

Manager's Updates: Recreation Division– October 2019

I. Sports Section (Aquatics & Athletics)

1. Attendance at city pools for the month of September was 15,495, compared to 17,329 for the same period last year. Even though attendance was down for September, overall for the entire year attendance was up 12% compared to last year. There were 151,649 patron visits in 2019 compared to 135,186 in 2018.
2. Newberry Animal Hospital and PRCA staff are finalizing details for the annual **K9 Splash Bash** at Westside Pool. This event is a pool party and costume contest for dogs, and this year's event will take place on Sunday, October 20th, from 10am-Noon. The fee is \$5 per dog, and all dogs must have proof of rabies vaccinations. Both vendors and non-profit groups will be on hand during the event, and the day will conclude with a pet costume contest.
3. The Climb for Cancer Foundation will be hosting their annual **Halloweener Derby** at Albert Ray Massey Park (between the recreation center and pool) on Sunday, October 27th. Aquatic staff have been helping with support for this event since it moved to ARM Park several years ago.
4. Session 2 of **Fall Group Swim Lessons** will run from September 17th-October 10th. Lessons are held between 4:15pm-7:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for three-weeks, with Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays reserved for makeup classes. Fall group lessons are held at Westside Pool. Twenty-one participants are registered for the year's final session of lessons.
5. Session 6 of **Private Swim Lessons** took place on September 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, between 10:00am-2:00pm, at Northeast Pool. There is a maximum of 16 slots for the session, and participants receive one-on-one instruction from staff. All 16 slots are filled.
6. During the winter off-season, staff will be working to put together an RFP to replace the **pvc vinyl pool liner at Mickle Pool**. The liner currently in place is the oldest of the liners at all three city pools, having been installed back in 2003. This project will be funded through WSPP funds.
7. Also during the winter off-season, staff will be working on an RFP to install a **permanent shade structure at Westside Pool**, similar to the ones installed at Northeast and Mickle Pools. This project will also be funded by WSPP funds.
8. With school back in session, **high school swim and dive season** has begun. Once again, six local high schools utilize city pools for practices and meets (Eastside, Gainesville, Buchholz, PK Yonge, Oak Hall and St. Francis). In addition, we have contracted this year with Cornerstone Academy, who has started a middle school swim team. Northeast Pool will once again serve as host to several district championships, one on 10/25 and one on 11/4.
9. **Citywide Tennis Services:** USTA-FL staff continues to set programming and add events and activities to their website. For court reservations, program information, and other general information, patrons can visit www.playtennisgainesville.com. Registration for fall programming is currently underway, so please make sure to keep checking back on the website for updated

information. New programs USTA-FL has offered this year are Friday night adult mixers, and Saturday morning free family play dates. USTA-FL will also be offering Halloween events at both TB McPherson tennis courts and Joyce Oransky tennis courts.

10. **Adult Softball:** The Fall season begins play on Monday, September 9th. Divisions play on Monday, Tuesday and Friday nights. New this season, the Tuesday night co-ed league will add a third location, playing games at the newly renovated Lincoln Field, as well as ARM Park and Greentree Park.
11. **Gainesville Youth Sports:** Registration is currently underway for the fall season. Additional information can be found at www.gainesvilleyouthsports.com.
12. **National Flag Football:** Registration is currently open for the fall season. Games will run October 13th through November 24th, on Sunday afternoons at Possum Creek Park.
13. **Pickle Ball:** Pick-up play continues in the fall at the MLK Center, in the mornings. Santa Fe College offers a Monday morning pickleball class as an elective with the college. A total of 16 students are currently registered for the class. Also, in partnership with the Gainesville Sports Commission, the annual Senior Games Pickleball Championships took place at the Tom Petty Park tennis courts September 13th-15th.
14. **Pop Warner Football and Cheer** is currently underway. In football, we have three teams, one each in Junior Pee-Wee, Mighty-Mite and Tiny-Mite. In cheerleading, we have two teams, one each in Mighty-Mite and Tiny-Mite. Games have been played every Saturday during the month of September, and will conclude October 12th. October 19th will be the playoffs, with the local championship on October 26th.
15. The **Summer Heatwave Program** has concluded, with 588 youth and teens participating in this summer's program.
16. Sports Recreation Leader Guillermo Chacon has left the city to pursue a promotional opportunity with the City of Boca Raton. Guillermo worked in PRCA for almost 5 years. His position was advertised, and staff reviewed 34 qualified applications. Of those 34 qualified candidates, 16 were chosen to move forward with video interviews. Out of those 16, ten responded, and the candidates were narrowed down to four to bring in for in-person interviews. The interview panel is currently checking references, and will be making a hiring recommendation soon.

II. Education Section

1. We still have two Recreation Aide II and one temp Rec Aide positions that are vacant. Interviews are scheduled the second week of October.
2. 2019-20 After-school Program is in full swing and all staff are buzzing with excitement as they create activities for the kids. The program is offered at Albert Ray Massey, Clarence R. Kelly, Eastside, Porters and Phoenix Community Centers. We are excited to have the Phoenix Community Center on board again this year.
3. Porters Community Center Parent Open House was held on Monday, September 9th and was a great success. We enrolled additional children in the program as a result of the open house.
4. The Harper-Jeyaprahash Learning Lab Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1st. The community is invited to attend.

5. Our relationship with local partners continues. The Greater Duval Neighborhood Association is the driving force with our gardening program that teaches the kids basically how to make food from seed to table and we hope to expand this to all sites in the future. GDNA also brings in speakers to host a Science Club and is our biggest tutoring partner. These programs will kick off in October.
6. Friday, October 4th (Gator Homecoming) and Friday, October 19th (Pumpkin Palooza) are our first two Out of School Day Programs that will be held at Eastside and Albert Ray Massey Recreation Centers.

III. Facilities Section

1. We have been reviewing, renewing, and finalizing our long term rental contracts as well as our service contracts for Recreation, majority were completed by September 30, 2019 the start of the new fiscal year.
2. We are currently reviewing applicants for the Temp Facility assistant position. Interviews are being held as needed. Some vacancies were created due to staff taking permanent positions and retirement.
3. Facilities is in the process of inventorying building equipment and supplies to begin replacement plan of these items. Recently replaced 25 tables dilapidated at MLK with newer, lightweight tables.
4. Creating new field use policy for Fred Cone Park after renovations have been completed.
5. Facilities team has been selected for City Employee Customer Service Team Award.

IV. Wild Spaces Public Places Updates

1. The Wild Spaces and Public Places webpages are active on the City's website:
<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/WildSpacesandPublicPlaces.aspx>.
2. *This month's WSPP Project Updates:*

Northside Park Improvements

The City of Gainesville's Wild Spaces & Public Places program in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department and the Rotary Clubs of Gainesville Foundation are pleased to announce that a large park renovation project is underway at Northside Park, located at 5701 NW 34th Blvd.

Improvements include the addition of 40 parking spaces, a new playground and construction of a new multi-generational play area, the "Generations Play Zone". The Generations Play Zone was designed to provide activities for all ages and will include outdoor games such as bocce ball, pickleball/tennis courts, pétanque, table tennis, checkers and chess. It will also include an outdoor patio, a large pavilion with grills, shaded seating and viewing areas and a walking path with outdoor exercise equipment. Completion of the project is estimated for May of 2020. The approximate construction cost of the project is \$2 million. Scherer Construction of North Florida is facilitating the work. For more details about the project, [click here](#). For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or waiteed@cityofgainesville.org.

The Hartman House at Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park

The circa 1890 farm house at Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park is being renovated to become a nature center. Construction is anticipated to complete in June of 2020. The project, located at 1500 NW 45th Ave., is expected to cost

approximately \$400,000. J.E. Decker Construction is facilitating the work. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or waiteed@cityofgainesville.org.

Lincoln-Williams Drainage Improvements are underway!

The City of Gainesville's Wild Spaces & Public Places program, in conjunction with the School Board of Alachua County is pleased to announce that work has begun on drainage improvements at the fields between Abraham Lincoln Middle School and Joseph Williams Elementary School. These improvements will improve field conditions after heavy rainfall and allow for greater recreational use. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or waiteed@cityofgainesville.org.

Work is underway at Oakview Park!

The City of Gainesville's Wild Spaces & Public Places program, in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, is pleased to announce that work has begun at Oakview Park (formerly named Kiwanis Girl Scout Park), located at 810 NW 8th Ave. Improvements include updating the nearly 64-year-old building, a new modern playground, new plants, removing invasive species and adding parking. Completion of the project is estimated for May of 2020. The approximate construction cost of the project is \$998,000. To allow for improvements, the existing playground at Oakview Park will be unavailable to the public during construction. Park patrons are encouraged to utilize other parks while this work is taking place. For information on other nearby parks, please [click here](#). For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or waiteed@cityofgainesville.org.

Reserve Park

This new neighborhood park located at 700 NE 11th Street will include playground equipment, a community garden, traveling rings, an obstacle course with fitness stations, picnic areas, and a memorial to Reserve Soldiers. Work began in May and is anticipated to complete in the winter of 2019. Anglin Construction Company is facilitating the work. For more information, please contact Betsy Waite, project manager, at 352-393-8187 or waiteed@cityofgainesville.org.