

Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

From Mike Griggs

Parks and Recreation Director

Tens of thousands of our citizens were served by Columbia Parks and Recreation programs, events, and facilities last year. Our community services are diverse – from preserving green space to hosting special events/tournaments that promote tourism; from planting trees to providing training and employment for at-risk youth. All of these varied activities fit into our department's mission, which is to improve our community's health, stability, beauty, and quality of life by providing outstanding parks, trails, recreational facilities, and leisure opportunities for all Columbia citizens.



It would take more pages than are in this brochure to report on all the Parks and Recreation activities and accomplishments of the past year. Just a sampling of the highlights from Fiscal Year 2018 are presented here.

Our department is proud to serve such an active and engaged community. We could not do all we do without our community's support through volunteers, partnerships, and the Park Sales Tax. Thanks for a great year!

We look forward with anticipation to the future openings of the covered farmers market and agriculture park at Clary-Shy Park, the sports fieldhouse at Philips Park, and the cross country course at Gans Creek Recreation Area, making 2019 an exciting year, as well.

460

trees planted



91,375

visitors to our outdoor pools



278

children received gifts from the Holiday Toys for Columbia's Youth Drive



22.5

acres of green space acquired



18,370

hours contributed by volunteers to support Parks and Recreation programs



18

youths completed
the Earn-A-Bike
program



106

sports
tournaments
hosted



336,146

visitors to
the ARC



591

local citizens were
provided financial
assistance for
recreation activities



78,000+

attended Parks
and Recreation
special events



750

trees given away
for Arbor Day



#1

ranked disc golf
course according to
DGCourseReview.com



35,264

youth
participations
in sports



196

youths hired for
the CARE Summer
Employment Program
serving at-risk youth

