

Outdoor Programs
reach 'New Heights'

Athletic Programs offer youth
chance to get back in action

Parks receive
upgrades

FY2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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WHO WE ARE

OUR VISION AND MISSION

To Create Community Through People, Parks, and Programs

To provide community enrichment opportunities through exceptional customer service and innovative programs and by creating and maintaining attractive, safe, clean, accessible, and interconnected parks and facilities.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jeff Achee, Director

Adam Trujillo, Activities & Special Events Manager

Casey Brazzil, Parks & Facility Operations Manager

Jonathan Hanson, Recreation Manager

Nichole Broemer, Rec Center & Senior Programs Manager

ByRale Carter, Athletics Coordinator

Joshua Bruton, Athletics/Aquatics Coordinator

Kailie Gomez, Outdoor Programs Coordinator

Sara Gibbs, Activities Coordinator

Nicole Loayza, Administrative Assistant

Donovan Martinez, Athletics Crew Leader

Henry Nash, Parks Crew Leader

John Leivan, Building Maintenance Crew Leader

27
FULL TIME STAFF

22
PART TIME STAFF

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Over the past year, we have improved our Department in many ways that we are very proud of. We will discuss those throughout this report, but I would first like to thank our City leadership for their support.

Thank you to Mayor Spencer H. Smith for his unwavering support of our parks, programs, and staff. His involvement in our department has made us all better stewards of local public lands.

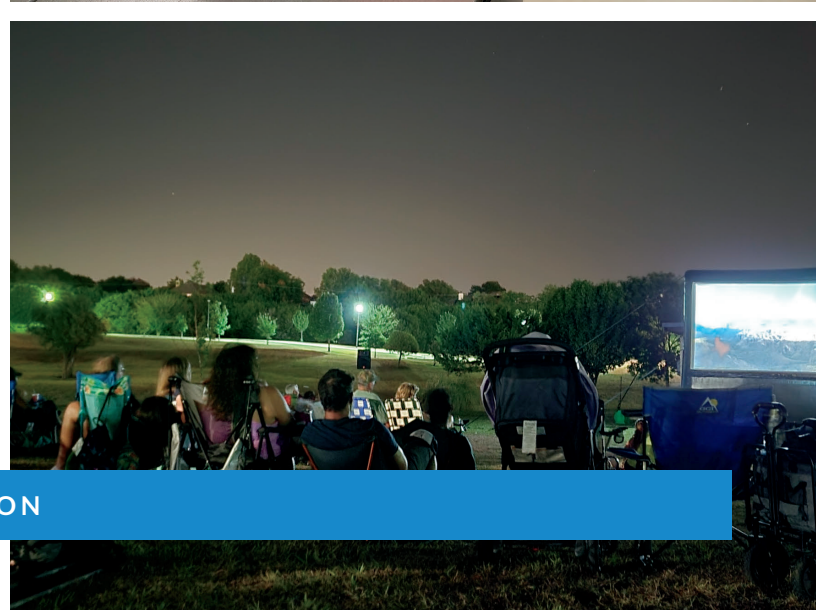
Thank you to our City Council for all that they do. Whether attending events and or programs, helping at a volunteer cleanup, or simply stopping by to say hello to staff and offer words of encouragement. You all have been instrumental in our success during the pandemic.

Thank you to our Parks & Rec Advisory Board. Your guidance has led us to achieve new heights throughout our parks system and citizens are able to reap the rewards of your hard work.

Thank you to City leadership: City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Department Directors. This year has certainly showed us how important teamwork can truly be.

And lastly, thank you to our parks and program patrons. You are what make this community great. We look forward to seeing you out there!

Jeff Achee



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD TREE ADVISORY BOARD

Angie Wilson, Chair
Alonzo Williams, Vice Chair
Brittany Harris
Heidi Heckel
Natalie Austin
Yomi Hardison
Lawrence McCullar, Alternate
Vitalis Dubininkas, Alternate

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was assembled in 1995. The Board is composed of six members and two alternates, which are appointed by the City Council. The Board is governed by the Code of Ordinance § 33.35.

The Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Advisory Board shall meet on the second Monday evening of all odd number months, shall have no supervisory function, and shall have no rulemaking or quasi-judicial authority. The Board is organized to advise the City Council on policy and programs.



IMPROVING OUR PARKS



Carl Levin Park Basketball Court Renovation

The outdoor basketball court was renovated to include sport court surfacing with green and blue surface paint that will make the court area much cooler during hot summer months. The goals were replaced with outdoor fiberglass backboard systems. Pickleball lines were added for additional programming opportunities.



Trail Repairs at Community Park and Carl Levin Park

Updates were made to areas of the Carl Levin Park and Community Park trails where the asphalt had become overly worn. These sections of trail were replaced with concrete, with the plan being to replace the entirety of each trail with concrete in future years.



Carl Levin Park Amphitheater Mural

In 2021, Mayor Spencer H. Smith took the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and, in doing so, committed to taking steps to preserve habitat for the state butterfly of Texas. Many programs have been created to ensure that HHPRD is doing our part to assist this important species. To highlight its beauty, we partnered with artists from Tap Tap Art Studios and the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce to create this unique and beautiful mural at the CLP Amphitheater.



Memorial Bench Program

Members of the community can now purchase benches to honor or memorialize a loved one. Benches that have worn down over the years throughout the parks will be replaced by these benches, which are made of recycled materials and are expected to last up to 50 years.

IMPROVING OUR PROGRAMS



Maker Space, Game Room, eSports, and Math Programming at Activities Center

Room B at the Activities Center underwent a complete transformation, becoming a space for creative juices to flow. Patrons are now able to utilize equipment and materials to create arts and crafts that span the imagination. The Activities Center also transitioned Room D from a rental space to a multi-use room for various recreational activities, mostly focused around gaming.



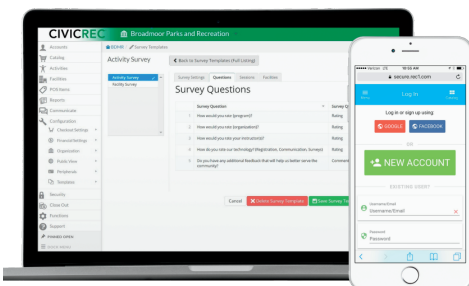
GO Heights Program Expansion

FY22 was the first full year with an Outdoor Programs Coordinator on staff, which allowed the Department to significantly increase the amount of programming within the Get Outdoors Heights program.



Senior Recreation Program Gets New Home

The Senior Recreation program transitioned to their new home at the Recreation Center. New programs have been added, including adult P.E., senior volleyball, adaptive yoga, senior hikes and walks, and many others.



CivicRec Software Implementation

Throughout FY22, the Parks and Recreation Department transferred all recreation and facility registrations and reservations to CivicRec. Staff have utilized online rec software since 2012, and this is the first change in provider since that time.



OTHER TOP FY22 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Added a second community garage sale to the calendar to capitalize on popularity of event.
- Integrated Activities Center and Library programming to better utilize Activities Center space.
- Integration of arts into all programming and special events.
- Hosted CenTex Sustainable Communities Partnership Mayor Signing at Carl Levin Park Pocket Prairie.
- Renovated back garden area of the Activities Center through partnership with the Tonkawa Chapter of the Texas Native Plant Society.
- Moved Frost Fest, our largest event of the year, to Community Park to accommodate growing needs of the event.
- Offered Art in the Park event for the second year in the Spring, doubling event attendance and vendor participation.
- Increased athletic participation to close to pre-pandemic levels and offered additional sport-related camps and classes.
- Restarted the Harker Heights Ability Sports program for children with special needs. Program did not operate during pandemic.
- Replaced shade canopies above the playground at Goode-Connell Park in North Harker Heights.
- Made improvements to the playing fields at Summit Soccer Complex. Fields suffered damage during summer drought.
- Made upgrades to the pool equipment room to ensure safe and responsible use of pool equipment by Parks and Recreation staff.
- Partnered with the Armed Services YMCA to allow day camp attendees to utilize Carl Levin Park pool.
- Youth Athletic programs continued partnership with the City of Killeen Recreation Services to provide post-season play through the Central Texas Youth Sports League.
- Entered into new concessions contract through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process. New contract bans single use plastic utensils and straws to reduce unnecessary waste.





Nichole Broemer and Adam Trujillo Promoted

Nichole was promoted to Rec Center & Senior Programs Manager, while Adam was promoted to Activities & Special Events Manager.



Recreation Manager Jonathan Hanson elected Chair of the TRAPS Future & Young Professionals Branch

Jonathan was selected by his peers to Chair the F&YP branch of TRAPS, which assists students and professionals under the age of 35 in advancing their careers within the parks and recreation industry.



P&R Director Jeff Achee Receives TRAPS Presidential Award of Honor at Annual Conference

This award was presented to Jeff by the then-TRAPS President Erin Hart, Assistant P&R Director of Grand Prairie, for his work as the Legislative Committee Chair during the 87th Texas Legislative Session.



Staff attends Council Meeting where Mayor Spencer H. Smith proclaims July "Parks and Recreation Month" in Harker Heights

The Parks and Recreation Department attended the June council meeting which officially proclaimed July as National Parks and Recreation Month in Harker Heights. Staff worked hard to fill the month of July (the hottest on record) with fun activities for the community to celebrate.

New Full-Time Staff

By **Rale Carter**, Athletic Coordinator
Kaillie Gomez, Outdoor Programs Coordinator
Donavan Martinez, Athletics Crew Crew Leader
Jonathan Del Toro, Parks Crew
Billy Stevens, Parks Crew
Quinton Amerson, Parks Crew
Samuel Banks, Parks Crew
Luis Casillas-Vicente, Parks Crew
Nathan Loris, Parks Crew



Josh Bruton receives Lifeguard Certification

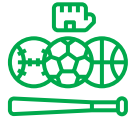
Athletics/Aquatics Coordinator Josh Bruton earned his American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification, the first full-time staff member to do so. Josh expects to also earn his Lifeguard Instructor certification, allowing him to train guards in-house. We thank Josh for his hard work and dedication to the aquatics program!

PARKS AND REC BY THE NUMBERS

7,500
EVENT ATTENDANCE



1,677
LEAGUE PARTICIPANTS



350+
VOLUNTEERS



2,500
VOLUNTEER MAINTENANCE HOURS



87
EVENT VENDORS



6,012
POOL ATTENDANCE



220
SWIM LESSON ATTENDEES



5,100
PARK & FACILITY RENTALS



240
MUNICIPAL ACRES MAINTAINED



136
SENIOR REC MEMBERS



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Youth Sports Presenting Sponsor
Smile Doctors Braces

Youth Sports Partners
Dicks Sporting Goods
Chick-Fil-A Harker Heights

Recreation Sponsors
Smile Doctors Braces
Tri-City Property Management

