

Recreation Advisory
Committee
Annual Summary
Report

Chatham County Parks & Recreation



Recreation Advisory Committee

Committee Members

- Joy Hewett
- Maria Gomez Flores
- Anne Geer
- James Fogelman: Vice Chair
- Andrew George
- Ann Alston
- Kent Barlow
- Megan Lynch
- Tim Mounce: Chairperson
- Tammy Phillips

Recreation Advisory Committee

Mission and Goals

The mission of the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is to advise and support staff with creation of policies, programs, and facilities.

Goal

- To protect Chatham's recreational access to natural resources through acquisition, improvement, and sustainable management.
- To ensure that current/future development is sensitive to the environment and enhances parks/recreation opportunities for everyone.

Objective

- To fund the protection of Chatham's natural resources and implementation of the Master Plan recommendations.

Current Facilities

Earl Thompson Park

- Softball Field (lighted)
- Playground
- Restrooms



Future Park

- Parkers Ridge



Northwest District Park

- Dining Hall
- Activity Center
- Picnic Shelter
- Pool
- Compacted Trail
- Open Space
- Basketball Court
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Pond (catch and release)



The Park at Briar Chapel

- 2 Softball Fields (lighted)
- Football/Multi-Purpose Field (lighted)
- Soccer/Multi-Purpose Field (lighted)
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Dog Park
- Paved Trail
- Restrooms



Current Facilities

Chatham Grove Community Center

- 2 Multi-Purpose Rooms
- Gym



Canoe Access points

South Bynum River Access

Hwy 64 Access

Hwy 15-501 Access



Northeast District Park

- Picnic Shelter
- 2 Tennis/Pickleball Courts
- Multi-Purpose Field
- Softball Field (lighted)
- Paved Trail
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Pond (catch and release)



Southwest District Park

- Picnic Shelter
- Softball/Multi-Purpose Field (lighted)
- Compacted Trail
- Playground
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Restrooms



Current Programs & Events

Programs

- Adult Basketball
- Adult Co-Ed Softball
- Open Gym (Basketball)
- T-Ball
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Wrestling
- Youth Basketball
- Youth Jump Rope
- Youth Art Class
- Youth Volleyball
- Summer Camp
- Pickleball (Indoor & Outdoor)
- Zumba
- Yoga
- Story Walk



Events

- Movie in the Park Series
- Egg Hunt
- Holiday in the Park
- Trunk or Treat
- Family Fishing Day



Committee Member Accomplishments

Completed the shared use agreement with
Chatham County Schools for Chatham
Grove Community Center



Committee Member Accomplishments

Committee members recommended funds for the Grants to Organization Agencies

Chatham Soccer League \$5,600

- Equipment
- Supplies
- Soccer Goals

Sprott Youth Center \$6,300

- Open Gym attendant for modified season

East Chatham Baseball \$8,400

- Batting cages for Pittsboro and East Chatham Field
- Scoreboard at Ferrell Field



Committee Member Accomplishments

Funds to Towns Projects

Town of Siler City \$42,470

- Renovate Men's Restroom at Braxton Gym
- Replace wood flooring replace it with safer slip resistant flooring
- 10 New Picnic Tables at Landrus Park and Washington Parks
- Replacement of roof in the rear room at Ramsey Gym



Town of Pittsboro \$23,075

- Preparing to install comfort stations at Kiwanis Park

Town of Goldston \$1,370

- Repairing all visible cracks on the basketball court



Chatham County Parks and Recreation Summary FY July 2020 - June 2021

Most programs and events offered were 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
 - Tennis and Outdoor Pickleball
 - Held first virtual Chatham County Challenge with biking, walking and running. There were over 100 participants.
- Passive Programming
 - Foot Golf
 - St. Patrick's Day Treasure Hunt
 - Mobile Story Walks – Pages from books installed along the walking trails throughout the county.

Chatham County Parks and Recreation Summary FY July 2020 - June 2021

Senior Activities

- 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.

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 the Chatham 250 Events and Activities Committee
- Volunteered at the Covid-19 Vaccination drive-thru.

Chatham County Parks and Recreation Summary FY July 2020-June 2021

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 lead 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.

Park 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.



Barriers/Challenges

Offering programs and events during Covid-19 have been a challenge. The Parks and Recreation Department never stopped offering programs or events. 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 than ever and the only thing that closed during that time were the playgrounds.

Recommended Changes

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