

Parks & Recreation

ANNUAL REPORT  
2012



## Mission

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.

## Vision

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

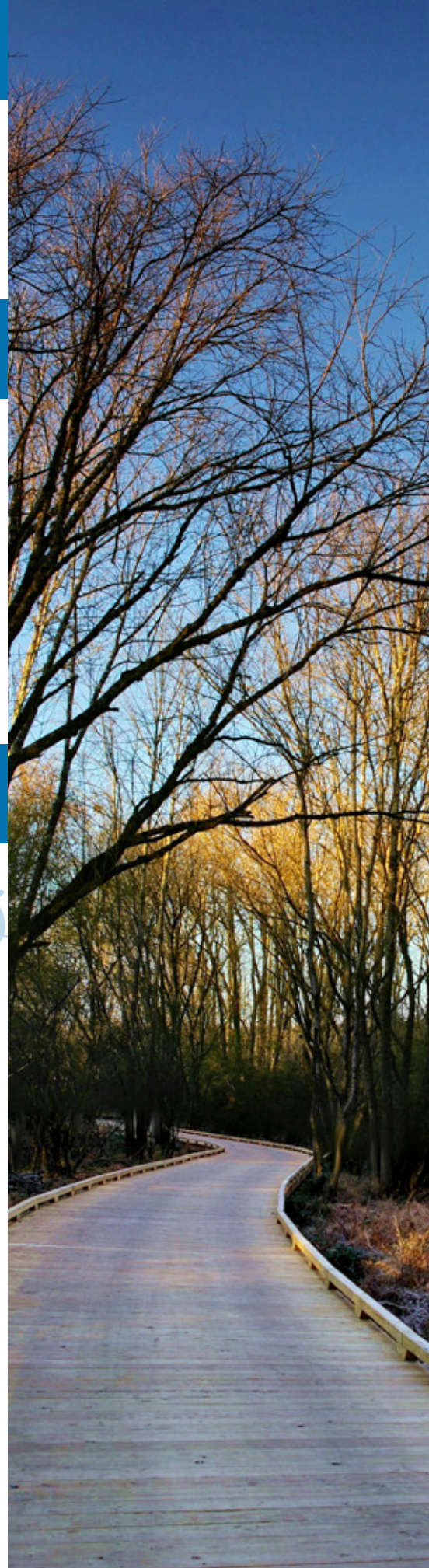
- Being responsive to the changing recreational needs of a diverse and growing community
- Continuing a citizen-driven and professional approach to provide safe, well designed and maintained facilities and programs
- Providing responsible stewardship of human, fiscal, natural, and historic resources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

## Values

- 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



**gwinnettcounty**  
**parks & recreation**



# About Parks and Recreation

## Managing Staff

Division Director, Parks and Recreation Operations  
Division, Director, Parks and Recreation Project Administration  
Deputy Director of Park Operations  
Manager, Aquatics  
Manager, Recreation  
Manager, Support Services  
Manager, Grounds Maintenance  
Manager, Development/Construction

Tina **Fleming**  
Grant **Guess**  
David **Clark**  
Jim **Cyrus**  
John **Register**  
David **McGaughey**  
Eric **Horne**  
Don **Hafner**

In Gwinnett County there truly is something for everyone. With 45 open parks and facilities opened throughout the county, Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation (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 154 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, and 2009 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) allows Gwinnett residents the opportunity to enjoy the county's precious natural resources.

The Gwinnett County Recreation Authority was established in 1975 by Georgia Law. The Authority consists of nine members, two appointed by each District Commissioner and one appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

District 1  
District 1  
District 2  
District 2  
District 3 (Chair)  
District 3  
District 4  
District 4  
Chairman's Appointment (Vice Chair)

Debbie **Hale**  
June **Hawkins**  
Jack **Bolton**  
Mark **Ogden**  
Dr. Steven **Flynt**  
Greg **Hutzell**  
Myron **Bullock, Jr.**  
Allen **Harkness**  
H.S. "Chip" **Randall**

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, which raises funds for youth and senior citizen recreation scholarships.



*Tina Fleming  
Division Director  
Operations*



*Grant Guess  
Division Director  
Project Administration*



# About Parks and Recreation

Two divisions make up Parks and Recreation, which falls under the Department of Community Services:

- Parks and Recreation Project Administration
- Parks and Recreation Operations

## Parks and Recreation 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.

### 2012 Project Administration Highlights

- Multipurpose fields converted to artificial turf at Bay Creek and George Pierce Parks
- Rhodes Jordan Park renovation was completed, including lake area picnic and trail reconstruction and expansion, tennis building, horseshoe court complex, outdoor basketball courts, and a three field soccer complex with concession/restroom building
- The Yellow River Post Office historical site was completed, providing parking, restroom facilities, and interpretive trail with signage
- Bryson Park was completed, including a multipurpose artificial turf field with concession/restroom building, a pavilion, playground and restroom complex, a woodland trail, a courts complex with teen play area, and a two field soccer complex with concession/restroom building
- Vines Park renovation was completed. The project included the renovation of the trail around the lake and replacement of the upper lake bridge, the overlook, and the pavilion
- The 2012 Needs Assessment Survey was completed providing citizens a chance to give input regarding their needs for recreational facilities and programs for themselves and their families
- Various renovations to the aquatics facilities at Bethesda Park Aquatic Center, Mountain Park Aquatic Center and the outdoor leisure pool at West Gwinnett Park Aquatic Center
- Purchase of the site of the frontier outpost of Fort Daniel



# Parks and 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 operates 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 fosters volunteer/community services in county parks and recreation facilities and in programs/service delivery.

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.

## 2012 Highlights – Recreation Operations: Programming/Resources and Marketing:

- Celebrated 25 years as a countywide parks and recreation system with various events and activities throughout the county
- The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Lighting of the Tree took place on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, with over 12,000 people on the grounds of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse on the square in downtown Lawrenceville for the Silver Anniversary of this historical event
- GCPR had 46,072 athletes involved in youth sports through the partnerships with 28 youth athletic associations, that included forming the new Bryson Park Youth Athletic Association, Archer Athletic Association, and Mountain View Athletic Association playing their 2012 football season at their new home parks
- GCPR had 412,975 rented hours of usage





# Parks and Recreation Operations Division

- In partnership with Mountain View Athletic Association and Archer Athletic Association, held grand opening for the Harbins Park expansion (July 27) and Rabbit Hill Park expansion (August 10). In partnership with Bryson Park Youth Athletic Association, held the grand opening for Bryson Park (October 27).
- Other events throughout the year includes the Rhodes Jordan Park Grand Reopening (March 20), Yellow River Post Office Grand Opening (June 19, 2012), and the Vines Park Ribbon Cutting and Reopening celebration (November 15)
- In partnership with the NFL, held the Punt Pass and Kick event at Rhodes Jordan Park
- Partnered with Gwinnett Senior Golden Games which had 300 athletes compete
- Increase in partnerships that included churches and local companies completing service projects
- Implementation of the Recreation Park Attendant staff plan
- Increased community involvement with 46 new partnerships formed in support of parks and recreation activities and events
- 100 percent increase in Eagle Scout Projects
- Hosted a national women's rugby tournament at Rhodes Jordan Park with teams from all over the country participating
- Hosted a national lacrosse tournament at Rabbit Hill Park
- Norcross Soccer hosted a national tournament NIKE Cup with over 155 teams utilizing various soccer fields.
- Hosted youth triathlon series event at West Gwinnett Park Aquatic Center with over 800 participants. This was voted the Sports of Event of the Year by the Gwinnett County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Promotional Video Series for Rental and Film/production
- Designed new Summer Camp magazine highlighting programs and activities
- New summer camp regime, to include 5 and 6 year olds into their own setting and incorporate 13 year olds to be a part of the 7 – 13 year old group
- Redevelopment of Teens in Leadership Training Program to include a 12-month plan
- Continue focus on revenue generation and collection for various fees/charges

## Park operations: grounds maintenance

Grounds Maintenance includes four districts, North, South, West and Conservation Parks, and is responsible for all the general/basic care and upkeep for all parks in the county's park system. Turf, trails, 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, and key locking system), fleet maintenance coordination, athletic/security lighting, site electrical/plumbing all covering community centers, activity buildings, aquatic centers, specialized facilities, athletic fields, and all general park areas throughout the parks system.



# Parks and Recreation Operations Division

## 2012 Highlights – Park Operations: Grounds Maintenance and Support Services:

- Parks Asset Management Study – 75 percent complete
- Renovation of 349,466 square feet of sports field turf
- Service request completion rate – 3,184 received/3,001 completed (94 percent)
- Began implementation of Waterfowl Management Program
- Installation of security cameras at Lucky Shoals Park
- Worked with three youth athletic associations to install new scoreboards at their home parks
- Completed major repairs to Little Mulberry Park docks and Tribble Mill Park pedestrian bridge
- Maintenance staffing – reallocated funds from full time position to create part time positions enhancing our ability to place more resources at peak work times of the year
- New park developments: Harbins Park and Rabbit Hill Park expansions
- Invasive Species Removal Management Program
- Implementation of sustainable, energy, and conservation capital improvement projects throughout the park system

## 2012 Highlights – Awards

- Rhodes Jordan Park Renovation, *The Golden Hammer Award* (Lawrenceville Tourism and Trade Association)
- Karina Miller Loop at Little Mulberry Park, National Recreation Trail Designation (Department of Interior)
- *Excellence in Youth Sports Award* (National Alliance for Youth Sports)
- Georgia Recreation and Park Association
  - First Place, Annual State Lifeguarding Competition
  - Dr. Steven Flynt, *State Volunteer Award*
  - Dr. Mark Patterson, *Mike Daniel Award*
  - unbeLEAFable campaign, *Publication Award*
  - Older American Month, *Senior Section Award*
  - July is Parks and Recreation Month, *Programming Section Award*
  - Charles Orgbon, *Volunteer Outdoor Section Award*
  - Michael Ciccone, *Volunteer Program Section Award*
- Georgia Recreation and Park Association – District 7
  - David Clark, *Roy A. Hammond Leadership Award*
  - Gregg Peters, *Volunteer Award*
- *Best Park* – Little Mulberry Park (Gwinnett Magazine)
- *Best Maintained Facilities* (Gwinnett Magazine)
- National Association of Counties Achievement Award (Teens In Leadership Training)
- Support Recognition, The Goodwill Program (Goodwill of North Georgia)

# Financial Summary

## Parks and Recreation Capital History

Revenues	2011	2012
Recreation Tax*	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,803,605
Grants	100,000	0
General Tax/Other	35,110,083	64,465,498
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 37,710,083</b>	<b>\$ 67,269,103</b>

Expenditures	2011	2012
Capital Improvements and Equipment	\$ 24,422,051	\$ 32,291,633

\*Funds receipted in operating fund and transferred to capital to be expense

## 2012 Parks and Recreation Revenue and Expenditures

Revenues	2012
General Fund	\$ 508,587
Recreation Tax	25,136,930
User Fees	5,270,736
Other Revenues/Dividends	22,846
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 30,939,099</b>

Expenditures	
Personal Services	\$ 13,911,188
Supplies	8,416,054
Other Changes/Services	3,179,426
Contribution Capital	1,196,109
Bonded Debt Service	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,702,777</b>

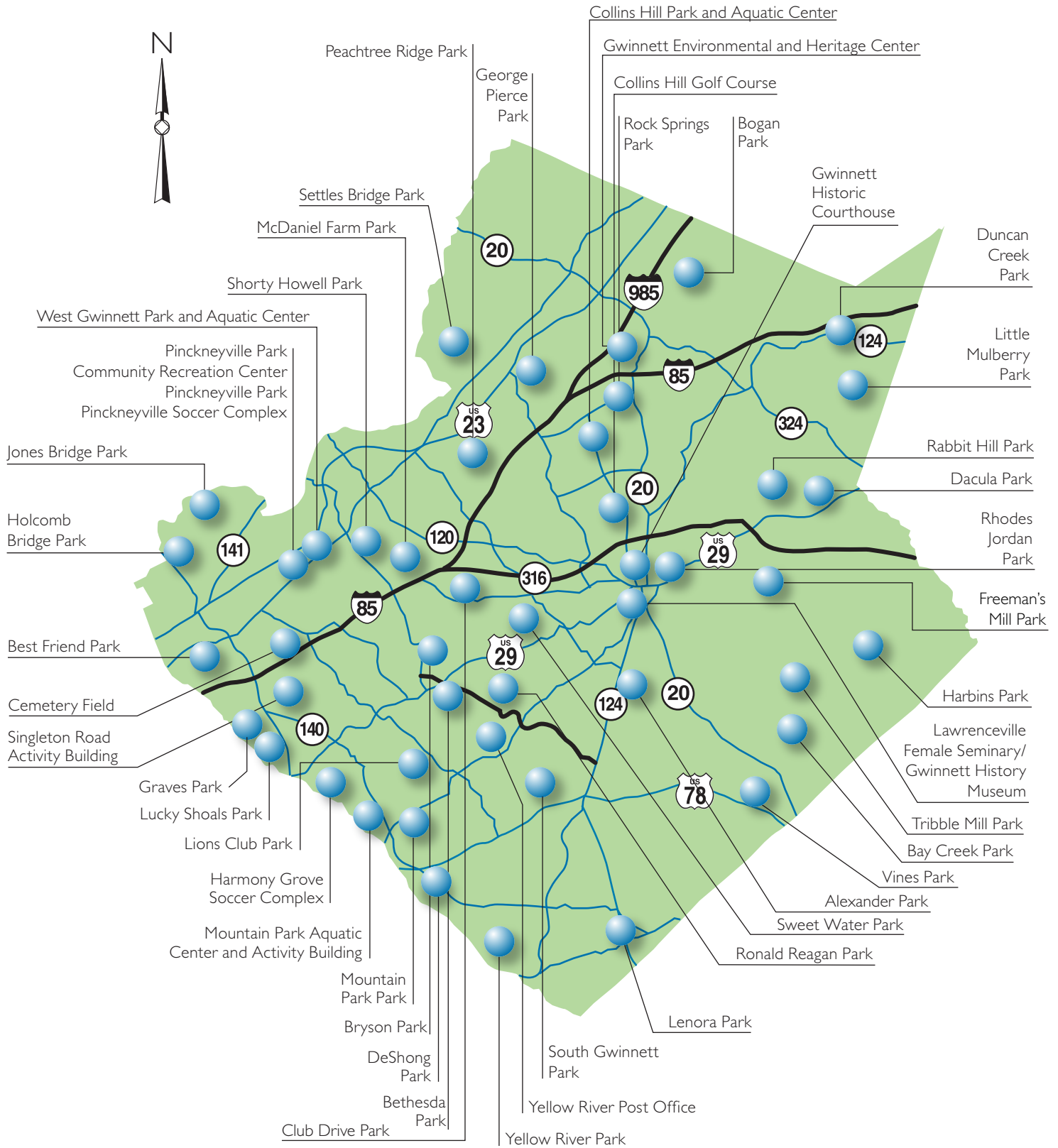


# 2012 at a Glance

Total park land acreage	9,282
Number of operational parks	45
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	34
Number of miles of bike/walking/hiking trails	103
Number of Competition and Leisure/Play Pools	17
Number of Skate Parks	7
Number of Cultural/Historic sites	6
Number of Playgrounds	63
Number of Dog Park Areas	6
Number of Special Needs Multi-use Sport fields	9
Number of classes, programs, camps, and events offered	6,313
Number of parks under development or renovation	4
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	2
Number of participants enrolled in recreation classes	69,952
Number of recreation and athletic summer camps offered	424
Total participation in summer camps	2,862
Number of Youth Athletic Associations (YAA)	28
Enrollment participation of children in YAA programs	46,072
Number of participants in adult sports leagues	7,995
Aquatics classes/lessons offered	2,434
Number of participants in aquatics classes/lessons	11,700
General attendance at county pools	541,000
Number of facility and specialized facility use	11,781
Facility rental participation	549,272
Acreage of developed parkland maintained by staff	2,485
Number of multi-purpose sports fields maintained by staff	154
Number of work orders for plumbing, electrical, carpentry, field support	3,184
Number of volunteer hours	805,048

# 2011 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.







**Please consider the environment before printing this report.**