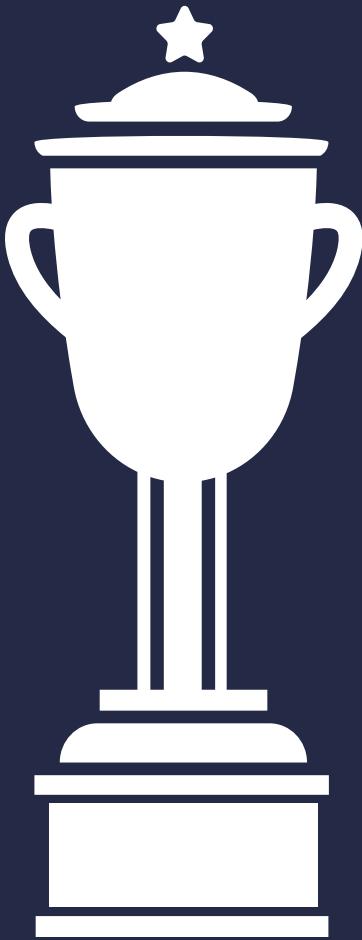
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS*

\$ 87,003.75

* Provided \$87,003.75 in scholarship subsidies to 879 qualifying Athens-Clarke County children. The scholarships were used 2,478 during the fiscal year.

WE'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER TROPHY CASE!

Leisure Services continues to add to its impressive trophy case with another selection of awards recognizing staff, volunteers, and the department as a whole.



Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA) Agency Award

For the ninth time in 19 years, the Leisure Services Department earned the prestigious GRPA's state "Agency of the Year" Award for populations of 80,000 -150,000.

Governor's Awards for the Arts & Humanities Award to Lyndon House Arts Center Supervisor Didi Dunphy

The Governor's Awards honors outstanding individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Georgia's civic and cultural vitality through excellence and service to the arts and humanities.

GRPA District Roy Hammond Award to Director Kent Kilpatrick

This award recognizes professionals for cumulative, exemplary service to the state, profession, and district.

Distinguished Professional Award Aquatics—Emily Mann Cress & Distinguished Professional Award Parks and Facility—Jim Ferguson

The Distinguished Professional Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of recreation, parks and leisure services within the each of the four recognized networks within GRPA.

Volunteer Award to Trail Team Six

Trail Team Six is a crew of hardworking volunteers who invest two hours every Friday and using only handheld tools built more than 1.13 miles of new trail.

► **WHAT'S IN A NAME?**



On December 19, the East Athens Community Center and Park was renamed Aaron Heard Park and Community Center in honor of longtime Recreation professional and Athens native Aaron Heard.

On February 20, the Lay Park's gymnasium was named after Willie Hull, who from 1976 to 2010, served as the park's facility supervisor.



2022 HIGH LIGHTS

- Hosted "SEC Shorts" at the Morton Theatre. The event was one of the most widely attended in the venue's 110-year history. More than 1,500 tickets were sold and attendees came from as far as Mexico.
- Collaborated in planning the inaugural Athens-Clarke County Government sponsored Juneteenth event. Activities included book signings, film presentations, lectures, podcasts, as well as a community wide celebration at Holland Youth Sports Complex.
- Coordinated the inaugural Athens-Clarke County Poet Laureate program to take poetry to segments of the community that have less access or exposure to poetry to include senior citizens, at-risk youth, and more.



- Collaborated with Piedmont Athens Regional's Sports Medicine program to host a Coaches Clinic for volunteer soccer coaches. The 4.5 hour session was led by PARM staff and included segments on CPR/First Aid, concussion protocol, hydration, and emergency action planning. Additionally, staff from Bright Paths provided a presentation on child abuse awareness and mandated reporting.
- Introduced "Public Art Class for 11-17 year-olds" at Lyndon House Arts Center which highlighted public art in the community. The teens created their own mural panels, repainted Lay Park's bulldog sculpture, and toured art with local artists.
- Opened new Teen Tech Labs at three community centers. These areas included all new computers, gaming systems, iPads, a smart board, and more. New programs developed include "Creative Workshop," "Graphic Design and Printing," "DJ 101," "Guitar," "Podcasting," and "Robotics."
- Hosted four "Movies by Moonlight" outdoor movie events at different locations in the park system.
- Introduced the "Go Beyond" teen program which aims to provide positive and non-traditional learning experiences through field trips and enrichment activities.
- Held three ribbon cuttings for Ben Burton Park improvements, Dudley Park enhancements, and the Firefly Trail expansion.
- Launched "Classic City Kids Bike Club" which lets children explore nature while riding trails in the woods.



ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

Leisure Services Department

DESIGN

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