



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 12, 2024

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2 PARK PLAZA
5:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**
4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**
 - a. **Approval of Recreation Commission Minutes from February 13, 2024**
Approve, as written, the Recreation Commission meeting minutes from February 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
5. **STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORK SESSION DISCUSSION**
 - a. **DIVISIONS**
 - i. **Community Services Division Monthly Report - March 2024**
Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Community Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department.
 - ii. **Cultural Services Division Monthly Report - March 2024**
Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Cultural Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department.
 - iii. **Recreation Services Division Monthly Report - March 2024**
Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Recreation Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department.
 - iv. **Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part I) - March 2024**
Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Park Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department for the parks located within the northern, southern, eastern, and downtown districts of the City of Alpharetta.
 - v. **Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part II) - March 2024**
Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Park Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department for Wills Park Proper, Wills Park Equestrian, and parks located in the western district of the City of Alpharetta.
 - vi. **Senior Operations Manager Monthly Report - March 2024**
Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Senior Operations Manager of the Recreation, Park & Cultural Services Department.
 - b. **DIRECTOR**
 - i. **Director's Report - March 2024**
Monthly director's response to the Recreation Commission's questions regarding any staff presentations and wrap-up of the latest events, initiatives, and/or projects set forth by the department in an effort to meet the City's vision for recreation, parks, and culture.
6. **RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS**
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
8. **ADJOURNMENT**



STAFF REPORT

Department: Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
Submitted By: Amber O'Dwyer
Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM:

Approval of Recreation Commission Minutes from February 13, 2024

Approve, as written, the Recreation Commission meeting minutes from February 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve, as written, the Recreation Commission meeting minutes from February 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

Administrative Office Coordinator, Amber O'Dwyer, prepared a synopsis of the pertinent information that occurred during the Recreation Commission meeting on February 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance – February 13, 2024, Recreation Commission Meeting:

Recreation Commission Members – Present

- Dennis Mitchell (Chair)
- Jit Saha (Vice Chair)
- Brad Bowers
- Derek Kaighin
- Paul Slavik
- Cheryl Rand
- Karla Piedrahita
- Shuntel Beach

Recreation Commission Members – Absent

- John Norton

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 02.13.24 - RC Minutes (Unofficial)



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 5:30 PM

The public is advised that the following minutes are not a verbatim transcription of business presented at the Council Meeting of the date shown; but are a synopsis of pertinent information. The public is further advised that the video recording for said meeting is a matter of public record and is available to be viewed at the City Clerk's office during normal business hours or viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/alpharettagov>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

• Recreation Commissioners Present

- Chairman Dennis Mitchell
- Vice Chairman Jit Saha
- Brad Bowers
- Derek Kaighin
- Paul Slavik
- Cheryl Rand
- Karla Piedrahita
- Shuntel Beach

• Recreation Commissioners Absent

- John Norton

• Staff

- James Drinkard, Assistant City Administrator
- Morgan Rodgers, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Division Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Eric Milley, Park Services Division Manager (Northern, Southern, Eastern, Downtown Districts), Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Matt Casey, Park Services Division Manager (Western District & Equestrian), Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Amber O'Dwyer, Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Recreation Commission Minutes from January 9, 2024

- ❖ Commissioner Saha offered a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, from the January 9, 2024, Recreation Commission meeting.
 - Commissioner Rand seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (8-0).

b. Recreation Commission Minutes from January 24, 2024

- ❖ Commissioner Piedrahita offered a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, from the January 24, 2024, Recreation Commission work session.
 - Commissioner Kaighin seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (7-1-1 with Commissioner Bowers abstaining).

V. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business to discuss.

VII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. DIVISIONS

i. Community Services Division Monthly Report – February 2024

- Amanda Musilli, Community Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department was not in attendance to present the item. Commissioners were asked to review the agenda packet for details.

ii. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – February 2024

- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Kim Manning provided copies of the 2024 Arts & Culture Spring Guide and mentioned staff worked very hard on the upcoming programming.
- Kim Manning recapped several of the events and initiatives that were completed within the last month.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- The “Alpharetta Greenway Mural Trail” artists and North Fulton Rotary received a proclamation from the mayor in recognition of their work and North Fulton Rotary has already begun scouting artists for this year’s project.
- *Girls on Fire* is an Alpharetta Symphony concert that did a small art show currently on exhibit in the Community Gallery and held a small concert leading up to their larger concert.

- The *Earthbound* gallery exhibit opening reception was held on January 27th and over (280) showed. The gallery exhibit will be at the Alpharetta Arts Center now through March 9th.
- The Play Me Again Pianos Program had an unveiling of a new piano, "Georgia" at Coghurn Park and the event was featured on the news. The songs on the piano are all songs featuring the state.
- In honor of Black History Month, the Arts Center is featuring themed youth classes that have had great turnouts thus far.
- The Arts Center is also acknowledging all the center's black instructors this month and their accomplishments including Ashley King who is a contributing author and journalist for the center.
- An ongoing, individual contributor project at the Arts Center is a silhouette mural featured on one of the center's walls.
- The Bailey-Johnson History Project is still underway, and commissioners were encouraged to spread the word to those in the community who may be interested in being involved and contributing stories.

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

- Upcoming Music Match performances are featuring black artists for the month and include musicians Riley Dennis at Jack's Feed Store and Frank Houston at Colletta.
- Two additional events for Black History Month include *Afro-Latin Sounds* with the KT Collaborative and the *Alpharetta Soul Train Experience*, an unveiling of a director's cut documentary on Don Cornelius, the host of the widely popular television show.
 - The *Celebrating Black History Month with Afro Latin Sounds* concert will be at the Alpharetta Arts Center on February 23rd at 7 p.m. and is free to attend.
 - The *Celebrating Black History Month with Alpharetta Soul Train Experience* by Cultural Arts Commissioner Gene Andrews will be at the Alpharetta Arts Center on February 24th at 6 p.m. and is free to attend.
- *Eurydice*, presented by ACT 1 Theater, is showcasing in the Alpharetta Arts Center Black Box Theater February 9th-18th. A fun behind the scenes story of the show is that the nighttime cleaners came and cleaned up all the trash used to stage the set.
- The larger *Girls on Fire* concert with Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra will be held at Alpharetta First United Methodist Church on February 23rd at 8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased via link: <https://www.alpharettasymphony.org/girls-on-fire>
- As always, the latest information on upcoming arts and culture events may be found on the Arts & Culture Online Calendar accessed via link: <https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks/cultural-services>
- In addition, the latest information on upcoming arts and culture events may be found on the Alpharetta Music City – Live Music Calendar accessed via link:

<https://www.awesomealpharetta.com/calendar/category/alpharetta-music-city-live-music/>

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: AAC Concerts

Q Are the concerts on the 23rd being hosted indoors or outdoors? (Piedrahita)

A Both concerts are indoors. (Manning)

RE: Fashion Camps

Q The new guide features fashion camps. Is that new? (Rand)

A They have actually been featured the last two years and the instructor brings sewing machines. The kids sew costumes and have a fashion show. (Manning)

iii. Recreation Services Division Monthly Report – February 2024

- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2024-2029 Recreation Strategy
 - A lot of blood, sweat, and tears went into the first strategy that helped serve as a template for the new strategy developed.
 - Recreational programming is like a river, it is everchanging; sometimes it is calm, sometimes it is scenic, sometimes it is crazy rapids.
 - To review, the Recreation Master Plan is still in effect.
 - Additions since the last master plan was drafted include:
 - Health & Wellness programs.
 - The creation of the North Fulton Special Needs Task Force.
 - The opening of the Preston Ridge Community Center.
 - The addition of the Innovation Athletic Complex.
 - The addition of two new Youth Athletic Associations.
 - The activation of Union Hill Park and The Grove for special events and summer camps.
 - The repurposing of Gym 2 at the Alpharetta Community Center for gymnastics.
 - The reorganization of Special Events to be housed under Recreation Services.
 - The introduction of Webb Bridge Park Trails, Union Hill Park, and The Grove at Wills Part as venues for outdoor events such as 5k fundraisers,

- large, outdoor events not needing a cityscape, and mid-size private or ticketed events.
- Notable changes in City leadership to include a new city administrator and legal team.
- Programming assessments led to the following changes:
 - Fitness and wellness were initially weak and have now become a strength. The program took center stage during covid with outdoor free fitness programs.
 - Outdoor programs prove to be challenging as most people are able to develop their own outdoor activities. The current program offering includes tree climbing.
 - Staff have a goal within the next 5 years to increase and develop special needs programming.
 - Educational programs have proven not as successful in practice as in theory but can be viewed as being achieved through skills learned through gymnastics, etc.
 - General interest proves to be a struggle in trying to find programs that appeal to larger audiences, but staff plans to keep eyes open for any trending programs that could be effective.
 - Teens are a hard demographic to attract. Staff have some programs (Teen Adventure Camp, teen basketball, and teen pickleball) that prove successful.
 - For Performing Arts, staff hopes to expand current offerings to include more adult dance.
 - Tot Time and Music & Movement for pre-school age groups are really popular and staff hope to expand and invest in those offerings.
- With City Special Events being the newest addition to the division, staff are finding a little bit of a learning curve to identify the best path forward and to determine which traditional recreational events could be redefined as special events.
- Christine Young expanded upon the parks and recreation facilities and the current progress/status at each location to include:
 - The new Wacky World playground.
 - The cross-scheduling of programming throughout the parks.
 - Better wayfinding signage.
 - Facilities are of high quality and well-maintained, but a few do look institutional and dated and could use renovations.
 - The agenda packet contains more details on facility enhancements such as the conversion of Union Hill Park from a hockey rink to a beautiful event

facility and the renovations at Webb Bridge Parks courts, entrance, and installation of a new dog park.

- Key Notes:
 - Over 70,000 participants were serviced in FY23 with over 70% being residents.
 - Staff are sticking with the current programming methodology they know works (gymnastics, dance, etc.) and are expanding on areas of increased interests (PRCC programs, rentals, etc.)
- Christine Young reviewed the division's strengths and weaknesses and possible threats to include:
 - The pandemic, an unpredictable, large-scale event, was a learning lesson.
 - Most weaknesses relate to Special Events simply because they are so new to the division.
 - A key gap is programming for ages 50-65, which has proven younger and more active, and staff are working hard to identify programs that would work well for them (beyond board games and line dancing that appeal to the older age group but not the younger).
 - Staff hope to introduce more programming for preschoolers that caters to the diverse cultures present in the community.
 - Conversations are circling around whether events like Boo Bash should be moved under Special Events as it continues to grow in popularity.
 - Staff have been excited about utilizing the facilities and parks in new, innovative ways and the collaboration between the department's divisions.
- The Five-Year Plan includes continuing to use the current strategy and guidelines for improvement.
- Lastly, Christine Young spoke in regards to 2024 staff stating:
 - 9 staff members left after COVID, re-evaluating what they'd like to do, etc.
 - The division brought on 8 new people as well as saw the incorporation of Special Events.
 - The division supports training, collaboration, team building, and lifelong learning to develop skilled individuals personally and professionally.
 - Currently, the division has the best team yet!

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Gym 2

Q Wasn't Gym 2 necessary for youth basketball? (Rand)

A Yes, but when Milton opened its own basketball program, Alpharetta's numbers decreased and with the explosion of gymnastics, staff repurposed the space to meet the need. (Young)

Q What is in the space now? (Rand)

A Mostly gymnastics equipment and the team uses the space. If needed, the equipment can always be removed to revert back to basketball. (Young)

RE: Webb Bridge 5k Trails

Q When did we start permitting the use of the trails for 5k fundraisers? We've never allowed such events in parks before. We never wanted to close the park for the events. Are they closed? Years ago, there were a plethora of marathons, and many wanted the Greenway which was denied to avoid closing the trail to the general public. (Rand)

A Within the last 2-3 years. Such events usually occur early Sunday mornings, which have very little foot traffic in those hours. Therefore, trails do not have to be closed to the public. When the vendor requests the trail and registers for the event, they know the trails remain open, but it is usually not an issue at 7 a.m. at Webb Bridge because the minimal use at that hour. The use of the trail prevents the need for road closures, etc. And no, it does not conflict with the decision regarding the Greenway. (Rodgers & Young)

Q So the plan is not to expand to closures of any trails or parks. (Rand)

A No. (Rodgers & Young)

RE: Program Interest Surveys

Q Have there been any surveys issued to the public to gain a better understanding of programs performing on the weaker side (teen programs, etc.)? (Bowers)

A A few surveys were completed for special needs that generated a good bit of feedback, namely programming needed for adults. Surveys are also conducted after camps for feedback. As for surveys to the community as a whole, staff will look at engaging that method more in the future. Staff have even considered visiting schools to engage with tweens on interests. Gaming was something staff thought would be of interest but that seems to have dwindled leaving staff to wonder what would peak interest. (Young)

RE: North Park

Q Any change/updates to the heavily wooded area at North Park addressed in the master plan? (Rand)

A The wooded area is in the master plan and remains untouched though bocce ball has been installed and therefore is no longer a recommendation but a completed project and therefore, "a win". (Young)

RE: Tennis Court Lighting

Q Any lighting recommendations for the tennis courts? (Saha)

A The city has a lighting initiative. Staff are working to assess and budget for new lighting - hopefully the aid of funding from the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant. While not all lighting will be updated in 2024, the

hope is to have North Park completed (if the grant is awarded) and then Wills Park and Webb Bridge Park respectively in terms of priority. (Rogers)

RE: Food Truck Access @ Parks

Q What about food trucks in parks? What is the approval process? (Kaighin)

A Staff is considering a plan on having a designated spot for a food trucks for corporate groups hoping to have a food truck on site for their events. Currently there are no food trucks permitted with pavilion rentals unless a City event.

Q Would this be permitted at The Grove? (Rand)

A No, not on The Grove but the Lions Club Pavilion which is the most requested. (Young)

RE: Programs

Q We have golf programs for kids? (Rand)

A Yes. In the gym at Wills Park Recreation Center in the bad weather, outside in good weather. Older kids' classes are at the driving range.

Q We offer diving programs? (Rand)

A Those did not take off, so it has been removed from the offerings in the last few years. Now the City offers water therapy classes. (Young)

Q For teens, there is a skate park? (Rand)

A We do not currently have a skate park. For now, it is facilitated through a pop-up park until Union Hill Park is complete. (Young)

RE: Complacency

Q What do you mean by complacency? (Piedrahita)

A Staff should never get complacent with programming. The division should always strive to stay fresh to ensure advancement and improvement. (Young)

RE: Staffing

Q Can you speak about the staffing changes and what the tenure looks like for your division? (Piedrahita)

A Sure. This will be referenced at the end of my report. (Young)

RE: Summer Internships

Q Any internships to serve as a recruitment method? (Bowers)

A We have had some internship opportunities, namely in Special Events, but not in Recreation Services. Summer would make the internships heavily geared towards camps or aquatics. The City as a whole has had a few internships and the division is open to the possibility. (Young)

RE: Coast Swim

Q Coast is on its way out? (Rand)

A Not on its way out per se but must be evaluated as numbers continue dwindling. Staff needs to determine what would peak interest once again. (Young)

RE: Film Permitting

Q Film permits are required and that is the responsibility of Special Events staff? Why can't Community Development and Economic Development take it on? (Rand)

A There are similarities between the logistics for filming and the special events process thereby making Special Events a natural fit for evaluating and processing permits. The process is not too unlike the special events permitting process and while they tried it under Community Development and Economic Development, it was not a good fit. Other departments (such as Community Development and Economic Development), however, are engaged in the evaluation process making it work well. (Drinkard)

RE: Wills Park Camp

Q What happened so that the time for camp registration moved to 8 a.m. from 12 a.m.? (Kaighin)

A This new time was introduced to better coincide with parent schedules and to address complaints regarding the midnight registration time. (Young)

Q I thought staff were going to increase the number of slots available. (Kaighin)

A The problem is the max capacity of the facilities. The increase could only be made to accommodate another 25 kids. (Young)

C Piedrahita expressed her gratitude for the strategic efforts of the Recreation Services team. Speaking of registration, when will registration open?

Q It will open at 8 a.m. on February 28th for residents, and 8 a.m. on March 13th for nonresidents. To add, camp applications cannot be filled out in advance. (Young)

RE: Archery

Q What happened with the archery program? (Piedrahita)

A The instructor did not like the limitations issued by Fulton County Schools that stated outside instruction could not take place during school hours which he hoped to have allowed. (Young)

iv. Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part I) – February 2024

- Eric Milley, Park Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Staff had one vacant park technician position that was filled at Webb Bridge Park and the new staffer started Monday. Now the division is fully staffed.

- Staff is currently in the process of scheduling the annual pine straw and mulch replacement in all parks' common areas and entrances, the City Center, and Brooke Street Park.
- Staff are also currently working on basic athletic field maintenance to prepare for the upcoming season, filling holes, cutting down high areas on baseball infields, adding infield mix, leveling fields for drainage, and batter's box maintenance.
- At Innovation Academy, staff are selectively pruning and removing trees and branches that are encroaching on playing fields and are trying to promote growth on the more structured and healthier trees.
- Staff are currently continuing to selectively prune and replace declining plant material in the landscape. Replacements include 66 at Encore, 6 downtown, and 1 at Cogburn.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Staff will continue to prune and plant through February; drainage and ballfield maintenance will be ongoing throughout the spring season.

v. **Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part II) – February 2024**

- Matt Casey, Park Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Staff are currently in the process of enlarging the footprint of the Wills Park Recreation Center playground. Staff understands with the construction coming for Wacky World playground, the Wills Park Recreation Center playground needs to be prepped for an influx of users. Staff will be adding some additional seating and picnic space for the spring/summer.
- Athletic fields have been edged, infield mix added, and field conditioner blended for spring league. New windscreens have been ordered and will be installed when delivered.
- The Wills Park Equestrian Center has a new concessionaire which will be starting in March. Staff have removed all dated counters/cabinets and had the space professionally cleaned. Walls were also painted and new stainless-steel countertops, appliances, and equipment will be added. This will be a much needed upgraded amenity for events moving into the future.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Staff will continue field maintenance to support games starting the first weekend in March this includes upgrading all netting in the covered batting pavilion.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Cash Only Vendor (Equestrian Concessions)

Q With the new concessionaire, will the vendors remain cash only? (Kaighin)

A The new approach to concessions will include multiple forms of payment as Wi-Fi is installed. (Casey)

Q Will there be only one vendor for the entire year? (Bowers)

A There is one new vendor but yes, the vendor will be there for the year and permit multiple forms of payment. (Casey)

Q Do rodeos bring in their own vendors? (Rand)

A Yes, but it is one of the only events where outside vendors beyond the contracted concessionaire is permitted. (Casey)

RE: Wills Park Reforestation Project

Q For the stream buffer at Wills Park, is there a current update? Is it a success? (Piedrahita)

A The reforestation has seen finalized planning, the replanting of some trees that died, and the buffer will stay in place until the plantings are better established. (Casey)

Q Will there be any organized access to the stream for when the fencing is removed because people access the space all the time? (Rand)

A Public Works is spearheading that project and will have to address an access point. (Casey)

vi. Senior Operations Manager Monthly Report – February 2024

- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Kurt Kirby acknowledged the division managers' efforts to ensure the success of the City's programs and parks.

PARK ENHANCEMENTS:

- North Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts:
 - Courts have been completed and since the resurfacing project came in under budget, staff will be using the remaining funds to enhance the grounds around the facility.
- Webb Bridge Park Dog Park:
 - Work is scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of 2024.

OTHER RELATED PROJECTS

- North Park Turf 2 Pole Removal & Lighting Upgrades:
 - Installation of the replacement poles and lights is scheduled to be completed in early March. This should prevent any impact on programming.
- Webb-Zone Playground Replacement:

- Construction is scheduled to be completed in May which is great as this will allow Webb Zone playground to serve as an alternative playground while the new Wacky World playground is being constructed.
- Miracle League Field Replacement:
 - Construction is scheduled to begin in August-September to work around the Miracle League programming.

BOND PROJECTS:

- Waters Road Park:
 - The driveway has been installed. The playground has been delivered and will be installed albeit delayed 20 days due to the rain. Hoping for completion in March and opening around May.
- Mid-Broadwell Park:
 - Construction of the playground is scheduled to be delivered and installed in April.
- Wills Park Proper:
 - The bid for the Wacky World area (site work for the playground and building of the new restrooms) was posted on February 2nd.
 - Hoping to begin construction on the first of June.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Woodpeckers & Poles

- Q If there were not bugs within the poles, there would be no woodpeckers, correct? (Rand)
- A Staff will alleviate the problem regardless by making the poles concrete and metal. (Kirby)
- A The holes are not due to bugs, but the woodpeckers are attempting to build homes in the poles. (Rogers)

RE: Waters Road Park

- Q Is there an entrance at the corner of Kimball Bridge Road and Waters Road or is access only available from the two sides? (Bowers)
- A There is driveway access from Kimball Bridge Road and pedestrian access from Waters Road. (Kirby)

b. DIRECTOR

i. 2023 Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department Year in Review

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

- Morgan Rodgers shared a few of the department's 2023 accomplishments to include:
 - Arena #3 renovation completion at Wills Park Equestrian Center. This places Alpharetta closer to being a state-of-the-art facility. Arenas #2 and #4 are also close to being completed.
 - Wills Park field #4 turf was replaced. The netting work and cleanup of the dugouts turned out really nice.
 - Gym 2 at Alpharetta Community Center was successfully repurposed from basketball usage for gymnastics to accommodate the program's need and growth.
 - The maintenance shop was completed in Wills Park.
 - Renovation of the covered arena at Union Hill Park was completed and programmed for special events (as it now features hanging lighting and sound bars). Events and camps such as Shamrockin' for a Cure, iCan Bike, and *Atlanta Magazine's* Grillfest are all happening at the facility.
 - New blue signage was installed at the Crabapple Center, North Park, Alpharetta Community Center, and Wills Park Recreation Center to ensure you are close to "fun".
 - Greenway wayfinding signage was installed on the Greenway (The Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau sponsored 50% of costs). The wayfinding poles include QR codes that send you to a map of the Greenway and a "you are here" icon.
 - A brick seating wall was installed along Old Canton at the west side of North Main Street Park.
 - The outdoor basketball court at Wills Park was completely renovated.
 - Tree wells in the City Center were repaired, curbs were redone to straighten the bricks, and over 40 trees were replaced downtown.
 - The pickleball/tennis complex at North Park was renovated.
 - The Wills Park Recreation Center was repainted to breathe new life into the building with the next step to include landscaping.
 - The department cemented the concept of a "downtown district" with the acquisition of a Downtown Parks Supervisor and staff.
 - Construction began on Waters Road Park.
 - The baseball complex at Webb Bridge Park was renovated including a dugout expansion (with the assistance of the Alpharetta Youth Baseball Association), repainting, shade structure repairs, and the removal of encroaching trees.
 - Construction began on the Webb Bridge Dog Park (Mulroy Family Foundation partnered on the project) with the clearing of underbrush.
 - Attendance records were broken for the 2024 annual Taste of Alpharetta and Wire & Wood Singer Songwriter Festival events.

- The footprint and program offerings for the annual Evans Family Christmas Tree Lighting Event was expanded.
- The City hosted the Triple Crown National Softball Tournament at North Park.
- The City experienced a successful summer eclectic music concert series at the Alpharetta Art Center.
- The barrier wall between the Town Green and Highway 9 was erected.
- The department formally designated 9 sites as “official music venues” in support of the Alpharetta Music City initiative.
- The Sarah Camp Garrison grave wall at Resthaven Cemetery was restored as part of the continued improvement of the cemetery.
- Park Services installed 10 benches and/or swings as part of the Memorial Bench Program. Benches are about \$1800 and through the memorial program are at no cost to the City.
- The successful reforestation of the stream bank on the western end of Wills park. One more growing season is needed before the barrier fencing can be removed.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Tree Lighting

Q What happened with the real tree planned for tree lightings? (Rand)

A The live tree proved not conducive for grand scale tree lighting events given the neighboring buildings and landscaping. (Rogers)

RE: Music City Venues

Q Only 9? I thought anyone who asked to participate in the Music Match Program could host music. (Rand)

A These are music city venues not to be confused with Music Match restaurants, businesses that partake in the Music Match Program. (Rogers)

Q What of the Velvet Note? (Rand)

A The Velvet Note is a music city venue. The Amphitheatre is a music city venue. Roaring Social and Union Hill are music city venues. A brochure will be released by the Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau to help promote the venues. (Rogers)

RE: Evans Family Christmas Tree Lighting Event

Q Why is the tree lighting titled the “Evans Family Christmas Tree Lighting”? (Rand)

A The \$70k tree was donated by the family under the stipulation that it always be called the “Evans Family Christmas Tree”. (Rogers)

C The department’s efforts do not go unnoticed as the work is more than projects but a legacy. Thank you for your leadership and service. (Piedrahita)

VIII. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- There were no items from commissioners.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- ❖ Commissioner Saha made a motion to adjourn.
 - Commissioner Rand seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).
- ❖ With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amber O'Dwyer
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services



STAFF REPORT

Department: Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

Submitted By: Amanda Musilli

Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM:

Community Services Division Monthly Report - March 2024

Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Community Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This report is presented for Recreation Commission discussion and information purposes. No vote or formal action is requested at this time.

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- First plant pick up for 2024 began Saturday, March 9. Plants look great!
- Asparagus is up!
- The greenhouses are over capacity and the plants are growing fast. Potting up of summer plants has started.
- We are working with Summitt Hill and Alpharetta Elementary Schools to help them develop their school garden.
- Swarm season is rapidly approaching. If you hear of a resident who has a swarm of bees, please put them in touch with us to safely remove and relocate the hive.
- February classes were a hit!
 - Container Gardening on 2/7
 - Kids Winter Birding on 2/19 and 2/20
 - Seed Starting for success: Class II on 2/21
 - Garden Journal Making on 2/22
 - How to Grow: Leafy greens on 2/24
 - Growing an herb and spice garden on 2/26

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- **The Think Globally. Plant Locally.** Grant program launched Feb 1 and filled up within a few days. There are two classes offered to participants, and they will receive a 6-pack of native, pollinator plants at the class, all of which were started from seed at Old Rucker Farm.
- **The Alpharetta Community Compost Program** will launch April 1st. We officially received our Permit-By-Rule (PBR) from the Georgia EPD on March 6, so we are now permitted by the state as a Category 2 composting collection site. This means we can collect household food waste, but our program will **ONLY** accept dehydrated food waste.
- The **seed library** will also launch in April, and the equipment and signage is at both libraries now gaining attention.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

- There were no questions posed by the Recreation Commission during the previous meeting that warranted a follow-up response from the Community Services Division staff.

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

- March Classes
 - Compost in a Jar (self-serve for no school days) on 3/11 and 3/12
 - All About Compost on 3/12
 - Pollinator Garden with NWF on 3/16
 - Pollinator Garden (Virtual) on 3/19
 - How to Grow: Root Vegetables on 3/21
 - Book Club on 3/25
- April Classes
 - Planning a Cut Flower Garden 4/10
 - Growing Herbs 4/11
 - Summer Garden Planning 4/16
 - How to Grow Tomatoes 4/24
 - DIY Plate Birdfeeders 4/25
 - All About Community Composting w/ Dehydrator Demonstration Date TBD

ATTACHMENTS:

None



STAFF REPORT

Department: Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
Submitted By: Kim Z. Manning
Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM:

Cultural Services Division Monthly Report - March 2024

Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Cultural Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This report is presented for Recreation Commission discussion and information purposes. No vote or formal action is requested at this time.

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Park Performance Permit – Launched Updated 2024 Permit for Musicians to Perform

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Meet & Weave for National Handmade Day 2024
- Tues & Thurs from 2-4pm at Wills Park / Wacky World to contribute to a community weaving project.
- Thurs, March 28 from 2-4pm will be the grand assembling of Fence Yarn Art.
- Exhibit from March 30 – April 14 at the Alpharetta Arts Center Community Gallery

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

- There were no questions posed by the Recreation Commission during the last meeting that warranted a follow-up response from the Cultural Services Division staff.

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

- Arts & Culture Online Calendar <https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks/cultural-services>
- Alpharetta Music City -- Live Music Calendar <https://www.awesomealpharetta.com/calendar/category/alpharetta-music-city-live-music/>
- *Studio Gallery Exhibit: Artists Broderick Hester* / Alpharetta Arts Center March 5 – April 22
- *The Ruby Sunrise* presented by ACT1 Community Theater / Alpharetta Methodist Church / March 8 – 24 / Tickets <https://act1theater.simpletix.com/>
- *Travel Blog Concert* presented by Alpharetta Symphony Youth Orchestra / Preston Ridge Community Center / March 10 at 5:30pm
- *The Art of Movement Gallery Exhibit* / Alpharetta Arts Center / March 3 – May 4 / Opening Exhibit Reception on March 16 at 5pm
- Alpharetta Garden Club Plant Sale / Mansell House / April 13 from 9am – 3pm and April 14 from 12 - 3pm
- *Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5* presented by the Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra / Alpharetta Methodist Church / April 19 at 8pm / Tickets <https://www.alpharettasympphony.org/tchaikovskys-symphony-no-5>
- Dr. Esther Morgon-Ellis Workshop presented by the Alpharetta Symphony Youth Orchestra / April 28 at

ATTACHMENTS:

None



STAFF REPORT

Department: Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
Submitted By: Christine Young
Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM:

Recreation Services Division Monthly Report - March 2024

Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Recreation Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This report is presented for Recreation Commission discussion and information purposes. No vote or formal action is requested at this time.

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Summer Registration: Record Wills Park Summer Camp Registration
- Athletics: Opening Days: AYSA & AYBA
- Tots Programming: Tot Time Fun and Music & Movement
- Health & Wellness Happenings: Alpha 5K Series and March/April Newsletter

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- None

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

- There were no questions posed by the Recreation Commission during the last meeting that warranted a follow-up response from the Recreation Services Division staff.

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

- Upcoming Events
- Staff Achievements

ATTACHMENTS:

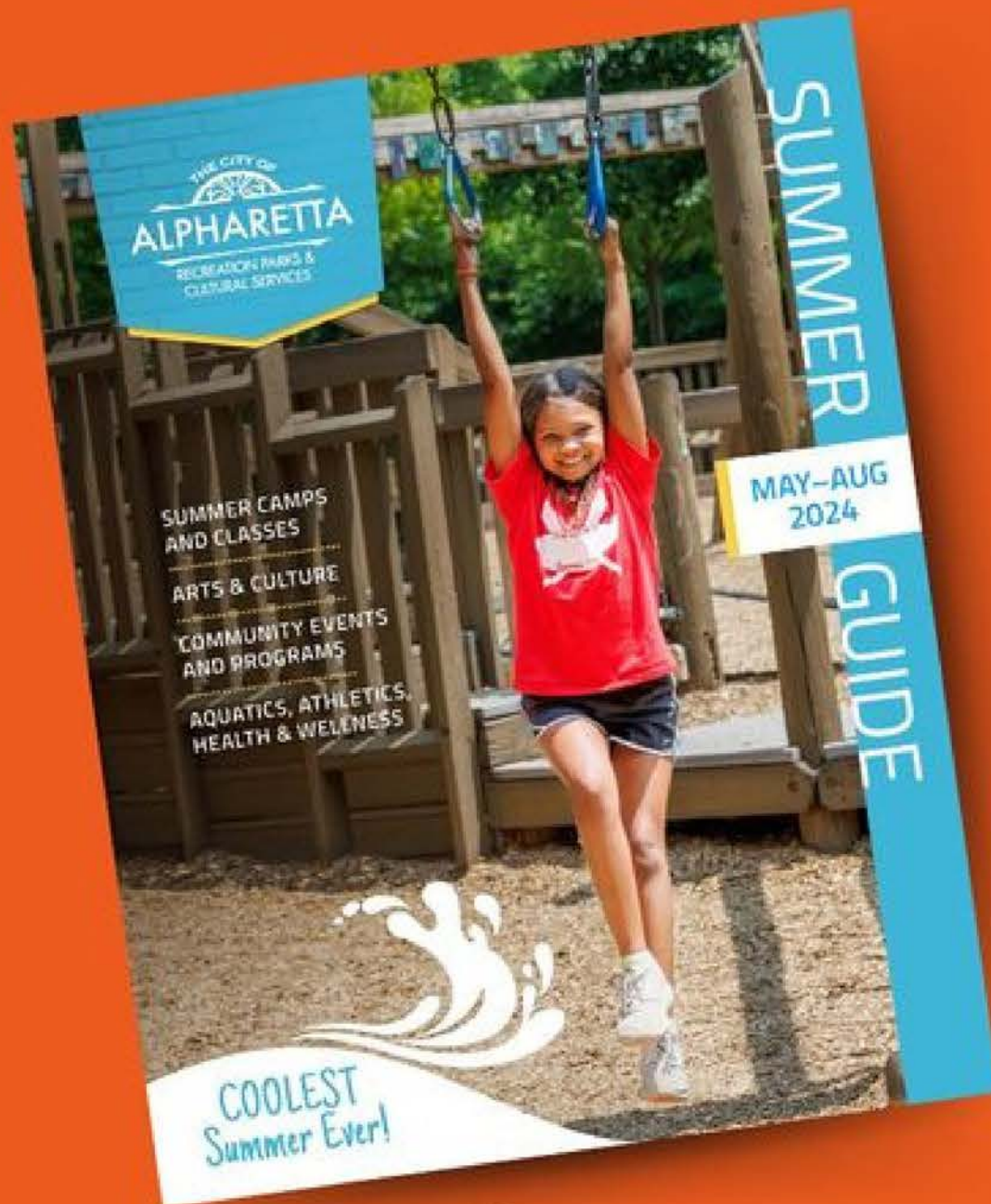
1. Recreation Services Presentation - March 2024

Recreation Services *February*

2024



Summer Registration



SAVE THE DATE

Resident registration begins:

**FEBRUARY 28
8:00 AM**

**Non-resident registration begins:
Wednesday, March 13 @ 8 am**

www.alpharetta.ga.us



LET'S GO

ADVENTURE

Opening Days: AYSA



AYBA

OPENING DAY FESTIVITIES RAINED OUT

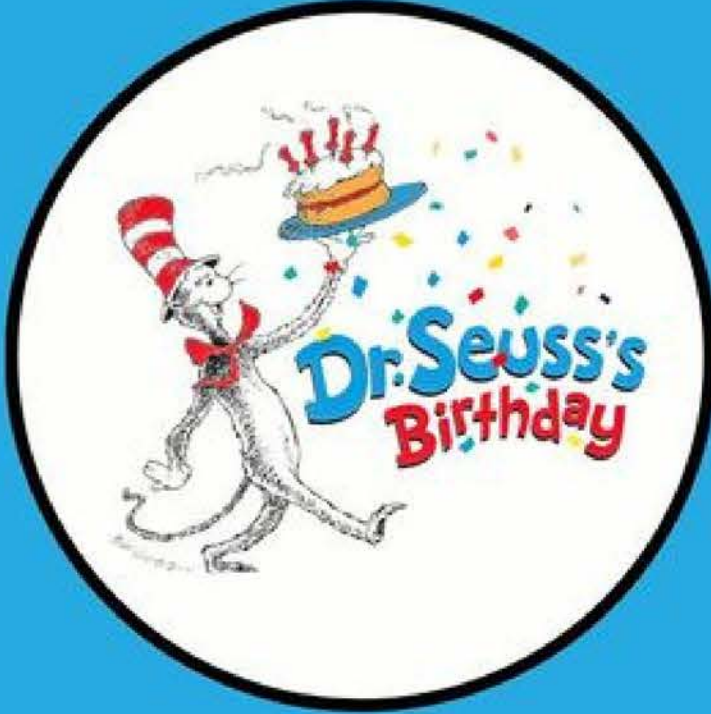


Tot Time



THE CITY OF
ALPHARETTA
RECREATION PARKS &
CULTURAL SERVICES

AGES
1-4



**Dr. Seuss's
Birthday**

FRIDAY, MARCH 1
10:30 - 11:45 am

Celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday at Tot Time!
Come dressed in your best Dr. Seuss-inspired outfit, decorate cookies,
make crafts, and more!

Wills Park Recreation Center





Music & Movement



Health & Wellness

ALPHA 5K SERIES



TAKE A WALK



Live Well... Be Cool... Have Fun!

Thank you to our 2023 Premier Sponsors



NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL
ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTE



SCAN WITH YOUR
FOR WALKING TRAILS
AND MAP

Check out the walking trails and loops that Alpharetta has to offer!

HEALTH & WELLNESS

ALPHA.5K.SERIES
Walking Trails



ALPHA.5K.SERIES

DOG N' JOG

A family fun event for both human and pet!

March 3rd



SUMMER HUSTLE

It's never too late to work on your summer bod!



June 30th

THINK PINK

Help raise awareness for Breast Cancer!

October 6th



REGISTER WITH TRACX



All ALPHA.5K.SERIES registration will be through "TRACX" App.

ABOUT

The ALPHA.5K.SERIES is presented by The City of Alpharetta Health and Wellness team through Recreation, Parks, & Cultural services. All three races are professionally timed through MYLAPS and TRACX services. The course is mixed with hills and flat surface through the Alpharetta Wills Park Trail. This family fun environment is perfect for walkers, beginner runners, and advanced runners.

BECOME A SPONSOR

wellness@alpharetta.ga.us

YOUTH RUNNING PROGRAM



Kilometer Kids is Atlanta Track Club's oldest and largest youth running program. The free, game-based curriculum is designed to teach kids in grades K-5 about goal setting, healthy habits, respect, and community building, all by exposing them to the sport of running.



CONTACT US.

wellness@alpharetta.ga.us



SCAN WITH YOUR
FOR HEALTH & WELLNESS
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Sunday, March 4th

DOG N JOG: 50 participants



March/April Newsletter

HEALTH & WELLNESS

CITY OF ALPHARETTA

THE CITY OF
ALPHARETTA
RECREATION PARKS &
CULTURAL SERVICES

Health & Wellness





About

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Alpharetta's Health & Wellness Program offers a myriad of opportunities that promote physical and mental well-being. Programs are intentionally designed for all levels and ages to engage in various activities so that everyone can enjoy being active, connect with their community and engage in educational enrichment activities.

Events and classes are added throughout the year. Full schedule can be found throughout this Newsletter.

Inside:

ALPHA 5K SERIES

Town Green Fitness - Chiringa Inclusion

NEW Balanced Kids Atlanta

Kilometer Kids - Registration January 16th

Fit4Mom - Information

Tinkergarten with Ms. Lynda

Health and Wellness Events (must register)

Health & Wellness FREE Class Calendar

Bike Alpharetta

Address Locations

Trail Map & Miles



TO VIEW ONLINE [CLICK HERE!](#)

Taste of Alpharetta... and other events

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SHAMROCKIN' FOR A CURE- 4/20, 6-11PM

FARMER'S MARKET OPENS- SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH

ALPHARETTA WINE FESTIVAL- 4/14, 1-5PM

GARDEN FAIRE- 4/20, 9AM-3PM

GRILLFEST- 4/20, 1-6PM

FOOD TRUCK ALLEY BEGINS 4/25

NFCC PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT 4/27-4/28

MARCH FOR BABIES NORTH FUTON- 4/27, 9AM-12PM

HOME BY DARK CONCERT SERIES BEGINS- 4/27, 7:30PM



TASTE OF ALPHARETTA

MAY 9, 2024 • 5-10PM

DOWNTOWN ALPHARETTA

**60+ RESTAURANTS | LIVE MUSIC
KIDS ZONE | BEVERAGE GARDEN
LOCALLY GROWN**

tasteofalpharettaga.com

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SCAN HERE
to purchase
tickets



**awesome
ALPHARETTA**
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Staff Achievements: L3



- HILARY LEW & CLAIRE THURBER ATTENDED SOUTHEAST FESTIVAL AND EVENTS CONFERENCE
- LINDSEY PRITCHARD, KAT ABDORAZAGH, ANGEL CORNISTA, LYNDSEY MACON, HILARY LEW AND CHRISTINE YOUNG ATTENDED GRPA WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
- ALAN SANDERS ACHIEVED HIS CERTIFIED PARK AND RECREATION PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION
- ANGEL CORNISTA AND TALI KEHLER ACHIEVED CERTIFIED POOL OPERATOR CERTIFICATIONS
- CHRISTINE YOUNG ACHIEVED HER CERTIFIED PARK AND RECREATION EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATION



STAFF REPORT

Department: Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
Submitted By: Eric Milley
Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM:

Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part I) - March 2024

Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Park Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department for the parks located within the northern, southern, eastern, and downtown districts of the City of Alpharetta.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This report is presented for Recreation Commission discussion and information purposes. No vote or formal action is requested at this time.

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- We are currently finishing cleaning and chipping up all the pruning debris we have been doing in all the parks.
- We are currently preparing the athletic fields; dragging, chalking, packing home plates / batter's box, painting foul lines, and soccer field game lines at all parks except for the Greenway.
- Greenway trails are constantly being cleared and reopened from flooding. We are also removing dangerous trees and limbs and trying to control erosion all along trail and creek banks.
- Most of decorative fountains are DE winterized up and running. We will be replacing the feature pump at CVB, and one of the 3-tier fountains across from Nest Café.
- The fountain in the little North Park pond was replaced and is now up and running.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Lighting at all park ballfields, courts, parking lots, low voltage decorative lighting, and fountain lighting.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

- There were no questions posed by the Recreation Commission at the last meeting that warranted a follow-up response from the Park Services Division staff.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



STAFF REPORT

Department: Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
Submitted By: Matt Casey
Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM:

Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part II) - March 2024

Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Park Services Division of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department for Wills Park Proper, Wills Park Equestrian, and parks located in the western district of the City of Alpharetta.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This report is presented for Recreation Commission discussion and information purposes. No vote or formal action is requested at this time.

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- The batting pavilion had all of its nets reconfigured and replaced. This was funded through AYBA.
- Unfortunately, the Opening day ceremonies were canceled due to weather. We have officially started the spring season.
- Staff continue ongoing maintenance of fields and common areas throughout the park.
- Horse shows have been well attended this past month. We had all the new sound system for the covered arena wired and should have it operational in the next week.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Arena 2 and schooling arena will be laser graded in the upcoming weeks.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

- There were no questions posed by the Recreation Commission at the last meeting that warranted a follow up response from the Park Services Division staff.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



STAFF REPORT

Department: Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

Submitted By: Kurt Kirby

Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM:

Senior Operations Manager Monthly Report - March 2024

Report on the latest updates, projects, events, and/or initiatives from the Senior Operations Manager of the Recreation, Park & Cultural Services Department.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This report is presented for Recreation Commission discussion and information purposes. No vote or formal action is requested at this time.

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

Updates for projects and program initiatives for February of 2024.

PARK ENHANCEMENTS:

- **Webb Bridge Park Dog Park:** Work is scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of 2024.

OTHER RELATED PROJECTS:

- **North Park Turf 2 Pole Removal and Lighting Upgrades:** Installation of the replacement poles and lights began on March 4.
- **Webb-Zone Playground Replacement:** Construction date has been moved up from May 1 to April 8.
- **Miracle League Field Replacement:** Construction is scheduled to begin in August. Meanwhile, fencing repairs and upgrades around the fence will be completed before the Spring Season begins.

BOND PROJECTS:

- **Waters Road Park:** The driveway construction is ongoing. The playground and picnic shelters have been installed. The parking lot installation is the last major element to be installed.
- **Mid-Broadwell Park:** Construction of the playground is scheduled to begin installation April 8th. Our Cultural Services team is working to add some sidewalk art to the park.
- **Wills Park Proper:** The bid for the Wacky World area was delayed 3 weeks.
- **Webb Bridge Synthetic Turf:** The sewer installation is in the contract phase. The RFP for the design build for the turf field posted on February 15.

IT WAS AN HONOR:

- To attend the Annual Family Dance at the Alpharetta Community Center on February 10th.
- To attend Opening day for AYSA's Spring season on February 24th.
- To speak to North Fulton Rotary Club on February 27. The topic of the day, "Top Ten Reasons Why We Are the Department of Fun!"

ATTACHMENTS:

None