



**Centre Region Council of Governments**  
**CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**CENTRE REGIONAL RECREATION AUTHORITY**

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*Serving the Borough of State College and the Townships of College, Ferguson, Harris & Patton*

## **Centre Region Parks & Recreation / Centre Regional Recreation Authority**

### **2011 Highlights**

*as of 5 Jan 2012*

#### ***Thanks to regional cooperation...***

##### **1. PRIMARY OPERATIONS**

- The agency operated a total of 829 acres at 52 sites across the region - including 42 municipal parks and 10 regional sites. 863 group reservations were issued for the 24 reservable picnic pavilions. 107 reservation permits were issued for the 36 sportfields. The sportfield permits involved a range of durations from single-games (including pavilion groups), weekend events and season-long reservations.
- CRPR again offered a comprehensive, year-round and popular menu of public recreation programs and special events for all ages. With respect to active recreation, 107 teams competed in nine adult sport leagues (4 softball leagues, 2 basketball leagues, 2 volleyball leagues, 1 flag football league); 16 adult fitness programs were offered with a total of 561 participants.
- With over 1,000 pages available, the website at [www.crpr.org](http://www.crpr.org) hosted 3.3 million hits during 2011, a 21% increase from 2010 (at 2.8 million hits).
- Based upon the success of the park recycling program initiated in 2010, a “*Waste Watcher Award*” was presented to the Authority.
- The Authority Board approved the implementation of two new policies: The “*CRPR Safe Sportfield Policy*” was implemented to prevent dangerous conditions for players and to protect wet sportfields from abuse. The “*Young Lungs At Play*” anti-smoking campaign was implemented (with municipal endorsements) in an advisory capacity at all park playgrounds across the region.

##### **2. CENTRE REGION SENIOR CENTER**

- The center served 3,388 meals and hosted 37,782 program visits during 2011.
- 1,908 program sessions were offered at the senior center.
- 50 volunteers contributed a total of 1,261 hours.

##### **3. MILLBROOK MARSH NATURE CENTER**

- In 2011 the nature center hosted 12,633 program visits, a 13% increase from 2010, which demonstrates the continued popularity of MMNC programs coupled with the new year-round building. This number will increase in future years thanks to those improved facilities.
- The new Spring Creek Education Building was opened in April 2011 within the approved budget at a total project cost of \$1,067,360. The project was funded by \$888,000 in private and municipal contributions, plus a \$200,000 Growing Greener II grant from the Commonwealth.
- 121 volunteers contributed a total of 1,850 hours to the nature center during 2011.

#### **4. AQUATICS**

- The 10-year initiative to replace both swimming pools concluded successfully with the Grand Reopening of Wm. L. Welch Pool on Memorial Day Weekend. Welch Pool now joins the renewed Park Forest Pool, which reopened in June 2009, to once again serve as “community recreation magnets” in the region.
- In 2011, the two new pools attracted a total of 110,567 visits during the 101 day swim season = **an average of 1,094 visits per day** for recreation, instruction and competition. By comparison, in 2008, the last summer both old pools were open, the total visit count was 48,122.
- The final Project Cost (\$4.9 million for Welch Pool and \$3.2 million for Park Forest Pool) permitted the Pool Renewal Loan to be reduced from the authorized \$7.9 million to \$6.6 million. In addition, a total of \$787,500 was invested in the pool renewal projects via grants from the Commonwealth.
- From a financial standpoint, the two new pools generated sufficient revenue in 2011 to pay all planned 2012 operating expenses plus provide \$50,000 to offset some of the annual repayment towards the capital loan.

#### **5. REGIONAL PARKS**

- A Phase 1 development schedule and \$8.9 million funding package was jointly approved by the Recreation Authority and the COG for the Oak Hall & Whitehall Road sites.
- A consulting agreement was prepared and approved by the Rec. Authority with Pashek Associates for the Phase 1 developments at the Oak Hall and Whitehall Road sites.
- The three sites were leased from the COG to the Recreation Authority for development and operations.
- In December, the Commonwealth announced the approval of a \$300,000 grant to assist the Phase 1 Construction at Whitehall Road Regional Park. With that announcement, the total state grant investment now totals \$1,028,000 to the COG Regional Parks Initiative for acquisition, planning and development.

##### **Oak Hall Regional Park**

- An amended Master Site Plan was prepared, proposed and approved by the 5 municipalities.
- Detailed planning began for the Phase 1 development project.

##### **Whitehall Road Regional Park**

- Public sewer service was approved by the COG General Forum in February.
- The 25-acre parcel (to complete the planned 100-acre park) was acquired in May.
- Detailed planning will begin in 2012 for the Phase 1 development project.

##### **John Hess Softball Field Complex**

- While it was not possible to complete the extensive Safety / ADA Renovations during 2011, the three renovated fields hosted 741 games of softball involving 1,482 teams. Of those games, 257 were part of 7 tournaments held there. The updated facilities generated many compliments - along with tournament commitments for 2012 events. Work on the remaining tasks, including the new public water service, will proceed so that all 4 fields will be open by May 2012.