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PARKS & RECREATION
ANNUAL REPORT

Mission, Vision, Values



Mission

In partnership with our citizens, Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation provides high quality, broad-based parks, facilities, programs, and services creating a sense of community, enabling a safe and secure environment, and enhancing Gwinnett's quality of life.

Vision

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation pledges to sustain the delivery of the highest standard of excellence of parks, facilities, programs, and services by:

- Being responsive to the changing recreational needs of a diverse and growing community
- Continuing a citizen-driven and professional approach to provide safe, well designed and maintained facilities and programs
- Providing responsible stewardship of human, fiscal, natural, and historic resources
- Maximizing community resources

Values

- We believe in honesty, integrity, and ethical conduct
- We are customer-oriented and both accountable and responsive to our citizens
- We believe in teamwork and collaboration with our community partners
- We promote safety, cost efficiency, innovation, and service excellence



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About Parks & Recreation



Managing Staff

Division Director,
Parks and Recreation Operations

Tina Fleming

Division, Director,
Parks and Recreation Project Administration

Grant Guess

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Manager, Support Services

David McGaughey

Manager, Grounds Maintenance

Eric Home



Tina Fleming
Division Director Operations



Grant Guess
Division Director Project Administration

The mission of Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation (GCPR), in partnership with our citizens, is to provide high quality, broad-based parks, facilities, programs and services creating a sense of community, enabling a safe and secure environment, and enhancing Gwinnett's quality of life. This annual report provides an overview of the operation and development of parks and recreation in Gwinnett County for the fiscal year January 1 through December 31, 2015. This report also highlights significant events and accomplishments from 2015.

In Gwinnett County there truly is something for everyone. With 47 open parks and facilities opened throughout the county, GCPR strives to provide Gwinnett residents with quality recreation and leisure opportunities, serving all ages, interests, and levels of physical ability. GCPR offers a wide variety of classes, camps, programs, and sports leagues to satisfy nearly every Gwinnett resident.

Gwinnett County's park system is home to 164 multi-purpose sport fields with two featuring an overlay football field, nine aquatic facilities housing 17 bodies of water including indoor competition, instructional, lap and leisure/water park pools and outdoor leisure/water park pools, community and senior recreation centers, gymnasiums and activity buildings, playgrounds, dog park areas, outdoor tennis, sand volleyball and basketball courts, skate parks, 128 miles of trails, and historical and nature sites. In addition, the Board of Commissioners' successful greenspace preservation program, supported by the 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) allows Gwinnett residents the opportunity to enjoy the county's precious natural resources.

Two divisions make up Parks and Recreation, which falls under the Department of Community Services: Parks and Recreation Project Administration and Operations.



The **Gwinnett County Recreation Authority** is a legal advisory board comprised of nine-members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, including two representatives from each of the four commission districts, plus one chairman-appointed member. The board typically meets on the second Thursday of every other month.

Chairman's Appointment	Charlie Underwood
District 1	Brad Alexander
District 1	Gene Callaway
District 2	Jack Bolton, Vice Chair
District 2	Robert Gates
District 3	Dr. Steven Flynt, Chair
District 3	Mike Korom
District 4	Lois Allen
District 4	Eric Meyer

The **Gwinnett Parks Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization established to support GCPR programs and services. Foundation volunteers advocate quality of life through citizenry awareness of the County's park system and recreational opportunities and assist GCPR in program areas through the Park Park'nership Program and the Commemorative Program, which raises funds for youth and senior citizen recreation scholarships.

Project Administration Division



Charged with evaluating potential park sites, reviewing boundary surveys, and preparing feasibility studies, the Project Administration staff is responsible for environmental assessment reports, geotechnical analyses, park designs, oversight of renovation and capital improvements to existing parks and facilities, master planning parks, and construction of new parks. Once land is purchased for a park, planning staff works with citizen steering committees to create a master plan. These committees consist of members of neighboring communities and park users.

2015 Project Administration Highlights

- Completed the Little Mulberry Park Ravine Trail renovation
- Completed Bethesda Park multipurpose field conversion
- Replaced four playgrounds at Pinckneyville Park
- Completed the design of Rock Springs Park Phase II
- Completed the master plan for Centerville Park Site
- Completed the update of the master plan for Alexander Park
- Completed the design of the George Pierce Park gymnasium addition

2015 Project Administration Projects Underway

- Awarded construction contracts for Ronald Reagan Park improvements and McDaniel Farm Park Phase II
- Began the design of Club Drive Park Phase II and Jones Bridge Park improvements
- Began the master plan for Simpsonwood Park
- Began the 2016 Capital Improvement Program Update
- Best Friend Park gymnasium renovation under construction
- Level Creek and J. B. Williams Parks under construction
- Peachtree Ridge Park multipurpose field conversion under construction
- South Gwinnett Park renovation under construction



Parks & Recreation Operations Division



Charged with maintaining, operating, public awareness, and safety of the County's park system and recreation facilities, the Operations Division staff is responsible for providing quality parks, programs, and services to meet the broad-based needs of the citizenry in Gwinnett.

Recreation Operations: Programming and Resources and Marketing

Recreation general programming staff and youth athletic facilitators provide countywide services that are divided into four geographic areas: north, south, east, and west. Other countywide specialized program areas include aquatics, heritage, seniors, cultural arts, adult athletics, and tennis. Recreation staff operates and maintain recreation facilities, schedule facility rentals, facilitate citizen meetings, and plan and schedule classes, workshops, summer camps, adult athletic leagues, and special events throughout the county. Recreation staff also fosters volunteer and community services in County parks and recreation facilities and in programs and service delivery.

The Resources and Marketing unit is responsible for creating awareness of the County's park system and the many recreational opportunities that GCPR provides for the community. This awareness is created through publications, the GCPR website, TVgwinnett, and media relations. Additionally, Resources and Marketing plans special events, prepares presentations on various aspects of GCPR, makes informative presentations to groups and other organizations, works closely with nonprofit organizations such as the Gwinnett Parks Foundation, prepares local, state and national award nominations, and creates invitations, flyers, advertisements, news releases, and brochures.

2015 Recreation Programming and Resources and Marketing Highlights

- In partnership with AARP, served more than 1,600 citizens on tax preparation and assistance from February – April 1
- In partnership with Gwinnett Parks Foundation hosted two Park'nership events — March 7, Shortly Howell Park
- 107 volunteers and 321 hours served; October 24, Bethesda Park, 85 volunteers and 340 hours served
- Volunteer Resources awarded 182 volunteer pin recipients, two Silver Star Awards recipients, 106 Presidential Volunteer Service Award recipients for 2014 volunteer service on March 22
- Kids Fishing Day at Jones Bridge Park on June 6 with 500 participants
- 2015 Spring BreakOut and 1, 2, 3K Glow and Show was held on May 16 at Rhodes Jordan Park with 1,500 attendees, 250 runners/walkers for the race benefiting the Gwinnett Parks Foundation Health and Wellness Scholarship Fund
- In partnership with the Gwinnett Sports Commission, West Gwinnett Park Aquatic Center hosted its third Atlanta Kid's Triathlon, Inc. series event on August 23 with 1,141 participants, 6,000 spectators, and 235 volunteers

- National Yoga Month was celebrated during the month of September with partners Ebb & Flow Yoga Surf Studio and Yoga in Daily Life who offered 14 free outdoor yoga sessions to over 250 participants at Little Mulberry Park, Vines Park, and George Pierce Park
- In partnership with Afterschool Alliance, Challenge Island, Gwinnett YMCA, Gwinnett 4-H, Gwinnett Public Library, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and GUIDE, Inc. hosted second Lights on Afterschool Event in Gwinnett, A Walk Among the Stars with over 800 in attendance at Simpsonwood Park – October 22
- Fall into Health, a senior health fair was held at Bethesda Park Senior Center in partnership with Gwinnett Health and Human Services and the Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service with 900 seniors attending – October 24
- The 28th Annual Lighting of the Tree had more than 5,000 people in attendance – November 26
- 45,908 athletes were involved in youth sports with 29 youth athletic associations
- There were 10,152 permits issued for community recreation centers, ball fields, pavilions, and special facilities
- Hosted 16 adult athletic tournaments and 29 tennis tournaments – local, state and national – with an economic impact of \$1,372,975 to Gwinnett County
- Use of alternative resources: 874,868 volunteer hours, 14 Eagle Scout projects, 32 volunteer work days, and 5,286 court-ordered community service hours
- Distributed 55 press releases and received 2,180 citizen surveys
- Generated \$5,978 in permit revenue from 25 film and photography permits. Permits resulted in an additional \$29,289 in revenue for facility rentals
- Walk the Talk program with community healthcare partners with 42 Walk the Talks, 21 different park locations, and over 115 miles walked
- RECI registrations resulted in more than \$5.8 million in transactions
- Increased summer camp opportunities with increased campers per week in Junior Adventure Camp (5 - 6 year olds) and expansion of Kidspllosion Camp to Shorty Howell Park. Offered a total of 241 summer camps with a total of 4,927 campers
- Establish/engaged community partnerships and sponsorships for sustainability of programs by establishing 26 new partners including the 29th youth athletic association and 50 new healthcare collaborative partners
- Park facilities hosted over 11,530 rentals with 721,170 rental participants
- There were 7,150 classes, programs, camps, and events offered with 367,141 enrolled
- Aquatic facilities had more than 471,480 in general admissions
- Adult athletics had more than 14,625 participants



Recreation Programming and Resources and Marketing Projects Currently Underway

- Diversity marketing and promotion through innovative web bases, social media, and QR codes to increase participation and awareness of Parks and Recreation offerings
- Increase emphasis in senior recreation programming throughout the community to correlate with the growing population
- Increase emphasis on cultural arts, summer camps, and afterschool programming, as well as teen programs and events
- Engage and establish community partnerships for economic impact and sustainable programs (tournaments, special events, summer camps, and afterschool programming) and increasing security measures at parks and facilities

Park Operations: Ground Maintenance

Grounds Maintenance includes four districts (north, south, west, and observation parks) that are responsible for the basic care and upkeep for all parks in the County's park system. Turf, trails and natural resource management, mowing and fertilization of passive and athletic sport fields, sports field game preparation, tree and shrub care, playground inspection and maintenance, grounds and buildings janitorial, and litter/refuse removal all are basic components of the scope of quality service afforded by the grounds maintenance staff.

Park Operations: Support Services

Support Services includes six main units (electrical, plumbing, carpentry, field support, contractual services, and warehouse operations) that are involved in the maintenance of all facility systems (HVAC, plumbing, electrical, lighting, irrigation, building structural, painting, key locking system), fleet maintenance coordination, athletic/security lighting, site electrical/plumbing for community centers, activity buildings, aquatic centers, specialized facilities, athletic fields, and all general park areas throughout the parks system.

2015 Park Operations Highlights: Grounds Maintenance and Support Services

- Sports field renovation of 1,000,000 square feet
- Maximized the use of alternative labor resources with 23,229 inmate labor hours and 7,986 hours through the work alternative program
- Service request completion rate of 3,451 received and 2,947 completed = 86 percent
- Implemented "7 days a week" maintenance schedule at Bethesda, George Pierce, and Simpsonwood Parks.
- Acquisition and continued public use of Simpsonwood Park along with associated improvements to the structures in the park including the chapel and the maintenance compound
- Renovation of the Club Drive Park playground drainage system
- Removal and elimination of over 30 acres of invasive plant material growing in the parks system
- Completion of the Strategic Asset Management Plan and implementation of Lucity computerized maintenance management system launched January 4, 2016

2015 Park Operations Projects Currently Underway

- New facilities and parks include Level Creek Park featuring Parks and Recreation's first interactive fountain, JB William Park, reopening of South Gwinnett Park, and planning for operations of expansions to include George Pierce Park gymnasium, Lilburn Library site renovation, Alexander Park expansion, McDaniel Farm Park expansion, Rock Springs Park expansion, and multi-purpose field conversion at Peachtree Ridge Park
- Realignment of Parks and Recreation Operations to sustain the quality and safety of parks and facilities, formalization of manuals and standards of procedures and business processes, and realigning staff and resources and defining average function depth/cross training

2015 Award Highlights for Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation

- American Red Cross
 - Certificate of Merit, Cassidy Farwell
- American Trails
 - Trail Workers Award, Mike Rooks
- Georgia Recreation and Park Association – District 7
 - Facilities and Ground Professional of the Year – Darrin Bradley
 - Outdoor Professional of the Year – Fernando Duarte
 - Volunteer of the Year – Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Georgia Recreation and Park Association
 - Outstanding Program Event, Park Rx Program
 - Outstanding Special Event, Synchronized Swimming
 - State Lifeguarding Champions
 - Volunteer Award, Gwinnett County Master Gardeners Association
- Georgia Trust
 - Excellence in Preservation Award, Fort Daniel Foundation, Inc and Chesser Williams House
- Georgia Urban Forest Council
 - Outstanding Greenspace Award, Little Mulberry Park
- National Association of Counties
 - Live Healthy Gwinnett
 - Use of Alternative Resources
 - Pool Safety
- Professional Grounds Management Society
 - Honor Award, Vines Park
- Sports Events Magazine
 - Reader's Choice Award, Stacy Fowler
- Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
 - Project Excellence Award, Waterfowl Management Program

Financial Summary



Parks and Recreation Capital History

Revenues	2014	2015
Recreation Tax*	\$ 1,032,873	\$ 1,134,500
Grants	100,000	100,000
General Tax/Other	43,265,649	30,434,800
Total	\$ 44,398,522	\$ 31,669,300
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Expenditures	2014	2015
Capital Improvements and Equipment	\$ 12,107,430	\$ 35,562,148

*Funds received in operating fund and transferred to capital to be expense.

2015 Parks and Recreation Revenue and Expenditures

Revenues		
General Fund	\$	167,496
Recreation Tax		26,691,799
User Fees		6,102,927
Other Revenues/Dividends		76,819
Total	\$	33,039,041
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Expenditures		
Personal Services	\$	16,131,357
Supplies		10,156,018
Other Changes/Services		4,270,830
Contribution Capital		4,151,575
Bonded Debt Service		0
Total	\$	34,709,780

2015 At A Glance



Total park land acreage	9,646
Number of operational parks	47
Number of recreation/community centers	12
Number of senior recreation centers/designated area	2
Number of tennis courts	51
Number of outdoor basketball/multi-use courts	40
Number of miles of bike/walking/hiking trails	128
Number of competition and leisure/play pools	17
Number of skate parks	7
Number of cultural/historic sites	7
Number of playgrounds	68
Number of dog park areas	7
Number of special needs multi-use sport fields	10
Number of classes, programs, camps, and events offered	7,150
Number of parks under development	6
Number of parks master plans completed	1
Number of groundbreaking for new parks	0
Number of parks and facilities opened	2

Number of parks/facilities renovated	4
Number of participants enrolled in recreation classes	82,965
Number of recreation and athletic summer camps offered	241
Total participation in summer camps	4,927
Number of youth athletic associations (YAA)	29
Enrollment participation of children in YAA programs	45,908
Number of participants in adult sports leagues	14,625
Aquatics classes/lessons offered	3,628
Number of registrants in aquatics classes/lessons	48,114
General attendance at county pools	471,480
Number of facility and specialized facility use	11,530
Facility rental participation	721,170
Acreage of developed parkland maintained by staff	3,087
Number of multi-purpose sports fields maintained by staff	164
Number of work orders for plumbing, electrical, carpentry, field support	2,782
Number of volunteer hours	874,868

Community Partnerships

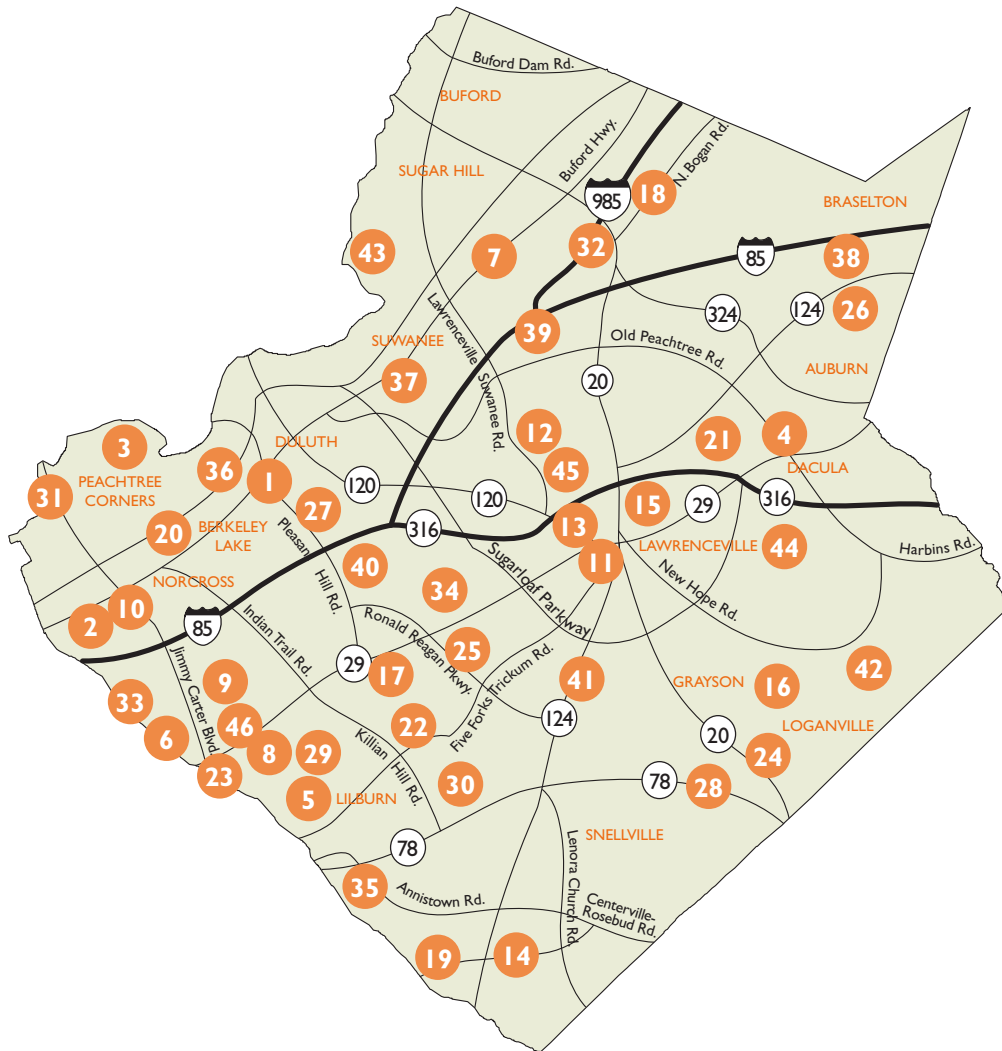


- Affordable Medicare Solutions
- Afterschool Alliance
- Alpharetta-Johns Creek Kiwanis
- American Diabetes Association
- American Hiking Society
- American Legion Buford/Duluth/Snellville
- Archer Athletic Association
- Artworks! Gwinnett
- Atlanta Astronomy Club
- Atlanta Fire United Soccer Association
- Best Friend Club
- Bogan Gold Wing Club
- Boy Scouts of America
- Bright From the Start
- Brookwood Baseball/Softball Association
- Brookwood Football
- Brookwood Lacrosse
- Bryson Park Soccer Club
- Bryson Park Youth Athletic Association
- Buford School System
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- City of Duluth Recreation Department
- City of Lawrenceville
- City of Snellville Recreation Department
- City of Sugar Hill Recreation Department
- Clemson University
- Collins Hill Athletic Association
- Collins Hill Stingrays
- Dacula Athletic Association
- Dacula Dolphins
- Dacula Rainbow Senior Recreation Club
- Dacula Soccer Club
- Delmar Gardens, Gwinnett
- Disc Stalker
- Duluth Youth Athletic Association
- Eastside Medical Center
- Ebb and Flow Yoga Studio
- Exceptional Kids Athletics
- Evergreen Club
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Futbol Club
- Georgia Geocachers Association
- Georgia Gwinnett College
- Georgia Shape
- Georgia Southern University
- Get Up and Go Senior Recreation Club
- Girls Scouts of America
- Good Measure Meals
- Goodwill of North Georgia
- Grayson Athletic Association
- Greater Lilburn Athletic Association
- Greening Forward
- Gwinnett Area Trail Riders
- Gwinnett Braves
- Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
- Gwinnett Council for Seniors
- Gwinnett County Board of Education
- Gwinnett Disc Golf Organization
- Gwinnett Federal Swim League
- Gwinnett Historical Society
- Gwinnett Humane Society
- Gwinnett Master Gardeners
- Gwinnett Masters Special Teams
- Gwinnett Medical Center
- Gwinnett Parks Foundation
- Gwinnett Rose Society
- Gwinnett Public Library
- Gwinnett Senior Golden Games
- Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center
- Gwinnett Sports Commission
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Gwinnett Veterans Memorial Museum
- Gwinnett United in Drug Education (GUIDE)
- H2U
- Inside Gwinnett Magazine
- J.M.Tull YMCA
- Kennesaw State University
- Kidspllosion
- Kona Ice
- Lanier Athletic Association
- Lawrenceville Fun Time Senior Recreation Club
- Lawrenceville Tourism and Trade Association
- Lawrenceville Youth Athletic Association
- Liberty National Volunteer Match
- Major League Baseball
- Metro Atlanta Senior Softball Association
- Mill Creek Athletic Association
- Mira USA
- Mountain Park Athletic Association
- Mountain Park Sharks
- Mountain View Athletic Association
- NCR Corporation
- National Football League
- National Basketball League
- Norcross Baseball/Softball Association
- Norcross Soccer Association
- Norcross Youth Athletic Association
- North Gwinnett Baseball/Softball Association
- North Gwinnett Football Association
- North Gwinnett Lacrosse Association
- Oregon State University
- OrganWise Guys
- Peachtree Boosters Club
- Peachtree Ridge Athletic Association
- Positive Public Image
- SafeKids Gwinnett
- Salvation Army
- Shiloh Athletic Association
- Shorty Howell Hi-Steppers Senior Recreation Club
- South Gwinnett Athletic Association
- Special Event Network
- Start from the Inside
- Suwanee Goodtimers Senior Recreation Club
- Tennis Golf Association
- The Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- Trout Unlimited
- University of Georgia
- U.S. Play Coalition
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Veterans Memorial Museum
- Viewpoint Health
- Vines Garden Railroad
- Yoga in Daily Life

2015 Park Inventory



With 47 parks, residents are just minutes away from enjoying a day at the park and the many activities offered by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation.



1. Shorty Howell Park Activity Building
2. Best Friend Park
3. Jones Bridge Park
4. Dacula Park & Activity Building
5. Mountain Park Park
6. Lucky Shoals Park
7. George Pierce Park
8. Harmony Grove Soccer Complex
9. Singleton Road Activity Building
10. Cemetery Field
11. Lawrenceville Female Seminary
12. Collins Hill Park & Aquatic Center
13. Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
14. Lenora Park
15. Rhodes Jordan Park
16. Tribble Mill Park
17. Bethesda Park
18. Bogans Park
19. Yellow River Park
20. Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, Pinckneyville Park & Soccer Complex
21. Rabbit Hill park
22. Yellow river Post Office
23. Mountain Park Aquatic Center & Activity Building
24. Bay Creek Park
25. Ronald Reagan Park
26. Little Mulberry Park
27. McDaniel Farm Park
28. Vines Park
29. Lions Club Park
30. South Gwinnett Park
31. Holcomb Bridge
32. Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center
33. Graves park
34. Sweet Water Park
35. DeShong Park
36. West Gwinnett Park & Aquatic Center
37. Peachtree Ridge Park
38. Duncan Creek Park
39. Rock Springs Park
40. Club Drive park
41. Alexander park
42. Harbins Park
43. Settles Bridge Park
44. Freeman's Mill Park
45. Collins Hill Golf Course
46. Bryson Park
47. Simpsonwood Park
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Please consider the environment before printing this report.

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