

Melissa Witcher

From: Alicia Davis
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 12:30 PM
To: Melissa Witcher; Alan Ours
Subject: Park & Rec Annual Report

Please see below.

From: Wade Chandler <wadechandler@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Alicia Davis <Alicia.Davis@LumpkinCounty.GOV>
Subject: annual report

2021 was a year spent learning and adjusting to the “new normal” of our society, that has impacted everything from staffing, to supply chains, to schedules in all walks of life. As we began the year, we didn’t know what to expect with regard to registration numbers for our Spring sports, so we were thrilled to have 332 players sign up for Spring Baseball, Softball, and T-Ball. We had 36 participants in Track and Field, and we resumed competing with the North Georgia Track League. We offered swimming lessons (54 participants) and swim team (51 swimmers), utilizing the UNG pool for these activities. Participation numbers were in line with previous years, as we limited participation numbers due to facility space. Football and Cheerleading were the next sports that we took registrations for, and again, numbers were excellent, with a total of 126 in football and 111 in cheerleading! Girls flag football was a new addition to the Mountain Football League, and we were one of three agencies to field a team. Additionally, we had football and cheer squads in each grade 1st through 5th, which was an increase of participation over the previous several years. Our 1st and 2nd grade football teams won the Super Bowl for their grades, and the girls flag team were runners up. The League transitioned from an age-based structure to a grade-based system, and while many parents and coaches were concerned with any type of change, this appeared to benefit our program, and we look forward to keeping these groups of kids playing together. As basketball season arrived, we added 7 teams over our numbers from last year, with a total of 261 players, and maintained great numbers at the instructional league level, with 51 children, so we should have a great foundation for the future of the program. Wrestling experienced a huge increase, almost doubling from 35 to 60 participants from 2020 to 2021. We are thrilled to have such a popular program, and appreciate the High School allowing the use of the Tribe House for all practices. Fall baseball, softball, and t-ball had 164 players, which is almost 15% more than 2019 and 2020. Programming for 2021 increased, with 5 sessions of Gymnastics, as well as Summer Art Camp, Spring and Summer Break basketball camps, tai chi, yoga, and meditation all having sessions. Our dance instructor moved to a new venue, so we transitioned to renting space to Jazzercise, which now utilizes the dance room.

In Yahoola Creek Park, oftentimes the non-fee based activities are overlooked, but Disc Golf experienced a surge of participation this year. A group of players unofficially stepped up to coordinate volunteer efforts to improve the course and to help provide input for course changes. Additionally, they hosted 4 tournaments and held weekly league matches. A total of 4,728 rounds were played by 486 players in 2021! This might be our most rapidly growing activity! Additionally in the Park, work was begun on installation of street lighting, which will be completed in early 2022. Our maintenance staff worked diligently over the summer to maintain the Park during the warm growing season. They kept all of our athletic fields in excellent shape, earning many compliments from players and parents. Work began on an outdoor basketball court, with the final touches scheduled to be finished in early 2022.

Rentals of the Community Center and Community House were constant throughout the year, with a total of 64 rentals of the Community House, and 541 rentals of rooms in the Community Center. Timken Pavilion in YCP was rented 149 times, and one 5k was held in the Park.

By the end of 2021, any concerns we had at the beginning of the year in regards to whether our activities and rentals would return to normal, were alleviated, and we look forward to continued growth of our programs and activities in 2022!