# 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



## **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







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



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





South Bynum River Access Hwy 64 Access







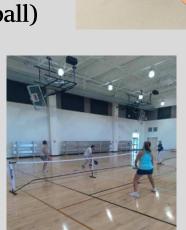
Hwy 15-501 Access



# 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







- 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.

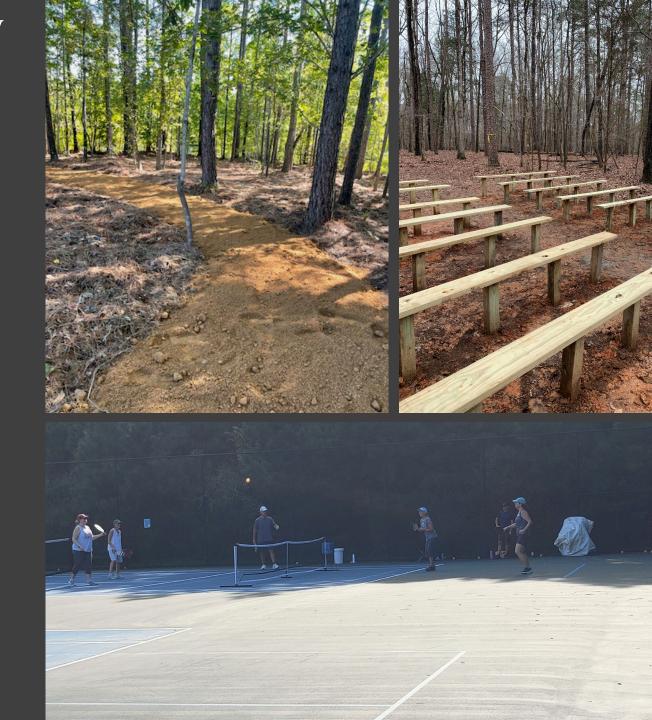
# Chatham County Parks and Recreation Summary FY July 2020-June 2021

### 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