

**Board of Commissioners**

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Charlotte J. Nash, Chairman  
Jace W. Brooks, District 1  
Lynette Howard, District 2  
Tommy Hunter, District 3  
John Heard, District 4



**Official**

**Informal Business Discussion Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 2, 2015 – 3:00 PM**

**Present: Charlotte J. Nash, Jace Brooks, Lynette Howard, Tommy Hunter**

**Absent: John Heard**

**I. Community Services**

**Parks and Recreation Operations Update**

**Tina Fleming, Division Director of Parks and Recreation Operations, presented an overview of Parks and Recreation. No Official Action Taken.**

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Department of  
Community Services  
**Parks and  
Recreation Division**



# Parks & Recreation Operations





# How We Make a Difference

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.



Various sports and leisure activities



Fun activities any time of year



Beautiful woodlands, meadows, trails and streams.



Classes, camps, special events, and much more!





# Community

Every great community has a great parks system...we “compete” nationally with other communities for jobs/quality of life, etc. We want to be a Live-Work-Play community!



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2014 Facility rental participation

**708,474**

# Master Planning – Citizen Involvement







# Citizen Support – Capital Funding



Citizens support parks and recreation through the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) providing for:



- Park land acquisition
- New park developments
- Renovations/improvements to existing parks





# Preservation of Park Land



- **Gwinnett County owns and/or manages 9,646 acres of park land**



- **Currently, Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation (GCPR) operates 47 parks.**



# Preservation of Park Land

## Large tracts of land include:

- Harbins Park – 1,960 acres
- Little Mulberry Park – 890 acres
- Tribble Mill Park – 718 acres
- Yellow River Park – 566 acres







# Preservation of History

- Freeman's Mill Park
- Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
- Isaac Adair House
- McDaniel Farm Park
- Lawrenceville Female Seminary
- Yellow River Post Office





# Recreation







# Special Events



Kids to Parks  
Day with  
National  
Park Trust



Swim  
Safely  
events



Kids Fishing  
Day with  
partners



Kids' Triathlon  
**1,013**  
participants in  
2014



1, 2, 3K  
Glow &  
Show



Fall into  
Health  
**900** attended



# Classes

- **Classes**

- Art, Dance, and Drama
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Self Help
- Language
- Special Interest
- Aquatics
- Sports and Fitness
- In 2014, offered **7,030** classes, camps, and events





# Rentals



- Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation has numerous pavilions, community rooms, activity buildings, and special event facilities to choose from to make your next event perfect!
  - Aquatic facilities
  - Indoor facilities
  - Outdoor facilities
- In 2014, there were **10,229** permits issued for community recreation centers, ball fields, pavilions and special facilities.



# Gwinnett Historic Courthouse



The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse offers an elegant setting for any rental.

- Built in 1885, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Ideal for special events, meetings, conferences, and retreats.







# Senior Recreation





# Camps

- ***Full Day Adventure Camps***
  - Adventure and Junior Adventure camps feature general recreation activities with a thematic twist!
  - Contract Camps
    - Kidsplosion
    - Sports
    - Art
    - Technology





# 2015 Camps

- Camps offered for ages 5 – 15 year olds
- Adventure Camps
  - **1,220** enrolled
- Junior Adventure
  - **480** enrolled
- Kidsplosion
  - **234** enrolled
- Sports Camps
  - **1,006** enrolled (2014)
- Special Interest
  - **387** enrolled







# Athletics

- Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation offers:
  - Adult Rentals
    - Cricket, Softball, Church leagues, Tournaments
  - Adult Athletics
    - Flag football, softball, and volleyball
  - Youth Athletic Leagues
  - Tennis
    - Lessons, Tournament, Lifelong sport





# Youth Sports Offered

- Water polo
- Swim Leagues
- Football/Cheerleading
- Baseball/Softball
- Basketball
- Roller Hockey
- Soccer
- Lacrosse





# Youth Athletics in Gwinnett County

Almost **50,000** youth participate in youth sports programs managed and operated by **29** volunteer youth athletic associations that partner with Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation







# Economic Impact Events

- 2014 GRPA Men's Open State Softball Tournament
- Atlanta Kids Triathlon
- Adidas Soccer Cup
- Aloha LAX Tournament
- GRPA Youth State Basketball Tournament



Total economic impact - **\$912,725**  
*(based on Explore Gwinnett calculations)*



# Aquatics



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2015 Memorial Day attendance - **8,411**



# Training and Recruitment

- American Red Cross online learning
- In-person water, first aid, and CPR/AED skills
- Monthly in-service training
- *2015 Summer Orientation*  
- Trained almost **400** staff through various skill stations.







# Health & Wellness



- Promote health and wellness through active lifestyles, nutritional awareness, positive experiences, and environmental stewardship.



Community Partners



Park Rx



Community Outreach



Walk the Talk

# Exercise/Personal Fitness

The most popular activities at every park...use of the trails and playgrounds!







# Conservation

- We manage our parks toward a healthy balance
  - Provide habitats for a variety of plants, birds, and animals leading to cleaner parks, increased biodiversity of the urban forest and adjacent meadows, and better water quality in park waterways.
- The National Park Service and the Forest Service has designated 50 miles of trails at Harbins Park, Little Mulberry Park, McDaniel Farm Park, and Settles Bridge Park as National Recreation Trails!





# Grounds Maintenance Use of Alternative Resources

Grounds Maintenance are responsible for all the general/basic care and upkeep of all parks in the county's park system.

Inmate Hours – **24,315**

- Inmate Projects
  - Ronald Reagan Park playground retaining wall and erosion improvement
  - Little Mulberry Park Fence Road Playground picnic area and erosion improvements



# Grounds Maintenance Use of Alternative Resources

- Inmate Projects
  - Bethesda Park Senior Center
  - Jones Bridge Park
- Volunteer Work Days  
**92** in 2014 up from **46** in 2013
- CSW Hours – **24,315**





# Park Operations



Handle 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 all covering community centers, activity buildings, aquatic centers, specialized facilities, athletic fields and all general park areas throughout the parks system.

- Skilled Trades 2014 highlights
  - **3,228** work orders processed
  - Managed **35** contracts valued at approximately **\$1,000,000**







# Volunteer Resources



Volunteer  
Hours –  
**874,694**



Eagle  
Scout  
Projects



Strong4Life  
Camp  
Aides



**Volunteer In Parks**  
gwinnettcounty parks & recreation

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# Volunteer Recognition

## Awards

- Volunteer Reception
  - **130** volunteer pin recipients
  - **Two** Silver Star Awards recipients
  - **97** Presidential Volunteer Service Award recipients
- Youth Sports Expo
  - Ken Parker - MCAA
  - Andy Fullard – AAA
  - Carlos Pinel - Mustang Athletics
- GRPA District 7
  - Volunteer of the Year – Fred Fletcher





# Gwinnett Parks Foundation

Established 2001 to Support  
Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation



- **Scholarships**
  - Health & Wellness, Youth, Senior and Therapeutic Recreation
- **Park'nerships People 'n Parks**
  - March 7, Shorty Howell Park
    - 132 volunteers
  - October 24, Bethesda Park
- **Commemoratives in Parks**
  - 158 at various locations

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## 2014 Scholarship Funding

Organization	Scholarship	Value
Kona Plays	Health & Wellness	\$1,652.06
1, 2 3K Glow	Health & Wellness	\$1,120.50
Greater Gwinnett Baseball	Youth Sports	\$2,500.00
Summer Kickoff Classic	Youth Sports	\$1,799.40
Turn2Tournaments	Youth Sports	\$4,500.00
Youth Sports Expo Raffle	Youth Sports	\$3,240.00
Youth Sports Expo Silent Auction	Youth Sports	\$1,764.00



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# Rec1 Registration

- Launched **New!** Registration/Reservation Online System
  - Offering **15,206** customers since the December 1 launch, a more user friendly online product for their registration needs





# Rec1 Registration

- Mobile friendly with calendar viewing for facilities/pavilions
- Online pavilion rentals – May 1







# Awards

NRPA 2014 Gold Medal Finalist  
GRPA 2014 Agency of the Year  
*Gwinnett Magazine's Best of Gwinnett*  
2014.

Explore Gwinnett Community Partner of  
the Year – **Sheila Fowler**

Gwinnett Sports Commission Community  
Partner of the Year – **Stacy Fowler**

National Park Service and Forest Service

- American Trails - National Trail Worker  
– **Mike Rooks**

2014 National Association of Counties

- Trail Help Locators
- Strong4Life Camp Ambassador  
Program



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# Questions?

