



# RECREATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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# WE ARE RECREATION

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IN A YEAR OF CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY, THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT THRIVED IN PROVIDING EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAMS, EVENTS, SERVICES, AND FACILITIES TO RESIDENTS OF WHEATON AND VISITORS TO OUR COMMUNITY.



THIS DYNAMIC TEAM OF NINE FULL-TIME STAFF HAVE NEARLY 130 YEARS OF COMBINED SERVICE AT THE WHEATON PARK DISTRICT. WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING PEOPLE DISCOVER NEW ADVENTURES, HOBBIES, AND EXPERIENCES ALL WHILE HAVING FUN!

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**VICKI BEYER CPRP**, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

**DEB DITCHMAN**, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SUPERVISOR

**LYN HAVELKA**, EVENING COMMUNITY CENTER MANAGER

**TERRA JOHNSON**, LINCOLN MARSH PROGRAM MANAGER

**JAMIE MARTINSON CPRP**, SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION PROGRAMS

**RICK NAPIER CPRP**, DAYTIME COMMUNITY CENTER MANAGER

**MEGANN PANEK**, MARY LUBKO CENTER MANAGER

**SUE VASILEV**, REGISTRATION MANAGER

**MATTHEW WROBEL**, RECREATION MANAGER

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# ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

## MISSION STATEMENT

TO ASPIRE TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND SERVICES THAT REACH ALL AGE GROUPS AND INTERESTS AND ALIGN WITH OUR VISION, VALUES AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK.

## VISION STATEMENT

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.

THE WHEATON PARK DISTRICT RECREATION DEPARTMENT IS COMPRISED OF EIGHT BUSINESS UNITS WHICH OFFER COMPREHENSIVE YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGE GROUPS AND INTERESTS AT A NUMBER OF FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE WHEATON PARK DISTRICT.

Adult Education	Camps	Community Center
Creative & Performing Arts		Lincoln Marsh
Mary Lubko Center	Preschool & Early Childhood	Varied Interest



# BENEFITS OF RECREATION

The Wheaton Park District Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programs, events and services that align with the National Recreation & Park Association's three pillars:

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

- PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROUP, PARTNER AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
- POSITIVELY IMPACT SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING
- EXPAND KNOWLEDGE, EXPLORE NEW INTERESTS AND DEVELOP NEW HOBBIES

## CONSERVATION

- OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FURTHER APPRECIATION FOR THE NATURAL WORLD
- PROMOTE THE "REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE" INITIATIVE
- PROVIDE VALUABLE COMMUNITY BENEFITS INCLUDING STORM WATER STORAGE, WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

## SOCIAL EQUALITY

- EQUAL FUN FOR EVERYONE!
- PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT COOPERATIVELY WITH PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND ABILITIES
- PROMOTE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BY BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM AND ESTABLISHING FRIENDSHIPS



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Wheaton Park District Recreation Department continually strives to provide the community with the highest quality programs and services. 2021 highlights are listed below:

## Committee Involvement

- Green Team
- Health and Wellness
- V.A.L.U.E.S
- Safety Committee
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- Rec Trac Migration
- Program & Recreation Services



# VALUES

## Certification & Accreditation

- Director of Recreation, Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Daytime Community Center Manager maintained and renewed Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification
- Superintendent of Recreation Programs maintained American Camp Association accreditation status
- Recreation Manager completed the E-Sports certificate by BRAVOUS eSports
- Recreation Manager completed BASSET training
- Lincoln Marsh staff were certified as Lead Teams Course Facilitators by Experiential Systems, Inc. (ESI)

## Professional Development

- Conference attendance: Illinois Park and Recreation Association and National Recreation and Parks Association virtual conferences
- Lincoln Marsh staff attended Experiential Systems, Inc. (ESI) Facilitation Training
- Additional trainings completed:
  - PDRMA Risk Management Institute Webinars
  - Rec Trac 3.1 Migration Training
  - Rec Trac Virtual Symposium
  - Alliance webinars for challenge course operation strategies



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

## Wheaton Park District Event Involvement

- Staff organized, coordinated and volunteered at six of the Covid vaccination clinics
- Staff volunteered at the Memorial Park Summer Concert Series
- Recreation Manager organized the Central Park Pickleball Court Ribbon Cutting
- Recreation Manager assisted with Brew Fest



## Community Involvement

- Recreation Manager is a member of IMPACT WHEATON
  - (Igniting Meaningful Partnerships and Activities for our Communities Teens)
- Recreation Manager aided with Field of Honor at Seven Gables

## Other Achievements

- Mary Lubko Center Manager is a member of the IPRA Senior Committee, member of Active Adult Network and Senior and Law Enforcement Together Group
- Registration Manager and Evening/Weekend Community Center Manager received the Distinguished Service Award for 25 years of service with the park district
- Superintendent of Recreation Programs received the Distinguished Service Award for 5 years of service
- Wide Horizon's Preschool Teacher and Mary Lubko Accompanist both received the Distinguished Service Award for 5 years of service
- Customer Service Attendant, Ballroom Dance Instructor and Piano Instructor all received the Distinguished Service Award for 10 years of service
- Facility Scheduling Coordinator, Registration Assistant both received the Distinguished Service Award for 15 years of service
- Tai Chi Instructor received the Distinguished Service Award for 20 years of service
- Lincoln Marsh Program Manager and Program Assistant are members of IPRA Nature Task Force Committee



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Program Net Profits		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Adult Education	Revenue	\$79,597	\$82,053	\$85,855	\$36,155	\$56,445
	Expenses	\$47,920	\$50,240	\$52,942	\$23,778	\$27,539
	Net Profit	\$31,677	\$31,813	\$32,913	\$12,376	\$28,906
Camps	Revenue	\$365,562	\$363,521	\$370,394	\$59,648	\$309,414
	Expenses	\$198,849	\$239,367	\$224,644	\$43,381	\$139,066
	Net Profit	\$166,713	\$124,154	\$145,750	\$16,268	\$170,347
Creative & Performing Arts	Revenue	\$140,350	\$131,215	\$133,897	\$56,874	\$90,210
	Expenses	\$81,768	\$78,353	\$75,352	\$36,707	\$49,707
	Net Profit	\$58,581	\$52,862	\$58,545	\$20,167	\$40,503
Environmental Education	Revenue	\$68,611	\$74,434	\$71,659	\$13,008	\$82,649
	Expenses	\$27,277	\$28,785	\$29,099	\$4,675	\$27,848
	Net Profit	\$41,335	\$45,649	\$42,560	\$8,333	\$54,801
Challenge Course	Revenue	\$116,795	\$110,534	\$99,520	\$0	\$24,011
	Expenses	\$55,269	\$48,858	\$49,025	\$8,226	\$8,242
	Net Profit	\$61,526	\$61,676	\$50,495	(\$8,226)	\$15,768
Mary Lubko Center	Revenue	\$280,423	\$239,823	\$239,509	\$28,011	\$60,523
	Expenses	\$265,860	\$233,711	\$230,626	\$40,768	\$71,136
	Net Profit	\$14,563	\$6,112	\$8,883	(\$12,757)	(\$10,613)
Preschool & Early Childhood	Revenue	\$283,885	\$313,822	\$322,458	\$161,522	\$196,117
	Expenses	\$159,380	\$194,186	\$195,503	\$106,867	\$135,340
	Net Profit	\$124,505	\$119,636	\$126,955	\$54,655	\$60,777
Varied Interest	Revenue	\$127,200	\$133,425	\$133,180	\$25,918	\$117,480
	Expenses	\$84,582	\$90,950	\$80,397	\$15,382	\$56,613
	Net Profit	\$42,618	\$42,474	\$52,784	\$10,536	\$60,867
Seasonal Programs	Revenue	\$11,342	\$12,024	\$12,101	\$4,842	\$6,668
	Expenses	\$8,489	\$7,705	\$7,936	\$1,766	\$4,032
	Net Profit	\$2,853	\$4,319	\$4,164	\$3,076	\$2,636
Total	Revenue	\$1,473,765	\$1,460,850	\$1,468,572	\$385,977	\$943,515
	Expenses	\$929,395	\$972,155	\$945,523	\$281,549	\$519,524
	Net Profit	\$544,371	\$488,696	\$523,049	\$104,427	\$423,991

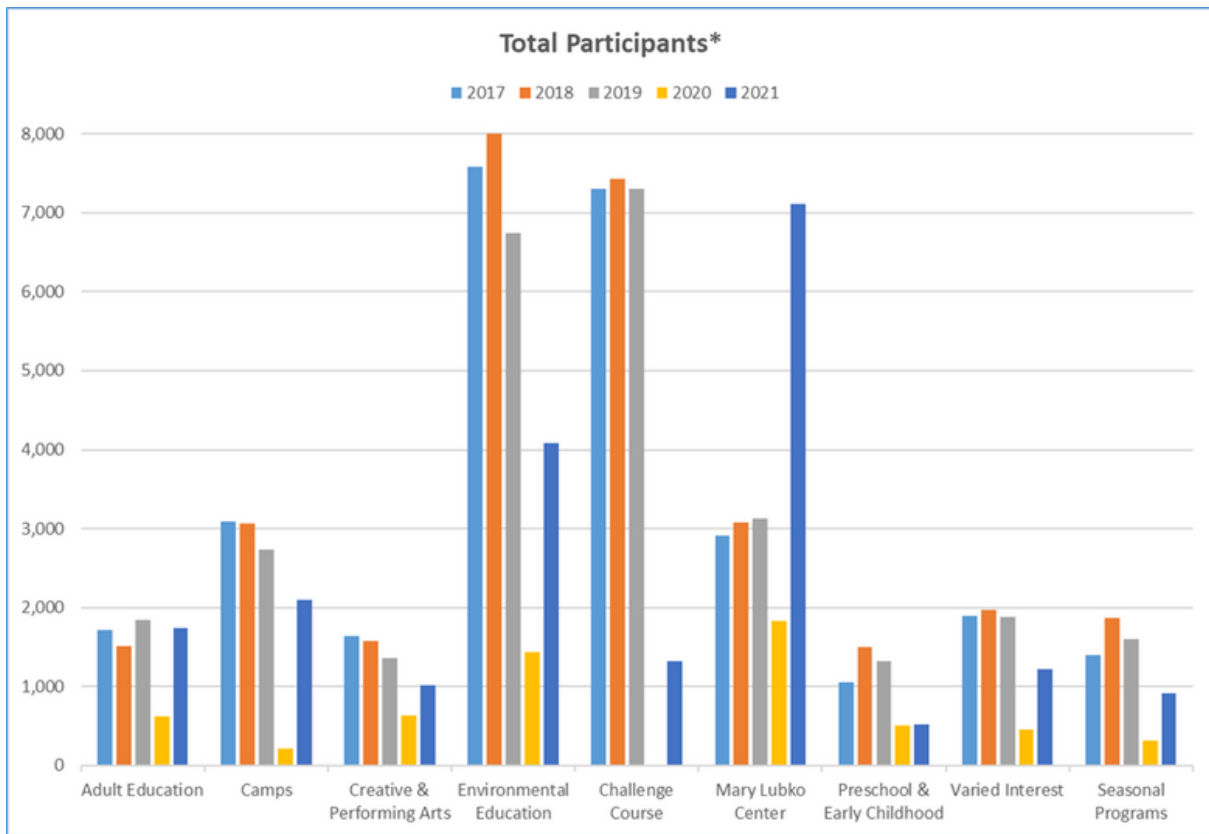
Administrative & Facility Net Operating Costs		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Community Center	Revenue	\$65,100	\$59,486	\$53,996	\$12,081	\$17,348
	Expenses	\$547,903	\$562,007	\$544,511	\$417,687	\$461,812
	Net Operating Cost	(\$482,803)	(\$502,522)	(\$490,515)	(\$405,606)	(\$444,465)
Lincoln Marsh/Warming Shelter	Revenue	\$208	\$1,460	\$752	\$312	\$0
	Expenses	\$324,632	\$331,397	\$336,993	\$237,140	\$208,241
	Net Operating Cost	(\$324,424)	(\$329,937)	(\$336,241)	(\$236,828)	(\$208,241)
Mary Lubko Center	Revenue	\$7,925	\$7,925	\$4,300	\$150	\$4,850
	Expenses	\$130,510	\$144,230	\$133,948	\$104,829	\$106,786
	Net Operating Cost	(\$122,585)	(\$136,305)	(\$129,648)	(\$104,679)	(\$101,936)
Other Administrative Areas*	Revenue	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$1,643	\$1,756
	Expenses	\$270,721	\$279,014	\$293,627	\$308,296	\$307,060
	Net Operating Cost	(\$270,721)	(\$279,014)	(\$293,627)	(\$306,653)	(\$305,304)
Total	Revenue	\$73,233	\$68,871	\$59,047	\$14,186	\$23,954
	Expenses	\$1,273,766	\$1,316,648	\$1,309,079	\$1,067,951	\$1,083,899
	Net Operating Cost	(\$1,200,533)	(\$1,247,777)	(\$1,250,031)	(\$1,053,765)	(\$1,059,946)

\*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.

2021 unaudited year-end figures

# PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

Total Participants*	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Adult Education	1,711	1,513	1,847	619	1,741
Camps	3,088	3,068	2,737	212	2,100
Creative & Performing Arts	1,646	1,577	1,356	638	1,012
Environmental Education	7,583	8,011	6,744	1,433	4,081
Challenge Course	7,302	7,427	7,306	0	1,320
Mary Lubko Center	2,915	3,074	3,124	1,828	7,106
Preschool & Early Childhood	1,060	1,505	1,326	508	518
Varied Interest	1,890	1,973	1,881	453	1,220
Seasonal Programs	1,404	1,865	1,598	311	916
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,599</b>	<b>30,013</b>	<b>27,919</b>	<b>6,002</b>	<b>20,014</b>



\*Participation data should not be compared between different business units but only within a specific business unit to see how it has changed from year to year.



# 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

**SCHOOL'S OUT!**  
**221**  
**PARTICIPANTS**

Wide Horizons  
Preschool  
173 students

## MLC DAY TRIPS

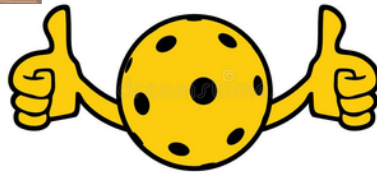
375 travelers



**RECREATION:**  
**8 DISTRICT WIDE CAMPS WITH**  
**2,100 PARTICIPANTS**



**LINCOLN MARSH:**  
**42 CAMPS WITH 393 PARTICIPANTS**



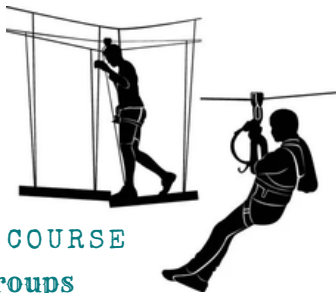
## PICKLEBALL PARTICIPANTS

Leagues 135  
Drop-in Play 269  
Instructional 44



MLC SENIOR TAX  
AIDE

119 Tax Returns  
filed by AARP  
volunteers



TEAMS COURSE

91 groups  
1,320 participants



COMMUNITY CENTER  
SERVICE DESK TRANSACTIONS  
1,297 TOTAL

CHILDRENS PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

**Revenue**  
**\$2,244.00**

TICKETS SOLD 374



**Facility Rentals**  
**Mary Lubko Center 11**  
**Community Center 113**

# MARKETING

In 2021, the Recreation Department and Marketing Department worked closely together with one unified goal of promoting our programs, offerings, events and continuing to best serve our community. The marketing department helps support the recreation department by providing us a voice to the community and assuring our communication to the public is exceptional.

The recreation department's marketing efforts consist of our seasonal program guide, which is traditionally delivered to (26,000+) households each season, targeted marketing techniques via direct mail, e-blasts, and social media outreach and print materials. In 2021, our seasonal program guide remained a digital guide to help save costs throughout the district.

**30+**

social media posts

**\$1,250+**

sponsorship dollars  
secured for recreation  
programs & events



## Specialized Marketing:

- 30+ dedicated e-blasts for recreation programs.
- Adult Education specialized marketing flyers created and distributed for Pickleball programs.
- Dedicated monthly newsletter and e-blasts focusing on the recreation department offerings.
- Program guide remained in a digital format throughout 2021. This allowed new opportunities for a "living" guide that we can edit as programs change and as new programs are added.

## Social Media/E-Blasts:

- 30+ social media posts
- Facebook events for Halloween Happening, Mom/Son Bingo, Children's Playhouse, Kissed by Cupid, You've Been Shamrocked and You've Been Grinched home delivery programs, Preschool Open House, MLC events and Lincoln Marsh programs.

## Partnerships:

- Cooperative programming offered with Glen Ellyn, Winfield, Lombard, Bloomingdale, Warrenville and Carol Stream Park District to increase registration and program offerings.
- The Wheaton Park District partnered with Positive Health Services to offer three 2-dose vaccine clinics providing over 1,300 COVID-19 vaccines to individuals ages 5+.
- Partnerships with local government agencies including School District 200, Wheaton Fire Department, Wheaton Police Department and Wheaton Public Library
- Lincoln Marsh partnered with the Conservation Foundation and the Glen Ellyn Park District.
- Partnerships were maintained with IMPACT Wheaton/DuCap.



# MARKETING CONTINUED



**discover discover**



**discover discover**



**Twilight Voyage**  
All ages | Northside Park Canoe Cabin  
Sunday September 12 | 6-7:30P  
Paddle the lagoon, listen to crickets and birds and smell the fresh air. Enjoy an evening of canoeing with the family. Max of three people per canoe. Recommended for ages 6 and older.

**Harvest Moon Hike**  
All ages | Lincoln Marsh  
Saturday September 25 | 3-4:30P  
Take a walk on the wild side! Discover the mysteries of nocturnal nature and the Harvest Moon. Recommended for ages 4 and up.

**Fairy House Workshop**  
Birth-17 | Lincoln Marsh  
Saturday September 25 | 3-4:30P  
Become a fairy house architect as you collect materials and design an inviting home. Listen to a story about the animals that also might come to visit.

**coin Marsh**  
yember 13 | 5-6P  
who call Lincoln Marsh home. Learn owl techniques and hit the of these magnificent nocturnal predators. Recommended for ages 4

**Hike**  
coin Marsh  
ember 15 | 1:30-2:30P  
tiger hunt to uncover fun autumn discoveries!

**rt**  
de Park Boy Scout Cabin  
ember 15 | 1:30-2:30P  
rica Recycles Day and join us to create recycled art projects!

Children must be accompanied by a non-paying adult.  
Register online at [wheatonparkdistrict.com](http://wheatonparkdistrict.com)




[lincolnmarsh.org](http://lincolnmarsh.org)

[lincolnmarsh.org](http://lincolnmarsh.org)

**ESPORTS**

**VIRTUAL ESPORTS OPEN - VIRTUAL**  
**TOURNAMENT: FORTNITE**  
Saturday, February 13 | 5-7P | Ages 7-12  
Join gamers from across the country in this single-day double elimination Fortnite Tournament. Tournaments typically last up to two hours and may run longer depending on number of players. Separate age groups to make the competitive play fun for all 12 years old and under and 13 years and older. To participate you will need the following: the game, stable internet connection, discord account for player communication and your preferred platform to play on. A FAQ sheet will be emailed to you two days prior to the start date.

**VIRTUAL ESPORTS PRO-CLINIC: FORTNITE - VIRTUAL**  
Tuesday, February 21 | 5-7P | Ages 7-12  
Do you want to take your gaming to the next level? Broussard is offering intermediate to advanced level coaching for players who are interested in learning about specific games on an in-depth level. Focus will also be on preparing players for organized competition. Class sizes are limited to 12 so coaches may effectively address the needs of players. Broussard Coaches will record and analyze the game play of the players participating in the program to help them improve their skills on an individual level (must enroll in at least 2 pro-clinics). A FAQ sheet will be emailed to you two days prior to the start date.

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**WIDE HORIZONS 2021/2022**



Wide Horizons Preschool emphasizes school readiness using play and skill development, including social, language, creative and fine/motor skills. Our typical day includes our academic curriculum, free play, music, movement, arts and crafts, science and story time to enrich the child. Special event days and holiday parties add to the fun each session. Class dates are September-May. There is a \$50 non-refundable enrollment fee. You must register at the Community Center, 1775 S. Blanchard St. (M)

**COVID-19 MODIFICATIONS & PROTOCOLS**  
Contact Preschool & Camp Manager, Jamie Morrison, at [jmorrison@wheatonparks.org](mailto:jmorrison@wheatonparks.org) or by phone at 630.510.5138 to learn about our COVID-19 modifications and protocols in our classrooms.

Location: Community Center, 1775 S. Blanchard St. | Northside Park Girl Scout Cabin

Age	Dates	Day	Time	Enrollment Fee	Class #
2-5.5	9/7-5/29	Tu, Th	9:30-10:30A	\$50.00	70705-01
6-7.5	9/7-5/29	Tu, Th	9:30-10:30A	\$50.00	70705-02
8-9.5	9/7-5/29	Tu, Th	9:30-10:30A	\$50.00	70705-03
10-11.5	9/7-5/29	Tu, Th	9:30-10:30A	\$50.00	70705-04
12-13.5	9/7-5/29	Tu, Th	9:30-10:30A	\$50.00	70705-05
14-15.5	9/7-5/29	Tu, Th	9:30-10:30A	\$50.00	70705-06
16-17.5	9/7-5/29	Tu, Th	9:30-10:30A	\$50.00	70705-07
18-19.5	9/7-5/29	Tu, Th	9:30-10:30A	\$50.00	70705-08
20-21.5	9/7-5/29	Tu, Th	9:30-10:30A	\$50.00	70705-09
22-23.5	9/7-5/29	Tu, Th	9:30-10:30A	\$50.00	70705-10



**The BEST Christmas Pageant Ever!**

Friday, December 3 2021 at 7P  
Saturday, December 4 at 2P

Community Center Memorial Room Auditorium

Tickets go on sale November 1st  
Tickets can be purchased online or in person at the WPD Community Center ticket desk.

Pre-sale Ticket Price \$2 per person  
Day of Ticket Price \$5 per person

Doors open 20 minutes before showing



**CHUNKY KNIT BLANKET WORKSHOP**

Join us at the Mary Lubko Center to make a one-of-a-kind Chunky Knit Blanket. These blankets don't just look great, they feel great too! No knitting experience is needed to take this class, no needles, either! Just your hands.

**Monday - December 6th  
12-3P**

Activity Code: 438155-01. Fee: \$49  
All of the materials are included in the price of the class.  
Call 630-665-1415 to register by phone.

Wheaton Park District Mary Lubko Center Register at [wheatonparkdistrict.com](http://wheatonparkdistrict.com)

## Halloween Happening

Friday, October 19 | 5-7:30P | Community Center

Costumes encouraged for this activity-filled Halloween event

- Strolling Magic
- Carnival Games
- Bounce House
- Touch-A-Truck
- Trick-or-Treat Trail
- Crafts
- Sensory Tables
- Concession Stand

Open to All Ages!

Buy a Fun Pass and SAVE!  
Includes admission to all activities and one refreshment voucher.  
Before 10P: \$10.00  
Day of event: \$15.00  
\$4.00 off for members

[WHEATONPARKDISTRICT.COM](http://WHEATONPARKDISTRICT.COM)

## MOM/SON BINGO NIGHT

Moms and sons can play BINGO and have a chance to win PRIZES!

Receive individual Bingo cards and markers. Masks required.

**Agnes 4-10**  
Tuesday, November 11  
5:30-6:45P  
Community Center

[WHEATONPARKDISTRICT.COM](http://WHEATONPARKDISTRICT.COM)

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY NEW PROGRAMS

**KISSED BY CUPID**  
Delivery the week of Feb 8-12 | Date & Times Vary | All Ages  
Leave a little love from cupid for your friends, family and neighbors in honor of Valentine's Day! Cupid's crew will deliver a gooey fondle filled with sweets, treats, games and surprises to the porch or yard of your loved ones complete with a "Kissed by Cupid" yard sign. Deliveries are limited to addresses in zip codes 60147 and 60189.

**VALENTINE FAMILY GEARBOX**  
Sunday, February 7 | Times Vary | Northside Park  
Ages 6+  
Cupid has hidden Valentine's in Northside Park. Use a GPS unit to find them all and you will receive a prize. Recommended for ages 6 and up. A registered adult must accompany children. One GPS unit provided per family. (\$5)

**THE KNOT**  
Tuesday, February 9 | 6:30-7P | Virtual via Zoom | Ages 6+  
Are you "Knot" sure when it comes to tying pieces of rope? Join Lincoln Marsh staff via Zoom to learn the how and why of four basic knots. Rope is provided. (\$5)

**PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME**  
Thursday, February 11 | 10:30-11:30P (Winter Wonderland)  
Thursday, February 11 | 10:30-11:30P (Valentine's Party)  
Community Center | Sumpstead | Ages 4-6  
Extend your preschooler's day and join us for Preschool Playtime! Children will enjoy sensory exploration, fine and gross motor activities, crafts, free play and more in this great afternoon class! Mask wearing is required. Class taught by Miss Kelly and Miss Julie. (\$4)

**DADDY DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT - TO GO KIT**  
Enjoy your own Daddy Daughter Princess Ball from the comfort of your own home this year! Packs will include a tiara and crown, and Dopey playset for you to enjoy all through the night. We will provide all supplies for fun crafts and activities for you to do together. (\$2)

## TOOEY PARK PRESCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD

**TINY TOTS 1**  
Enjoy songs, stories, toys and simple crafts with your child. Parent/caregiver attends with child. This class is taught by Miss Tina. (\$4)  
Age: 1-2.5 | Day: Tu, Th | Time: 9:30-10:30A | Fee: \$4.00 | Class # 70705-01

**TINY TOTS 2**  
A continuation of the popular Tiny Tots class. Stories, songs and simple crafts with your child. Parent/caregiver attends with child. This class is taught by Miss Tina. (\$4)  
Age: 2.5-3.5 | Day: Tu, Th | Time: 10:30-11:30A | Fee: \$4.00 | Class # 70705-02

**TOTEM TWOS**  
Games, stories, and crafts designed for the independent 2-year-old. Enjoy 90 minutes of varied activities. Diapers are not changed during class. Please bring a snack and drink to class. This class is taught by Miss Tina and Miss Julie. (\$4)  
Age: 2-2.5 | Day: Tu, Th | Time: 11:30-12:30P | Fee: \$4.00 | Class # 70705-03

**TWOS GO TO SCHOOL**  
Time for fun at Tooley Park Games, crafts and socialization are the focus of this highly structured "school" style program. Children should bring a healthy snack and drink. This class is taught by Miss Tina and Miss Julie. (\$4)  
Age: 2.5-3.5 | Day: Tu, Th | Time: 12:30-1:30P | Fee: \$4.00 | Class # 70705-04

**SIMPLY 3S**  
90 minutes of games, crafts, and stories designed especially for 3-year-olds. Bring a healthy snack and drink. This class is taught by Miss Tina and Miss Julie. (\$4)  
Age: 3-3.5 | Day: Tu, Th | Time: 1:30-2:30P | Fee: \$4.00 | Class # 70705-05

**EXPLORE MORE MINIBOYS**  
Explore a wide, wacky new theme each week. Crafts, creative play, coloring, storybooks, and outdoor games and movement are just some of our fun activities. Please bring a snack and drink and your imagination. This class is taught by Miss Tina and Miss Julie. (\$4)  
Age: 3.5-4.5 | Day: Tu, Th | Time: 2:30-3:30P | Fee: \$4.00 | Class # 70705-06

**AFTERNOON ADVENTURES**  
A Wheaton Park District class is back for more fun! Three hours of crafts, games, and play at Tooley Park. Children should bring a healthy snack and drink. This class is taught by Miss Tina and Miss Julie. (\$4)  
Age: 4-5 | Day: Tu, Th | Time: 3:30-6:30P | Fee: \$4.00 | Class # 70705-07

**FRIENDS AND FUN AT TOOEY**  
Enjoy games, crafts, stories and playtime in this four-hour class at Tooley Park. Children should bring a healthy snack and a drink. This class is taught by Miss Tina and Miss Julie. (\$4)  
Age: 4.5-5.5 | Day: Tu, Th | Time: 6:30-9:30P | Fee: \$4.00 | Class # 70705-08

# SPECIAL EVENTS

Each year the Wheaton Park District Recreation Department hosts several events. Below are some highlights from 2021:

## MOTHER SON BINGO | NOVEMBER 11



Moms and sons played bingo with a chance to win fabulous prizes!

Community Center | Target age: 4-10 with female adult

**80**  
**ATTENDEES**

## CENTRAL PARK PICKLEBALL COURT RIBBON CUTTING | JULY 14



Six new courts at Central Park opened in late June. Fifty (50) people attended the ribbon-cutting dedication which featured a Pickleball Founders game, skills and drills facilitated by instructor, Teresa Lemmer, and open court play.

Central Park Pickleball Courts | Target Age: Adults

**50**  
**ATTENDEES**

## POP-UP PLAY DAY- CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF RECREATION | AUGUST 27



Families enjoyed five stations with recreation activities from the last ten decades. Activities included tie- dye, yoga, self- guided scavenger hunt, classic yard games and more!

Northside Park | Target age: Families

**200**  
**ATTENDEES**

# SPECIAL EVENTS CONTINUED

## COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS | APRIL 30 | NOVEMBER 15 | MAY 20



Three 2- dose vaccine clinics were offered in partnership with Positive Health Services.

Community Center | Target Ages- 5+

**1300**  
**ATTENDEES**

## HALLOWEEN HAPPENING | OCTOBER 15



Guests enjoyed an evening of games, crafts, activities, and concessions. Returning this year were the popular Truck-or-Treat featuring 19 community vehicles and the Trick-or-Treat Trail.

Community Center | Target age: All ages

**750+**  
**ATTENDEES**

## PIZZA WITH SANTA | DECEMBER 10



Guests enjoyed craft and activity stations, pizza, and a special visit with Santa Claus.

Community Center | Target Ages- Families

**225**  
**ATTENDEES**

## HOLIDAY HOME DELIVERY PROGRAMS | FEBRUARY 8 | MARCH 8 | DECEMBER 13



Our staff was busy visiting households to help family and friends celebrate Christmas, Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Patrons received a yard sign and porch full of treats!

Patron's Home | Target age: All ages

**170**  
**HOUSEHOLDS**

# ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education was created in April 2000 and replaced the adult education program formerly offered by School District 200 (CUSD 200).

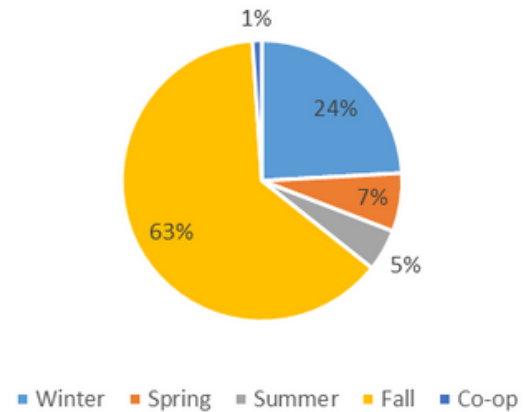
## TRENDS

- Flexible times and days of programs offered
- Expansion of indoor & outdoor Pickleball

## CHALLENGES

- Indoor gym space
- Growth of Pickleball program
- Moving programs back to in person from virtual

Total Participation  
1,741



## MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to offer a wide range of programming.
- Day trips
- Working with the competition in the surrounding area to offer cooperative programming.
- Life Sport programs and clubs that individuals can participate well into their later years.

# CAMPS

The Wheaton Park District summer camp programs thrive in the Wheaton community. We offer a variety of camps including six that are American Camp Association Accredited Camps. Camp locations and time frames vary. We strive to assure our camp programs are fun, safe, affordable and flexible.



## TRENDS

- Wide variety of program offerings that make the Wheaton Park District an ideal option for campers who want new activities!
- Flexible registration options

## CHALLENGES

- Staffing continues to be the main challenge for summer camp. Each year recruitment of qualified and available staff poses a challenge.

Total Participation  
2,100



■ Camps



## MOVING FORWARD



- Continue to offer the best quality summer camp options for the residents of Wheaton.
- Stay creative and innovative! Continue to strive to offer the best, most safe and affordable day camps in our community and surrounding community.
- Seek re-accreditation through ACA by completing necessary paperwork and successful site visit in 2022
- Maintain current camp payment plan offering of 25% due at time of registration, followed by three additional 25% payments on June 1, July 1 and August 1.

# COMMUNITY CENTER

The Wheaton Park District Community Center is a 122,000 square foot recreation center located at 1777 S. Blanchard St. in Wheaton, IL. The Community Center houses Parks Plus Fitness Center, a 7,500 square foot fitness center, Kidz Kingdom Child Care, several meeting/specialty rooms and a new indoor track with improved surfacing and wider two lane format. Community Center frontline personnel happily assist patrons with activity registrations, purchasing passes and memberships, processing photo ID's and much more.



## VISION STATEMENT

The Community Center is committed to meeting or exceeding facility expectations by providing fast, friendly and helpful service. We exist to promote a strong sense of community by ensuring the Community Center is available to and used by individuals, groups and organizations.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a safe, inviting and well-maintained facility that meets the recreational, educational and social needs of the residents and user groups.

## TRENDS

- Shifting the quarterly program guide from print to electronic drove online activity registration up to 81.37%.
- 2,448 pool passes sold at service desk

## LEISURESHIP PROGRAM

The Wheaton Park District Leisureship Program was established to help provide recreation programs and facilities to all Wheaton Park District residents, regardless of economic situation. The Wheaton Park District provides free or reduced program/facility fees for qualified residents.

- 32 Families served
- \$8,142 Fee assistance provided
- \$5,196.41 Fundraising efforts

## MOVING FORWARD



- Rec Trac (registration) software migration scheduled for October 2022. Rec Trac 3.1 is a browser-based, user-friendly, accessible platform.
  - Delivers exceptional mobile experiences when mobile-first is imperative
  - Accommodates the needs of modern blended families
  - Ensures the WPD and patrons are on the safest and most secure software version
  - Provides customizable screens and workflows for our department/division needs
- Interior remodel project
  - Phase 1- 2nd floor rooms & Memorial Auditorium

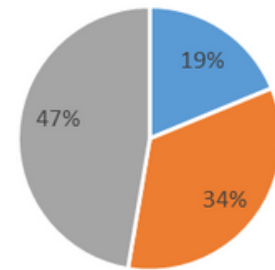
# CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS

The Wheaton Park District Creative Arts programs have goals to provide high-quality classes in a non-competitive environment. Participants are encouraged to become technically proficient in their craft and at the same time build self-esteem, cooperation, leadership skills and have fun! We offer unique opportunities, such as Pottery, that are not offered in the surrounding areas due to lack of supplies and equipment. These programs provide the participants with positive mental, physical and even emotional benefits.

## TRENDS

- Pottery programs continued to be successful in 2021 with a variety of options for youth and adult. Our unique pottery studio with multiple wheels and kilns draws participants from outside districts adding even more success.
- Children's Playhouse hosted one play in Fall of 2021, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". Two shows were held with over 300 tickets sold.
- The dance program reached pre-pandemic numbers due to great program improvements including improved communication, well-trained staff and strong participant retention.

Program Attendance:  
1,012



■ Theatre (Playhouse, Star, Theatre) ■ Dance (+ Irish Dance)  
■ Creative Arts (Arts, Pottery, Music)

## CHALLENGES

- Ongoing competition with nearby districts who offer comparable programs.
- Finding indoor spaces with appropriate flooring for the continually expanding dance programs.



## MOVING FORWARD



- Community Center interior second floor renovations will add additional appropriate program space for dance programs to continue to expand.
- Children's Playhouse is scheduled to return in 2022 with a spring and fall production.
- Private music lessons continue to be a popular offering with many returning participants year after year.

# LINCOLN MARSH

Lincoln Marsh Natural Area is 151 acres comprised of woodlands, marshes and prairies which are highly valued for recreation, education and environmental reasons. In 2021, the Environmental Education division expanded to include all Lincoln Marsh programs: nature discovery and challenge course. Programs were previously split into two separate divisions.

## MISSION

To increase awareness and appreciation for our connections to the earth and to each other through educational and social experiences in a healthy ecosystem.

### Nature Discovery

Hands-on activities promote interaction with and appreciation of the natural world through discovery and exploration. Programs are offered for ages 18 months-adult and include scout badge programs, field trip and outreach programs for schools and groups, birthday parties, quarterly guide programs for individuals and families, and day camps. We also offer snowshoe and GPS rentals, Nature to Go Kits, and Discover! Packs.



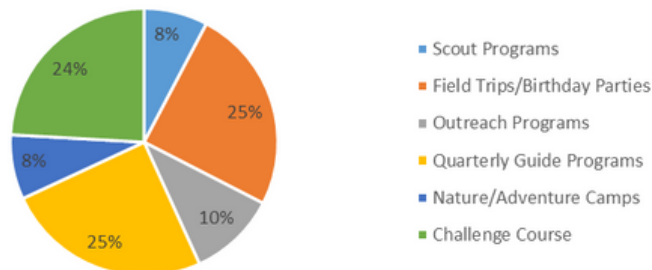
### Challenge Course

Through fun and enriching experiences targeted to the goals of each group, participants work together to solve problems, reflect on their experiences, and apply lessons to real-life situations. In 2021, programs included cooperative games and team building for participants 3rd grade through adult.

## TRENDS

- Enrollment in outdoor programs and experiences continues to increase.
- Nature Camp enrollment expanded to include AM and PM sessions.
- Scavenger hunt and Nature to Go kit program options expanded to meet the interest and needs of the community.

Program Attendance:  
5,401



## CHALLENGES

- Requested programs from schools and groups are slow to return to pre-pandemic levels. Even with schools open to in person learning, most districts did not permit field trips and our education staff were not permitted to visit schools for outreach programs.
- Modifying and adapting Challenge Course programs while keeping the health and safety of participants and staff at the forefront.
- Continued decline in scout badge program requests.



## MOVING FORWARD



- Continue to find new ways to engage with the community and requested groups through programs and opportunities and adapt offerings based on trends and interests.
- Increase Challenge Course options to include climbing tower, travel cooperative games, and adventure walk.
- Modify scout programs to align with new and updated badge requirements.

# MARY LUBKO CENTER

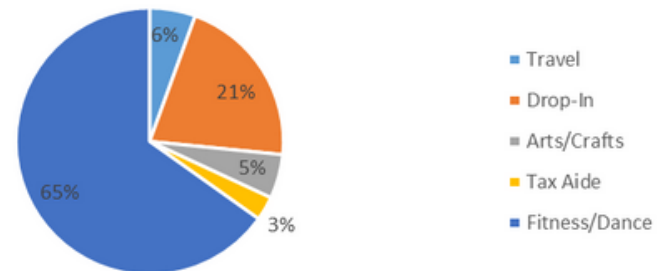
In 2021, the Mary Lubko Center (MLC) was adjusting to our new normal. Reflecting on our year, we keep coming back to the importance of the connections our seniors have to each other and to our staff, missing each other and reveling in seeing each other in person again.

While our building was closed to most activities from December 2020 through April 2021, we were very happy to begin welcoming back some of our programs that had taken over a year hiatus. Staff pivoted with many innovative ways to be able to serve older adults. There was a spirit of resiliency and many successes as we adapted to meet the needs of our group in and safe and effective manner.

## TRENDS

- **Day Trips** – the return of day trips in July 2021 was met with the delight of our patrons. We were able to offer twelve tours in 2021, many of which were at capacity.
- **Drop-in Groups** – our card and game players returned in June of 2021. We incorporated new sanitizing procedures so our groups could enjoy their time together in a safe and clean environment.
- **Patio Events** – Senior Center shifted events to our brand new Lions Club Terrace to be able to offer safe events that took place outdoors in Memorial Park.
- **Crafternoons** – we shifted our craft packets to successful in-person programming. Our chunky knit blanket class was so popular that we had to add an additional session.
- **Home Delivery Program** – MLC staff expanded the “You’ve Been Grinched” program to include new offerings such as “Kissed by Cupid” and “You’ve Been Shamrocked.”

Program Attendance:  
7,106



## CHALLENGES

- The ever-changing mitigations mandated by the State and County often created new complications to our offerings. Our staff was quick to respond to all the new regulations and made sure to communicate it to patrons quickly and often.
- We also lost a few instructors this year due to various reasons and it has been much more difficult to find replacements than in years past.



## MOVING FORWARD



In 2022, we look forward to resuming and expanding our Extended Travel Program with both Collette Tours and Mayflower Cruises and Tours. The Mary Lubko Center staff also hopes to offer in-house extended tours with an overnight trip to Springfield, Illinois.

# PRESCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD

Wide Horizons Preschool is a play-based preschool program which has been a staple in our community since the 1970's. The preschool program provides our youngest residents a safe and welcoming learning environment, focused on building confidence, kindergarten readiness and social and emotional development. Toohey Park hosts a variety of early childhood classes for ages 1-6. These classes focus on "learning through play" and work to build socialization skills, cooperative play skills, and fine and gross motor development. Safety City, a miniature downtown Wheaton, complete with buildings, sidewalks and traffic signals provides children a unique opportunity to learning all things safety! Our early childhood special interest programs allow participants the opportunity to experience music classes, cooking programs, early childhood athletics, birthday parties, special events, arts & crafts and more!

## TRENDS

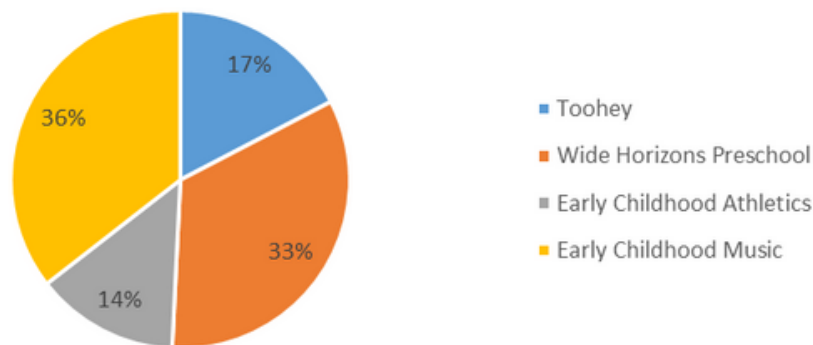
- Smaller class sizes in 2021-22 to accommodate distancing needs and snack time.
- Assure our classes are offered at the most appropriate time and price to make it easier on the families to sign up for multiple programs.
- Parents like to build their child's week based on their child's own special interests and schedule.



## CHALLENGES

- COVID-19 Pandemic greatly impacted preschool operations. We were able to successfully align with the "education" guidelines from the county to continue to allow seamless in-person learning for our families.

Program Attendance:  
518



## MOVING FORWARD



- Strive to continuously offer the popular, as well as new, early childhood programming to stay current with trends in the market.
- Continue to allow our current families the opportunity to register during "priority registration" prior to resident registration date.
- Maintain affordable registration options, with only a \$50 enrollment fee to hold your space and monthly payment options.

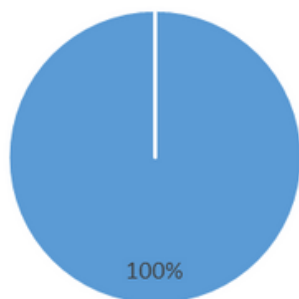
# VARIED INTEREST

Varied Interest programs offered through the Wheaton Park District include day, evening, weekend, camp, individual, parent-child, family, special events, parties and workshop opportunities, computer classes, horsemanship, volunteerism, babysitting, magic, technology, science, trips, teens, foreign language, fencing, and more. Classes are held at the Community Center, Central Athletic Complex, contractual satellite locations and cooperative Park District partnership facilities.

## TRENDS

- Camp I Don't Know had a successful summer with many in-house field trips and Monday-Friday trips to the Rice Pool.
- Foreign Language continued to be offered as a hybrid approach with virtual and in-person classes creating much success in this area.
- Youth Tech Inc Summer Camps were a tremendous success in the summer of 2021 with all sections offered full.

Program Attendance:  
1,220



■ Programs including Fencing, Ice Skating, Glitzy Girls, Horsemanship, Science, Magic, Roller Skating, CIDK, Zone Parties, etc.

## MOVING FORWARD



## CHALLENGES

- Loss of two contractors, Fencing and Skateboarding due to not being able to fulfil their contractual obligations.
- Programming space during summer months continues to pose a challenge with camp programs taking up majority of indoor space available at the Community Center.
- Camp I Don't Know was unable to attend off-site field trips due to best safety practices and the challenges of bussing students in the summer of 2021.



- Zone Parties slated to return with much success.
- Retention of quality contractors will bring continued success and growth for contractual programs in the Varied Interest business unit.
- Anticipated growth of Camp I Don't Know day camp due to Preschool & Camp Manager (Superintendent of Recreation Programs) taking over that camp responsibility for 2022.

# TESTIMONIALS

"Such a fun event to celebrate the WPD 100-Year Anniversary! My child loved the variety of activities, there were so many happy families and children enjoying the event!" - 100-Year Celebration Parent

"We love this preschool program & have had both of our daughters attend. Teachers are fantastic!"  
- Wide Horizons Participant

"My son LOVED camp! We can't even drive past the park district without him saying how much he misses camp and the counselors."  
- Camp No Name Parent

"Terrific job to the leaders! They were able to get a tone of enthusiasm and participation out of everyone on our team, and everyone had a great time. Further, the discussions between activities at the end of the day were valuable and insightful."  
- Teams Course Participants from Elmhurst Evolution

*"My son loved being able to play with other kids and also the commentary from the facilitators."*  
- Fortnite E-sports Open Participant

**"What a lovely newsletter. Congratulation. So glad our world is moving forward. Hope there will be great participation from the community. Love the gift box idea!"**  
- Mary Lubko Center E-blast Recipient

"We consider Lincoln Marsh camps our "forest school" in the summer so our kids can learn about nature."  
- Curiosity Camp Parent

"Beth was so knowledgeable and she kept all the children engaged. The kids had a great time."  
- Birthday Party Parent

**"Great to get out and be active despite the cold weather. Appreciate the enthusiasm and willingness to work with all of us from Matthew." - Pickleball Participant**

" Thanks again for a rewarding program for the students, The students enjoyed the team building challenges put in front of them. Your challenges combine a nice mix of both brains and brawn - something for everyone!" - Teams Course Group from St. Mary of Gostyn

"My son LOVED his time at Safety Fair and still talks about how much fun he had!"  
- Safety City Parent

**"MY DAUGHTER WAS OUTSIDE DOING NON-SCREEN TIME STUFF; SHE WAS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE BIKE RIDE ON FRIDAY."**  
-ADVENTURE CAMP PARENT

**"Great event overall- kids had fun and especially liked the snow sensory table!! Santa was a big hit!!" - Pizza with Santa Participant**



# RECREATION