

LEESBURG PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

50 Ida Lee Drive, N.W. • Leesburg, Virginia 20176 • 703-777-1262 • Fax: 703-737-7148 • www.idalee.org

Two Time National Gold Medal Award Winner For Excellence
in the Field of Park and Recreation
Management

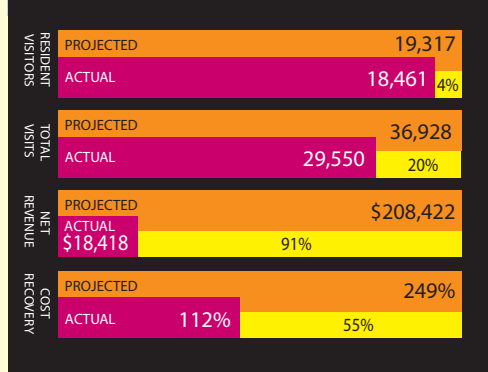
ANNUAL REPORT

FY2021

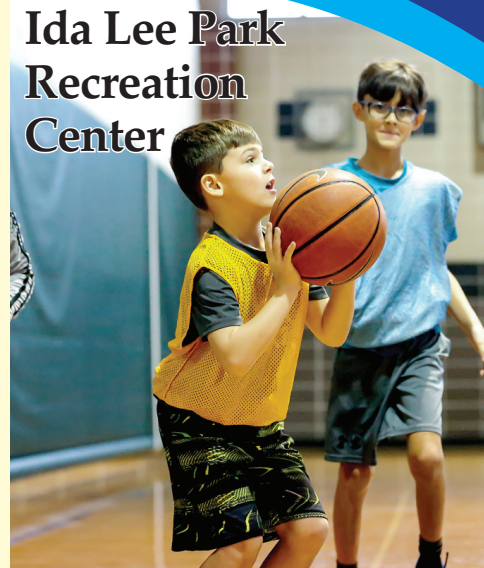
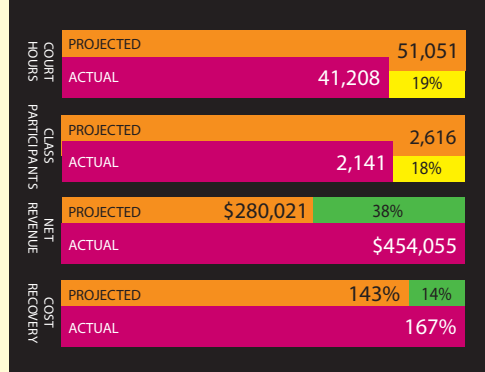
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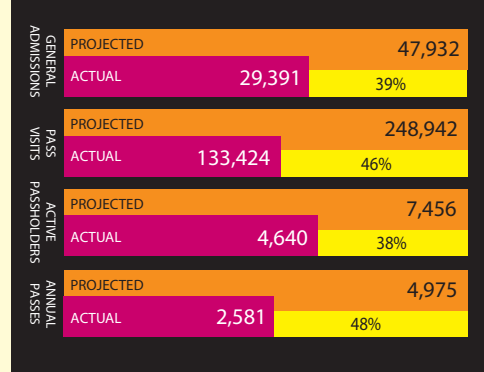
AV Symington
Aquatic Center



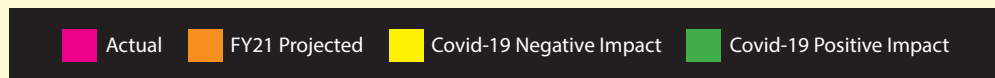
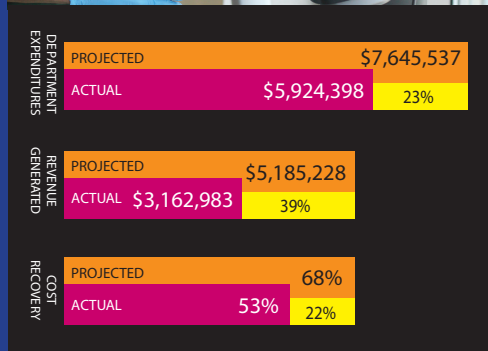
Ida Lee
Park
Tennis
Center



Ida Lee Park
Recreation
Center



Department
Wide



| BY THE NUMBERS | ACTUAL | PROJECTED | COVID-19 OUTCOME |
|---|--------|---------------|------------------|
| PARK ACREAGE | 371 | | |
| FACILITIES | 6 | | |
| DAYS IDA LEE PARK RECREATION CENTER WAS OPEN | 364 | | |
| DAYS ERIC BROWN SKATE PLAZA WAS OPEN | 365 | | |
| NUMBER OF SPECIAL EVENTS | 19 | 27 | 70% |
| NUMBER OF SPORTS ACADEMIES | 9 | 42 | 21% |
| NUMBER OF TENNIS ACADEMIES | 4 | 18 | 22% |
| NUMBER OF RECREATION ACADEMIES | 1 | 26 | 4% |
| NUMBER OF PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS | 0 | 3 | Cancelled |
| NUMBER OF CAMPS | 26 | 66 | 39% |
| NEW NUMBER OF SPORTS PROGRAMS | 91 | offered 167 | 54% |
| NEW NUMBER OF RECREATION PROGRAMS | 44 | offered 90 | 49% |
| NEW NUMBER OF FITNESS PROGRAMS | 112 | offered 119 | 94% |
| NEW NUMBER OF AQUATIC PROGRAMS | 588 | offered 1,310 | 45% |
| NUMBER OF AQUATIC CLASSES PARTICIPANTS | 2,006 | 8,011 | 25% |
| NUMBER OF SPORTS AND FITNESS CLASSES PARTICIPANTS | 1,815 | 5,224 | 35% |
| NUMBER OF OUTREACH PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS | 540 | 524 | 103% |
| NUMBER OF RECREATION CLASSES PARTICIPANTS | 211 | 1,667 | 13% |
| NUMBER OF CAMPS PARTICIPANTS | 261 | 1,475 | 18% |
| NUMBER OF PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS | 0 | 51 | Cancelled |



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE



A Note From The Department Director & Parks Commission Chairman

It is with great pride that we share the department's accomplishments over the past year. A year that was impacted in all areas by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Though we were not able to operate business as usual, there was a slow transition to normalcy throughout the year. As restrictions began to be lifted, numerous programs and facilities were able to return. Some of those programs even thrived, Tennis had the highest revenue recorded ever, exceeding \$1M in total revenue. A testament to our staff and community's determination to remain active and engaged.

The Flower & Garden Festival returned in a modified format after falling victim to the pandemic in 2020. Even though the festival was held at Ida Lee in order to maintain appropriate levels of social distancing, it was viewed as a return to normalcy by the Leesburg community and was a kick off to the 2021 event season.

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 the continued pandemic. We appreciate the strength of the community as we come together to make the best of this situation.

We are proud of Parks and Recreation team's accomplishments during this challenging year, 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

2021 – The *Loudoun Times Mirror* readers' poll named Ida Lee Park Recreation Center as Best Recreational Facility.

2020 – The *Loudoun Now* Loudoun Favorite's poll named Ida Lee Park as the "Favorite Park" in the Loudoun County area.

2020 – The *Loudoun Now* Loudoun Favorite's poll named Ida Lee Park Recreation Center as the "Favorite Community Center", "Favorite Recreation Center", and "Favorite Summer Camp" in the Loudoun County area.

2020 – The *Loudoun Now* Loudoun Favorite's poll named AV Symington Aquatic Center as the "Favorite Swimming Pool" in the Loudoun County area.

2020 – 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.

2020 – The *Loudoun Now* Loudoun Favorite's poll named the Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival as the "Favorite Festival" in the Loudoun County area.

Highlights

■ Due to the continued Covid-19 pandemic, all Independence Day activities were cancelled. In its place, The Town hosted a Decoration of Independence contest for Leesburg residents to decorate their homes to celebrate the holiday. With the help of the Leesburg Police Department and Leesburg Volunteer Fire Department, a Wave parade was held that visited the four town quadrants over a four day period featuring Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty atop a fire truck.

■ AV Symington Aquatic Center opened late in the season, in July 2020. In order to stay in compliance with Phase 3 of Governor Northam's plan, capacity was reduced to 300 swimmers at a time and all interactive features remained closed, which included the water slides, floating snake, and lily pad crossing. The lazy river opened but tubes were not permitted.

■ In the Summer of 2020, all swim programs were cancelled with the exception of a mini summer swim program offered in August. The program was modified to help with social distancing and the class was either taught from the deck or by parent led/instructor guided to limit physical interactions.

■ The Department was able to skip the annual closedown during the summer as staff were proactive and performed all facility maintenance and cleaning during the mandatory facility closure in the Spring of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

■ The Department had to cancel all camps offered in Summer 2020, Winter Break 2020, and Spring Break 2021. Camps were offered in the Summer of 2021, with camp participation reduced from 28 to 20 campers to facilitate social distancing.



■ Programs and classes slowly started up again in Fall of 2020 with reduced class participant sizes, social distancing measures, and increased cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

■ Taste and Leesburg Airshow events were both cancelled in Fall of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

■ The 12th annual Dog Swim was held at the AV Symington Aquatic Center. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the pool was open for two sessions with a limit of 100 people per session.

■ From October-December, a distance learning program was offered to Town of Leesburg employee's school aged children for free at the recreation center. This provided a safe childcare environment while local schools were entirely virtual at the time.

■ The 18th Annual Freeze Your Gizzard Cross Country 5K was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Participants were encouraged to run or walk on their own, outdoors or on a treadmill, during a one week period in November 2020.

■ Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Show and Spring Bling were held outdoors at Freedom Park for the first time. The Holiday show had 34 vendors, socially distanced, with 1,300 shoppers for the one-day show. The Spring Bling had 31 vendors and 750 shoppers.



■ To continue the Town's annual Christmas and Holiday Parade tradition, a drive-thru event was planned. The "Glitter and Glow Drive Thru" was to feature stationary floats, at Freedom Park, decorated by the local community. Due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, parade guidelines were created to keep participants safe and socially distanced during the event. However, feedback from potential parade participants about the concern to safely build floats for their organizations led staff to move forward with canceling the event.

■ Unable to hold their annual Holiday Dinner inviting the families of ROCK participants to Ida Lee Park Recreation Center, the Community Outreach Program held a Holiday Dinner giveaway for families at their sites. Fifty meals serving a family of five were given out at the Leesburg Apartments in December by staff and Santa.

■ The Parks Department helped Girl Scout Troop 2718 earn their Silver Award by installing a Blue Atlas Cedar memorial tree, landscape boulder, and plaque at Georgetown Park in December 2020; in memory of those who lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic, and in gratitude for the heroes who emerged. The Department of Public Works assisted in the placement of the boulder and Mayor Burk was present to deliver a speech.

■ Beginning with the Winter 2021 issue, the Department made the decision to no longer mail the Leesburg At Leisure Activity Guides. Instead, all future issues will be posted electronically four times a year.

■ In February 2021, the Department opened a cardio studio in the lower level of the recreation center to allow for more workout options during peak times,



allowing patrons to socially distance while remaining active during the Covid-19 pandemic. Treadmills, ellipticals, and bikes as well as body bars, kettle bells, dumbbells, and medicine balls were made available.

■ A successful Egg Hunt with over 12,000 eggs was held in a modified format. This year, instead of offering an egg hunt per age group, the egg hunt was offered to families via a rolling egg hunt, a visit with a socially distant Easter bunny, and a stroll through an interactive walking Easter trail.

■ In order to manage social distancing, the 31st Annual Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival moved to Ida Lee Park for the first time. Seventy-five vendors and sponsors and four non-profit groups were socially distanced in three parking lots near the AV Symington Aquatic Center. Approximately 5,300 people attended the event over two days.

■ The preschool room was converted into a new Training and Wellness Studio. The exclusive studio is dedicated to personal training sessions and small group classes only. Equipment in the room includes a bike, rower, TRX, battle ropes, small weights, and bands.

■ New fitness equipment arrived in Summer 2021 as part of a phased approach to replace old equipment through the Town's Capital Asset Replacement program.

■ A concrete pad to house a newly purchased metal building used for Town Holiday decorations was installed at Freedom Park.

■ With support from the Public Works Department, the existing wood chip surface at the Dog Park was removed and a new layer of wood chips was installed as part of the annual facility maintenance.

