

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"Local park and recreation agencies provide spaces, programs and services that are essential to a community's vitality. They also serve as key factors in advancing health equity, improving individual and community-level health outcomes, and enhancing quality of life." The Economic Impact of Local Parks, National Recreation and Park Association.

Dear Friends,

Once again, I am reminded of how wonderful this community and agency are by the substantial amount of joy, growth and connection reflected in this report. In my mind's eye, I can see the 1,615 soccer players competing

and challenging themselves to learn new skills. I can see the 189,663 Saluda Shoals Park event participants enjoying activities with family and friends and building memories together. I can hear the 7,736 summer camp participants across the district laughing with delight as they play together. Our goal is to create community through people, parks, and programs and I believe, through the efforts of our wonderful staff and volunteers, we took another great step forward. There's always more work to be done, but I know that this year's progress made a positive difference and impact on the community we serve.

Great progress in creativity ...

I am thrilled with the progress we're making around creativity, aesthetics, and art. For the past year, public art has been a focus of the Saluda Shoals Foundation. Through the generous financial support of the CW and Dorothy G. Love Foundation, the Saluda Shoals Foundation Annual Campaign, and the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission, we were able to install a wonderful new sculpture at the River Center in Saluda Shoals Park. "Egrets," created by internationally known artist Babett Bloch, will serve as a backdrop for the many weddings, reunions, and events held at the River Center meeting facility, adding beauty and value to our guests' experience. This project is only the beginning and will serve as a catalyst for future public art in the park.

Lower Saluda Greenway ...

I am excited to share that the 40+ year dream of the Lower Saluda Greenway Project has finally transitioned into a reality. Throughout 2022, with help from a variety of supporting agencies, Lexington County, State of South Carolina, Economic Development Administration, and Central Midlands Council of Governments, the necessary funding was secured to make this dream come true. ICRC, in partnership with these many agencies, is moving forward with the design process. As we begin to work through the details, the relationships formed and tremendous support of many people and agencies speaks to scope and importance of this project. The Lower Saluda Greenway will be transformational for the Midlands region, and I am pleased that ICRC will play a role in unlocking this hidden treasure and sharing the beauty and recreational opportunities our rivers offer.

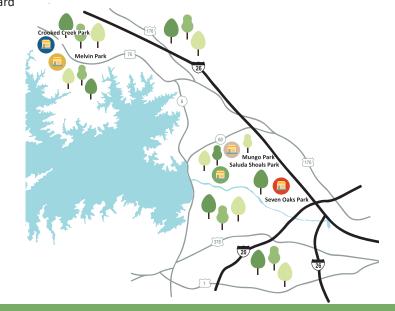
I find myself, once again, grateful to be a part of this community. It is full of wonderful people, incredible natural resources, and a great Recreation District. Through our services, we help build memories, foster relationships, and support wellness for all. I appreciate all the support we've received this past year, and look forward

to seeing everyone in the parks!

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.

ABOUT US

The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC) is a special purpose district formed in 1969 to serve community members living in the Lexington County portion of Lexington-Richland School District five.

Five Commissioners, appointed by the Governor of the State of South Carolina, are responsible for policy making decisions and goal setting for future development of the agency.

COMMISSIONERS

William H. Harmon, Chairman Michael C. Cromer, Vice-Chairman Akil E. Ross, Ph.D., Secretary Laura H. Huggins Gerrick J. Hampton, Ed.D

ICRC currently operates five signature parks: Crooked Creek Park, Melvin Park, Michael J. and Mary Meech Mungo Park, Saluda Shoals Park, and Seven Oaks Park. These facilities provide an array of recreational opportunities for youth, teens, adults, seniors, and individuals with cognitive, physical, and emotional disabilities.

Programming and special events offered by ICRC throughout the year are centered within the parks. Over the years, ICRC has earned a reputation for program and facility excellence that has attracted participants from surrounding counties. This positively impacts the financial position of the agency as user fees support a majority of ICRC's operational budget.

ICRC PARKS

Crooked Creek Park 1098 Old Lexington Highway Chapin, SC 29036, 803-345-6181

Melvin Park 370A Eptings Camp Road Chapin, SC 29036, 803-345-8113

Michael J. & Mary Meech Mungo Park 2121 Lake Murray Boulevard Columbia, SC 29212, 803-772-3336

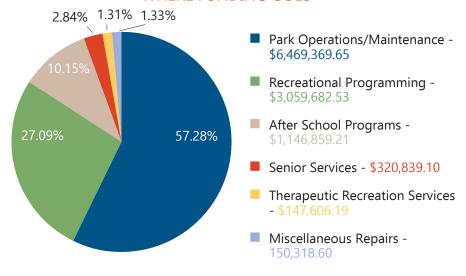
Saluda Shoals Park 5605 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29212, 803-772-1228

Seven Oaks Park 200 Leisure Lane, Columbia, SC 29210, 803-772-3336

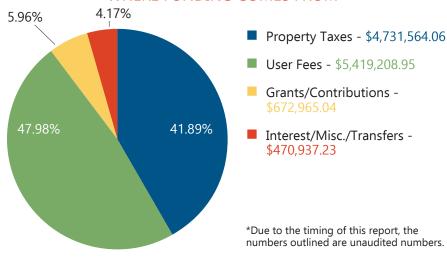
YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

GENERAL & SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

WHERE FUNDING GOES*



WHERE FUNDING COMES FROM*







ABOUT ICRC PARKS

- 5 PARKS
- 2 COMMUNITY CENTERS
- 2 CONFERENCE CENTERS
- 1 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
- 12 PICNIC SHELTERS
- GUEST SERVICES BUILDINGS
- 5 GYMNASIUMS
- MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS

- 1 LOW ROPES COURSE
- SPLASH PADS
- 1 WETLAND PRESERVE
- 1 DOG PARK
- 9 PLAYGROUNDS
- 2 BOAT RAMPS
- 17 MILES OF TRAILS
- 3 DISC GOLF COURSES

EMPLOYEES/VOLUNTEERS



69 FULL TIME EMPLOYEES 206 PART TIME EMPLOYEES



45,318 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME

SENIOR SERVICES



15,165 SENIOR MEALS SERVED

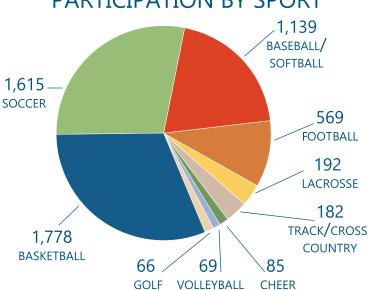


8 SENIOR TRIPS TAKEN



15,662 SENIOR MEDICAL AND CONGREGATE MEAL TRIP MILES DRIVEN

ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION BY SPORT





PARKLAND AND FIELDS



817 ACRES OF PARKLAND



21 BASEBALL FIELDS



15 MULTI-USE FIELDS



2 FOOTBALL FIELDS



18 TENNIS COURTS



11 PICKLEBALL COURTS

SOCIAL MEDIA



40,200 META FOLLOWERS

CROOKED CREEK PARK

Park Visits	557,655
Class Participants	3,000
Special Event Participants	8,381
Senior Program Participants	6,596
Athletic Program Participants	3,121
Fitness Passes	2,706
Camp Participants	3,639
Volunteer Hours	17,255
After School Participants	13,396

MELVIN PARK

Park Visits	148,348
Class Participants	1,098
Special Event Participants	50,502
Splash Pad Participants	3,924
Court Passes	115
Camp Participants	136

MUNGO PARK

Park Visits	115,841
Facility Rental Reservations	101

SALUDA SHOALS PARK

Park Visits	822,783
Education Class Participants	5,372
Special Event Participants	189,663
Saluda Splash Participants	8,789
Park Program Participants	58,491
Annual Park Passes	4,012
Court Passes	93
Camp Participants	648
Volunteer Hours	5,178
Facility Rental Reservations	5,176

SEVEN OAKS PARK

Park Visits	558,393
Class Participants	1,240
Special Event Participants	61,440
Senior Program Participants	18,439
Athletic Program Participants	2,400
Fitness Passes	1,366
Camp Participants	3,313
Volunteer Hours	22,885
After School Participants	9,360

WEBSITE



274,960
UNIQUE VISITORS
ANNUALLY



996,106
PAGES VIEWED
ANNUALLY

GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS



\$375,000 raised by the Saluda Shoals Foundation for park programs and facilities



\$32,471 GIVEN IN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS HELPING 941 YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

PARK AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Districtwide:

- · Conducted facility audits.
- Selected HVAC service vendor.
- Selected Architects/Engineers for the Lower Saluda Greenway Project (KBSA) and started design process.
- Selected Architects/Engineers for Environmental Center Conceptual Plan (GMK) and started design process.

Saluda Shoals Park:

- Stained/sealed Leo's Landing Playground wood fence and repaired surfacing.
- Repaired waterline and extended drainage pipe at Leo's Landing Playground.
- Engineered/installed Egrets Sculpture at River Center.
- Replaced roofing shingles at administration building.
- Substantially completed City of Columbia sewer line project.
- Stabilized and repaired River Overlook.
- Repaired Environmental Education Center deck, Wetland Boardwalk, and pedestrian bridge.
- Completed trail repairs and additions.
- Replaced Environmental Center HVAC unit.
- Repaired roofs at Environmental Center and River Center.
- Replaced sidewalk from Environmental Center to Wetland.
- Repaired/painted wall storm damage at River Center.
- Dethatched, aerified, and top-dressed soccer fields.
- Conducted infusion well testing for ground water quality (AECOM and DHEC).
- Ran temporary power for several events and rerouted electrical supply for future special events.
- Top-dressed clay tennis courts and replaced netting.
- Renovated/upgraded Saluda Splash pad.
- Repaired/reconfigured irrigation system and pump station.
- Set up and took down Holiday Lights on the River displays.
- Repaired light ballasts in buildings.
- Programmed and began using athletic field paint robot.

Seven Oaks Park:

- Cleaned and refinished floors throughout building.
- Installed trash receptacles throughout the park.
- Added soil to raise athletic fields for improved drainage.
- Replaced field five and six restroom toilets and increased the supply lines.
- Replaced HVAC unit in Recreation Center.
- Repaired football field fencing.
- Replaced light ballasts throughout building with LED system.
- Replaced interior garage door.
- · Replaced televisions in fitness center.
- Recarpeted and painted two offices.

Melvin Park:

- Repaired four-inch water main.
- Installed benches around splash pad (PARD funded project).
- Repaired facility damage due to hard freeze.
- Constructed a covered storage shed.
- · Repaired irrigation pump system.

Crooked Creek Park:

- Replaced field three electrical panels.
- Refinished gym floors.
- Replaced three HVAC units in Recreation Center.
- Installed new fencing on soccer field.
- · Rebuilt Chapin Elementary baseball infield.
- · Made improvements along disc golf course.

Mungo Park:

- Repaired building damage.
- · Pedestrian bridges installed and opened to public.

2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS

After-school Programs

The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (ICRC) offered quality after-school programs to an average of *521 children per day*.

Therapeutic Recreation

ICRC offers programs for children and adults with special needs and considerations. Our purpose is to provide recreational and skill building opportunities that enhance socio-emotional development and self-confidence. We provide an adaptive and inclusive environment that enhances participant's independence. ICRC continued to offer after-school programs to an average of 20 individuals per week, and 120 summer campers. ICRC was awarded \$85,462 in grant funding for the district-wide after-school program.

Summer Camps

Summer Safari day camps at Crooked Creek Park and Seven Oaks Park served *322 children* each week for eleven weeks. Extreme Safari, a day camp for ages 11–14, served 57 *children* weekly. Additionally, ICRC offered *180 specialty camps* for children of all ages and interests at our parks.

Children's Theatre

ICRC's Children's Theatre program hosted four live performances in 2022-23. A total of 146 *children* participated in the program, performing to *2,928 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.

Senior Services

ICRC serves as the area's Council on Aging, making 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 15,165 meals to seniors this year. The agency received generous donations from the community of \$22,730 in support of the Meals-on-Wheels program.

Athletics

ICRC had *5,731 participants* in our youth and adult athletic leagues which included: lacrosse, softball, football, flag football, cheer, soccer, indoor soccer, cross country, track, baseball, basketball, volleyball, and golf.

Market Development Tournaments and Events

During FY 2022-2023, ICRC hosted 56 sports tourism events headlined by the US Quadball South Regional. Additional events included 5Ks, fun runs, baseball, softball, lacrosse, and flag football tournaments. These events brought 139,705 visitors to ICRC facilities with an estimated economic impact of \$2,947,313.

Environmental Education Programs

Environmental Education Programs which address national and South Carolina education science standards are offered to

schools throughout the region. These programs offer students 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. *More than 5,372 children* participated in environmental education programs at Saluda Shoals Park.

Environmental Stewardship

Protecting and enhancing our resources is vital throughout the District and ICRC contributes in many ways. Both Seven Oaks and Crooked Creek Parks were drop-off sites for Grinding of the Greens. Crooked Creek Park participated in Chapin Community Service Day. Saluda Shoals Park hosted several river sweeps where *more than 50 volunteers* collected trash along the Lower Saluda River.

Special Events

ICRC offers a variety of special events each year, which attracted more than 309,986 people to our Parks. Events include: Astronomy night, Backyard Saturday, baseball and lacrosse tournaments, Blood Drives, Bowl Day, Candy Cane Hunt, Cooking with Dad, Cooking with Mom, Cooking with Santa, cross country and track meets, Daddy Daughter Dance, Flashlight Egg Hunt, Indoor Yard Sale, Halloween at the Park, Halloween at Saluda Shoals Park, Holiday Market, Howl-O-Ween at the Bark, Saluda Shoals Jazz Series, Lake Murray Bridal Show, Lower Saluda Craft Beerfest, Lower Saluda WineFest, Opening Day, outdoor movie nights, Paddle and Pint, Pickin' & Piggin', Pickleball tournaments, Preschool and Special Friends Egg Hunt, Santa's Market Craft Show, Shuckin' on the Shoals, Sleigh Bell Trot and Stroll, Slip, Slide & Splash, Spring Market, Sunset on the Shoals, and the Sweetheart Dance.

ICRC's largest annual special event, Holiday Lights on the River, was held November 23rd through December 31st. This event generates necessary revenues to support the operation of Saluda Shoals Park. More than 100,344 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 on goals, strengthen ties to a more livable community, and maximize often limited resources.

2022-2023 Partnerships

AFC Midlands Chapter • 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 ■ Hampton Inn-Harbison on the
Lake ■ Irmo Chamber of Commerce ■ Juvenile Arbitration ■ Keep
the Midlands Beautiful ■ Lake Murray DJs and Videography ■
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 ■ St. Andrews-Irmo
Optimist Club ■ St. Francis of Assissi Episcopal Church, Chapin ■
University of South Carolina ■ USA Football ■ Windham Services.

Saluda Shoals Foundation

The Saluda Shoals Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization committed to serving as a steward of Saluda Shoals Park through financial support and as an advocate for the preservation and sustainability of the park's programs and the environment. Supporters of the Foundation gave generously during FY2022-23. Fundraising efforts brought in more than \$375,000.

- The annual campaign brought in more than \$80,000 from individuals and corporations.
- The annual Shuckin' on the Shoals Oyster Roast fundraiser grossed more than \$26,000.
- Dominion Energy awarded a \$33,000 grant to support the Wetlands Preserve Restoration Project.
- The CW and Dorothy G. Love Foundation awarded an \$88,000 grant to support the purchase of 'Egrets' sculpture for the River Center.

Generous donor gifts supported numerous park programs and events including the following:

- An evening at Holiday Lights on the River for more than 80 Ft. Jackson soldiers.
- Park programs and events including: Backyard Saturday, the Lower Saluda Winefest, paddle programs, Holiday Lights on the River, Special Needs Egg Hunt, and Special Olympics Tennis team practices.

Public Art

In 2023, the Foundation created an Art Committee whose goal is to plan for and incorporate public art throughout the park. The committee's first project was the installation of the Egrets' sculpture at the River Center. The free-standing sculpture was designed by internationally known artist Babette Bloch. Egrets was unveiled on June 13, 2023.



Saluda Shoals Foundation Board

The Foundation welcomed three new board members: Alex Salmon with Salmon Photo & Video. Daniel Marchman with Shaw Industries, and Adam DeLoach with Lexington Medical Center. Michael Cromer retired from the Foundation board after ten years of service and now serves as an ICRC Commissioner and liaison to the Foundation. Board member Larry Jones, who served on the Foundation for 22 years, retired. Board officers are Janice Ayers, Chair, Meg Garrison, Vice-Chair, and Sharon Mann, Treasurer.

A SPECIAL THANKS

The Saluda Shoals Foundation Board of Directors would like to thank all donors who gave so generously this year.

Saluda Shoals Foundation Individual Giving

River Partner (\$1,000) Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Addison Dr. and Mrs. Bill Brearley Mr. and Mrs. Rick Calhoun Dr. and Mrs. Lynn Campbell Mr. and Mrs. Troy Coward Mr. and Mrs. Rob Davis Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. (Gene) Delk

Mr. David Ehler and Ms. Donna Dell Mrs. Jean Eng Dr. and Mrs. Carey Hite

Drs. Charles and Anita Hood Mr. and Mrs. Alan Leichtle Mr. and Mrs. William "Bill" Long Mr. and Mrs. Ken Loveless

Ms. Merlee Ann Madren Dr. and Mrs. Julian Minghi Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Mungo Dr. and Mrs. D. W. Rusty Newton

Dr. and Mrs. Wendel Nixon Dr. Ronald Rhames

Mr. Kyle Wagner Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walker Mr. William Westerkam and Ms. Kirsten Lackstrom

Mr. Dale Willm

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Yelverton

Wetland Partner (\$500)

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Mr. Curt Rone Mr. and Mrs. Terry Schmoyer Dr. and Mrs. Marsh Willis

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Wracker

Forest Partner (\$250)

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Ms. Judy Clark Sharon and Robert Croissant Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cromer Mr. and Mrs. Greg Downs

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Fischer Mr. and Mrs. Rod Funderburk Mr. Callison G.P.

Mr. and Mrs. John Garrison Kim and Bernard Hawkins

Ms. Cheryl Holland and Mr. Douglas Quackenbush

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Ms. Michele Lyerly Mr. and Mrs. William McLellan

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Trail Partner (\$100)

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Doris and Arthur Beard Violet and Steve Bollo

Mr. and Mrs. James Marty Bridges Ms. Brantley Brinkley

Dr Patrick Brown Mr. and Mrs. Jim Butler Mr. and Mrs. Ron Byars

Mr. William Carter Mr. and Mrs. C. Douglas Clary Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Comfort

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Mr. Daniel Marchman

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Ms. Kendal Russell and Mr. Britton Russell

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Major General (Ret.) and Mrs. Steve Siegfried

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Mr. and Mrs. Ned Strauss Ms. Melanie Sullivan Mr. and Mrs. Pat Sullivan

Ms. Becky Swindler Mr. Chengwen Teng Mr. Nelson Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. Rob Tyson Ms. Seann Tzouvelekas

Ms. Ann White Dr. and Mrs. Scott Wietecha Mr. and Mrs. Richard Woodward

Friends of (<\$100)

Mrs. Clare Allen Mr. Hunter Anderson Ms. Jane Andrews-Nicol Mr. and Mrs. Ken Cabe Mrs. Linda Connor Andy and Chris Derajtys Ms. Deedee Dukes

Georgia and Robert Eckart Mr. John Engstrom Ms. Janice Mozeleski Mrs. Dianne Parker Mr. Kenneth Pott Ms. Asheley St. John Ms. Kerry Stubbs

Corporate/Foundation Giving

Environmental Partners (\$5,000+)

Shaw Industries

Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union

River Partners (\$1,000+)
Blue Cross Blue Shield of SC First Community Bank Leo's Pride Schmoyer and Company, LLC Trevett's Direct, LLC Unum/Colonial Life

Wetland Partners (\$500+)

All American Imaging Dannco, LLC ETI Engineering, LLC St. Andrews Fitness Corporation

Forest Partners (\$250+)

Comporium **IMIC** Hotels Liberty Tax Service **Lovette Investment Properties** Zion Holdings, LLC

Trail Partners (\$100+)

Law Office of Laura H. Huggins, LLC Palmetto Retina Center

Honorariums and Memorials

In Honor Of:

Chris and Denise McKinney's Grandchildren Elizabeth Taylor Everly and Elijah Fred Johnston Kelsey Croissant William A. Kennedy, Jr.

In Memory of:

Donald Eng Lee Wolfe