2017 Annual Report

Knox County Parks & Recreation
Our Mission
We create places to Live, Laugh and Play.
Live – We help create a great community by providing great parks.
Laugh – We provide programs and places for people to enjoy life.
Play – We provide opportunities to play and improve health.

Our Vision
To have everyone connected to a great park

Our Core Values
Safety
Innovation
Stewardship
Teamwork
Partnerships
Resourcefulness
Wellness
Creating a sense of place
Quality

The System
2,715 Acres of parkland
53 Soccer fields
46 Parks
40 Baseball fields
35 Miles of natural trail
27 Miles of paved trail
24 Softball fields
13 Football fields
3 Splash pads
3 Golf courses
2 Disc golf courses
2 Beaches
2 Dog parks

Partners
Government Partners
- Knox County Schools
- Knox County Sheriff’s Office
- State of Tennessee
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- City of Knoxville
- Town of Farragut
- University of Tennessee

Non-Profit Partners
- First Tee of Knoxville
- First Tee of Williams Creek
- Concord Yacht Club
- Ijams Nature Center
- Legacy Parks Foundation
- Foothills Land Conservancy
- Seven Islands Foundation
- Appalachian Mountain Bike Club
- Knox County Remote Control Society

Business Partners
- Riversports Outfitters
- Concord Marina
- PetSafe
- U.S. Cellular

Sports/Recreation Partners
- Knoxville Track Club
- Knox Area Disk Golf League
- Knox Fastpitch Softball
- FC Alliance
- Smoky Mountain Middle School Soccer
- AYSO 275
- AYSO 337
- AYSO 1390
- Smoky Mountain Athletic Club
- Bearden Youth Athletics
- Christian Youth Athletics
- Carter Youth Athletics

Sports/Recreation Partners (continued)
- Catholic Youth
- Cedar Bluff Farragut Optimist Club
- Center City Youth Sports Program
- Central Football
- Oak Ridge Football
- Fulton Falcons Football
- Grace Football
- Gibbes Youth Athletics
- Hills Recreation
- Harlin Valley Football
- Karns Ruritan Club
- Northwest Football
- Pilot Football
- Powell Recreation
- EKAA
- New Breed Football
- FBA
- Roadrunners Football
- Seymour Optimists
- South Knox Youth Sports
- West Youth Sports
Knox County Parks and Recreation is pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report. This report provides a high-level overview of participation and many of the department’s significant accomplishments during the past year.

Our mission is to create places and opportunities to live, laugh and play. Parks and Recreation provides numerous benefits including improved health, increased property values, tourism, attracting and growing businesses, and a sense of community for our residents.

On behalf of the 60 full-time employees, more than 100 seasonal workers, and almost 3,000 youth coaches and volunteers, we are all proud to present the 2017 report to the community. Our team is fortunate to receive support from our Mayor, County Commission, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and, of course, the residents of Knox County. We look forward to 2018 and the opportunity to serve each and every one at the highest level possible.

Sincerely,

Doug Bataille
Senior Director, Knox County Parks and Recreation

Administrative Staff

Senior Director ........................................ Doug Bataille
Deputy Director Parks ................................. Chuck James
Deputy Director Recreation ............................. Jay Smelser
Park Maintenance Superintendent ................. Brad Jones
Concord Park Maintenance Superintendent ......... Randy Thompson
Parks Community Relations Manager ............... Mike Donila
Parks Planning & Development Manager .......... Shauna Godlevsky
Landscape Architect .................................. Jessica Taylor
Superintendent of Parks & Trails ...................... Joe Inman
Executive Assistant .................................. Rob Blake
Sports Operations Manager .......................... Jennifer Gentry
Tournament Superintendent .......................... Andy Benge
Office Manager ........................................ Sandra Burton
Recreation Coordinator ............................... Deana Dillon
Administrative Assistant ............................. Elaine Hudgens

Three Ridges Golf Board

Roy Kruse .......................... Tony Norman .......................... Billy Tindell
Curtis Pique ......................... Doug Bataille ......................... Penny Kleinschmidt
Mark Brown ....................... Chuck Severance ................... Howard Russell
Dick Moran ......................... Charles Busler ..................... Michele Carlinger
Perry Benshoof .................... Sam Bounds ......................... Jim Jennings
David Watson ...................... Steve Clabough .................. Rich Wilson

Knox County Commission Representative

Bob Thomas

Ex-Officio Members

Steve Clabaugh
Carol Evans
Dr. Steven Waller
Alex Zendal

Knox County Mayor

Tim Burchett

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Sincerely,

Doug Bataille
Senior Director, Knox County Parks and Recreation
1 out of every 3 residents is a regular park user

$10.2 million
tournament economic impact

Organized Sports
Youth Football
Adult Flag Football
Youth Softball
Adult Softball
Cheerleading
Youth Soccer
Adult Soccer
Lacrosse
Kickball
Disc Golf
Picnicking
RC Planes

Recreation
Boating
Fishing
Tennis
Pickle ball
Volleyball
Mountain Biking
Dog Parks
Walking
Running
Splash Pads
Swimming
Golf
Skateboarding

3,000 volunteers
42,000 organized sports participants
80,000 parents and spectators
38,000 recreation participants
2.5 million visits to parks

John Tarleton Park
Halls Community Park
New Harvest Park

2017 Completed Projects

- Sportspark, regrading
- Nicholas Ball Park, trail repairs
- John Tarleton Park, scoreboards and concessions building repair and repaint
- U.S. Cellular Soccer Complex, steps
- Powell Levi Park, dugout repair
- Halls Community Park, steps and drainage
- House Mountain, trail repairs
- Concord Park, new trail
- Plumb Creek Park, grading
- New Harvest Park, shed and playground repair
- East Knox Park, concessions repairs, new fence and new light poles
- Gibbs Rurtan Park, new light poles
- New slope and fence repairs, scoreboards and lights at Bower Field
- Dock, fencing and parking lot at Mead’s Quarry
- Civil War redan
- Dock, fencing and parking lot at Mead’s Quarry
- Concord storm clean-up
- The Cove
- Clayton Park memorial swing
- Concord Park, kayak/canoe launch
- Plumb Creek Park
**2018 Ongoing Projects**

- Beaver Creek Greenway corridor study
- Plumb Creek Park
- BMX Track/South-Doyle Middle School fields
- I.C. King Park addition and entrance
- McBee Ferry Park
- Updated public maps for county and city parks/trails
- Mead’s Quarry parking lot
- East Knox Park light poles
- Annual background checks
- Bower Field scoreboards
- Concord Park lighting
- Concord Park trails

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**Knox County Sportspark Receives State Recognition**

The World Sports League has named Knox County’s Sportspark as its “Complex of the Year for Tennessee.”

The park, nominated by the organization’s state board of directors, was picked over roughly 40 complexes, including finalists including the Summit in Chattanooga, and Cane Ridge in Nashville.

The World Sports League (WSL) is a national organization that hosts thousands of adult slow-pitch softball tournaments across 34 states each year.

The Knox County Sportspark, located at 8050 Oak Ridge Highway in Karns, features four baseball/softball fields, one field exclusively for baseball, and three practice football fields. The park also has a playground, a walking trail, concessions, a kayak launch and a pavilion for picnics.

“Each year we recognize a ‘complex of the year’ whose staff has gone above and beyond, and we’ve always had a great partnership with Knox County,” said Casey McClure, a regional director with WSL. “There were 39 complexes in the state of Tennessee used last year, so it’s a big deal, and working with (the Knox County Parks & Recreation Department) is always great.”

The Sportspark will now compete against four others – ones in Virginia, Florida, Alabama and Ohio – for national honors.

“It took all of us to get this recognition, so I want to say ‘thank you’ for everyone doing their part,” said Jennifer Gentry, sports operation manager for the Knox County Parks & Recreation Department. “When the team is rowing together, anything is possible.”

In Tennessee, the WSL typically hosts about 500 tournaments each year, including six “key dates” in Knox County, which “are pretty much staples in the community,” McClure said. “This is a big deal. There’s not a lot of slow pitch softball places left in Knoxville. But people know Karns is the place to go to play in nice parks.”

The next major tournament is set for early May 2018, when more than 120 teams from across the nation will compete at the Sportspark.
This report compiled by Doug Bataille and Mike Donila.

You can contact the Parks & Recreation Department at
(865) 215-6600