



Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency Annual Report



FY2013

CHEROKEE COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER

HOBGOOD PARK
The Only Place to Play



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Message from the Advisory Board Chairman and the Director...

On behalf of the members of the Cherokee County Recreation & Parks Advisory Board and the staff of the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency (CRPA), we are pleased to present the Annual Report for fiscal year 2013 encompassing October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

2013 was one of the very best years in recent memory for recreation and parks in Cherokee County, perhaps the best ever. We cut the ribbon on the new *Cherokee County Aquatic Center* in May, literally opening the doors to new recreation opportunities for our citizens. The Blanket's Creek Bike Trails reopened with new and expanded facilities. Many of our recreation and athletic programs like youth basketball, summer camps, gymnastic programs, etc. experienced tremendous growth throughout the year. Elsewhere, we made great progress in renovating and improving many of our existing parks through our current capital improvement program. Financially, the agency exceeded projected revenues, while remaining under budget in expenditures within all divisions.

Through the combined efforts of our great team of staff; the volunteers who provided countless hours of their time; and support from our elected and appointed officials, 2013 was not just an outstanding year, but an awarding-winning one as well for your recreation and parks agency.

In October, the Georgia Recreation & Park Association (GRPA) recognized Cherokee County as the ***GRPA Fifth District Class A Agency of the Year*** for our outstanding work as the top recreation and parks agency in the northwest portion of the state. This marked the fourth time Cherokee County has received this award. Then, in November, the *Cherokee County Aquatic Center* was named the ***Most Outstanding New or Renovated Facility*** in the state by GRPA.

We are proud to continue to serve the leisure interests of our citizens and make Cherokee County a great place to live, work and play. We look forward to continuing our work to improve the quality of life for residents throughout our great county. See you in the parks!

Bryan D. Reynolds
Agency Director
Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency

Chris Hampton
Chairman
Cherokee County Recreation & Parks Advisory Board

About Cherokee Recreation & Parks...

As the principal provider of parks, recreation facilities and programs in Cherokee County, the mission of the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency (CRPA) is to enhance the quality of life; promote healthy lifestyles and an active community for Cherokee County residents by providing athletic fields, trails, playgrounds, pavilions, other park amenities as well as exciting and enjoyable recreation programs. CRPA provides a variety of recreation opportunities for youth and adults in the areas of athletics, aquatics, instructional programs, special events, and therapeutic recreation as well as the upkeep and day-to-day maintenance of our parks.

The agency operates 22 parks throughout the county that encompass more than 2,234 acres. Our parks include 32 baseball/softball fields, 24 multipurpose fields, 20 tennis courts, 17 playgrounds and more than 34 miles of trails. It also includes the new Cherokee County Aquatic Center, the Union Hill Community Center, the Recreation Center and more. Services offered include youth and adult athletics, camps, instructional classes, therapeutic programming, senior programming, swim lessons, aqua fitness, special events and more. We partner with a variety of other organizations throughout the county to maximize our resources and further expand recreation opportunities throughout the county. Program participation and visits to parks combined to equal more than 2.96 million in 2013.

Our current capital improvement program, primarily funded through the park bond approved by voters in 2008, is investing in our future to ensure a healthier and greener Cherokee County by providing parks, recreational facilities and preserving green space for our children and families. More than 1,450 additional acres have been added. Seven new parks and facilities will be constructed. Existing parks throughout the county are being renovated and expanded.

The Cherokee County Recreation & Parks Advisory Board consists of five citizen members appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The Advisory Board elects their own officers and each member serves concurrently with the term of their appointing commissioner. The Advisory Board's principal duties are to advise in the initiation, planning, organization, implementation, and coordination of public recreation programs and activities for the county; and to recommend a system of parks and facilities that will accommodate the public's need for recreation programs and activities.

Managing Staff

Agency Director	Bryan Reynolds
Division Director, Park Services	Michael Brantley
Division Director, Recreation	Neely Motiejunas
Division Director, Athletics	Jay Worley
Manager, Administrative Services	Andrea Johnson
Superintendent, Park Services	Steve Ralston
Manager, Aquatics	Kim Baker

Advisory Board

Chairman	Chris Hampton
Vice Chairman	Brian Roach
Board Member	Amy Turcotte
Board Member	Robert Strozier
Board Member	Scott Schug

Administrative Services

Administrative Services is responsible for the planning, administration and coordination of work assignments for the Agency's finances, marketing and public relations, registration processes, training, communications, facility rentals, policy administration and office management. Division staff works closely with other divisions to ensure coordination of administrative processes; proper flow of information to the public; and the promotion of programs, parks, and facilities.



2013 Highlights

- Exceeded budgeted revenues by more than 4% while remaining more than 6% under budgeted expenses.
- Implemented Park Use Agreement with Hobgood Baseball Inc. for the use of the youth baseball complex at Hobgood Park.
- Renewed our agreement with SORBA-Woodstock for the maintenance and management of the mountain bike trails at Blanket's Creek.
- Surpassed more than 260,000 web site visits on www.crpa.net and more than 1,500 Likes on CRPA Facebook page.



Athletics

Athletics is responsible for planning, organizing and implementing programs in the areas of youth athletics, adult athletics, tournaments, athletic camps and special events. Division staff works directly with individuals participating in programs; develops and promotes diverse athletic opportunities; and serves as a community resource and liaison for local youth sports associations.



2013 Highlights

- Continued to make youth sports in Cherokee County safer by performing background screenings on 2,315 volunteers.
- Recognized seven teams and two individuals for their accomplishments during the second annual Cherokee County Youth Sports Champions Day.
- Completed our second successful season of Cherokee Youth Basketball with over 390 teams and 3,100 players.

- Implemented the “Academic All Stars” program during CYB to recognize student/ athletes that excelled in the classroom. Players received an academic medal for their accomplishments.
- Re-opened Hobgood Park Softball Complex after renovations and completed the 19th year of adult softball at the park with over 120 teams in men’s, women’s, seniors and co-ed divisions.



Aquatics

Aquatics is responsible for all operations of the Cherokee County Aquatic Center including registration processes, marketing and public relations, programming, training, facility rentals and maintenance. Division staff works directly with individuals participating in programs and utilizing the facility; coordinates the use of the center by many diverse user groups; and develops and promotes diverse aquatic opportunities.

2013 Highlights

- Cut the ribbon at the new *Cherokee County Aquatic Center* on Thursday, May 9, 2013.
- More than 2,000 guests visited the *Cherokee County Aquatic Center* on Saturday, May 11, 2013 for our Grand Opening gala.
- Eighty-five swimmers participated in the inaugural Pelicans summer swim team.
- Welcomed more than 100,000 visitors to the *Cherokee County Aquatic Center* from May to September.
- Our lifeguards brought home a bronze medal in their first ever GRPA State Lifeguard competition.
- *CCAC* named **Best New Thing** by readers of *Cherokee Life Magazine*.



Park Services

Park Services is committed to the maintenance and preservation of our parks and natural resources. Division staff works closely with other divisions, community groups and the public to manage, protect and improve our parks and natural resources; including athletic fields, playgrounds, trails and other park amenities.

2013 Highlights

- Working with Saddle Club volunteers, completed the first half of the Dapple Trail at Garland Mountain Horse & Hiking Trails.
- Cleaned and removed more than 60 cubic yards of debris and re-opened Fields Landing Park & boat ramp after just two days following spring floods.
- Added three new horseshoe pits to Hobgood Park.
- Maintained 22 parks and facilities throughout the county with zero workplace accidents in 2013.
- Recycled more than 1,000 Christmas trees.



Programs

Programs is responsible for planning, organizing and implementing programs for children, teens, and adults in the areas of instructional classes, fitness, day and specialty camps, special events, senior adults and therapeutic recreation. Division staff works directly with individuals participating in programs; and develops and promotes diverse recreational opportunities.

2013 Highlights

- The 7th annual Guns & Hoses 5K in February raised \$2,680 for CASA.
- Created Leisure Roamers, a new program for adults with disabilities.
- Working with Cherokee County Senior Services, hosted the Adopt-a-Senior program and gave holiday gift packages to more than 300 seniors.
- More than 2,500 people, the most ever, attended Touch-A-Truck in October.
- Broke the century mark with more than 100 members in Silver Roamers, our senior travel club.

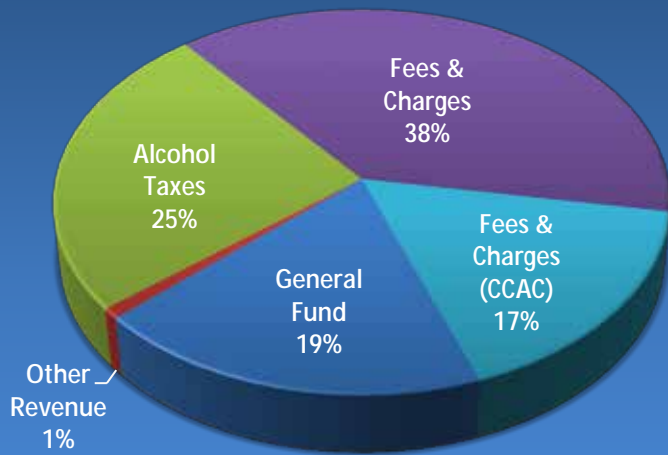


Financial Summary

FY2013 CRPA Fund Summary

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Revised Budget	Actual	Variance Better (Worse)
Revenues					
Fees & Charges	\$ 1,406,640	\$ 0	\$ 1,406,640	\$ 1,498,631	\$ 91,991
Fees & Charges (CCAC)	658,076	0	658,076	650,187	(7,889)
Alcohol Taxes	871,200	0	871,200	971,691	100,491
General Fund	729,802	0	729,802	729,802	0
Other Revenue	\$ 67,312	0	67,312	33,337	(33,974)
Total Revenues	\$ 3,733,030	\$ 0	\$ 3,733,030	\$ 3,883,648	\$ 150,618
Expenditures					
Administration	\$ 660,242	\$ 0	\$ 660,242	\$ 655,814	\$ 4,428
Programs	445,226	0	445,226	425,865	19,361
Aquatics	703,568	0	703,568	591,886	111,682
Athletics	1,032,405	0	1,032,405	946,011	86,394
Maintenance	891,589	0	891,589	882,779	8,810
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,733,030	\$ 0	\$ 3,733,030	\$ 3,502,355	\$ 230,675

Revenue Sources in FY2013



Fees & Charges from CRPA & Aquatic Center programs and services combined to equal more than 55% of revenues in 2013.

Value for Your Property Tax Dollars

In 2013, the average homeowner paid \$4.79 in property taxes for recreation and parks maintenance and operations.¹

¹ Based on Fair Market Value of \$172,500 home assessed at the 2013 Millage Rate for County M&O (General Fund) of 5.798 = \$371.07. Then, \$371.07 x 1.29% (CRPA % of General Fund in 2013) = \$4.79.

Note: At the time of publication, the 2013 figures had not yet been audited. Please refer to Cherokee County 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for audited figures.

2013 Parks Inventory

Current Parks & Facilities

Park / Facility Name	Acres	Description
Badger Creek Park	151	14 MP fields; home of Cherokee Impact Soccer
Barnett Park	25	3 BB/SB fields; playground; trails; home of Cherokee Reds Baseball
Blankets Creek Bike Trails	364	15 miles of mountain bike trails; pavilions
Buffington Park & Gym	5	Gym; 1 BB/SB field; pavilion
Cherokee County Aquatic Center	38	Indoor – 50M & 25Y pools; Outdoor – free form leisure pool
Cherokee Mills Park	39	Boat ramp; access to Allatoona Lake; boat dock
Cline Park	12	Splash pad; playground; tennis courts; pavilion; pedestrian trails
Dwight Terry Park	30	2 BB/SB fields; playground; paved walking path
Field's Landing Park	280	Boat ramp; access to Allatoona Lake; playground; pavilions
Garland Mt. Horse/Hike Trails	544	11 miles of equestrian trails; pavilion
Hickory Trails Park	24	Pavilions; pedestrian trails
Hobgood Park	60	10 BB/SB fields; MP field; tennis courts; playground; paved walking path
J.J. Biello Park	470	5 BB/SB fields; 6 MP fields; tennis courts; playgrounds
Kenney Askew Park	9	MP field; 1 BB/SB field; playground; tennis courts
Lewis Park	57	Playground; pedestrian trails; pavilions
Park Village	25	Pedestrian trails
Recreation Center	14	Gym; rental space available; hockey rink; playground; pavilion
Riverchase Park	10	Playground; pavilion
Sequoyah Park	39	4 BB/SB fields; MP field; playground; disc golf; pavilion
Union Hill Community Center	3	Banquet hall; rental space available; playground
Waleska Park	18	3 BB/SB fields; playground
Weatherby Park	17	3 BB/SB fields; MP field; playground; paved walking path
Total Acres	2,234	<i>MP = Multipurpose; BB/SB = Baseball/Softball</i>

Additional Park Properties (Future Parks and Green Space)

Property or Project Name	Acres	Notes
Forestar Property	186	Future Park
Funk Property (East Park)	149	To Be Designed – Construction to begin in 2015
Hudgens Property	405	Future Park (Adjacent to Garland Mtn. Trails)
John Ford Property	62	Future Park
Killian & Maddox Properties	51	Richard "Hunkey" Mauldin Baseball Complex – Under construction
Old Doss Property	45	Green Space
Patriots' Park (Kellogg Creek)	34	Design Complete – Construction scheduled for 2015
Priest Road Property	11	Future Park
Rebecca Ray Park	15	Future Park
Rubes Creek	36	Green Space
Thacker Property	141	Future Park
Thompson Property	43	Future Park
Willoughby-Sewell Property	228	Future Park
Yellow Creek Road Property	538	Future Park (Conservation Easement thru Mountain Conservation Trust)
Total Acres	1,944	

Capital Improvement Program Update

A great deal of work occurred over the past twelve months to advance the Capital Improvement Program. Representatives of Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency (CRPA) and the Cherokee County Capital Projects Office have worked very closely to communicate project scopes of work for the coordination of recreation activities at existing parks and for the new parks. Design work by the many architects, landscape architects and engineers, and the construction work by the many general contractors, and their respective subcontractors, vendors and suppliers for the numerous park projects has also been closely coordinated with Cherokee County Development Services for early reviews for compliance with site and building codes, including ADA accessibility, to enable prompt and timely issuance of permits for the commencement of construction.



May 9th, 2013 marked a very important milestone in Cherokee County history with the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the *Cherokee County Aquatic Center (CCAC)* on Gresham Mill Parkway, off Sixes Road at I-575. The nearly \$20 Million project was completed on time and under budget enabling these saved funds to be retained in the Park Bond Program for use on other planned county park projects. The center has already been recognized by the Georgia Recreation & Parks Association as the ***Most Outstanding New or Renovated Facility*** in 2013.



In June, the expansion and improvements to the amenities at the nationally acclaimed mountain bike trails at Blanket's Creek were completed. The entrance was realigned with Sixes Road allowing easier access to the park; the parking lot tripled in size; four new restrooms were opened; two pavilions added; a bike wash station was unveiled; and a large event lawn was created in the park at the trailhead. These upgrades have greatly improved the experience for riders at this very popular park.

Also, long awaited renovation work began in 2013, for completion in early 2014, at the following county parks: complete renovation of the existing concession building, new sports field and tennis court lighting, foul ball netting, tennis court crack repair & resurfacing and a new concrete plaza at Hobgood Park; sports field improvements; renovation of the concession/restroom building and the addition of a new restroom building at Barnett Park; field improvements and general renovations of the existing concession/restroom building at Dwight Terry Park; a new picnic shelter at Weatherby Park; and new sports field lighting for two baseball fields at Sequoyah Park. Similar renovation improvements for JJ Biello Park (East & West) are currently under design and under review by the US Army Corps of Engineers and are planned for construction in early to mid-2014.





Work between the cities of Canton, Woodstock, Ball Ground, Waleska and Nelson, and Cherokee County has also been most productive in the commencement of construction projects for all the city projects. While construction is still underway for the new Etowah River Park in the City of Canton; the *new* five baseball field complex adjacent to Kenney Askew Park; the City of Woodstock Trails for the Downtown Spur and Noonday Creek segments; and the City of Ball Ground and Nelson Parks, all construction work is expected to be completed in early 2014, as scheduled and planned, and within the Park Bond Funds allocated. With the recent purchase of additional land in the City of Waleska, master planning work is expected to be completed in 2014 in preparation for possible future park development. Design and permitting for the new park in the City of Holly Springs on Hickory Road has been completed. Construction is expected to begin in 2014.

In summary, projects funded under the Capital Improvements Program are proceeding as planned and budgeted.



Thank you to our partners in 2013.

Volunteers

Canton Baseball
Cherokee Hockey In-Line League (CHILL)
Cherokee Impact
Cherokee Pride
Cherokee Reds
Cherokee Saddle Club
Cherokee Senior Softball Association
Cherokee Summer Swim Association
Cherokee Youth Basketball Gym Directors and Coaches
Cherokee Youth Football Association
Cherokee Youth Lacrosse Association
Cherokee Youth Softball Coaches
Cherokee YMCA
Dwight Terry Baseball Association
East Cherokee Baseball
Hobgood Baseball
Laurel Canyon Garden Club
Leisure Spectrum Chaperones
Macedonia Baseball
Miracle League
NASA – Cherokee
North Cherokee Baseball
North Cherokee Youth Softball
Southern Off Road Bicycle Association – Woodstock Chapter
Special Pops Tennis

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