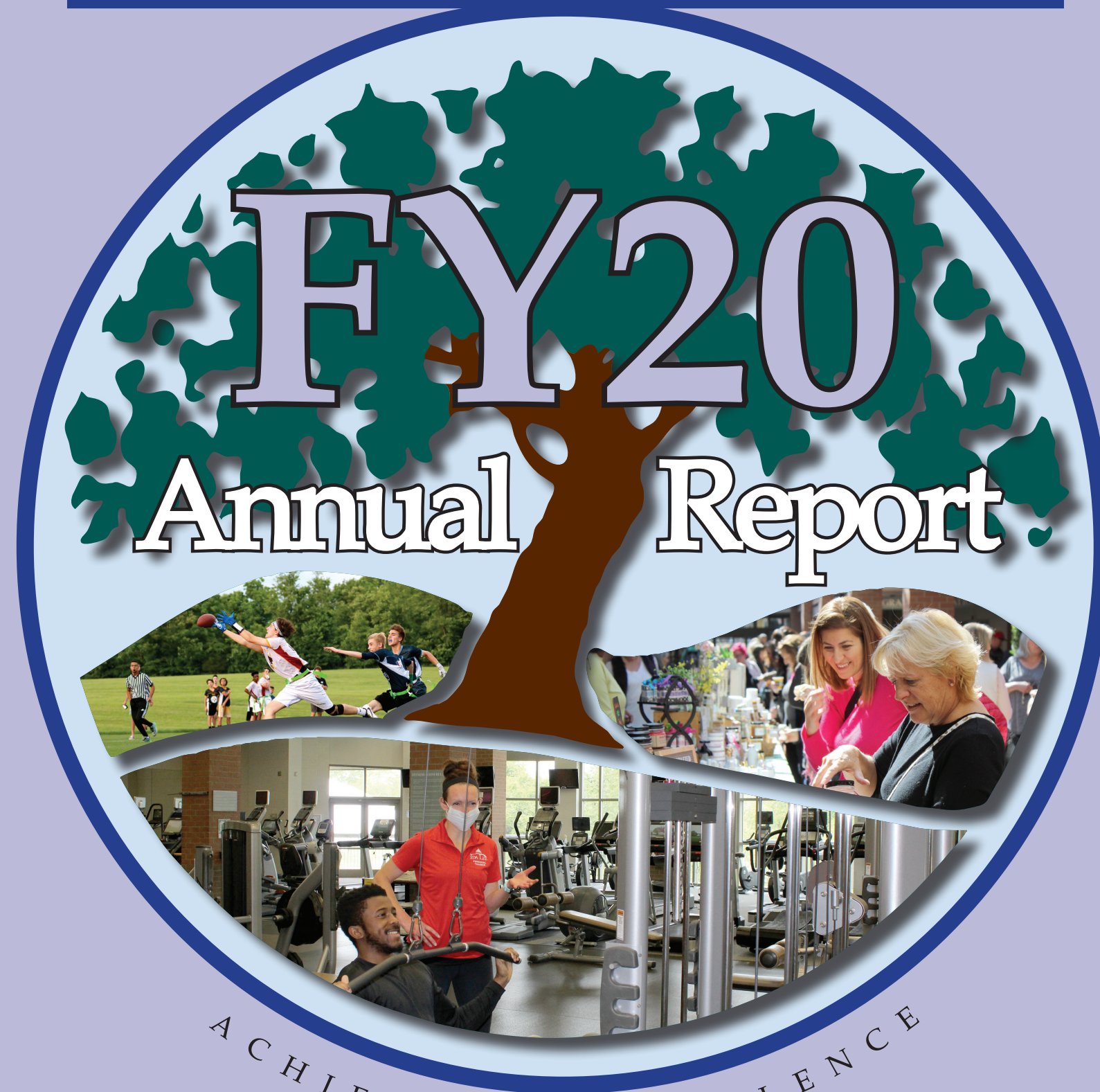


BY THE NUMBERS	ACTUAL	COVID-19 IMPACT	PROJECTED
PARK ACREAGE	371		
FACILITIES	6		
DAYS IDA LEE PARK RECREATION CENTER WAS OPEN	283	22%	364
DAYS ERIC BROWN SKATE PLAZA WAS OPEN	297	18%	364
NUMBER OF SPECIAL EVENTS	19	30%	27
NUMBER OF SPORTS AND TENNIS ACADEMIES	41	31%	59
NUMBER OF RECREATION ACADEMIES	21	22%	27
NUMBER OF PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS	3		3
NUMBER OF CAMPS	39	32%	57
NUMBER OF SPORTS PROGRAMS	180	35%	278
NUMBER OF RECREATION PROGRAMS	188	28%	260
NUMBER OF FITNESS PROGRAMS	86	25%	114
NUMBER OF AQUATIC CLASSES PARTICIPANTS	5,998	23%	7,795
NUMBER OF SPORTS AND FITNESS CLASSES PARTICIPANTS	3,049	31%	4,417
NUMBER OF OUTREACH PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS	397	27%	547
NUMBER OF RECREATION CLASSES PARTICIPANTS	907	31%	1,320
NUMBER OF CAMPS AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS	1,037	31%	1,500

Leesburg Parks & Recreation DEPARTMENT



A C H I E V I N G E X C E L L E N C E



A NOTE FROM



The Department Director & Parks Commission Chairman

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department are pleased to provide you with the Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report.

This year we found ourselves in unprecedented times due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Never before has the department closed the doors of our facilities for more than one day at a time, usually only for Christmas or the occasional snow storm, or cancelled so many events including what would have been the 30th Annual Flower and Garden Festival. It was hard to see our facilities and playgrounds closed for close to three months, but we made it through. On the bright side, during this closure the Leesburg community rediscovered and utilized our passive parks and trails in record numbers. With the reopening of our facilities new safety and cleaning practices were implemented to ensure the safety of our users and staff.

We would like to thank the Mayor and Town Council, members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, a dedicated team of parks and recreation professionals, as well as the citizens of Leesburg for supporting us during this unprecedented time. We appreciate the strength of the community as we come together to make the best of this situation.

We are proud of our accomplishments this year, both before and during the pandemic, and will continue to strive to achieve excellence in the coming year, fostering what makes Leesburg a special place for all.

Sincerely,

Rich Williams,
Director
Leesburg Parks and Recreation

Brody McCray,
Chairman
Leesburg Parks and Recreation
Advisory Commission

AWARDS

2020

■ The *Loudoun Times Mirror* readers' poll named Ida Lee Park Recreation Center as the 1st Place winner for **Best Recreational Facility**.

2019

■ International Festivals and Events Association Gold Award for Best Newspaper Insert/Supplement – **Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival**.

■ International Festivals and Events Association Silver Award for Best Ad Series – **Leesburg Airshow**.

■ Virginia Recreation and Park Society Best New Renovation/Addition (Parks, Playgrounds, Blueways, Greenways, and Trails) Award – **Greenway Park Playground**.

■ The *Loudoun Now* Loudoun Favorite's poll named **Ida Lee Park** as the "Favorite Park" in the Loudoun County area.

■ The *Loudoun Now* Loudoun Favorite's poll named **Ida Lee Park Recreation Center** as the "Favorite Community Center" and "Favorite Recreation Center" in the Loudoun County area.

■ The *Loudoun Now* Loudoun Favorite's poll named **AV Symington Aquatic Center** as the "Favorite Swimming Pool" in the Loudoun County area.

■ The *Loudoun Now* Loudoun Favorite's poll named **Ida Lee Park Tennis Center** as the "Favorite Place to Play Tennis" in the Loudoun County area.

■ The 2nd Annual TASTE Leesburg was successfully held on August 10th with increased participation by wineries, breweries, and vendors over the first event. The pay-one-price ticket option and centralized ID check greatly improved wait times and overall experience for the attendee.

■ The new concessions vendor for AV Symington Aquatic Center completed its first full season. They had a very successful year, and offered a wide menu selection.

■ The Eliminators Swim Team went undefeated for the summer 2019 season and won the summer 2019 Divisionals.

■ Improvements were made to the Foxridge Park Trail, resurfacing the southern passive walking trail.

■ The Leesburg Airshow saw the highest gate donation since the event began.

■ World-renowned sculptor, Jeffery L. Hall of Lovettsville, designed a 13-foot high skatepark-themed sculpture to be displayed at the entrance of Catoclin Park, unveiled to the public on October 5, 2019. The artwork depicts silhouettes of skateboarders, in-line skaters, and BMX bikers. Eric Brown, the driving force behind fundraising for the initial skate park is featured in the center of the sculpture.

■ In November 2019, contractors installed ADA accessible poured-in-place surfacing for the Rotary Park playground.

■ Ida Lee Park Recreation Center's main pool was closed for emergency white coat repairs in November.

■ The Recreation Outreach to Community Kids program received a \$1,000 grant from Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation to support ROCK's program for children ages 5-12 years old.

■ In November 2019, a contractor installed ADA accessible brick pad sites at Georgetown Park. Once completed, contractor and Town staff installed ADA accessible benches, tables, and waste receptacles.

HIGHLIGHTS

■ Produced the first ever full color Leesburg At Leisure activity guide for Winter 2020.

■ Conducted a team building event to create the new 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.

■ Parks Staff worked closely with vendors and contractors concerning expansion of downtown holiday decorations to include Loudoun County Courthouse perimeter fence: lit garland and bows; Leesburg Museum and Mervin Jackson: Trees wrapped in LED lighting; and Town Hall/Mervin Jackson/downtown pedestrian alleyways: contracted lightshow consisting of LED lights and projections.

■ The 2019 Holiday Tree Lighting program included a live band for the first time on Town Green playing holiday classics. Costumed characters and stationary photo ops were also on hand for the festivities.

■ In January 2020, The Leesburg Commission on Public Arts (COPA) invited the public to submit sculptures for ArtsPARKs, to be displayed in the sculpture garden in Raflo Park. Five works of art were selected in June for a 2-year installation period.

■ The third annual holiday light show, held in the Town's Rose Garden, displayed approximately 1,400 lights that were synchronized to four festive holiday themed songs.

■ Two long time employees retired; Melvin Doster retired in January 2020 after 30 years with the department. Mirsad Gusinac retired a week later after 19 years with the department.

■ Downed trees and power lines at Olde Izaak Walton Park caused classes and the dog park to be closed for a day in February.

■ Installed a new video conferencing system in the main level conference room of the recreation center.

■ In March, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, all classes, lessons, leagues, childcare and preschool were cancelled, as well as park and facility rentals and special events including the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Flower & Garden Festival, Movies Under The Stars, and Acoustic on the Green. Eventually, as the coronavirus crisis continued to evolve, the department closed playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, ballfields and the dog park. Followed soon after with the closure of the Ida Lee Park Recreation Center. All summer camps and academies were cancelled and the outdoor pool had a delayed opening.

■ Parks staff was tasked to temporarily close specific park amenities and facilities due to the Covid-19 emergency, however parks open space and trails remained open and became essential to our community. Parks staff remained hard at work to keep Town parks and open space safe and clean throughout the Covid-19 emergency, while keeping up with general maintenance of all the parks and facilities.

■ On May 29, with the Northern Virginia region entering Phase 1 of reopening, the department was able to reopen the outdoor tennis courts, dog park, skate park, and community gardens. Playgrounds, basketball courts, ballfields, and park pavilions remained closed. As the recreation center remained closed, outdoor fitness classes were offered starting on June 1.

■ In May of 2020, a contractor performed crack fill and resurfacing of the Greenway Park basketball court.

■ The annual Memorial Day Observance lived on, but due to Covid, the event was held privately while appearing live on the Town's Facebook page. The event was held on the Loudoun County Courthouse grounds, with remarks from Mayor Kelly Burk, before laying a wreath at the war memorials to honor all who have served our country. Members of the Leesburg Town Council and Leesburg VFW Post #1177 were in attendance.

■ On June 11, with the Northern Virginia region entering Phase 2 of reopening, the recreation center reopened at 30 percent capacity with modified hours and limits set for equipment. The gymnasium was reopened for shooting basketball but no games were allowed. Racquetball courts allowed for single play only. Indoor fitness classes resumed, with social distancing protocols in place. The indoor pool was available for lap swimming and exercise only, and limited to three people per lane. While ballfields, basketball courts, playgrounds, and park pavilions were reopened, the AV Symington Aquatic Center remained closed during Phase 2.

■ Covid-19 safety enhancements included the installation of plexiglas at the front desk of the recreation center, increased cleaning and disinfecting, increased hand sanitizing stations, reduced class sizes, limited number of classes offered, staggered program start times, establishment of social distancing practices (10 feet while working out and 6 feet at all other times), and the requirement of masks in all common areas.

■ AV Symington Aquatic Center received a fresh white coat for the entire pool, gel coating on the slides, and the lily pad landing was refurbished.

■ The fitness room and pool closedown were conducted during the facility closedown in March 2020, instead of the normal end of summer period.

■ New security measures were implemented at the recreation center including specialized door locks and camera/intercom system for the farmhouse and at the Ida Lee employee entrance.

■ The fitness room received an installation of new carpet and the replacement of a portion of the cardio equipment.