

TAKOMA PARK REIMAGINING
PUBLIC SAFETY
TASK FORCE RESOURCES



AGENDA

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Recreation Department

- PURPOSE

The Recreation Department enhances the quality of life in Takoma Park by developing and providing creative, diversified, and safe programs and services that attract participants of all ages, and delivering those services and programs in an effective and efficient manner. Staff work in collaboration with youth, seniors, and others to identify new programs and services in which they might be interested.

- HOW IT OPERATES

These functions are accounted for in eight divisions. They are Administration, Takoma Park Recreation Center, Community Programs, Athletic Fields/Facilities, Camps, Before and After-School Programs, Youth Outreach, and Community Center.

- EXAMPLES OF WORK IN THE CITY

Programs include childcare, holiday programs, sports leagues, youth and adult classes, workshops and rentals.



DATA, METRICS, & NUMBERS

- In calendar year 2019 we registered over 6,000 participants in over 491 programs
- 77% of those registered were Takoma Park residents
- During COVID the Recreation Department
 - averaged approximately 25 free virtual classes per week
 - offered 25 in-person classes in the fall with 95 participants total



GOALS & INITIATIVES

WHAT ARE SOME STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND PRIORITIES YOUR AGENCY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO?

- Expand marketing materials (for select programs) in Spanish, Amharic and French in order to increase participation.
- Enhance the departments scholarship program to allow more residents an opportunity to receive assistance.
- Work with the Recreation Committee, Friends of the Takoma Park Recreation Center and community members to market and participate in the City's Community Engagement process to redevelop the Recreation Center.
- Develop a morning care program at the Takoma Park Recreation Center that services Piney Branch and Takoma Park Elementary schools.
- Provide modified in-person recreation camps that follow CDC guidelines as it relates to COVID-19.



PUBLIC SAFETY

The City's Recreation Department provides safe alternatives while kids are out of school. Activities and programs build valuable skills, provide opportunities for socialization and overall fun. While these actions help occupy young people and build strong socialization and other skills, they also allow for interaction with professional Recreation staff who:

- Get to know the children and their families and can recognize when a child is having problems and can make connections to help them
- Interact with school officials, Victim-Witness or other Police Department staff to collaborative address threats, bullying or other safety issues
- Offer special programs or approaches for persons with developmental or other disabilities



QUESTIONS?

