We are excited to announce our new department name, Parks & Recreation. The new name is easier for residents and patrons to identify and reflects current industry best practices. Despite budget cuts and operational changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff continues to provide top notch services for our Norfolk residents and visitors.

We understand the importance of innovation. We are offering more virtual experiences through Esports and family game nights, as well as outdoor experiences such as Family Movie Night and Rec N' Roll. We launched new playgrounds this year and enhancements to our parks and open spaces. The pandemic isn't over, but we continue to remain safe, resourceful and vigilant.

Darrell R. Crittendon, CPRP
Director, Department of Parks & Recreation
Norfolk Parks & Recreation is comprised of a diverse team of recreation, parks and cemetery professionals who are passionate about serving the Norfolk community. Parks & Recreation has 176 full-time staff, 48 part-time staff and 225 volunteers. Volunteers worked 4,001 hours in FY21.

VISION
Refresh, Reconnect, Refocus

MISSION
To enrich the quality of life for Norfolk citizens by providing recreation choices and opportunities for youth, adults, and special populations, while ensuring the efficient management and maintenance of the city's parks, playgrounds, beaches, urban forest and city-owned cemeteries.
Norfolk Parks and Recreation is proud to announce its accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and is a measure of an agency’s overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.
FY21 BUDGET

Our budget provides funding for daily operations and maintenance of core services. These include youth programming, athletics, administration, landscape services, urban forestry, cemeteries and special services.

TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE

$731,000

TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES

$12,672,849

TOTAL CEMETERIES REVENUE

$1,693,850

TOTAL CEMETERIES EXPENSES

$1,693,850
DIGGS TOWN PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Parks & Recreation removed the old playground equipment and basketball court at Diggs Town Park and installed a new playground, fitness equipment and basketball court with bleachers for residents to watch games. This project created multi-generational activities to accommodate patrons and families of all ages to enjoy.

OAKMONT NORTH IMPROVEMENTS

Parks & Recreation expanded outdoor recreation and leisure activities in the Oakmont North community by replacing aging playground equipment and basketball courts within the park. Parks & Recreation also worked with the community to identify ideas for replacing the existing concrete walk system, improving access and usage of the open space. Additional grant funding was awarded for FY2022 to design and construct these walkways throughout the park.
LAFAYETTE PARK DISC GOLF

New concrete tee pads were constructed at the nine-hole course, to enhance the disc golf experience for players.

LINDENWOOD ELEMENTARY AND LAKE TAYLOR SCHOOL
NEW PLAYGROUNDS

Students now have the opportunity to play on brand new equipment at both schools this year.
ESPORTS PROGRAMS
Event attendance: 315
Esports (Electronic Sports) is competitive video gaming where competitors face off in single or multi-player games on various gaming platforms across the world. Parks & Recreation partnered with GameOn Gaming Center and hosted local and national Esports tournaments and leagues for youth and adults.

REC N’ ROLL
Event attendance: 150
A new summer program for youth ages 5-17, featuring outdoor games and programming at Norfolk parks.

PARKING LOT BINGO
Event attendance: 30
Seniors and adults enjoyed outdoor fun from the parking lot in their vehicles at East Ocean View Community and Senior Center. Activities included bingo, giveaways and more!
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
Event Attendance: 125
Patrons pulled up their vehicles to the Military Circle parking lot for an outdoor showing of Aladdin. Families enjoyed onsite refreshments and giveaways.

BOREDOM BUSTERS VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES
Various crafts, indoor and outdoor games, family activities and more were posted on the Parks & Recreation Facebook and Instagram pages.

VIRTUAL FAMILY GAME NIGHT
Event attendance: 30
A new and innovative way for Norfolk residents to connect online. Families played bingo, scavenger hunt, Jeopardy and more!

DRIVE THRU TRUNK OR TREAT
Event attendance: 1,100
Due to the pandemic, the annual Trunk or Treat event became a mobile tour. Patrons stayed in their vehicles as they drove by Halloween-themed decorated city and local partner vehicles. At the end of the tour, each family received a bag of candy, goodies and fun activities for the entire family.
Participants in fee-based recreation programming: 170

Annual attendance at pools: 6,712

Beach Visits: 93,159 (May 29 - Sept 6)

Annual attendance at recreation centers: 24,666
THE NUMBERS...

468 Trees pruned
302 Trees removed
499 Stumps removed
137 Responded calls in the immediate aftermath of Tropical Strom Isaias, August 4, 2020
652 Trees planted
3,500 Cubic yards of mulch spread
40,796 Acres of grass mowed
900+ Trees grown in nursery
360 Trees and shrubs adopted by Norfolk residents at Arbor Day event
500 Fruit and nut trees/shrubs adopted by Norfolk Residents at Jam’n Jamz event
459 hours of community volunteer service at various tree care community events
27,460 Park Ranger patrol miles
10,664 Park Ranger verbal education/warnings
538 Park Ranger incident/event reports
Decorated City Hall Holiday Tree
Helped erect and deconstruct MacArthur Square Holiday Tree
Helped erect and deconstruct Waterside Holiday Tree
Lake Whitehurst Boat Ramp opened to the public
Highland Park Veterans Kayak Launch automatic gate installed
New playground and kayak launch installed at Plum Point Park through the Elizabeth River Trail Foundation
Lafayette Park Challenge Course completed
Added Lafayette Park nine-hole Disc Golf Course, the second disc golf course in Norfolk
New playground and basketball court at Community Beach Park
New partnership with Bike Norfolk creating a Mountain Bike Trail on the backside of Northside Park
CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION EFFORTS

In FY2021, the Bureau of Cemeteries and the Norfolk Society for Cemetery Conservation (NSCC) welcomed volunteers from local military units, students, and scout troops for conservation workdays and for NSCC fundraising events.

- 28 Educational sessions (tours, work days, scouts projects wreath laying ceremonies, and student events)
- 454 Participants
- 15,250 Acres of grass mowed
- 4,350 Cubic yards of mulch spread
- 175 Work requests completed
- 15 Trees removed
- 50 Trees pruned
- 11,250 Acres of grass mowed
- 4,350 Cubic yards of mulch spread
- 175 Work requests completed
- 140 Total NSCC volunteer hours
- 35 Total NSCC volunteers
- NSCC workdays volunteers saved the Bureau of Cemeteries over $1200!
NORFOLK EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM (NEL) & YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

The NEL Program was cancelled summer 2021 due to COVID-19. Youth in Government Day was also cancelled. Despite the pandemic, program planning and development is still in-progress.