



DURHAM PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



DPR STRATEGIC PLAN

DPR's Strategic Plan was adopted by the City Manager on February 22, 2012. "History in the making" is what they called it. DPR was the first department to complete and have our Strategic Plan adopted by the City Manager. The strategic plan is our roadmap to getting to where we want to be as a department in two to three years. Our plan aligns with three of the five City wide goals. These are 1) Thriving, Livable Neighborhoods, 2) Well Managed City, and 3) Stewardship of the City's Physical Assets.

In each of these areas we have developed objectives with measures to track our progress. We have also identified 26 initiatives, which are specific programs and activities that will help us meet our objectives. Departments were asked to prioritize their initiatives into years one, two and three of the plan. Our first 6 priority initiatives are:

1. To conduct a Community Needs Survey to develop an index that will inform the Master Plan and Recreation Program Plan. {PARCS completed December 2012 – see below.}
2. To analyze the Communications and Marketing Plan objectives to drive allocation of marketing dollars. {Underway – plan has been updated and is in process for approval.}
3. To simplify the fee structure with a consistent fee philosophy. {Implemented January 2013.}
 - Presented information on proposed Fees to City Management and City Council at Budget Retreat in February 2012.
 - Revised Fee Structure adopted by City Council in June 2012.
 - Hosted three staff education sessions regarding the new fee schedule and reviewed philosophy behind DPR fees with staff.
 - Loaded new fees in CLASS software for programs starting after January 1, 2013.
 - PlayMore seasonal guide (session: January – May 2013) printed in December 2012 with new fees listed. (Instructional programs are now based on hourly rates per contact hour of the program; at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels.)
4. To increase the collection and use of data and best practices to achieve operational excellence in core programs (i.e. evaluation tools, citizen satisfaction survey, etc.) {completed and implemented 2012}
 - Evaluation surveys were revised in 2012.
 - Staff trainings were hosted on the "Evaluation Tools and Process". This provided hands on training for help in finding and using paper evaluations, the Survey Monkey electronic evaluation, promo cards and more to help staff familiarize themselves with what tools have been made available to help evaluate programs.
 - Staff trainings were hosted on "Now What? Using Evaluation Reports to Help Make Program Decisions". This training provided a facilitated conversation on why we evaluate, how to sift through the reports, and what to do with the information that's been gathered. This is your chance to hear from your programming peers on how they use evaluations to make decisions about their programs.
 - An evaluation and marketing schedule was developed and implemented to insure each person participating in a DPR program, visiting our parks, utilizing our rental facilities, or participating in an event has an opportunity to provide feedback to DPR.
5. To update our equipment inventory (to include value and replacement date). {Project is underway – see BarCode Software under Technology section of this report.}
6. To update the park maintenance and operations plan. {Completed December 2012.}

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AND RECREATION PROGRAM PLAN

In 2012, DPR began the arduous task of gathering data for the development of a Facilities Master Plan and a Recreation Program Plan. Once developed and adopted, these plans will provide a guide to direct the operations of the Department of Parks and Recreation in facility development for the next ten years and in recreation programming for the next five years. These plans are being developed in alignment with the City's and the Department's Strategic Plans and the Department's mission and vision.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Implemented "Mindmixer" website through a contract with Socialmentum, LLC in July 2012. Through this technology, DPR is hosting a "town hall" forum online (PlantoPlayMoreDurham.org), allowing us to reach residents who may not otherwise speak up on Park issues. The site provides residents the access to share ideas, solve challenges, and interact with DPR and City leaders at any time, from anywhere. Over 240 participants had registered with the site by December 2012.
- DPR contracted with the National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) for the completion of a Parks and Recreation Community Survey (PARCS) through a special advertising offer for members of the National Recreation and Park Association. PARCS was developed to provide an in-depth sounding of residents' attitudes about community parks, recreation, and leisure services. The survey was mailed in September 2012 to a random selection of 4,000 households in Durham. A total of 448 completed surveys were obtained, providing an overall response rate of 12% and a margin of error of plus or minus 5% around any given percent for the entire sample. The report of results of the survey was completed in December 2012. Data from this report will be utilized in the development of both the Facilities Master Plan and the Recreation Program Plan. Completion of this project also satisfied a priority initiative in DPR's Strategic Plan.
- DPR hosted eight community meetings, held across the City, between October 9, 2012 and November 13, 2012.
- Focused interactions with groups that were underrepresented in the larger community meetings: mature adults, teens, Latino residents.
- Focused interactions with staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and General Services Department (GSD) as the two City groups most involved in parks and recreation.
- Oversight of this process by the Master Plan Steering Committee, a diverse group of sixteen residents representing different constituencies and areas from across the City.
- Program assessment data collected by DPR as part of recreation programming procedures.
- Strategic Plans: City and Department.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- DPR continued our annual partnership in January 2012 with the Schoolhouse of Wonder ("SHW"), a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, for the provision of environmental education and cultural history education programs at West Point on the Eno. This partnership has been active since 1990.
- Canoe and Kayak rental is provided at West Point on the Eno through an agreement executed on February 1, 2012 with Frog Hollow LLC, a limited liability company operating in Durham, NC.
- A management agreement for Durham Central Park was executed with Durham Central Park, Inc. in February 2012. The agreement provided for the transition of the operation of this park, excluding the Skateboard site, to DCP, Inc.
- The transition of the Birchwood Height Community Center from DPR management to the Birchwood Homeowners Association was completed on March 9, 2012. DPR provided assistance to the Birchwood Board regarding management of the facility, maintenance instructions, and access to programming from the coalition including the Cooperative Extension Service and the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department.

- A cooperative agreement was executed in June 2012 with Duke University to provide for “Duke Healthy Lifestyles Active! Program”, a free, supervised, safe place for its patients and their families for wellness activity outside of school hours allowing DPR to expand its wellness offerings at the Edison Johnson Recreation Center. The “Bull City Fit” program has attracted 20-40 teens and their parents to the program to learn about fitness and nutrition. In September 2012, this partnership was highlighted on a poster on display at the “Duke Schools of Medicine & Nursing Community Health Day” held at the Bryan Center on Duke’s Campus. There were 26 posters on display from different community organizations, highlighting partnerships related to improving public health. Our poster was titled, “Bull City Fit: Relocating the Venue to Offer Improved Activities.” The poster gave a history of the program and emphasized how beneficial it was to move the program to Edison Johnson (it was formerly housed in a Duke facility).
- A cooperative agreement was entered into with the College View Duplicate Bridge Club, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, on June 11, 2012 for the purpose of helping the Club accomplish their mission of developing quality bridge playing opportunities for the residents in Durham, NC.
- DPR worked in conjunction with the Walltown Community Reunion Committee, a subcommittee of the Walltown Neighborhood Association to provide a “joint” Community/Reunion Day on June 30, 2012 for the Walltown community. It was a day of record breaking temperatures and record breaking attendance for the event with over 600 participants!
- A cooperative agreement was executed in July 2012 with D3 Community Outreach, Inc., a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, for the provision of the annual summer basketball league at Long Meadow Park for at-risk youth and young adults in Durham.
- A cooperative agreement was entered into in August 2012 with Special Olympics North Carolina, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (“SONC”) for the purpose of fostering collaboration between SONC and DPR as well as to assist SONC to accomplish their mission of providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.
- A cooperative agreement was executed in August 2012 with Quincy Pedew, a volunteer football instructor, to describe services to be provided by him and DPR for the operation of the Little Tykes Flag Football program at C. M. Herndon Park.
- DPR has contracted with the Ligo Dojo of Budo Karate, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, on December 3, 2012 for the provision of martial arts programming at the East Durham Recreation Center.
- DPR has executed an agreement in December 2012 with Youth Education for Savings Consortium, Inc., a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, for the provision of financial and career awareness training at the W. I. Patterson Recreation Center.

TECHNOLOGY

Flonomics “People-Counting” Systems – piloted at the Walltown Park Recreation Center and at the Holton Career and Resource Center. The system uses video analytic technologies to count persons entering the facility through cameras installed on both access points to the facility. This system allows reporting for total people by hour, by day, or by a set range of time. Data collected will be used to tell our story of who we serve at these facilities and will be utilized in staffing facility, planning programs, etc.

CLASS software – online registration

- By February 2012, DPR had rolled out online registration via CLASS and our PlayMore online website for the majority of our instructional programs.
- Summer camp Registration kickoff began on Saturday, March 24, 2012. For the first time online registration was available to the City of Durham families to register for summer camp services versus standing in long lines as was traditionally done. We had a total of 500 online registrations for summer camp. After School on-line registration was also implemented in the summer of 2012.

BarScan Inventory Software – Because of accreditation requirements and the long-time recognition of needing a more efficient way to track and manage inventory, DPR purchased a database-driven, bar-coding system which will allow for an incredible amount of information to be collected about any asset or piece of equipment. The City has a Fixed Asset Tracking system that tracks assets over \$5,000 so this system will be used to track those less than \$5,000. The project is underway now as staffs are developing a catalog of these assets managed by the department. This software will allow 1) greater accountability of supplies and equipment purchased; 2) a more efficient sharing of resources across our department; and 3) development of planned replacement schedules for more efficient usage of our limited resources, i.e. planned rotation of replacement of tables utilized at facilities.

ClearPoint Performance Monitoring Software – DPR was one of four City departments to serve as pilot departments for the usage of this performance monitoring software. DPR staff trained on the software in the spring of 2012 and began utilizing the software for recording data on performance measures tracked for both our FY13 Budget and our Strategic Plan.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

- DPR hosted the USTA Mixed Doubles State Championship in Durham from September 12-16, 2012, with over 1200 participants. Many volunteers helped this event be a success including our partnerships with private tennis clubs, DOCTA, the Washington Duke Inn, and the Millennium Hotel. DPR has received the Economic Impact report on the 2012 USTA Sanctioned State Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament from Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau. Total Economic impact to Durham is estimated at \$1,927,633.
- The 10th annual Jr. Future's Tennis Tournament brought 141 participants, aged 6-18, together at Whipporwill Park and Rock Quarry Park June 15-17, 2012.
- A Care Program Coordinator position was hired in September 2012. This position was to provide department-wide coordination of care programming efforts by the department, with ultimate goals for implementing higher standards of care, increased efficiencies, and achieving State Licensure where feasible. Care programs include Afterschool, Summer Camp, Intersession, and Fun Days.
- DPR partnered with the Triangle Youth Ultimate League (YTUL) to host our first Ultimate Frisbee Tournament that was held at Herndon Park on November 5-6, 2012, attracting over 150 participants.
- Campout! Carolina Jamboree was hosted for the third year by DPR's Adventure Programs unit at our West Point on the Eno Park. Partners and exhibitors REI of Durham, Piedmont Wildlife Center, the Durham County Wildlife Center and Earthshare NC helped make the event a rousing success, with almost 80 participants in attendance.
- DPR, in partnership with Durham Public Schools and the National Scholarship Service organization, hosted a College Fair at the Edison Johnson Recreation Center on Thursday, February 9, 2012. At the event, high school students were able to meet representatives from 23 local, regional, and national universities, including many historically black colleges. 275 high school students and 25 teachers participated in this event.
- April 9-13, 2012, DPR hosted a "Teen Leadership Conference: The Road to Achieving Success" at the Edison Johnson Recreation Center. The Police Department provided volunteer assistance for the program, through their G.R.E.A.T. program. City leadership provided motivational guidance for the teens as they participated in a week filled with workshops, trips, and plenty of fun!
- Night Flight Basketball was taken to new heights in 2012 as staff worked hard to successfully rejuvenate this program. Program expanded to include Holton, TA Grady, WD Hill, Walltown, Lyon Park, East Durham, Edison Johnson, and Weaver Street teams.
- DPR sponsored a "How I Love My Park" video contest in observance of National Park and Recreation Month, a program created by the National Recreation and Park Association and the America's Backyard Initiative to raise awareness of the vital impact that parks, recreation, and conservation have on communities across the U.S.

- Rock the Park: New Outdoor Concert and Movie Series provided a concert and a movie in a different park throughout June, July, and August.
- DPR hosted a “Volunteers in Training” 3-week summer camp for Teens in the summer of 2012. The program provided teens opportunities to volunteer for a multitude of non-profit agencies and services, with activities such as working on props for DPR’s ArtVentures show, conducting litter pick-up for Keep Durham Beautiful, Inc., volunteering at the Food Bank of NC, Durham Rescue Mission, SEEDS, The Interfaith Food Shuttle, NIS, Habitat for Humanity, and the Genesis Home.
- New cultural heritage programs were offered by DPR in 2012 including bee keeping, soap making, cheese making, broom making, and candle dipping.
- Gardens:
 - Edison Johnson Recreation Center continued the Intergenerational Garden, making more improvements to its operation. With the help of the Durham Cooperative Extension and DPR’s Cultural Heritage unit, young participants helped start seeds indoors, helped plant them in the spring, and helped to maintain the garden beds, and finally helped with the harvest of their labor!
 - Also, a new garden called the Heritage Kitchen Garden was planted at West Point on the Eno Park.
 - DPR staff provided assistance for the development of the community gardens at Briggs Avenue and Orchard Park. Staff continue to work in conjunction with the Durham Cooperative Extension Service and provide assistance to many community gardening efforts across Durham.
- Campus Hills offered monthly unique pre-school monthly programs/events this year including DPR’s first “Royal Tea Party”. Other programs included “Fire Safety for Tots” event held during National Fire Prevention week in conjunction with the Durham Fire Department; Cookies with Santa; and a Pirate Treasure Hunt.
- The 8th annual Unity in the Community Day was held at Holton Career and Resource Center on Oct. 6, staff estimate that 300 people attended the event. The event, which celebrates Disability Awareness Month, featured local groups and organizations that provided information on disabilities or disability support services.
- Woofstock was held on October 7, 2012 at Durham Central Park; approximately 400 attended the event despite wet, chilly weather.
- The 2012 Latino Festival was held on September 29, 2012. Due to rain, the festival was successfully moved to the Holton Career and Resource Center. Staff estimates attendance at 2,000.
- Hallow-Eno in October 2012 was a huge success – great attendance – estimated at 1000 people over the course of 3 hours, in beautiful weather! Next year will be the 25th annual event!
- The 3rd Annual DPR Holiday Fun Fest was held on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at Durham Central Park. The event was very successful; attendance is estimated at 5,000.
- The Annual Christmas Open House was held on Sunday, December 2 at West Point on the Eno Park. Attendance is estimated at 200.
- Kwanzaa Celebration – over 600 participants attended this celebration held on December 30, 2012 at the Holton Career and Resource Center.
- The 43rd annual National Award winning Bimbé Festival was held in downtown Durham on May 19, 2012. The Durham Convention and Visitor’s Center reported that the economic impact of the festival was \$69,112; with attendance over 10,000.
- On October 24, 2012, approximately 35 students, parents, and teachers from Voyager Academy planted 121 various Crepe Myrtle trees at Crest Street Park. With much assistance from General Service’s staff, holes were dug, trees were planted, and mulch was spread. This is the fifth project that has been completed as a result of the partnership between Voyager Academy’s Community Service Days and DPR’s Adopt-a-Park program.

Mature Adult Trips

DPR has expanded our offerings for Mature Adult Trip programs by designing cost-recovery trips. Staff have worked with our area seniors to provide unique, exciting tours and site-seeing opportunities. In addition to many local adventures this year, DPR provided the following excursions:

- Duplin Winery (Rose Hill, SC) on February 17, 2012.
- NC Outer Banks on May 24, 2012.
- Virginia Pork, Pine, and Peanut Festival on June 13, 2012.
- Spirit of Norfolk, cruise ship tour on July 18, 2012.
- State Capitol Tour in Raleigh, NC on August 15, 2012.
- Philadelphia, PA trip on September 18, 2012.

Reverse Recycling Implemented at DPR

DPR began participating in the City's "Reverse Recycling" program, which is a city-wide desk-side recycling initiative created by Keep Durham Beautiful, Inc., which is designed to reduce waste and increase recycling. The idea is to reverse your thinking about trash and recycling and have the majority of the waste at your desk become recycling!

SECURITY INITIATIVE FY13

As part of DPR's FY13 budget process a pilot project to initiate efforts to reduce vandalism was approved. DPR has focused our efforts on three parks that have a history of crime, vandalism, and other problems.

- Security flood lights at East End, Sherwood, and Long Meadow Parks.
- Identification of efficient usage of off-duty assignment.
- Centralizing departmental data collection regarding vandalism and park damage.
- Gate at Sherwood Park – Juniper St. entrance.
- Long Meadow Park cleanup project (NIS, DPD, and DPR)
 - In the early part of December 2012 several units from the city of Durham collaborated to tackle an issue in the East Durham community. The Parks and Recreation maintenance unit, Neighborhood Improvement Services, and Police Department worked together at Long Meadow Park to deal with a homeless encampment that had grown and was producing great deals of trash and disturbances to the neighbors of the park. On the day of the project NIS provided a skid steer, 2 Knuckle booms trucks, bush hogs and several staff members to help take out the loads of brush and trash that had accumulated over the years. P&R provided nearly a dozen staff members, equipped with chain saws, blowers, pruning shears, and an assortment of other handheld tools to help clean debris from the site. It took over 3 days to clean the site and transform the once overgrown and unsightly area to a well-kept open and safe space. Moving forward to ensure the area doesn't return to its previous unkempt state, the P&R department will be planting a low maintenance undergrowth of plant material suitable for the area. This is an excellent example of the culture of service the city of Durham projects and separate units working together for the good of the community.

PLAYGROUNDS

- New playgrounds were installed at Solite Park, Lyon Park, and at Lake Michie near Spruce Pine Lodge. 2012 was started with a new playground adjacent to the Walltown Park Recreation Center.

Over the past year, DPR has made tremendous improvements to playgrounds throughout the City. The majority of playgrounds did not have adequate safety surfacing – not enough surfacing, the wrong type, or surfacing that was so degraded that it basically looked like dirt. Upgrading playgrounds for safety became a top priority for DPR.

- 24 total (13 in 2012) playgrounds: Engineered wood fiber was removed and replaced
- 22 total (14 in 2012) playgrounds: Additional engineered wood fiber installed to meet adequate levels
- 7 playgrounds: New surfacing as a result of new construction projects
- 2 playgrounds: poured-in-place rubber surfacing replaced

We now have 56 of our 58 playgrounds with surfacing rated in excellent condition, compared to only 12 just a year ago! There is still more work to be done, as we continue to maintain the playgrounds at these standards, and keep up with the natural wear and tear.

RENOVATIONS, DEVELOPMENTS, AND DEDICATIONS

- For only the cost of the materials, PW Street Maintenance unit paved the parking lot adjacent to the pool in Long Meadow Park in the spring of 2012.
- The ribbon cutting for the mountain bike trail at Campus Hills was held on 4/28/12. This trail was developed in partnership with Triangle Off Road Cyclists and funded by an Adopt A Trail Grant from the NC Department of Natural Resources.
- The Partnership for a Healthy Durham is teaming up with residents to stencil “Healthy Mile Trail Durham” and the image of a walker in permanent yellow paint on neighborhood sidewalks to create walking loops. An inaugural walk and kickoff celebration was held on Saturday, September 8, 2012 at 9:30 A.M. This first “Healthy Mile Trail” is a walking circuit that begins on Fayetteville St. across from the W.D. Hill Recreation Center. This concept of neighborhood walking circuits was developed in partnership with the City of Durham Department of Transportation, Durham Parks and Recreation, Lincoln Community Health Center, Durham County Health Department, and Women’s Day Committee of the Mount Vernon Baptist Church.
- October 6, 2012: dedication of bridge in Sandy Creek Park for Kenneth Coulter, long-time Durham Landscape Architect and creator of the New Hope Creek Corridor Plan.
- Installation of a half-court basketball court was completed in River Forest Park.

GRANTS/CASH DONATIONS: \$51,156 total grants and \$16,332.59 cash donations received in 2012

- DPR accepted \$16,332.59 in cash donations in 2012 in support of our operations.
- DPR staff attended the NC Tennis Association Annual Tennis Weekend in Pinehurst, NC from 1/26/12-1/29/2012. DPR received recognition at the awards banquet for receiving the “Raise the Net” grant award, totaling \$10,000 for Rock Quarry; and a second “Raise the Net” grant award of \$5,000 for Southern Boundaries. DPR is the first recipient of this award. DPR was praised for the well-prepared proposal and our quick communication with the agency.
- DPR won a National Parks and Recreation Sprite Sparks Parks grant award, totaling \$15,000 through a contest sponsored by collaborations between the Coca-Cola Company and the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). DPR’s efforts to win this grant award ranked 8th in the nation with competing cities, allowing DPR to receive the maximum grant award of \$15,000. The funds were utilized to renovate the basketball courts located at the Elmira Park.
- Durham Parks and Recreation has been awarded a third year of funding, totaling \$3,056 from Carolina Panthers Charities for the Challenger Flag Football League in August 2012.
- USTA grant award received for \$15,000 for improvements to the tennis courts at our Southern Boundaries Park in May 2012.
- DPR received a Nourishing NC grant totaling \$3,100 in June 2012; this grant was split between DPR and the Durham Cooperative Extension.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Donald Jack Bain, 79, of Durham passed on December 4th, 2012. He began work for the city of Durham at the age of 18 in 1951 and worked for 38 years with the streets and sanitation departments. He then continued in service with Durham for another 23 years as caretaker, totaling 61 years of service, monitoring the former

pool at Duke Park and later the surrounding property. During his time as care taker over the site he has had the privilege of working with many different groups including the State Highway patrol, Urban Forestry department and most recently the Parks and Recreation department.

AWARDS AND CITATIONS, AND WORK W/IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The **North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association (NCRPA) – Therapeutic Recreation Conference** was held at the Holton Career and Resource Center March 19-20, 2012. This was the first time the event was held in a setting other than a hotel, and the event took full advantage of the facility, using the auditorium for keynotes each day, and the dance studio, music room, teen center and senior room for breakout sessions, and the learning center for the Awards Luncheon. The conference, themed “Color Outside the Lines” was attended by over 100 professionals, faculty, and students from the state of NC in the Therapeutic Recreation, and related fields.

NATIONAL AWARDS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS – DPR

2012 Playful City USA community designation

- KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to bringing play back into children’s lives, honored Durham, NC as a Playful City USA for the fourth straight year. The nationwide announcement by KaBOOM! was made on May 1, 2012. The honor is Durham’s ongoing commitment to play and “for being a pioneer in play, investing in children, and believing in the vision of a great place to play within walking distance of every child in Durham, North Carolina.”

National Recreation and Parks Association Gold Medal Judge – Rhonda Parker, Director, DPR completed her 5th year as a Gold Medal Judge. She served as the head Judge in 2012 for this national award program.

STATE/LOCAL AWARDS – DPR

2012 Golden Leaf Awards

The goal of the awards program, sponsored by the Durham City-County Appearance Commission, Keep Durham Beautiful, Inc., and the Durham City-County Environmental Affairs Board, is to recognize properties that illustrate the value that Durham puts on community appearance, to acknowledge the best visual contributions to the Durham community, and to encourage design and maintenance that contributes to the visual beauty, sustainability, and usability of the Durham community.

- Community Properties category
 - Merit award winner: The Leaf at Durham Central Park
 - Merit award winner: Walltown Park Recreation Center

INDIVIDUAL/STAFF AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

DPR hosted a **Celebration Breakfast** on June 7, 2012 in an effort to join together to celebrate our successes. Speakers Councilman Schewel, City Manager Tom Bonfield, and Deputy City Manager Ted Voorhees participated in the event. Rhonda Parker and Jay Reinstein from the Office of Strategic Initiatives presented the positive results of the resident survey.

DPR hosted our annual **Employee Appreciation Day** on October 26, 2012. Staff participated in a morning of bowling activities followed by lunch and an awards ceremony at the Golden Corral. Annual Awards, representing the City’s Seven Star Values in addition to a “PlayMore Employee of the Year”, were presented to the following staff:

- Integrity -Floyd Wiggleton
- Customer Service - Dianne Thorne
- Teamwork - Rosetta Radtke
- Leadership - Marcia Shirilla
- Open Communication - Jill Hoffmann
- Fairness - Jeff Forde and Rich Hahn
- Our Employees - Britney Johnson
- “Play More” Employee of the Year-Jeff Forde

Kristen Randall

The ARC of Durham County recognized Kristen Randall, Recreation Assistant Supervisor in DPR's Special Programs unit, for her "Excellence in Inclusion Support" on May 24, 2012 at their annual awards banquet.

Aquatic Staff

At the "DPR Guard Games" event held on August 4, 2012, Rhonda Parker recognized all of the lifeguards involved in two rescues that took place in the summer of 2012. She presented each one with a framed "Certificate of Appreciation" for their "outstanding contribution to DPR". In addition to this, the EMS Supervisor sent DPR's Aquatics Recreation Manager, an email commending her guard staff for their professionalism during one of the rescues at Long Meadow Pool.

DPR'S STARS

Employees recognized in 2012 through the City's Seven Stars Program:

- February 2012: Customer Service Stars – the Holton Career and Resource Center staff team comprised of Jeff Forde, Chiquita Parks, Dianne Thorne, Afiya Carter, and Ann Marie-Strike.
- February 2012: Open Communication Star – Lynda Merritt, Executive Assistant.
- May 2012: Customer Service Star – Dianne Thorne, Administrative Assistant.
- May 2012: Open Communications Star – Gina Morais, Recreation Manager.
- June 2012: Teamwork Star – Special Programs staff team comprised of Sarah Hogan, Kendrick Vann, Akwari Roberson, and Sierra Jackson.
- September 2012: Leadership Star – Beth Timson, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation (Park Planning and Education Division).

DPR EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARDS

This staff monthly recognition program was implemented late in 2011 and is managed by our "Service Area Leaders (SALs) Committee, comprised of primarily Recreation Supervisors and key staff representing each work unit within DPR. These monthly awards are determined through peer nominations and selection by the SALS committee and confirmed by the Director.

- January 2012 – Jill Hoffmann – "Open Communication"
- February 2012: Kristen Randall – "Fairness"
- March 2012: Sarah Hogan – "Our Employees"
- April 2012: Patricia Coates – "Integrity"
- May 2012: Dianne Thorne – "Customer Service"
- June 2012: Marcus Hughes – "Teamwork"
- July 2012: Katherine Edwards – "Leadership"
- August 2012: Breanna Warren – "Open Communication"
- September 2012: Rich Hahn – "Fairness"
- October 2012: Bonita Richardson – "Our Employees"
- November 2012: Andre White – "Service to Community"
- December 2012: Lucille Patterson – "Service to Coworker"