

The Alabamian

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION



ARPA CELEBRATES SUPERHEROES




Natalie Norman, CPRP

Executive Director
Alabama Recreation and
Parks Association

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from the **President**

Greetings to my ARPA Family,

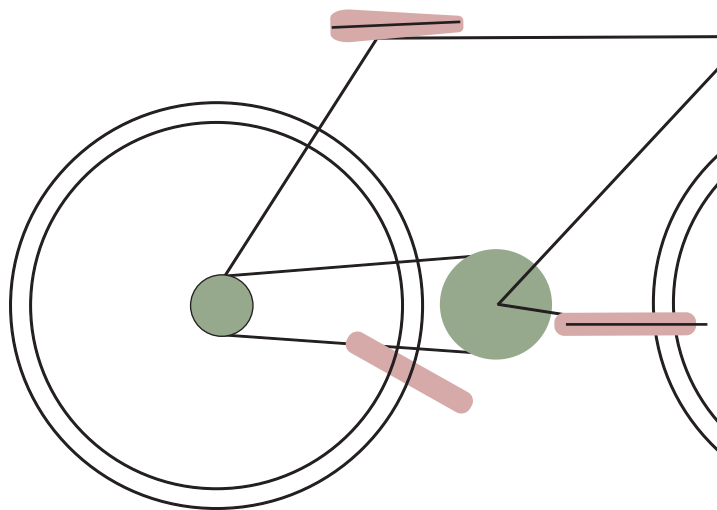
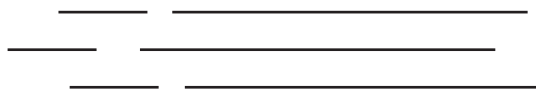
It has been a great summer full of activities and fun. We've had good ARPA Softball and Swimming competitions. I would like to encourage all of you to continue to participate in all activities. With the fall season approaching, we're looking forward to our annual COPP Golf Tournament in Montgomery in October. The fall workshop will be held on September 27-29 in Orange Beach. This is a great opportunity for our members to grow with good leadership skills by putting emphasis on how essential parks and recreation is in our communities. The "You Make the Difference Alabama Tour" follow the fall workshop.

As a reminder, here are some important state events that will be coming up, they are as follow:

September - Fall Workshop, October - COPP Golf Tournament, "You Make the Difference Tour", November - Soccer/Archery/Volleyball tournaments, LEAD Program, NFL Flag Football.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mr. Steve Brown, our Government Affairs Representative, for his service and all that he does for ARPA. To all of you, I would like to leave you with this - whatever the cause, your commitment to it will fuel your passion. It is the driving force behind your passion. You will never be passionate about what you are not committed to. Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplish without passion. It is your passion that empowers you to be able to do the thing that you were created to do.

Willie Moore III
2022 ARPA President



Hello ARPA Superheroes!

Winter is among us! And what an amazing Fall!

We had an outstanding Fall Workshop, which also kicked off the **You Make The Difference Alabama Tour**. Many thanks to our hosts that welcomed the tour into their communities. Thanks to our members for making both successful.

The 2023 Annual State Conference and Trade Show is coming January 29-31. Please join us in Orange Beach as ARPA celebrates 80 years of service. Registration information can be found on our website at www.arpaonline.org. We look forward to a great event, delivering strong educational and networking opportunities, as well as an outstanding Exhibit Hall!

We want to say a big thank you to our Fall Recreational Sports host sites: Enterprise for hosting State Volleyball and Dothan for hosting State Soccer. Thank you for providing wonderful environments for our kids to play!

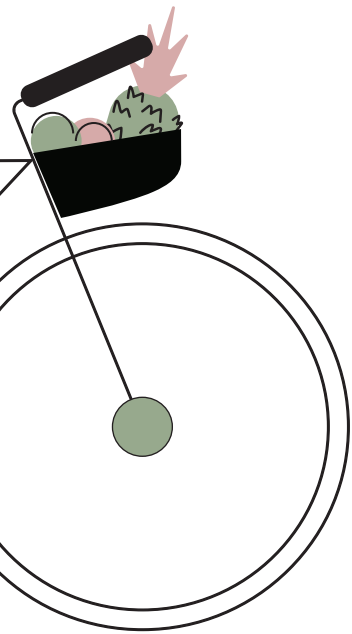
Thank you for all that you do each day! Wishing everyone a wonderful 2023!

Natalie Norman
Executive Director



from the

**Executive
Director**



District One

Award Winners

Community

Adam Richardson

Shoals Area

Carolyn Chandler

Florence

CTA

Winfield

Merit in Recreation

Susan O'Mary

Winfield

Merit in Parks

Lee McIntyre

Muscle Shoals

Merit in Athletics

Zach Tverberg

Florence

Professional of the Year

Frederick Mosley

Russellville



Updates in
Arab

Our Smalley Grist Mill got a new look this month. We were able to get some aged tin to add to the historic look of this wonderful building located in the Arab Historic Village.



Arab Parks and Recreation was able to add a new playground to our soccer field. Now people can utilize that space during the off season as well. It is such a wonderful addition to the fields and walking trail already at that location.



Santa

in the Village

During the month of December, Arab Historic Village is transformed into a fun Christmas destination. Children and adults from all over can come experience the beautiful Christmas in the Park lights and then visit Santa in the Village. This year we have been able to add the Grinch to our fun Christmas experience. Children can decorate an ornament for their tree, write a letter to Santa, take a photo with Santa, get a reindeer shoe from the Blacksmith shop, collect reindeer food from the Gristmill, ride

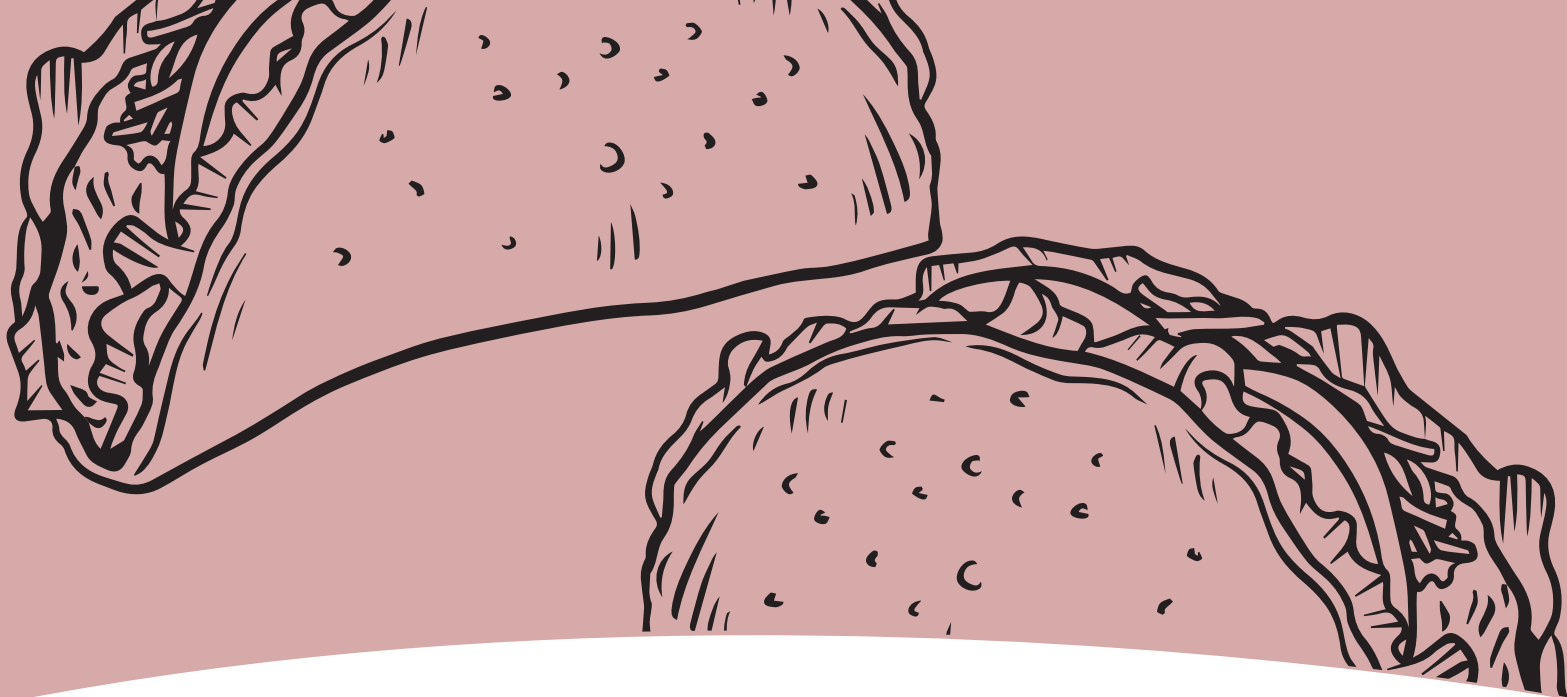
the train, visit with Rudolph, and take a picture with the Grinch. Parents enjoy the beautiful decorations inside the buildings and the joy in the faces of all of the children. This event is done annually in conjunction with Christmas in the Park.



Arab Superheroes

We have several heroes at Arab Parks and Recreation. Recently at the District 2 meeting some of our heroes were recognized. Eric Hayes was recognized as the Bill Moore Professional of the Year. He goes above and beyond to be an exceptional leader. He joins in and works right alongside his employees. Our guys were recognized for a Staff Achievement Award. They work hard year round to make sure our parks are beautiful and something that our town can be proud of. They are the first ones to volunteer when things need to be done. They go above and beyond daily to make sure things are done right.





Tacos & Tequila



Sand Mountain Amphitheater will be hosting the 2nd annual Tacos & Tequila festival. This all-star lineup will be headlined by hip-hop superstar TI and joined by iconic artists Ying Yang Twins & Waka Flocka Flame. The festival will take place on Friday, May 19th, 2023! We are thrilled to bring back one

of the most exciting events we have ever hosted at Sand Mountain Amphitheater. The jam-packed artist lineup will be complimented by a variety of excellent specialty food and drink options, you will not want to miss out on one of the best concerts of the year!

When:

Friday, May 19th, 2023

Where:

Sand Mountain Amphitheater:
700 SMPA Blvd. Albertville, AL 35950

Who:

TI • Ying Yang Twins • Waka Flocka Flame



**Tickets on sale Friday,
December 16th at 10:00 am.**

Purchase tickets at
sandmountainampitheatre.com

Media Inquiries

Please contact Scott Smith
at (334) 524-9334



PARA Wins

By: Tera Batayneh, PARA Marketing & Sales Specialist

“Cindy Lou Who” Award at T-Town Tinsel Trail

Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority (PARA) is proud to share our first ever entry on Tuscaloosa's One Place Tinsel Trail. We had so much fun putting our “Stranger Things” themed tree display together. Our entry was made up of several handmade pieces including ornaments, “Demogorgon” tree toppers, and the show's alphabet wall which was sanded, primed, wallpapered, and painted by PARA employees.

Tinsel Trail is a display of nearly 200 live trees that light up the downtown Tuscaloosa area at Government Plaza, attracting thousands of visitors each year. Trees are sponsored and decorated

by local businesses, organizations, and groups in various themes of their choosing. The trees are on display from late November to early January and it is free to walk the Trail. Judges give out eleven different awards and we are proud to announce that we received the Cindy Lou Who Award for children's favorite.

To learn more about the Tuscaloosa Tinsel Trail, visit ttowntinsel.com.



Tuscaloosa United

Tuscaloosa United is Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority's brand for soccer in Tuscaloosa.

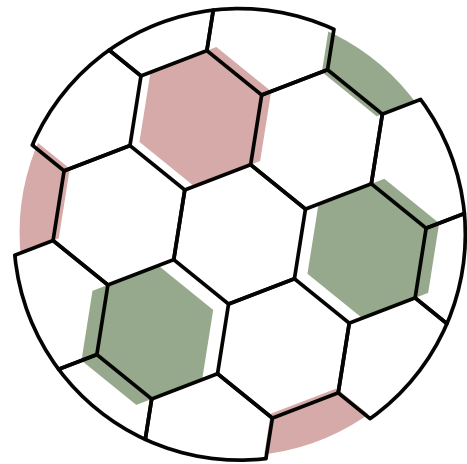
Tuscaloosa United Soccer Club's Competitive teams dominated the Alabama State Soccer Association's State Cup final four this past November in Foley, AL, bringing home state championships in five divisions and securing one state finalist title



“

We are extremely proud of our state champions and finalists,” said Barry Spitzer, the club's executive director. “Tuscaloosa United Soccer is growing, competing and winning against teams across the state, and I couldn't be prouder of our players, coaches and club. Our Tuscaloosa boys and girls are working hard, creating memories and loving the game. Our coaches are excelling, leading by example and investing in our kids.

..... ”



The Tuscaloosa teams posted the following results in the State Cup final divisions:

2009 Competitive Girls (9-0) defeated Homewood Soccer Club 3-2 for the state championship.
Coach Angela Mast

2008 Competitive Boys Red (10-0) defeated Alabama FC Alabaster 1-0 for their second state championship in row.
Coach David DiPiazza

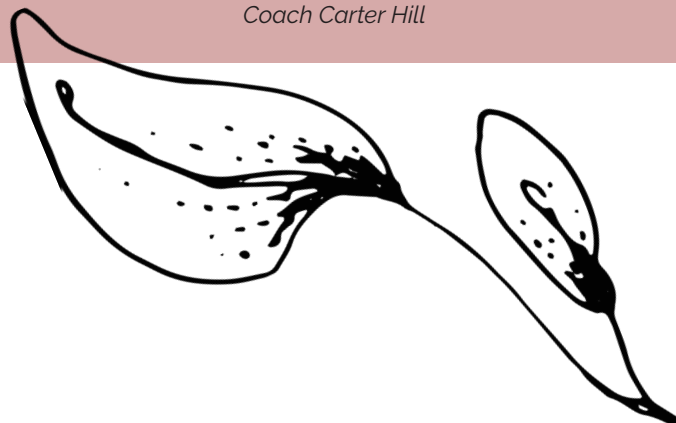
2008 Competitive Boys White (8-0) defeated Muscle Shoals Soccer Club 4-3 for the state title.
Coach Nick Maltz

2007 Competitive Boys (8-0) defeated Alabama FC Central 1-0 for their second state championship title two years running.
Coach Jose Jimnez

2007 Competitive Girls defeated Alabama FC South 4-0 to win the state title.
Coach Angela Mast

2005 Competitive Girls (7-3) defeated Vestavia Hills 2-0 to make it to the finals, but lost 1-0 to Alabama FC Central for the state second place title.
Coach Carter Hill

.....



District Five

Award Winners

Professional of the Year in Recreation

.....

Pam Driver

Opelika Parks and Recreation



Professional of the Year in Parks

.....

Steve Masters

Sylacauga Parks and Recreation



New Professional of the Year

.....

Collin Aiken

Lincoln Parks and Recreation



Auburn Parks & Recreation



Auburn Parks and Recreation has an incredible crew staff that help keep our parks, playgrounds, and cemeteries looking amazing. Auburn Parks and Recreation has added Dinius Park and the Town Creek Park Inclusive. The crews have worked hard to keep the Parks looking great. The cemetery crew worked extremely hard throughout the past 2 years with COVID. There were more deaths but continued to work hard to keep up with the demand.

Auburn Parks and Recreation crews also prepare the parks and facilities for over 52 events a year. The crews work tirelessly, especially on Auburn CityFest. Always held the last Saturday in April, Auburn CityFest requires the entire Auburn Parks and Recreation staff to work. Over 15,000 people visit Kiesel park for the annual CityFest. Auburn Parks and Recreation continues to grow and the Auburn crews keep up with the continued progress.



Breakfast with Santa

Phenix City hosted their annual Breakfast with Santa on 12/10/22. This year the theme was Polar Express and we had a visit from the conductor himself! There were 125 participants and everyone had a great time. Breakfast was served and The Conductor got us in the Christmas spirit with some of our favorite Christmas songs. Santa Clause even made an appearance. Children were reminded of the Spirit of Christmas and to Only Believe!



District Six

Award Winners

Maintenance Staff of the Year

James Foster
Enterprise Parks and Recreation

Young Professional Staff of the Year

John Milner
Dothan Leisure Services

Support Staff of the Year

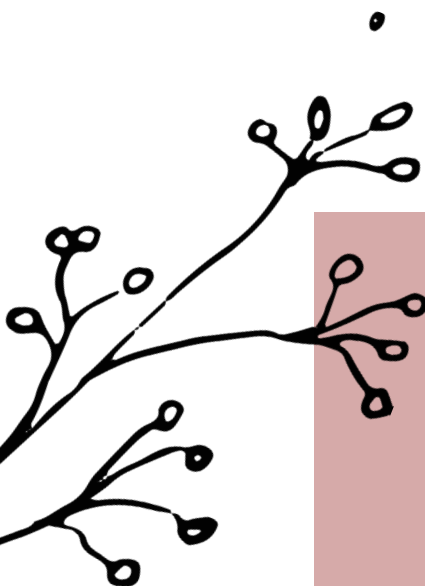
Sam Green
Eufaula Parks and Recreation

Professional of the Year

Kenny Thompson
Dothan Leisure Services

Grounds Staff of the Year

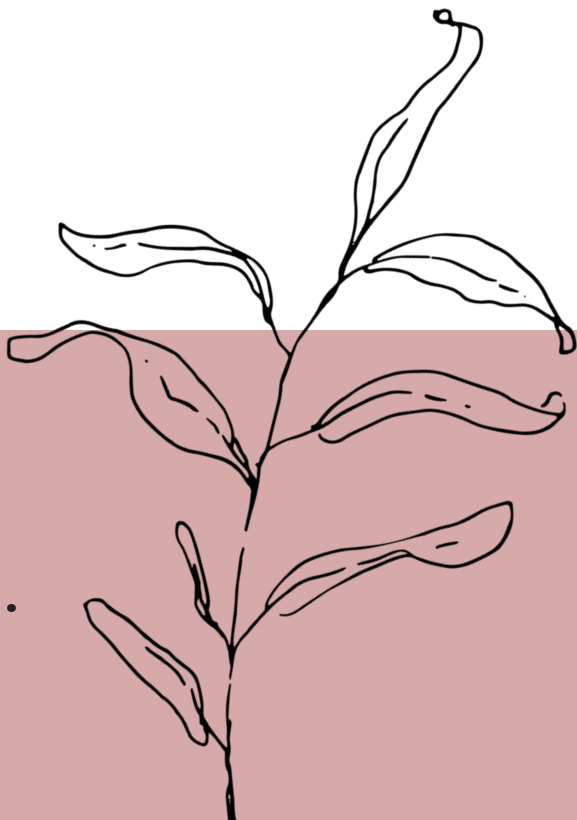
Kaleb Bass
Dothan Leisure Services



Beverly Shields is a Superhero

Beverly Shields ability to manage Junior Tennis Tournaments and the systems that apply, make her an expert in the field and a superhero to all that work with her. Beverly's in-depth knowledge helps to bring our Junior Tennis Tournaments to the highest level. Her expertise, attention to detail, and her ability to handle time sensitive information is an asset to the overall success of the Westgate Tennis Center's tournament season. With years of experience and knowledge, she makes sure that entries, draws, pairing of doubles partners, and awards are handled with precision. She goes above and beyond to help parents get their

children registered and paired up with doubles partners, as well as answering any questions they may have throughout the tournament. The City of Dothan recently hosted the National Clay Court Championships in July, and many of the compliments received from participants specifically called out Beverly on her diligence, politeness, and communication throughout the event. Superheroes never give up, will stay the course, push through obstacles, and give the extra effort needed to make sure the project is successful – that describes Beverly to a “T” and we are thrilled this superhero is in our corner!



Dothan Lifeguards

Lifeguards are our superheroes in Dothan! These first responders work hard 12 months out of the year to keep our citizens safe in and around the water. Our 50-person professional lifeguard team is the common denominator in all of our aquatics activities including swim team, lap swim, Aquacise, public swim, swimming lessons, and waterpark operations. Training for our 2023 superheroes begins in February! For more information, visit us online at DothanLeisureServices.org.





Troy Jones

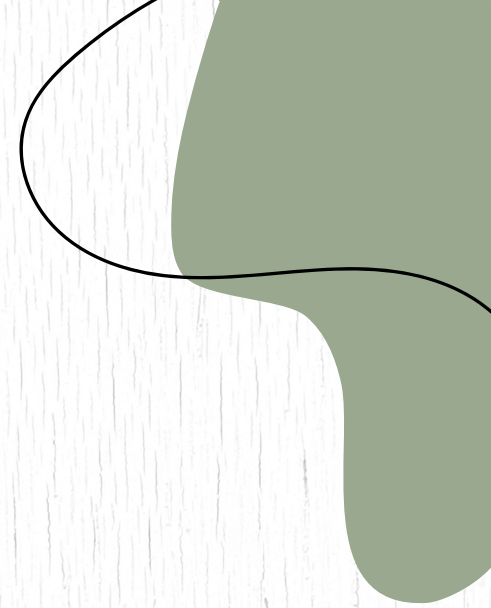
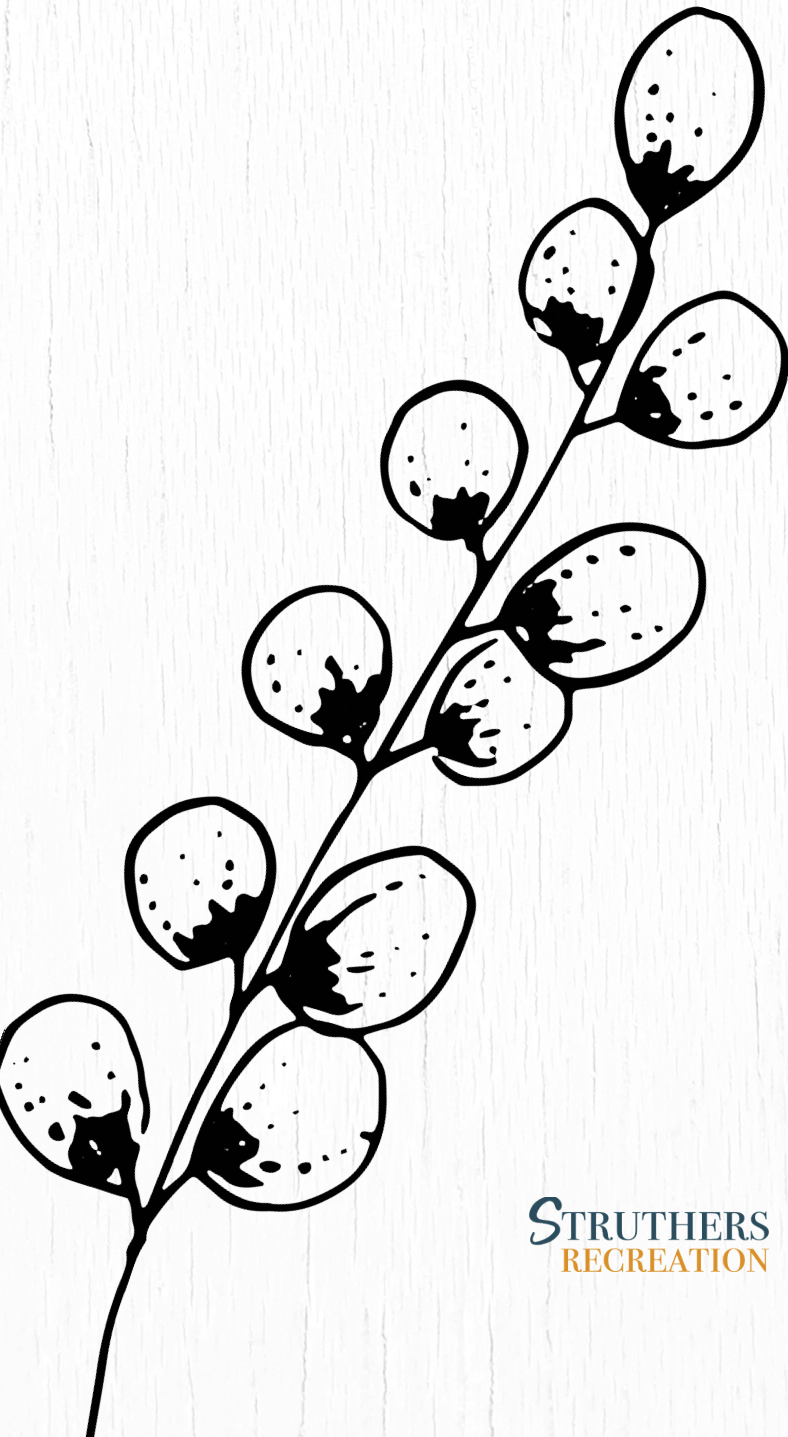
Troy Jones of the City of Dothan Department of Leisure Services is a true Parks & Recreation Superhero. Troy is the Manager of James Oates Park which is one of the premier baseball and softball tournament sites in the Southeast. James Oates Park boasts two (2) 6-field, world class, baseball/softball complexes, a pond, 1-mile walking trail, picnic pavilion and two (2) playgrounds. Managing this facility, especially, playing league games and hosting nearly 30 tournament weekends per year is more than enough to keep someone busy. But we assure you Troy is up to the task and more! Troy is the master sports turf and irrigation specialist for Dothan Leisure Services. Just this past year, Troy and his staff tackled renovating five (5) baseball/softball fields at Doug Tew Park, resurfacing tennis

courts at Walton Park, taking over management of the Westgate Softball Complex and 400 acre Forever Wild Trail System when the manager of those facilities retired earlier this year, and completely renovating the irrigation system at the Westgate Softball Complex. This does not include the countless times he has answered the call when any of our facilities needed consultation or help with a turf or irrigation issue...all of this while maintaining/operating his James Oates Park facility to the highest level of excellence. Troy can do this because of his work ethic, commitment to excellence, team player mentality and incredible staff development. For these reasons and many, many more, Troy Jones from Dothan Leisure Services is a Parks & Recreation Superhero!

Alabama Recreation & Parks Association

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