



Parks & Recreation

— ANNUAL REPORT

2013
gwinnettcounty

Mission, Vision, Values

In partnership with our citizens, Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation provides high quality, broad-based parks, facilities, programs and services creating a sense of community, enabling a safe and secure environment, and enhancing Gwinnett's quality of life.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation pledges to sustain the delivery of the highest standard of excellence of parks, facilities, programs, and services by:

- Being responsive to the changing recreational needs of a diverse and growing community
- Continuing a citizen-driven and professional approach to provide safe, well designed and maintained facilities and programs
- Providing responsible stewardship of human, fiscal, natural, and historic resources
- Maximizing community resources

- We believe in honesty, integrity and ethical conduct
- We are customer-oriented and both accountable and responsive to our citizens
- We believe in teamwork and collaboration with our community partners
- We promote safety, cost efficiency, innovation, and service excellence



About Parks & Recreation



Managing Staff

Division Director,
Parks and Recreation Operations

Tina **Fleming**

Division, Director,
Parks and Recreation Project Administration

Grant **Guess**

Deputy Director of Park Operations

David **Clark**

Manager, Aquatics

Jim **Cyrus**

Manager, Recreation

John **Register**

Manager, Support Services

David **McGaughey**

Manager, Grounds Maintenance

Eric **Horne**

The mission of Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation (GCPR), in partnership with our citizens, is to provide high quality, broad-based parks, facilities, programs and services creating a sense of community, enabling a safe and secure environment, and enhancing Gwinnett's quality of life. This annual report provides an overview of the operation and development of parks and recreation in Gwinnett County for the fiscal year January 1 through December 31, 2013. This report also highlights significant events and accomplishments from 2013.

In Gwinnett County there truly is something for everyone. With 46 open parks and facilities opened throughout the county, GCPR strives to provide Gwinnett residents with quality recreation and leisure opportunities, serving all ages, interests, and levels of physical ability. GCPR offers a wide variety of classes, camps, programs, and sports leagues to satisfy nearly every Gwinnett resident.

Gwinnett County's park system is home to 171 multi-purpose sport fields with two featuring an overlay football field, nine aquatic facilities housing 17 bodies of water including indoor competition, instructional, lap and leisure/water park pools and outdoor leisure/water park pools, community and senior recreation centers, gymnasiums and activity buildings, playgrounds, dog park areas, outdoor tennis, sand volleyball and basketball courts, skate parks, miles of multi-purpose trails, and historical and nature sites. In addition, the Board of Commissioners' successful greenspace preservation program, supported by the 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) allows Gwinnett residents the opportunity to enjoy the county's precious natural resources.



Tina Fleming
Division Director Operations



Grant Guess
Division Director Project Administration

The **Gwinnett County Recreation Authority** is a legal advisory board comprised of nine-members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, including two representatives from each of the four commission districts, plus one chairman-appointed member. The board typically meets on the second Thursday of the month.

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Chair | Dr. Steven Flynt |
| Vice-Chair | Jack Bolton |
| District 2 | Jack Bolton |
| District 4 | Myron Bullock, Jr. |
| District 3 | Dr. Steven Flynt |
| District 1 | Brad Alexander |
| District 4 | Lois Allen |
| District 1 | Gene Callaway |
| District 3 | Mike Korom |
| District 2 | Mark Ogden |
| Appointed | Charlie Underwood |

The **Gwinnett Parks Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization established to support GCPR programs and services. Foundation volunteers advocate quality of life through citizenry awareness of the county's park system and recreational opportunities and assist GCPR in three core program areas: the Park Park'nership Program, the Commemorative Program, and the Gwinnett Youth and Senior Citizen Scholarship Fund program.



Project Administration Division



Charged with evaluating potential park sites, reviewing boundary surveys, and preparing feasibility studies, the Project Administration staff is responsible for environmental assessment reports, geotechnical analyses, park designs, oversight of renovation and capital improvements to existing parks and facilities, master planning parks and construction of new parks. Once land is purchased for a park, planning staff works with citizen steering committees to create a master plan. These committees consist of members of neighboring communities and park users.

2013 Project Administration Highlights

- Completed the 2013 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements Plan Update
- Completed the renovation of the Bogan Park Aquatic Center
- Completed the J. B. Williams Park Master Plan
- Completed the Rabbit Hill Park Expansion
- Completed the Harbins Park Baseball – Softball Facility
- Completed an extension of the Camp Creek Greenway

2013 Project Administration Projects Underway

- Began construction of the Ivy Creek Greenway Section 3
- Began construction of the Dacula Concession Restroom Building
- Began construction of the Bethesda Park Adult Softball Complex
- Continued construction of the remainder of Harbins Park Multipurpose Field Complex, the Environmental and Heritage Center Phase 2, and Lions Club Park
- Began designs of Level Creek Park, South Gwinnett Park, and J. B. Williams Park

Parks & Recreation Operations Division



Charged with maintaining, operating, and public awareness and safety of the county's park system and recreation facilities, the Operations Division staff is responsible for providing quality parks, programs, and services to meet the broad-based needs of the citizenry in Gwinnett.

Recreation Operations: Programming and Resources and Marketing

Recreation general programming staff and youth athletic facilitators provide countywide services that are divided into four geographic areas: North, South, East, and West. Other countywide specialized program areas include aquatics, heritage, seniors, cultural arts, adult athletics, and tennis. Recreation staff operate and maintain recreation facilities, schedule facility rentals, facilitate citizen meetings, plan and schedule classes, workshops, summer camps, adult athletic leagues, and special events throughout the county. Recreation staff also foster volunteer/community services in county parks and recreation facilities and in programs/service delivery areas.

The Resources and Marketing unit is responsible for creating awareness of the county's park system and the many recreation opportunities that GCPR provides for the community. This awareness is created through publications, the GCPR website, TVgwinnett (Gwinnett County's cable access channel), and media relations. Additionally, Resources and Marketing plans special events, prepares PowerPoint presentations on various aspects of GCPR, makes informative presentations to groups and other organizations, works closely with nonprofit organizations such as the Gwinnett Parks Foundation, prepares local, state and national award nominations, and creates invitations, flyers, advertisements, news releases, presentations, and brochures.

2013 Recreation Programming and Resources and Marketing Highlights

- In partnership with Archer Athletic Association, held grand opening for Harbins Park Baseball Complex – August 10, 2013
- In partnership with Dacula Soccer Club and Mountain View Athletic Association, held grand opening for Rabbit Hill Park Expansion – September 10, 2013
- In partnership with NFL, held the Punt, Pass, and Kick event at Rhodes Jordan Park
- In partnership with Gwinnett County Police Department, Fire Department, and other safety partners, held a Latino Community Outreach Safety Day at Lucky Shoals Park
- Launched the new Summer Camp magazine highlighting programs and activities
- In partnership with Vines Garden Railroad, held National Train Day at Vines Park on May 18, with 200 visitors
- Collaborated with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to launch the Strong4Life program initiative with summer camps
- Held the Gwinnett Plein Air Challenge in partnership with the Tannery Row Artist Colony – February 25. Winning piece was "Morning Sparkle at McDaniel Farm" pastel by Nancy Nowak
- Participated in the National Park Trust's third annual National Kids to Parks Day – May 18



- Partner Gwinnett Senior Golden Games had more than 300 senior athletes compete, with 1,969 hours of volunteerism
- 45,406 athletes were involved in youth sports with 28 youth athletic associations
- West Gwinnett Park Aquatic Center hosted its second Kid's Triathlon series event on August 25. The event attracted 989 entrants along with 4,000 spectators and 100 volunteers with Gwinnett Sports Commission
- Old-Fashioned Picnic and Bluegrass Festival held at Gwinnett Historic Courthouse with 900 attendants
- 10,385 rentals of community recreation centers, ball fields, pavilions, and special facilities.
- 29 new partnerships formed to increase community involvement
- The 26th Annual Lighting of the Tree had more than 3,000 people in attendance
- GCPR maximized use of alternative labor with 828,963 volunteer hours, 48 Eagle Scout projects, and 15,709 community service hours



Recreation Programming and Resources and Marketing Projects Currently Underway

- Promotional video series for film/production
- Live to Play, Play to Live television program on TV Gwinnett
- Strengthen health and wellness programs within the parks system through implementation of the Park Rx Program

Park Operations: Grounds Maintenance

Grounds Maintenance includes four districts: North, South, West, and Conservation Parks and are responsible for all the general/basic care and up-keep for all parks in the county's park system. Turf, trails, and natural resource management, mowing and fertilization of passive and athletic sport fields, sports field game preparation, tree and shrub care, playground inspection and maintenance, grounds and buildings janitorial, and litter/refuse removal all are basic components of the scope of quality service afforded by the grounds maintenance staff.

Park Operations: Support Services

Support Services includes six main units: Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, Field Support, Contractual Services, and Warehouse Operations. These units are involved in the maintenance of all facility systems (HVAC, plumbing, electrical, lighting, irrigation, building structural, painting, key locking system), fleet maintenance coordination, athletic/security lighting, site electrical/plumbing for all covering community centers, activity buildings, aquatic centers, specialized facilities, athletic fields, and all general park areas throughout the parks system.

2013 Park Operations Highlights: Grounds Maintenance and Support Services

- Installation of security cameras for coverage of buildings, parking lots, and entrance at Bogan Park
- Sports field renovation of 502,040 square feet
- Service request completion rate was 2,336 received and 2,212 completed – 95 percent

2013 Park Operations Projects Currently Underway

- Ninety percent completion of asset management program
- Meadow restoration at Little Mulberry Park
- 2014 SPLOST countywide program plan for rehabilitation/renovation of existing parks

2013 Award Highlights for Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation

- Georgia Recreation and Park Association
 - First place at the annual State Lifeguarding Competition
 - Older American Month, Senior Section Award
 - July is Park and Recreation Month, Programming Section Award
 - Swim Safely, Innovative Programming Award, Marketing and Visibility Publication Award
 - Volunteer of the Year Award – Pat Donovan
 - Hall of Fame Award – Sharon Plunkett
- Georgia Recreation and Park Association – District 7
 - Agency of the Year
 - Volunteer of the Year – Gwinnett Senior Golden Games
- Gwinnett Magazine
 - Best Park – Little Mulberry Park, Alexander Park, Tribble Mill Park
 - Best Family Activities
 - Best Place for a Wedding – Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
- National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials
 - TILT “Teens in Leadership Training” for programming excellence
 - Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Waterfowl Management Plan for environmental stewardship
- Artworks!: Gwinnett Fusion Award
 - The Gwinnett Plein Air Challenge



Financial Summary



Parks and Recreation Capital History

Revenues	2012	2013
Recreation Tax*	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 1,127,235
Grants	100,000	0
General Tax/Other	35,110,083	21,613,340
Total	\$ 37,710,083	\$ 22,740,575
Expenditures	2012	2013
Capital Improvements and Equipment	\$ 24,422,051	\$ 18,158,571

*Funds receipted in operating fund and transferred to capital to be expensed.

2012 Parks and Recreation Revenue and Expenditures

Revenues	2012
General Fund	\$ 120,239
Recreation Tax	23,956,726
User Fees	5,410,631
Other Revenues/Dividends	18,887
Total	\$ 29,506,483
Expenditures	
Personal Services	\$ 14,461,616
Supplies	8,471,717
Other Changes/Services	2,738,387
Contribution Capital	3,598,284
Bonded Debt Service	0
Total	\$ 29,270,004

2013 At A Glance



Total park land acreage	9,282
Number of operational parks	46
Number of Recreation/Community Centers	12
Number of Senior Recreation Centers/designated area	2
Number of Tennis Courts	51
Number of Outdoor Basketball/Multi-use courts	40
Number of miles of bike/walking/hiking trails	123
Number of Competition and Leisure/Play Pools	17
Number of Skate Parks	7
Number of Cultural/Historic sites	6
Number of Playgrounds	67
Number of Dog Park Areas	7
Number of Special Needs Multi-use Sport fields	9
Number of classes, programs, camps, and events offered	7,158
Number of parks under development or renovation	2
Number of parks master plans completed	1
Number of groundbreakings for new parks	0
Number of parks and facilities opened	2
Number of parks/facilities renovated	1
Number of participants enrolled in recreation classes	76,231
Number of recreation and athletic summer camps offered	431
Total participation in summer camps	4,041
Number of Youth Athletic Associations (YAA)	28

Enrollment participation of children in YAA programs	45,406
Number of participants in adult sports leagues	6,210
Aquatics classes/lessons offered	3,021
Number of participants in aquatics classes/lessons	132,833
General attendance at county pools	418,310
Number of facility and specialized facility use	10,385
Facility rental participation	684,604
Acreage of developed parkland maintained by staff	2,990
Number of multi-purpose sports fields maintained by staff	170
Number of work orders for plumbing, electrical, carpentry, field support	2,336
Number of volunteer hours	828,963



Community Partnerships

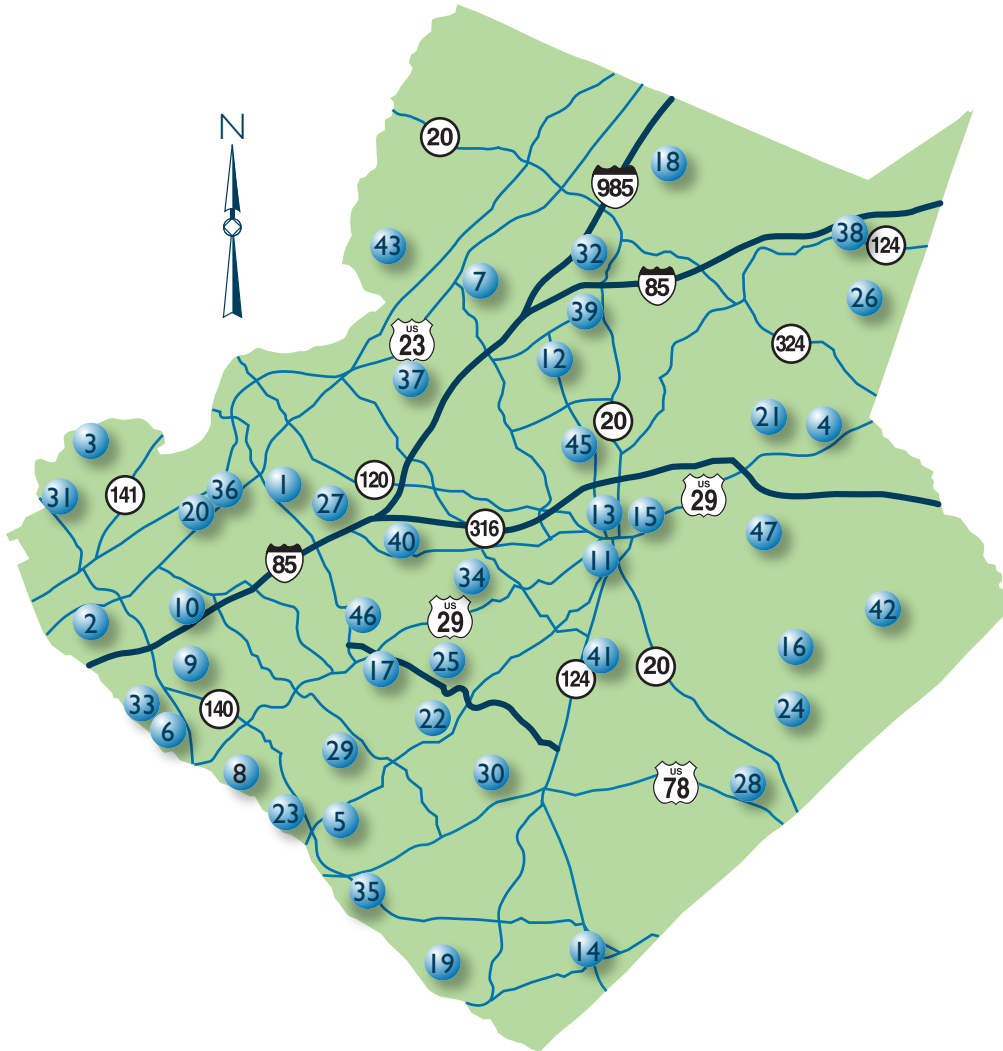


- Alpharetta-Johns Creek Kiwanis
- American Hiking Society
- Archer Athletic Association
- Atlanta Fire United Soccer Association
- Best Friend Club
- Bogan Gold Wing Club
- Brookwood Baseball/Softball Association
- Brookwood Football
- Brookwood Lacrosse
- Bryson Park Youth Athletic Association
- Buford American Legion
- Buford School System
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Church of Christ
- City of Duluth Recreation Department
- City of Lawrenceville
- City of Snellville Recreation Department
- City of Sugar Hill Recreation Department
- Collins Hill Athletic Association
- Collins Hill Stingrays
- Dacula Athletic Association
- Dacula Dolphins
- Dacula Rainbow Senior Recreation Club
- Dacula Soccer Club
- Duluth American Legion
- Duluth Youth Athletic Association
- Evergreen Club
- Georgia DNR
- Georgia Futbol Club
- Georgia Geocachers Association
- Get Kids Fishing Foundation
- Get Up and Go Senior Recreation Club
- Good Age Senior Recreation Club
- Goodwill of North Georgia
- Grayson Athletic Association
- Greater Lilburn Athletic Association
- Greening Forward
- Gwinnett Area Trail Riders
- Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
- Gwinnett County Board of Education
- Gwinnett Disc Golf Organization
- Gwinnett Federal Swim League
- Gwinnett Historical Society
- Gwinnett Humane Society
- Gwinnett Master Gardeners
- Gwinnett Masters Special Teams
- Gwinnett Parks Foundation Gwinnett Rose Society
- Gwinnett Senior Golden Games
- Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center
- Gwinnett Sports Commission
- Gwinnett United in Drug Education (GUIDE)
- H2U
- Lanier Athletic Association
- Lawrenceville Fun Time Senior Recreation Club
- Lawrenceville Tourism and Trade Association
- Lawrenceville Youth Athletic Association
- Liberty National Volunteer Match
- Metro Atlanta Senior Softball Association
- Mill Creek Athletic Association
- Mountain Park Athletic Association
- Mountain Park Sharks
- Mountain View Athletic Association
- Norcross Baseball/Softball Association
- Norcross Soccer Association
- Norcross Youth Athletic Association
- North Gwinnett Baseball/Softball Association
- North Gwinnett Football Association
- North Gwinnett Lacrosse Association
- Peachtree Boosters Club
- Peachtree Ridge Athletic Association
- Positive Public Image
- SafeKids Gwinnett County Government
- Senior Recreation Council
- Shiloh Athletic Association
- Shorty Howell Hi-Steppers Senior Recreation Club
- South Gwinnett Athletic Association
- Sports Gwinnett Magazine
- Suwanee Goodtimers Senior Recreation Club
- Trout Unlimited
- Vines Garden Railroad
- Salvation Army
- Snellville American Legion

2013 Park Inventory



With 46 parks, residents are just minutes away from enjoying a day at the park and the many activities offered by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Shorty Howell Park Activity Building | 24. Bay Creek Park |
| 2. Best Friend Park | 25. Ronald Reagan Park |
| 3. Jones Bridge Park | 26. Little Mulberry Park |
| 4. Dacula Park and Activity Building | 27. McDaniel Farm Park |
| 5. Mountain Park Park | 28. Vines Park |
| 6. Lucky Shoals Park | 29. Lions Club Park |
| 7. George Pierce Park | 30. South Gwinnett Park |
| 8. Harmony Grove Soccer Complex | 31. Holcomb Bridge |
| 9. Singleton Road Activity Building | 32. Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center |
| 10. Cemetery Field | 33. Graves Park |
| 11. Lawrenceville Female Seminary | 34. Sweet Water Park |
| 12. Collins Hill Park and Aquatic Center | 35. DeShong Park |
| 13. Gwinnett Historic Courthouse | 36. West Gwinnett Park and Aquatic Center |
| 14. Lenora Park | 37. Peachtree Ridge Park |
| 15. Rhodes Jordan Park | 38. Duncan Creek Park |
| 16. Tribble Mill Park | 39. Rock Springs Park |
| 17. Bethesda Park | 40. Club Drive Park |
| 18. Bogan Park | 41. Alexander Park |
| 19. Yellow River Park | 42. Harbins Park |
| 20. Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, Pinckneyville Park and Soccer Complex | 43. Settles Bridge Park |
| 21. Rabbit Hill Park | 44. Freeman's Mill Park |
| 22. Yellow River Post Office | 45. Collins Hill Golf Course |
| 23. Mountain Park Aquatic Center and Activity Building | 46. Bryson Park |
| | 47. Lions Club Park |



Please consider the environment before printing this report.

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Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation
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