



Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation Department Annual Report 2020

This past year was a challenging and different year for the world, and the Parks and Recreation Department was no different! Staffing was relatively stable this year, and we were able to add a new full-time position at the beginning of the year with an Athletic Assistant. Our Programs Coordinator moved to a different department, and we were able to bring on a new employee to fill that spot and also begin the process of planning the upcoming Aquatic Center. Summer brought much planning and preparation to safely resume sports, and we were able to provide the community with successful football, cheer, fall baseball/softball, basketball, and wrestling programs, as well as a return to providing rental space and most of our other usual activities. The 6u football team won the Super Bowl, and we began a new Elite program for our higher level basketball players. We plan to roll this model into baseball in the Spring. After School, Summer Camp, and Break Camps were all cancelled for the year, due to the pandemic. Dance classes resumed for the Fall, with 25 participants returning to the class. Gymnastics program resumed in the fall and all classes were filled, for a total of 36 participants, with a waiting list for several classes. Yoga, tai-chi, and adult fitness classes were slow to resume due to concerns from the instructors about covid. Tai-Chi resumed on a limited basis in September, with an average of 4 participants per class. All of our facilities were well used for the year, as many people got outside to recreate during the pandemic shutdown. Even with the time the Park was closed, and with concerns about group gatherings, we rented the Timken Pavilion in Yahoola Creek Park 64 times for the year, and added 4 weekend travel baseball and softball tournaments over the summer. 313 rentals were booked in the Community Center for the year, and 76 rentals were booked in the Community House. Again, this is a great deal of usage, even with the conditions of the year.

Maintenance work around the park were a challenge, with the loss of the inmate crew, and many part time employees went home when the college shut down. Nevertheless, the staff kept the park in great shape! Our local disc golf group conducted a fundraiser and brought in enough money to add the 3 baskets that were needed to finish the course, and have started improving the tee pads, with the help and guidance of the staff.

Even with all of the challenges that 2020 brought us, we had a successful year, made progress in providing more, and better activities, and look forward to building on that success in 2021!