



CITY OF KNOXVILLE
**Parks and
Recreation Guide**
www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation



Special supplement to the News Sentinel
Sunday, March 5, 2017



CITY OF KNOXVILLE

MAYOR

Madeline Rogero
865-215-2040

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

865-215-2075

Vice Mayor Duane Grieve
Second District

Nick Pavlis
First District

Brenda Palmer
Third District

Nick Della Volpe
Fourth District

Mark Campen
Fifth District

Daniel T. Brown
Sixth District

George C. Wallace
At Large Seat A

Marshall Stair
At Large Seat B

Finbarr Saunders
At Large Seat C

Christi Branscom
Deputy to the Mayor,
Chief Operating Officer
865-215-2877

William Lyons
Deputy to the Mayor,
Chief Policy Officer
865-215-2029

David Brace
Senior Director,
Public Works
865-215-2060

**DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION**

Joe Walsh, Director
865-215-1733

Aaron Browning, Deputy Director
865-215-1734

**PARKS AND RECREATION
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

5930 Lyons View Pike
Knoxville, TN 37919
865-215-1700

www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation

Athletics Office
865-215-1718

Recreation Center Office
865-215-1714

Parks and Greenways
865-215-1733

Maintenance
865-215-1701

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Friends,

It's an exciting time for recreation in Knoxville, and this Parks and Recreation Guide is a great way to learn about all the recreation opportunities our City has to offer you and your family.

Providing convenient, quality parks and recreation services for all helps to bring our community together, boost our economy, encourage healthy living, improve our environment, and so much more.

Last year, we opened the beautiful Suttree Landing Park, the City's first new park to be built in 12 years. We also opened the recently restored Lakeshore Administration Building in Lakeshore Park, a historic building constructed in 1886 that was once the Lakeshore Mental Health Institute and now houses offices for our Parks and Recreation staff.

The City has received approximately 250 acres of park space



PHOTO BY TYLER STRONG

A softball player herself, Mayor Madeline Rogero held a short game of softball (with a rubber ball) on Market Square in April 2016 as part of Major League Baseball's "Play Ball" initiative to encourage youth to participate in baseball and softball.

through partner donations in the last several years, increasing the City's park totals to 2,000 acres in 83 parks.

We've expanded our greenways and trails system to over 100

miles within the City limits and have made plans to add at least two new miles of greenway each year. Our new Greenways Service Crew will help us reach that goal while maintaining our existing

greenways at the same time. Our greenways play an integral role in connecting our neighborhoods to public facilities.

City workers have construction underway in just about every part of town, working to deliver new recreation opportunities near your home. In the meantime, there are hundreds of options with sports leagues and recreation classes that I hope you will try out.

One of the great things about recreation facilities is that each one seems to reflect the character of its surrounding neighborhoods — they reflect you. They are also inviting to visitors. It's no wonder that Knoxville is becoming a leading outdoor tourism city!

As always, I look forward to seeing you out on the trails!

Madeline Rogero

Madeline Rogero
Mayor

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am proud to share this latest edition of the City of Knoxville's "Parks and Recreation Guide" with you. This publication provides the reader with information about everything you would want to know about our services, including lists of facilities, current programs, important contact information, recent developments and our plans for the future. I hope you will read through this and make time to get out and enjoy your leisure time at one of our parks, greenways or other recreation facilities.

With a motivated, dedicated staff of employees supported by

hundreds of active volunteers, we seek to provide a wide variety of recreation services to meet the demands of all living in our diverse city.

On a personal note, I will be retiring toward the end of 2017, and I must say that I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of serving the citizens of Knoxville. After working here in Parks and Recreation for 25 years I have witnessed many changes, challenges and a lot of growth. I see great things in the future for our City and our department. I am proud of the dedicated employees who work in the Parks and Recreation Department, and

the things they do to serve the public. As a resident of Knoxville, once I retire, I plan to take full advantage of the many opportunities that are offered to recreate and enjoy my leisure time!

Sincerely,

Joe Walsh

Joe Walsh, Director
Knoxville Parks and Recreation

A long-time runner, Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh has participated in a marathon, 5 half-marathons, and countless organized races, such as the 2016 Hal Canfield Memorial Mile pictured here.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY KNOXVILLE TRACK CLUB

ON THE COVER

Children enjoy the soft surface and brand new equipment at the recently finished playground at Suttree Landing Park. PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS



CITY OF KNOXVILLE

This section was produced by the Custom Publishing Division of the Knoxville News Sentinel.

For more information on this and other sections, contact Brenda Hines at 342- 6566

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City Parks and Recreation Staff

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN GIBB

Proactive Knoxville Parks and Recreation is setting the trend

Department offers new, different programs and facilities

By Laura Ayo

Custom Publishing Correspondent

The view from Joe Walsh's new office within Lakeshore Park serves as a daily reminder of the types of outdoor fun and fitness opportunities the City offers its residents.

"On any morning, you see the sun coming up on the river, and you see people jogging around the park and kids flying a kite right below your window," said the longtime director of Knoxville Parks and Recreation department. "It affects us personally and motivates us to share this feeling we get when we're in a park."

Parks and Recreation, he said, strives to provide a variety of recreational facilities and programs for more than 186,000 "customers."

"Recreation means something a little bit different to everybody, and we try to meet everyone's wants and needs," he said.

The City's response has been to collaborate with community partners to open new parks and improve existing ones, dedicate \$3 million in capital funds to extend its already 86 miles of greenways, offer innovative recreation programs, and bring staff together in a newly renovated historic building within one of its most used parks to oversee it all.

The City invested \$3.1 million in renovating the three-story administration building used by the Lakeshore Mental Health Institute for more than a century so it could centrally locate its previously scattered Parks and Recreation offices there.

The staff moved into the space in May.

"Being in one location now enhances collaboration and coordination for the whole team," said Christi Branscom, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy to the Mayor.

Knox Heritage presented the City with its Fantastic Fifteen Preservation Award for the renovation, which involved restoring the building's grand porch and maintaining the original windows, hardwood floors, exterior brick and fireplaces where possible.



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Knoxville Parks and Recreation staff are now stationed at the recently restored historic Lakeshore Administration Building, located in the center of Lakeshore Park.



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Recreation staff say the spectacular view of the Tennessee River and the Smokies serves as inspiration in their work to improve parks and recreation services.

Project managers incorporated sustainable features like storm windows with low-E coating, energy-efficient LED light fixtures with daylight and vacancy sensors, upgraded utilities and improved insulation, Branscom said.

The City also received the Tennes-

see Recreation and Parks Association's Four Star Renovated Facility Award for the renovation.

There's recently been an influx of hiring in Parks and Recreation due to retirements, including a new Deputy Director, Parks and Greenways Coordinator, Recreation Superintendent, Athletics Coordinator, Maintenance Superintendent, Arts and Crafts Center Director, and Outreach Coordinator.

"We've got a lot of young people with lots of energy and new ideas," Walsh said. "I think that's important because we want to be the trendsetters and the people who are being proactive and listening to ideas from the community. We will let people know what's out there that's new and different that will get them excited about being active."

The department's after-school

program serves an average of 450 children a day across 10 recreation centers and close to 900 children in its seven-week Summer Playground Program.

The department also has three senior centers, offers programming for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and maintains roughly 2,000 acres of parkland that includes 65 ballfields, 65 playgrounds, 10 outdoor pickleball courts, 47 tennis courts, three public golf courses and five swimming pools.

"It's a proven fact that people who are more active live longer and are happier people than people who are inactive," Walsh said. "We want people to know that they have many options in Knoxville to be active. Exercise doesn't have to be chore. It can be fun and something people look forward to daily."

New park developments in Knoxville

By Laura Ayo

Custom Publishing Correspondent

A new waterfront park, competition-style downhill mountain bike trails and other new amenities within the City of Knoxville's parks offer abundant opportunities for enjoying the outdoors.

In November, the City dedicated Suttree Landing Park, its first new park in 12 years. The linear park, located on the South Knoxville river bank within Knoxville's Urban Wilderness, spans a little more than 8 acres in the Historic Old Sevier neighborhood. It features festival lawns, a kayak put-in, an accessible playground, scenic river overlooks and a 2,000-foot riverwalk.

"Living, working and playing along both sides of the Tennessee River is now a reality," Knoxville Redevelopment Director Dawn Michelle Foster said of the reclaimed industrial site.

The City invested \$6.6 million to build the park and adjacent 2,900-foot tree-lined Waterfront Drive with the river's long-term health in mind.

"Bioswales capture and treat stormwater runoff from the roadway," Foster said. "Adjacent to the bioswales is pervious concrete pavement. The water runoff flows into that and ends up watering the plants and trees."

Other sustainable features include LED lighting and a system that pumps water from the river to irrigate the festival lawns, she said.

"It's a great asset for people who live in the area," said Knoxville Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh. "It's one of those crown jewels that is a long-needed improvement for the surrounding neighborhoods and a big draw for visitors from other parts of town, tourists and anticipated South Waterfront businesses."

Future plans include restrooms, concessions, a storage area for non-motorized watercraft and an accessible boat ramp, officials said.

In 2016, the City also added 100 acres of land to its park inventory when it acquired the Baker Creek Preserve from the Legacy Parks Founda-



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

The playground at the newly developed Suttree Landing Park offers a great play space, brand new equipment, and fantastic views of the river and city skyline.

tion, which developed after the Wood family donated the property in 2013.

"It just shows that for Knoxville to grow - for the park system to grow and for Knoxville to become even more of an outdoor recreation destination - it will take people working together," Walsh said.

He also credits the Foundation for leveraging more than a half-million grant dollars and donating materials and services to build eight miles of mixed-use trails, play spaces for children and a pedestrian bridge over Redbud Road to tie the park to the already existing Urban Wildness.

"We wanted to make it more of a destination," said Legacy Parks Executive Director Carol Evans. "Whether you're an avid adventurer or you want

to take the kids to the playground, you can do that here."

The preserve includes the Devil's Racetrack competition-style downhill mountain bike trail and a kids-only beginner mountain biking loop, while the play space features two slides carved into the park's natural terrain and over-sized hanging bamboo chimes.

"There's a trail for every level of experience, whether you want to walk a flat mile or climb a hill," Evans said of the park, which won a Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association Four Star New Facilities Award.

Future plans include restrooms and a play area adjacent to South-Doyle Middle School, she said.

The City now boasts approximate-

ly 2,000 acres of park space spread across 83 parks.

City leaders have invested more than \$6.8 million on infrastructure upgrades and demolition at Lakeshore Park since acquiring the 185-acre waterfront property from the state in 2013, after the closure of Lakeshore Mental Health Institute.

Walsh said the City has spent the past year renovating a historic administrative building, replacing outdated utilities and demolishing abandoned structures on the property to make room for more walking trails, an open-air pavilion, new multi-use fields, a kayak put-in and a boardwalk along the river.

Crews incorporated sustainable practices into the building demolition

Knoxville PARKS AND RECREATION

by recycling or reusing 83 percent of the demolition materials and outfitting remodeled buildings with more energy-efficient windows and lighting, according to Chief Operating Officer and Deputy to the Mayor Christi Branscom.

The improvements have garnered multiple awards.

In November, City leaders, in partnership with the nonprofit corporation that manages Lakeshore Park and is leader of the multi-million-dollar capital campaign to fund future improvements, also elected to preserve Lakeshore Park with a conservation easement that will ensure the land remains a public park in perpetuity.

The City has also worked with the Aslan Foundation to add a new 1-acre gateway park with stone columns, open space and historic signage to improve the Chapman Highway entrance of the 85-acre Fort Dickerson Park.

“We’re also currently working with the Aslan Foundation to create a plan and design for a true entrance into the Blount Avenue side of Fort Dickerson Park that gets you direct access to the quarry,” Walsh said. “Right now, it’s a long hike to get to the water.”

City leaders also have plans to work with community groups to improve the visibility of the entrance to the popular bird-watching and mountain biking park at Sharp’s Ridge, Walsh said.

A local group of veterans recently

formed a nonprofit group to officially adopt the 111-acre park, which is a memorial park dedicated to veterans, he said. The park recently had a name change to Sharp’s Ridge Veterans Memorial Park.

“It’s one of those parks people may not know about, and if they have not been up there lately, I would encourage them to check it out because they should be pleasantly surprised by what they see,” Walsh said.

The Parks and Recreation Department also provided design and project assistance to Knoxville’s Community Development Corp. to transform a vacant lot within Lonsdale into the Zaeveion Dobson Memorial Park.

Geared toward children ages 5 to 12 years old, the park will include a playground and a mosaic that honors Dobson, the 15-year-old Fulton High School student who died in December 2015 while shielding two friends from gunfire.

The park, which was made possible by a property donation from Gerda Steel and KCDC, and donated funds and services from the City and community partners, should be completed in April, Walsh said.

Walsh said City leaders seek public input and community involvement, particularly from neighborhood associations, when they’re considering their next park development project.

“We want them to feel ownership to anything being constructed because, ultimately, it’s their park,” he said.



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Emily Grace Hamilton takes a spin on the new pump track at Baker Creek Preserve.

The new playground at the Baker Creek Preserve is built into a hillside, offering a creative play space for children of all ages.



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Caroline Cooley catches views of the Tennessee River on the new river walk at Suttree Landing Park.

More greenways keep Knoxville on the right path

By Laura Ayo

Custom Publishing Correspondent

With more greenways being built and connected every year, Knoxville-ians have new options when it comes to getting from one end of the city to the other.

“We want to have trails that give people an alternative to jumping in the car and driving,” Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh said. “We want to give people the chance to walk or run or bike.”

Approximately 100 miles of paved and natural surface greenways currently crisscross the city, and May-

or Madeline Rogero has committed more than \$3 million to date in capital funds to increase that number. (That’s not even including additional miles already gained with internal and partnership projects since 2012.)

“The goal is to have a completely connected greenway system, which will take many years,” said Mayor Rogero. “But with a new greenways master plan and a newly established Greenways Service Crew, we are on our way.”

The City’s new Parks and Greenways Coordinator will manage prioritized projects that will connect existing greenways as identified in the

comprehensive Greenway Corridor Feasibility Study unveiled last summer.

While Tim Hester, former Norris City Manager, started his new role Jan. 17, he came into the position already familiar with the City’s commitment to parks and greenways development.

“Knoxville’s been on the leading edge of the establishment of parks and greenways for a number of years, and the Urban Wilderness exemplifies that,” he said. “It was a good opportunity to come in and help the City build on that existing system.”

Hester said the feasibility study,

which outlines the City's long-term \$45 million strategy for adding 24 miles of connected greenways in 13 different corridors, is an ambitious goal.

"But it's ambitious in a good way," he said. "It's a direction for Knoxville to go in and be noted as a green city, where alternative transportation modes are a way of life."

Walsh agreed, saying City leaders will reference the study for years to come to figure out how to prioritize projects and stay forward-thinking.

"We have to build greenways so people can take advantage of them," he said. "People rely on them for transportation to get from home to work or to the nearest park or shopping center."

Top priorities now include building the Northwest Greenway connector from Victor Ashe Park to Middlebrook Pike, with a pedestrian bridge across Western Avenue near Sullivan Road to be built by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

The project, in the design phase now, is expected to be completed toward the end of 2018, he said.

Crews also started construction in January on a 0.6-mile segment along the First Creek Greenway to connect Fulton High School with Edgewood Park that Walsh said will be completed this year.

City leaders are negotiating with Norfolk Southern for use of its property to construct a new greenway segment along Second Creek that will connect World's Fair Park with historic North Knoxville neighborhoods, Walsh said.

A year ago, the City constructed a 1.8-mile asphalt trail as the first section of the Knox-Blount Greenway, resulting in a 2.2-mile stretch from Joe Johnson Drive, across the J.E. "Buck" Karnes Bridge and along the Tennessee River to Knox County's Marine Park.

The City also acquired the Baker Creek Preserve in the fall from the Legacy Parks Foundation, which developed the property after it was gifted to the organization from the Wood family.

The preserve, which has about 8 miles of mixed-use trails within its 100 acres, connects into 42 miles of existing Urban Wilderness trails by way of a pedestrian bridge spanning



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN GIBB

Workers in the new City Greenways Service Crew extend the trails at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens in East Knoxville.

Redbud Road.

City leaders also established a dedicated Greenways Service Crew in December. This crew will be focused on shorter, easy-to-construct segments of greenways, ensuring a consistent increase in Knoxville's greenway system. They will also be responsible for maintaining the existing paved trails.

"We have enough paved miles of greenways in Knoxville that they warrant attention," Walsh said. "We've learned through experience if we have our own crews to do our own work, we can do it quicker and cheaper."

Hester said the specialized, five-member crew will also allow for unique skills to be developed as they work to build two miles of new greenways annually.

"There will always be greenway connectors that require additional expertise, but a lot of the extensions planned we'll be able to do in-house, and that will make us more productive and efficient in the process, too,"

Hester said.

The City also purchased specialized equipment for the crew to use.

"You would not use a dump truck on some little trail in South Knoxville," said Public Works Senior Director David Brace. "Right-sizing the fleet is really important, and the crew has the right equipment to do work in the backcountry."

The crew's first task has been to complete the 0.7-mile Mary Vestal Greenway extension that will connect the existing greenway in Mary Vestal Park to the South Knoxville Community Center. Supplemented by a sidewalk project currently under construction on Young High Pike, the Mary Vestal Greenway extension will help to create a pedestrian route all the way from Blount Avenue, passing through the Mary Vestal Town Center, to businesses on Chapman Highway.

Walsh said the crew also will resurface a portion of the Turkey Creek

Greenway and build some soft-surface hiking trails in the Williams Creek Urban Forest.

In addition to the specialized skills the crew will gain, Brace said there will be more opportunities to incorporate sustainable practices into greenways construction.

"We're trying to integrate additional green infrastructure into all of our projects," he said.

Trails carved into the natural terrain at the Baker Creek Preserve, for instance, are soft-surface trails constructed with little disturbance to the natural environment, he said.

"Having more greenway access is sustainable in itself," Brace said. "There are fewer people driving, and we have improved connectivity to neighborhoods."

Brace said the greenways are also an economic way to get exercise and spend time outdoors with loved ones.

"All you need is a good pair of shoes," he said.

2017 RECREATION EVENTS SCHEDULE

SENIOR DANCE (LIVE MUSIC)

Monday, March 13
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Christenberry Community
Center
Free Admission/
Free Refreshments

SPRING PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

April 21-23 at
West Hills Park
<http://pickleball.knoxvilleathletics.com>

INNER-CITY BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL

TOURNAMENT
April 28-30 at
Caswell Park
<http://youthbaseball.knoxvilleathletics.com>

LET'S MOVE! EVENT

May 6, 2017
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Victor Ashe Park
Free Admission
www.LetsMoveKnox.com

NEIGHBORHOODS TO NATURE WALK

Date & Time TBD

SPRING COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

May 21, 2017 • 3 p.m.
World's Fair Park
Amphitheater
Free Admission

OPEN STREETS EVENT

May 21, 2017
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Magnolia Avenue
Free Admission
www.openstreetsknoxville.com

OUTDOOR POOLS OPEN

May 27, 2017
Inskip Pool &
Ed Cothren Pool

SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM BEGINS

June 5, 2017
City Recreation Centers
\$20/child for Summer
(\$30 late registration)
Registration begins
April 3

SUMMER COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

June 25, 2017 3 p.m. at
Market Square
Free Admission

DOGGIE DIP DAY

September 10, 2017
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Inskip Pool
\$5 per entrant
(human or canine)

CITY CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE

September 15, 2017

CITY OF KNOXVILLE Athletics Leagues



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

The Milton Roberts Recreation Center on Asheville Highway hosts a girls basketball league for all ages.



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Adult league volleyball teams enjoy the exercise and friendly competition at the Cumberland Estates Rec Center.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN GIBI

Held May 6, 2017, the free Let's Move! Event offers nearly 100 free activities and snacks for families to explore at the free event, held in Victor Ashe Park. Kids get to try out a range of activities from just about every organized sport you can think of, to creative, fun play such as this bouncy ball relay race.

Play Ball!

Mayor Madeline Rogero held an official kickoff for Major League Baseball season with representatives from the Tennessee Smokies. Announcing signups for the City's baseball and softball leagues, Mayor Rogero also encouraged youth to play pickup games with friends and family, which she did with students from South Knox Elementary at the press event on Market Square in April 2016.

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN GIBI



Since 2015, Mayor Madeline Rogero has been a participating mayor in an initiative known as "Play Ball," making Knoxville an official "Play Ball" City. The program was initiated between Major League Baseball and the U.S. Conference of Mayors to encourage youth to get involved in baseball and softball.

"To say that Knoxville is supportive of organized sports is obviously an understatement," said Mayor Rogero. "Baseball and softball help

our youth stay active and learn life skills. It's important that we continue to invest our time and resources to provide them with opportunities for a healthy life."

City youth baseball and softball league signups for ages 4 to 14 years old begin in February and March of 2017. Both team and individual signups are encouraged.

For more information, visit <http://youthbaseball.knoxvilleathletics.com/>.

CITY OF KNOXVILLE ADULT SPORTS LEAGUE FACTS

	Kickball (Co-Ed)	Softball (Co-Ed)	Volleyball (Co-Ed)
Games in a Season	8 Games	8 Games	8 Games
Format	Up to 11 in field (4 each gender)	10 (5 male/5 female)	6 (2 females)
Minimum to Avoid Forfeit	8 (4 of each gender)	9 (4-5 each gender)	4 (min. 2 females)
Match/Game Length	7 innings or 55 minutes	7 innings or 60 minutes	Best of 3 games to 25
Team Jerseys Required	No (Like shirts encouraged)	Yes	No (Like shirts encouraged)
Officiated	1 Umpire	2 Umpires + Scorekeeper	2 Referees
Gear You Need to Bring	Kickballs	Softball, Bats	
You Don't Need to Bring			Volleyballs
Rainout Procedure	Check InfoLine/Twitter	Check InfoLine/Twitter	Check InfoLine/Twitter
Cost	\$275/team	\$275/team or \$450/2 nights	\$180/team
Tournament	Single Elimination	Double-Elimination	Single-Elimination
Tournament Team Fee	None	\$55/team	None
	Baseball	Basketball	Softball (Men)
Games in a Season	14 Games	8 Games	8 Games
Format	9 Players	5 on 5	10 (4 outfielders)
Minimum to Avoid Forfeit	8 Players	5 Players	9 Players
Match/Game Length	7 innings or 2 hours	2 16 minute halves	7 innings or 60 minutes
Team Jerseys Required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Officiated	2 Umpires + Scorekeeper	2 Referees + Scorekeeper	2 Umpires + Scorekeeper
Gear You Need to Bring	Balls, Catcher's Equip., Helmets		Softballs, Bats
You Don't Need to Bring		Basketball	
Rainout Procedure	Check InfoLine/Twitter	Check InfoLine/Twitter	Check InfoLine/Twitter
Cost	\$980/team	\$350/team or \$550/2 nights	\$275/team or \$450/2 nights
Tournament	Double-Elimination	Double-Elimination	Double-Elimination
Tournament Team Fee	\$90/team	\$55/team	\$55/team

2017 YOUTH LEAGUE CONTACTS

Baby Roadrunners • Football
Melvin Tate, melvin.tate@gmail.com

Bearden Youth Baseball
Brad Day, bysbaseball14@gmail.com

Bearden Youth Football
Josh Lovett, joshlovett@gmail.com

Center City Youth Sports (CCYSP)
Football, basketball, baseball/softball
Anita Riley, anitariley01@hotmail.com

Central Youth Athletics • Football, baseball
Jared Coker, jrod102778@hotmail.com

East Knoxville Athletics (EKAA)
Football, basketball, baseball/softball
William Anderson III, williamathe3@gmail.com

Fountain City Youth Sports
Basketball, baseball/softball
Lisa Ivy, lisaivy1@gmail.com

Holston-Chilhowee Youth Sports
Baseball/softball
Julie Townsend, julietown12@comcast.net

Knox Youth Sports (KYS)
Basketball, baseball/softball
Ann Marie Conaty,
annmarie@knoxyouthsports.com

Knoxville Falcons
Football, basketball, baseball/softball
Larry Cox, larrygibbscox@aol.com

New Breed • Football, basketball
LaTonya Washburn, washburn21@gmail.com

Rocky Hill Baseball
Ronnie Collette, ronniecollette@knology.com

South Knoxville Youth Sports (SKYS)
Football, basketball, baseball/softball
Julia Weissinger, weissingerj@comcast.net

West Bearden Basketball League (WBBL)
Robert Hewgley, robert@wbbleague.com

West Youth Football
Jason Shymlock, jason@totaldemolition.net

For more information on any leagues:
www.KnoxvilleAthletics.com
<http://youthbasketball.knoxvilleathletics.com>
<http://youthbaseball.knoxvilleathletics.com>
<http://kmyfl.knoxvilleathletics.com>



CITY OF KNOXVILLE MADELINE ROGERO, MAYOR Parks & Recreation Your recreation destination guide!



Between the Smoky Mountains, the Tennessee River, and East Tennessee's famous green hills and landscape, Knoxville is an ideal setting for recreation.

This parks map is designed to help you find the most convenient recreation opportunities perfect for you and your family. Explore 2,000 acres of park space and 100 miles of greenways and trails to find your favorite park amenity.



A wide array of Parks and Recreation information including downloadable forms, directions to facilities, printable maps, program and league listings, greenway lap calculators, and so much more are available at www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation



To contact the City of Knoxville, please call 311.

MAP LEGEND

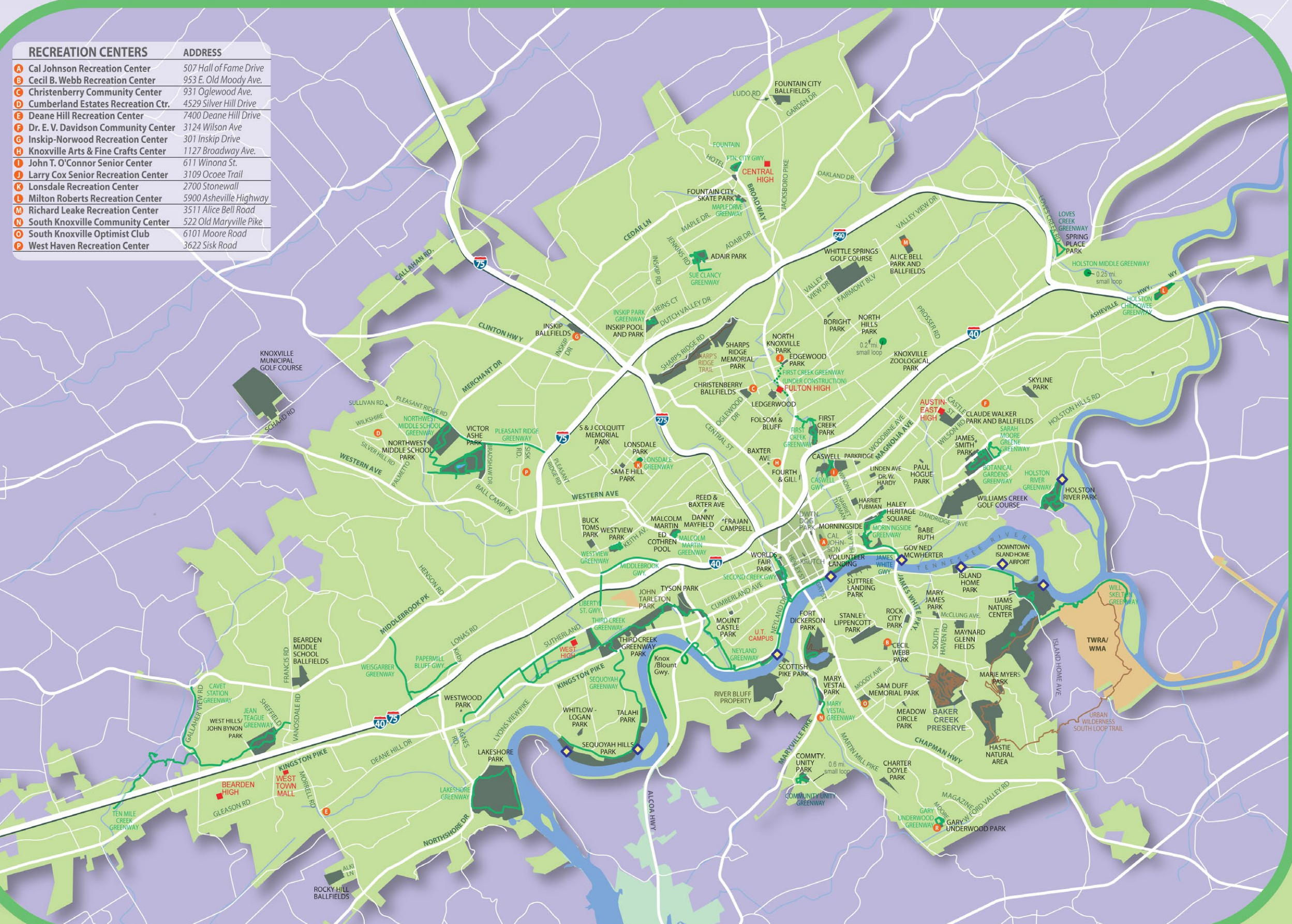
- Knoxville City Limits
- Knox County
- NAME School
- Greenway
- Greenway In Progress
- Recreation Ctr.
- NAME Simple Park
- NAME Larger Park
- NAME Other Park
- Creek
- Body of Water
- Blueway

North

SCALE 0 0.5 1mi

0 1Km

Updated: Oct. 2015



RECREATION CENTERS	ADDRESS
A Cal Johnson Recreation Center	507 Hall of Fame Drive
B Cecil B. Webb Recreation Center	953 E. Old Moody Ave.
C Christenberry Community Center	931 Oglewood Ave.
D Cumberland Estates Recreation Ctr.	4529 Silver Hill Drive
E Deane Hill Recreation Center	7400 Deane Hill Drive
F Dr. E. V. Davidson Community Center	3124 Wilson Ave
G Inskip-Norwood Recreation Center	301 Inskip Drive
H Knoxville Arts & Fine Crafts Center	1127 Broadway Ave.
I John T. O'Connor Senior Center	611 Winona St.
J Larry Cox Senior Recreation Center	3109 Ocoee Trail
K Lonsdale Recreation Center	2700 Stonewall
L Milton Roberts Recreation Center	5900 Asheville Highway
M Richard Leake Recreation Center	3511 Alice Bell Road
N South Knoxville Community Center	522 Old Maryville Pike
O South Knoxville Optimist Club	6101 Moore Road
P West Haven Recreation Center	3622 Sisk Road

Touring the Trees



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sequoyah Greenway is excellent for viewing dogwood trees in the spring.

The City of Knoxville Tree Board has compiled a list of top 10 parks for viewing interesting trees in Knoxville and will soon release a brochure with more information. In the meantime, here's a peek at the list for most interesting trees:

1. JAMS NATURE CENTER
2. KNOXVILLE BOTANICAL GARDENS
3. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE GARDENS
4. SEQUOYAH HILLS PARK
5. HOLSTON RIVER PARK
6. FOUNTAIN CITY PARK
7. VICTOR ASHE PARK
8. MORNINGSIDE PARK
9. LAKESHORE PARK
10. FORT DICKERSON PARK

Social media

- Find Knoxville Parks and Recreation online:
- www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation
 - www.facebook.com/knoxvillerecreation
 - www.twitter.com/knoxvilleparks
 - www.youtube.com/knoxvilleparksandrec
 - www.instagram.com/knoxvillerecreation

Online reservations and registrations may be made on the City website at www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation.

New after-school program has kids jumping with joy



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Jump instructor Nick Woodard, center, brings energy and fun to class as well as encouraging communication and teamwork at the Deane Hill Rec Center.

By Laura Ayo

Custom Publishing Correspondent

People have been jumping rope for centuries, but not the way kids who attend after-school programs at the City of Knoxville's recreation centers are learning it.

"They're learning different tricks, techniques and turns," Recreation Superintendent Nikki Crutcher said. "They're learning their timing, learning to work together, because a lot of teamwork is involved with Double Dutch and single rope and with changing hands, and it keeps them active."

Crutcher added the rope-jumping

program to the free after-school curriculum, which serves an average of 450 children daily across the 10 recreation and community centers where it is offered during the school year, after world champion jump roper Nick Woodard moved to Knoxville and approached her about the idea.

"It's really snowballed," she said. "He started a program at Vine Middle School through its community school program and at (Dr.) E.V. Davidson (Community Center). He's now training our staff and we're going to implement it in eight more sites."

The kids participate in the program for about 45 minutes twice a week.

"It's really energized our kids that

have done it - and our staff," said Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Aaron Browning.

Crutcher said the sport appeals to kids of varying abilities.

"I think it serves a great amount of children where they don't have to be a star athlete," Crutcher said.

Browning said people define sports much more broadly than they did a few years ago.

"People thought of sports as football and baseball and basketball, but now it's more unique sports," he said.

In addition to the jump rope program, kids attending the after-school programs also have the opportunity to play pickleball, traditional sports

like tennis and basketball, and, for the first time this year, take swim lessons at the Knoxville Adaptive Recreation Center pool.

"It's a very important skill for kids to learn and learn early," Crutcher said.

Because many of the children participating in the after-school program also attend the City's Summer Playground Program, Crutcher said learning how to swim before the start of the summer gives kids a more enjoyable experience when they visit the pool.

In addition to the pool outings, the summer program, which operates weekdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. between June 5 and July 27, also includes bowl-

ing, canoeing, intramural sports, arts and crafts, movies, park visits, field trips and other activities.

“This year, we’re starting a Knowledge Bowl, so we’ll have a trivia competition between the sites, and we’re also trying to have a track meet with all the sites,” Crutcher said. “We try to pack a lot in.”

Registration for the summer program, which annually serves about 900 kids ages 6 to 12, begins April 3.

“It’s a great place for kids to come and be safe and participate in lots of different activities that hopefully can give them a great summer heading into a new school year,” Crutcher said.

Outside of the after-school program, the City’s various rec centers offer open gym times, free weight rooms, walking groups and Ca-L’a fitness classes that focus on a high-energy cardio, abs, leg and arm workout.

“It’s very fun to watch and fun to do,” Crutcher said of Ca-L’a. “The music is very upbeat.”

The classes are also part of the City’s Programs in Parks initiative that allows organizations to register with the City to host fitness classes in the City’s parks, Browning said.

Through the Arts and Fine Crafts Center, children as young as 3 can take ballet lessons, while older children and adults can learn hip-hop or African dance moves.

Some of the community centers also offer community gardening programs that focus on sustainability.

Pickleball, Browning said, has continued to grow in popularity, with the spring pickleball tournament drawing close to 150 competitors, including about two dozen from those who participate in the Dynamic Recreation program at Inskip-Norwood Recreational Center.

Young adults with physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities can try their hand at life-size foosball, join a drum circle, practice chair yoga or participate in a number of other activities – many of them free of charge – there, according to center leader Daniel Alexander.

“We offer both passive and active activities,” he said.

Alexander organized the City’s first bocce ball rec league in the fall, hosted a basketball skills relay in January that was designed to teach partici-



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Inskip Recreation Center provides ADA accessible programming, such as this “Life-sized Foosball” class that helps people with disabilities.



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

The Ca-L’a class at the Dr. E.V. Davidson Community Center is a high-energy workout.

pants dribbling, passing and shooting skills, and has plans to coordinate a similar relay activity focused on pickleball skills in the coming weeks.

In addition, he leads a walking program on the City’s greenways, coordinates power soccer matches for people who use power wheelchairs, and arranges for disc golf and flag football games.

“We try to get as close to the game

as we can,” he said.

He also has plans to organize a recreational softball league in the spring and a Special Olympics tennis tournament in early summer.

The center has also partnered with other organizations serving people with different abilities to offer cooking classes and arts and crafts activities.

Browning said rec center leaders

implement programming based on fitness trends and requests from those using the facilities.

“The value of parks and greenways and rec centers means something different to every person, but for the most part, a person who is physically active is impacted by our services,” he said. “We’re really trying to do what we can to appeal to large groups of people.”

Seniors walk way to better health at South Knoxville Community Center



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Mike Johnson puts the new treadmill through its paces at the South Knoxville Community Center.

By Laura Ayo

Custom Publishing Correspondent

It's not unusual for seniors to show up at the South Knoxville Community Center before the doors open to claim time on the facility's popular treadmill.

"There are people who come in here at 7:30 in the morning ... waiting to get in to use the weight room," said center leader Debbie Beeler. "And (the treadmill) is used all day long until we close it down."

So when the South Knoxville Alliance approached Beeler about holding its community dinner known as Knoxville SOUP at the center in July, she asked if she could present a proposal during the program to replace its 24-year-old treadmill.

During a SOUP micro-grant event,

attendees pay a suggested \$5 donation at the door, listen to a handful of pre-selected organizations pitch their community-improvement proposals and then vote during the meal for their favorite. The group with the most votes receives whatever funds are collected at the door.

"We had the biggest crowd they'd ever had," Beeler said. "They raised the most money they'd ever raised."

The center's proposal - Seniors Walking Their Way to Better Health - received the most votes at the July event, winning \$709 to put towards the purchase of a new treadmill, she said.

Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Aaron Browning said it was encouraging to see the center's patrons show up for the event.

"When that treadmill is put in, they will feel better about it and have a per-

sonal connection to it," he said.

The center, which serves an average of 80 seniors each day, offers a full calendar of opportunities for seniors to socialize, exercise and stay active.

"It's a place where they can come and be around other people and get out of their homes," Beeler said. "We're keeping their minds, their hands and their bodies active."

One of the center's most popular weekly events is Pickers and Grinders, a music jam session open to anyone with the courage to play in front of the center's crowd.

The Larry Cox Senior Center and John T. O'Connor Senior Citizen's Center also host weekly community dances, while the South Knoxville facility offers water exercise classes at its indoor pool.

Seniors can also attend birthday

luncheons, potluck meals and movie days, join a book club or walking group, participate in arts and crafts or fitness classes, or play billiards, cards, horseshoes and other games at the various facilities.

Beeler said her center also organizes local field trips and a yearly out-of-state trip. In late January, she took a group to Gatlinburg to shop and enjoy lunch to support the community that is rebuilding after wildfires damaged numerous businesses and homes.

Regular participants at the center also host a rummage sale every other month and use the proceeds to buy desired amenities like a flat-screen television and new couches.

"We're like a family here," Beeler said. "When they leave, we're all saying, 'I love you. Bye. See you tomorrow.'"



PHOTO BY TRACI MCDONELL

Mayor Madeline Rogero and Zenobia Dobson pose with with interns from the City's "Summer in the City" internship program. The interns created the mosaic, which includes Dobson's jersey number, to honor his memory.

Parks and Recreation teams with partners to make Knoxville a better community

By Laura Ayo

Custom Publishing Correspondent

When community gardeners tend to their crops this summer in the Family Garden at the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, their knees and backs will thank them.

The Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department awarded \$1,500 in Challenge Grant funding to the Botanical Garden's Center for Urban Agriculture to build 26 4-by-12-foot raised beds.

The City of Knoxville also invested \$250,000 in 2016 for the Center for Urban Agriculture itself, which is built to equip and educate local communities for growing healthy produce. The facility will feature an "Every Child Outdoors" Youth Vegetable Garden, a Family Garden for the community, a Market Garden for local farmers, and a World Garden.

"The purpose of the Family Garden is to provide space, resources and education so that folks can grow food

for themselves and their families and friends," said center manager Amanda Spangler. "Our goal is to complete construction this winter."

The Parks and Recreation Department earmarks \$25,000 annually for the Challenge Grant program, which rewards nonprofits for improving public-use spaces by reimbursing 50 percent of the cost of a project up to \$2,500.

"We're all focused on making Knoxville a better community," said Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh. "Working together, we can get a lot more done."

The City also has supported community efforts to build a safe place for teens to enjoy recreation activities together and receive job-skills training.

The Change Center is expected to open in December 2017 in warehouse space donated by Overcoming Believers Church, Knoxville's Senior Director of Community Relations Avice Reid said.

"Community partners are coming together to develop this, and it will provide the recreation opportunities young people said they need, but it will also provide leadership development, job training and so many things under one roof," Reid said.

The center will feature a roller skating rink, game room, movie-viewing area, concert stage, music mixing studio, climbing wall and café.

Reid said community partners have raised nearly \$3 million, including a \$500,000 commitment over two years from the City, toward a \$3.7 million goal.

Zae-vion Dobson's memory will live on through a piece of art created this summer by 26 "Summer in the City" interns who partnered with the Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center to create the Zae-vion Dobson Memorial Mosaic. Dobson was killed at just 15 years of age when he shielded two friends from gun shots in his neighborhood.

"(They) were interested in doing something in remembrance of Zae-vion Dobson since a lot of them are from his community and could relate to his story," said center director Lori Sloan.

The interns used donated multi-colored tiles to create the piece, which depicts a football, Dobson's jersey number and his nickname. The mosaic won a Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association Four Star Award and now hangs at Fulton High.

In November 2016, the Boys and Girls Club of East Tennessee opened its new 54,000-square-foot teen center located on Caswell Avenue. The City of Knoxville invested \$450,000 to support the project.

The new center features two gymnasiums, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, dance room and a weight room, as well as a science lab, study hall, and culinary learning kitchen to help teens develop workforce skills for future careers.

'12 Months of Service' program encourages philanthropy



Neighbors arrive at the Ashley Nicole Dream Playground in Caswell Park after walking from their neighborhood with City leaders in the inaugural Neighborhoods to Nature event in Summer 2016.

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN GIBI

By Laura Ayo

Custom Publishing Correspondent

By the end of 2017, children who attend the after-school program at the Dr. E.V. Davidson Community Center will know the importance of serving their community.

Roughly 60 children will have the chance to participate in the center's inaugural "12 Months of Service" program to learn about opportunities to give back to their community.

"As a community leader, I just think it's important to invest in the community," said Candice Canty, a recreation center leader at E.V. Davidson Community Center who created the year-long service program. "I want to drive this community from good to great."

The center's leaders identified 12 volunteer opportunities - one for each month of the year - beginning in January with the collection of coats, hats and gloves that were donated to the Salvation Army.

Other projects will show appreciation for local law enforcement, fire-

fighters and military service men and women. Another project will encourage the kids to do three good deeds during one month.

"We encourage our employees to think outside the box and do things that help the community," said Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh.

Based on that "think outside the box" mentality, the City hosted two "Neighborhoods to Nature" programs last year and has plans to do three more this year starting in the spring, according to Chief Operating Officer and Deputy to the Mayor Christi Branscom.

"We start in the neighborhoods at a central location and walk to a park," she said. "It emphasizes how easy it is to access our City parks and how wonderful they are once you get there."

While the locations of the upcoming series haven't been finalized, last year's series featured residents of four neighborhoods walking together to the final destination of the Ashley Nicole Dream Playground in Caswell Park in July. In the second event,



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN GIBI

City crews prepare to finalize the install the pilot project of the City's Knoxville Slides initiative at the Civic Auditorium and Coliseum parking garage.

neighbors from six communities strolled together to Beardsley Farm in Malcolm-Martin Park in October.

Another successful program that connects residents with parks and greenways is the "Kids Can Bike!" program.

Senior Recreation Center Leader Roger Fernandez said that, since the program started in 2012, nearly 300 children have learned bike safety and proper riding techniques and then cy-

cled various greenways and trails on bikes purchased with a \$28,000 grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities.

The City has also embarked on an innovative "Knoxville Slides" project to incorporate recreational facilities into its hilly terrain by constructing an in-ground slide by the stairs of the Knoxville Civic Auditorium and Coliseum parking garage.

The embankment slide is the first of a series to be built into hillsides and as companions to existing stairways with \$25,000 the City won as part of a national Play Everywhere Challenge competition sponsored by KaBOOM!, a nonprofit that encourages active play among children. The purpose of the grant was to offer unexpected opportunities of play built within downtown infrastructure.

The addition of more slides, the officials said, aims to designate Knoxville as "a slide city" - highlighting Knoxville's terrain that comes with residing at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains.

City on the water

By Kathleen Gibi

Public Affairs Specialist, City Of Knoxville

Knoxville is a city built on waterways. The French Broad and Holston rivers converge to form the headwaters of the Tennessee River on the eastern end of Knoxville's city limits. There's also an abundance of creeks and ponds in Knoxville.

This proximity to water is why Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh said it's so important to offer swim lessons and lifeguard training efforts.

"Since we are a river city, it's our duty at the City to offer as much training around the water as possible," Walsh said. "Teaching kids to swim — and training the skill of lifeguarding — can both save and change lives."

The City currently manages two indoor pools: Adaptive Pool off Dandridge Avenue and Elmer Brine Pool at the South Knoxville Community Center off Maryville Pike. In the summer, the City opens its two outdoor pools: Inskip Pool in North Knoxville and Ed Cothren Pool off Western Avenue.

Recently, the City contracted its third indoor pool, Carl Cowan Pool at Dr. E.V. Davidson Community Center, to the Emerald Youth Foundation to manage.

In addition to aquatics opportunities at City pools, Knoxville Parks and Recreation's Aquatics Division will take youth in its Summer Playground Program on canoe tours of Knoxville's waters such as the pond at the Cove.

Want to rent a kayak, canoe, or paddle board?

For paddling on the Tennessee River:

Billy Lush Board Shop at the Outdoor Knoxville Adventure

Downtown next to Ruth's Chris

Available seasonally by appointment

865-332-5874 • www.OutdoorKnoxville.com

For paddling on Mead's Quarry Lake:

River Sports Outfitters Station at

Mead's Quarry in Ijams Nature Center

Available seasonally

865-696-0806 • www.ijams.org

"To paddle on our rivers is to experience our city's oldest — and some its most beautiful — assets," said Walsh. "You really haven't experienced Knoxville until you've seen it from the river."

Since 2012, four new canoe launches have been installed along the Tennessee River. Several years ago in collaboration with the Legacy Parks Foundation, the City opened a canoe launch at the Forks of the River. Legacy Parks also worked with Knoxville to build a convenient canoe launch to be exclusively used for its canoe, kayak and paddleboard rentals at the Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center near the Ruth's Chris Steakhouse.

Last year, Ijams Nature Center opened Ijams River Landing, Knoxville's first ADA accessible canoe/kayak launch. The facility includes road access to the Tennessee River from Island Home Avenue and a dock complete with a ramp, rollers and rails to push vessels in and out of the water. The City funded the majority of the project.

Most recently, the City completed a kayak launch at Suttree Landing Park, Knoxville's first park to open in 12 years.

Whether you're looking for lap swim at an indoor pool, some summer fun at an outdoor pool (complete with diving boards), or a chance to develop lifelong skills as a lifeguard, Knoxville Parks and Recreation offers it all.

Visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/aquatics today to learn more.



PHOTO BY KELLY MULES

Carly Pearson of Catalyst Sports uses Knoxville's first accessible dock, located at Ijams Nature Center, to safely launch her kayak into the Tennessee River.



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Maintaining 'in-line stabilization', lifeguard training students practice critical spine boarding procedures.

2017 POOL & WATER PLAYGROUND SCHEDULES

2017 LIFEGUARD CLASSES

Registration Fee: \$150 (plus \$35 fee paid to American Red Cross)

Trainings Offered:

March 9-12 | April 20-23 | May 11-14

Pool Location:

Elmer Brine Pool | 522 Maryville Pike

Classroom Location: Lakeshore Park

Admin. Bldg. | 5930 Lyons View Pike

All trainings are four days:

- Thursday, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. (classroom)
- Friday, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. (pool)
- Saturday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. (classroom)
- Sunday, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. (pool)

LIFEGUARD REVIEW CLASS

Registration Fee: \$110 (plus \$35 to American Red Cross)

Dates Offered: May 4-7

SWIM LESSONS

Indoor

Spring Session: March 21 - April 13

Fall Session #1: Sept. 19 - Oct. 12

Fall Session #2: Oct. 24 - Nov. 16

Outdoor - Inskip Pool - summer

Summer Session #1: June 5 - June 15

Summer Session #2: June 19 - June 29

Summer Session #3: July 10 - July 20

Costs for swim lessons begin at \$60, although for families with multiple children, the cost will be \$50 for the first child and \$30 per child thereafter.

POOL SCHEDULES:

Outdoor Schedule

Inskip Pool

4204 Bruhin Road

865-687-9919

Season: Open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend

Cost: \$4/person/visit

Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Ed Cothren Pool

1737 Reynolds St.

865-544-7840

Season: Opens Memorial Day weekend through August 7

Cost: \$3/person/visit

Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Both are available for pool parties weeknights and weekends, as available

Indoor Schedules - varying by season (summer hours are shorter)

Elmer Brine Pool

at South Knoxville Community Center

522 Maryville Pike

865-579-3122

Cost: \$3/person/visit

Fall Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

6 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays

7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.,

Saturdays 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Adaptive Center Pool

2235 Dandridge Ave.

865-525-9080

Cost: \$3/person/visit

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WATER PLAY FOUNTAINS

Fountains normally open by May 1 and close by Nov. 1.

Market Square

Downtown Knoxville

Contact: 865-215-2060

*Please note that Market Square fountains will be closed during Shakespeare on the Square performances.

Volunteer Landing at Neyland Drive

Downtown Knoxville

Contact: 865-215-2060

World's Fair Park

UT/Downtown Knoxville

1060 World's Fair Park Drive

Contact: 865-215-2060

Krutch Park

Downtown Knoxville in the Krutch Park

Extension near Gay Street

Contact: 865-215-2060

For all aquatics news, visit
www.knoxvilletn.gov/aquatics

Something For Everyone

The Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center offers wide variety of art options

Student Wendy Seaward, left, follows instructor Alaba Mitchum as she leads the African Dance class at the Knoxville Performing Arts studio.

PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS



By Kathleen Gibi

Public Affairs Specialist, City Of Knoxville

Options. That's what you can expect from the Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center (KAFCC). There's something for all ages and all skill levels.

Lori Sloan, the KAFCC's new Director, said the effort is to get everyone involved, no matter what the level.

"We all have our own comfort zones when it comes to art," Sloan said, "and we try to offer as many options as possible to help give people different ways to tap into their creative side."

The KAFCC, operating as a division under Knoxville Parks and Recreation and located at 1127 N. Broadway, has a fully mirrored dance room with hardwood floors, a crafts room that includes kitchen appliances for culinary art classes, and a pottery studio complete with 14 throwing wheels and four firing kilns. (Pottery and sculpture classes are offered for all ages and skill levels, by the way).

While more "traditional" classes such as ballet (offered in age groups

from toddlers to adults), painting and ceramics are always available at the KAFCC, programming has expanded over the years.

For example, instructor Alaba Mitchum was recently contracted at the KAFCC to teach African Dance classes in the evening. The class, driven by live drummers, is open to walk-ins as opposed to registering for an entire session.

"Alaba really goes out of her way to make sure the class is welcoming to people from all walks of life, and it's impossible to hear the drums and not move—even students in the other classes start dancing in their seats when they hear the drums," said Sloan. "You can come as you are to enjoy a fun way to get in shape."

Some other new and interesting classes include Hip-Hop Dance, Digital Photography and Editing, and Hand and Machine Sewing.

Culinary classes are offered more as one-time events. For example, at 5:30 p.m. on March 6, 2017, participants will learn to make stuffed pasta from Susan Watson Arbitol, who spent

time working in the food industry in the Tuscan countryside.

Children's classes are offered daily, including dance, clay mask-making, music and papier-mâché, among others. There's even a new class called Up-Cycled Jewelry, where kids ages 6 and up can make colorful, fun jewelry out of a variety of LEGOS®.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The KAFCC offers a new class for children that allows them to turn LEGO art into jewelry pieces.

Jewelry made in the class includes necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings and barrettes.

Whenever public school is out, parents can look to the KAFCC, which offers day-, week- and summer-long art camps. The KAFCC also is an option for parents to consider when school is unexpectedly closed. During the four-day Knox County Schools closure due to illness in February, for example, the KAFCC hosted a two-day camp to help working parents, even opening an additional session after the original sessions filled up.

No matter your age or skill level, there's very likely something at the Knoxville Fine Arts and Crafts Center to get your creative juices flowing. If not, try making a request for a specific class.

"We're always open to suggestions," said Sloan. "By definition, art is ever-evolving, and if the class gets a strong enough response, we'll keep it in our curriculum!"

For more information on the Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center, visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation.

Neighborhoods come together in artistic ways

By Laura Ayo

Custom Publishing Correspondent

It's easy to get a feel for the community's values when you look at the imagery and location of new public art pieces around town, such as the river and recreation themed sculpture of the RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association.

The "ki-net-ik" sculpture features nine silhouettes of wildlife and recreation enthusiasts, including a fisherman and a couple in a canoe, against a steel abstract screen depicting water. Located on the corner of Hill Avenue and Hall of Fame Drive, the piece serves as a gateway marker for access to greenways along the Tennessee River, Volunteer Landing, and the Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center.

"The best public art is created for the specific spot in which it will reside and is a reflection, in some shape or form, of the specificity of that place," said Liza Zenni, executive director of the Arts and Culture Alliance and staff liaison for Knoxville's Public Arts Committee. "It gives people who are visitors to our community an idea of who we are."

Working with the City's Office of Neighborhoods, the residents of the RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association commissioned sculptor Derek White to create a piece that celebrates the unique aspects of their riverfront community.

The same can be said of the soaring Vestal Gateway Arch made of linked bicycle gears laser cut from steel and bearing the names of the community members who came together to make the public art piece and other planned improvements within Mary Vestal Park a reality.

The December unveiling of the arch, constructed by metalworker Ray Tackett, coincided with news about the start of a project to extend the Mary Vestal Greenway.

Mayor Madeline Rogero said at that time that the project exemplifies how greenways strengthen neighborhoods and neighborhoods give character to greenways.

Members of the Vestal Community Organization rallied to raise funds to



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Serving as a gateway entrance marker for access to Volunteer Landing, the Tennessee River, and the Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center, the art piece on Hill Avenue depicts some of the many activities East Tennessee has to offer in ever-changing light.

commission the arch.

"It helps brand a neighborhood positively, helps give a sense of community to a neighborhood and brings neighbors together working on a common project," David Massey, neighborhood coordinator for the city's Office of Neighborhoods, said of both the Vestal and RiverHill installations.

Many public art pieces around the City, including a mural on a neglect-

ed wall at Chilhowee Park, have been funded by Challenge Grants awarded by the Parks and Recreation Department, Creative Placemaking Grants awarded by the Tennessee Arts Commission and other grant programs.

"Public art can actually do a lot to make spaces that seem abandoned (be) embraced," Zenni said. "That brown wall (in Chilhowee Park) was one of the spots in the city where

placemaking public art could really make a difference."

Residents from the neighborhoods surrounding Chilhowee Park were invited to share their thoughts on what the mural should look like, and based on that input, artist Brandon Donahue transformed the wall into a colorful mural reflecting the park's history through images like its iconic bandstand.

Another mural depicting the reproductive cycle of endangered freshwater mussel species indigenous to the Tennessee River now greets bikers and walkers using the Third Creek Greenway.

Artists Roger Peet, Merrilee Challis and Tricia Tripp collaborated to create the dramatic 230-foot-long mural, which is part of a national series of endangered species murals commissioned through the Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity.

This project was also funded partially by the Parks and Recreation Challenge Grant.



PHOTO BY AARON BROWNING

The new mural on Third Creek Greenway raises awareness of endangered and threatened mussel species that live in the Tennessee River.

City offers beautiful locations for events

To make reservations or register for leagues & classes online, visit registration.knoxvilletn.gov or call 311, the City's Call Center.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN GIBI

Pavilions and picnic shelters such as this one, located in West Hills Park, are available for rentals throughout the year.

Part-Time Recreation Jobs 215-1700

Lifeguard

Requirements: American Red Cross lifeguard certification, ability to pass swim test
Hiring Season: April-May
Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mon-Sun. Nights and weekends occasionally.
Pay: \$8.25/hr

Summer Playground Program Helpers

Requirements: Age 16, attend orientation, enjoys working with kids
Hiring Season: March-May • Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Pay: \$8.25/hr

Baseball/Softball Umpires

Requirements: Attend umpire workshop and on-field clinics
Hiring Season: March-April
Hours: Usually weeknights, some weekends
Pay: Varies by age division of game (\$13, \$15, \$22)

Basketball Referees

Requirements: Attend referee workshop and on-court clinics
Hiring Season: November-December
Hours: Saturdays and some weeknights and weekends
Pay: Varies by age division of game (\$12, \$15, \$17.50 per game)

Baseball/Softball Scorekeepers

Requirements: Attend scorekeeper workshop
Hiring Season: March • Hours: Usually weeknights, some weekends
Pay: \$9 per game minimum

Football Officials

Hired, trained, scheduled by KFOA (Knoxville Football Officials Association)

Maintenance Worker

Requirements: Safety training, ability to work outdoors and manual labor
Hiring Season: March/April & ongoing
Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. during week, weekend evening hours as needed
Pay: \$8.25/hr

Bus Driver

Requirements: Class C CDL with passenger endorsement, satisfactory driving record
Hiring Season: Ongoing
Hours: Varies by season (during day for summer program and occasional rest of year) (weekends and weeknights as needed)
Pay: \$10/hr

Center & Building Reservations \$35/hour, 2 hour minimum

Center/Building	Capacity:	Rec Room:	Gymnasium:	Kitchen:	Refrigerator:	Microwave:	Oven:
Adair Building 100 Carol Road	50			•	•	•	
Cal Johnson Rec Center 507 Hall of Fame Drive	100	•	•	•	•	•	
Cecil Webb Rec Center 923 Baker Ave.	100	•	•	•	•	•	•
Christenberry Community Center 931 Oglewood Avenue	150	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cumberland Estates Rec Center 4529 Silverhill Drive	110	•	•	•	•	•	•
Deane Hill Rec Center 7400 Deane Hill Drive	150	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dr. E.V. Davidson Comm. Center 3124 Wilson Avenue	150	•	•	•	•	•	•
Inskip-Norwood Rec Center 301 Inskip Drive	50	•	•	•	•	•	•
Larry Cox Senior Center 3109 Ocoee Trail	150	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lonsdale Rec Center 2700 Stonewall St	90	•	•	•	•	•	•
Milton Roberts Rec Center 5900 Asheville Highway	100	•	•	•	•	•	•
Richard Leake Rec Center 3511 Alice Bell Road	100	•	•	•	•	•	•
South Knoxville Comm. Center 522 Old Maryville Pike	125	•	•	•	•	•	•
South Knox. Optimist Club Bldg. 6101 Moore Road	100	•	•	•	•	•	•
West Haven Rec Center 3622 Sisk Road	50	•	•	•	•	•	•

Shelter & Gazebo Reservations Large: \$50 for 4 hours, then \$15/hr for additional hours • Small: \$40 for 4 hours, then \$10/hr for additional hours

Shelters & Gazebos, Etc.	Size:	Capacity:	Restrooms:	Grill:	Electricity:	Greenway/Walking Track:	Playground:	Basketball:	Dog Park:	Disc Golf:	Tennis:	Volleyball:	Dock:
Adair Park (gazebo) 100 Carol Road	S	25	•	•	•	•	•						
Adair Park (shelter) 100 Carol Road	L	50	portable	•	•	•	•						
Ashley Nicole Dream Playground 620 Winona Street	S	30	•	•	•	•	•						
Holston River Park #1 (by soccer) 3300 Holston Hills Road	L	100	•	•	•	•	•		•				
Holston River Park #2 (by water) 3300 Holston Hills Road	L	50	•	•	•	•	•		•				•
Lonsdale Park 2700 Stonewall Street	S	75	portable	•	•	•	•						
Malcolm-Martin Park 2247 Western Avenue	S	100	•	•	•	•	•						
Sam Duff Memorial Park 4060 Chapman Highway	S	25	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		
Tyson Park #1 2351 Kingston Pike	L	100	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		
Tyson Park #2 2351 Kingston Pike	S	50	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		
Victor Ashe Park 4901 Bradshaw Road	L	75	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	
West Hills 410 North Winston Road	L	40	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		