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DURHAM DPR Parks & Recreation

Recreation Advisory Commission
2011 Accomplishments

Recreation Advisory Commission Facts

Board Membership

- The Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) consists of nine members appointed by the Durham City Council.

Meeting Time

- The RAC meets the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. at Durham Parks & Recreation's main office.

2011 Retreat Summary

On, April 10, 2011, the RAC participated in a full day retreat. The activities included the following:

People Map Exercise

- Jay Reinstein, City of Durham Strategic Initiatives Manager, conducted the people map exercise and RAC members learned more about each other and how to facilitate effective conversations.

RAC Mission and Goals Revised

- Parks and recreation advocate Tom Wells conducted workshops on the perfect board and the perfect board member.
- RAC revised its mission statement as a result of the discussion.

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DURHAM Parks & Recreation

RAC Revised
2011 Mission Statement

The mission of the Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) is to advocate for the department of Parks and Recreation and the Durham Community.

2011 RAC Park Tour

On July 14, 2011, the RAC toured eight parks.

- Beth Timson, Assistant Director, Park Planning & Education conducted the tour and provided details on the highlights and issues/concerns for each park.
- RAC members provided feedback on issues/concerns.

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Holton Career and Resource Center

Department

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Twin Lakes Park

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Bethesda Park

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Long Meadow Park

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2011 Park Tour and Other Parks

- Unity Park

- Shady Oaks Park

- East End Park

- Sherwood Park

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2011 Community Involvement

RAC members serve as ambassadors for DPR by fostering and enhancing the relationship between the department and the community. As advocates, the RAC…

- Approves support for partnerships with local organizations. The partnerships can include allowing access to recreational activities for individuals with limited resources (fee waivers).

- Serves as an extension of the marketing unit by spreading the word about DPR resources and promoting the need to “Play More.”

2011 Community Involvement

The RAC also,

- Engages in conversation on various neighborhood listserves when necessary.
- Serves as strong advocates for persons with disabilities by advising DPR on how to make parks and facilities accessible.
- Serves as volunteer coaches, coordinators and leaders for various DPR sports, programs, activities and events.
- Promotes the “Play More” philosophy in their daily lives.

2011 Community Involvement

RAC Involvement

- Coffees with Council
- Reaccreditation site visit at the City of Greensboro
- Old North Durham Park Public Meetings
- Recreation Center Classes
- High Ropes Course Grand Opening
- Senior Holiday Party
- Outdoor festivals

2011 RAC Commission Statement & Members

The RAC is pleased to serve the City of Durham, Mayor and City Council as advisors on Parks and Recreation. Please call on us to let us know how we can serve you in 2012.

Umar Muhammad (Chair)
Cheryl Lloyd (Vice Chair)
Omar Beasley (Mayor's Appointee)
Ronnie Ferrell
Linwood Webster
Loren Darden
Susan Taylor
Hope Murdock
Ashley Thomas

2011
DURHAM PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Community Relationships

City of Durham (DPR)/Durham Public Schools (DPS) Joint Use Agreement

- City Council approved a proposed joint use inter-local agreement for shared usage of each other's facilities.

Open Forums

- DPR's recreation program staff hosted a series of "Open Forums" inviting the community to provide feedback on the services, programs and activities available at the centers.

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Community Involvement & Events

Community Camp Fires

- DPR established the "Community Camp Fire" events to provide opportunities for communities to come together to enjoy Durham's parks and facilities.

Campout Carolina! Jamboree

- DPR, REI of Durham and Frog Hollow Outdoors presented an old-fashioned camping jamboree at the historic West Point on the Eno Park in October 2011.

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Community Involvement & Events

Free Water Safety Program

- In August, DPR partnered with Safe Kids of Durham County to host a free Water Safety Program for citizens.

DPR Hosted USTA Tournament

- USTA North Carolina Mixed Doubles Championship.

DPR Play More Day

- September 24, 2011 was the "DPR Play More Day." DPR hosted two events: the grand re-opening of the I.R. Holmes, Sr. Recreation Center at Campus Hills Park, and the Latino Festival.

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DPR National Observances

Parks and Recreation Month in DPR

- Theme this year was: Rock Your Park!
- July is Parks and Recreation month

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Facilities

Holton Career and Resource Center Mural Project

- Partnership with Duke University, Hector Blanco and 6 other artists of Dominican Republic.

Playground Safety Surfacing

- DPR recently developed and began implementing a replacement schedule for safety surfacing in our playgrounds.

Third Fork Creek Trail

- Longest section of the North/South Greenway, the City's main greenway trail.

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Facilities

High Ropes Discovery Course at Bethesda Park

- The official ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

Downtown Dog Park

- DPR opened the Downtown Durham Dog Park in conjunction with the Cleveland Holloway Neighborhood Group.

Leigh Farm Park: 370 Leigh Farm Rd

- With 96.1 acres, Leigh Farm is a park that is not only recreational and fun, but promotes education and conservation through unique partnerships.

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Facilities

Sandy Creek Park

- DPR, along with a number of agencies including DOST, New Hope Creek Advisory Committee, and the Audubon Society, are developing an environmental learning center that will be an oasis for bird watchers and butterfly enthusiasts.

Sherwood Park Futsal Pitch

- Futsal is a variation of soccer that was created in South America in the early 1930's and is played with five players on a side in a smaller, walled soccer pitch.

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National Awards

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)

- The Bimbé Cultural Arts Festival
  - •2011 Dorothy Mullen Arts and Humanities, Class II Award
- Bethesda Park
  - •2011 Park or Facility Design Award, Class II

2011 Playful City USA

- KaBOOM! Designation

U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Honorable Mention City Livability Award

- Holton Career and Resource Center partnership

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State/Local Award

North Carolina Recreation & Park Association

Arts & Humanities Award

- CCB Plaza Third Friday Concert Series

Special Olympics Durham County

2011 Outstanding Corporation

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Staff Awards

2011 North Carolina Recreation and Park Association Young Professional Award

Ann-Marie Strike, M.S., LRT/CTRS, *Recreation Assistant Supervisor (Special Programs/Inclusion-Mature Adults)*

Latino Diamante Award

Rosalie Bocelli-Hernandez, *Sr. Community Relations Coordinator (Latino/Hispanic Outreach)*

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Grants

- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NC Foundation awarded $5,000 for a Community Gardening Program. The funding will provide a secure storage unit at Edison Johnson Recreation Center and an inventory of gardening tools and supplies for DPR programs.
- 2011 United States Tennis Association Diversity Grant in the amount of $2,004.
- DPR received a grant in the amount of $600 from the United States Tennis Association for tennis equipment to be used for lessons offered at Elmira Park.
- Carolina Panthers Charities awarded $2,195 for the DPR Challenger Flag Football League.
- NCDENR awarded a $5,000 award from the Adopt a Trail grant program.
- Liberty Mutual Insurance Bring Back the 4th™ grant for $10,000.