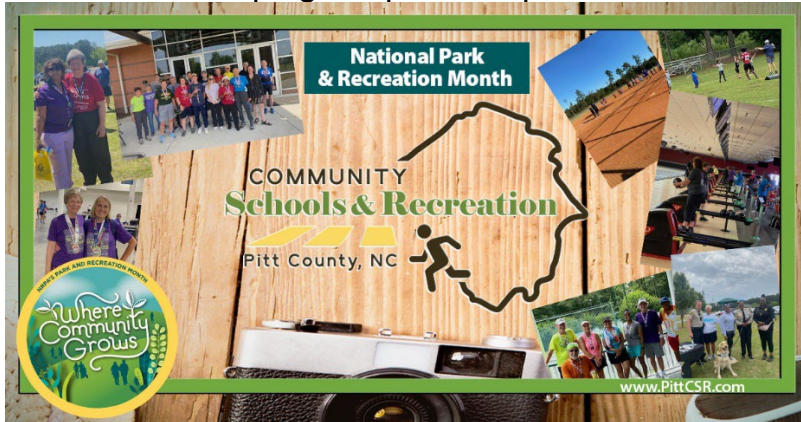


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Pitt County Celebrates National Park and Recreation Month Awareness campaign to promote park and recreation opportunities



PITT COUNTY, N.C. – Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation (PCCSR) is celebrating National Park and Recreation month through a social media awareness campaign on the Pitt County Facebook page @PittCountyNC. The 2023 theme, “Where Community Grows,” celebrates the vital role park and recreation professionals play in bringing people together, providing essential services and fostering the growth of our communities.

PCCSR operates as a partnership between the Pitt County Board of Commissioners and the Pitt County Board of Education. The department coordinates the use of facilities in thirty-five schools, engages citizen involvement through volunteerism, coordinates ten elementary after-school programs and other recreation programs for all age groups. They also collaborate with agency partners to develop parks and recreation programs across Pitt County.

“Community Schools and Recreation advances the County mission by supporting the physical, mental and social wellness of residents of all ages and ability levels,” says James Rhodes, AICP, Assistant County Manager/Planning Director.

“Community Schools and Recreation staff work cooperatively with other agencies and organizations to determine program needs and develop avenues for meeting those needs. In 2022-2023, Community Schools and Recreation facilitated 188 programs engaging 7,188 youth, 16,204 adult and 20,100 senior program participants,” says Rob Maloney, Director, Community Schools & Recreation.

In 2023, Pitt County Planning and Community Schools & Recreation staff worked with design professionals from Rivers & Associates, Inc. to develop a recreation site plan for the Office Park Community Center and the adjacent outdoor space located north of the Tar River. The final plan for this facility was approved by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners on June 26, 2023. The project is part of the \$10 million (\$5 million each) in American Rescue Plan funding for two community centers/gyms. View the final plan and other project information at www.pittcountync.gov/NORCommunityCenterRecPlan.

“This year’s National Park and Recreation month theme “Where Community Grows” is especially fitting for Pitt County. The center and associated outdoor recreational space at the Office Park are destined to be major attractions for those who live or work in communities North of the River,” says Alice Keene, Recreation Projects Coordinator, Planning Department.

Rhodes continues, “Pitt County exemplifies the “Where Community Grows” theme through the Parks and Facilities of Pitt County App. This technology assists residents and visitors in learning about the wonderful recreational opportunities available in our community.”

The Parks and Facilities App features a list of recreation facilities, map of parks and facilities, amenity search, Parks and Recreation Department contacts and is available for free download on the APP Store and Google Play.

For more information, follow Facebook @PittCountyNC or contact Community Schools and Recreation at 252-902-1975.

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