



# Newton

## Recreation Commission

### Annual Report

### 2023/2024





# Superintendent's Message

The enclosed report will detail the 2023/2024 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 2023/2024.

During the 2023/2024 budget process the Newton Recreation Commission was able to work together to cut the mill levy by .96 mills. The NRC has increased the mill levy by only .655 mills in the general fund over the last ten years. The Commission is looking to cut the mill levy for a second straight year for the 2024/2025 year.

The NRC along with the Athletic Department at Newton High School continued to host the KSHSAA 8-Player State Football Championship games over Thanksgiving weekend. This year's games saw a decrease in attendance due to cold temperatures as well as 12 inches of snow on the day of the event. NRC Staff did an incredible job of keeping the field lines free of snow through the games.

The NRC funded and installed field lights to Railer Field over the winter months in time for the high school softball season. Planning is underway at Railer Field to add a new press box, batting cages, and a storage area which will be completed in time for the 2025 softball season.

The NRC installed additional deck space and shade structures at the Municipal Pool. The space was needed due to the increase in participation at the pool.

Congratulations to Nathan Boese, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, for being awarded the Kansas Recreation & Parks Associations Distinguished Service Award.

The NRC, City of Newton, and USD 373 joined together with the Railer Foundation to study and plan, in hopes of renovating Themian Park for more sports facilities. Themian Park is the oldest park in Newton and is currently being used by Santa Fe school for Physical Education classes.

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

## 2023/2024 Newton Recreation Commission

### Board Members

**Mallorie Coffman**  
**Stacey Musser**  
**Timothy Marlar**  
**Rick Golubski**  
**Bradley Cook**

### Administrative Staff

**Brian Bascue**  
**Bart Peace**  
**Candice Egizi-Sifuentez**  
**Tyler Boese**  
**Tracie Strain**  
**Lori Hein**  
**Esmeralda Hernandez**  
**Sarah Hensiek**  
**Becky Friesen Butcher**  
**Nathan Boese**  
**Joel Smith**

# Programs

This year marked the successful completion of our first year with the NRC Cheerleading Squad! The cheer squad actively participated in various sports seasons, including Flag Football, Basketball, and Soccer. They showcased their spirit and skills by performing two half-time shows for each season and cheered at all 5th/6th grade Flag Football and Basketball games. We are thrilled to have Brooke Moore, our certified coach through USA Cheer & Gymnastics, leading the squad. Her dedication and expertise have been instrumental in building the foundation of our cheerleading program.



In addition to leading practices and performances, Brooke has introduced fundraising initiatives to help support the squad. These funds are used for supplies, uniforms, equipment, and team-building activities, ensuring that the program continues to thrive.

Our gymnastics program has seen a significant increase since Brooke Moore joined the Newton Recreation Commission. Brooke's background in cheer and gymnastics has greatly contributed to the expansion and success of the program. We are excited to continue building on this success in the coming years.



This year, we launched a brand-new youth running club called Squeaky Soles. This club is designed to prepare community youth for the Battle of the Schools 1-Mile Fun Run. In our first year, we had 14 participants in Squeaky Soles and 48 participants in the Battle of the Schools run itself. Volunteers from the Newton High School National Honor Society and Black & Decker Corp came out to support the event and to help guide and cheer on our participants as they made their way to the finish line.



Our annual "Where is Our Rabbit?" Easter holiday scavenger hunt continues to grow each year. This year we had 57 participants. Here's how the hunt works: Participants register for the activity and join a private Facebook group. Each day, a message is posted in the group, giving clues that help participants decode where the NRC Rabbit is hiding in Newton. Once the rabbit is found, participants can select an egg from his basket which is brought back to the Rec Center to redeem for prizes.

This event culminates with our annual Eggstravaganza, held on the Friday before Easter. This past year, First Baptist Church partnered with us to provide a meal before the event, feeding approximately 200 people. The Eggstravaganza itself attracted nearly 800 participants and their parents, making it one of our most successful community events of the year!



This past year, we celebrated our 35th Annual Christmas Market with tremendous success. We hosted 68 vendors, with an overflow of booths set up in one of our meeting rooms to accommodate the high demand. Nearly 700 shoppers attended the event, making it one of our best turnouts yet.



## 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.

The NRC continued our partnership with coaches and players at the Newton High School along with the Newton Railer Soccer Club to offer many different instructional and skill development clinics for Soccer, Basketball, and Tennis to the youth of the community.

The Sports Department has added 7th and 8th grade divisions for multiple sports, such as, Outdoor and Indoor Soccer, Volleyball, Baseball and Softball. The Sports Department saw a steady growth of participants for these groups mainly with Softball and Soccer and hope to see more participants each season.



The NRC continues to work on creating and updating new and old adult and youth sports. The Sports Department plans to add Sand Volleyball, Adult Outdoor Soccer, and 3v3 Adult Basketball in the future. The Sports Department also continues to look into the possibility of adding E-Sports tournaments for the youth and adults of the community.

Youth participation continued to remain steady. The NRC provides an opportunity for youth sports league participants who have a financial challenge to participate with a reduced fee if they qualify for the USD 373 reduced lunch program. 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 continues to increase each month over last year's numbers. Member amenities include free senior land fitness classes in addition to free swimming during public swim, racquetball and pickle ball court rentals.



Take Control with Exercise increased their annual attendance by 178 attendees. Silver Sneakers came close by adding 159 attendees! Gym walkers increased by 954. Elasticize continues to meet Saturday morning. Trinity Heights "Movers & Shakers" is meeting Mondays for its 16th year.

Wellness Center added an additional rower and recumbent strider to 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.



Check us out on  
**Facebook, Twitter & Instagram**  
**NewtonKSRec**



# Aquatics



The Indoor Pool at the Newton Activity Center is scheduled for about 70 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.

Water Babies classes for infants all the way up to Senior Swim allow for a variety of ages to enjoy this pool and swimming as a lifetime activity.

Trying to bring in new participants to the exercise classes, we occasionally adjust time, days, and some of the exercises. 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. Using funds from local sponsors; we took kids fishing on Fridays at local lakes, where we also cooked hot dogs, explored, and built a camp fire. This program is partially about catching a fish and partially getting kids outdoors.

# Facilities & Maintenance

The maintenance division takes care of maintaining and preparing game fields for Newton Recreation patrons, and also for USD 373 sporting events.

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, while at the same time facilities and systems are aging.

Sprinkler systems and scoreboards are two areas that are requiring more repairs.



This division works as a liaison with many of the local sports organizations as well as the NRC sports division and USD 373 athletics. Maintenance staff continue to work the Friday night NHS varsity football games.

The pride they take shows in everything from the green grass to the straight lines on the fields. This year the maintenance staff has



increased responsibilities with the addition of Railer Field. Staff does more than just take care of baseball fields. This requires mowing, watering, preparing fields, and painting lines to the fields for all outdoor sports.

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. Indoor winter work for this division is short lived as baseball and softball practices on the fields begin in February.

Maintenance staff has recently been modernizing control of many of our systems. By using 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

Ad Valorem.....	\$2,069,894
Interest/Other.....	\$ 63,130
Programs.....	\$ 252,647
Sports.....	\$ 58,939
Wellness Center.....	\$ 100,880
Aquatics - Indoors.....	\$ 28,434
Aquatics - Municipal Pool*.....	\$ 94,262
Fischer Field.....	\$ 54,450
Grants.....	\$ 91,200
<b><i>Total Revenue</i></b> .....	<b><i>\$2,813,836</i></b>

## Expenses

Administration.....	\$ 369,398
Programs.....	\$ 237,854
Sports.....	\$ 78,426
Wellness Center.....	\$ 118,787
Aquatics - Indoor.....	\$ 76,281
Aquatics - Municipal Pool*.....	\$ 157,088
Facilities - Grounds.....	\$ 206,877
Facilities - Activity Center.....	\$ 210,369
Facilities - Fischer.....	\$ 53,513
Capital Improvements.....	\$ 29,730
Public Building Commission.....	\$ 400,120
Facility Improvements.....	\$ 275,492
Employee Benefits Fund.....	\$ 522,172
Insurance.....	\$ 20,205
<b><i>Total Expense</i></b> .....	<b><i>\$2,756,312</i></b>

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



# Fischer Field



**8-Player State Championship**

## Fischer Field Events 2023/2024

Football	81
Soccer	74
Special Events	24
<b><i>Total Events</i></b>	<b><i>179</i></b>



**Chisholm Middle School Football**

## Revenues 2023/2024

CITY/USD #373	38,000
Advertising - Signs	15,000
Field Rental	1,450
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<b><i>54,450</i></b>

## Expenses

Salaries	17,140
General Supplies	0
Custodial Supplies	3,147
Maintenance Supplies	4,729
Telephone Service	2,554
Utilities - Gas	1,593
Utilities - Electric	7,813
Equipment Repair	2,537
Facility Repair	3,848
Facility Improvements	7,188
Equipment	2,964
<b><i>Totals</i></b>	<b><i>53,513</i></b>





## Participation Reports 2023/2024

Programs	24,724
Youth Sports	8,877
Adult Sports	1,418
Aquatics - Indoors	6,260
Aquatics - Municipal Pool	16,031
Facility Rentals	7,519
Wellness Center	37,325
<b><i>Total Participation</i></b>	<b><i>102,154</i></b>







Youth Scholarships 2023/2024			
	Enrolled	Scholarships	%
Softball/Baseball	328	112	34
Outdoor Soccer	248	76	30
Flag Football	73	23	32
Volleyball	61	19	31
Basketball	199	58	29
Indoor Soccer	360	100	28
Swim Lessons	251	80	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>31</b>



# Municipal Pool 2024

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 building part of the facility includes a bathhouse, office, concession area, family restroom, and a lifeguard room.

Occasionally the entire pool is rented for large gatherings by church groups and for birthday parties. The exercise class that utilizes the current in the lazy river continues to be very popular. Additional

classes were required to accommodate the large numbers. New this year are 2 shaded rental areas for birthday parties or other gatherings. These are available during public swim hours, providing a less expensive option to renting the entire facility. Additional seating has been added in the form of both upright and lounge chairs. We continue to look for additional improvements and amenities for the Municipal Pool.



Staff trained early in the summer 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. Continued training was held each Friday morning throughout the summer. These in-services cover facility specific issues as well as lifeguard training. 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. 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 a first job for most of the staff, be it as a Lifeguard, Safety Staff, Swim Instructor, Front Window, or working in Concessions. 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. A typical lesson will meet 8 times for 30-45 minutes depending on the level.



Students receive a card listing the skills passed. Many kids take 2 or 3 lessons during a summer. Private lessons are an option we offer. These classes meet 6 times for 30 minutes. Private lessons offer flexible times and one on one instruction.



# Municipal Pool 2024



*Lazy River Workout*

## Attendance

May.....	652
June.....	6,693
July.....	6,152
August.....	2,154
<b><i>Total Participation.....</i></b>	<b><i>15,651</i></b>



*Pooches Plunge*

## Revenues & Expenses (Summer Season)

Year	Revenues	Expenses	Total
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)
2020	26,203	82,590	(56,387)





NRC Cheer Squad