



**Cabarrus County  
Active Living  
& Parks Department  
Annual Report  
2013-2014**





Greetings,

It seems as if everything continues to improve as we complete another year of the Active Living and Parks Department. There are more folks visiting the Parks, the Centers, the Programs, the Special Events, and especially the use of the newly renovated Fitness Room at the Concord Senior Center.

The Concord Senior Center Fitness Room and two classrooms were renovated and a Dance Room and ADA accessible restrooms were added to the center over the winter. There was a dedication ceremony Friday, May 2, 2014 with over 250 in attendance. Since opening, more than 200 have completed the Fitness Room Orientation.

The Cabarrus Rotary Club built and paid for an eighteen hole Disc Golf Course at Frank Liske Park. It officially opened Saturday, May 31, 2014 with over 250 in attendance. The course stays busy and is an excellent source of exercise while having fun. The course is 7,664' in length providing approximately 2 miles of walking up and down hills in the course of "play". One more way the Department is trying to combat obesity.

The Active Living and Parks Department continues to take pride in enhancing the quality of life for all involved from senior centers to parks to school parks to dances or whatever fits your definition of quality of life.

In keeping with the National Parks and Recreation theme for the year "Out Is In," **Get out and play!**

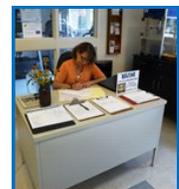
With Warmest Regards,

*Londa Strong*

Active Living and Parks Director

## Our Volunteers

The Active Living and Parks Department is all about people. Our dedicated volunteers logged 10,519 hours logged. Based on the Independent Sectors Value of Volunteers, the hours equate to \$221,319 to Cabarrus County. Not only do the volunteers save money but offer much needed services that otherwise would not be possible. Each year volunteers are recognized for their dedication and service.





## Department Accomplishments

- Jr. Ranger Program and School Education Programs reached 5,901 students
- Makenzie Mullinex led the County-wide planning team for the Cabarrus County Aging Strategic Plan development
- Provided staff to the Department of Human Services for a total of 201 hours for assistance with the new state software
- Installed additional ball field backstop netting at the Frank Liske Park softball complex for increased spectator safety
- Received \$5,000 Grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield to purchase healthy concession equipment to update a mobile concession trailer
- Continued the Healthy Concessions program in the parks with an increase in the sale of healthy concession items at the parks from 25% to 31% of total sales
- Volunteer hours at Senior Centers and Parks were 10,519 totaling \$221,319 based on the Independent Sectors Value of Volunteer time at \$21.04 per hour in NC for 2014
- Completed \$370,000 of additions and renovation work at the Cabarrus County Senior Center-Concord to include a new dance/fitness room, new restrooms, and renovated fitness center
- Participated in several special events: Employee Health and Wellness Day, Back to School Splash, Special Olympics, Seniors' Christmas Party, HollyDay Follies, Senior Games, and Lunch & Learn Programs
- Began implementing construction projects for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plan at Frank Liske Park and continue to work through the development for future projects. Began the process at Camp TN Spencer Park and North Cabarrus Park

## Staff Accomplishments

- Byron Haigler, Parks Program Manager, elected NCRPA Region 7 Chair
- Years of Service Milestones: Janice Honeycutt, Administrative Assistant, 25 years and Joshua Coffman, Park Program Manager, 5 years
- Alex Beck, Park Program Supervisor, completed the Central Carolinas Master Naturalist program with over 100 hours of volunteer service
- Makenzie Mullinax, Wellness Coordinator earned certifications for: A Matter of Balance, Living Healthy, Living Healthy with Diabetes, and Walk with Ease
- Joshua Coffman, Byron Haigler, and Luke Robinson Received National Certification and developed, implemented, and taught a series of Hunter Education classes
- Staff training: CPR; First Aid; Bloodborne Pathogens; AED, Fire Safety; Hazard Communication (chemicals); Harassment Prevention; and Lockout Tagout Awareness
- Welcomed Sharon Hatley, full time Secretary, Concord Senior Center, Pamela Sullivan, Program Coordinator, Mt. Pleasant Senior Center, and Alex Beck, Parks Program Supervisor, Makenzie Mullinax moved into the vacant Wellness Coordinator position, Concord Senior Center



## North Cabarrus Park News

- Park attendance - 108,753 showing an increase of 13,025
- Hosted 10 cross country track meets for area middle and high schools with 1,500 in attendance
- Hosted 5 amateur disc golf tournaments including a night “glow” tournament with 147 participants
- Updated horseshoe pits and added two shuffle board courts with seating in compliance the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) parameters

## Camp TN Spencer Park News

- Hosted 7 school field trips reaching 914 students
- Park attendance - 51,535 showing an increase of 4,202
- Expanded group camping facility to accommodate more tents and people camping
- Added evening swim lessons with 26 children attending both morning and evening classes
- Received grant funding and added the TRACK TRAIL program (a National Kids in Park program)
- Began replacement of the metal fire pits at the cabins with natural looking concrete tree stump fire pits
- Re-design of cabin interiors with themes: Deer Stand, Sunrise Summit, Serenity Falls, Bear Den, Duck Blind, and Fishing Hole
- Added “tenth of a mile” markers on the perimeter trail, updated the drainage system and added 60 yards of asphalt pavement to the trail as well

## Frank Liske Park News

- Park attendance - 302,025 showing an increase of 39,088
- Added water stations on perimeter trail and disc golf course
- Healthy concessions increased 9%, totaling 37% of total sales
- Installed new tennis court lighting and replaced the Arbor Shelter
- Installed the first “Little Free Library” and community garden plots
- Natural play area opened to the public, work continues on this project
- Added an 18 hole championship disc golf course funded by the Cabarrus Rotary Club
- Hosted 31 youth and adult softball tournaments with an estimated attendance of 18,445
- Hosted 17 fundraising 5K runs, 12 high school and 2 college track meets totaling 5,570 in attendance
- Park chosen for the video shoot produced by CBS Evening News on the 50th Anniversary of the Ford Mustang
- Hosted the Women’s East Coast Highway Patrol softball tournament covering 9 states; North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory attended, along with 750 players & spectators



## Concord & Mt Pleasant Senior Centers News

- New facility signs installed at both Senior Centers
- My Senior Center software was installed at the Mt. Pleasant Senior Center
- Orientations for the new fitness center since opening in May totaled more than 200
- New participants added to the My SeniorCenter database totaled 803 at the Concord Senior Center
- Offered seven evidenced-based health promotion classes through Health Promotion, Disease Prevention grant with 516 participants
- Twilight Leagues were implemented in Bocce, Cornhole, Horseshoes, and Table Tennis drawing 24 teams for a total of 82 Participants
- Concrete pads and benches were added at the Concord Senior Center to the renovated bocce courts, beginning ADA work for outdoor amenities
- New fitness instructors of different ages and genders helped to increase diversity at the Senior Centers by adding PIYO, Belly Dancing, Hoop & Holler, and various forms of Tai Chi

## Cabarrus County Senior Center Concord Open House



Approximately 250 folks attended the May 2nd open house. Many were first time visitors to the Concord Senior Center. A total of 56 completed the Fitness Room orientation that day. There were Yoga, Ballroom Dance, Line Dance, Two-Step, Hula, and Fitness demonstrations throughout the day as well. Four members of the Board of Commissioners attended and Commissioner Burrage, along with Ted Drain from the Advisory Council, spoke about the importance of keeping the seniors involved and active. The day was capped off with a Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting, officially declaring the addition and renovations Open for Business!





## Matching Incentive Grant Program 2013-2014

The Matching Incentive Grant program enables non-profit community groups assistance in providing recreation facilities in their local communities. Upon budget approval, Cabarrus County will provide up to 50% of the actual project cost. Projects must be located on Cabarrus County, municipality, or public school owned or leased property. When completed the projects must remain open to the public. Total budget approved and matched was \$50,000.

### Cabarrus County Parks funded the following grants in 2013-2014:

- Carl A. Furr PTO – 9 Hole Disc Golf Course
- Weddington Hills PTO – Courtyard Improvements
- Mount Pleasant High School Boosters Club – Stadium Beautification
- Mount Pleasant High School Boosters Club – Beach Volleyball Court
- Cabarrus Rotary Club – 18 Hole Disc Golf Course at Frank Liske Park
- Northwest Cabarrus Middle & High School – Community Track Improvements
- C.E. Boger Elementary PTO – Picnic tables, Mulch, Timbers & Trees at the Outdoor Learning Space
- Harrisburg Youth Association – Shade structures over baseball dugouts, foul poles, American flag pole, windscreen & fence guard at Harrisburg Park

<b>2013-2014 Matching Incentive Grants</b>			
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>County Funding</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Weddington Hills PTO</b>	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
<b>Cabarrus Rotary Club</b>	\$27,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$37,000.00
<b>Mount Pleasant Boosters Club</b>	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	\$5,400.00
<b>Mount Pleasant Boosters Club</b>	\$763.00	\$763.00	\$1,526.00
<b>C.E. Boger Elementary PTO</b>	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Carl A. Furr PTO</b>	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
<b>NW Cabarrus Middle &amp; High School</b>	\$19,037.00	\$19,037.00	\$38,074.00
<b>Harrisburg Youth Association</b>	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
<b>Overall Totals</b>	<b>\$67,000.00</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>	<b>\$117,000.00</b>



Active Living and Parks Department Budget		
Parks	2012-2013	2013-2014
Revenue - Matching Incentive Grant	\$51,842	\$60,831
Expenses - Matching Incentive Grant	\$180,741	\$105,071
Revenue - Fees and Charges - Operations - Grants	\$315,052	\$370,703
Expenses - Operations	\$1,230,055	\$1,302,386
<b>Net Costs - Parks</b>	<b>\$1,043,902</b>	<b>\$975,923</b>
Senior Centers		
Revenue - Grants - Program Fees - Contracts	\$265,335	\$255,759
Expenses - Operations	\$524,734	\$578,956
<b>Net Costs - Senior Centers</b>	<b>\$259,399</b>	<b>\$323,197</b>
<b>Total Combined Budget</b>	<b>\$2,182,729</b>	<b>\$2,123,095</b>

Active Living and Parks Participation		
South District	263,785	302,025
North District	143,061	160,288
Athletic Program	210,400	238,800
Concord Senior Center	37,220	38,100
Mt. Pleasant Senior Center	10,363	11,479
Senior Games	2,183	2,909
Healthy Lives Healthy Futures & Fitness Classes, Senior Health and Wellness Day, Lunch Plus Clubs	12,906	17,231
<b>Total</b>	<b>666,933</b>	<b>770,832</b>

Per Capita		
Cabarrus County per capita cost	\$9.51	\$6.83
Average North Carolina per capita cost	*\$42.03	*\$49.48
Average National per capita cost	**\$85.00	N/A

\*This represents departments who responded to the North Carolina Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study FY 2011-12 only. \*\*2013 Parks and Recreation Special Report

## ***Our Leadership***

### ***Cabarrus County***

#### ***Senior Centers***

#### ***Advisory Council***

Kay Scott, Chair

Ted Drain

Ann Eaves

Rosa Santos

Tom Kurzel

Anita Helms

John Parker

Ella Walters

Jean Chandler

Annette Young

Gloria Simmons

Virginia Walker

Betty Barnhardt

Michael Plowman

### ***Cabarrus County***

#### ***Commissioners***

Elizabeth "Liz" Poole

#### **Chair**

Larry Burrage

#### **Vice Chairman**

Stephen Morris

Jason Oesterreich

Christopher A. "Chris" Measmer

### ***Cabarrus County***

#### ***Active Living & Parks***

#### ***Commission***

Donnie Broome, Chair

Andy Coley

Mike Kirby

Blake Kiger

Gina Lowery

John Parker

John DeVitto

Tracy Broome

Martha Macon

Mike Plowman

Danita Rickard

### ***Cabarrus County Manager***

Mike Downs

### ***Deputy County Managers***

Pam Dubois

Jonathon Marshall

## **Our Mission**

**To enrich the quality of life for persons  
of all ages and abilities by providing  
quality recreation, education and  
social opportunities in harmony with  
natural resource preservation**