

# Benson Parks and Recreation

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We hope that everyone had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. It was nice to have the time with family, but it is always good to get back to a regular schedule.

Adult basketball and co-ed volleyball registration will begin this month. The registration fees are \$325.00 per team for volleyball and \$225.00 for each 3 on 3 basketball team. Volleyball will begin as soon as teams are registered. 3 on 3 adult basketball will begin after the youth season. We expecting between 5 - 6 teams in each sport.

All ages of youth basketball have started their seasons. We have approximately 170+ kids participating. The team breakdown is four 6U teams and seventeen teams in the older age groups. The 6U teams will practice and play Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings at the Civic Center. The older teams play all home games at the Newly renovated Lee Street Gymnasium! Registration for Wee ball, T-ball, youth baseball and softball will begin February 1<sup>st</sup> and continue throughout the month. Practices will begin in March.

The Gymnasium is beautiful and almost unrecognizable. It has taken over a year to complete, but the outcome was well worth the wait. We are planning the ribbon cutting for Saturday January 11, at 11:45am. Most of our teams will be playing at home that day. We still have some finishing work to do, but the games have begun!

The Johnston County open space grant is once again available. The amounts of the grant are determined by the growth of each area. The purpose and background is explained below. This explanation is from the disbursement policy from Johnston County.  
"The creation and implementation of the Open Space Fund Disbursement Policy for Johnston County will provide a means of disbursing the open space funds that have been collected by Johnston County in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes. Open Space Funds may be used to purchase, develop, or improve existing or new properties for passive and/or active recreational use for the enjoyment of the General Public. **North Carolina General Statutes require the funds to be spent in the area of collection.**"

Benson is in the South Johnston district and there is \$56,928.00 available for distribution in this area. Each grant requires only a 5% match from the community. We share the area with the Four Oaks and Meadow communities. I have asked the recreation department members and the recreation advisory board for project ideas that we can request. The grant is due to the county by February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Exercise and weight room membership renewals will take place through January 31<sup>st</sup>. Just in time for New Year's resolutions! The cost for a year's membership is \$50.00 for residents and \$100.00 for non-residents. Seniors 55 years and older are 50% off.

Respectfully,

Matthew Smith