



2024/2025

ANNUAL REPORT

**NEWTON RECREATION
COMMISSION**

2024/2025 NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION



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- Timothy Marlar
- Rick Golubski
- Bradley Cook
- Stacey Musser

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- Becky Butcher
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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The enclosed report will detail the 2024/2025 year in review for the Newton Recreation Commission. This report will include highlights, departmental overviews, programming information, and a financial report.

The Newton Recreation Commission oversees and maintains approximately 55 acres of sports facilities in Newton which also includes Fischer Field. The NRC provides a wide array of sports, recreational activities, lessons, and special events that are available to citizens of all ages and abilities. The NRC employed 14 full-time staff and 165 part-time and seasonal staff in 2024/2025.

During the 2024/2025 budget process the Newton Recreation Commission was able to work together to cut the mill levy by .20 mills. The NRC has worked diligently over the years to keep its mill levy from increasing. This is the third year in a row that the NRC has cut its mill levy. Even though the NRC has funded or helped fund many projects during those years, the mill levy is still .06 mills lower than it was 9 years ago in 2016.

The NRC added a new press box and storage area at Railer Field in time to start the Newton High School Softball season. Also, in partnership with the City of Newton, batting cages were added to Railer Field.

The NRC once again partnered with the City of Newton to tear out and replace the concrete at the Skate Park. The concrete was deteriorating and became unsafe for the skateboarders.

The NRC, City of Newton, and USD 373 joined together with the Railer Foundation to study, plan and renovate Themian Park to add more sports facilities. Themian Park is the oldest park in Newton and is currently being used by the Santa Fe 5/6 Center for a playground.

Staff continues to strive for integrity, excellence, and sustainability in our daily duties. As you review this report I hope you are rest assured that these commitments are being met and to the best of our ability exceeded.

We would like to thank the City of Newton and USD 373 for their cooperation in assisting us to accomplish our mission.

PROGRAMS

This year, our NRC Clubhouse program continued to be a cornerstone for families in Newton. On average, 75 children participated daily in before and after school care, while around 35 attended during no school days. Summer was especially active, with over 60 children joining us each day. NRC Clubhouse provides a safe and engaging environment, with activities ranging from crafts and gym games during the school year to swimming and field trips in the summer months. As a licensed KDHE child care program located at all four Newton elementary schools, NRC Clubhouse remains a trusted and vital resource for working families.

Our Christmas Light Tours were once again a highlight of the holiday season. All four trips were at or near capacity as we traveled to Wichita to explore some of the area's best displays. A special moment came when one group was able to see the Keeper of the Plains beautifully lit on a calm evening. Each night ended with smiles, laughter, and a sweet treat to take home, making this tradition a beloved part of our winter programming.

The 5th/6th Grade Dances continue to be one of our most popular events for this age group, averaging 235 participants at each dance. This past spring, we introduced an End-of-the-Year Dance with a Hawaiian theme, complete with a Selfie Room for photos. The themed approach was a big hit, and moving forward we plan to host one themed dance each spring. These events are made possible through the support of Newton SROs, the Newton High School National Honor Society, parent chaperones, and our dedicated NRC staff. Their partnership ensures that the dances remain safe, fun, and memorable experiences for the kids.

The Cheer and Gymnastics programs continue to be a huge hit in our community. The NRC Cheer Squad was full for all three sports seasons, cheering at 5th/6th grade games and performing halftime shows. Alongside the squad, our smaller cheerleading classes focus on building skills in chants, tumbling, and stunting. Gymnastics participation has grown significantly, with classes consistently filling up and the exciting addition of Adult Gymnastics this year. With strong enrollment and continued enthusiasm, both programs remain highlights of our offerings and provide valuable opportunities for participants of all ages to grow and succeed.

We also offered a variety of Toddler and Pre-School Classes, providing little ones with opportunities to learn, play, and explore. From art and gym sessions to holiday-themed activities, there was something for every interest. This year, TOT TIME Drop-In was especially popular, giving children free play time on NRC equipment for an hour and a half each week. Sessions ran in three-week blocks on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, five times throughout the year. Our Pre-School Exploratory & Sensory Art class also remained a favorite, averaging 5-7 participants per session. Looking ahead, we're excited to continue sparking imagination and expanding opportunities for our youngest community members.



SPORTS

The Sports Department continues to offer quality programs at an affordable rate for the patrons of USD 373. We strive to have participant safety and player development as our top priorities.

This past year, the NRC strengthened partnerships with Newton High School, Bethel College, and Hesston College coaches and players. Together, we offered a variety of instructional clinics and skills development opportunities in soccer, basketball, and tennis for the youth in our community.

The NRC continues to work on creating and updating, new and old, adult and youth sports. The NRC plans to add Sand Volleyball, Women's Pickleball, and Youth Pickleball in the near future. The NRC will also continue to look into adding E-Sports for the youth and adults of the community.

Youth participation continues to remain steady. The NRC provides an opportunity for youth sports league participants who have a financial challenge to participate at a 50% reduced rate if they qualify for the USD 373 free/reduced lunch program or have a KanCare medical card. Sponsorships from local businesses and organizations enable us to offer affordable programs and opportunities for all citizens within the USD 373 boundaries.

WELLNESS CENTER

Wellness Center enrollment and attendance remained consistent this year. Member amenities include free senior land fitness classes in addition to free swimming during public swim, and racquetball and pickleball court rentals.

New this year, the NRC hosted Evening Restorative Yoga in December and April. Take Control with Exercise increased their annual attendance by 175 attendees. Silver Sneakers attendance this year was 1,630 compared to 1,632 last year. Gym walkers remained popular with an attendance of around 2,300 for the year. Elasticize continued to meet Saturday mornings. Trinity Heights 'Movers & Shakers' continued to meet Mondays for its 17th year!

The Wellness Center replaced 2 Precor Treadmills with new models in the fitness center. Insurance paid fitness benefit plans are a significant part of the Wellness Center membership base. Members are allowed to use their fitness benefits plan to participate in water exercise classes and land fitness classes in addition to utilizing the Wellness Center.



AQUATICS

The Indoor Pool at the Newton Activity Center is scheduled for about 70 to 80 hours of use each week throughout the year. Lap swim, exercise classes, physical therapy, lessons, camps, and open swim fill these hours. Rentals, lessons, and open swim happen on Saturdays and Sundays. Private lessons are scheduled when the pool is not used for on-going classes and activities.

Pool water is kept about 89 degrees, warmer than most pools but comfortable for our patrons.

The max capacity of the pool is 35 swimmers. Use of the pool for lap swim and open swim is included with an NRC Wellness Center membership.

Many of our swimmers have been using the pool for years, some as many as 15-20 years. We continue to bring in new participants to the exercise classes, occasionally adjusting time, days, and some of the exercises. This is done in consideration of the changes in life for our long term participants. Beyond the physical activity, many of our classes have a social aspect that is a friendly addition to the classes.

The Aquatics Division also offers CPR/ First Aid training and Fishing Programs. Grants and sponsorships allow us to take kids fishing on Fridays at local lakes, where we also cooked hot dogs, explored, and built a camp fire. This program is trying to teach children about catching a fish and enables them to enjoy the great outdoors.



FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE

The maintenance division consists of 2 full-time and 5 seasonal staff. They take care of maintaining the athletic fields and grounds for the City of Newton. The pride they take shows in everything from the green grass to the straight lines on the fields.

This division works as a liaison with many of the local sports organizations as well as the NRC sports division and USD 373 athletics.

Park shelters for rent are the responsibility of the NRC to clean and schedule for parties and family gatherings. Responsibilities continue to grow as new facilities are built and upgraded.

This year the maintenance staff has increased responsibilities with the addition of Themian Park. This park will now be maintained by the NRC. Themian park is 4 acres and is currently used by the Santa Fe 5/6 Center as a playground. Now that the park has caught the attention of the Railer Foundation together with the NRC, City of Newton, and USD 373, together they are planning to make substantial improvements to the park for the benefit of the entire community. We look forward to the future upgrades at this park.

During the winter this crew removes snow from the NRC sidewalks and parking lot. Winter is also the time they do maintenance on vehicles and equipment.

Maintenance staff has continued to modernize control of our many systems. By using the internet or cell phones we can now monitor and operate some of our systems remotely; such as pool chemical readings, field lights, irrigation, thermostats, and alarms.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUES

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
AD VALOREM	\$ 2,226,022
INTEREST/OTHER	52,092
PROGRAMS	49,743
NRC CLUBHOUSE	251,187
SPORTS	63,127
WELLNESS CENTER	100,064
AQUATICS - INDOOR	23,277
AQUATICS - MUNICIPAL POOL	85,799
FISCHER FIELD	40,750
GRANTS	28,905
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 2,920,966

EXPENSES

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 410,378
PROGRAMS	75,634
NRC CLUBHOUSE	173,623
SPORTS	78,485
WELLNESS CENTER	120,773
AQUATICS - INDOOR	67,465
AQUATICS - MUNICIPAL POOL	156,044
FACILITIES - GROUNDS	213,393
FACILITIES - ACTIVITY CENTER	221,375
FACILITIES - FISCHER	42,531
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	35,972
PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION	445,585
FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS	146,607
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND	552,436
INSURANCE	20,736
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 2,761,037



*Municipal Pool based on Fiscal Year (July - June)

FISCHER FIELD



EXPENSES 2024/2025

Salaries	20,244
General Supplies	780
Custodial Supplies	974
Maintenance Supplies	4,410
Telephone Service	2,670
Utilities - Gas	1,838
Utilities - Electric	8,501
Equipment Repair	0
Facility Repair	1,425
Facility Improvements	1,458
Equipment	231
Totals	42,531

FISCHER FIELD EVENTS 2024/2025

Football	78
Soccer	82
Special Events	29
Total Events	189

REVENUES 2024/2025

CITY/USD 373	38,000
Advertising - Signs	2,000
Field Rental	750
Totals	40,750



PARTICIPATION REPORTS

2024/2025

Programs	25,998
Youth Sports	8,630
Adult Sports	1,702
Aquatics - Indoors	6,524
Aquatics - Municipal Pool	14,703
Facility Rentals	6,044
Wellness Center	34,340
<i>Total Participation</i>	<i>97,941</i>



YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP 2024/2025

	ENROLLED	SCHOLARSHIPS	%
Softball/Baseball	376	133	35
Outdoor Soccer	231	80	35
Flag Football	80	26	33
Volleyball	55	17	31
Basketball	186	65	35
Indoor Soccer	367	124	34
Swim Lessons	212	78	37
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,507</i>	<i>523</i>	<i>35</i>



MUNICIPAL POOL 2025

The Municipal Pool offers a lazy river, two large slides, a family slide, zero depth area, 6 lane pool, climbing wall, diving boards, basketball goal, spray pad, shaded and open grass areas, and many other play features. The exercise classes in the lazy river continued to be very popular.

Swim lessons were held at the NRC pool and the Municipal Pool. Using 2 pools provided appropriate space and depth for each level of instruction. Occasionally classes will be held at the high school pool when temperatures are too low for outside classes. Many kids take 2 or 3 lessons during a summer. Private lessons are another option we offer. These classes meet 6 times for 30 minutes. Private lessons offer flexible times and one on one instruction. Many times, private lessons are used to get a child started into lessons or to focus on specific skills in a one-on-one environment.

Lifeguard staff started training early in the spring while air and water temps were quite cool at times. Fortunately we started early with the classroom portions and had nice days to train in the pool. On occasion we used the indoor pool at the NRC for training. In-service training was held each Friday morning throughout the summer. These trainings covered facility specific issues as well as lifeguard training. Staff for this summer kept the pool safe and clean, working long hot hours on the guard stands, the deck, bathhouse, concession stand, and areas surrounding the pool. The staff is trained to prevent injuries, as well as respond to emergencies. They are also trained in customer relations, custodial duties, teamwork, pool preparation, safety checks, and daily reports. The NRC is proud of the pool staff. The NRC's municipal pool staff performs very well in many high stress situations; whether it is a rescue or an upset patron, they remain professional. Staff ranges in age from 14 to mid-60's all working together in different roles to operate the municipal pool. Many staff return year after year to work at this pool. A number of the staff have family members that are current or former staff, some going back generations. Jobs at the pool are also a first job for most of the staff, be it as a lifeguard, safety staff, swim instructor, front window, or working in concessions.



MUNICIPAL POOL 2025

ATTENDANCE

May	308
June	5,958
July	6,583
August	1,948
Total Participation	14,797



REVENUES & EXPENSES (SUMMER SEASON)

YEAR	REVENUES	EXPENSES	TOTAL
2025	84,966	152,478	(67,512)
2024	92,264	163,795	(71,531)
2023	88,511	146,854	(58,343)
2022	91,449	148,871	(57,422)
2021	10,863	38,255	(27,392)



NEWTON COMMUNITY CAMP 101



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