
Recreation Authority Board
Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 2:00pm

One Justice Square – Conference Room 108
446 West Crogan, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046

Present: Brad Alexander, Kyle VanNus, Norman Carter, Sarah Overs, and Samia Abdulle
Not present: Bruce Johnson, Rashida Wilson, Eric Thigpen, and Pam Cox

1. Call to Order
2. Temporary Meeting Chairperson
Secretary Lindsey Jorstad called the meeting to order. Due to the absence of a Chair and Vice Chairperson, the Recreation Authority named Brad Alexander to preside over the February 8, 2024 meeting.
{Action: Approved; Motion: Abdulle; Second: Carter; {Vote: (5-0) Carter-Yes; VanNus-Yes; Alexander-Yes; Overs-Yes; Abdulle-Yes}}
3. Welcome/Announcements
4. Approval of Agenda
{Action: Approved; Motion: Carter; Second: Overs; {Vote: (5-0) Carter-Yes; VanNus-Yes; Alexander-Yes; Overs-Yes; Abdulle-Yes}}
5. Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2023
{Action: Approved; Motion: Johnson; Second: Abdulle; {Vote: (5-0) Carter-Yes; VanNus-Yes; Alexander-Yes; Overs-Yes; Abdulle-Yes}}
6. Presentation from Law Department
7. Election of Officers
The Recreation Authority made a motion to table the elections of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Recreation Authority to their next meeting.
{Action: Approved; Motion: Alexander; Second: Carter; {Vote: (5-0) Carter-Yes; VanNus-Yes; Alexander-Yes; Overs-Yes; Abdulle-Yes}}

The Recreation Authority made a motion to appoint Lindsey Jorstad as the Secretary of the Recreation Authority.
{Action: Approved; Motion: Overs; Second: Abdulle; {Vote: (5-0) Carter-Yes; VanNus-Yes; Alexander-Yes; Overs-Yes; Abdulle-Yes}}

8. 2024 Meeting Schedule Discussion
The Recreation Authority made a motion to meet at various recreation facilities throughout the county on April 11 at 6:00pm, June 13 at 2:00pm, August 8 at 6:00pm, October 10 at 2:00pm, and December 12 at 6:00pm.
{Action: Approved; Motion: VanNus; Second: Abdulle; {Vote: (5-0) Carter-Yes; VanNus-Yes; Alexander-Yes; Overs-Yes; Abdulle-Yes}}

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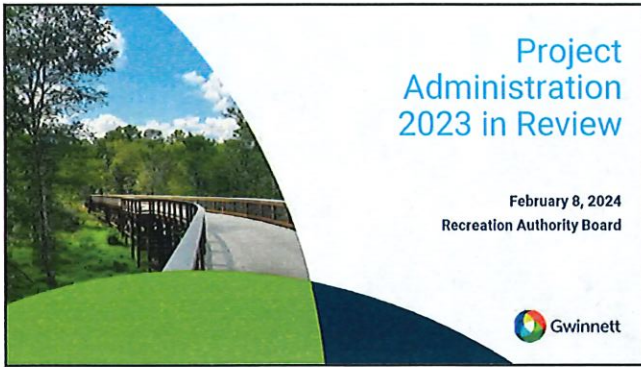
Not present: Bruce Johnson, Rashida Wilson, Eric Thigpen, and Pam Cox

9. Staff Presentations: 2023 Year in Review and Looking Forward in 2024

10. Comments from Audience

11. Adjournment

{Action: Approved; Motion: Carter; Second: Overs; {Vote: (5-0) Carter-Yes; VanNus-Yes; Alexander-Yes; Overs-Yes; Abdulle-Yes}}



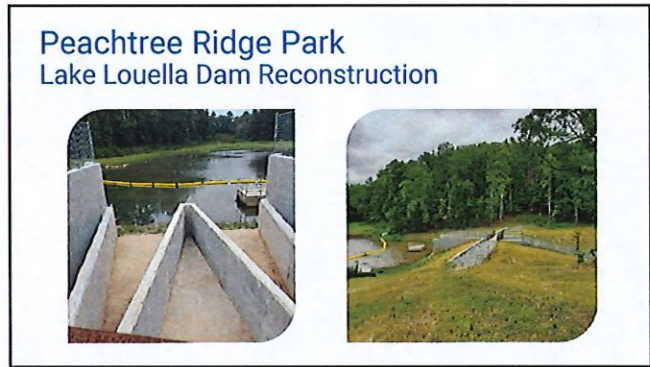
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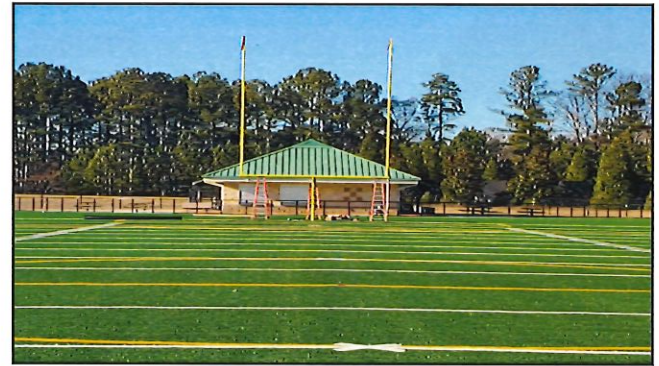
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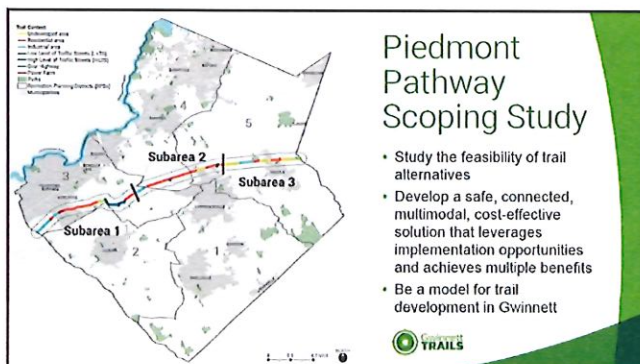
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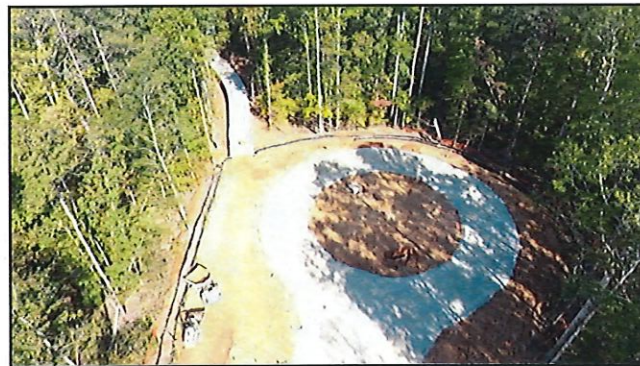
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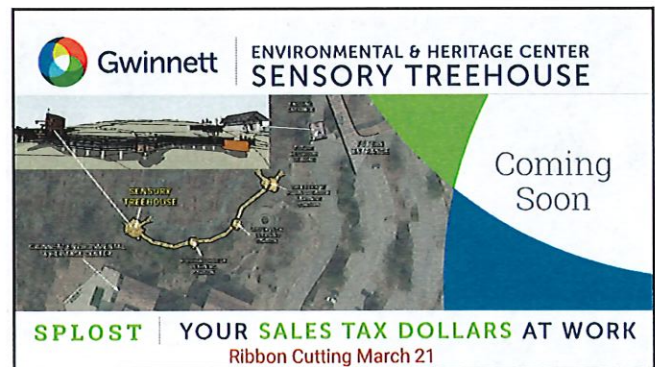
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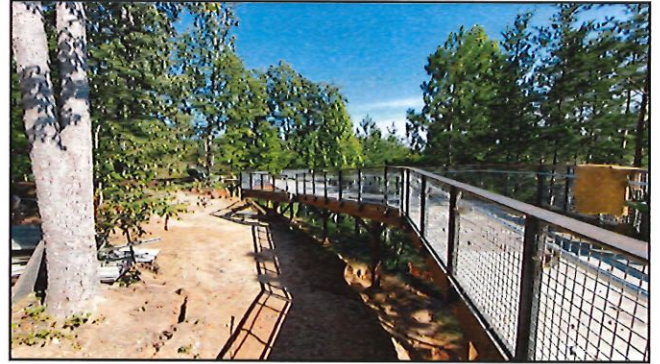
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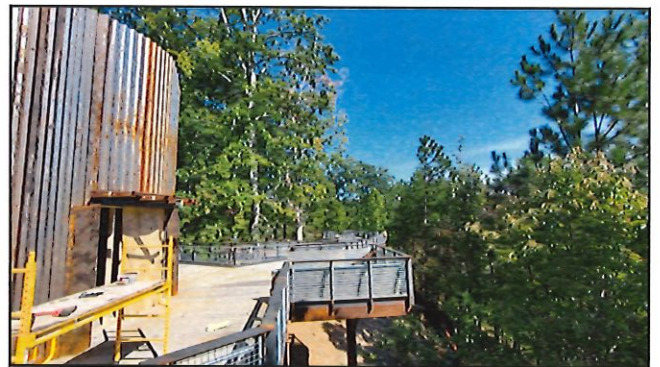
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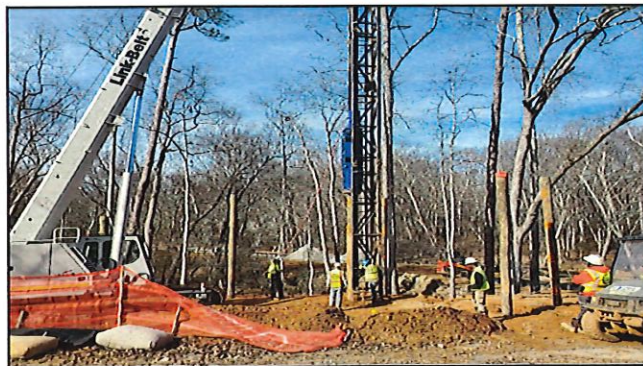
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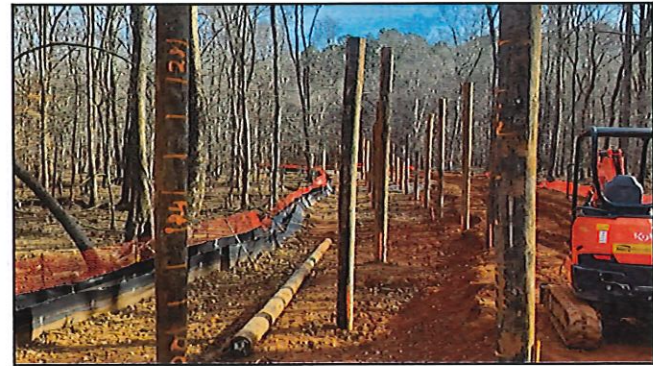
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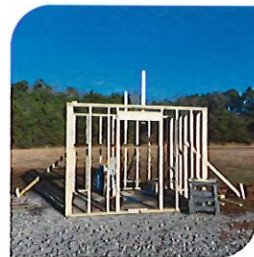
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Bogan Park Aquatic Center Play Structure Replacement and Replastering



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E. E. Robinson Park Well Pump House for Community Garden



36

Little Mulberry Park Pier Renovations



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Gwinnett

Future site of Singleton Park and Singleton Greenway Trailhead
CONCEPTUAL PLAN SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FUNDED BY YOUR TAX DOLLARS

MDA

COMING SOON!
Ribbon Cutting March 28

38



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Gwinnett

STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT JONES BRIDGE PARK

Coming Soon

Goals

- Move natural stream conditions
- Stabilize stream banks
- Protect stream from parking lot runoff
- Restore trees and vegetation
- Improved water quality and safe habitats

RETRATECH

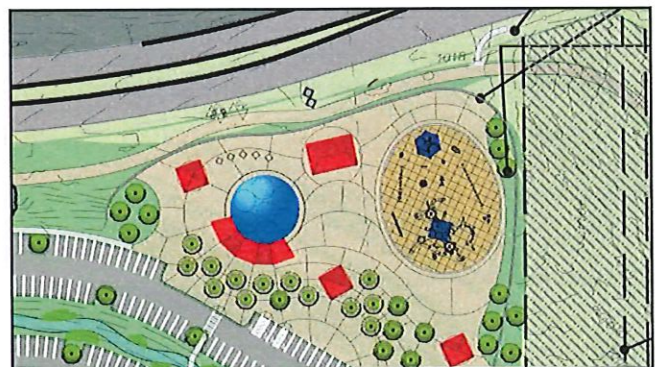
Part of the Gwinnett County

RESTORED STREAM

40



41



42

Gwinnett Trails Master Plan Update

- Collaboration with the Department of Transportation
- Gwinnett cities, community improvement districts, and other stakeholders will be involved
- Process is expected to take one year
- Update will include and inventory of sidewalks along arterial and collector streets



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Other Project Updates

- Bay Creek Park: Multipurpose field synthetic turf replacement
- George Pierce Park:
 - Multipurpose field synthetic turf replacement
 - Playground replacement at baseball/softball
- Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center:
 - Front entrance realignment re-bid
 - Green roof redesign
 - Outdoor classroom and restroom
- Promised Land: The Livsey Family Big House restoration planning

44

2023 SPLOST Future Funded Projects

- Vines Park Phase II
- Sweet Water Park Phase II
- Centerville Park



45

Projects in the Planning Stage for Future Community Input

- Simpsonwood Park Masterplan Update
- Livsey Family Big House Restoration
- Palm Creek Park Site Master Planning



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Management and Updating of Existing Facilities Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center

- Sensory Treehouse and Exhibits
- Roof Renovations
- Pathways Through the Piedmont Exhibits
- Outdoor Classroom, Restroom, Entrance Drive Realignment, and Parking Lot Improvements
- Blue Planet Repair and Film Update



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Management and Updating of Existing Facilities

- Bay Creek Park – Multipurpose Field Turf Replacement
- Best Friend Park – Playground Renovations
- Collins Hill Park – Parking Lot Renovations and Repaving
- George Pierce Park
 - Multipurpose Field Turf Replacement
 - Playground Renovation



48





1



2



Recreation Operations

- 452,586 Participants
- 6,682 Activities offered
- 5,072 Campers
- 23,349 Rentals
- \$595,337 Pavilion revenues



3

Summer Feeding

- 239,278 Meals served
- 21 Distribution sites
- 642 Volunteers
- 1,000,000+ Meals distributed since 2019




4



Aquatics

- 488,309 Admissions and passes
- 13,929 Swim lesson participants
- 738 Certifications
- 15,298 Training hours



5

Youth Athletics

- 33 Athletic association partners
- 37,334 Youth athletes
- 663,796 Volunteer hours
- \$82,138 Scholarships funds offered




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Volunteer Resources

- 14,582 Volunteer hours
- 4,144 Volunteers
- 127 Volunteer workdays



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Grounds Maintenance

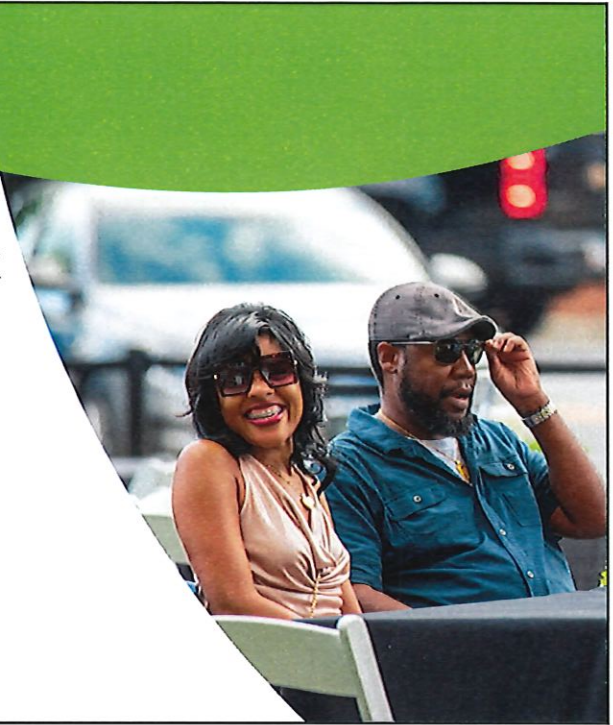
- 8,278 Acres maintained
- 948 Playground safety inspections
- 2 Additional Certified Playground Inspectors
- 5,071 Work orders




8

2024

- National Recreation and Park Association Conference
- Gold Medal
- CAPRA
- Operational Excellence



Building Brains Anywhere 2023 in Review

February 8, 2024



1

Mission Focus

- Mobile Early Learning Programs
- G.R.E.A.T. Little Minds Book Exchanges
- Afterschool Programs
- Science and Social Studies Enrichment



2



Early Learning

- 175 Early learning experiences
- 11,027 Children served
- 10,648 Caregivers served
- Caroline Price, Gwinnett County's 2022 Most Valuable Person



3

G.R.E.A.T. Little Minds Book Exchanges

- 66 Boxes located across Gwinnett
- 62,347 Books distributed
 - 5,195 Books distributed each month on average
- Goodwill Distribution in Norcross is a major contributor of books



4

Afterschool



- Nine afterschool sites
- Rock Springs, Taylor, Anderson-Livsey, Britt, Jenkins, Freeman's Mill, Peachtree, Meadowcreek, and Rockbridge
- Five utilizing BOOST funding, therefore no monthly fees to caregivers
- 1,584 Individual programs
- 35,509 Students served (duplicated count)
- 33,477 Snacks served in partnership with GCPS



5

K – 12 Enrichment



- 17,160 Field trip students
- 4,697 Summer campers (*duplicated*)
- 30,202 Other educational program participants
- Continuous collaboration with GCPS
- STEAM Lab



6

Summer BOOST

- 61 Summer BOOST programs in 8 weeks
- 28 GCPS elementary schools served
- 6,127 Students served
- 38,532 Weekend meal packs to six camp sites and six GCPS elementary schools
- Partner collaboration across divisions



7

What's Next?



- Premiere of the updated Blue Planet film
- Sensory Treehouse
- Pathways Through the Piedmont exhibit
- Reimagined Discovery H20
- Middle-school level afterschool program
- Continued growth of CAPS



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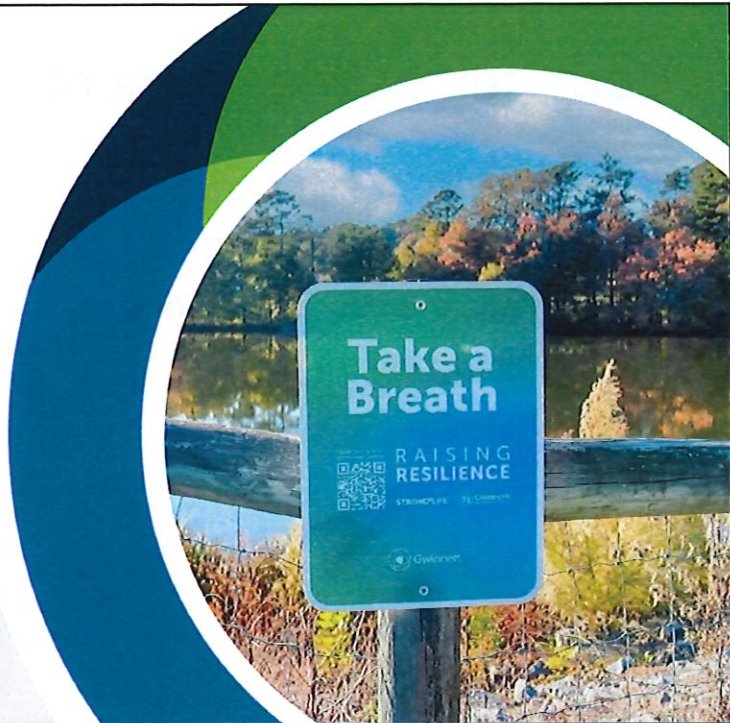
Need more info?

B2Anywhere.com
Jason.West@gwinnettcountry.com



Community Engagement & Collaboration

Lindsey Jorstad
February 8, 2024



1

Community Engagement

- 1,000+ Marketing requests
- Publications
- Signage updates



2

Community Engagement

- Social Media
 - 281,500 engaged users
 - 8.1 Million post impressions
- Film/Photography Impact
 - 23 Permits



3

Volunteer Gwinnett

- 1,036,759 Service hours
- 44,476 Volunteers
- 9,929 Events and projects
- \$26+ Million value generated
- 28 New Gwinnett Serves nonprofit community partners
 - 2,835 Volunteer hours



4

Food Security

- 48 Mobile food distributions
- 531,885 Pounds of food
- 92,088 Residents impacted
- 21,201 Households served
- 25+ Community partners
- National Association of Counties Achievement Award & Best in Category: Volunteer
 - Mobile Food Distribution



5

Food Security

- 18,361 Mixed produce boxes
- 252 Community partners
- 64,268 Residents impacted
- 385,581 Pounds of fresh, Georgia-grown produce



6



Best of the Best

- National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government Rising to Excellence Award
 - Volunteer Gwinnett's Great Days of Service
- National Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement Impact Award
 - Emerging & Exemplary Leader – Muriam Nafees
- Gwinnett Chamber Moxie Award Winner
 - Greater Good – Muriam Nafees

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Be Active Gwinnett

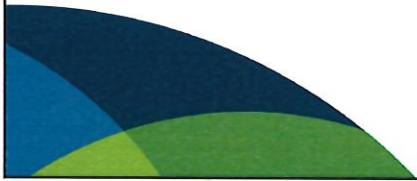
- Gwinnett's first mobile recreation program
- Targets play deserts
- 169 Community visits
- 11,985 Participants
- Corners Outreach partnership



10

Harvest Gwinnett

- Bethesda Park Community Garden
– *New!*
- Dacula Park Community Garden
- E. E. Robinson Park Community Garden
- Graves Park Community Garden
- Grayson Community Garden
- J. B. Williams Park Community Garden
- Lawrenceville Community Garden
- Lenora Park Community Garden
- Peachtree Ridge Park Community Garden
- Vines Park Community Garden
- West Gwinnett Park Community Garden



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Harvest Gwinnett

- 8,340 Pounds of food donated
- 1,621 Volunteers
- Share-rows
- Programming
- Mobile kitchen



12

Get Checked and Be Positive

- LiveHealthyGwinnettData.com
 - 3,050 Users
- 345 Programs and events
- 15,352 Participants
- 1,410 Intern service hours
- 52 Partner collaborations
- 19 Committees served
- 45 Outreach events attended



13

Equity in Practice Certificate

- Chris Minor and Carion Marcelin
- National Recreation and Park Association
- First cohort in the nation



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Looking Forward in 2024

- Food Security
- Volunteers
- Gwinnett Serves
- Embrace Wellness
- Celebrating 10 Years of being active, eating healthily, being positive, and getting checked

