



2024

RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT



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OUR VISION

We, the Recreation Department Team, commit to improving our programming reach, balance, and frequency of use in ways that benefit, encourage, and promote lifelong leisure.

OUR MISSION

To aspire to provide programs, events, and services that reach all age groups and interests, and align with our vision, values, and community feedback.

OUR VALUES

Integrity, Commitment, Kindness,
Adaptability & Growth, Service, Fun



RECREATION TEAM



RECREATION – WE DO ORDINARY THINGS IN AN EXTRAORDINARY WAY!

As 2024 came to an end, the Recreation Department looked back on an exciting year filled with growth, innovation, and unforgettable experiences. From expanding our facilities to enhancing our programs, this year has been a testament to our commitment to serving the community with engaging and enriching opportunities for all ages.

This year marked a significant milestone with the acquisition of the Blanchard Building. This new facility will be a game-changer for our camps and programming, allowing us to provide even more space for creativity, learning and fun. With this expansion, we look forward to offering new and enhanced experiences for children and adults alike in the years to come.

Additionally, we welcomed the staff from the DuPage County Historical Museum to the Recreation Team. The Museum's exhibits, tours, programs and special events provide unique opportunities for residents to explore and appreciate the past in new and engaging ways.

Our summer camps continue to be a highlight, offering children exciting adventures, skill-building activities, and lifelong friendships. The performing arts program dazzled audiences with outstanding productions, showcasing the incredible talent of our community. Preschool provided a nurturing environment where young learners thrived, building the foundation for a lifetime of curiosity and education.

Our facilities remained at the heart of our programming. The Community Center buzzed with activity, hosting fitness classes, community gatherings, and special events. The Mary Lubko Center continues to be a hub for active adults, offering engaging programs and social opportunities. Lincoln Marsh provided a serene retreat for nature lovers, offering environmental education and outdoor adventures for all ages.

Community events brought residents together in celebration throughout the year. Ice-A-Palooza kicked off the year with a festive celebration of winter, featuring ice skating, games and cheer. Go Fly a Kite filled the skies with vibrant colors and family-friendly fun. Halloween Happening delighted children and families with spooky activities, creative costumes and the brand-new Candyland Trail.

As we step into 2025, the Recreation Department remains committed to innovation, inclusivity, and excellence. With new facilities, expanded programs, and a dedicated team, we look forward to another year of serving the community and creating lasting memories.



Discover
Lincoln
Marsh

MEET THE RECREATION TEAM

Vicki Beyer CPRP
Director
of Recreation



Jamie Martinson CPRE
Superintendent
of Recreation



Gracie Aviles
Daytime Community
Center Manager



Deb Ditchman
Outdoor Education
Supervisor



Lyn Havelka
Evening
Community Center
Manager



Terra Johnson
Lincoln Marsh
Program Manager



Rick Napier CPRP
Registrar/Software
Specialist



Kelly Nielsen
Preschool and Camp
Manager



Emily O'Brien
Museum Curator



Rebecca Narrajos
Evening
Community Center
Manager



Megann Panek CPRP
Mary Lubko Center
Manager



Michelle Podkowa
Museum Manager and
Educator



Chad Shingler CPRP
Recreation Manager



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Recreation Department works hard to better themselves as professionals through continuing education.

Professional Development

Conference Attendance:

- Illinois Park and Recreation Association
- National Recreation and Park Association
- International Association for Experiential Education
- Vermont Systems Symposium Start Alliance



Trainings Completed:

- ALICE with Wheaton Police Department
- PDRMA Help training
- ADA
- PDRMA online educational opportunities
- Cyber Security
- 4-Step Transform Challenging Behavior System online training
- NAEYC trainings
- Rec Trac User Group
- Global Compliance Network Trainings
- Bassett
- WDSRA behavior management training
- DCFS Mandated Reporter
- Webinars from: Nature Play, IPRA, Arts Alliance on Government funding, American Association of State and Local History Museums, American Alliance of Museums, KDRMA, and Environmental Education
- Giant Steps Autism Friendly Training



Certification & Accreditation

- Director of Recreation, Superintendent of Recreation, Mary Lubko Center Manager, Recreation Manager, and Registrar/Software Specialist maintained and renewed their CPRP certification.
- Lincoln Marsh Staff were certified as Climbing Tower lead facilitators by Experiential Systems, Inc. (ESI)
- Preschool and Camps Manager and Museum Curator received Instructor HSI Level 1 Adult/Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED

Committee Involvement

- Green Team
- V.A.L.U.E.S.
- New Hire Orientation
- Health and Wellness
- Program and Recreation Services
- Safety Committee
- Play for All Foundation Board Member
- Museum Foundation



VALUES



STAFF INVOLVEMENT

Community Involvement

- Seasonal play dates at the Lincoln Marsh Prairie Patch Play Area
- Marian Park Pop-up Play Day
- Plug Into Nature, a Lincoln Marsh event in support of the IPRA Unplug Illinois campaign
- Movie Night with Wheaton Police
- IPRA Senior Games
- National History in Our Parks Committee through AASL'H
- DuPage County Social Studies Conference for Educators
- DuPage Country Veterans Resource Fair

Wheaton Park District Event Involvement

- Safety Fair
- Ice-A-Palooza
- V.A.L.U.E.S. - District Derby, Seasonal Staff Picnic
- HOtoberfest
- Halloween Happening
- Go Fly a Kite
- Fish O Rama
- Memorial Park Summer Concert Series
- Casino Night
- Shakespeare in the Park
- Night at the Museum
- Chicago Steel Hockey Game
- Sensory Garden Play Day
- Cream of Wheaton

Distinguished Service Awards

- 35 years full-time - Director of Recreation
- 20 years full-time - Lincoln Marsh Program Manager
- 15 years full-time - Outdoor Education Supervisor
- 20 years part-time - Customer Service Attendant, Preschool Teacher
- 5 years part-time - Preschool Substitute Teacher, Preschool Teacher, Beyond Glee Accompanist, Children's Playhouse Director, Theatre Stage Manager, Customer Service Attendant
- 5 years seasonal - 2 Camp Directors



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Program Net Profits		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Adult Education	Revenue	\$36,155	\$56,445	\$45,666	n/a	n/a
	Expenses	\$23,778	\$27,539	\$11,503		
	Net Profit	\$12,376	\$28,906	\$34,163		
Camps	Revenue	\$59,648	\$309,414	\$418,496	\$524,413	\$662,354
	Expenses	\$43,381	\$139,066	\$199,381	\$252,235	\$395,755
	Net Profit	\$16,268	\$170,347	\$219,114	\$272,177	\$266,598
Creative & Performing Arts	Revenue	\$56,874	\$90,210	\$143,166	\$167,866	\$186,708
	Expenses	\$36,707	\$49,707	\$85,195	\$92,942	\$97,719
	Net Profit	\$20,167	\$40,503	\$57,970	\$74,923	\$88,989
Lincoln Marsh	Revenue	\$13,008	\$106,660	\$147,024	\$153,449	\$156,502
	Expenses	\$12,901	\$36,090	\$58,994	\$68,041	\$80,763
	Net Profit	\$107	\$70,569	\$88,029	\$85,408	\$75,739
Mary Lubko Center	Revenue	\$28,011	\$60,523	\$103,345	\$150,715	\$204,057
	Expenses	\$40,768	\$71,136	\$115,707	\$164,348	\$220,609
	Net Profit	(\$12,757)	(\$10,613)	(\$12,362)	(\$13,633)	(\$16,552)
Preschool & Early Childhood	Revenue	\$161,522	\$196,117	\$305,234	\$337,915	\$320,779
	Expenses	\$106,867	\$135,340	\$192,666	\$223,855	\$221,849
	Net Profit	\$54,655	\$60,777	\$112,568	\$114,060	\$98,931
Varied Interest	Revenue	\$25,918	\$117,480	\$61,821	\$61,416	\$66,004
	Expenses	\$15,382	\$56,613	\$37,670	\$37,566	\$41,373
	Net Profit	\$10,536	\$60,867	\$24,151	\$23,850	\$24,632
Seasonal Programs	Revenue	\$4,842	\$6,668	\$13,128	\$17,971	\$19,779
	Expenses	\$1,766	\$4,032	\$7,034	\$11,238	\$15,625
	Net Profit	\$3,076	\$2,636	\$6,094	\$6,733	\$4,153
Total	Revenue	\$385,977	\$943,515	\$1,237,878	\$1,413,745	\$1,616,183
	Expenses	\$281,549	\$519,524	\$708,150	\$850,226	\$1,073,693
	Net Profit	\$104,427	\$423,991	\$529,728	\$563,519	\$542,490
Administrative & Facility Net Operating Costs		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Community Center	Revenue	\$12,081	\$17,348	\$24,021	\$41,691	\$42,013
	Expenses	\$417,687	\$461,812	\$456,287	\$565,872	\$577,516
	Net Operating Cost	(\$405,606)	(\$444,465)	(\$432,267)	(\$524,182)	(\$535,503)
Lincoln Marsh/Warming Shelter	Revenue	\$312	\$0	\$138	\$727	\$250
	Expenses	\$237,140	\$208,241	\$237,445	\$256,280	\$262,115
	Net Operating Cost	(\$236,828)	(\$208,241)	(\$237,307)	(\$255,553)	(\$261,865)
Mary Lubko Center	Revenue	\$150	\$4,850	\$5,475	\$8,575	\$7,425
	Expenses	\$104,829	\$106,786	\$121,526	\$143,961	\$149,600
	Net Operating Cost	(\$104,679)	(\$101,936)	(\$116,051)	(\$135,386)	(\$142,175)
Other Administrative Areas*	Revenue	\$1,643	\$1,756	\$1,781	\$1,781	\$1,761
	Expenses	\$308,296	\$307,060	\$314,031	\$357,320	\$462,337
	Net Operating Cost	(\$306,653)	(\$305,304)	(\$312,250)	(\$355,539)	(\$460,576)
Total	Revenue	\$14,186	\$23,954	\$31,415	\$52,774	\$51,449
	Expenses	\$1,067,951	\$1,083,899	\$1,129,290	\$1,323,434	\$1,451,569
	Net Operating Cost	(\$1,053,765)	(\$1,059,946)	(\$1,097,875)	(\$1,270,660)	(\$1,400,120)

*Includes revenue for garden plot rentals and administrative expenses for Adult Education, Camps, Creative & Performing Arts, Preschool & Early Childhood, Varied Interest, Seasonal Programs, Director of Recreation, Superintendent of Recreation.

Due to staff restructuring, some program classifications changed in 2022. Adult Education is no longer its own business unit - programs were distributed to Creative & Performing Arts, Mary Lubko Center, Varied Interest and Athletics.

DuPage County Historical Museum		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	Revenue	\$161,244	\$168,335	\$218,459	\$248,972	\$272,254
	Expenses	\$146,578	\$161,022	\$208,050	\$226,250	\$256,765
	Net Profit	\$14,666	\$7,313	\$10,409	\$22,722	\$15,489



Ice-A-Palooza - Attendance 750+

Featured activities included open skating and hockey, figure skating demonstrations, character meet and greets, activity tent, food truck and the popular Wheaton Police vs. Wheaton Fire Department hockey game.

Bowties and Tiaras - Attendance 200

We danced the night away in the Grand Ballroom at Arrowhead Golf Club! Guests enjoyed great music, a photo booth, dancing, a sundae bar, crafts and more!



Casino Night -Attendance 90

A fundraiser with a casino twist!

Go Fly a Kite - Attendance 500

This annual free event features vendor expo, food truck, kite sales, and kite flying contests.

Fish-O-Rama - Attendance 400+

Offered in cooperation with the Kiwanis Club of Wheaton, this annual event invites kids 15 and under to participate in outdoor family fun at our open fishing contest for most and largest fish.

Movie Night Out with Wheaton Police - Attendance 500+

Featured *Super Mario Bros*. Families enjoyed the free movie, glowsticks, police giveaways and popcorn, checking out police vehicles and meeting 10+ officers.

Seasonal Celebrations at the Prairie Patch Play Area - Attendance 200+

Families are invited to spend time together at the Prairie Patch Play Area where children can create, discover and play with nature. Participants enjoy activities, crafts and open play. Earth Day, Summer Solstice, Plug into Nature, and Fall Equinox are celebrated.

Marian Park Pop-Up Play Day - Attendance 50+

Marian Park youth residents enjoyed a day of crafts, activities, sports & games, and treats!

HOPtoberfest - Attendance 564

Fall beer, cider and seltzer sampling fundraiser with bands performing.

Night at the Museum - Attendance 66

A children's Halloween movie night.



Halloween Happening Attendance 1000+

Guests enjoyed an evening of games, crafts, activities, and concessions. Popular activities included Trunk-or-Treat featuring nearly 20 community vehicles and the brand-new Candyland Trail with 50+ volunteers from the high school Key Clubs and Honor Societies.



Santa Express- Attendance 557

A special train ride with Santa

Pizza with Santa - Attendance 175

Pizza, crafts, and lots of photos made this special night a memorable one for children and their families.

Holiday Gala - Attendance 66

An annual tradition at the Mary Lubko Center where friends gather for lunch and holiday entertainment.

SPECIAL EVENTS

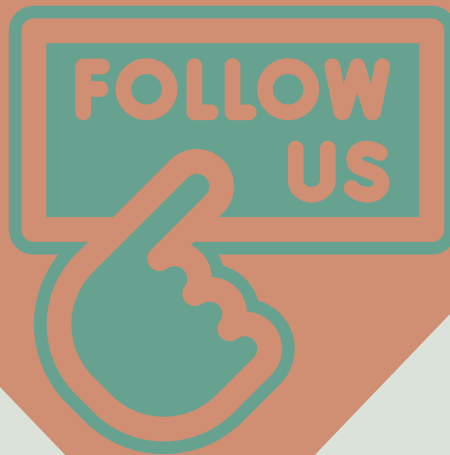


MARKETING

Facebook & Instagram Totals



Posts: 356
Reach: 286,670
Impressions: 298,913
Interactions: 4,726
Link Clicks: 802



DuPage County Historical Museum

Facebook Reach
109,768
Instagram Reach
3,001

Lincoln Marsh

Facebook Reach
30,220

Website Stats

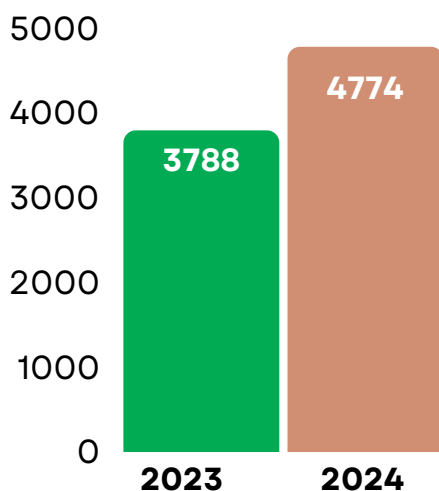
Dance Page: 3,940 Views
Early Childhood Page: 7,860 Views



CAMPS

2024 IN REVIEW

- Six American Camp Association accredited camps.
- New annual Summer Camp Ice Cream Social to kick-off the summer and give families an opportunity to meet staff and fellow campers.
- High quality staff, engaging activities, pool visits to Rice & Northside and exciting field trips continue to make Wheaton Park District camps the best in the western suburbs.



NEW FOR 2025

- Character Counts initiative in partnership with ACA will be rolled out to all camps in 2025.
- Expansion of our most popular camp, Camp No Name, by 50%!
- New camp offered on CUSD200 Institute Days & holidays.





WHEATON PARK DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTER

No
Parking
Emergency
vehicles only

COMMUNITY CENTER

2024 IN REVIEW

- Continuing to serve our patrons and community members as the main hub of the park district for registration needs.
- Interior renovation project Phase 2B included upgrades to facility locker rooms, addition of new steam rooms and upgraded lower-level Graf, Zone and Lincoln Marsh rooms.
- New “Purchase of Residency Benefits by Non-Residents” policy approved, allowing non-residents an opportunity to purchase residency status.

**41,325+
Registrations**

**7,800+ Hours of
Exceptional
Customer
Service**

NEW FOR 2025

- Interior renovation project Phase 3 - upgrades to lobby, service desk, offices, early childhood classrooms and kitchen.
- Web Trac mobile application providing a new platform for registration, activities and passes.
- Renaming of the Community Center to the Ray Morrill Center

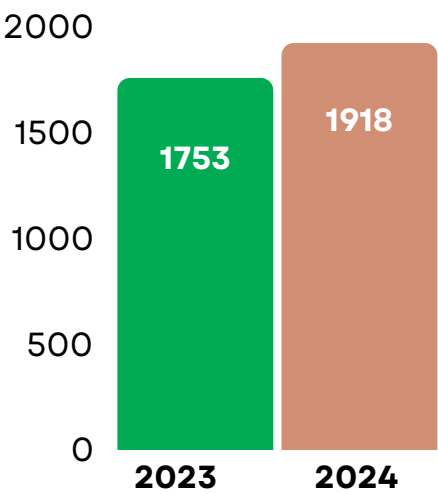




CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS

2024 IN REVIEW

- Over 2,400 tickets sold for our two theater productions in 2024 - Newsies Jr. and Moana Jr.
- Addams Family Young@Part was our featured Summer Spotlight production with over 300 tickets sold.
- Purchase of an additional kiln in the pottery studio allowed for increased pottery offerings.



NEW FOR 2025

- Featured 2025 Productions: Wizard of Oz Jr., Charlotte's Web Jr. & Lion King Jr.
- Expansion of adult dance classes.
- Increased pottery offerings.

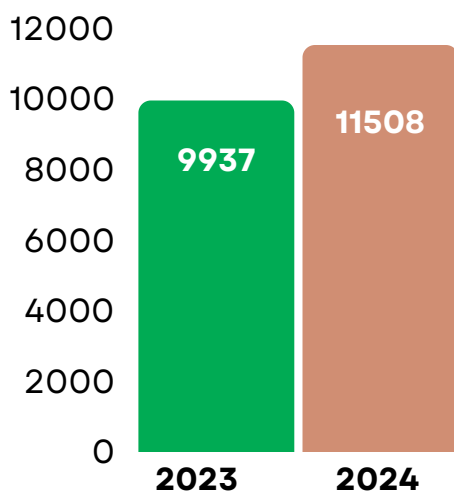




DUPAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

2024 IN REVIEW

- Over 11,500 visitors to the Museum for exhibit viewing, programs and rentals.
- Illinois Association of Museums awarded the DuPage County Historical Museum with the Award of Merit for *The Roarin' Elgin* exhibit.
- 325% increase in tours and programs for adult groups, schools and scouts.



NEW FOR 2025

- Design of the new permanent exhibit with Taylor Studios.
- 2025 Exhibits to look forward to:
 - *Tense Times*
 - *Built to Last*
 - *Woven Together*
 - *Cabinets of Curiosities*

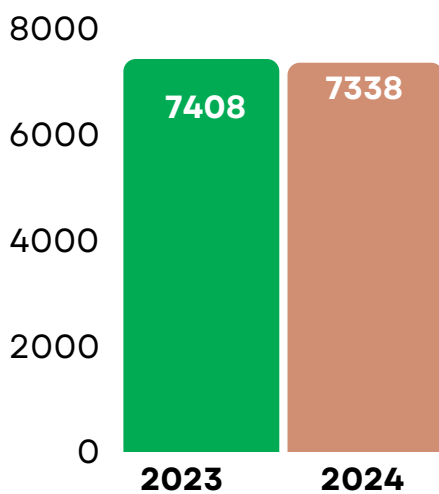




LINCOLN MARSH

2024 IN REVIEW

- Rebranded and introduced new youth Nature Clubs and summer camps.
- Launched new Preschool Nature Time enrichment program at the Community Center.
- Successful Challenge Course inspection conducted by Experiential Systems, Inc.



NEW FOR 2025

- New Cub Scout programs available in alignment with Scouts of America standards.
- New play elements planned for the Prairie Patch Play Area.

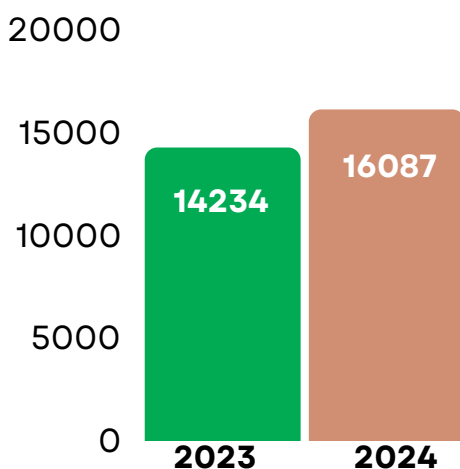




MARY LUBKO CENTER

2024 IN REVIEW

- Over 11,000 miles traveled by MLC patrons through extended travel and day trip opportunities.
- Patrons enjoyed 33 day trips and 8 extended travel opportunities.
- New seminars offered including Music, Memory and the Brain; Clear Your House, Clear Your Mind; Paws & Relax: Dog Cuddle Therapy and more!
- Completion of the MLC floor refinishing project.
- Community involvement and awareness reaching senior homes and chamber meetings to create awareness of the MLC and the programs we offer.



NEW FOR 2025

- Launching of Community Cookbook, inviting patrons to share their favorite recipes.
- Continue offering free drop-in programs and classes to build community.

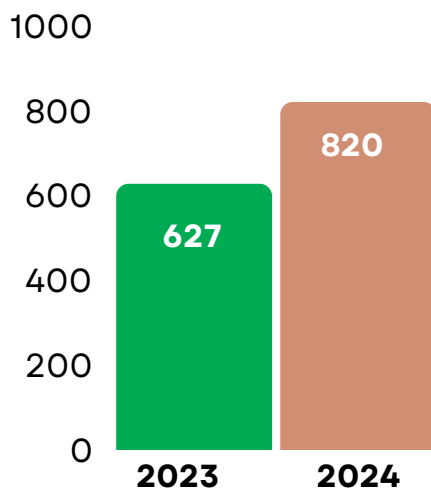




PRESCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD

2024 IN REVIEW

- Addition of Kidz Kingdom operation under the Recreation Department, including revamped and expanded offerings.
- Extra-curricular classes offered in partnership with the Lincoln Marsh to extend preschoolers' day.
- Addition of early childhood programming including sports classes, kindergarten preparedness and more!



NEW FOR 2025

- New 5-day a week preschool class offered at Rathje Park.
- Scholastic Book Fair and Art Show.
- New flex registration option for Kidz Kingdom participants.

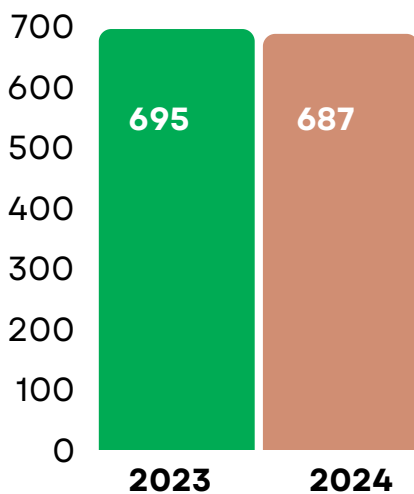




VARIED INTEREST

2024 IN REVIEW

- Varied Interest summer camps remain a popular choice reaching capacity for chess camps, technology camps and more!
- Continuing our cooperative partnership with nearby park districts to broaden our reach and increase enrollment.
- Hosting of our first ever community Magic Show, with over 300 in attendance.



NEW FOR 2025

- Expansion of Zone Party offerings with newly renovated lower level rooms.
- New youth STEM and engineering classes and camps.





PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

Fun activities, good price, something for everyone! Great event!
-Special Event

This was the best visit to the marsh in my many years of teaching. We saw an egret when we first arrived at the water. Staff went out of their way to find various life forms in the water for the kids to see and pointed out many animal prints around the marsh. The kids were continually engaged. Great visit!!! -Lincoln Marsh Program

Teamwork without sports. – Children's Playhouse

The teachers were excellent and enthusiastic. They made my little one look forward to school. The art projects/crafts were also so amazing!
-Toohey Park Early Childhood Program

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit at the DuPage County Historical Museum- staff were friendly, the displays were engaging and the train display was exceptional!
-DuPage County Historical Museum

The MLC staff is 100% invested in seeing that you feel comfortable and enjoy the community. Events are well managed. You leave feeling better. It was fun. You're glad you came. -Mary Lubko Center







2024
RECREATION

