

Growing Strong Roots for a
Healthy Community

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



CITY OF
RICHMOND
PARKS AND RECREATION

Richmond Parks & Recreation

345 Lancaster Ave

Richmond, KY 40475

859-623-8753

parksandrec@richmond.ky.us

Parks.Richmond.ky.us



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Our Mission



The Richmond Parks and Recreation Department is an efficient operation of the Richmond City Government that constantly seeks to provide a high level and wide variety of recreational opportunities to people of all ages and stages of life.

The Parks and Recreation Department strives to be an active department that engages the community, promotes wellness, and offers recreational activities for everyone.



All About Us

Richmond Parks and Recreation (RPR) is composed of 5 divisions which offer diverse and comprehensive year-round programming for all ages at a number of facilities throughout Madison County.



Parks and Recreation Administration:

Comprised of department managers and support staff who oversee programming and operations of facilities and parks. This includes reservations, athletics, Paradise Cove Aquatic Center, Adventure Falls, and budgetary oversight.



Special Events & Marketing:

Responsible for marketing all parks and recreation parks, facilities, and programs. Organizes community-wide special events.



Park Maintenance:

Oversees maintenance for facilities including: Paradise Cove, Adventure Falls, Betty Miller Building, Armory Park, Irvinton House Museum, and the Maintenance Barn. Outdoor Maintenance: 149.13 acres of parks land, over 20 acres non-park land, 36.5 athletic fields/courts, 13 shelters, 8 playgrounds, a skate park and 4 miles of paved and unpaved recreational trails.



Special Needs Activities & Programs:

This division is focused on providing activities to various citizens with special needs or accommodations. Year round programs include social, aquatics, and athletic events. Sports Teams for Madison Co. are coordinated in our office and registered through KY Special Olympics.



Richmond Teen Center:

Comprised of support staff for the operations and programming for students who attend. RTC is a 501(c3) charitable organization and the Teen Center Board oversees donations.

Special Events

Our staff oversees and plans yearly community-wide special events & festivals including:

- *Easter Eggstravaganza
- *Kids to Park Day
- *4th of July Festival
- *Kids Fishing Derby
- *Back to School Bash
- *Millstone Festival
- *Halloween Hoe-Down
- *Richmond Christmas Parade
- *Holiday Happening Craft Show

Special Programs

Our parks and recreation staff are leaders in improving and enhancing the quality of life by offering special programs throughout the year.

- *Story Walk
- *Movies in the Park
- *Tasty Tuesdays
- *Park and Plays
- *Spray and Play
- *Art in the Park
- *Santa Letters
- *Santa Express

Ongoing Programs

The Parks Department is committed to providing access to our resources by offering ongoing classes and services that directly benefit all residents by offering low cost and accessible programming options.

- *Summer Camp
- *Swim Lessons
- *Teen Center Activities
- *Special Olympics Sports
- *Special Needs Activities & Programs
- *Adult Softball Leagues

Administration/Parks Board/Staff

Richmond Parks & Recreation Management

- Erin Moore, Director of Recreation/Administration
- Baylee Pharis, Administrative Assistant
- Elizabeth Foster, Program Coordinator/ Special Events
- Lauren Kilburn, Assistant Program Coordinator
- Kenlie Chandler, Marketing/Museum & Recreational Programmer
- Jaime Moore, Recreation Coordinator/Local Coordinator for Madison County Special Olympics/Special Needs and Athletics
- Josh Cole, Director of Buildings, Maintenance & Grounds
- 10 Additional Maintenance Laborers
- Tim Gross, Building Maintenance Superintendent
- 3 Additional Maintenance Staff



Richmond Parks & Recreation Board

*Gary Ford

*Emmitt Igo

* Jon McChesney, Chair

* Kathy Holmes

* Dan McBride, Vice-Chair

* Kathy Palmer

* Sondra Walker



Support Staff

- Recreation Aide/Interns- 1
- Teen Center Coordinator- 2
- Softball Coordinator- 1
- Summer Camp Director-1
- Paradise Cove Front Desk Managers-4
- Paradise Cove Concessions Managers-4
- Adventure Falls Managers- 3
- Teen Center Support Staff/Volunteers 2+
- Umpires/Scorekeepers-6
- Summer Camp Counselors- 7
- Paradise Cove Front Desk Staff- 8
- Paradise Cove Concessions Staff- 21
- Adventure Falls Staff- 8

Award Winning Department

The Kentucky Recreation and Park Society recently met for their annual State Conference and Trade Show at Corbin Arena, in Corbin, Kentucky November 2nd-4th. The Kentucky Recreation and Park Society (KRPS) was formed in 1953, as a private, non-profit institution to further the growth and development of recreation and parks services within the Commonwealth. KRPS is a state affiliate to the National Recreation and Park Association. Providing training opportunities and continuing education opportunities to parks and recreation professionals, city, county and state officials and partnering organizations such as Eastern Kentucky University and the Kentucky League of Cities. The mission of the Society is "To empower members to further the benefits parks and recreation offers to all people." The Richmond Parks and Recreation was well represented at this year's awards banquet and brought home the following prestigious awards.



2024 Presidential Citation Award- Erin Moore

The Presidential Citation Award was given to Erin Moore, Director of Recreation/Administration for her continuous efforts assisting Marlon Sams during his year of service as KRPS President.

2024- Special Citation- Brandon Thompson, MCPL

The Special Citation Award was given to Brandon Thompson from the Madison County Public Library for his continuous efforts to support Richmond Parks & Recreation and outreach in Madison County. Brandon attends most major Parks and Recreation events and is known for his DJ skills and Karaoke.



2023- Young Professional of the Year- Elizabeth Foster

The Young Professional of the Year Award recognizes a new parks and recreational professional for outstanding contributions to the profession. This year's recipient was Elizabeth Foster, the Program Coordinator for the Richmond Parks Department for her contributions to the department and the community. Elizabeth exemplifies the qualities of a young professional and is an excellent representation of the Department and the City of Richmond.

2023- Department of the Year- Class III City Outstanding Department Award

The final, and most prestigious award for departments is the Department of the Year Award which was presented to the Richmond Parks Department for Outstanding Department Award Class III. This is their third Department of the Year award since 2014.



PREVIOUS AWARDS

Facility Awards

- 2007- Adventure Falls
- 2013 Lake Reba Universal Playground
- 2020- Millstone Park

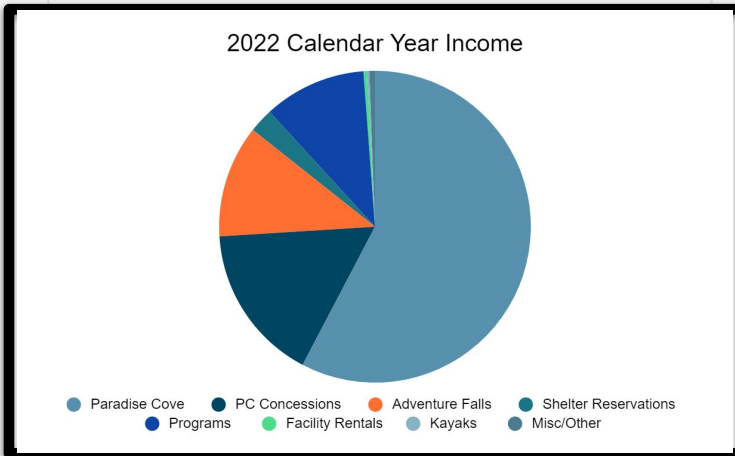
Program Awards

- 2014- Easter Eggstravaganza Helicopter Egg Drop

Financials

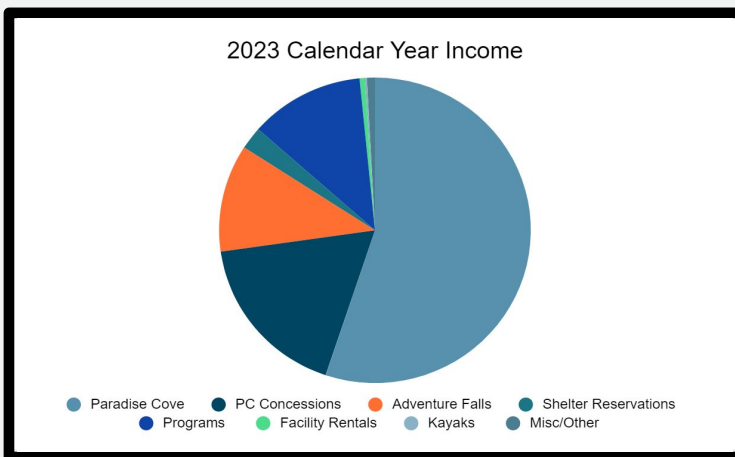
In conjunction with the City of Richmond Finance Department’s financial policies, the Parks and Recreation department works proactively to contain costs while increasing program participation, facility, and park use.

2022 Income



Parks and Recreation Budget		\$3,425,307
1.	Paradise Cove	\$362,709.97
2.	PC Concessions	\$102,607.50
3.	Adventure Falls	\$73,285.69
4.	Shelter Reservations	\$15,850.00
5.	Programs	\$66,819.08
6.	Facility Rentals	\$2,405.00
7.	Kayaks	\$1,375.56
8.	Misc/Other	\$3,692.58
Total		\$628,745.38

2023 Income



Parks and Recreation Budget		\$3,770,889
1.	Paradise Cove	\$403,568.10
2.	PC Concessions	\$129,048.50
3.	Adventure Falls	\$83,158.70
4.	Shelter Reservations	\$17,447.04
5.	Programs	\$87,094.34
6.	Facility Rentals	\$4,006.40
7.	Kayaks	\$1,568.46
8.	Misc/Other	\$6,055.91
Total		\$731,947.45

How do RPR Parks compare nationally?



The City of Richmond estimated jurisdictional population in 2020 is 35,585 (US Census Bureau, 2020)

Comparable data is reported from 31 national agencies with a jurisdictional population size of 20,000 – 49,999 residents.

Operating Budget

\$3,770,889



\$ 5,079,256
(Median)

\$83.25

Fiscal Operating Expenditures per capita

\$89
(Median)



Revenue-to-Operating Expenditures

6.22%



26.76%
(Median)

Park Operating Expenditures Per Acre of Parkland

\$19,803



\$21,728
(Upper Quartile)

Total Number of Park Land Per 1000 Residents

4.2 acres

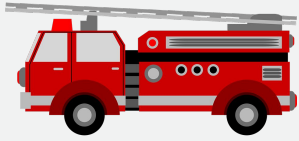


9.9 acres
(Median)

*NRPA Park Metrics are the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for park and recreation agencies. Launched in 2009, these agency performance resources assist park and recreation professionals in the effective management and planning of their operating resources and capital facilities. *The above data is based on 2021 Budget data.*

Attendance

Event/Programs - 43,964
Reservations - 25,818
PC/AF - 67,339
TOTAL - 137,121



*Spray & Play Events:

4 events

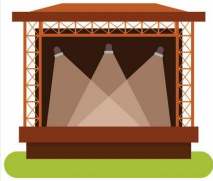
450 participants

*Park & Play: 7 events

Participants: 640

*Summer Camp- 8 weeks

317 Participants



*Millstone Festival:

145 Vendor Booths

23 Food Vendors

3 Musicians

130 Cars

14,000 attended



Special Olympics:

2023:

120 participants

8 Sports Teams

2022:

108 participants

8 Sports Teams

Practices 2x per week

***Easter
Eggstravaganza**
1,800 participants



*4th of July:

7500 participants

510 Free Swim

19 Vendors

***MOVIES**
6 Movies
2023-585
2022- 887



Richmond Teen Center

*Mentoring 27 weeks
Free Play 25 weeks
53 Teens | 707 attended
3 Movies & 5 events
15 Thanksgiving Baskets
17 Christmas Baskets

*Backpack Giveaway

2023 - 700

2022 - 688

*Adventure Falls Attendance

2023 - 9,410 (Apr-Oct)

2022 - 7,994 (Apr-Oct)



*Tasty Tuesdays:

25 times offered

Music, Trivia & More

5,620 attended

24 Food Trucks &

25 Musical acts

*Halloween Hoedown

6,000 participants

9 Food Vendors

88 Vendor Booths



*Holiday Season

Christmas Parade:

123 entries

1800 participants

Holiday Happening:

66 Vendors

Santa Letters:

45 letters

Santa Express- 35

Ice Skating:

820 participants



Facebook Followers:

2023: 14K – P&R

13K– PC

2022: 11.7K – P&R

11.9 – PC



148 - Programs/Events

17 - Programs Offered Weekly

238 - Days Programmed



Special Needs Events:

Game Night - 25

Pool Party - 75

Broadway Play - 17

3 Holiday/Season Dances - 411

3 Art in the Parks - 60

Homecoming Parade-10

2023 Spring & Fall

Adult Softball:

Teams - 23

Participants - 345



Kayak Rentals

2023 - 460

ROCK Programs-

2023- 545

GeoTrail-

2023- 125

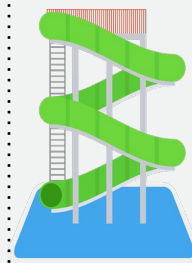


*PC Attendance

2023 - 57,929

2022 - 52,667

1779 Members



*PC Swim Lessons

2023 -209

Private- 138

Projects

We are constantly striving to improve our parks and recreation facilities. With the guidance of the 2021 Parks Master Plan, we will be looking to the future to renovate and maintain our facilities and adding greenspace and/or other amenities. We have several projects that are in the process of being completed in 2023.



Armory Park- Ribbon Cutting 10/27/23

In the fall of 2021, the City Commission announced that there are plans to tear down the old Armory Building located at 321 North Second St. This facility housed the Parks & Recreation Offices from 1980-2016. Due to the cost of renovations, it was decided to tear down the facility and create a park. This location would provide basketball courts, a playground, a skatepark and a Veteran's Memorial. Ground breaking on the project was in the fall of 2022 and the park opened in the summer of 2023.

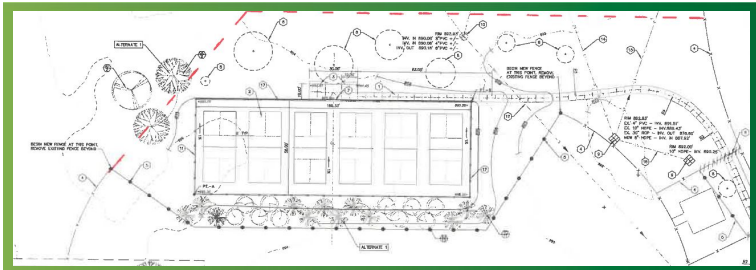


Richmond Regional Sports Complex at Goggins Lane - Groundbreaking 11/3/23

In an effort to expand park acreage and to comply with national standards, the City of Richmond purchased 280 acres of land on the corner of Goggins and Bates Creek to create a new sports park. This park will feature championship soccer fields, football fields, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and pickleball courts. It will also offer outdoor recreation opportunities like hiking, mountain biking, and disc golf. This property is the birth site of Kit Carson and there will be a memorial dedicated in his honor. Passive recreation, including playgrounds, a large dog park and shelter reservations will also be available on site. This project will take approximately 3-5 years to complete.

Lake Reba Pickle Ball Courts

The Richmond Parks & Recreation Department has received numerous requests for courts to be built prior to the 12 which will be open at Goggins Lane Park in 2025. Six pickleball courts will be bid out in January 2024 and constructed tentatively by Fall 2024.



Girls Softball

Girls Softball will find a new home at Lake Reba Park in the second phase of the Goggins Lane Park. Four new softball fields, in a clover pattern, will be located across from the Lake where MUSA currently has practice fields. Once soccer is moved out of Lake Reba to Goggins Lane, construction on the softball fields will begin.

Irvinton McDowell Park Playground

The Playground at Irvine McDowell Park is one of the oldest in the city. After a Playground Safety Inspection, it was recommended that this playground be replaced with newer materials and safer surfacing. Scheduled to be installed in Spring 2024.



Operations

The Richmond Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the operation of Paradise Cove Aquatic Center, Adventure Falls Miniature Golf & Batting Cage Facility, Irvinton House Museum and the Betty Miller Building. These facilities attract over 60,000 visitors each year. The aquatic facility and miniature golf complex are also a popular destination for birthday parties, private parties, and corporate events.

Paradise Cove

The Parks Department offers various aquatic programming at Paradise Cove Aquatic Center. Swim lessons are held yearly and average over 300 participants each summer. Free Swims are popular events that attract over 1000 participants for each event.

This facility employs over 80 staff in the summer between front desk, concessions, lifeguards and swim instructors and is open Memorial Day - Labor Day. The facility maintenance and hiring of lifeguards was contracted out to Bluegrass Pool Management Company.



Adventure Falls

The Miniature Golf and Batting Cage Facility was built in 2005 and features an 18-hole miniature golf course with 10 of those holes being ADA accessible. Eight Iron Mike Batting Cages are on site which cater to baseball, fastpitch and slow pitch softball. These cages are also ADA accessible. This facility employs 10 seasonal staff April-October.



Irvinton House Museum

In the fall of 2016, the Richmond Parks & Recreation Department moved its administrative offices to the Irvinton House Museum. Built in 1820, this house is iconic to the Irvine McDowell Park. Over the years it has been used as a Trachoma Hospital, the Madison County Library, a private residence and now is utilized as a museum. This facility is currently under renovation.



Betty Miller Building

Built in 2003, this building is now the home of the Richmond Teen Center. The facility is also available for reservations on weekends and is located in the Betty Miller Park.



Kayak Rentals

Outdoor recreation showed an increase in participation during the pandemic. Rentals, through a 3rd party, are available on weekends and most holidays May-October, depending on the weather.

Park Maintenance

Outdoors, Parks Maintenance is responsible for the care and maintenance of all open space within the RPR Parks system. Regular maintenance includes; mowing of 129.13 acres on a regular basis, mowing an additional 20+ acres of non-park land (including city property/medians/vacant lots), painting multiple restrooms and maintenance facilities, installing new grills, clearing fence lines, and much more. The Maintenance team also works on the athletic facilities, Girls Softball fields, adds dirt, and seeds Soccer fields. Working as a team, facility maintenance is also involved with community events and activities as necessary.



Athletic Facilities

The Maintenance staff is responsible for the upkeep of many athletic facilities and courts. Lake Reba alone features 12 horseshoe pits, 3 shuffleboard courts, 8 Little League Ball Fields, 3 adult softball fields, over 10 soccer fields, a football field, one and a half basketball courts, 2 dog parks and a walking trail. The other parks feature additional walking trails, a disc golf course, three additional soccer fields, 3 girls softball fields, a basketball court and dog park.

Shelters

The Maintenance Department is responsible for 13 shelters and 92 picnic tables throughout the parks system. Shelter reservations occur monthly beginning in April and continue through October. There were 399 shelter reservations and over 25,000 registered shelter users in 2023.

Playgrounds

There are eight playgrounds throughout the city parks system. Different playgrounds are appropriate for various age groups including ages 2-5, 5-12 or 2-12. An Inclusive/Accessible Playground is located at Lake Reba Park for ages 2-12. The maintenance staff is responsible for spreading mulch, changing out swings and broken parts, in addition to mowing and picking up trash.

Custodial and Maintenance Services

Staff is responsible for maintenance and custodial services for all facilities and restrooms located in Million Park, Dillingham, Camp Catalpa, Lake Reba Park, Irvine McDowell, including the Irvinton House Museum. Staff maintains the grounds for these parks, including Paradise Cove and Adventure Falls, two dog parks, 35 athletic fields/courts, and four miles of paved/unpaved trails.

Snow Removal

Parks Maintenance is responsible for removing snow from sidewalks and walkways at the RPR Offices at Irvine McDowell Park, City Hall, Hall of Justice, and other City-owned parks.



*Spring & Summer Programming

In an effort to continue engaging the public, several special events were modified or added to give other options. There were new programs added throughout the summer to encourage outdoor opportunities for the community to gather and have a great time.

Easter Eggstravaganza

On April 8th, Easter Eggstravaganza occurred at @ Lake Reba Park from 11:00am-1:00pm. The event had various games and activities, visits with the Easter Bunny, music, community booths, and continuous egg hunt happening. There were approximately 1,800 participants that attend.

Tasty Tuesdays

Beginning April 4th, Tasty Tuesday weekly events occur at Irvine McDowell Park from 5pm-8pm. Each week there were food trucks & music offered. There were 25 different musical groups, and 24 food vendors that rotated each week. Additional activities were added to some weeks with karaoke, trivia, and yoga with over 5,000 people attended over the season.

Fishing Derby

The Kids Fishing Derby is an event that has been popular since the mid 1990's for Richmond families. This event kicks off Free Fishing Weekend and takes place every first Saturday in June to promote the sport of fishing. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and The Cain Pole came out to support this event. This year, 76 children plus their guardians fished at Lake Reba.

Park & Play

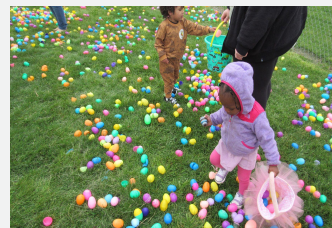
This program is a pop up mobile recreation program that is focused on bringing recreation and wellness to our community. There were seven dates planned this summer where we delivered FREE, fun recreational opportunities such as crafts, games, water activities and more. Locations included parks and the housing authority complexes of Robinson Terrace and Smith Village. Participation ranged from 15-100 participants each week.

Spray & Play

Four dates were planned this summer for the Fire Department to visit different areas of the city for a water fun day. These events were free and wildly successful. The spray down's typically attracted 50-100 children at each event.

Youth Sports

The Richmond Parks & Recreation Department does not oversee the youth sports in Richmond, but works closely with the individual organizations to schedule facilities and promote registrations. Youth sport leagues in Richmond include: Little League Baseball, Richmond Fastpitch Club (Girl's Softball), Madison United Soccer, and the Richmond Youth Football League.



*Fall & Winter Programming

Richmond Parks and Recreation was thrilled to see many of our original events and programs to return to normal. There was an increased interest in all of the fall events in both participation and attendance. There is hope to grow these events, and continue to provide great opportunities for the citizens of Richmond.

Movies

There were six movies offered this year at Irvine-McDowell Park. Sweet Home Alabama, Dirty Dancing, and Top Gun were shown in June, July & August. Turning Red, Guardians of the Galaxy & The Addams Family were shown during September and October.

4th of July

The July 4th event featured Tyler Hood, Allnuts 4 Music, and Rock of Ages. There were 19 food vendors. We estimated there were 6,000-8,000 that attended. We offered a free swim at Paradise Cove that had 510 people attend. Fireworks concluded the event.

Back to School Bash

The Back-to-School Bash, sponsored by the Teen Center, was held at Irvine McDowell Park to allow for more visibility. There were 40 community vendors giving out free information, inflatables, free food, and backpack giveaways. We gave out 700 backpacks stuffed with donated school supplies to students in our community.

Millstone Festival

The Millstone Festival was expanded this year to four blocks on Main Street and surrounding the courthouse. There were four music performances, twenty food/beverage vendors, 130 car show participants, and 145 business and craft vendors. The event ran from 11 AM - 8 PM and had approximately 14,000 attendees and children.

Halloween Hoedown

The Halloween Hoedown moved to Lake Reba this year to allow for easier access and additional space. EKU's REC 460 class helped put together the games, activities & decorations for this event. There were four snack vendors, and 90 community booths giving out candy. The event ran from 6PM-8PM and had approximately 6,000 attendees.

Holiday Programs

Each year we like to spread Christmas cheer by sending customized Santa Letters to children in the community. We had 45 participants this year. With Santa Express we have Santa do home visits to children in the community. This program had 35 participants. We also added an Ice Skating Rink at Irvine McDowell Park for 4 days. We had 820 people participate in this program.



Christmas Parade

Celebrating the Season was the theme this year for the Christmas Parade. There were 122 entries with 55 floats, and 1,820 participants in the parade. It was a joyful event and had many participants looking forward to next year.

Special Needs Programs

Madison County Special Olympics(MCSO) and the Special Needs Activities and Programs (SNAP) had a very exciting and rewarding year. Basketball, Cheerleading, Swimming, Track and Field, Softball, Golf, Flag Football, and Bowling were able to operate back to pre-covid schedules. Both our Basketball and Softball A Teams won 1st and our Cheer Squad placed 2nd in the SOKY State Competitions! We were also able to continue with our non-athletic events including Community Valentine Card making, Collaborative Dance with EKU Dance Team, Broadway Buddies at the Lexington Opera House, Art in the Park, 3 Dinner/Dance events, and we added a 5-week class called Spring Into Healthy Eating and Fitness. We hosted 2 fundraisers: the 1st Annual Duck Derby and the RPD vs RFD Chili Cook-off and Auction. In November, MCSO became one of two Meijer \$5000 donation recipients! We truly are blessed to be part of such a special community!

Jan-Feb

Basketball and Cheerleading practices and games started back the second week of January. The cold weather canceled 2 games, but our players and cheerleaders were able to finish out league games, SOKY Basketball Regionals and Cheerleading State competitions. We were thrilled as each sport was able to begin, and all of our non-athletic activities and events were back to “normal”.



Special Olympics

Track and Field had 26 athletes, Swim Team had 15 athletes, Golf had 14 athletes, Bowling had 36 athletes, and all of these teams participated in both Regional and State competitions. Softball had 27 players total on both A and B teams, and Flag Football had 13, both played in the Regional and State competition. Basketball currently has 29 athletes that makes up both our A and B teams-competing in Regionals on 2/17, and Cheerleading has 11 athletes who will compete in the State Competition on February 24.



Spring Into Healthy Eating and Fitness Classes

In February we began a 5 class pilot program with the intent of creating a community for special needs individuals to learn about healthy eating and fitness options to keep stay healthy throughout the year. We collaborated with EKU students, parents, and Marshall Pediatrics who hosted us with a dance and fruit water infusion how-to class. We also had speakers lead us through a healthy snacking sampling class and a Bocce workshop.

Adaptive Sports & REC 311

Every year the EKU Adaptive Sports and REC 311 classes volunteer with Special Olympics to get experience working with individuals with disabilities and learning to adapt activities to their skills. Several students assisted with our Track and Cheer teams, and also assisted in the set up/clean up, as well as dancing, at our Halloween Mini-golf Costume Party.

Social Gatherings

Every year we plan 2 game nights, pool party, and 3 Dances: Spring, Halloween, and Christmas. We were so very thrilled to be able to be back joined together fully this year.



Accessibility

Over the years, the Richmond Parks & Recreation Department has worked hard to create an inclusive and diverse culture that can accommodate people of various abilities. One of the goals is to create an inclusive culture in our parks for adults and children of all ages and abilities

Accessible Kayak Launch

In a partnership with the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife, a new ADA accessible Kayak Ramp was installed in the early spring of 2021. This Kayak launch provides an accessible ramp, transfer station, and dock for launching kayaks and a courtesy dock for other boats utilizing Lake Reba.

Adventure Falls

The Miniature Golf Course has 10 holes that are ADA Accessible. The first 8 holes, and the last two offer no barriers and wheelchair, walker, or stroller accessibility. Two years ago, a new door was created on the side of the slow pitch machines which offers an accessible opening for anyone who would like to use the batting cages, but need an accessible entrance.

Paradise Cove

The aquatic facility offers zero depth entry into the feature pool area. There is also a lift in the lap pool that provides entrance to those who cannot enter the pool using the steps.

Inclusive Playground

In 2011, the first phase of inclusive playgrounds was installed at Lake Reba Park, providing accessible equipment for those who need to use assisted devices like wheelchairs or walkers. The second phase of the inclusive playground was installed in 2019 and opened in July of 2020. It provides accessible surfacing, inclusive swings, and multiple play features that allow all kids to play together. Thought was taken to be inclusive to those with ambulatory challenges, visual and hearing impairments, communication disorders, and sensory issues. There is a wheelchair accessible swing on site as well.

Accessible Fitness Equipment

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant funding was approved and the new Adult Fitness Equipment was officially opened in June 2023 and is located between the golf course and the soccer fields, just off of the walking trail, and is ADA accessible.

Other

The pier at the Lake Reba Boat Dock is accessible for those who would like to fish, but cannot traverse down to the lake's edge. Shelter C, the large shelter closest to the Lake, offers accessible picnic tables and a beautiful view of the lake. Shelters A & B are also accessible. The walking trail closest to Adventure Falls offers 8-foot-wide multi-use path that is easily traveled.

Future Accessibility Projects

The trails at Lake Reba are accessible, but will need to be resurfaced in the upcoming years.



Richmond Outdoor Committee, KY (ROCK)

The Richmond Outdoor Committee, KY (ROCK) was established in early 2021 to promote outdoor activities and opportunities in Richmond, KY. The ROCK's goals are to educate, promote, and participate in outdoor recreation. The below activities highlight what was offered through ROCK during 2023.



Workshops

The ROCK collaborated with various outdoor recreation professionals to present educational workshops to the community. 2023 workshops included: Introduction to Kayaking, Introduction to Geocaching, Richmond's 1st Inaugural GeoTour, Hook & Cook and Introduction to hunting.



Fishing & Hunting

The ROCK collaborated with Kentucky Fish & Wildlife and Cain Pole on the Kids Fishing Derby on the first Saturday in June with 76 participants. KY Fish & Wildlife presented a Hook & Cook class in July at Lake Reba where participants learned how to fish and cook fish with 9 participants. They also presented an Introduction to Hunting Course on March 18th with 20 participants and August 5th with 20 participants.



Family Nature Day

On July 22nd from 10am-2pm, the ROCK collaborated with ECU Division of Natural Areas to present the 3rd Family Nature Day at Taylor Fork Ecological Area. There were 183 participants throughout the day. On September 16th, we collaborated again for a Family Nature Day at Maywoods. There were different educational stations which included topics such as Monarchs & Milkweed, Mapping, Creek Critters, Animal Tracking, Geocaching, Bugs, Reptiles & Amphibians, & More. There were 89 participants throughout the day.



Taylor Fork Nature Exploration Series

Throughout the 2023 year, ROCK collaborated with ECU Division of Natural Areas to present the Taylor Fork Nature Exploration Series. Workshops included Monarch Tagging, Geology, Bird Banding, Homecoming Hike, Nature at Night and More! The purpose of this series is to educate the community on outdoor topics and raise awareness of one of the natural areas that the community has to offer. Since partnering, participation for each workshop has doubled.

Richmond Outdoor Committee, KY (ROCK)

The Parks & Recreation Department continued throughout the year to promote outdoor recreation activities sponsored by the ROCK, Madison County 4-H, KY Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, EKU, Get Outside KY, The Cain Pole, and other community organizations. This collaboration helped strengthen the awareness of the many activities offered in our community without duplication of services.



Kayak Race & Fun Float

The ROCK presented a kayak race at Lake Reba this Summer. The races were a timed ¼ mile long kayak singles slalom buoy race. All levels of experience were welcomed. There were 12 participants and countless race onlookers. There was also two Fun Floats at Lake Reba in the Fall. Participants could go out on the water with like minded people without the stress of being timed like a race. There were 10-15 participants at each float with a completely different dynamic than the races.



Inaugural GeoTrail

On October 20-21st, 2023, ROCK kicked off a year of geocache hunting with Richmond, KY's Inaugural Geo Trail. The weekend began with a "Meet and Greet" potluck at Irvine-McDowell Park the night before the geocaching event. The Geo Trail event kicked off at Lake Reba Park, with introductions, games, door prizes, and an "Intro to Geo Class" at 10:30am. Geocaches went live on geocaching.com at 10am. Participants will have 1 year to complete 25/30 finds to receive a commemorative Richmond, KY 225th Anniversary souvenir coin. There were 125 participants during this weekend event.



Earth Day Events

On April 18th, the ROCK partnered with EKU Natural Areas for an Earth Day hike at Taylor Fork Ecological Area. There were 15 participants. On Saturday, April 23rd, the ROCK held an Earth Day Event at Camp Catalpa Park. This was a Nature Explorers program for K-5th students.

Women's Wilderness Series

The purpose of this series was to help women of all ages gain confidence and the skills they need to engage in outdoor recreation such as camping, hiking, backpacking, etc. Workshops in 2023 were all instructed by women and included topics such as: Women's Self-Defense, Kayaking, Wilderness Safety Basics, What to Pack when camping, backpacking hiking, etc., and a foraging workshop.



Community Outdoor Events Hub

Shortly after the ROCK committee was formed, a Facebook group was created to help bring local outdoor enthusiasts together as well as share outdoor events/programs. This has been a great tool to not only promote local outdoor recreation businesses but to reach individuals who are specifically looking for outdoor programming. The Facebook group is up to 1,899 members. #MyRichmondRocks

*Richmond Teen Center

The Richmond Teen Center (RTC) is a division of the Richmond Parks & Recreation Department and focuses on enriching the lives of our youth. The RTC is managed by Richmond Parks & Recreation, but also has a Teen Center Board and a 501(c)3 designation that receives donations to help supplement the costs of the facility.



Teen Center Activities

After meeting with a few community groups, partnerships started with the Home of Opportunities and Dreams for a weekly Tuesday mentoring program and Lighthouse Church's Give-N-Go Program for a weekly Sunday mentoring program. We also offered Free Play activities on Thursday nights for some recreational opportunities for the students. We have continued to work on community partnerships to help expand the programs & resources offered by the Teen Center.

Teen Center Events

To give variety at the Teen Center, we have offered seasonal activities and field trips. Some of the events were offered were trip to Malibu Jacks, King's Island, Surge, Back to School Bash, a Halloween movie night, a Thanksgiving dinner, and a Christmas movie night. Each event is free and open to Teens and their family.

Tuesday Mentoring Program

This fall a partnership was continued with the Home of Opportunities and Dreams to offer a mentoring program on Tuesdays after school. From 4 PM - 5 PM, the students met with various community groups such as and focused on various topics. From 5 PM - 5:30 PM the students met with David Townsend and continued the talk about the mentoring topic and work on Junior Achievement Program. This program hosts between 8-15 students each week.

Back to School Bash

The Back-to-School Bash sponsored by the Teen Center was excited to celebrate another year at Irvine McDowell Park. There were 40 community vendors giving out free information, inflatables, free food, and backpack giveaways. We handed out 700 backpacks this year filled with paper, crayons, markers, pencils, folders, rulers, scissors, erasers, notebooks, and more.

Projects

The Richmond Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the operation of Paradise Cove Aquatic Center, Adventure Falls Miniature Golf & Batting Cage Facility, Irvinton House Museum and the Betty Miller Building. These facilities attract over 60,000 visitors each year. The aquatic facility and miniature golf complex are also a popular destination for birthday parties, private parties, and corporate events.

Adventure Falls

- Opened April 1st - Oct 22nd
- Landscaping has been pruned and ready for opening
- Repairs are being made to electric, light poles, and pumps
- A new net will be installed, flooring and carpet repairs for 2024 season



Paradise Cove

- Kona Ice was selected to sale frozen treats daily at PC. Parks and Recreation received a percentage of their income.
- Slides were repaired in the spring
- New Chairs were purchased
- Motor repair for front pump room
- Decks and chairs were pressure washed
- New Shade Structures to be installed for 2024



Irvinton House Museum

- The foundation has been secured, asbestos was found and mitigated. Ducts were cleaned, gutters have been replaced in 2022.
- Gutter Guards will be installed Winter 2024



Grants

- We applied for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for \$90,000 and a National Fitness Campaign Grant for \$30,000 to help purchase Adult Fitness Equipment. This equipment is planned to be installed at Lake Reba Park. The LWCF was awarded in September of 2022. Construction on the project began in October with an estimated completion time of Spring of 2023. New Fitness Equipment opened at Lake Reba in June 2023.

Playgrounds

- Playgrounds continue to have maintenance completed as parts and pieces are in need of repair.
- A new playground was installed at Armory Park.
- Irvine McDowell Park Playgrounds will be replaced in the spring of 2024.



2024 Spring Calendar of Events

Below is a tentative calendar of events for the Richmond Parks & Recreation Department. Our staff will continue to move forward with planning for these events to ensure that our community continues to have opportunities for a higher quality of life.

Applications for seasonal employment, interviews, and hiring will begin in January and February. Other off-season tasks include preparing for facility openings, off-season equipment repair, and field preparations for athletic fields. Special events and programs staff create registration documentation, marketing, and logistics paperwork..

Jan

- Jan SNAP Fun Bowling (Every Wed-July)
- Jan SOKY Basketball (Tues & Thurs - Mar)
- Jan SOKY Cheer (Thur - Mar)
- Jan 16 RTC Mentoring Begins (Tues - May)
- Jan 18 Adult Softball Registration Opens
- Jan 18 RTC Free Play Begins (Thurs - May)

Feb

- Feb 9 KRPS District Meeting
- Feb 16 Family Game Night
- Feb 17 SOKY Basketball Regional Competition
- Feb 20 Feb RTC Event
- Feb 24 SOKY Cheerleading State Competition

March

- Mar MUSA begins
- Mar MCYFL begins
- Mar 2 Kids Mall Madness
- Mar 4 Spring Softball Meeting
- Mar 6 ROCK Meeting
- Mar 7 SOKY Track begins (Every week - June)
- Mar 9 ROCK Hunter Education Course
- Mar 9 ROCK Woodcock Walk at Taylor Fork
- Mar 11 SOKY Basketball State Competition
- Mar 18 SNAP Story Walk
- Mar 19 March RTC Event
- Mar 22 ROCK Tree Planting at Taylor Fork
- Mar 30 Easter Eggstravaganza
- Mar 28 Adventure Falls Training

April

- Apr Girls Fastpitch Opening Day (Tent)
- Apr 1 Summer Camp Applications available
- Apr 2 Book Club
- Apr 2 SNAP Spring Dance
- Apr 2 Tasty Tuesdays (Tues - Sept)
- Apr 6 Adventure Falls Opens (Nights & Weekends)
- Apr 6 ROCK Wildflower Weekend at Gladie
- Apr 13 Little League Opening Day (Tent)
- Apr 15 Spring Adult Softball begins
- Apr 18 April RTC Event
- Apr 19 ROCK Arbor Day Event at EKU
- Apr 20 Fastpitch opens
- Apr 22 SOKY Track Regional Competitions (Tent)
- Apr 23 ROCK Native Plant Swap
- Apr 26 KRPS Mini Golf Tournament
- Apr 27 ROCK Family Nature Day at Gladie (Tent)
- Apr 30 Book Club

May

- May Adventure Falls Open (Daily through Sept)
- May Reservations/Registrations/Pool Projects
- May PC & SC Paperwork/Training
- May 5 SOKY Duck Derby Fundraiser
- May 7 Book Club
- May 9 RTC Free Play Ends
- May 14 RTC Mentoring Ends
- May 18 Kids to Parks Day
- May 25 Paradise Cove Opens daily through Labor Day
- May 28 Book Club
- May 31 PC Free Swim

June

- June Swim Lessons Session
- June 1 Special Olympics State Games - EKU
- June 1 ROCK - Kids Fishing Derby
- June 3 Summer Camp Begins
- June 4 Book Club
- June 12 Park & Play
- June 15 ROCK Intro to Kayak & Fun Float
- June 21 PC Free Swim
- June 22 ROCK - Great American Campout
- June 25 Book Club
- June 26 Park & Play at Richmond Manor
- June 28 Movie in the Park

2024 Fall Calendar of Events

July

July	Swim Lessons
July 2	Book Club
July 4	July 4 th Festival
July 8	Summer Camp Session 5
July 10	Park & Play
July 13	Doggy Splash Event
July 15	Summer Camp Session 6
July 17	Park & Play
July 19	Movie in the Park
July 20	Family Nature Day
July 22	SOKY Golf Regionals
July 26	PC Free Swim
July	Summer Camp Session 7
July 29	Fall Adult Softball begins
July 30	Book Club and Movie

August

Aug	MCYFL / MUSA Fall League Begins (Tent)
Aug 1	Little League / Fastpitch begins (Tent)
Aug 6	Book Club
Aug 8	Back-to-School Bash
Aug 16	SNAP Art In the Park
Aug 19	SNAP Game Night
Aug 21	SOKY Bowling Team(Every Wed-Nov)
Aug 24	ROCK-Hunter Education Course
Aug 25	SNAP Art In the Park
Aug 27	Book Club
Aug TBD	SOKY Pool Party in Berea
Aug TBD	SOKY Golf State Competition (Tent)

September

Sept 3	Book Club
Sept 4	PC Closes & Labor Day
Sept 5	Sept RTC Event
Sept 5	RTC Mentoring Program Begins
Sept 6	Movie in the Park
Sept 7	RTC Free Play Begins
Sept 9	SOKY State Softball Competition (Tent)
Sept 13	SNAP Art in the Park
Sept 21	Family Nature Day at Maywoods
Sept 24	Book Club
Sept 27	SNAP Art In the Park
Sept 27	Movie in the Park

October

Oct	Adventure Falls (weekends only)
Oct	Christmas Parade Applications Available
Oct	Holiday Happening Applications Available
Oct	SNAP Art In the Park
Oct	Fall Softball Ends
Oct 5	Millstone Festival
Oct	NRPA –
Oct	SOKY Bowling Regionals (Tent)
Oct 11	Movie in the Park
Oct 12	Storytelling at Camp Catalpa
Oct	SNAP Halloween Dance
Oct 18	SNAP Art In the Park
Oct 18	2nd Annual Geotour
Oct 24	Halloween Hoedown



November

Nov 12	Applications for Santa Letters / Express Available
Nov	KRPS -
Nov 26	Nov RTC Event
Nov 21	Christmas Parade Application Deadline

December

Dec 3	SNAP Christmas Dance
Dec 6	Christmas Parade
Dec 7	Holiday Happening Craft Show
Dec 7	SOKY Bowling State Competition (Tent)
Dec 10	RTC Free Play Ends
Dec 10	Dec RTC Event
Dec 11	Santa Letters / Express Deadline
Dec 16 / 18	Santa Express Home Visits





**345 Lancaster Ave
Richmond, KY 40475**

RICHMOND
PARKS AND RECREATION

parks.richmond.ky.us



859-626-7665



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Growing Strong Roots for a Healthy Community.

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Richmond Parks and Recreation
345 Lancaster Ave.
Richmond, KY 40475
859-623-8753
parksandrec@richmond.ky.us

Admin Offices: Open Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm
PC: Open Memorial Day Weekend- Labor Day
AF: Open April- Oct.

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In every walk with nature,
one receives far more
than he seeks.

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John Muir