



Because Everyone Deserves A GREAT PARK

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

What's **IT** all about?

This simple statement captures the values and benefits derived from parks and recreation experiences. For example, participation in athletics fosters teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship. The recreation centers promote fitness, wellness, and creativity. Reynolds Nature Preserve offers tranquility, encourages exploration, and helps to develop life balance. And, of course, the Beach at International Park, is all about fun. We believe that these ideas—and so many more – are reflected in the proclamation, “It Starts in the PARKS!”

So, the next time you're enjoying the Clayton County Parks & Recreation experience, maybe at a youth baseball game, taking a Zumba class, or hiking the trails with friends, take a minute to let us know about it! Snap a selfie and share it on social media with the hashtag, “It Starts in the PARKS!”





Troy Hodges, Director



As the Director of Clayton County Parks and Recreation, I am pleased to present our 2018 Annual Report, providing a glimpse of our accomplishments as well as our upcoming projects and goals for the future.

In 2018, the Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department was awarded the Agency of the Year Award by the District IV Georgia Recreation and Parks Association. This is a highly coveted award and is a direct result of the teamwork put forth by all of the parks and recreation staff.

The goal of the parks and recreation department is to provide the community with quality leisure activities in a safe and well-maintained park system that currently offers approximately 1,300 acres of land, 13+ miles of walking trails, 32 parks, 4 recreational facilities offering 35+ programs and activities, a nature preserve, and over 40 athletic fields, 25 tennis courts, and 10 Pickle Ball courts. This goal is achievable only through the collective efforts of the entire department that consists of 77 full-time, 125 part-time, and 132 seasonal employees, as well as approximately 46 instructors and over 270 athletic volunteers annually.

Programming was added in 2018 with the addition of our Rivers Edge Greenway Community Room and completed construction of a state-of-the-art multipurpose building at our Flat Shoals Park. Additionally, a resurfacing project was completed for the 17 tennis courts located at the International Park as well as 8 tennis courts located at Lovejoy Park. Our department has hosted 20 signature events throughout the county and has served 57,140 visitors in our recreation centers and 2,813 youth in our athletic programs.

We will upgrade the International Park with a new beach area and amphitheater. International Park will also have our newest Recreation Center with construction beginning in 2019. We will be expanding our trail system with an additional 2 miles of walking paths. We hope to have many more additions and renovations for you to enjoy in the upcoming years ahead.

On behalf of the Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department, we would like to thank Chairman Jeffrey Turner, the Board of Commissioners, COO Detrick Stanford, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, our fellow BOC Departments, and the community for their support that makes our programs and events a success.

Clayton County Board of Commissioners



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Ianta Burks (Chairman Appointed) Term Ends 12/31/20

Carlos Frazier (At Large) Term Ends 6/30/21

Dr. Elliott McGlory (At Large) Term Ends 6/30/21

Jarvis Jackson (District 1) Term Ends 12/31/18

Rickey Lovelace (District 2) Term Ends 12/31/20

Carlos Benifield (District 3) Term Ends 12/31/20

Steve Lundquist (District 4) Term Ends 12/31/18

The Advisory Board was created by the Clayton County Board of Commissioners on May 15, 2007.



#claytonstrong



OUR IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

Parks and recreation facilities give communities a vital identity. Well-maintained, accessible parks and facilities are key elements to a strong, safe, family-friendly community.

DISTRICT 4 RECREATION CENTER ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

Located in International Park in Jonesboro, the planned District 4 Recreation Center has been combined with the new Parks and Recreation Administration Building project to create one new complex. The new facility will be integrated with the Lake Spivey Trail, part of the Clayton Connects trail system. It boasts a modern, family-friendly design with a lodge feel. In addition to an indoor swimming pool, this center will provide new amenities never offered to our citizens before such as a spin cycle studio, CrossFit training, and a cafe & coffee shop. New administrative offices will provide a central location for the administrative staff to plan and supervise the many programs they offer. Administrative services are comprised of marketing and sales, budgetary functions, procurement, and guest services. Here, residents will be able to register for programs, pick up information, volunteer and learn about upcoming signature events. The facility is being funded by SPLOST and should be complete in 2019.

VOLUNTEER

Team Clayton Aware, members of Leadership Clayton, chose Reynolds Nature Preserve as their 2018 project site. The team rebuilt raised beds in the garden, pressure washed the boardwalks and picnic tables, painted the entrance gates and hauled mulch onto the trails.



FLAT SHOALS MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING

The community has spoken, funding was approved through SPLOST dollars and the complex opened on Friday, October 26, 2018.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS

Recreation Services has impacted the community by offering over 109 events throughout the four districts within Clayton County. With constant new ideas, renovations, and new site construction, the number of events, programs, and daily offerings will continue to grow. By combining program offerings for all ages, Recreation Services has had a direct impact on over 221,000 constituents.

VISITORS TO PARKS AND FACILITIES

We build communities through thriving facilities and parks. We invest in the quality of these places and spaces to provide opportunities that cultivate ties and create memories that last a lifetime.

EVENTS SPECIAL TO OUR COMMUNITY

An estimated 10,000 people from every walk of life attended our free community special events last year. Thousands of residents make memories year after year at Trick or Treat, the Easter Egg Hunt, Movies Under the Stars, Dr. Seuss Read Across America, and the Youth Fishing Derby.



OUR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Parks play a key role in preserving healthy water and air quality, reducing congestion and protecting wildlife. By visiting our amenities citizens learn about the environment first-hand and take those lessons home.

TRAIL ENHANCEMENTS

The trails connect to form a series of walking paths open to the public. Greenspaces preserve the natural trees, grass and vegetation of an area. These areas give Clayton County residents the opportunity to visit urban areas that are now set apart for passive recreation and natural enjoyment of the outdoors. The environmental benefits that greenspaces provide include filtering pollutants from the air, shade that lowers temperatures, reduced soil erosion and natural resource conservation. The construction of walking trails gives Clayton County residents access to these greenspaces, which improve the quality of life in communities. These designated greenspaces not only preserve natural areas, they boost the economy through tourism and civic improvement. These spaces provide opportunities for citizens to engage in physical activity to improve their overall fitness and mental health.

COMMUNITY PROJECT - EAGLE SCOUTS

Two old bridges at Reynolds Nature Preserve were replaced with culverts to divert water from Crooked Creek Trail and adjacent retention pond.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community Gardens were created to provide fresh produce and plants as well as contribute to a sense of community and connection to the environment.

TAKING PRIDE AND TAKING CARE

Clayton County Parks and Recreation maintains, operates, and protects 1,300+ acres of Clayton County's most beloved parks and greenspaces. Clayton County is home to 4 recreation centers, 15 parks, 14 miles of multipurpose trails, 15 athletic fields, 25 public tennis courts, 3 basketball courts, 15 park pavilions, 1 amphitheater, and 12 playgrounds.

Community Gardens



OUR IMPACT ON YOUTH

Parks & Recreation plays an important role in the development of our youth. Whether fighting obesity or learning lessons that build character and confidence, accessibility to recreational activities are a benefit to all.

OUTDOOR SCHOLARSHIPS

For the ninth consecutive year, Clayton County Parks and Recreation chaperoned Clayton County middle school students on a 3-day trip to a Georgia 4H Camp. This summer, 12 students visited Fortson 4H Camp in Hampton, June 8-10th to experience and study Georgia's natural environment. In 2009, the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution supporting the Kids Outdoor Initiative and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. This Bill of Rights recommends that every child, by the age of 14, should have an opportunity to experience a list of 10 distinct outdoor activities, such as: **Exploring Nature, Camping Under The Stars, Following A Trail, and Playing On A Team.** The 7th and 8th grade students that participated in this year's trip, courtesy of a scholarship provided from proceeds of the Lake Spivey Road Race as well as the Lake Spivey Golf Tournament, were chosen by submitting a 250-word essay which described the outdoor activity they wished to participate in out of the activities cited in the Outdoor Bill of Rights.



LESSONS LEARNED AND FRIENDS MADE YOUTH ATHLETICS IS MORE THAN JUST SPORTS

Of course, countless hours of physical activity is a profound benefit of playing sports. However the real impact and value felt is more than just a game. More than 3,000 children of all ages learned how to win and lose, be a responsible teammate, gain self-esteem, make friends and cross cultures.

MAKING SURE EVERY CHILD PLAYS

No child should ever have to miss out on beneficial recreation activities. Since its inception, our scholarship fund has provided over 1,100 children the opportunity to participate in an array of sports.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Youth impact has been measured by tracking participation, volunteering, programming and daily use. Such results are as follows: 87% participation rate regarding drop in activities, 83% retention rate regarding paid programming from ages 5-17, and total youth passes sales from a division standpoint have increased by 39%.



WORKOUT ANYTIME - REX PARK

OUR IMPACT ON HEALTH

Access to parks, recreation programs and facilities lead to healthy lifestyles for people of all ages.

TEAM SPORTS SEASON PARTICIPATION HOURS

The total scheduled hours for youth cheerleading, football, flag football, soccer, basketball, baseball, track and field, softball and dance totaled 115,866 hours of practice.

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH PARKS, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Improving access to healthy places while engaging residents of all ages in physical activity is at the core of what we do. The agency's main focus has always been and will continue to be increasing health and wellness opportunities for our community. Whether it is a walk in the park, hours on the playground, or playing a sport, our focus is providing access and opportunity.

TRAIL USAGE

Athletic teams from Clayton County continue to access our multi-purpose trails to train for cross country, soccer, track, basketball, football and much more!

CYCLING FOR BREAST CANCER

This event was used to introduce patrons to our cycling fitness class and encourage them to discuss the importance of breast cancer awareness. The indoor cycling class is one of the newer classes offered by Parks and Recreation. Centered around Breast Cancer Awareness Month, this program expands one's idea of personal fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

ALZHEIMER AWARENESS

The Alzheimer Awareness event was designed to educate the community about the cause and the effects of the disease. A nurse was on sight to provide insight and answer any questions. In addition, an informative pamphlet was given out for participants to take home. Activities were created to support caregivers and loved ones affected by Alzheimer's.

OUR IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

A vibrant community of parks and recreation opportunities attracts and retains businesses and residents, enhances property values, reduces health costs, and contributes to a productive workforce.



Combined revenue of \$230,367.00 was collected via passes from Recreation Services. A total of 221,000 constituents registered to utilize the department's amenities and programs. By offering free demonstrations, events, seminars, and interactive expos, the community had vast opportunities to gain insight on health awareness. The Recreation Services division met all revenue goals and provided space and advertisement to local vendors and business owners. On average, vendor participation included at least 3 vendors for community events and 21 vendors for county-wide signature events.

Lovejoy Soccer Tournaments Economic Impact - 2018

Tournaments	Atlanta Peach Classic	Nike Select Cup	AFC Lightning Challenge	Georgia Soccer
# of Teams	53	54	51	38
# of Players per Team	20	20	20	20
# of Players per Event	1060	1080	1020	760
Additional Visitors (2 per)	2120	2160	2040	1520
Total Visitors	3180	3240	3060	2280
Tournament Days	2	2	2	2
Total "Visitor Days"	6360	6480	6120	4560
Average Daily Spending	\$80	\$80	\$80	\$80
Economic Impact	\$508,800	\$518,400	\$489,600	\$364,800

Total Economic Impact \$1,881,600

Figures are based on the US Youth Soccer Formula to calculate the estimated economic impact of an event.

2018 AGENCY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

General Fund \$6,907,312
Grants \$45,000

ATHLETIC VOLUNTEER HOURS 31,685
SAVINGS \$253,480 @ \$8.00 per hour



AGENCY SNAPSHOT

MAINTAINS OPERATES PROTECTS

1,300	ACRES OF LAND (approximately)
32	PARKS
13.79	MILES OF TRAILS
25	PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS
10	PICKLE BALL COURTS
16	PLAYGROUNDS
40	ATHLETIC FIELDS
9	BASKETBALL COURTS
5	ADDITIONAL FACILITIES/GREENSPACES

AWARDS

**4th District
Agency of the Year**

**4th District
Distinguished Professional
Bruce Tilley**

**State Volunteer of the Year
Gib Downton**

OPERATES SEVEN MAJOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

**Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center
Clayton County International Park
Gerald Matthews Sports Complex
Jim Huie Recreation Center / Steve Lundquist Aquatic Center
Reynolds Nature Preserve
South Clayton Recreation Center
Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center**



**Nationally
Accredited
Agency**

UPCOMING 2019 PROJECTS

**Clayton County International Park Renovations
District 4 Recreation Center / Administrative Building
Flat Shoals Park Multipurpose Building
Lake Spivey Trail System
Parkway & Greenway Acquisition/ Development
Neighborhood Dog Park**

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