LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Parks are a tangible reflection of the quality of life in a community. They provide identity for citizens and are a major factor in the perception of quality of life in a given community. Parks and recreation services are often cited as one of the most important factors in communities voted to be most livable."  
Eastern Kentucky University, College of Health Science, 2015

Dear Friends,

What an amazing year! As mentioned in previous reports, the focus of the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC) is directed forward as we strive to provide great quality of life opportunities for the people in our community. Each year, we pause and shift our focus backward to review and understand what has been accomplished. This report is the culmination of that process, and it has been a pleasure to reflect on the expansive programs, services, and special events our agency offers this community. This year, ICRC well surpassed the two million visits within a single year milestone at our Parks!

As I consider this information, I am reminded of all of the wonderful stories that go along with the numbers in this report. I am also very proud of this year’s accomplishments, growth, and the great team at ICRC who creatively and genuinely worked so hard to make this another high performing, successful year.

The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission turned 50 years old in January 2019. This major milestone kicked off a year-long celebration which will continue through January of 2020. I am overwhelmed to think about all of the great memories made and friendships forged during the past 50 years and excited for what the future will bring.

Participation wise, our Parks had another great year. If you add up the total Park visits district-wide, we significantly surpassed last year’s total by 268,730 visits. This is fantastic growth! We are so happy to see this growth and increased participation in our actively and passively programmed spaces. Afternoon Safari added two new in-school locations and is now serving more than 900 children per day. Holiday Lights on the River also had another wonderful year with more than 84,000 children and adults sharing this festive holiday tradition.

Another development milestone was accomplished with the help of the Saluda Shoals Foundation. The Foundation secured funding through donations and grants from more than 300 individuals, companies, and organizations needed to complete the $1.7 million Inclusive Playground at Saluda Shoals Park, recently named Leo’s Landing. This regionally significant project will be a wonderful offering that exemplifies the power of partnerships and is largely due to the community’s willingness to step in and get involved. We are very excited to see people of all ages and abilities out there playing together.

While the numbers are always important, it is the individual experiences and memories built by the people in our community that attest to the value of ICRC’s services and programs. I consider it an honor to serve this community and this agency. I hope to see you in the Parks soon!

Best regards,

Mark A. Smyers
Executive Director, Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission

OUR MISSION
The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission exists to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of the District through the development of recreational programs that promote a lifestyle of wellness, physical activity and cultural experiences for all ages.
BUDGET OVERVIEW

GENERAL & SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

### Where funding comes from

- **43.4%**  
  **User Fees**  
  **$5,499,484**

- **34.3%**  
  **Property Taxes**  
  **$4,346,366**

- **12.3%**  
  **Grants/Contributions**  
  **$1,558,609**

- **10.0%**  
  **Interest/Misc./Transfers**  
  **$1,267,162**

### Where funding goes

- **57.7%**  
  **Recreational Programming**  
  **$7,314,976**

- **12.6%**  
  **Park Operations/Maintenance**  
  **$1,592,375**

- **15.5%**  
  **After School Programs**  
  **$1,958,982**

- **10.6%**  
  **Capital Improvements**  
  **$1,342,567**

- **2.4%**  
  **Senior Services**  
  **$305,929**

- **1.2%**  
  **Therapeutic Recreation Services**  
  **$156,792**
### By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boat Ramps</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Center</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Centers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Ropes Course</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash Pads</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles of Trails</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gymnasiums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetland Preserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Ropes Course</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Splash Pads</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Parkland</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time Employees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part Time Employees</td>
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<td>Maintenance Buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-Use Fields</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Fields</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Fields</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc Golf Courses</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**817 Acres of Parkland**

**64 Full Time Employees**

**226 Part Time Employees**

**24 Tennis Courts**

**15 Multi-Use Fields**

**21 Baseball Fields**

**2 Football Fields**

**2 Disc Golf Courses**
13
SENIOR TRIPS TAKEN

36,883
HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME

25,498
SENIOR MEALS SERVED

19,450
TRIPS - MEDICAL & CONGREGATE

$421,200
RAISED BY THE SALUDA SHOALS FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAMS AND THE INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

$41,315
GIVEN IN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS HELPING 1,171 YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION BY SPORT

177
73
80
234

SALUDA SHOALS PARK

PARK VISITS
EDUCATION CLASS PARTICIPANTS
SPECIAL EVENT PARTICIPANTS
SALUDA SPLASH PARTICIPANTS
PARK PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
ANNUAL PARK PASSES
CAMP PARTICIPANTS
VOLUNTEER HOURS
FACILITY RENTAL RESERVATIONS

SEVEN OAKS PARK

PARK VISITS
CLASS PARTICIPANTS
SPECIAL EVENT PARTICIPANTS
SENIOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
ATHLETIC PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
FITNESS PASSES
CAMP PARTICIPANTS
VOLUNTEER HOURS
AFTER-SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS

CROOKED CREEK PARK

PARK VISITS
CLASS PARTICIPANTS
SPECIAL EVENT PARTICIPANTS
SENIOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
ATHLETIC PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
FITNESS PASSES
CAMP PARTICIPANTS
VOLUNTEER HOURS
AFTER-SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS

MELVIN PARK

PARK VISITS
CLASS PARTICIPANTS
SPECIAL EVENT PARTICIPANTS
SPASH PAD PARTICIPANTS
CAMP PARTICIPANTS

MICHAEL J. AND MARY MEECH MUNGO PARK

PARK VISITS

SALUDA SHOALS PARK

PARK VISITS
EDUCATION CLASS PARTICIPANTS
SPECIAL EVENT PARTICIPANTS
SALUDA SPLASH PARTICIPANTS
PARK PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
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CAMP PARTICIPANTS

MICHAEL J. AND MARY MEECH MUNGO PARK

PARK VISITS
2018-19 HIGHLIGHTS

After-school Programs
The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC) offered quality after-school programs to an average of 982 children per day.

Therapeutic Recreation
ICRC offers programs and activities for children and adults with cognitive, physical and emotional disabilities. Our purpose is to develop social skills through a variety of activities, helping our participants become self-confident and independent. Therapeutic Recreation offered after-school programs to 833 participants this year, and had 121 summer campers. The department was awarded more than $62,000 in grant funding for Crooked Creek Park’s after-school program and the district-wide Saturday Respite program. Carolina Actors with Special Talents performed in March to over 200 audience members at Harbison Theatre.

Summer Camps
Summer Safari day camps at CCP and SOP served 266 children each week for ten weeks. Extreme Safari, a day camp for ages 11–14, served 68 children weekly. Additionally, ICRC offered 147 specialty camps for children of all ages and interests at our Parks. ICRC also partnered with the Lexington County Sheriff’s Department to offer Summer Adventure Squad at Saluda Shoals Park and with St. Francis of Assissi Episcopal Church (Chapin) to offer the Neighborhood Kids program. Both programs offered summer camp experiences to underprivileged youth in our community. Summer Adventure Squad also won the 2018 SCRPA Programing Excellence Award.

Children’s Theatre
ICRC’s continues to offer a thriving Children’s Theatre program. In 2018-19, 194 children participated in the program performing in four productions to 5,127 audience members.

Health and Wellness
Health and wellness programs at Crooked Creek Park and Seven Oaks Park offer well equipped fitness centers, a variety of classes, and indoor walking tracks.

Environmental Stewardship
Protecting and enhancing our resources is vital throughout the District and ICRC contributes in many ways. Seven Oaks and Crooked Creek Parks served as drop off sites for Grinding of the Greens. Crooked Creek Park participated in Chapin Community Service Day. Saluda Shoals Park had an estimated economic impact of $3,884,741.

Environmental Education Programs
Environmental Education Programs are offered to schools throughout the region. These programs address current national and SC education science standards and give students a unique, hands-on experience learning about plants, animals, and the environment. Each program consists of a short lesson, an opportunity to handle various preserved plant and animal specimens, and a nature walk through one of the many habitats within Saluda Shoals Park. More than 6,700 children participated in environmental education programs at Saluda Shoals Park last year.

Senior Services
ICRC serves as the area’s Council on Aging, which makes Crooked Creek Park and Seven Oaks Park key providers of senior services in the community. Support services include the following: case management, transportation, Meals-on-Wheels, group dining sites, health and wellness programming, and more. ICRC served 25,498 meals to seniors this year. ICRC received generous donations of $30,000 to the Meals on Wheels program from the Russell W. Butterworth Foundation and the Chapin Jr. Woman’s Club.

Athletics
ICRC had 5,798 participants in our youth, adult, and travel athletic leagues which included: lacrosse, softball, football, flag football, cheerleading, soccer, cross country, track, baseball, basketball, golf, and USSSA Baseball.

Market Development Tournaments and Events
During FY 2018-19, ICRC hosted 57 sports tourism events headlined by the Carolina 9’s Rugby Festival. Additional events included 5Ks, fun runs, and baseball, softball, lacrosse, and flag football tournaments. These events brought 124,760 visitors to ICRC facilities and had an estimated economic impact of $3,884,741.

PARK DEVELOPMENT

Crooked Creek Park
- Developed emergency vehicle access at the back of the Park.
- Developed a 1,500 foot pedestrian trail that connects the Park to Park West Subdivision.
- Constructed a parking lot extension beside the soccer fields.

Mungo Park
- Began design work on two pedestrian bridges to connect trails where previous bridges existed prior to the 2015 flood.
- Began renovating the 6,862 square foot former club house into an event facility.

Saluda Shoals Park Inclusive Playground
- The construction of the Inclusive Playground was substantially completed.

PARK & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Saluda Shoals Park
- Resurfaced the hydro courts at the Tennis Center.
- Converted lighting at shelters throughout the Park to LED lighting.

Seven Oaks Park
- Replaced HVAC unit at the Community Center.
- Renovated and repaired the Park’s sidewalk.
- Hung netting behind field four for trail and playground protection.
- Upgraded electrical service at the playground area.
- Made drainage improvements to field four.

Melvin Park
- Installed fencing between tennis building and courts.
- Installed trees along the maintenance fencing.

Crooked Creek Park
- Rebuilt a portion of pedestrian bridge on the trail.
- Rebuilt both dug-out roofs on field one.
- Replaced HVAC unit at the Community Center.
Shoals Park hosted multiple river clean ups throughout the year where more than 100 volunteers collected trash along the Lower Saluda River. Saluda Shoals Park was also recognized as a Midlands Green Business.

**Special Events**

ICRC offered a variety of special events each year which attracted approximately 258,787 people to our Parks. Events offered include: Baseball and Lacrosse Tournaments, Basketball Nights, Breakfast with the Bunny, Bowl Day, Candy Cane Hunt, Daddy Daughter Dances, Dance Nights, Dancing for a Cause, Flashlight Egg Hunt, Fun Fridays, Garage Sales, Halloween at the Park, Holiday Market, Jazz Series, Mother Daughter Paint & Tea, Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, Opening Day, Outdoor Movie Nights, Pickin’ & Piggin’, Pickleball Tournaments, Santa’s Market Craft Show, Senior Games, Senior Picnic and Luncheons, Sleigh Bell Stroll & Trot, Special Needs Dances & Shows, Spring Health Fair, Spring Market, Story Time with Santa, Theater in the Park, Toddler Egg Hunt, Touch a Truck, Will O’ the-Wisp, and Zumbathon.

ICRC’s largest annual special event, Holiday Lights on the River, was held November 21st through December 31st. This event generates necessary revenues to support the operation of Saluda Shoals Park. More than 84,000 people made Holiday Lights part of their family tradition and the event had an estimated $3 million dollar economic impact on our community.

**Partnerships**

By combining the potential of both the public and private sectors, partnerships enhance our ability to deliver our goals, strengthen our ties to a more livable community, and maximize often limited resources.

**2018-2019 Partnerships**

- Academy Sports
- AFC Midlands Chapter
- Autism Academy of South Carolina
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of SC
- Carolina Ale House
- Central League Adult Soccer
- Chapin Baptist Church
- Chapin Sunrise Rotary Club
- Chapin Woman’s Club
- Chef’s Association
- Coca-Cola
- Dick’s Sporting Goods
- Dominion Energy
- Experience Columbia
- Farm Bureau Insurance
- Hampton Inn-Harbison on the Lake
- Irmo Chamber of Commerce
- Juvenile Arbitration
- Keep the Midlands Beautiful
- Lake Murray-Irmo Rotary Club
- Leo’s Pride Foundation
- Lexington County Community Development
- Lexington County Recreation and Aging
- Lexington County Sheriff’s Department
- Lexington Medical Center
- Lexington-Richland School District Five
- Michael J. Mungo Foundation
- Midlands Technical College – Harbison Theatre
- Palmetto Smiles
- Prisma Health
- Prysmian Group
- St. Andrews-Irmo Optimist Club
- St. Francis of Assissi Episcopal Church
- University of South Carolina
- University of South Carolina Softball
- USA Football
- Lexington Medical Center
- Nephron Pharmaceuticals
- Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union
- Shaw Industries
- Waste Industries

- $20,000 was received in grants.
- over $26,400 was raised through the Foundation’s annual fundraising event, Shuckin’ on the Shoals.

Investments with the Central Carolina Community Foundation ended the year with $136,349.

Terry Brock, State Farm Agency and the State Farm Good Neighbor Matching Gift program provided funding for ICRC’s Therapeutic Recreation program.

Even more exciting is the impact these donations had on our community. The Foundation provided funding for the following:

- Nearly $1 million for the construction of the inclusive playground.
- Outreach programming to bring 20 adults from a residential recovery group home for a picnic and river trip, as well as 40 children for six outdoor adventure days in Summer Adventure Squad.
- Purchase of race timing system for Saluda Shoals Park.
- Tennis lessons for ICRC’s Therapeutic Recreation program participants and Special Olympics teams.
- Purchase of bird boxes for the Park’s Warble Nestbox program.
- Support for Star Spangled Symphonic Salute concert, Jazz series performances, paddle programs, and Holiday Lights on the River Chairman’s Lighting.
- An evening at Holiday Lights for 300 Ft. Jackson soldiers.

*The Saluda Shoals Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization which serves as an advocate for the preservation and sustainability of Saluda Shoals Park. The Board of Directors would like to thank the Annual Campaign donors who gave so generously this year. (see list on following page)*
A SPECIAL THANKS
Saluda Shoals Foundation
Individual Giving

Great Blue Heron ($5,000)
Dr. and Mrs. Wendel Nixon

Pileated Woodpecker ($1,000)
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Addison
Mr. and Mrs. James Marty Bridges
Dr. and Mrs. Lynn Campbell
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Cross
Mrs. Jean Eng
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnston
Mr. Bill Kennedy
Ms. Merlee Madren
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Mungo
Dr. and Mrs. Rusty Newton
Dr. Ronald Rames
Mr. and Mrs. John Sowards
Drs. Bruce and Diane Truesdale
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walker
Mr. William Westerkam and Ms. Kirsten Lackstrom

Painted Bunting ($500)
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cranford
Mr. and Mrs. Rob Davis
Don and Linda Dicus
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Landreth
Dr. David Oliver
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Schmoyer
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Travis

Eastern Bluebird ($250)
Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Amick
Ms. Xanna Bailey
Mr. Nevin Boal
Mr. Roy Covington
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Crapps
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cromer
Mr. James Randall Davis
Mr. Jeremiah Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harmon
Kim and Bernie Hawkins
Representative and Mrs. Chip Huggins
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Jones
Ms. Debby Ransom and Mr. Dan Berglund
Ms. Valerie Songer
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Taylor
Mr. Tim Wracker

Carolina Wren ($100)
Donna and Steve Alford
Ms. Jill Areheart
Lee and Janice Ayers
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Balbach
Mr. Jason Baldwin
Captain Jeff Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Boyd
Dr. and Mrs. William Brearley
Greg and Dina Brown
Ms. Robin Brown and Mr. Frank Finch
James and Nanette Butler
Linda and Ron Byars
Susan and Doug Clary
Dr. Marjorie Claytor
Brent and Karen Crenshaw
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Mr. and Mrs. Pete Stewart
Ms. Kerry Stubbs

Mr. Nelson Thompson
Ms. JoAnn Turnquist
Ms. Seann Touvelitas
Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Whitehead
Dr. and Mrs. Scott Wietecha
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Woodward

Friends of (<$100)
Marilyn and Carey Adamson
Amazon Smiles
Mr. John Bowen
Ms. Shirley Ingram, TOPS SC
Ms. Francis Jones
Ms. Barbara Kleckley
Ms. Jeanne Nichols
Penny Arcade
Ms. Melanie Perkins
Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Rothstein
Ms. Kendall Russell and Mr. Britton Russell
Ms. Gwen Steele

Corporate Giving
Sustaining Angler ($10,000)
Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corp.

Large Mouth Bass Donor ($5,000)
Colonial Life
Lexington Medical Center
Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union
Shaw Industries
Waste Industries

Trout Donor ($1,000)
Echerer Painting
ETI Engineering
Inframed Plus
Mid Carolina Electric Cooperative
Trevett’s Direct
Voyles Masonry, Inc.

Bream Donor ($500)
Grimbail-Cooper & Associates
State Farm Companies Foundation
Good Neighbor Grant Program
Steven Ford Interiors

Catfish Donor ($250)
All American Imaging
Comporium
IMIC Hotels
The Mad Platter
Woodley’s Garden Center
Mathias Sandwich Shop

Designated Gifts
The Butterworth Foundation – Senior Meal Program at ICRC
State Farm Companies Foundation Matching Gift Program – Therapeutic Recreation Program
Terry Brock, State Farm Agency – Therapeutic Recreation Program

In Honor Of:
Wallace and Betty Beasley
Mr. Leo Bugekno
Mr. John Farley
John and Joy Gray
Mr. Fred Johnston
Ms. Dolly Patton
Ms. Sims Patton

In Memory Of:
Mr. Don Eng
Sassy (beloved pet)
Ms. Mary Rebecca Whitehead
Ms. Lee Wolfe