

City of Greer Parks & Recreation Department

Monthly Report for March 2014



The City of Greer Parks and Recreation Department is committed to fulfilling our mission of providing quality recreational experiences while administering the values of community image, human development, preservation of environmental resources, health and wellness, economic development and cultural unity.

Department Projects

- ◆ Ann Cunningham and Red Watson met with members of the IT Department, on April 2, regarding the installation of security cameras at Stevens Field and Greer City Stadium.
- ◆ A new electrical panel to control the lights at H. R. Turner Park was installed in preparation for the demolition of the concession building.
- ◆ New chairs for the Needmore Community Center were ordered utilizing lease purchase funds.
- ◆ The Grounds Division repaired the fountain at Victor Memorial Veterans Park, installed LED lighting on the swing arbor at Greer City Park and completed the annual contract for much installation.
- ◆ The Recreation Division continued planning the summer camp programs and began conducting interviews for Summer Camp Counselor positions.
- ◆ Justin Miller and Cory Holtzclaw continued meeting with BB&T to discuss the Lighthouse Project set for this summer. The BB&T Lighthouse Project, held each May and June, as described by BB&T, “gives us the opportunity to put the BB&T mission into action, doing our part to improve our communities. It has been our privilege to offer service and corporate financial support to many overwhelmed and underfunded nonprofit organizations that continue to struggle in a challenging economic environment.” This year’s proposed project is an activity day with the Needmore Summer Camp participants at the Country Club Sports Complex.
- ◆ Justin Miller continued meeting with the LiveWell Greenville Park Hop committee in preparation of the upcoming 2014 program. Each participant will go on a Greenville County Scavenger Hunt at the parks throughout the county with Greer City Park and Century Park’s Kids Planet being utilized for the Greer community. Opening ceremonies will kick off this year’s program on May 17.

Department Trainings

- ◆ On April 21, Red Watson participated in the Performance Evaluations Committee to update the City’s performance evaluation document.
- ◆ Ann Cunningham and Parks and Recreation Department supervisors attended the monthly ICMA Supervisory Practices webinar on April 24 at Greer City Hall.
- ◆ Ashlyn Stone and Julia Black attended the AAA – Drivers Improvement Program training during April.

- ◆ One member of the Parks and Recreation Department attended Park Liability training on April 1 in Columbia, SC.
- ◆ Several members of the Parks and Recreation Department completed the MASC Online Training: Crowd Control and Employee Retention.

Department Participation

- ◆ On April 2, Ann Cunningham met with Sylvia Jones to discuss the Needmore Community. Ann spoke with Margaret Turner on April 16 to discuss the Greentown community issues.
- ◆ Red Watson attended a Building Construction Advisory Committee meeting for the J. Harley Bonds Career Center on April 10.
- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department staff held a meeting to recap the International Festival on April 16.
- ◆ Greer Recreation Association Board meeting was held on April 17 at the Operations Center Conference Room.
- ◆ On April 22, a meeting was held by members of the Parks and Recreation Department staff with local members of different military branches to discuss the military tribute at Freedom Blast.
- ◆ On April 23, the Parks and Recreation Department staff met with members the Greer Chamber of Commerce staff to prepare for the Greer Family Festival to be held in May.
- ◆ Justin Miller participated in the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Greer's Media/Communications Day on April 1. The class toured Fox Carolina and participated in the broadcasting of a news segment.
- ◆ Justin Miller participated in the Wellness Committee to discuss the 2014/2015 year. Justin also attended the LiveWell Greenville Expo at the TD Convention Center with the Wellness Committee on April 24. The day long workshop focused on healthy workplace initiatives with mini seminars included.
- ◆ The Recreation Division partnered with Home Depot of Greer to offer a Birdhouse Build Day to Seniors Out and Around (SOAR) and the Senior Action at the Needmore Community Center. The seniors assembled their own birdhouses and painted each house.



- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department partnered with Levi Crowder, a citizen of the city, in offering 4 Community Days at B. P. Edwards Park on April 5, 12, 19 and 26. The event had games, food and guest speakers to help engage the youth in our community and hope to steer them in the right direction.
- ◆ On April 3, Parks and Recreation Department supervisors spoke at Greer Middle School's Career Class regarding each supervisor's role and job duties entail.
- ◆ Ann Cunningham and Justin Miller attended the 6th Annual Creative Advancement Awards Luncheon on April 25 at Greer City Hall. Kevin McCraw from BMW and Jim Ridgill from the City of Greer were this year's award recipients.
- ◆ The Grounds Division continued preparing athletic fields for the spring season, installed spring banners at Greer City Park and Family Fest banners throughout downtown Greer.

Department Highlights

- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department held their annual staff luncheon at Mutt's BBQ on April 2.
- ◆ The Eggstastic Easter Event was held at Century Park on April 12. Attendance was at an all-time high with 2,700 youth participating. The event featured inflatables, games, face painting, pictures with the Easter Bunny provided by Walgreens, Jack Roper's Magic Show and numerous egg hunts throughout the event, Please visit <http://greertoday.com/photos/eggstastic-easter-egg-hunt/2014/04/12/> for pictures from the event.

- ◆ The Athletics Division facilitated youth softball and baseball practices at Country Club Park, Century Park, Riverside Middle, Little Turner Field and Victor Field. Youth baseball and softball teams began participating in games at the various facilities. Select youth baseball teams are currently in season participating in league play. Opening Day Ceremonies were held on April 5 and included homerun and team base running contests, team photos, parade of teams and the first pitch by former Atlanta Braves pitcher Jose Alvarez. All players, coaches and parents took part in the Greer Baseball Club (GBC) Night at the Greenville Drive game where they participated in on-field contests and were recognized on the video board. GBC held their board meeting on April 23.



- ◆ Foothills Soccer Club of Greer (FSCG) youth soccer practices and games were facilitated at South Suber Road Park. The Suber Road facility is currently being utilized Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for club practices and games. Club games are scheduled for select Saturdays at the facility. FSCG teams also competed in a weekend long spring tournament.



- ◆ Adult basketball spring league was played and completed at the Victor Gym on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. League play consisted of 10 regular season games and a single elimination playoff tournament.



- ◆ Adult softball spring league was facilitated at Century Park on Wednesday evenings. League play consists of 10 regular season games and a single elimination playoff tournament to be held in May.
- ◆ The Cultural Arts Division held a Dragon Slayer/Princess Party on April 27. The cast of Sleeping Beauty and the Greer Cultural Arts Council (GCAC) Student Board donated their time. Many dressed as Princesses and Princes and spent time with the children who attended the event. Whispering Winds Carriage Company provided rides around the Cannon Centre and Greer City Park.
- ◆ The Recreation Division continued to facilitate several activities and programs at the recreation centers. Senior Action meets at the Needmore Recreation Center Monday through Friday. Kay Young's Piano Performers was facilitated every Monday at the Cannon Centre. Never Alone and the Cutlery Club met every Tuesday evening at the Tryon Recreation Center. The After School Program continued at the Needmore Recreation Center and the Creative Advancement After School Program continued at the Victor Gym.
- ◆ Seniors Out and ARound (SOAR) participated in a lunch bunch meeting at Zoe's Kitchen in Greenville, SC. The group attended the Steel Magnolias play in Fountain Inn, traveled to Harrah's Casino in Cherokee, NC and held their monthly potluck lunch, movies and bingo days. The SOAR program also partnered with Senior Action to begin a Walk with Ease program and Exercise Day at Victor Gym. The average attendance at these events was 18.



- ◆ The Events Division hosted 63 events, at which over 9,800 guests visited the City of Greer Events Center.
- ◆ On April 5, the Events Division hosted the Annual American Heart Association Heart Walk at Greer City Park. Over 3,000 participated in the event to help in the fight against heart disease and stroke. On April 8, the SC Quarterly Fire Marshal Training was held at Greer city Hall with 120 fire marshals from around the state attending the training.



- ◆ On April 10, the Events Division hosted the Ten at the Top board meeting in Greer City Hall and on April 26 the Greenville Track Club held its Annual Earth Day run at Greer City Park. Over 1,200 people participated in the event.



- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department staff continued planning 2014 events such as: Moonlight Movies and Freedom Blast @ Greer City Park.



"Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs"