

**ENGAGE Gwinnett
Parks & Recreation Follow Up Information
January 4, 2010**

Parks & Recreation Cost Centers

Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation has a number of facilities and programs which generate revenue to fully or partially offset direct program expenses. For example, picnic pavilions are available to the public to rent for private events (i.e. – family reunions, corporate picnics, and birthday parties). The rental price includes the cost of an independent contractor (facility attendant) and any other direct costs associated with the rental of the facility. Even though picnic pavilions could be considered “cost-even centers”, rental rates do not include construction, major capital renovation, or depreciation costs.

Other parks and recreational facilities are available for rental and fees are designed to offset direct operational costs. These include: rental of athletic fields (i.e. – softball tournaments and adult soccer leagues) and tennis courts (i.e. – lessons, team practices or leagues, and tournaments). Rental fees include the costs of the attendant and utility fees.

Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation operates a variety of aquatic/pool facilities, ranging from outdoor leisure pools to indoor aquatic centers. Staffing and maintenance levels are dependent on the various components of each facility. The outdoor leisure pools are the most cost efficient, as they are seasonal (do not require year-round staffing), have much lower utility costs versus indoor facilities, and have high daily usage.

Finally, Parks & Recreation also operates a variety of indoor recreational facilities such as community centers, gymnasiums, senior centers, and activity buildings. Indoor facilities require higher staffing and maintenance costs and fees are not charged for many of the services provided by these facilities. User fees are charged for various classes/programs, rental fees, and league offerings.

Attached are examples of several Parks & Recreation Cost Centers which show the total expenditures/revenues for specific facilities in 2008. The cost recovery ranges from a high of over 125% for the Rhodes Jordan outdoor aquatics center to a low of 40% for the Gwinnett Senior Center. Other cost centers provided are: Mountain Park Aquatics Center (70%); Bogan Community Center (67%); Rhodes Jordan Park Gym (106% - this is gym only – does not include utilities); and Hudlow Tennis Center (74%).