

# **WICHITA PARK & RECREATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2016**



**BUILDING WICHITA'S FUTURE**



I am pleased to share Wichita Park & Recreation's 2016 annual report. As the highlights suggest, it truly was a remarkable year for both the community and its park system!

While much was accomplished last year, more improvements are in store for 2017. After years of anticipation, construction will begin on Wichita's first urban wetlands park in northwest Wichita. Additional work will be done in O.J. Watson Park, including a new yellow-brick road and building improvements. There will also be a new concession stand and restroom facility at McAdams Park. Wichita Park & Recreation will host a new event, known as Open Streets ICT, in September 2017, in partnership with other community organizations.

Wichita Park & Recreation is now nationally accredited through the National Recreation & Park Association. The process of becoming accredited gave us a better understanding of our organization, its needs and the needs of the residents of Wichita. (We truly have better direction and higher aspirations for our department to deliver high quality services to you, the customer.) This is only the beginning as we will continue to review, assess and improve. I thank my staff and all those involved in helping us meet this goal. Together we are focused and energized as we make continued improvements for all our residents of Wichita. We look forward to working with community leaders, residents and partners to create an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable park system. Thank you for your continued support of Wichita Park & Recreation.



Troy Houtman, CPRE  
Director of Wichita Park & Recreation



Wichita Park & Recreation manages all operations and maintenance of City parks and recreation centers, which include:

**144**  
PARKS

MORE THAN  
**5,007**  
ACRES OF PARK LAND

**2,500**  
ACRES OF  
RIGHT-OF-WAY

**3.8 MILLION**  
SQ FT OF LANDSCAPED  
MEDIANS

## WE ALSO PROVIDE

Controlled burns are conducted by the Department to reduce overgrowth and prevent outbreaks of fire in natural areas.

No-mow zones are utilized to encourage natural growth around river banks and other areas and to curb geese activity.



In 2016 the Forestry Division:



## FORESTRY

Wichita’s treescape is a big part of what makes our city beautiful. Trees are good for the environment and essential for our community’s health and wellness. Wichita has received the Tree City USA designation every year for 30 years. This would not be possible without our Forestry team! Forestry is responsible for the maintenance of all public trees within 5,000 acres of parks, 2,500 acres of right-of-ways along many sections of the rivers, streams and drainage ways within the city.

FORESTRY CONDUCTS TREE PLANTINGS,  
WATERING OF ALL NEW TREES, PRUNING AND  
REMOVAL OF MATURE TREES.

The Forestry division performs 24/7 on call emergency work after storms with a primary focus on public safety and hazard reduction. This includes keeping more than 60,000 traffic control signals and signs cleared from blocking tree branches and tree debris removal from streets and intersections. Forestry also assists with the cleanup and removal of illegally dumped tree branches and other wood debris as needed.



## PARK MAINTENANCE

The City’s right-of-way areas range from open ditch areas to intensively developed landscapes in medians and along major thoroughfares. Park Maintenance tends to grounds maintenance of 138 parks, which totals 5,006 acres and takes care of all 2,500 acres of right-of-way areas and many public facilities.

Park Maintenance also manages the Cemetery Trust Fund and cares for the grounds maintenance at four City owned cemeteries. Funding for contract maintenance comes from interest income created by the Cemetery Trust Fund.

Citywide trash collection from all parks and grounds maintenance for 110 athletic fields and 52 miles of pedestrian and bicycle pathways falls within the Park Maintenance responsibilities as well. In 2016 the division:

MANAGED <b>106</b> CITIZEN REQUESTS FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL	RESPONDED TO <b>361</b> CITIZEN REQUESTS FOR PRUNING & TRIMMING	HANDLED <b>120</b> REQUESTS FOR SNOW REMOVAL	MANAGED <b>14,316</b> RENTALS
COMPLETED <b>1,927</b> WORK ORDERS	CLEARED <b>279</b> ILLEGAL DUMPING LOCATIONS	COMPLETED <b>338</b> HOURS OF SITE INSPECTIONS	<b>43</b> SET UPS OF MOBILE STAGE

PARK MAINTENANCE TAKES CARE OF **22** PLANTERS THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN





Barry is scheduled to make more appearances in 2017, so be on the lookout and stop by to say Hi!



## RECREATION

Recreation activities are vital to our community, promotes physical activity and are all-inclusive no matter what your needs are. Wichita Park & Recreation currently has eight recreation centers located throughout the City and offers a variety of tot, youth and adult classes. Athletic leagues for youth and adults are popular in our community.

There is something for everyone to explore and enjoy throughout the year—nine swimming pools, O.J. Watson Park, Riverside Tennis Center, Wichita Ice Center, Summer of Discovery, Summer Activity Camps, Specialty Camps, Great Plains Nature Center, special events and enclosed shelter rentals.

9,645 CLASSES OFFERED	1,149,167 VISITORS TO RECREATION CENTERS	
24,186 SPECIAL EVENT ATTENDANCE	3,601 YOUTH ATHLETIC PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS	3 SUMMER CAMP SITES

Barry the Bison is Wichita Park & Recreation's mascot. Barry made his rounds throughout Wichita over the past year, with more than 30 appearances at ribbon cuttings, special events and recreation activities, kids and adults all enjoyed getting their pictures taken with him.

Barry's Mobile Recreation Station hit the streets for the second year to bring recreational activities and fun to selected parks for the whole family to enjoy. This station provides free on-site recreation equipment and activities which promote outdoor play with family and friends.

3,095 PARTICIPANTS IN BARRY'S MOBILE STATION	223,354 VISITED O.J. WATSON PARK	80,002 PARTICIPANTS IN AQUATIC CLASSES & OPEN SWIM
11,519 KIDS PARTICIPATED IN SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMP	11,181 KIDS PARTICIPATED IN SUMMER OF DISCOVERY CAMPS	25,995 PARTICIPANTS AT RIVERSIDE TENNIS CENTER





## GOLF COURSES

Wichita Public Golf Courses feature five, high-quality courses conveniently located throughout the city. Golfers can choose from a variety of course layouts that offer challenges for all skill levels.

Wichita Public Golf Courses introduced golfers to the first ever Mobile App—Golf Wichita. This mobile app allows the golfer to book a tee time, keep score and track stats, view live leaderboards during tournament play, participate in monthly challenges, and free GPS. Golfers receive up-to-date information on discounts and specials through push notifications which reach the golfer faster than traditional advertising.

**GOLF WICHITA'S MOBILE APP OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN OCTOBER 2015. BY DECEMBER 31, 2015 THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 1,549 DOWNLOADS. FOR THE FULL YEAR OF 2016, THE MOBILE APP WAS DOWNLOADED 5,709 TIMES.**

Golfwichita.com is now mobile friendly and easier to navigate. You can purchase a gift card, players' card, or register for group lessons, tournaments and so much more with the new web store. The web store was launched in 2016 to enhance the customer experience; season pass holders no longer have to venture to a course to renew their pass. The web store makes this process more convenient for our customers!

Auburn Hills Golf Course also offers options for weddings, with an all-inclusive event setting featuring a gorgeous clubhouse with stunning golf course views, gourmet menu and superior service.



1,433  
SEASON  
PASSES  
SOLD

\$6,000  
GENERATED  
IN  
ADVERTISING  
SALES

3,048  
TOTAL  
LESSONS

90

TOURNAMENTS

1,474  
GIFT CARDS  
SOLD

639  
FOOTGOLF  
TOTAL  
ROUNDS

157,571  
TOTAL  
ROUNDS

**GOLF BY THE NUMBERS**



## BOTANICA

Botanica’s programs educate Kansans about nature and assist in the promotion of community development.

Botanica is comprised of more than 18 acres of stunning gardenscaping that features approximately 4,000 species of plants both native and new to the region. All gardens are designed to feature plants particularly well-suited to south-central Kansas. In addition to the display gardens, an evaluation garden has been added for the specific purpose of introducing and evaluating plants that may be suited to the region.

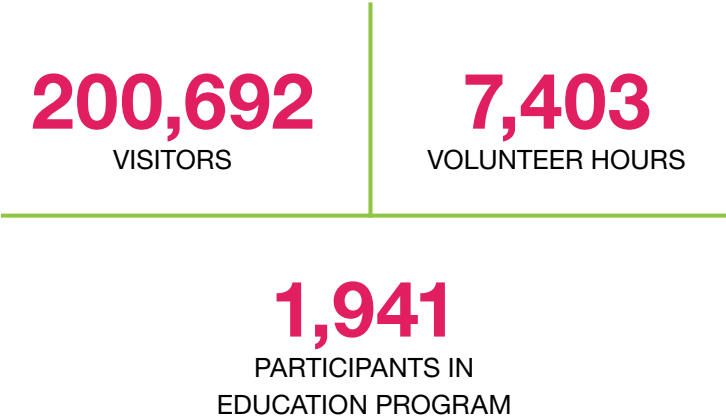
The backdrop for every activity is the gardens and guests will have new experiences every time they attend. Events, education programs and activities enhance the beauty of the gardens. Illuminations is held every December, this year guests enjoyed the new light displays that incorporated RGB lights, a new light technology that changes displays from a solid color to multi-colors.



## GREAT PLAINS NATURE CENTER

Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC) is located within Chisholm Creek Park and is the only nature center that is supported by local, state and federal government agencies. GPNC provides the public with an educational opportunity to learn about natural resources, especially the wildlife and plant species, of the Great Plains region.

GPNC provides visitors with enjoyable educational experiences that highlight the importance of wise stewardship of natural resources and the roles and responsibilities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and Wichita Park & Recreation.





## PARK PROJECTS & CONSTRUCTION

The Park Projects and Construction section is responsible for park design and development. The work is accomplished through administration and oversight of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the department. Tasks conducted by this work group are very closely related to CIP projects and many times require direct input from the Park Planner, Department Director, City Manager, Wichita City Council, Board of Park Commissioners and other stakeholders.

The Construction section has the responsibility for infrastructure maintenance of all park improvements (excluding buildings).

- 82 playground systems
- bridges
- benches
- tables
- courts
- signs
- fencing
- nine swimming pools
- four interactive water play features
- two interactive water fountains
- graffiti removal
- carpentry and metal fabrication
- concrete and masonry work
- set-up and pick-up of the portable bleacher system and portable stage

### Capital Improvements Program Updates for 2016

#### Armory Remodel—\$875,852

The armory building on McLean is the new site of the Forestry section. The building underwent an extensive interior remodel and was completed in January 2017.

#### Athletic Court Improvements—\$238,901

Fairmount Park features the City's first futsal court (enclosed soccer/tennis/sport) which will engage the international student population from WSU. Harrison Park will be the location of the next futsal court.

#### Buffalo Park Improvements—\$1,691,483

Buffalo Park construction was completed in June of 2016 with an interactive water feature/splash pad.

#### Chisholm Creek Park South—\$1,121,554

The Chisholm Creek Park South project has been completed in partnership with the state.

#### Facility Improvements—\$667,048

Improvements to Linwood Fitness Center, Edgemoor Recreation Center and security upgrades at Woodard and McAdams have been completed. The Ice Center underwent ice mechanism improvements.

#### Facility Improvements—\$121,073

Funds were used for a matching grant for a playground installation at Chapin Park, as well as floor replacement at Edgemoor and Linwood Recreation Centers.

#### Golf Improvements—\$955,658

Upgrades were made to L.W. Clapp, MacDonald, Auburn Hills and Arthur B. Sim golf courses.

#### Pracht Wetlands Improvements—\$13,075

Pracht Wetlands is an urban wetland park that combines economic development, a unique ecology and storm water control. Besides Slawson Companies and Wichita Park & Recreation, Public Works is involved, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. RDG has been selected as the design consultant and preliminary work is underway.





**Irrigation System Replacement and Upgrades**—\$84,003

This project will transfer reclaimed water from the Gilmo Facility to O.J. Watson Park. Staff has obtained the water rights for the reclaimed water through the Kansas Department of Water Resources.

**Crystal Prairie Lake Park**—\$336,428

In partnership with Cornejo & Sons, this 665-acre site will have a lake with features for swimming, fishing, boating and other water recreation activities.

**Park Path/Exercise System Improvements**—\$91,000

A perimeter walking pathway has been installed at Orchard Park.

**O.J. Watson Improvements**—\$252,523

The train at O.J. Watson was replaced and kayaks have been added to enhance water-recreation opportunities. Additional improvements have been identified which include a natural screening. Projects are anticipated to begin in spring of 2017.

**McAdams Park**—\$695,665

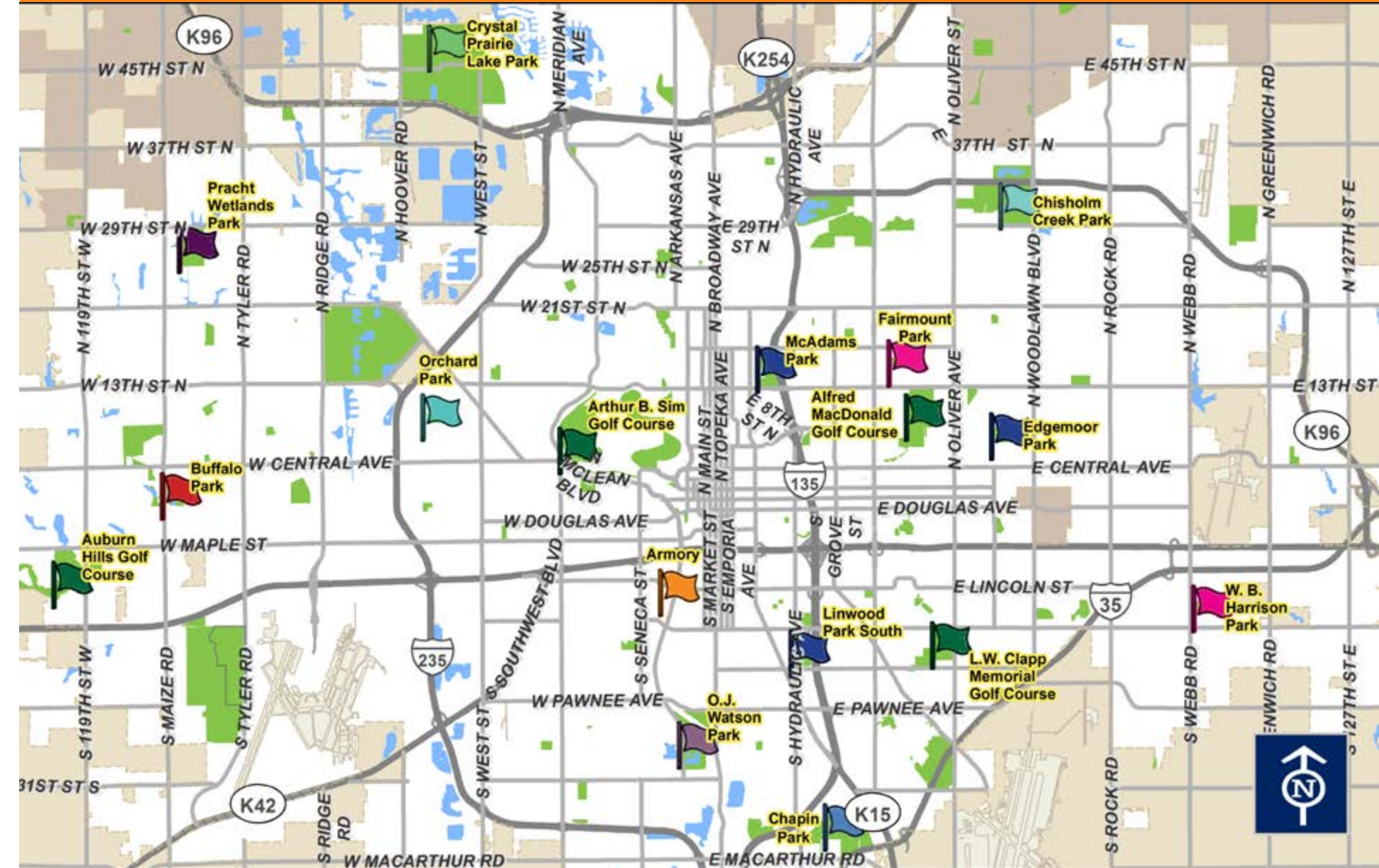
Improvements were made to McAdams Park adding a new turf baseball field to the two existing fields. Repairs of the dugouts and bleachers were also facilitated. This project was done in collaboration with League 42.

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**AWARDED \$669,755 IN GRANTS USED  
IN PROJECTS FOR 2016**

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## MAP REPRESENTS ALL PARK PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2016





## WICHITA PARKS FOUNDATION

The Wichita Parks Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the quality and maintain the heritage of Wichita's park system by assembling the necessary resources through developing partnerships and fostering relationships.

The Board of Directors is comprised of community volunteers who develop partnerships, foster relationships, and provide community education and fundraising to support Wichita Park & Recreation's scholarship fund, memorial benches and trees, recreation programming and special events. To learn more about the foundation, visit [www.wichitaparksfoundation.org](http://www.wichitaparksfoundation.org).

In 2016, the Wichita Parks Foundation sponsored the following events within our community:

RED, WHITE & BOOM,  
COMMUNITY EVENT

**8,000+**  
IN ATTENDANCE



FUNDRAISING  
FOR YOUTH  
RECREATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS

MEMORIAL  
BENCHES  
& TREE  
PROGRAM



## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Wichita Park & Recreation partners with others to promote health and wellness within the community. By having more Wichitans embrace an active lifestyle, the department and its partners can better impact the lives of residents in the community.

Get Fit Wichita is a series of free fitness related mini-events offered by Wichita Park & Recreation and Genesis Health Clubs. Get Fit Wichita promotes physical activity in an outdoor setting.

The series included spinning classes held at Lawrence Dumont Stadium, Yoga in Riverside Park, Zumba and Group Groove Dance at the Mid-American All-Indian Center and a Boot Camp at Genesis Health Club.

### Outreach

- Lord's Diner—Since 2013, the Lord's Diner, has served 864,230 meals at its three food truck locations located within City Parks.
- Civil War Reconciliation Memorial
- Miracle Field at Orchard Park

**A Total 47 Partnerships were developed in 2016 some of which include:**

- ARC of Sedgwick County
- League 42
- Senior Services
- The Home Depot
- Wichita Shooting Stars Archery Club
- Wichita Genealogical Society
- Wheat State Treasure Hunters
- Wichita Wingnuts





## BUILDING WICHITA'S FUTURE IN 2017...

**McAdams Park**—New restroom and concession building will be added with the existing restroom building to be renovated for storage.

**Playgrounds**—Glen Village and Redbarn Parks playgrounds will be renovated along with all Pour-in-Place systems at all City playgrounds will be repaired and upgraded.

**Aquatics**—Design work for the renovations of existing pools and creation of new splash pads will begin.

**Walking Paths**—Evergreen Park will begin work on a new walking path.

**O.J. Watson Park**—Construction of a new rental facility will begin, and installation of a reclaimed water line from Herman Hill Park to irrigate the whole park.

**Naftzger Park**—Will be completely renovated with a more open and inviting space for downtown.

**Stryker Sports Complex**—Will undergo an expansion with new multi-purpose athletic fields and artificial turf.

**Lawrence Dumont Stadium**—Expansion of the current facility with a new baseball museum added.

**Harrison Dog Park**—A new dog park is planned in partnership with Together Wichita and WDM Architecture.

**East Bank Trail on the Arkansas**—Will connect with the existing trail on the unconnected section from Kellogg to Lincoln Street.

## MISSION

Wichita Park & Recreation provides high-quality life experiences to the Wichita Community through the enhancement of world-class amenities and activities.

## VISION

Excel at what we do for the benefit of our community and generations to come.

## CORE VALUES

1. **Integrity:** Park & Recreation inspires respect, trust, honesty and accountability through our actions.
2. **Wellness:** Park & Recreation recognizes the importance of enhancing the physical, emotional and cognitive health and development of all residents.
3. **Diversity:** Park & Recreation celebrates community diversity and strives to provide facilities and services that embrace the needs of residents of diverse cultures, ages and income levels.
4. **Stewardship:** Park & Recreation values ethical and responsible stewardship of the City's financial, physical, natural, environmental, historical and cultural resources.
5. **Connectivity:** Park & Recreation recognizes the importance of connections between public open spaces and other community facilities, such as schools, commercial areas and other destinations.
6. **Economic Driver:** Park & Recreation is an economic driver in the Wichita region and has a major impact on the community's quality of life.
7. **Create Fun:** Park & Recreation adds excitement and enjoyment to our community through recreational programs, special events and park amenities that will enhance quality of life for all.



