

SPALDING COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION



JULY 1, 2008
THROUGH
JUNE 30, 2009

ANNUAL REPORT

The Spalding County Parks & Recreation Department has had another great and rewarding year in 2008/2009 even though adjustments and reductions occurred due to budget cuts and funding issues. Staff reorganization, new programs, department awards and accomplishments, and the park additions will be highlighted within this report.

The purpose of this Annual Report is to reflect upon achievements made in parks and recreation services in Spalding County. In the following report you will be introduced to all areas of service provided and specific details including:

1. Staffing
2. Reorganization in Staff and Facility Hours
3. Budget Information
4. Professional Membership
5. Capital Improvement and Other Projects
6. Community Partnerships
7. Parks and Facilities
8. Recreation Programs
9. Special Events
10. Master Plan
11. Awards and Special Recognitions

Providing the quantity and quality of service that citizens have come accustomed to require the energy of a very committed staff, the dedication of a very active Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, the interest and support of County Commissioners, and the commitment and dedicated service of county officials. The commitment to excellence is taken seriously among those of us who are dedicated to providing Spalding County residents with the very best in parks and recreation services.

We are very grateful for the hundreds of volunteers and sponsors who give so freely of their time and who continue to be devoted to our youth and adult programs. Their support and continued interest allows us all to develop and maintain excellent facilities, parks, programs and services. We appreciate those who are devoted and contribute to the health and wellness of Spalding County and truly understand the benefits that Parks and Recreation brings to each citizen and continue to support this department and its goals for the future.

Sincerely,

Louis Greene
Director

2009 Spalding County Commissioners

Edward Goss, Jr., Chairman
Gwen Flowers-Taylor
Eddie Freeman
Bob Gilreath
David Phillips

Spalding County Administration

William P. Wilson, Jr., Manager
Paul Van Haute, Assistant to Manager
Jinna Garrison, Finance Director

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Zach Holmes, Chairman
Dan McLean, Vice Chairman
Gwen Flowers-Taylor, Commissioner
Wilbur Bailey.
David Dodd, Jr.
Richard Dukes

Kimberley Goldberg
Regina Abbott
Ronnie Perdue
Tony Rakestraw
Ernest Wimbush, Jr

Parks & Recreation Staff

Administration

Louis Greene, Director
Pandy Bass, Administrative Assistant
Hazel Willis, Office Assistant

Parks

T.J. Imberger, Parks Superintendent
Dana Adkerson, Office Assistant
Greg Stansell, Parks Maint. Coordinator
Randy Cox, Parks Maint. Coordinator
Bobby Allen, Parks Maint. Tech
Chester Andrews, Parks Detail Off.
Arthur Atkins, Parks Maint. Tech
Joe Davis, Parks Detail Off.
John Dennis, Parks Maint. Tech

Kenneth Foster, Parks Detail Off.
Allen Gibson, Parks Detail Off.
Bill Harden, Parks Maint. Tech.
Robert Head, Parks Maint. Tech
Lanny Hook, Parks Detail Off.
Chris Nicholson, Parks Detail Off.
Scott Perkins, Parks Detail Off.
Michael Stephens, Small Engine Mech.
Greg Thaxton, Parks Detail Off.

Recreation

Kelly Leger, Recreation Superintendent
Angie Stokes., Athletic Supervisor
Robby Milner, Athletic Supervisor

Jo Ellis, Senior Center Supervisor
Valarie Scott, Senior Ctr. Office Assistant

Recreation – Part Time

Fletcher Berry, Recreation Leader
James Bing, Recreation Leader
Fred Crawford, Recreation Leader
Joyce-Head Hollis, Recreation Leader

Corthese Mathis, Recreation Leader
Ray Nash, Recreation Leader
Otis Starks, Recreation Leader
James Walker Recreation Leader

Ceramics

Diana Clark, Supervisor

Diane Pugh, Helper

Bus Drivers

Cathedra Jones
Modica Miller

Russell Starr

Security

Sam Parks, Security Coordinator
Will Evans
Homer Daniels

Kelly Moss
Willie Neal

Seasonal Staff

Belindell Adams – Summer Food Service Program

Pearce Barkley – Day Camp Director

Delphia Garland – Day Camp Supervisor

12 youth are also employed to support seasonal programs

Reorganization Changes

Budget cuts resulted in the revision of facility hours at City Park and Fairmont Community Centers. Robby Milner was promoted to Athletic Supervisor in the reorganization of Recreation Division and the community centers are now staffed by part time staff and supervised by Angie Stokes and Robby Milner. With the approval of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and the Spalding County Commissioners, the following facility hour changes were made:

- **City Park and Fairmont Parks –**
Closed Wednesdays
1:00 – 10:00 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Fridays
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. - Saturdays
- **Ambucs Park –**
Closed Wednesdays and Fridays
5:00 – 10:00 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Saturdays

These hours were revised following an extensive tracking of participation of each facility with the goal of impacting the fewest citizens as possible. With this restructuring, Recreation sacrificed and lost three positions: one full time Recreation Leader/Gym Supervisor and two Recreation Supervisors. The following staff changes were also made to enable the department to operate more efficiently:

- **Robby Milner** was promoted from Recreation Supervisor II to Athletic Supervisor and will be sharing the Athletic Department duties with Angie Stokes.
- **Hazel Willis** was promoted from Recreation Leader/Gym Supervisor to Office Assistant in the Administrative Offices.
- **Dana Holcombe/Adkerson** had a lateral move from Office Assistant in Recreation to Parks Office Assistant. This position replaced Cindy Jacobs' resigned position.

Grant funded programs provided the following additional staff:

1. USDA Summer Food Service Program
one program monitor
2. The Enrichment of Young Minds (TEOYM) Summer Academic Enrichment
DHR Youth Development funded program - 15 staff including teachers and
assistants
3. Club Hero – Council on Alcohol and Drugs funded program - 4 teachers
4. Activity Weeks – DHR Youth Development funded program - 12 youth staff
5. This year Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department coordinated with
Workforce Development who provided 6 additional youth counselors for Summer
Day Camp at no cost to the county.

Currently there is a hiring freeze projected until July 2010 leaving the department with a vacant position. The Parks Division presently has an unfilled position of Parks Maintenance Tech. The Office Assistant position was filled by Dana Adkerson.

The Parks Maintenance Tech position was utilized as a construction/trades crew. It was necessary to eliminate a crew that was responsible for Volunteer Park, Airport Road Park, and other cutting duties to temporarily handle the trade's crew. These vacant duties were then added to other crews and creating additional back logs in cutting assignments in addition to the loss of five inmates.

The department has also had to curtail the number of times grass is being cut on all ball fields per week, reduce fertilization, reduce irrigation, and has limited the supplies that we purchase. This not only causes much hardship for staff but also affects county citizens as well.

Budget

Spalding County is currently implementing some preliminary measures to reduce spending in the '09-'10 fiscal budgets. These measures are a necessity due to economic slow down and will result in an overall decrease of the Parks and Recreation budget by approximately \$285,500 for the fiscal year.

Park Department Budget	\$1,691,154
Recreation Budget	<u>\$ 665,785</u>
Grand Total	\$2,356,939

CSBG Grant For Referral Services through Senior Center - pays half of Office Assistant salary	\$ 11,443	
USDA Summer Food Grant	\$ 54,000	
Council on Alcohol and Drugs Grant For After School Program funding (Club Hero) – City Park & Fairmont	\$ 4,507	
Youth Development Grant for Activity weeks programs		Youth Development funds were not Released for 2008/2009 Activity Weeks. Spalding County Board of Commissioners agreed to fund this program.
Youth Development Grant for Summer Academic Enrichment Program The Enrichment of Young Minds (TEOYM)	\$ 22,275	

Professional Membership

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)

Each member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission are members of the National Recreation and Parks Association. The following staff is also members:

- Louis Greene, Director
- T.J. Imberger, Parks Superintendent
- Kelly Leger, CPRP Recreation Superintendent

Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA)

Each member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission are members of the Georgia Recreation and Park Association. The following staff are also members:

- Louis Greene, Director
- T.J. Imberger, APRP, Park Superintendent
- Kelly Leger, CPRP, Recreation Superintendent
- Randy Cox, Parks Maint. Coordinator
- Greg Stansell, Parks Maint. Coordinator
- Robby Milner, Athletic Supervisor
- Angie Stokes, APRP, Athletic Supervisor
- Jo Ellis, Senior Center Supervisor

Spalding County Parks and Recreation is very active in the state organization and hold the following responsible positions:

- T.J. Imberger – At Large on Board of Trustees, Chair Elect Marketing & Visibility
- Kelly Leger – Documents, Secretary on Board of Trustees
- Robby Milner – Minority Section Chair on the Board of Trustees
- Angie Stokes –Leadership, District Awards
- Greg Stansell – Active Facility & Grounds Section Member
- Randy Cox – Active Facility & Grounds Section Member

Georgia Turfgrass Association

T.J. Imberger, Park Superintendent is a member of the Turfgrass Association

Capital Improvement Projects

Administrative Office Complex

The Spalding County Parks and Recreation's Administrative Complex is now located in a newly renovated office space located at 843 Memorial Plaza. When the Griffin-Spalding County Recreation Authority dissolved in 1991 the offices moved into a 24' x 40' trailer and the Ceramics Department was housed in an inadequate old pool building at the City Park. After time, both relocated into a former Health Department building which was located at the entrance of Griffin's City Park. The department is proud to have a new remodeled complex that meets staff needs.

The Ceramics Department, which is also housed next door to the new Administrative Office, is enjoying their much needed spacious area.

Revenues from SPLOST and has now been collected and the county is currently exploring ways to construct a new Senior Center complex.

Thomaston Mill Village Park

Spalding County Parks and Recreation received a land donation by the Thomaston Mill Company and a \$10,000 Ga. DNR grant for construction of the Thomaston Mill Village playgrounds. Further funding for this project came from Impact Fees, which began in October 2008, with the installation of two basketball courts, a gravel parking area, a walking trail, two new playgrounds, some benches, and an old swing set that was reused from another location. On April 1, 2009, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place celebrating the completion of the park.



William Wilson, Zach Holmes, Wilbur Bailey, K.D. Fisher, Tony Rakestraw, Dan McLean, Bonnie Pfrogner, Louis Greene at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Thomaston Mill Village Park.

Moreland Road School Neighborhood Park

A new pavilion and picnic shelter was constructed at Moreland Road School. This was made possible by a donation from Caterpillar in the amount of \$13,300.00. A request and recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission resulted with a match of funds by Spalding County. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held April 15, 2009.



The new Pavilion and picnic shelter at Moreland Road School

Ribbon cutting ceremonies at Moreland Road School was attended by Spalding County Commissioners, Advisory Commission members, and staff.

Impact Fees

An impact fee is a fee that is implemented by a local government to help assist or pay for a portion of needed expansion or improvements of new development. These fees are usually implemented to help reduce the economic burden on local jurisdictions.

In Spalding County, impact fees are obtained by money collected from building permits within the county paid for by the contractors.

Spalding County Parks and Recreation received \$126,600 for construction of the Thomaston Mill Village and Moreland Elementary School playgrounds and pavilions.

Former Fairmont Vocational School Property

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission submitted plans to the county and are waiting on funding options to renovate the old Fairmont High School building. This building will provide the community with meeting rooms for special gatherings and/or meetings. Public meetings and interviews were obtained to gather ideas and opinions as to what features the public would like to be considered as plans develop for this future project.

Community Partnerships

SCPRD is known for supporting various community based agencies throughout the year by providing assistance with functions and events. Support is provided in ways such as planning, participating, equipment loading, set up, traffic control, provision of venues and more! Often the department staff is also needed in person to support the function. Some of the partners and special events that Parks and Recreation support are:

Martin Luther King Holiday Parade
County Employee Health Fair
Community Wide Health Fair
Dance Vision Recital
Heritage Festival
June Jam
July 4th Parade
Diamond Classic Softball Tournament
Fairmont Reunion
Alzheimer's Walk
Kiwanis Fair
September Smash
Christmas Parade

United Way
Georgia State Patrol
Board of Elections/Voter Registration & Elections
Downtown Council
Chamber of Commerce
Downtown events
Griffin Historical Society
Spalding County Collaborative
Spalding County Board of Commission multiple meetings and functions
All County Departments
Veterans Day

VFW
All Athletic Associations
Spalding County Victims Services Unit
Public hearings
Griffin Gators Swim Team
Special Olympics
Spalding County Resource Center,
Griffin Technical College
Relay for Life
Turkey Trot/Young Life
Spalding County 4-H
Spalding County Extension Service

UGA Griffin Campus
Walk for the Cure
Two Rivers RC & D
Griffin Fire Department
Public Defenders Office
First Christian Church
Red Cross Blood Drives
Back to School Bash
City of Griffin Departments
Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club
Boy Scouts of America, and more!

Assistance is provided to the Griffin-Spalding County School System throughout the year including lining off the stadium and other sports fields, providing labor for large projects, and support staff for their maintenance division.

Partnering with Local Industry

Caterpillar Foundation approached Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department in 2008 initiating a partnership with the County and the Griffin/Spalding School system to build a pavilion and walk trail in three locations in the county.

The foundation has donated \$13,300 for the first project at Moreland Rd. Elementary. The second project will be located at Sunny Side Park and is currently out to bid. The third project will be at Jordan Hill Elementary to be completed by 2010. Spalding County has agreed to match the Foundation's contribution and the school system is providing in-kind services.

Parks and Facilities

Approximately 500 acres, 286 of which are actively maintained.

The Spalding County Parks Division's main goal is to maintain the quality of all Parks Facilities in Spalding County, Orchard Hill, Sunnyside, and all but three facilities inside the City of Griffin. The division is also responsible for building maintenance, capitol improvements, construction, and facility maintenance. Spalding County Parks and Recreation maintains the following park facilities:

- Administrative Complex 843 Memorial Drive
- Airport Road Barry Whatley Drive
- Ambucs Park 1110 Highfalls Road

- Camp Stephens McIntosh Road
- Camp Stephens Stephens Street
- City Park Gym 601 Camp Northern Road
- Dundee Lake Park 300 Dundee Lake Road
- Dundee Park Quilley Street
- Fairmont Park 241 Blanton Street
- First Christian 291 South Pine Hill Road
- The Grind Skatepark Camp Northern Road
- Jordan Hill 75 Jordan Hill Road
- Orchard Hill Park 2972 Old 41 Hwy
- Senior Center 1005 Memorial Drive
- Senior Center Park 1005 Memorial Drive
- Sunnyside 4924 Old Atlanta Road
- Thomaston Mill Village Park N. 9th Street & Georgia Avenue
- Volunteer Park 1410 Varsity Road
- Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park 1301 Cowan Road
- Moreland Road Neighborhood Park Moreland Road & Carver Road

The Parks Division also maintains public grounds for the county which includes all landscaping, sidewalk, and parking lot maintenance. The department is responsible for all ice and snow removal and the assurance of access for employees and the public in emergency situations. SCPRD is also provides support to the County Public Works Department and other appropriate agencies as necessary.

Public Grounds Maintained

- Intersection of Hwy 92 and Cowan Road
- Akins Fire Station & Recycle Center
- Carver Road Fire Station & Recycle Center
- 1941 North side median bed
- 1941 South side median bed
- Library
- Memorial Plaza
- Walkers Mill Fire Station & Recycle Center
- Blalock Fire Station & Recycle Center
- Drug Task Force compound
- Quilley Street lot & right of way
- Gary Reid Fire Station
- Woodruff Fire Station & Recycle Center
- Cathoris Building
- Georgia State Patrol
- Solomon East (DFACS)
- Health Department
- Spalding County Courthouse

- Spalding County Animal Shelter
- E 911 and Ambulance Station
- Park and Ride lot
- Spalding County Annex
- Industrial Development Authority Building
- Old Jail Building
- Spalding County Probation Building
- Old Post Office

Spalding County hosts

Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department has hosted many events for the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association with agencies attending from all over the state.

Recreation

SCPRD offers 86 programs with 33,060 participants

Athletics

In order to provide the multiple youth sports programs that the public desires Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department relies on relationship with parent volunteer organizations known as Youth Associations. By entering into agreement annually with each association, Spalding County is able to provide needed programs at a much lower cost to the county. Each association is required to be a 501(C)3 not for profit organization. They coordinate daily with recreation staff regarding schedules and facility use and other business needed to carry out each program. It is agreed that the county provides the facilities and maintenance and the association provides the programs. Due to its costly nature the only youth sports program that is managed by Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department is football.

The following youth sports are managed by associations:

Sport	Association	2008 Presidents
Baseball	Spalding County Youth Baseball	Tony Annis
Youth Basketball	Spalding Basketball	Tracy Ford
Cheerleading	Spalding County Cheerleading	Neanda Andrews
Soccer	Griffin Youth Soccer	C.J. Chang
Fast Pitch Softball	Griffin/Spalding Youth Softball	James Holland
Swimming	Griffin Swim Team Inc.	Jason and Jada Mattox

2008 YOUTH SPORTS (MANAGED BY ASSOCIATIONS)

	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Teams</u>
Baseball (ages 3-16)	690	46
Basketball (ages 5-13)	340	36
Cheerleading (ages 4-14)	140	15
Soccer (ages 4-18)	1225	120
Softball (ages 5-15)	180	16
Swimming & Diving	*99	

* Denotes a **decrease** in participation.

2008 YOUTH SPORTS (MANAGED BY AGENCY)

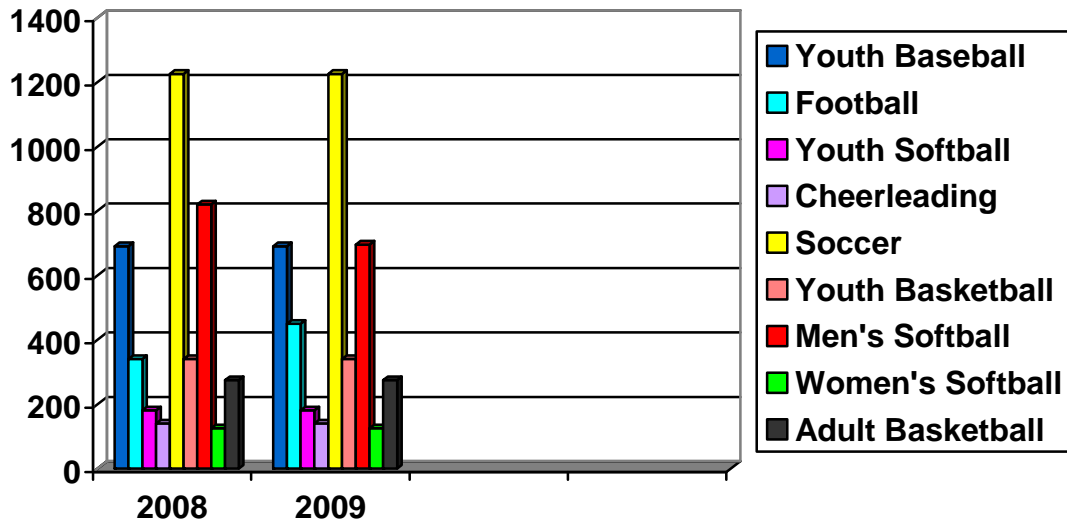
Football	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Teams</u>
Flag (ages 5-6)	*78	6
7/8	*125	5
9/10	*150	6
11/12	* <u>92</u>	4
Total	449	

* Denotes an **increase** in participation.

2008 ADULT SPORTS (MANAGED BY AGENCY)

<u>Softball (Spring)</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Teams</u>
Men's Open	140	7
Men's Industrial	235	5
Men's Church	320	17
Women's Church	<u>125</u>	7
Total	820	
<u>Basketball (Adults-Winter)</u>	275	11

Participation Trends



Tournaments

Spalding County facilities are known around the state as being some of the best. The following tournaments were hosted at county parks:

- Baseball tournament Griffin and Spalding High baseball teams fundraiser.
- Hosted Swim Invitational Meet – 7 teams participating
- Fast Pitch Softball Tournament for Griffin and Spalding High
- Little League Tournament of Champions
- Turkey Trot
- Hosted one (1) soccer tournament: President’s Cup

Georgia Recreation and Park Association Athletics

Spalding County Parks and Recreation has long supported Georgia Recreation and Parks Association athletics. This year multiple teams were entered into district and state tournaments and Spalding County served as host for the following: **District Youth Basketball hosted:** 10 & Under Boys and 10 & Under Girls; **District Adult Softball host:** Men’s Industrial Equalizer, **State Youth Basketball host:** Midget Boys, Midget Girls **State Basketball:** Men’s 35 and over; **State Youth Softball:** 10 and under Fast Pitch. Spalding County Parks and Recreation also coordinated with the City of Griffin to host a Georgia Recreation and Parks Association Invitational Swim Meet.

Sports Camps

Keeping youth busy while school is not in session is a big focus of Spalding County Parks and Recreation. Two new free camps were offered this year, Girls Basketball Camp and Dance Camp for children ages 5-14. The different sports camps are offered to help youth develop physically, create fun activities, and learn more skills about the sport. Partnering with local schools, former pro-ball players and coaches makes this program possible.

- Football Camp – Offered 3 day session with 158 participants
- Cheerleader Camp – Offered 3 day session with 150 participants
- Girls Basketball Camp – Offered 3 day session with 45 participants
- Basketball Camp – Jumping Joe Ward Camp: 5 days with 420 participants
- Golf Camp – Offered 2 two week camps with 60 participants
- Softball Camp – Offered 1 day session with 43 participants
- Dance Camp – Offered 1 day session with 30 participants

City Park Community Center

Located on Camp Northern Road inside City Park, this facility offers weekly programs such as: Ballet, Clogging, Line Dancing, Walking for Wellness, Kinship Program (Grandparents raising Grandchildren), and Club Hero After-School Program.

Special programs throughout the year include themed free Activity Week for children ages 5-12 during Fall, Winter, and Spring, Easter Egg Hunt, Cat in the Hat Birthday Party with Child Care Network, Special Olympic Basketball with school system, Halloween Festival with Child Care Network, and Breakfast with Santa.

Fairmont Community Center

The facility is located at 241 Blanton Street and also offers many individual and community activities. Weekly programs found at this location include: The Enrichment of Young Minds (TEOYM) After School Programs, Dance Vision youth dance program, Note Singers and Bible Study Group. The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meets here on a monthly basis.

Special programs throughout the year include themed free Activity Weeks for children ages 5-12 during Fall, Winter, and Spring school breaks, Easter Egg Hunt, Black Pioneers Heritage Program and Dance Vision Holiday Program.

Ambucs Park Facility

Located at 1110 Highfalls Road, Ambucs Gym is an open play facility for those who enjoy basketball. The park also features Five baseball fields, concession stand, pavilion, and playgrounds are utilized at this site. An annual Easter Egg Scramble is held here each year drawing approximately 50 youth from the community.

Summer Programs

Summer time is a very busy time for recreation as summer day camps are held at City Park and Fairmont, Adult Softball is played, free sports camps are held and Academic Enrichment programs are hosted at UGA Griffin Campus for youth. For the past 10+ years SCPRD has received grant funds (\$54,000) from the USDA in order to provide healthy meals for low income children during 5 weeks of summer break. This year a new program monitor, Belindell Adams, came on board to manage the grant and food services. 19,551 meals were served this year which is a record number. The following sites were served:

Fairmont Community Center
City Park Community Center
AMBUCS Park
Pine Hill Apartments
Mt. Zion Church

Spalding Heights
Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club
Community Ministries
UGA Griffin Campus
Griffin High School

Senior Center

The Senior Center opened in 1993 and participation numbers have consistently grown. Currently approximately 2,200 individuals take advantage of the benefits as they enjoy services and programs offered there. The current facility can no longer accommodate the demand for varied programs by citizens age 50 plus. It is for this reason that plans are in place to build a new Senior Center.

The center calendar is filled with a variety of programs which are offered daily, weekly, monthly and annually. Some of the regular activities currently offered are:

Red Hat Society
Square Dancing
Art
Arts and Crafts
Blood Pressure Checks
Bridge
Bingomania
Brunch Bingo
Hand and Foot
Monthly Birthday Party
AARP Drivers Safety

Total Wellness Work Out
File of Life
Golden Age Club
RUOK – Telephone Reassurance
Beginner Line Dancing
Golf Outings
Walkaerobics
Billiards
Canasta
Dominoes
Intermediate Line Dance

Striders Walking Club
T'ai Chi
Travel Club
Crochet
Fun Fitness
Multiple Special Events

George's Merry Walkers
AARP Tax Aid
Bowling
Drama Society
Golden Olympics

The Grind Skate park

The Grind Skatepark, located inside the City Park, is opened daily to skateboarders wishing to show their skills on the ramps, tables, benches, and other obstacles. Church groups, individuals, and special teams utilize this facility to its fullest in this safe and challenging environment. Policy changes were implemented this year that requires mandatory helmet usage which has created more work for City Park staff. Teenagers have openly opposed wearing helmets and two have had to be cited by police for refusing to wear helmets and causing a disturbance. Church groups, individuals, and special teams utilize this facility to its fullest in this safe and challenging environment.

Ceramics

The Parks and Recreation Ceramic Department is located next door to the Administrative Offices at 841 Memorial Drive. This program has grown to 31 students who will learn every facet of the craft including the many different painting techniques and finishes including; glazes, underglazes, opaque stains, translucent, dry brushing, and others. Student entries for the annual Kiwanis fair contest totaled 116 this year for both youth and adult divisions.

Special Events

Movies in the Park

The Parks and Recreation Department and the Griffin Main Street – Downtown Council (with much assistance from Kira Harris-Braggs) hosted three free “Movies in the Park” in downtown Griffin. This new event brought hundreds of adults and children together for a fun family activity. Games and entertainment was provided and was a huge success. The movies were shown every third Friday during June, July, and August at the corner of 6th and Solomon Street. This has been one of the most loved programs that the department has hosted with no incidents occurring. Many sponsors donated give away items and Angie Stokes and T.J. Imberger acting as host and co-host. They were a big hit with adults and kids alike.



“Movies in the Park” night in Downtown Griffin

Fishing

Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department offers many opportunities for citizens to enjoy the sport of fishing. The general public, with proper license, can fish during park hours at Dundee Lake Park. Several fishing events are hosted throughout the year at Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park where fishing is only allowed during special events. This lake is stocked through partnership with DNR for the purpose of supporting programs that teach children to fish. The following events were hosted this year:

- The first Griffin Area Resource Center (GARC) Fishing Rodeo
- Spalding High Special Education Services Fishing program
- Spring and Fall Kid Fishing Rodeos
- Two Spring and two fall Senior Adult Fishing Rodeos
- Two Spalding County staff Bass fishing events



Kids Fishing Day at Tyus Park

Spalding Parks and Recreation has also collaborated with the local school system special education program and the adult resource center to provide introductions to fishing. Volunteers from the Senior Center and Parks and Recreation staff assisted each participant.

Special Olympics Program for Adults

Spalding County Parks and Recreation pursued and initiated the addition of a Special Olympics program for adults. Throughout the year the Bowling team practices for many weeks in preparation to compete at the Special Olympics Masters State Bowling Tournament each year.



Bowling Team at practice.

Festival of Lights at Airport Road Park

Each holiday season Spalding County Parks and Recreation provides the citizens with an event known as The Lighting of the Park. Santa arrives by Helicopter and listens to each child's gift wishes and families walk the trail lit by beautiful Christmas displays. This year "Santa Zone" was added which featured a Holiday Relay with sleigh loading and pulling, Dress Santa, Candy Cane Slalom and more. The objective for each child was to complete "Elf School" and receive an official diploma! Everyone enjoyed S'more making at the bon fire and Mrs. Santa's cooking school! The entire staff of Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department works to ensure the largest community event of the year is enjoyed by all!



Donna Gibson as Ms. Clause, Hazel Willis in ticket booth.

Golden Olympics

Each year seniors from the Spalding County and surrounding areas compete in Spalding County Senior Games held at City Park. Last year over 250 seniors competed in games such as Horse Shoe Toss, Golf, Walking, Pool, Shuffleboard, Football Throw, Basketball Toss, and various other activities for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals! Several athletes move up in competition and compete at the District Golden Olympics, State, and National Senior Games.

This year Fred Crawford and Richard Rowan participated in the National Shuffleboard event held in California. Fund raisers were held by the Senior Center and another \$1,000 donated by the Spalding County Commissioners to help make the trip possible. They placed 9th in 52 teams in mixed doubles, grouped, Zone 4, and age group 70/74.



John McClure, Robert Flemister, Henry Sims

Master Plan

Ongoing Improvements

The Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department completed its Comprehensive Master Plan on October 11, 2007 with the assistance of the planning and design firms JB+A and Robert and Company. This document serves as the road map of planning for the future needs of Spalding County residents as it relates to parks and recreation services.

This tool which identifies population trends and growth is utilized by the agency to prioritize projects and helps identify areas of current and future need throughout the county. Projects currently in the planning stages include: (a) former Fairmont Vocational High School Property; (b) Jordan Hill and Sunny Side Parks; (c) Senior Center building project.

The Master Plan is currently on hold because of lack of funding and reduction of the Parks and Recreation budget.

Georgia Recreation and Park Association Awards

Spalding Parks and Recreation is known as an agency that greatly supports Georgia Recreation and Parks Association both in leadership services to the association and athletic participation. Multiple staff has been dedicated to serve on nearly every committee, section and board.

In 2008, the Spalding County Parks and Recreation Department was recognized and received numerous Georgia Recreation and Park Association awards for outstanding services and programs:

District Awards

- Special Events Award – Santa Zone
- Administrative Support Award – Pandy Bass
- Project Award – Thomaston Mill Village Park
- Special Populations Award – Senior Center - Salute to Our Veterans Dinner/Dance
- Volunteers of the Year – Senior Center – Billie Brown and Sue Wilmoth, Tai Chi
- Athletic Agency of the Year Award – Angie Stokes



Kelly Leger – Receiving the
Special Events Award from
Tracey Tallent



Pandy Bass –
Administrative Support Award



Commissioner Gwen Flowers-
Taylor and T.J. Imberger
receiving the Project Award



Angie Stokes – Receiving the
Athletic Agency of the Year Award



Valerie Scott (in Jo Ellis' absence) receiving the Special Populations Award



Billie Brown and Sue Wilmoth receiving the Volunteers of the Year Award (with Kelly Leger, Tracey Tallent, and Louis Greene joining the celebration!)

Spalding County Parks and Recreation also applied for several State Awards but unfortunately did not win any for 2008/2009. Our staff considers itself a “Department of Champions” but we can’t win all the time. We look forward to filling this space with award winning pictures next year.



Parks and Recreation Staff 2008/2009



Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor



Chairman – Zachery Holmes



Tony Rakestraw



Dan McLean, Regina Abbott,
Wilbur Bailey



Kimberley Goldberg



Richard Dukes



Ronnie Perdue



Ernest Wimbush



David Dodd, Jr.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission 2008/2009



One part at a time, one day at a time, we can accomplish any goal we set for ourselves. ~ Karen Casey