

Parks & Recreation Commission Accomplishments and Goals

Introduction

The parks & recreation commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the director of the recreation, parks, and open spaces department in all matters pertaining to public recreation in the city Norfolk's Recreation, Parks and Open Space Department. The commission works to create opportunities for growth and enhancement by developing diverse services and programs that promote citizen involvement and a strong sense of community while increasing the intellectual, social, cultural, spiritual and physical well-being of its residents and visitors. No other department in this City has a range of interactions that impact so strongly and broadly on what is known as the Wheel of Life Building blocks of human development.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The following commission achievements and highlight's took place this fiscal year:

- Worked to establish and build partnerships with the U.S. Navy to provide mentoring and tutorial programs in the recreation centers.
- Established partnership with the Lafayette Wetlands Board to replant living shoreline and buffer in East Oceanview and Granby Park.
- Participated in RPOS Staff and Volunteer recognition and awards program.



- Worked with East Oceanview Civic League to establish a Summer Reading program at the East Ocean View Recreation center.
- Working with RPOS on the updating of the RPOS Master Plan.
- Participating the city-wide Athletics program assessment.

- Work in cooperation with the city’s tree commission to develop standards for enhancing the urban tree canopy.



- Formulated a productive partnership with the Elizabeth River Trail Committee.
- Working with RPOS & NPS to redevelop the Joint School Use Agreement.
- Working to establish an effective relationship and partnership with the Norfolk Society of Cemetery Conservation.



- Continue to initiate support through the Boxing center to the Rock Steady program which combats Parkinson’s disease.



- Manage and cultivate the arts and crafts partnership with RPOS’s Visual Arts Center and Norfolk’s NEON arts program.

GOALS--Overview

The Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to supporting the NRPOS department guided by NRPA' s three pillars for recreation. The physical facilities of this department which include buildings, parks and open space plus the multiple service programs serve to touch the lives of every citizen in the community on a daily basis. The Three Pillars are:

- Conservation
- Health & Wellness
- Social Equity

The Three Pillars serve as guidelines to capture the breadth and scope of an organization that is devoted to growth, development and enrichment of each individual within Norfolk. The individual is the center piece of a dedicated commitment to meet each person at their needs for every age group. The Commissions goal is to make each individual a building block that contributes to a continual development and renewal of neighborhoods and community. Thus, both individual and community benefit through social, mental, spiritual and physical uplifting and advancement created and executed within the NRPOS system.

Goals for 2020

1. Continue to support and track all the items cited in the Achievements section of this document.
2. Develop a Community Hub concept that partners with NFWC, NRPOS Therapeutic Center and Prime Plus.
3. Expand Current Summer Reading Program to include one more Rec Center
4. Continue partnership with the Lafayette Wetlands Partnership to restore Granby Park from Wetlands to buffer zone restoration.
5. Once Granby Park is completely restored develop the signage to make this an educational site.
6. Promote more events such as the Rock Steady event at the Boxing Center.
7. Work with the City's Military Liaison to establish a partnership with the Military Economic Development Committee (MEDAC) that will lead to

getting tutoring and mentoring support to the rec Centers from Naval Personnel.

8. Develop stronger working relationship with the Norfolk Cemetery Conservation Group supporting Norfolk's cemeteries.
9. Support the NRPOS staff in the promotion and execution of the Annual VRPS Conference in the Fall of 2020.



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