

# City of Greer Parks & Recreation Department

## Monthly Report for May 2020



Farmers Market at Greer City Park

*"Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs"*

### Department Projects

- ◆ Greer Golf Club:
  - Jobs were advertised and interviews were conducted. All current eligible employees of Greer Country Club applied for their respective positions.
  - Irrigation pump and motor installation was started by Paramount Pump Company, Taylors, SC.
  - Several course repairs and improvements (stump removal, cart path repair, drainage and erosion control, etc.) have been performed by Marty Knighton.
  - Carpet Installation downstairs will begin July 2.
  - A committee was created to evaluate proposals from interested parties for the restaurant business at the golf course. Interviews were conducted on May 20.
  - A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on May 18 for the fairway and tee box renovations project. The bid opening will take place on May 29.
  
- ◆ Kids Planet:
  - The Kids Planet Renovation Project has run into some issues with unsuitable soils in the lower parking lot on the east side of the property. The unsuitable soil was removed and good compactable dirt was added in both the parking lot and playground areas. Inclement weather has delayed Raby from finishing the grading and parking lot according to our original timeline.
  - An electrical engineer was hired and the site lighting plan for conduit installation for electrical wiring and fiber was completed. We will contract with an electrician and we anticipate finishing installation in late June or early July.
  - Stamped plans for Cunningham Recreation have been reviewed and permit issued for playground equipment at Kids Planet. Cunningham Recreation is scheduled to begin installation of playground equipment in June. They are anticipating delays due to COVID-19 in finishing jobs that were scheduled prior to Kids Planet. Many of their staff were out of work due to the pandemic and they are trying to catch up on other projects.
  
- ◆ Needmore Recreation Center storm drain and ditch was completed in the lower park.
- ◆ The ADA entrance and sidewalk was completed in the lower park at the Needmore Recreation Center.
- ◆ Preparation is underway for the outdoor fitness equipment and shade structure at Victor Park and Gym.
- ◆ Parks and Recreation Department staff finalized budgets for FY 20-21.

## Department Trainings

- ◆ Robin Byouk attended Canva training for use in creating graphic artwork for posters, social media, etc.
- ◆ Staff completed on-line training courses through the Municipal Association of South Carolina.
- ◆ On May 12, Parks and Recreation Department staff along with David Seifert and Catrina Woodruff attended Civic Rec training for on-line registrations. The training was held at the Center for the Arts.
- ◆ Meredith Anzur and Justin Miller attended several webinars from the American Camp Association, Head Start and the YMCA summer programming.

## Department Participation

- ◆ We continue to work with parks and recreation directors through weekly meetings and updates provided by the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association (SCRPA). We monitor their website for updates on closings of facilities and programs throughout the state regarding COVID-19. The recommended “phase-in” plan for reopening venues has to remain fluid to ensure we are following the Governor’s Executive Orders as well as the SCDEC and CDC.

Phase One took effect on May 6 allowing for the reopening of trails and outdoor greenspace for the purpose of allowing patrons to exercise and maintain health initiatives. Gathering and socializing in groups of three or more were discouraged. Trails and sidewalks were reopened in Greer City Park, Center for the Arts Park, Century Park, Veterans Park, and Victor Park. The Greer Golf and Country Club remained open for play while adhering to social distancing and guidelines for playing.

Phase Two, through May 31, involved the reopening of additional recreational facilities, the first being tennis/pickle ball courts as well as disc golf. Recreational fields are scheduled to reopen for greenspace use only in early June. The Greer Farmer’s Market was held on May 23 at City Park with social distancing and sanitation guidelines for vendors and participants.

- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department continued to assist the following agencies in distributing food to residents at the listed locations:
  - Greenville County School Lunch Delivery Site, City Stadium
  - Senior Centers, Daily Meal Pick-Up, Needmore Recreation Center
- ◆ Cory Holtzclaw participated weekly in SC LEAD virtual meetings. The program concluded for the 2020 year and will resume in 2021.
- ◆ Athletic staff attended weekly Upstate Municipal Athletics programming Zoom meetings.
- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department held its quarterly meeting of the Recreation Association Board on May 14 at Greer City Hall. The format for this meeting was via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ◆ Justin Miller met with the Park Hop Committee on May 19 to discuss the status of parks opening, new deadlines and new dates for program’s events.
- ◆ Staff created signage to inform citizens of park closings and reopenings
- ◆ .
- ◆ On May 26, Steve Owens filmed the first Tall Tale Tuesdays video with storyteller and children’s author Jeffrey Lefko. On May 28, Taylor Crouch recorded Robin Byouk creating a craft to match the story. The videos will be released on social media on Tuesdays starting June 16.
- ◆ Robin Byouk attended the following webinars and Zoom meetings:
  - Americans for the Arts-Cares Act update
  - SCFEA: State of the Industry
  - SC Theatre Assembly bi-monthly call
  - Caring for Children – Office of Headstart
  - IHeart Media Virtual Summit
  - Virtual Callboard – New Technologies During COVID-19
  - Theatrical Publishers Respond to COVID-19 – What Comes Next?
  - Addressing Today’s Fundraising Challenges – The Realities for 2020
  - Mehron – Aging Made Simple
  - Narrow the Search
  - Get in Front of Customers Now
  - Minimizing the Cost of Scenery: Using Profections

- Creativity Hour – Crayola
- SC Priorities with Governor McMaster
- AACT Roundtable – Youth Theatre Educators
- To Live Stream or Not to Live Stream?
- How Crisis Management Changed Internal and External Operations for the Better
- South Carolina Theatre Association bi-weekly meetings regarding moving forward in the COVID-19 pandemic when productions are at a standstill

## Division Highlights

### Athletics:

- ◆ Staff created phasing plan to reopen fields and facilities to allow for athletic practices and select programming for the summer.
- ◆ On May 5, David Holtzclaw held a pre-bid meeting with contractors for the Soccer Barrier Net System installation at Country Club Road and South Suber Road Parks.
- ◆ Established eTrak registrations for upcoming fall sports registrations; flag football tackle football, cheerleading, baseball, girls softball and soccer. Registration is set to begin on June 1 for city residents and June 8 for non-residents.
- ◆ Hosted a meeting with American Legion representatives to discuss Stevens Park contract and upcoming summer league for junior and senior age teams. The American Legion and the City of Greer athletics division are collaborating to provide a summer league. This would be the first league back to competitive play.
- ◆ Recruitment to fill fall 2020 volunteer vacancies is underway. The fall season includes adult baseball in addition to the five youth leagues.
- ◆ The refunding of all 2020 spring athletic participants spring registrations was completed and forwarded to the accounting department for processing and mailing. This process totaled hundreds of transactions for the spring season.
- ◆ Field supervisors are currently reporting to Greer Country Club to assist with operations on days they are not currently site supervising at fields and parks.
- ◆ Hosted Zoom meetings with various municipal parks and recreation agencies to discuss possible esports programming during the winter.

### Recreation:

- ◆ Senior Action continued to serve lunch outside at the Needmore Recreation Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- ◆ Concluded 8 sessions of a Magic workshop held via Zoom in conjunction with the Upstate Magic Academy with eight students participating.
- ◆ City parks were reopened on May 6 for exercising and walking.
- ◆ Tennis/pickleball courts were reopened on May 11.
- ◆ SOAR (Seniors Out and ARound)
  - All activities were cancelled due to COVID-19.
- ◆ Four rentals at the recreation centers for the month were canceled due to COVID-19.
- ◆ Recreation Division Activities canceled due to COVID 19:
  - Adaptive Pickleball (Victor Gym) – 1 session
  - Archery (Victor Gym) – 4 sessions
  - Artifacts Club (Tryon Recreation Center) – 1 session
  - Basketball free play (Victor Gym) – 9 sessions
  - Creative Advancement Afterschool (Victor Gym) – 20 sessions
  - Needmore After School (Needmore Recreation Center) – 20 sessions
  - Cutlery Club (Tryon Recreation Center) – 1 session
  - Ham Radio (Victor Gym) – 4 sessions
  - Never Alone (Tryon Recreation Center) – 4 sessions

- Pickleball Free Play (Victor Gym) – 9 sessions
- Senior Action (Needmore Recreation Center) Modified Lunch Pick Up – 8 sessions

#### Cultural Arts:

- ◆ Robin Byouk held Zoom meetings with the GCAC board, Camp Teachers, Artists in Residence and the team of Godspell Jr production. The production was postponed until May 2021.
- ◆ The week of May 6, the 100-year-old piano at the Center for the Arts was tuned and the bottom range of strings were replaced.
- ◆ The Friends of Lake Robinson photography show scheduled for May 7 at Greer City Hall was postponed.
- ◆ GCAC submitted a beverage bid for Freedom Blast.
- ◆ The Greer Children’s Art Council Board met bimonthly via Zoom to enable them to stay up to date on events and issues.
- ◆ The week of May 22, the Artist in Residence artwork was changed at the Center for the Arts.
- ◆ Robin Byouk contacted several bands concerning entertainment for the Streetscapes opening.
- ◆ On May 21, Robin Byouk attended a meeting with Primo Productions of Greenville to discuss recording performances on video.
- ◆ On May 29, Robin Byouk toured Greenville Center for the Creative Arts to discuss rentals and phasing the public into their art space.

#### Events:

- ◆ The Events Division originally had over 33 rentals, weddings and special events scheduled. COVID-19 required the division to amend rental policies to accommodate numerous requests to cancel or reschedule events. With an already busy year ahead, sixteen rentals/weddings were rescheduled for future dates.
- ◆ The shuttle service did not run after March 15, 2020 in compliance with COVID-19 regulations. Some of the Ambassadors were temporarily reassigned to other areas of the Parks and Recreation Department.

#### Grounds Maintenance:

- ◆ Division Staff:
  - Lowered and repaired water line at Kids Planet to assist with construction progress.
  - Installed disc golf baskets throughout Century Park Disc Golf course.
  - Partially reopened City Park, Center for the Arts, Veterans Park and Victor Park Field walking trail.
  - Trimmed shrubs at Tryon Recreation Center tennis courts.
  - Pressure washed bleachers at Stevens Field.
  - Installed new 5-rail fence at Century Disc Golf Course hole #17.
  - Excess gravel was relocated from South Suber Road Park to Greer Country Club.
  - New roof was installed on play structure at Victor Heights playground.
  - Doors and frames were painted on the Country Club Road Park concession/restroom building.
  - Removed Needmore Recreation Center basketball goal pole in preparation of new one pole and goal to be installed.
  - Assisted Public Services Department with mowing and trimming the Mt. View Cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day.
  - Mowed and trimmed Veterans Park in preparation for Memorial Day.
  - Sprayed herbicide on the athletic fields at Country Club Road Park, South Suber Road soccer field #2 and Victor Park field.
  - Repaired windscreens at Tryon Recreation Center tennis court and Victor Park basketball court.
  - Installed 14 tons of riprap in the Century Park lower creek bed.
  - Assisted with the reopening of the tennis courts at Tryon Recreation Center.
  - Cleaned, sanitized and opened City Park restrooms for the Farmers Market. At the conclusion of the event, staff cleaned, sanitized and closed the City Park restrooms.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Kids Planet Dedication/Opening – (Date TBD)
- ◆ Tall Tales Tuesday – Virtually – June and July
- ◆ Camp ARK – Virtually – July (Center for the Arts)
- ◆ Tunes in the Park/Greer Idol – Cancelled
- ◆ Greer Idol Jr – Virtually - TBD
- ◆ Saturday Music (Center for the Arts) – TBD
- ◆ Moonlight Movies (City Park) – TBD
- ◆ Freedom Blast – TBD
- ◆ Open Hours (Center for the Arts) – Tuesday nights 6pm-9pm & Saturdays 11am-4pm
- ◆ Streetscapes Grand Opening and Block Party – TBD (Downtown Greer)
- ◆ School House Rock Live! - Postponed until 2021
- ◆ Food Truck Rollout – August 21 (City Park)
- ◆ Spotlight on the Arts Gala – Cancelled
- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Arts Festival – September 19 (Center for the Arts)
- ◆ Railfest – September 26 (City Park)
- ◆ Food Truck Rollout – October 16 (City Park)
- ◆ Artisan Makers Market – October 17 (City Park)
- ◆ GCAC Production “The Descendants” (Cannon Centre) November 6-8 and 13-15
- ◆ Giving Thanks Art Show – November 10 (City Hall)
- ◆ Gingerbread Jamboree – December 3 (Center for the Arts)
- ◆ Greer Children’s Theater Christmas Show – December 11-13 (Center for the Arts)
- ◆ Christmas Tree Lighting – December 4 (City Park)
- ◆ Breakfast with Santa – December 5 (Cannon Centre)

## Current Projects

- ◆ Kids Planet Playground Renovation
- ◆ Greer Golf Club Project
- ◆ Parking Garage Project
- ◆ Streetscapes Ambassador Program
- ◆ H. R. Turner Field and Victor Park Restroom Facilities
- ◆ H. R. Turner Field Accessible Parking Area
- ◆ Springwood Park ADA Renovation

*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.*