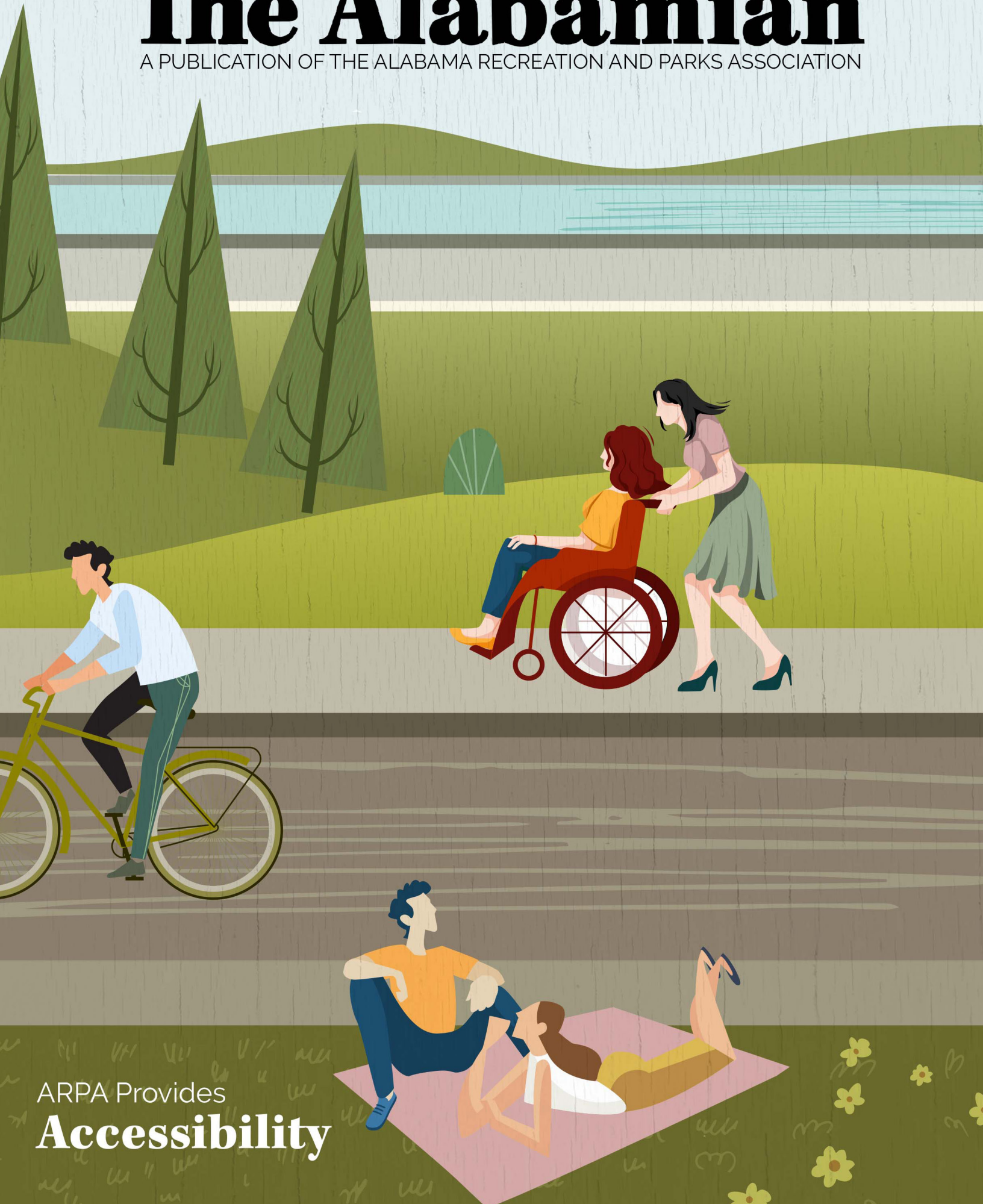


The Alabamian

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION



ARPA Provides
Accessibility

Natalie Norman, CPRP
Executive Director
Alabama Recreation and
Parks Association

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In This Issue

- 4. — From the President
- 5. — From the Executive Director
- 6. — District 1
- 8. — District 3
- 10. — District 4
- 11. — District 5
- 14. — District 6





from the **President**

Greetings to my ARPA Family,

I want to thank you once again for allowing me to serve as your president. Our goal this year is to see our family grow in all aspects – education, membership and recreational sports. Thanks goes out to Huntsville for hosting this year’s conference; everything was great! A great big shout out to E.D., Natalie. A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.

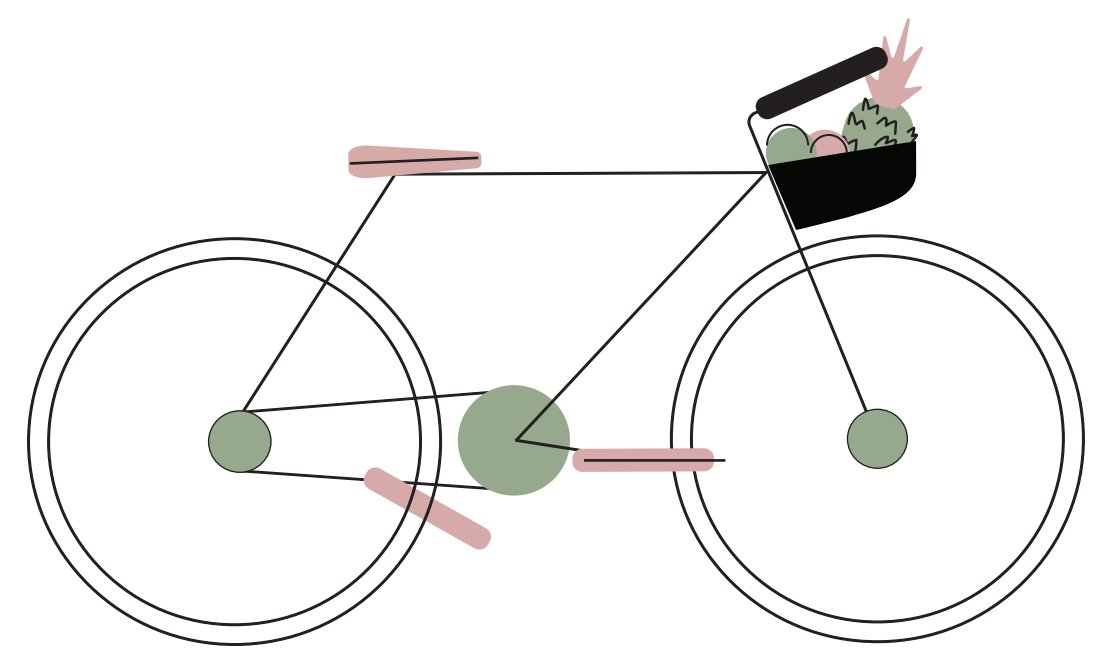
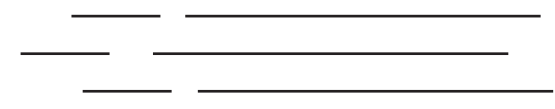
The state basketball tournament was held in Gadsden this year. This year’s events had ninety plus teams. I would like to thank the Gadsden Parks and Recreation and their volunteers for their service and hospitality. Also, thanks to the Recreational Sports Committee for their tireless time during the state basketball championships. They are truly appreciated for all that they do for the association.

Nothing is more harmful to service than the neglect of discipline.

Good luck to each of you as we enter our summer activities. To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream; not only plan but also believe.

Again, thank you so much to all of you for all that you do.

Willie Moore III
2022 ARPA President



Hello ARPA Members!

I hope this finds everyone having a safe and wonderful Summer! We have had a great Spring with Recreational Sports. Thank you to Gadsden for hosting State Basketball and to Enterprise for hosting State Track and Field. We appreciate your hard work and providing great environments for our kids to participate. We look forward to State Softball in Valley, State Swimming and Diving in Opelika, and State Archery in Dothan, for our summer championships.

Our first annual Directors Retreat held April 20-22 at Cheaha State Park was a great success. Thanks to all that attended! It provided a wonderful networking and educational opportunity.

Please put on your radar our TR Fall Camporee at Camp ASCCA September 9-11. Also stay tuned for outstanding professional development events this Fall! We have our Fall Workshop in Orange Beach September 27-29, which will also kick-off our professional development tour with Ian Hill.

As always, it is a privilege to serve such a fabulous Association! Thank you all for what you do each and every day for your communities and our profession.

Growing together,

Natalie Norman
Executive Director



from the **Executive Director**

Community Center ADA Renovations

Winfield Park and Rec is completing a complete renovation of the community center making it 100% ADA compliant. In the last 8 years, we have added accessible sidewalks, bleachers and restroom facilities including adult changing tables. We are blessed to have been able to get these upgrades completed.

Our community center hosts many civic groups, school groups and clubs, church groups, AA, Al-Anon, NA, The Marion County Genealogical Society, AGAPE Bible Study, family reunions, birthday parties, professional meetings, and many other activities. Our park hosts an average of 6000 people per week in a city with a population of only 4500, so these were very important renovations.



David Vickery

This is Winfield Park and Recreation Department employee David Vickery. David has been employed with the park for 10 years and was recently presented a coveted City Coin

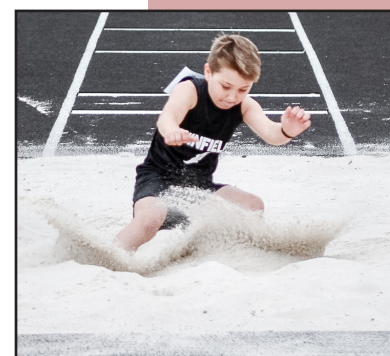
To honor him for missing only two days of work in those ten years. He is a highly valued, loyal employee and we are glad he is a part of our team!



Inaugural District 1 Track Meet

District 1 started a track and field program this year with over 300 participants. Those involved were Winfield, Sheffield, Florence, Muscle Shoals and Hamilton.

We had two track meets this year and the children and parents really enjoyed this new sports program.



PARA Provides Accessibility

Through Programming, Partnerships, Employment, and Parks

by Tera Batayneh, PARA Marketing & Sales Specialist

Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority (PARA) is proud to boast "accessibility" through a wide range of programming, community partnerships, employment, and Mason's Place, the recently constructed all-inclusive playground. PARA's mission and top priority is to enrich our community through exciting recreational and cultural opportunities, and to enhance the quality of life by providing accessibility to all programs.

PARA recently partnered with United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of West Alabama to provide employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. A UCP job coach is assigned to assist new employees with tasks to ensure a job well done within our community. Each individual working at PARA's Sokol Park through UCP is appreciative of meaningful work and some are even experiencing their first job. The partnership is a great opportunity for those in the program to learn valuable skills and have access to a job. By providing this access, PARA benefits by having various tasks fulfilled, which helps keep a clean appearance in our facilities. UCP's Chief Operating Officer, Cody Ingram, noted that another important aspect of the partnership is for people

in the community to see abilities in the individuals UCP serves rather than their disabilities. This facet of UCP's program coincides with its slogan, "See the able, not the label."

Additionally, PARA's Tuscaloosa Tennis Center (TTC) partners with the Tuscaloosa Tennis Association and provides access to tennis for UCP members. The UCP members may participate in a tennis program that offers a one-hour clinic once a week at TTC. TTC also partners with Eagles' Wings, a nonprofit agency that provides day rehabilitation and residential services for adults with developmental disabilities. Eagles' Wings participants also have access to the one-hour tennis clinics offered at TTC. PARA's TTC volunteer instructors help make the game of tennis accessible to all members of the community and enrich the lives of its participants.



PARA also has a partnership with The University of Alabama CrossingPoints Program, a multi-tiered postsecondary transition program that serves college-age students with intellectual disabilities. PARA provides employment opportunities to CrossingPoints students and offers the use of Center facilities for classes hosted by CrossingPoints. Most recently, PARA's Keith Jenkins instructed a cooking class and taught CrossingPoints students how to make omelets.

PARA continues to provide recreational programs through its own Therapeutic Recreation (TR) Program. The TR Program provides access to recreational and daily activity living programming for adults with developmental disabilities. TR program members enjoy weekly cooking classes and bowling outings. The TR Program also offers a variety of athletic activities such as a competitive swim program, a spring golf program, a softball program (known as the PARAtroopers), as well as karaoke nights and bi-monthly themed dances. The PARAtroopers team, coached by TR Program Supervisor LeTrice Prince-Koon and Taurus Pyles, is currently representing Tuscaloosa at the Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, FL. The Opening Ceremony, held at Exploria Stadium, was broadcast nationally on ABC. Participants in the Games include over 5,500 athletics and coaches representing all 50 states, plus the Caribbean (the largest USA Games in Special Olympics history). The PARAtroopers are taking on opponents at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Diamondplex. PARA is proud of this incredible program and the accessibility it has granted to so many across our community.

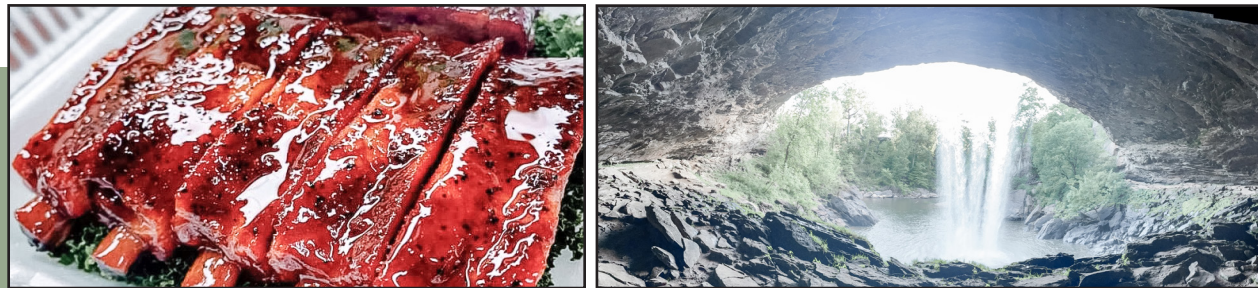
PARA's fitness programming is also excited about a new beginner to intermediate class called "Adaptive Fitness." This class will offer functional fitness

for adults with special abilities to gain balance, strength, and endurance. The class instructor will teach proper technique and form of fitness to help individuals achieve everyday life events. This class will be taught at our Faucett Brothers Activity Center on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Finally, Mason's Place Playground, a three-phase project, was designed for children of all ages and all abilities to play together. PARA's goal for this all-inclusive playground is to ensure accessibility in an outdoor environment. Mason's Place Playground celebrated its first anniversary back in April 2022 and the PARA Foundation is working to raise the necessary funds to start the second phase. Phase two of the Playground will include a woodlands themed area with trees, greenery, and durable animal sculptures. Phase two will also feature additional playground equipment and some interactive electronic play pieces.



Gadsden Selected as Host for KCBS World Invitational Barbeque Competition



Town Creek Park Inclusive Playground

The City of Auburn Parks and Recreation is excited to announce the Town Creek Park Inclusive Playground is officially opened on June 1.

The playground is located at 430 Camellia Drive and is open sunup to sundown.

The playground consists of 5 large playground pods. There are over 30 play structures in the playground. There is also fitness equipment, a Gaga Ball Pit, a zip line and a rock-climbing wall. The playground has something for every age, ability level and interest.

The playground has two pavilions and a restroom building. The pavilions are available for reservations. There are multiple shades set up throughout the playground, with plenty of benches throughout the park.

The Playground has many aspects to aid residents with disabilities:

- **Adult sized changing table that holds up to a 400lb adult**
- **Completely accessible, electric lift/lower**
- **Transfer heights in a variety of our equipment so people who use a wheelchair can easily transfer onto and off of equipment**
- **Double wide ramps and pathways on some of our towers so people can easily maneuver and move throughout the play towers**
- **Ramps, slides, and stairs on our hills, so no matter how you ambulate there is a way for you to navigate through the playground**
- **Accessible fitness equipment alongside our ninja fitness course, for parallel play**
- **Accessible entryway on our gaga ball pit**

This playground was designed to be as accessible as possible. The restrooms have push-button doors for easy entry, our sidewalks are 10' wide in most locations, and over 90% of our playground is accessible, as compared to the required 15% that ADA says needs to be accessible. Underneath our shades, benches are not always centered, so if someone has a wheelchair they can wheel up next to the bench and sit comfortably under the shade structure.

Accessibility doesn't just mean ability level as a reference to using a wheelchair or walker. It also refers to someone who might be elderly and have mobility issues, someone with sensory deficits, someone who has a visual or hearing impairment. We can also consider age here – typically a playground is designed for young children, but we included fitness equipment, a Gaga Ball pit, a zip line, and a rock climbing wall, so there is really something for every age and ability level and interest.



Age is Just a Number

Opelika's Recycled TeenAgers had the opportunity to perform at Auburn University's Women's Basketball game versus University of Georgia. Our group partnered with a local dance teacher, Mandy Moore from Make Your Move Dance Studio, to create the perfect routine "To Legit To Quit".

From those who could dance to those who love to perform to those who did their dance from chairs, everyone was part of this special performance. Our group wore t-shirts with their ages on the front for their "basketball numbers." The goal was to show everyone that age is just a number and to have fun!

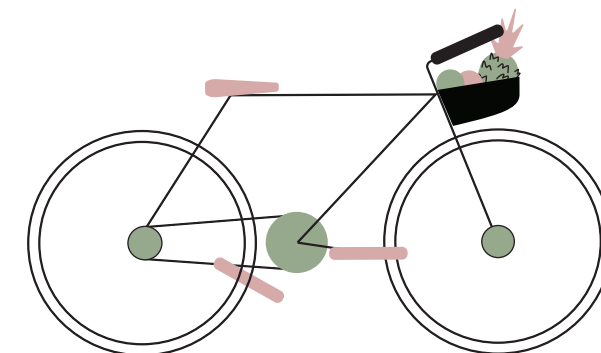
They brought the house down in Neville Arena and as many said, "It was the best half time show in a long time!" We are hoping to continue by performing next season for men's and women's basketball and possibly the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.



Sylacauga Parks and Recreation Lake Howard

Lake Howard and the Sylaward Trail are part of the Sylacauga Parks and Recreation system. Situated only a few miles from downtown Sylacauga, Alabama and connected to the Talladega National Forest, it's a beautiful resource for those who like to fish, paddle, hike, bike, or just enjoy nature.

With a 178 acre lake and 15 mile trail system that connects to the Forest service roads, there is something for every enthusiast at any skill level to enjoy.



Lake Howard is also host to variety of special events, attracting visitors from across the country!

Coming soon in 2022:

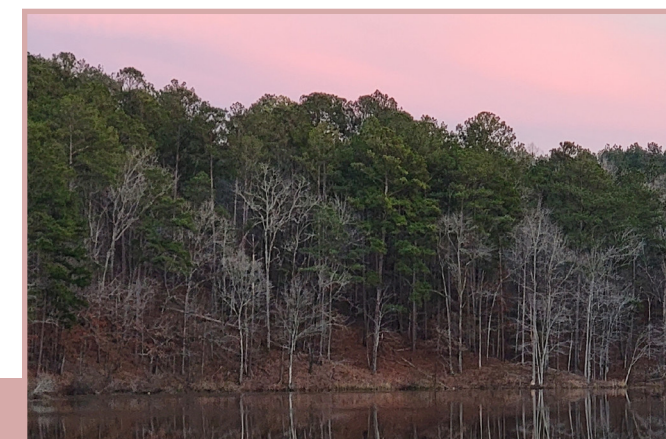
September 9: Rebecca Mountain 50 mile Cross-Country Run

October 8-9: Alabama Mushroom Society Festival

November 4-6: Pinhotti 100 mile Cross Country Run

Lake Howard is also a great place to celebrate a special event outdoors with 3 pavilions, electricity, water and fire pits available for rent - along with boat, kayak & canoe rentals.

Lake Howard and the Sylaward Trail are pet friendly - a great place to play and walk with your Fur Baby. Come out and play!



Doug Tew Therapeutic Rec Center

Dothan Leisure Services is excited to improve our awesome Therapeutic Recreation opportunities. In October 2020, our Doug Tew Community Center, built in 1952, was repurposed as our Doug Tew Therapeutic Recreation Center. The City Commission has agreed to update the facility with Therapeutics in mind.

The first phase, beginning March 2022 will give the historic facility a face lift and will become not only ADA compliant but, a planned Therapeutic facility. The entrance ways will receive new store fronts and a ramp with push button entrances. All the hallways and rooms will receive a new sheetrock surfacing. The bathhouse that services the pool will be completely gutted and remodeled. There we will have more ADA restroom stalls and showers than are required. There will also be a family bathroom installed with an adult sized changing table. The bath house will double as locker rooms during the off season for activities occurring in the gymnasium. The current kitchen will be remodeled to a commercial catering kitchen and it will be connected by a breezeway to a full teaching kitchen. Additional office space for staff will also be created. A ceramic and pottery studio will be installed.

This serves as a home for our Therapeutic population and updates are greatly needed. Future phases will include rebuilding the outdoor pool to accommodate the needs of our Therapeutic population first and the general population second. Plans for changing the configuration of the greenspace and the ballfields are still in the planning stages.



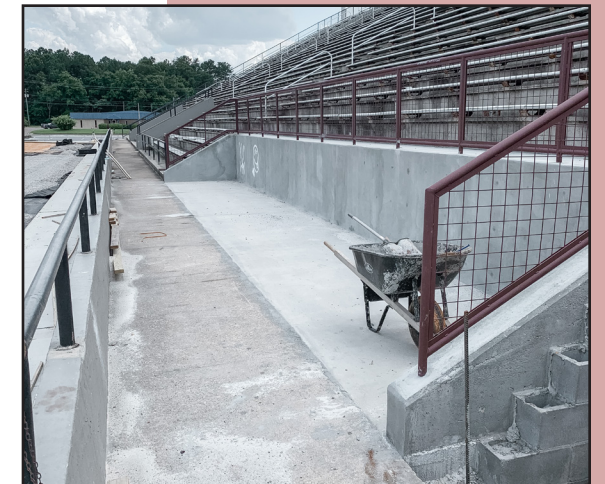
Renovations Rip Hewes Stadium

Dothan Leisure Services is currently undertaking a massive renovation to Rip Hewes Stadium, a facility that is over 50 years old.

Included in the renovations is a new AstroTurf field, new parking lot landscaping, new Daktronics video board, new locker rooms, restrooms, and concessions facilities as well as updates to existing restrooms and concessions facilities.

However, handicap accessibility was at the forefront of thoughts going into the renovations. The existing handicap seating protruded out onto the sidelines making the width of the field too small to play soccer. So, part of the renovations included creating new handicap seating that is integrated into the existing grandstands. Not only will this allow for soccer to be played, but more importantly, those in the handicap seating will be included and incorporated into our general seating making it an all-inclusive experience.

New ramps have been constructed on both sides of the stands that are accessible and compliant. Also, a sidewalk will be installed that encircles the field of play making the new concessions, restrooms, and locker rooms, as well as both sides of the grandstands completely accessible. And, of course, all the new construction (concessions, locker rooms & restrooms) taking place in the North Endzone will be completely ADA compliant.





Accessibility at Water World

Water World Water Park has been undergoing park renovations since September of 2021, with some much-needed infrastructure improvements happening at the 42 year-old facility. These improvements include restroom renovations, a concession stand renovation and expansion, a new employee lounge converted from old office space, a new pizza concession stand converted from an old tube rental space, new wave generation equipment, new park cabanas, new family restrooms, and a quiet room.

From an accessibility perspective, the new family restrooms and Quiet Room will be game changers for those with special needs. The two new family restrooms will allow parents to assist their children of a different gender without going into the main restrooms. These restrooms are large enough to accommodate wheelchair access and are conveniently located beside the Kids Cove Pool.

The Quiet Room was created for customers who need to temporarily get out of the sun or public eye for a short period of time. This room was designed with two specific groups in mind: nursing/pumping moms and autistic children. We wanted a place to send moms who wished to breastfeed or pump out of the public eye but not in the restrooms or in their car. We also imagined this space for autistic or otherwise handicapped children to get them out of the sun, sounds, and crowds and into a more peaceful space for a short respite. There is no fee to use this room, and the key can be checked out from the office to use in 30-minute intervals.

In addition to the new amenities at Water World, the water park still has handicapped-accessible lounging areas, zero-depth entry at the Kids Cove Pool and a zero-depth entry ramp for the giant wave pool. We hope Water World continues to be a destination for everyone, regardless of their limitations or special needs.



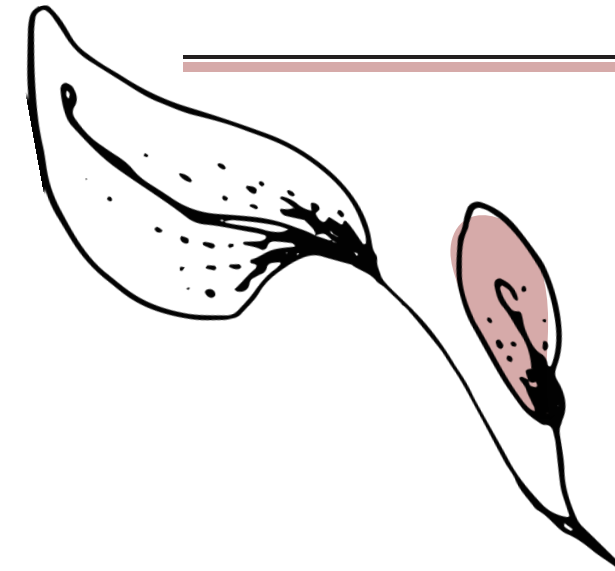
Enterprise Parks & Rec Accessibility

At Enterprise Parks and Recreation, our focus is on serving and meeting the needs of our community. We strive to be all-inclusive, catering to the needs of every demographic represented in our city. In designing, constructing, and maintaining our various parks and facilities the goal is also to be accessible to all. Our parks have handicap accessible entrances/exits, handicap parking, and even handicap amenities on the playgrounds. It's crucial, however, to attend to the same needs in the various programs and events we host.

This past month, we hosted our annual Spring event, "Festival in the Park." It's a free event that included arts and crafts, pony rides, train rides, inflatables, a petting zoo, cornhole, disc golf, sponsor booths, live music, fireworks, and food trucks. It was huge and successful, bringing in thousands of members of the community. Even still, in the planning of the event, the goal was clear – inclusivity and ease of accessibility. These two concepts are imperative to Enterprise Parks and Recreation. During this event, we provided shuttles to allow for stress-free

transportation throughout the park. We introduced various shade structures and seating to allow for places of rest. We also blocked off an entire parking lot for handicap accessibility.

At Enterprise Parks and Recreation, we work to be better with each new day and every new project. We are approaching the Decommission Ceremony of our current recreation center at the end of this month, and we're already thinking of how to cater to our community in innovative and intentional ways in the construction of our new facility.



ARPA State Archery Tournament

August 13, 2022 | Eastgate Park
2049 Sanitary Dairy Rd. Dothan, AL 36301

Admission: Free for non-participants

Entries: Affiliates may enter an unlimited number of participants

- Only persons whose name are approved on their Affiliate's official ARPA roster and who meet all ARPA eligibility requirements and who are representing an affiliate not on current suspension may compete in ARPA archery.
- Affiliates must send registration information to host 10 days prior to the State competition (August 3, 2022).
- Archers may only enter "Open Class" or "Bare bow", not both.
- Bare bow (no sights, stabilizers, or release aids) must have less than 30-pound draw weight.

Events in each age division for boys and girls are as follows:

10-12 Cubs – 10 meters – bare bow
 10-12 Cubs – 15 meters – bare bow
 13-14 Youth – 10 meters – bare bow
 13-14 Youth – 15 meters – bare bow
 13-14 Youth – 20 meters – bare bow
 15-18 Juniors – 10 meters – bare bow
 15-18 Juniors – 15 meters – bare bow
 15-18 Juniors – 20 meters – bare bow
 Therapeutics – 10 meters – bare bow

10-12 Cubs – 15 meters – open class speed limit 230
 10-12 Cubs – 20 meters – open class speed limit 230
 13-14 Youth – 15 meters – open class speed limit 240
 13-14 Youth – 25 meters – open class speed limit 240
 13-14 Youth – 30 meters – open class speed limit 240
 15-18 Juniors – 25 meters – open class speed limit 260
 15-18 Juniors – 30 meters – open class speed limit 260
 15-18 Juniors – 35 meters – open class speed limit 260
 Therapeutics – 10 meters – open bow speed limit 230
 Therapeutics – 15 meters – open bow speed limit 230

All speeds will be verified by shooting through a chronograph for the practice official prior to shooting in the tournament.

Entry Fee:

\$15 Per archer

Make checks payable to:
Department of Leisure Services

Mail to:
Department of Leisure Services
Attn: Roy Kitts
P.O. Box 2128
Dothan, AL 36302

For more information:
Roy Kitts, Assistant Director
334-615-3700
or go to www.visitdothan.com

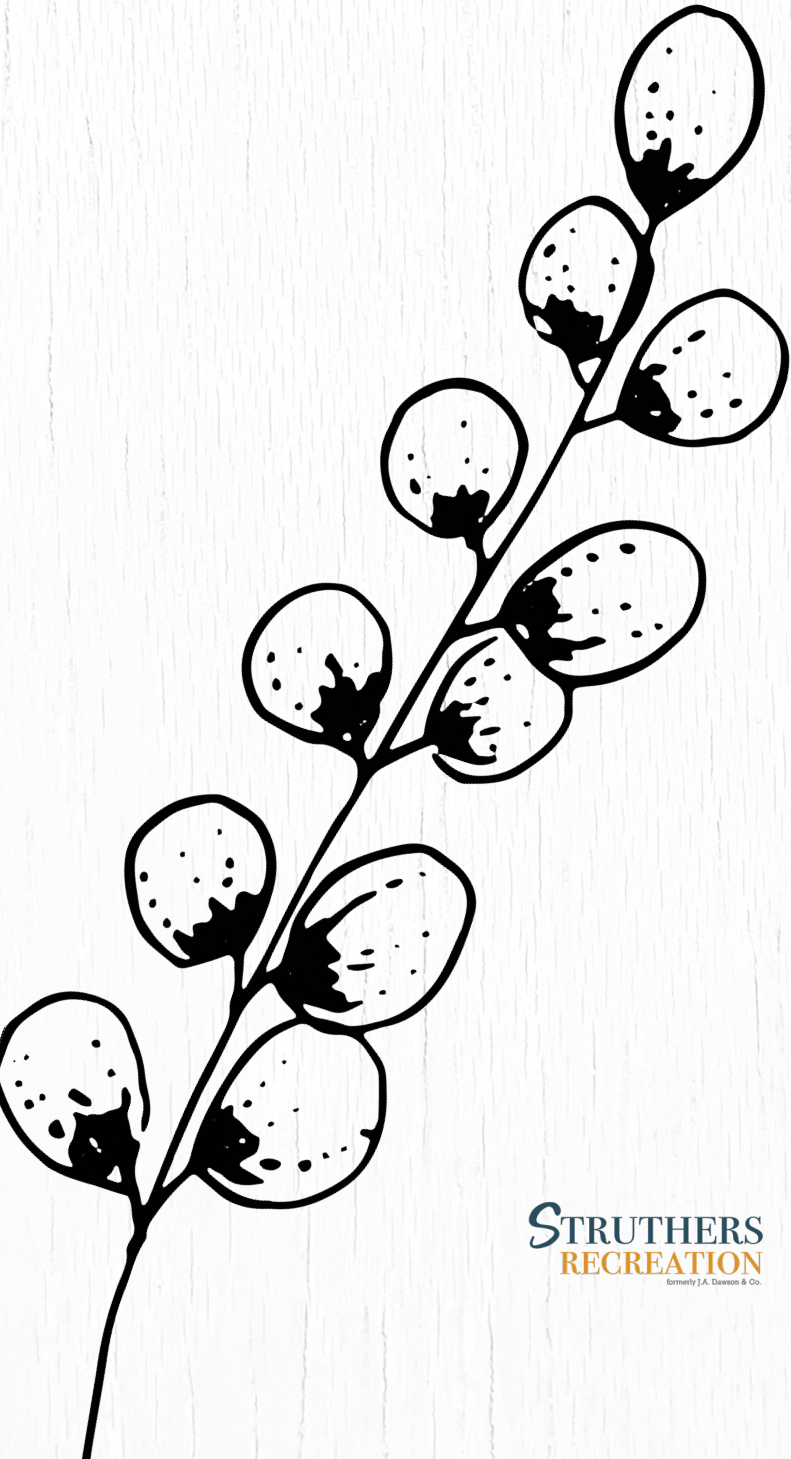
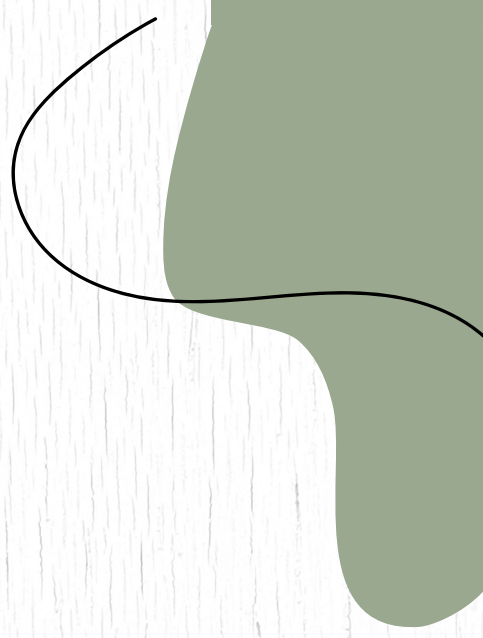
Awards: Awards will be presented to the 1st through 3rd place individual boys and girls in each age group in bare bow and open class.
Proof of Age: Age control date is the participant's age on or prior to August 1, 2022. Teams that participate in a District Tournament are only required to bring the ARPA roster that was signed by their District Tournament Director. No team will be allowed to play without this ARPA roster. Teams whose official rosters and birth certificates have not been checked because there was no District Tournament (or for any other reason) must have them reviewed by the Tournament Director no later 5:00 p.m. on Monday prior to the start of the State Tournament. If the team does not meet the registration deadline they will be ineligible to participate. (Recreation Sports Manual, page 11, Article III, Section A(2)c).
Rules: Tournament will be played by the rules as stated in the ARPA Recreation Sports Manual.
Accommodations: Each participant will be responsible for their own accommodations.



Troy
**Miracle
League**

Alabama Recreation & Parks Association

P.O. Box 230579
Montgomery, AL 36123-0579



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