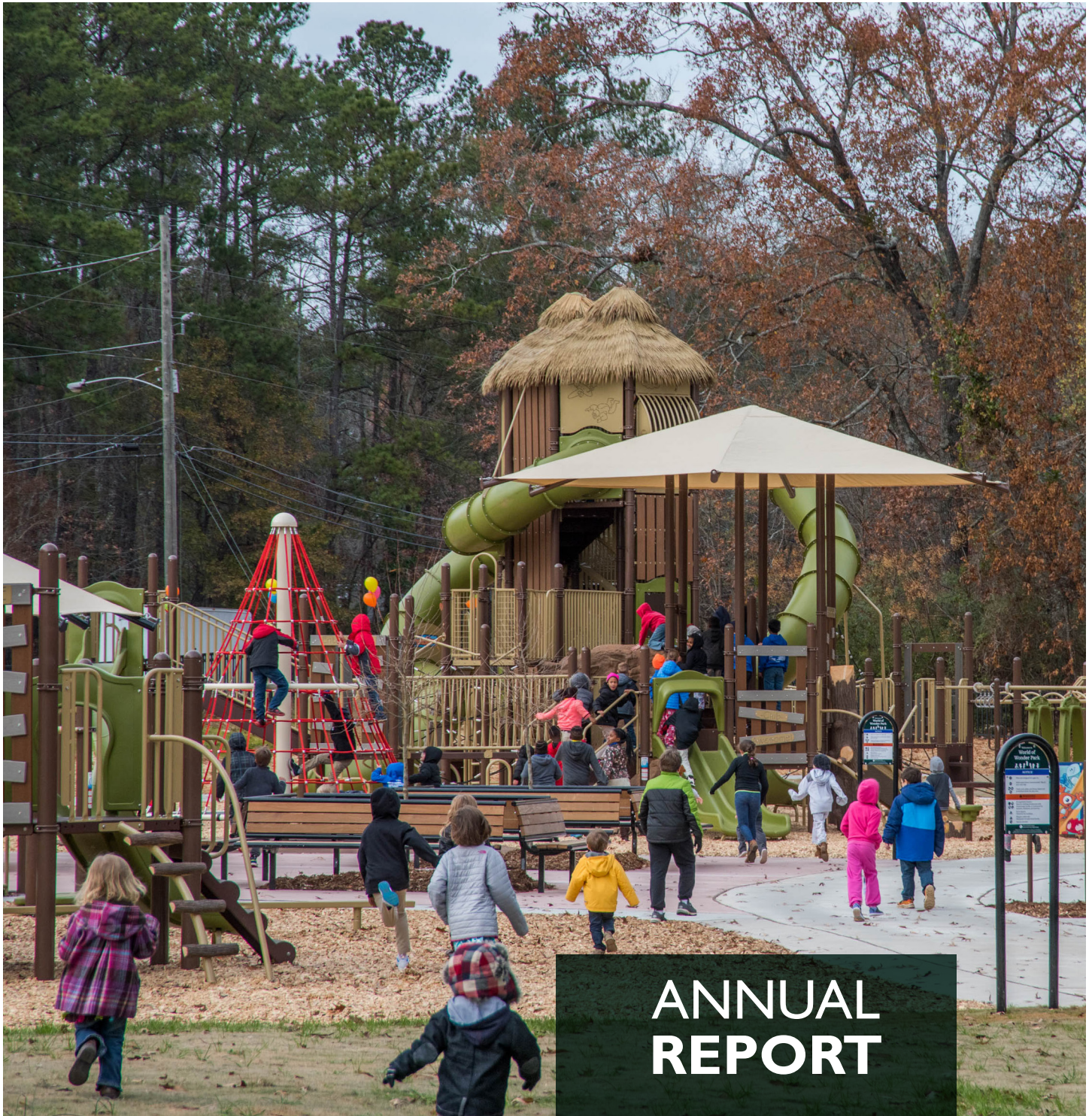


FISCAL YEAR 2017



ANNUAL REPORT

**Athens-Clarke County
Leisure Services Department**

www.athensclarkecounty.com/leisure



AWARDS

PLEASE HOLD THE APPLAUSE...

- Georgia Recreation and Park Association:
District 7 Volunteer Award and
Volunteer Award - Program Network
awarded to Maurice Snook, Sandy Creek Nature Center and Sandy Creek Park volunteer.
- Georgia Recreation and Park Association:
District 7 "**Facilities and Grounds Professional Award**" and the GRPA State Parks Maintenance/Operations Network "**Distinguished Professional Award**"
awarded to Keith Kirkland, Leisure Services Department Maintenance Supervisor.
- Georgia Recreation and Park Association:
"Roy Hammond Leadership Award"
presented to Marci Summer, Rocksprings Park Facility Supervisor.

OUR MISSION

ACC Leisure Services builds a healthier and more livable community by providing opportunities to learn, to create, and to play in quality parks, programs, and facilities that are valued by our citizens.

SUMMER FUN

The Leisure Services Department provides the most diverse selection of award winning summer programs in Northeast Georgia. Camp options exist for the artist, athlete, naturalist, and almost any other interest a child can have. Athenians stay cool in the heat of summer by visiting the Department's pools and splash pads.



434

Swim School & Parent/Tot Participants

6,147

Summer Campers

21,935

Pool Admissions

16,999

SplashPad Admissions

SURVEY SAYS...

At the end of the summer season, more than 400 parents completed online summer camp surveys.

Was this your first year attending a Leisure Services Summer Camp?

57.6%

Yes

How was your registration experience this year?

65.12%

Excellent

27.9%

Good

How was your child's experience at camp?

73.72%

Excellent

20.7%

Good

How would you rate the camp staff?

75.35%

Excellent

19.53%

Good

Would you recommend Leisure Services Camps to another family?

97.44%

Yes

Did the camp meet or exceed your expectations?

93.26%

Yes



ART IN THE PARKS

During the past fiscal year, the Leisure Services Department welcomed amazing pieces of original art to Bear Hollow Zoo and the World of Wonder Park.

“Serengeti Dreams” at Bear Hollow

The eight foot tall, three-sided animal themed metal sculpture entitled “Serengeti Dreams” was created by local artist Harold Rittenberry, Jr.

The art was a donation through the Athens Area Community Foundation by donors, Dan and Sally Wyche Coenen, to the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government to be on public display at Bear Hollow Zoo in Memorial Park.

The goal of the project is to bring public art to the zoo to enhance the learning and enjoyment of park visitors.



“Gyroscope House” at the World of Wonder Park

The “Gyroscope House” was created by artist Lawrence Stueck and funded through SPLOST. The sculpture is a whimsical round structure adorned with colorful painted panels along the top edges of its interior and exterior.

Seating installed around the edges of the structure is similarly outfitted with colorful painted panels, as is a colorful map of Athens-Clarke County, which is featured on the floor. The 14-foot tall structure resembles a round, open gazebo topped with a mobile windmill.



LET’S GET TOGETHER

The Leisure Services Department provided numerous opportunities for the community to learn about upcoming projects and provide input. During the past fiscal year, the Department hosted 21 public input sessions, which averages out to almost two per month. Multiple meetings were held regarding the following topics:

3

**Bishop Park
Master Plan**

2

**East Athens
Educational
Dance Center**

2

Firefly Trail

1

**Greenway
Expansion at
Oconee Hill
Cemetery**

5

**Greenway
Network Plan**

3

**Memorial Park
Revitalization
Plan**

5

**Tallassee
Forest Master
Plan**



STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

GETTING SCHOOLED

During FY '17, staff have participated in training offered by the following organizations.

- The American Camp Association
- The American Red Cross
- American Trails
- The Association of Nature Center Administrators
- Athens-Clarke County Unified Government's Organizational Development Program
- Athens Housing Authority
- Clemson University's Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management Department
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Fred Pryor Seminars
- Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Prescribed Fire Council
- The Georgia Recreation and Park Association
- Georgia Trail Summit
- International Association of Administrative Professionals
- National Association for Interpretation
- The National Association for Youth Sports
- National Safety Council
- National Swimming Pool Foundation
- National Guild for Arts Education
- National Recreation and Park Association
- The National Wildlife Coordinating Group
- Park Pride
- Piedmont College
- Search & Rescue Search Management
- Southern Off Road Bicycling Association
- The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service
- The University of Georgia
- The Wildlife Society



1,432 | **30,213**
volunteers | **gave** | **hours**

Using the \$24.14/hr estimate from The Independent Sector, a national volunteer advocacy organization, **that works out to be**

\$729,341.82

It's always a day at the park when you work for Leisure Services! As one of the largest departments in the Unified Government, the diverse staff brings a variety of education and experience backgrounds necessary for maintaining thousands of acres, conducting camps, and leading programs for the community.



109

**SUMMER
STAFF**

210

**CONTRACT
LABOR**

73

**FULL TIME
STAFF**

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

862

pieces of art displayed in
Lyndon House Arts Center
Exhibitions.

1,328

scholarship recipients received
\$263,964 in subsidies.

4,275

citizens with Rec1
online registration accounts.

18,948

attendees/participants at 118
events/performances at the
Morton Theatre.

16,104

registered program participants.

7,299

children participated in field
trips at Sandy Creek Nature
Center through the Clarke
County School District.

300

Chestnut Trees planted by 130
volunteers as part of the
Managed Forest Project at
Sandy Creek Nature Center.

\$35,462

spent to provide 1,850 program
hours in ADA related program
modification.

85

local artists and crafters
participated in the annual
Licksillet Artist Market.

44,213

website homepage views.

12,000

spectators at the annual
Downtown Parade of Lights.

11,000

monthly school newsletters
distributed to area students.

23

5k runs hosted.

19,608

items circulated through
library branches at East Athens
Community Center and
Lay Park.

10

slides included in the new
two-acre World of Wonder Park.

The Department was selected to join the national "Safe Routes to Parks" pilot program to increase safe access to parks.

Department staff submitted a grant application and Athens-Clarke County was chosen along with nine other cities nationwide to participate in this national program which will explore

improving the pedestrian connections between and around East Athens Community Center and Trail Creek Park.

Safe Routes to Parks was developed by the National Recreation and Park Association in collaboration with the Safe Routes to School National Partnership.



OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL PLAY...



17
PARK
PLAYGROUNDS



35
ATHLETIC
FIELDS

PARK PRIDE

It takes a lot of hard work and Park Services Division staff hours to maintain the department's over 2,000 acres.

2,472

Staff hours in field prep for youth sports

2,028

Work orders completed

652.5

Man-hours spent on landscape related issues not assigned to Central Services

217

Playground safety inspections completed

84

Bridge/board walk inspections

63

Special Event Work Requests

7

Demolition Projects



29
TENNIS
COURTS



20
PICKLEBALL
COURTS



40
MILES OF
TRAILS



23
PICNIC
PAVILIONS



15
BASKETBALL
COURTS



20
ACRES OF
DOG PARKS



5
POOLS



2
SPLASH PADS



2
THEATRES



1
DANCE
CENTER



1
SEVEN MILE
GREENWAY



1
HISTORIC HOUSE
AND ART MUSEUM



1
NATURE
CENTER



1
SKATE PARK

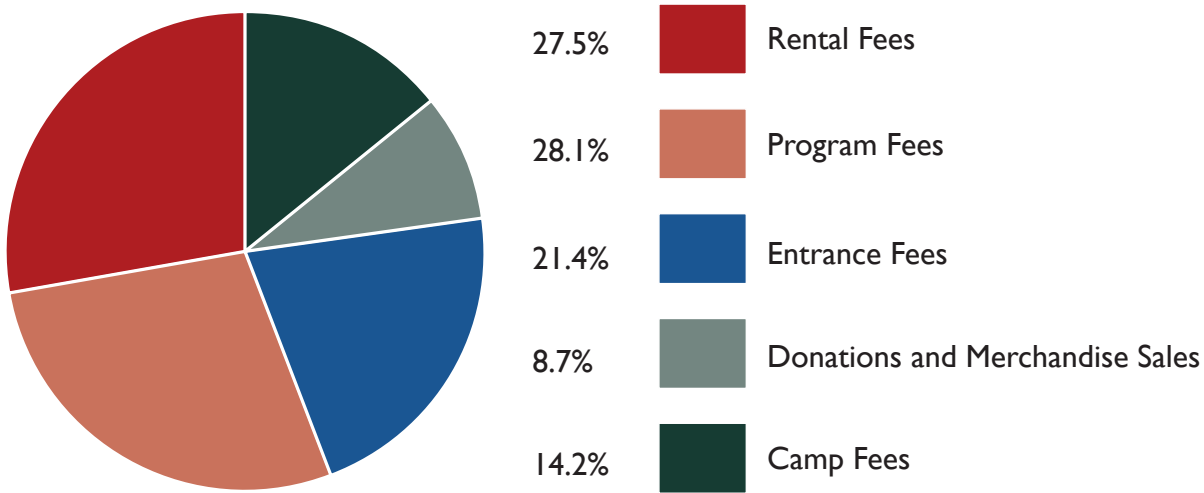


1
TENNIS
CENTER



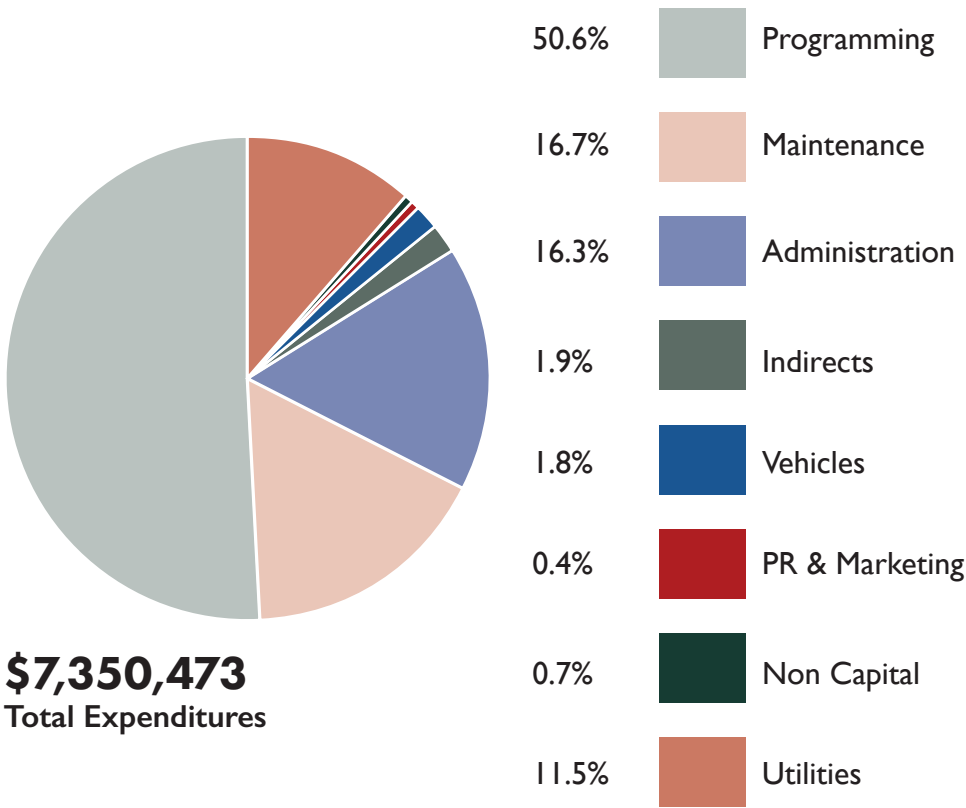
1
ZOO

FY 2017 ACTUAL REVENUES– **HIGHEST YEAR EVER!**



\$1,194,445 Total Revenue

FY 2017 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES



\$7,350,473
Total Expenditures

#LovingLeisureServices

Citizens take to social media to share how they love Leisure Services!

“Love this little zoo! My children love the animals. You can tell the staff does a great job taking care of them. Even more fun if you go when the reptile room is open and you can get up close with some of them and learn. We go every chance we get.”

Bear Hollow Zoo

“Sandy Creek Rocks!! We came with teenagers and walked a trail down to the wetlands. We saw goldfinches and brown headed nuthatches. The interpretive center on all the biomes was spectacular. The loggerhead turtle and the soft shell terrapin were fun to watch. The beehive was safe to see up close as well.”

Sandy Creek Nature Center

“Thank you for taking your time to share your expertise with our students. Together, we are making preservationists out of our designers! We appreciate your support of UGA and the Furnishings & Interiors program” – Linda Lyons, University of Georgia Lecturer, regarding a recent tour of the **Ware-Lyndon House**

“My dog and I love this park. Private dog park rentals are great and the facilities are just perfect. Just bought a season pass so we can go anytime!”

Sandy Creek Park

“The Morton Theatre shows nothing but awesome performances. I am very pleased with every visit I make for an event here!”

Morton Theatre

“I loved it! The cast, musicians, and crew put on one of the most enjoyable performances of “A Christmas Carol” that I’ve ever seen. Everything went so smoothly. I could hear everything. The sight lines were fantastic. ACT really outdid themselves this time. Congratulations!”

Athens Creative Theatre



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