



Parks & Recreation Department June 2021 Report



Freedom Blast

"Creating Community Through People, Parks, & Programs"

Department Projects

Benson Automotive Kids Planet

- Department staff members participated in the Monarch Butterfly Release at the Benson Automotive Kids Planet. Justin Miller, Recreation Supervisor, spearheaded this project and collaborated with the Greer Gardening Council and Lichtenfelt Nurseries. The event was well attended by parents with children and local business members. It is a beautiful addition to the park.



Wards Creek Trail System

- Ann Cunningham and Red Watson attended a meeting with Karuam Booker regarding the development of the Wards Creek Trail system. Plans for residential development on Highway 290, across from the Inland Port, may provide the opportunity to negotiate conservation easements for future development of the trail.

Turner Field Restroom Installation

- Apostolic Construction was awarded the bid to construct the restroom building at Turner Field. This project is part of a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant secured in 2019.

Greer Golf

- Staff aerated and top-dressed greens.
- The Golf Adhoc committee met at Greer Golf to review course progress and discuss upcoming events and projects.
- Front 9 Sprigging Project - Laser leveling of tee boxes and grading on holes 1, 7 & 9 was completed. Grass sprigging of tee boxes and fairways started June 21 and will be completed in July.
- We are now at max capacity with 75 pool memberships.
- Ella's at the Course, owned by Jacquette Ginyard (Crate Wine Bar & Restaurant) was selected to be our next restaurant vendor at Greer Golf. She plans to open in late July.
- Staff met with several different Marketing and Advertising firms over the month to initiate a campaign to market the golf course once construction is complete.

Department Trainings

- Justin Miller certified 9 staff members in CPR, First Aid, and AED training.
- Summer staff attended Active Shooter Training with Officer Steve Anderson with Greer PD.
- Several new seasonal staff completed bus-driving training.
- Travis, Brian and Gary attended Blood Borne Pathogen training.
- Staff continued with on-line MASC training.

Department Participation

- Red Watson spoke at the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce First Friday luncheon on June 4. He presented on Recreation Department facilities and activities for residents looking to stay in Greer over the summer.
- Ann Cunningham was invited to attend an educational session hosted by the Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust (HNRT), Greenville County Square, Conference Rooms A/B (across from Council Chamber). This meeting was designed to increase Board member understanding of issues as well as to enhance community understanding of the Board's purposes and begin engagement with potential eligible entities.
- Hosted a Covid-19 vaccine clinic at Victor Gym in partnership with the local NAACP chapter.
- The Parks and Recreation Department held department staff luncheon at Century Park. This was to thank everyone for their hard work throughout the year and finalize preparations for Freedom Blast on June 26.
- Greer Cultural Arts Council (GCAC) was the Beverage Provider for Freedom Blast. Beverage sales were better than 2019. The Knights of Columbus partnered with GCAC and sold the alcoholic beverages. GCAC pays them a portion of the profit. GCAC will make around \$5000 for Pepsi and beer sales.

Division Highlights

Athletics

- Foothills Soccer Club Greer
 - Foothills Soccer Club of Greer held a board meeting on June 3 at the Operations Center. Board members discussed the spring soccer season, made changes to a few rules, and set dates for the upcoming fall season.
- Greer Baseball Club Academy Division
 - Facilitated academy baseball practices and games at Stevens Field and Century Park. Academy teams competed in Florida, Georgia, and throughout the upstate of South Carolina during the month of June. Teams from all over the

country competed in these tournaments. The 10U and 13U teams remain nationally ranked. Tryouts were hosted at Country Club Park, Stevens Field, and Century Park for 8U, 9U, 11U, 12U, 14U and 15U teams for the 21-22 calendar year. Our goal is to have one academy team in every age group representing our division.

- American Legion
 - Greer American Legion program hosted all league activities at Stevens Field on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The legion program uses 3 days a week at Stevens Field while our GBC Academy division uses the other 2 days of the week. Stevens Field has a full schedule during the late spring, throughout the summer, and into the fall.
- Invitational Tournaments
 - Hosted the Frohawk Creek Scramble at Century Park and Country Club Road Park. Teams from the Upstate and Midlands competed in the tournament. Greer Baseball Club All-Star teams use these tournaments to prepare for their district tournaments in mid-June. The tournament was originally scheduled for Century Park but had to be relocated to Country Club Road Park for Sunday's games due to a massive storm Saturday.
 - Hosted Dixie Youth District 1 AAA (10U) & Ozone (12U) baseball tournaments at Country Club Road Park. Greer P&R won the District Championship in the Minors and Ozone divisions and will compete in the Dixie Youth State Tournament in July. The 8U All-Star team won their District Championship in Mauldin and will play in the State Tournament. The 6U All-Star competed in the State Tournament in Barnwell and represented Greer extremely well.



- Fall Registration
 - Completed Fall registration for tackle football and Cheer for Greer on June. These two programs will begin practicing in late July for the upcoming season. The Cheer for Greer program currently has 74 girls registered for the season. Cheer For Greer is one of the largest youth recreational cheerleading programs in the upstate of South Carolina.
 - Fall registration for youth baseball, flag football, soccer, and girls' softball opened for city residents on June 7 and non-residents on June 14. Registration for these sports will continue until mid-July or until certain age divisions reach maximum capacity.
- Christmas 7s Rugby Tournament
 - Confirmed our Rugby 7s invitational tournament hosted by Greer P&R at Country Club Road Park on December 11 and 12. Our division is now in planning stages for the tournament.

Recreation

- Programs
 - Senior Action
 - Moved to the Tryon Recreation Center for the summer to help spread seniors out and to separate seniors from campers at the Needmore Recreation Center. Senior Action met on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to host light exercising, bingo, and programs and to pick up their lunch.
 - Summer Camps
 - Hosted summer camp orientations for Camp Greer and Camp Needmore on June 1 and 3 respectively. This gave parents the opportunity to come see the facilities and hear about the program this summer. In addition, parents were given the opportunity to meet the counselors their kids will be with this summer.
 - June 7, first day of summer camps. Camp Greer (Victor Gym) with 50 kids daily and Camp Needmore (Needmore Recreation Center) with 30 kids daily began all summer activities. These camps run 7:30am-6:00pm through August 6.
 - Other Programs
 - JOAD Archery (30)
 - Adult Archery (13)
 - Artifacts Club (20)
 - Cutlery Club (25)
 - Pickleball Clinics (97)
 - Never Alone (30)
 - Recreation Center Rentals (17)
 - Benson Automotive Kids Planet Shelter Rentals (94)
 - Seniors Out and ARound (SOAR)

- Line Dancing Classes were held June 2, 9, 16 and 30. An average of 26 seniors attended each week.
- BINGO was held on June 3 and 17 with an average 20 seniors in attendance.
- The Walking Program this month, met once again at Victor Gym on June 8 for a Beginner's Walk. It was a very overcast day, but we still had 4 walkers join us for some exercise. We had another walking day planned for June 22 at Greer Golf, but it unfortunately was cancelled due to inclement weather.
- The monthly Movie Day was held on June 14 with 15 SOAR members attending. We started off the morning with seniors testing out our VR equipment again. The seniors love the opportunity to experience their own personalized VR session. After the VR opportunity, we watched the movie "Life of the Party".
- The average attendance for the month was 17 seniors.

Cultural Arts

- Classes
 - The first session of the "Let's Get Messy! Paint and Clay Experience" was held at the Center for the Arts. The class was at full capacity with 12 students.
 - Greer Cultural Council (GCAC) held its first Beginner Camp ARK of 2021. Eight campers from the Needmore Summer Camp attended the camp on scholarship.
- Events
 - The first three Tall Tale Tuesday's events were held at the Center for the Arts.
 - Mark Sweatman of the Spartanburg (and South Carolina) Beekeepers Association(s) brought an observation hive and talked about the importance of honeybees as pollinators.
 - Susan Stack with Wildlife Rehab of Greenville brought a few furry wildlife ambassadors (two squirrels, a few baby raccoons, baby skunks, and a groundhog) to talk about each animal and what you should do if you find an injured animal or an orphaned baby animal.
 - Jeff White, a 3rd generation storyteller, shared the story of "Tabitha the Titmouse" a story passed down from his father.
 - The Mighty Kicks performed for approximately 600 attendees in the amphitheater at Greer City Park.
 - Robin and Sara hung the Greer Veterans photos at the Wall Gallery in Greer City Hall.

Grounds Maintenance

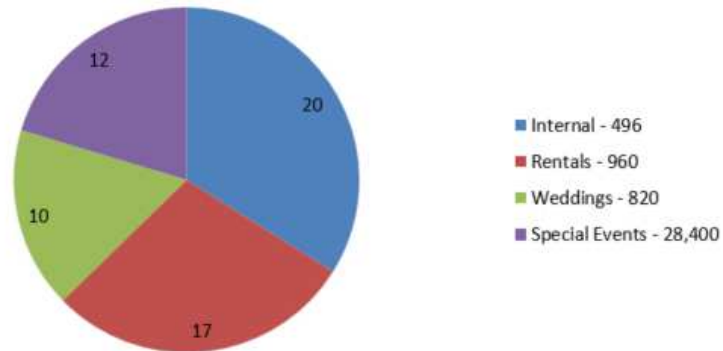
- Division Staff
 - In-house fertilizer applications to City Stadium, Country Club Road Park athletic fields, Victor Field, Century Field #1, and Center for the Arts. Staff conducted plant growth regulator applications to City Stadium, South Suber Road soccer fields and Victor Field.
 - Prepared Century Park for Frohawk Creek Scramble.
 - WP Law repaired the fountain water drain line leak at Veterans Park.
 - Prepared Needmore Recreation Center exterior for rentals.
 - Prepared Stevens Field for American Legion try-outs and games.
 - Prepared Victor Field for end-of-season 8U playoff games.
 - Prepared Victor Gym for rentals.
 - Prepared Country Club Road Park for district all-star tournament.
 - Currently preparing City Stadium for football conditioning.
 - Installed new 100' zip line cable at Benson Automotive Kids Planet.
 - Installed 9 gator watering bags on new trees at City Parking Garage.

Events Division

- Division Staff
 - The Greer Farmers Market completed their second month of the Tuesday's in Greer Greer Farmers Market. Guests were invited to visit local farmers, vendors, artisans, and food trucks. The Farmers Market will continue through the summer and fall until September 21.
 - The free Moonlight Movies series began June 10 with Frozen II and will continue every Thursday night until August 5. Free entertainment and crafts start at 7pm and provide great entertainment before the showing of the movie. Food is provided by Abbott's Frozen Custard. Attendees are invited to a free bag of popcorn at every movie provided by series sponsor T-Mobile.
 - City of Greer Freedom Blast returned with one of its biggest crowds. Team Fastrax skydiving team kicked off the 13th Annual Freedom Blast. This event is dedicated to honoring and celebrating our veterans, service members, and those who have lost their lives to give us our freedom. Which is why we dedicate time in the festival for our fan favorite Military Tribute. The "Dear Hero" tent has a huge stack of letters to send to active duty military. The headliner band Gal Friday rocked the night away as attendees were able to visit 15 food vendors, local military organizations, and the kids zone, and we finished the night with the best fireworks show in the state. It is estimated that 20,000 – 25,000 people attended.

- Ambassador Program
The program continued providing excellent customer service to our citizens by providing a free ride to 1,019 passengers.

Rentals



<u>Upcoming Events</u>	<u>Current Projects</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers Market – May 4 – September 21 (Thursdays – City Park) • Summer Camp – June 7 - August 6 (Needmore Recreation Center and Victor Gym) • Moonlight Movies – June 10 – August 5 (Thursdays – City Park) • Tall Tale Tuesdays – June 15-July 27 (Tuesdays – Center for the Arts) • School House Rock Live! Jr – August 6-8 & 13-15 (Center for the Arts) • Food Truck Rollout – August 19 (City Park) • Tunes in the Park (Greer Idol during band breaks) – August 21 (City Park) • Renaissance Fair – September 11 (City Park) • Get Your Arts On! Arts Fair – September 18 (Center for the Arts) • October Fest – September 18 (Downtown Greer) • Railfest – September 25 (City Park) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benson Automotive Kids Planet Renovation • Greer Golf Grass Sprigging Project • H.R. Turner Field and Victor Park Restroom Facilities • Disc Golf Re-Design • Cannon Centre Deck 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.