

ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT

NOTE: Attach current list of members and identify officers.

Name of Committee:	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee	
Date of Presentation:	October 18, 2021	
Time Period Covered:	July 2020-June 2021	
Name of Chairperson:	Time Mounce	
# of Meetings Held During Period	5 virtual meetings	
MISSION & GOALS – Summarize concisely the committee’s mission (charge), key goals, objectives and measures below. You also may attach as a separate document, but limit to no more than one page single-spaced.		
<p>The mission of the Recreation Advisory Committee is to advise and support staff with creation of policies, programs, and facilities.</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect Chatham’s natural resources through expansion, improvement, and sustainable management. 2. To ensure that current/future development is sensitive to the environment and enhances parks/recreation opportunities for everyone. <p>Objective:</p> <p>To fund the protection of Chatham’s natural resources and implementation of the Master Plan recommendations.</p>		
ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES – Summarize concisely below the committee’s major accomplishments and activities of the past year. This should include reports, research, projects, public input, etc. Be sure to identify how they relate to specific goals, objectives or measures. You also may attach as a separate document but limit to no more than one page single-spaced.		
<p>Completed the shared use agreement for the Chatham Grove community center with Chatham County Board of Education.</p>		

BARRIERS & CHALLENGES – Identify any barriers or challenges that make it difficult for the committee to achieve goals or objectives. Limit to the space provided below.

Offering programs and events during COVID-19 have been a challenge. The Parks and Recreation Department never stopped offering programs or event, they had to modify and get creative on their programs and events to adhere to the COVID-19 safety protocols and gathering restrictions. The parks and trails were in higher demand more than ever and the only thing that closed during that time were the playgrounds.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES: Please list any recommendations to the Board of Commissioners related to the changes in the advisory committee’s membership, mission, goals, objectives or other related issues.

1. Legislation to allow fees to be used for the development of recreation, parks, and open space sites in addition to land.
2. Dedicate annual funding for park improvements.
3. Allocate ARP funds for enhancement of parks and recreation.

OTHER INFORMATION: Provide any other information or observations that the Board of Commissioners should know about. Provide in the space below.

Programs and events offered and most modified during the pandemic
Community Outreach

- Hosted 10 Pop-Up Playground programs across the county to offer the community a safe way to recreate outside during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was an enclosed trailer filled with physical activity equipment and games suited for kids ages 3 to 18.

Youth programs

- Created an at home camp experience through the Camp Kit program.
- Hosted modified youth programming such as Track and Field, youth art, youth jump rope, and basketball in a pod league format.
- Kicked off the 2021 Summer Camp season in collaboration with Chatham County Schools. Registration filled up in the first 10 minutes. 412 kids were on the waitlist.

Adult programs

- Adult Co-Ed Softball was offered with modified rules.
- Tennis and outdoor pickleball continued.
- Held first virtual Chatham County Challenge with biking, walking, and running. There were over 100 participants.

Passive programming which encouraged people to get outside and be active.

- Foot Golf - A 9-hole course created at The Park and Briar Chapel.
- St. Patrick’s Day Treasure Hunt – This was held at the different parks throughout the County
- Mobile Story Walks - pages from books installed along the walking trails throughout the County.

Senior Activities - Entered a MOU with Council on Aging to partner on some programs

- Helped plan and execute the Senior Games as members of the Senior Games Steering Committee.
- Discussed senior programming for the Chatham Grove community center with COA.
- With COA and Agriculture Extension began developing the “Peaceful Pathways for caregivers” A Respite Park at Northeast Park.

Special Events (These events modified as drive-thru events to adhere to social distancing)

- Hosted the Trunk or Treat, Boo-Thru at Northwest Park. There were 431 participants.
- Hosted Holiday in the Park, Holly Jolly Drive-Thru at Northeast Park. There were 487 participants.
- Hosted Easter Egg Drive-Thru at the Agriculture and Conference Center. There were 518 participants.
- Hosted 4 Movies in the Park- Averaging 25 participants each night

Staff Volunteered

- Helped plan and execute Chatham 250 celebrations as members of Chatham 250 Events and Activities Committee
- Volunteered at the COVID-19 Vaccination Drive-Thru

Parks and Facilities

- Opened the first Chatham County Parks and Recreation Dog Park at the Park at Briar Chapel
- Opened the first Chatham County Parks and Recreation Community Center at Chatham Grove Elementary School
- Began implementing South Bynum River access improvements
- Added additional pickleball court lines at Northeast Park
- Eagle Scout Project: Luke Hawkins led his team in redoing the seating area at the amphitheater at the Northwest District Park
- With COA and Agriculture Extension began developing the “peaceful Pathways for caregivers” A Respite Park at Northeast Park.

Parks visitors From July 2020 to June 2021

Northeast: 19,873

The Park at Briar Chapel: 50, 985

Comparing the first quarter of 2020 to the first quarter of 2021, we have a 57% increase in park visitors. During the pandemic it shows that people took the advice of the CDC and got outside. While they did that, they discovered our parks and now they continue to come back.

Just a note, that not all parks have traffic counters and once we get one for them, we will start providing reports for all parks.