

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE ON RECREATION, LIBRARIES, AND YOUTH  
AFFAIRS  
PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT HEARING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004**

January 3, 2024

Ms. Thennie Freeman  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
1275 First St NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. Freeman:

The Committee on Recreation, Libraries, and Youth Affairs (“Committee”) will hold performance oversight hearings on agencies under its purview between Monday, January 15 through Friday, March 1, 2024. The Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”) hearing will be held on **Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 9:30am** via a virtual platform. In addition to your attendance at the hearing, the Committee is sending the following questions for your response.

Please submit your responses by no later than **2:00pm, Monday, January 22, 2024**, in Word or Excel format, as applicable, and *minimize the use of attachments*. If you need to discuss any of the questions, please contact Kyle Yeldell, Committee Director, at [kyeldell@dccouncil.gov](mailto:kyeldell@dccouncil.gov) or (202) 417-1046.

**Questions**

1. Please provide a complete, up-to-date organizational chart for the agency and each division within the agency, including the names and titles of all senior personnel. Please include an explanation of the roles and responsibilities for each division and subdivision within the agency.

Please see [Attachment 01. 2024 DPR Agency Org Chart.pdf](#).

**Director** - DPR’s Director serves as the executive leader of the agency, driving DPR’s vision, strategies, and accountability.

**General Counsel** - DPR’s General Counsel provides legal advice and services to the Director of DPR and to all other DPR staff concerning the agency's programs and activities.

**Agency Fiscal Officer** - DPR’s Agency Fiscal Officer plans, operates, develops, and monitors DPR’s operating and capital budgets, and manages finances for the agency’s grants and programs.

**Chief Of Staff** - DPR's Chief of Staff Division is responsible for the agency's Budget and Performance management, Policy and Legislative Affairs, and Quality Assurance.

**Budget & Performance Management** - DPR's Budget & Performance Management Division evaluates program success and facility satisfaction.

**Policy & Legislative Affairs** - DPR's Policy & Legislative Affairs Division improves operations through better internal policy, legislation, and liaising with the DC Council.

**Administrative Services** - DPR's Administrative Services Division houses the agency's teams that focus on procurement, support services, food and nutrition, capital planning and design, human resources, training and development, park rangers, risk management, and information technology.

**Procurement** - DPR's Procurement Division ensures the agency's thousands of programs have the proper equipment to operate successfully.

**Capital Planning and Design** - DPR's Capital Planning and Design division oversees and manages all planning, design, and capital improvement efforts for all DPR properties, including recreation/community centers, playgrounds, aquatic centers, parks, skate parks, dog parks, and more.

**Support Services** - DPR's Support Services division includes warehouse services, transportation, and stagecraft, including the Mayor's AV Team.

**Human Resources** - DPR's Human Resources division manages the human resources components of the agency, including hiring, performance evaluation, and employee grievances. This division on-boards and off-boards over 500 seasonal staffers each summer.

**Food and Nutrition** - DPR's Food and Nutrition Division oversees the agency's efforts to address food insecurity among DPR patrons, including the administration of the Summer and Afterschool Meals Programs.

**Information Technology** - DPR's Information Technology Division manages information technology across the agency, including computers, software, projectors, tablets, and smartphones.

**Training & Development** - DPR's Training and Development Division focuses on our RECreator Training Academy to provide employees with free, year-round professional training, and other opportunities to advance their careers.

**Risk Management** - The Risk Management Division identifies, evaluates and prioritizes physical risk to the agency.

**Urban Park Rangers** - DPR's Urban Park Rangers Division enhances the customer experience across DPR's parks and recreation facilities by ensuring secure access to these amenities and educating the public on relevant DPR policies that promote a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

**Recreation Services** - The Recreation Services Division houses the agency's teams focused on aquatics, community programs, program operations, community recreation and the Roving Leaders.

**Aquatics** - The Aquatics Division oversees the management, operations, and programs of DPR's indoor and outdoor pools across the District.

**Community Programs** - The Community Programs Division oversees the thousands of programs from the agency's sports health and fitness, youth development, seniors, kids, camps and coops, parks and environmental and therapeutic recreations divisions.

**Community Programs Operations** - The Community Programs Operations Division focuses on the registration of DPR programs, the management of DPR's fields and the permitting of DPR spaces to individuals and organizations.

**Community Recreation** - The Community Recreation Division oversees the management and operations of DPR's recreation facilities and parks across the District.

**Roving Leaders** - DPR's Roving Leaders Division works proactively to prevent, neutralize, and deescalate contentious situations involving youth or groups of young people through the development of positive relationships between teens/youth and outreach workers. The Roving Leaders focus building on these relationships to introduce groups to positive recreational programming.

**Public Engagement and Strategy** - The Public Engagement and Strategy Division houses the agency's teams that focus on communications, external affairs, and partnerships and development.

**Communications** - DPR's Communications Division provides in-house graphic design services, produces digital and print marketing materials, and engages in conversation with the public using social media.

**External Affairs** - DPR's External Affairs Division coordinates and leads community engagement efforts, including work with Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, community groups and the general public.

**Partnerships and Development** - DPR's Partnerships and Development Division solicits, vets, and maintains all partner relationships on behalf of the agency.

2. What are the agency's goals going forward in FY24? How have they changed from FY24? Which ones carry over?

In FY24, DPR continues our goal from FY23—to provide equal and open access to Gold Standard recreational programs, services, and facilities. In FY23, DPR successfully implemented our new Recreation for All (Rec for All) initiative with a historic investment from Mayor Bowser. Rec for All enables DPR to double down on our most in-demand offerings while also responding to the District’s growing recreation needs. With these additional resources, we can keep our doors open longer, extend our reach to more communities, and bring fresh programming to residents at an affordable cost. DPR will continue to build on the success of Rec for All in FY24.

3. What are the agency’s greatest accomplishments in FY23 and FY24 to date?

DPR’s greatest accomplishments include the successful implementation of a lottery system for Summer Camps. As one of the most in-demand DPR programs, the use of a lottery system helped to increase equity in accessing these programs. The rollout of the lottery included increased outreach and support for residents. As a result, we were able to boost participation in DPR’s 2023 Reduced Rate Program by 184% and achieve a 31% increase in the number of unique participants and a 33% increase in total enrollments.

In addition, as part of Rec for All, DPR exceeded our goals for expanding non-traditional sports offerings with high levels of participation. Through Mayor Bowser’s investment in Recreation for All, DPR was able to offer new and exciting programming in FY23, such as kayaking, girls’ volleyball, and lacrosse for boys and girls. We currently engage nearly 1,000 children and youth in our popular gymnastics program. We have also introduced new culinary programming, including a Daddy & Me cooking and etiquette class.

In FY23, DPR issued over 100 grants totaling over \$4 million to local organizations providing unique recreational opportunities for DC youth. This funding allowed established organizations to take their programming to the next level and access new opportunities to broaden teens’ horizons. As of February 5, 2024, solicitations are now live for FY24 Recreation for All grants. We look forward to continuing this successful program and expanding our reach to even more District entities that help our youth thrive by providing meaningful recreation opportunities. For more information on current grant opportunities, please visit <https://dpr.dc.gov/page/grants>.

4. What are the agency’s biggest challenges in FY24 and beyond?

DPR continues to experience a high demand for programmable space at recreation facilities and athletic fields. The success and growth of DPR programs have required a shift of locations to larger spaces to accommodate an increase in the volume of participants. In addition, DPR experiences an extremely high demand for access to our recreation spaces, such as athletic fields and gymnasiums, for permit holders to host their programs. We also have a high demand for open community use. As always, DPR strives to offer balanced uses across its inventory to provide equitable access to recreation amenities to all.

With the growing demand for DPR's facilities and programs, including more late night and weekend offerings, safety remains a top priority for DPR. In alignment with Mayor Bowser and our District agency partners, DPR prioritizes the safety of our patrons, program participants, and employees as they utilize, enjoy, and operate DPR's parks and recreation facilities.

5. Please list each new program implemented by the agency during FY23 and FY24 to date. For each initiative, please provide:
  - a. A description of the initiative
  - b. The funding required to implement the initiative
  - c. Any documented results of the program

Please see [Attachment 05. New DPR Programs.pdf](#). **Note:** The cost of implementing DPR programs generally includes a combination of personnel and non-personnel services within established program areas in DPR's operating budget. For example, lacrosse and volleyball would fall under DPR's larger Sports, Health, and Fitness budget and DPR's Junior Lifeguard Academy would fall under DPR's Aquatics Programming budget.

6. Please provide a complete list of the agency's current programs, community events, and initiatives. Include a brief description and general time frame for each item.

Please see the following:

[Attachment 06A. Current Programming.pdf](#)

[Attachment 06B. Current Events.pdf](#)

7. Please describe the accomplishments of DPR's Recreation for All initiative.

DPR's FY23 enhancements for Rec for All represent a historic investment in parks and recreation. Never in DPR's history have we been this resourced. Preparation has met opportunity, and this is a result of our collective efforts and the Rec for All resources.

Through Rec for All, DPR created and enhanced the following in FY23:

- **Women's Sports:** DPR boosted women and girls' sports offerings and retained consistent participation by hosting clinics, trainings & special events.
- **E-Sports:** To prepare District youth to succeed, and excel, DPR's E-Sports program provides hands-on experience both virtually and in-person in competitive E-sports activities. E-Sports provides an opportunity to engage District youth in a new way. DPR's E-Sports programs engage youth that do not normally come to recreation centers while also including those that do.
- **Camp Riverview:** DPR's Camp Riverview programming provides residents with a unique opportunity to engage with nature by exposing them to the physical and emotional health benefits of the great outdoors. With this onsite experience, our mission is to foster and nurture an individual's well-being by incorporating life skills and personal development, while engaging one's curiosity with nature.

- **Water Sports:** DPR’s water sports programming provides access to new outdoor and natural recreational experiences for all residents. Through this unique opportunity, participants can engage in our waterways via canoeing and kayaking, showcasing a different perspective of our city.
- **Roving Leaders:** DPR’s Roving Leaders continued and expanded their work to prevent violence by taking away idle time from youth and young adults, which helps curb negative behaviors.
- **Co-Op Expansion:** DPR expanded its Co-Op offerings to families with young children to include East of the River communities, where this program has yet to operate historically. By expanding Co-Op location offerings, DPR works to bridge the developmental gap between 18 months and four years, giving all children a fair shot at starting at the same level as their peers in other wards.
- **Year-Round Senior Games:** It is paramount to provide health and wellness to our seniors. DPR’s year-round Senior Games programming aligns with national studies that show the more active our seniors are, the longer they live.
- **Late Night Hype:** DPR’s Late Night Hype programming provides an atmosphere of friendly and engaging teen activities during non-traditional hours that extend, at least, until 11pm. DPR is meeting the teens where they are by fully activating our campuses with all the elements of a good time! Food, live music, activities, pool parties, and giveaways! This is another avenue to curb violence by keeping youth/teenagers’ activity engaged.
- **Sunday Aquatic Activities:** DPR restored Sunday pool service at select Aquatic Centers:
  - Takoma Aquatic Center: Starting on 9/11/2022.
  - Deanwood Aquatic Center: Starting on 1/8/2023.
  - Barry Farm Aquatic Center: Starting on 1/29/2023.
  - Wilson Aquatic Center: Starting on 2/12/2023.
- **Urban Park Rangers:** DPR’s Urban Park Rangers are a uniformed unit that represents the agency. Rangers provide non-police daily patrolling at DPR sites and support programming and special events while promoting order at DPR programs and events, allowing DPR to utilize its Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) presence in an enhanced and strategic manner.
- **Golf:** DPR’s golf programming serves both youth and seniors. The program introduces youth, who might otherwise only experience basketball and football, to the sport of golf. The program also engages senior adult men and boosts seniors’ overall engagement in athletics.
- **Park and Field Care:** DPR’s Park and Field Care team provides timely, equitable, and efficient park care to strategically enhance existing maintenance services across DPR’s robust inventory of recreation amenities, parks, and green spaces.
- **Tennis and Pickleball:** DPR’s Tennis and Pickleball programs make tennis accessible to all through affordable and high quality options and introduce the game of Pickleball to all ages and expand to all 8 wards.
- **Rec for All Community Grants:** In support of Mayor Bowser’s goal of engaging underserved youth with robust recreation opportunities, DPR is proud to continue Recreation for All Community Grants, a success in FY23, into FY24. DPR will offer funding to support community-based programs, activities, and events that

engage youth, provide recreation opportunities, and/or promote skill development. Rec for All Community Grants invest in organizations that expand recreational offerings and provide residents in underserved communities with safer high-quality events, programs and affordable recreation opportunities. In FY23, DPR awarded organizations that provided inclusive and accessible recreational opportunities to all members of our community. Through these programs, we strived to promote physical, social, and emotional wellness, foster a sense of community, and enhance the quality of life for all individuals, regardless of ability, age, race, gender, or socioeconomic status. We are committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that celebrates diversity and encourages lifelong learning, growth, and personal fulfillment.

- **Grantees addressed the following Rec for All Core Values in their programming:**

1. **Equity:** Ensuring that all individuals have equal access to recreational opportunities and resources, regardless of their age, ability, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.
2. **Inclusion:** Creating a welcoming and supportive environment that values and respects diversity and promotes the participation of all individuals in recreational activities.
3. **Empowerment:** Encouraging individuals to take an active role in their own recreation and wellness, and providing them with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to make informed choices.
4. **Community:** Fostering a sense of belonging and connection among individuals and groups and promoting social engagement and civic participation through recreational activities.
5. **Sustainability:** Encouraging responsible use of natural resources and promoting environmentally friendly practices in recreational activities.
6. **Innovation:** Embracing new and emerging technologies and practices to enhance the quality and accessibility of recreational opportunities.

| <b>2023 Rec for All Community Grants Program</b> |                         |                     |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|
|  | <b>Grant Agreements</b> | <b>Grant Amount</b> |
| \$100,000 or more                                | 42                      | 3,856,051           |
| \$10,000 and under                               | 74                      | \$570,526           |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>116</b>              | <b>\$4,426,577</b>  |

DPR is excited to continue our community partnerships that allow us to expand our offerings with the community support of our 2024 Rec for All Community Grants program.

8. Please provide a complete, up-to-date position listing for your agency, ordered by program and activity, and including the following information for each position:
  - a. Title of position
  - b. Name of employee or statement that the position is vacant, unfunded, or proposed
  - c. Date employee began in the position
  - d. Salary and fringe benefits (separately), including the specific grade, series, and step of position
  - e. Job-status (continuing/term/temporary/contract)
  - f. Whether the position must be filled to comply with federal or local law

Please see the following:

[Attachment 08A. All DPR Positions.pdf](#)

[Attachment 08B. Filled DPR Positions.pdf](#)

9. Does the office conduct annual performance evaluations of all its employees? If so, who conducts such evaluations? What steps are taken to ensure that all office employees are meeting individual job requirements?

DPR conducts annual performance evaluations in compliance with [Chapter 14 of the District Personnel Manual](#). The employee's manager creates, completes, and discusses the evaluation tool with the employee. DPR provides training related to performance management, including employee coaching. Managers are responsible for monitoring and coaching employees throughout the year to meet their individual job requirements.

If an employee is not meeting their job requirements, the agency considers placing the employee on a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP). A PIP may be established for 30, 60, or 90 days. After each 30-day interval, a discussion takes place regarding the employee's progress and, if necessary, areas of needed improvement, and any related next steps.

10. Please provide the Committee with:
  - a. A list of all vehicles owned, leased, or otherwise used by the Office and to whom the vehicle is assigned.

Please see [Attachment 10A. 2024 DPR Fleet Inventory.pdf](#),

A list of employee bonuses or special award pay granted in FY23 and FY24, to date.

Employee retention continues to be a strategic priority for DPR. To support the agency in aggressively and successfully competing with other employers, DPR provided a one-time retention award to employees who have demonstrated exemplary performance in accordance with requirements in the District Personnel Manual, such as Chapter 19. Incentive Awards. Per District Personnel Manual §1904.2(f) an Exemplary Performance Award shall not exceed a maximum



of ten percent of the employee’s scheduled rate of basic pay or \$5,000, whichever is greater.

| Grade Level  | Amount of Award (District Service Schedule or Equivalent) | Amount of Award (Management Supervisory Service Schedule) |
|--------------|---|---|
| 1 - 4        | Up to \$800   | N/A   |
| 5 - 8        | Up to \$1200  | N/A   |
| 9 - 11       | Up to \$1600  | Up to \$1600  |
| 12 - 13      | Up to \$2300  | Up to \$3000  |
| 14 and above | Up to \$3400  | Up to \$5000  |

b. A list of travel expenses itemized by the employee.

Please see [Attachment 10B. DPR Employee Travel Expenses FY 23.pdf](#).

c. A list of the total overtime and workman’s compensation payments paid in FY23 and FY24 to date.

Please see the tables below for DPR’s overtime and worker’s compensation payments.

**Department of Parks & Recreation  
FY 2023  
Overtime**

| Account Group OVERTIME PAY |                     |                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund                       | Budget              | Expenditure           |
| 1010001                    | \$81,765.13         | \$2,054,973.67        |
| 1010190                    | \$216,000.00        | \$100,356.75          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>\$297,765.13</b> | <b>\$2,155,330.42</b> |

**Department of Parks & Recreation  
FY 2023  
Worker's Compensation  
Local Appropriation Fund**

| Paygroup              | WKC                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Row Labels</b>     | <b>Sum of Earnings</b> |
| 100113                |                        |
| Rodriguez, Florentino | \$40,705.00            |
| Soto, Leonardo A.     | \$1,332.33             |
| <b>100113 Total</b>   | <b>\$42,037.33</b>     |
| 100173                |                        |
| Gray, Alessandra      | \$5,397.55             |
| <b>100173 Total</b>   | <b>\$5,397.55</b>      |
| 700002                |                        |
| Bowman, Essie         | \$8,462.00             |
| Wilson, Timothy A     | \$17,784.18            |
| <b>700002 Total</b>   | <b>\$26,246.18</b>     |
| 700012                |                        |
| Williams, Tyree J     | \$3,637.50             |
| <b>700012 Total</b>   | <b>\$3,637.50</b>      |
| 700021                |                        |
| Blackman, Michelle Y  | \$35,848.36            |
| Smith, Elijah         | \$2,974.81             |
| Walker, Willie J      | \$1,694.39             |
| Whitley, JaJuan Tevin | \$14,794.00            |
| <b>700021 Total</b>   | <b>\$55,311.56</b>     |
| <b>Grand Total</b>    | <b>\$132,630.12</b>    |

11. Please provide a list of each collective bargaining agreement currently in effect for agency employees.

Please see the following:

[Attachment 11.1 AFGE Master Agreement.pdf](#)

[Attachment 11.2 Compensation CBA.pdf](#)

[Attachment 11.3 AFGE Working Conditions.pdf](#)

- a. Please include the bargaining unit (name and local number), the duration of each agreement, and the number of employees covered.

Union: American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 2741. Attachment 11.1 and 11.2 (circa 1995 and 2020). Currently, 437 positions.

Union: Local 1403 (1 Attorney), Attachment 11.3, September 30, 2020.

- b. Please provide, for each union, the union leader's name, title, and contact information, including e-mail, phone, and address if available.

Union: American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 2741.  
President: James Battle

Email: [afgelocal2741presbattle@gmail.com](mailto:afgelocal2741presbattle@gmail.com)

Union: Local 1403 (1 Attorney), Attachment 10C, September 30, 2020.

President: Aaron Finkhousen

Email: [Aaron.Finkhousen@dc.gov](mailto:Aaron.Finkhousen@dc.gov)

- c. Please note whether the agency is currently bargaining and its anticipated completion date.

The Office of Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining (OLRCB) is leading negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement. At this time, a new agreement has not been finalized.

12. Please identify all electronic databases maintained by your agency, including the following:
  - a. A detailed description of the information tracked within each system.
  - b. The age of the system and any discussion of substantial upgrades that have been made or are planned to the system.
  - c. Whether the public can be granted access to all or part of each system.

Please see [Attachment 12. DPR Electronic Databases FY 23.pdf](#).

13. Please describe the agency's procedures for investigating allegations of sexual harassment or misconduct committed by or against its employees. List and describe any allegations received by the agency in FY22, FY23, and FY24, to date, and whether or not those allegations were resolved.

DPR follows [Mayor's Order 2023-131](#) with respect to the reporting, investigation, and treatment of sexual harassment allegations on government property and in government programs. All sexual harassment cases are confidential. Therefore, the agency is not able to list and describe each case.

Sexual Harassment Complaints FY22 (October 2021-Current):

- a. Employee complaint (comments) April 2022.  
Investigation report issued: May 19, 2022 (no findings/training required).
- b. Two related employee complaints (comments/touching): November 2022.  
Investigation report issued: January 2023 (no findings/training required).
- c. Employee complaint (comments) January 19, 2023.  
Investigation Report Issued: February 24, 2023 (inconclusive and/or no findings).
- d. Public complaint (Summer 2022) (alleged touching) involving summer campers:  
An investigation report was completed on September 9, 2022, and there were no findings. Mandatory reporting to CFSA completed.

- e. Public complaint (Summer 2023) (alleged touching) involving summer campers: An investigation report was completed on August 18, 2023, and there were no findings. Mandatory reporting to CFSA completed.

14. Please provide a chart showing your office’s approved budget and actual spending, by division, for FY23 and FY24 to date. In addition, please describe any variance between fiscal year appropriations and actual expenditures for each program and activity code.

Please see the following:

[Attachment 14.1 FY23 Financial Performance.pdf](#)

[Attachment 14.2 FY24 Dec-YTD Financial Performance.pdf](#)

15. Please provide the details of any surplus in the agency’s budget for FY23, including:
- a. The total amount of the surplus
  - b. All projects and/or initiatives that contributed to the surplus

Please see [Attachment 15. FY23 Financials Material Surplus Rationale.pdf](#).

16. Please list any reprogramming, in or out, which occurred in FY23 and FY24 to date. For each reprogramming, please list the total amount of the reprogramming, the original purposes for which the funds were dedicated, and the reprogrammed use of funds.

Please see the table below.

| Department of Parks and Recreation (HA0) |                 |  |   |                            |
|--|-----------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| Question 16 - FY 2023 Reprogrammings     |                 |  |   |                            |
| Fiscal Year                              | Fund            | Original Purpose of Funding                            | Reprogrammed Used of Funds  | Total Reprogramming Amount |
| 2023                                     | Local           | Contractual services for Recreation for ALL initiative | Supplies, equipment, and other services supporting the Recreation for ALL initiative championed by the Mayor for FY 23. | \$ 449,200.00              |
| 2023                                     | Federal Payment | contractual services- other                            | To support the posting of procurement card expenditures incurred through FY 2023  | \$ 53,208.92               |
| 2023                                     | ARPA Local      | contractual services- other                            | To support the posting of procurement card expenditures incurred through FY 2023  | \$ 152,537.00              |
| 2023                                     | Local           | vacancy savings  | city-wide yearend reprogramming   | \$ (2,435,162.00)          |
| 2023                                     | Local           | vacancy savings associated with continuing full time   | To support the posting of procurement card expenditures incurred through FY 2023  | \$ 2,067,223.24            |

17. Please provide a complete accounting for all Interagency Standard Request Form Agreements for FY23 or FY24 to date, including:
- a. Buyer agency and Seller agency
  - b. Attributes for the: Services GL – Buyers Program Cost & Cost Center Attributes; Buyers Fund Attributes; and the Buyer Project # - Assigned to Seller
  - c. Funding source (i.e., local, federal, SPR)
  - d. Description of MOU services
  - e. Total MOU amount, including any modifications

Please see [Attachment 17. FY23 Interagencies & FY24 LOIs.pdf](#).

18. Please provide a list of all MOUs in place during FY23 and FY24 to date that is not listed in response to the question above.

All executed MOUs between District government agencies are included in the response to question 17.

19. Please list each contract, procurement, lease, and grant (contract) awarded or entered into by your agency during FY23 – FY24 to date. For each contract, please provide the following information where applicable.

- a. The name of the contracting party
- b. The nature of the contract, including the end product or service
- c. The dollar amount of the contract, including the budgeted amount and actually spent
- d. The term of the contract and renewal options
- e. Whether the contract was competitively bid or not
- f. The name of the agency’s contract monitor and the results of any monitoring activity
- g. Funding source
- h. List any long-term contracts and how community input is sought regarding the contracts.

Please see the following:

[Attachment 19.1 FY23 Contracts.pdf](#)

[Attachment 19.1 FY23 Contracts.pdf](#)

20. For FY23 and FY24 to date, please provide the number of contracts and procurements executed by your agency. Please indicate how many contracts and procurements were for an amount under \$250,000, how many were for an amount between \$250,000-\$999,999, and how many were for an amount over \$1 million.

**FY23 TOTAL= 250 Contracts / Procurements**

241= Under \$250,000

8 = \$250,000 - \$999,999

1 = Over \$1,000,000

**FY24 TOTAL = 52 Contracts / Procurements**

49 = Under \$250,000

3 = \$250,000 - \$999,999

0 = Over \$1,000,000

21. Please provide the typical timeframe from the beginning of the solicitation process to contract execution for:

- a. Contracts and procurements under \$250,000
  - o 10-21 days

- b. Contracts and procurements between \$250,000-\$999,999
  - o 30-60 days
- c. Contracts and procurements over \$1 million
  - o 90-180 days

22. In cases where you have been dissatisfied with the procurement process, what have been the major issues?

In cases where the agency has been dissatisfied with the procurement process, the potential awardee “vendor” doesn’t have all their required documents on file, such as their business license, W9, certificate of liability, or the documents have expired, which delays the solicitation.

23. What changes to contracting and procurement policies, practices, or systems would help your agency deliver more reliable, cost-effective, and timely services?

The change to the new District Integrated Financial System (DIFS), which replaced SOAR, is causing some PASS procurement delays. The DIFS online training is useful but fast paced. It would be helpful if DIFS information, such as how-to training guides or job aids, could be available online for refresher purposes. A portal to familiarize users with the new system would also be helpful.

24. Please provide a list of all projects your agency currently has capital funds available. Please include the following:

- a. A description of each project, including any projects to replace aging infrastructure (e.g., water mains and pipes)
- b. The amount of capital funds available for each project
- c. A status report on each project, including a timeframe for completion
- d. Planned remaining spending on the project.

Please see [Attachment 24. Capital Projects and Funds Available.pdf](#).

25. Please provide the agency’s FY23 Performance Accountability Report.

Please see [Attachment 25. Department of Parks and Recreation\\_2024-01-08.pdf](#).

26. Please provide a copy of DPR’s most recent Master Facility Plan.

Please see [Attachment 26. DC DPR Ready2Play Master Plan.pdf](#).

27. Please describe DPR’s efforts to incorporate sustainability into the design and operations of its facilities in FY23 and FY24 to date.

In FY23, DPR, in collaboration with DGS, opened the Arboretum Community Center, featuring the innovative use of cross-laminated timber (CLT) in the new gym to align with the mayor's vision for a carbon-neutral and resilient city. The modernized facility

prioritizes sustainability with LED lighting, BAS (Building Automated System), energy-efficient appliances, water conservation measures, green roofing, and on-site food production. Additionally, progress in FY23 on the Stead Park Recreation Center positions it to become DPR's inaugural net-zero energy facility, generating power through geothermal wells and solar panels, with an imminent opening in 2024.

28. Please provide a list of the outstanding maintenance requests for all DPR facilities, including the date each request was submitted.

Please see the following:

- [Attachment 28A. Open Work Orders FY23.pdf](#)
- [Attachment 28B. Open Work Orders Current.pdf](#)

29. Please identify any special purpose revenue accounts maintained by, used by, or available for your office during FY23 or FY24 to date. For each account, please list the following:

- a. The revenue source name and code.
- b. The source of funding.
- c. A description of the program that generates the funds.
- d. The amount of funds generated by each source or program in FY23 and FY24 to date.
- e. The expenditures of funds, including the purpose of each expenditure, for FY23 and FY24 to date.

Please see the table below.

**Department of Parks and Recreation  
FY 2023 Special Purpose Revenues & Expenses**

| Amount               |                                |                                |                      |                      |                        |                                 |   |  |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Fund                 | Account Type (P Account Group) | Account Group (Parent Level 1) | Description          | Account              | Account Description    | Total                           |   |  |
| 1060026              | REVENUE                        | 652100C                        | MISCELLANEOUS INCOME | 6521115              | ADMINISTRATIVE FEES    | -485,630                        |   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      | 6521116              | PERMITS                | -1,034,790                      |   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      | 6521118              | SPECIAL EVENTS         | -1,407,419                      |   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      | 6521119              | YOUTH CAMPING PROGRAMS | -899,913                        |   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      | 6521121              | AQUATICS               | -257,891                        |   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      | 6521122              | RECREATION SPORTS      | -294,961                        |   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      | 6521127              | DAY CARE SERVICES      | -102,401                        |   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      | 6521195              | OTHER REVENUES         | 1,060,256                       |   |  |
|                      | <b>REVENUE Total</b>           |                                |                      |                      |                        |                                 | <b>-3,422,748</b>   |  |
|                      | EXPENSE                        | 711100C                        | 711100C              | SUPPLIES & MATERIALS |                        |                                 | 388,887   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      |                      | 713100C                | OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES        | 79,975  |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      |                      | 713200C                | CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - OTHER    | 539,391   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      |                      | 717100C                | PURCHASES EQUIPMENT & MACHINERY | 19,045  |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      |                      | 717200C                | RENTALS EQUIPMENT & OTHER       | -1,915  |  |
| <b>EXPENSE Total</b> |                                |                                |                      |                      |                        | <b>1,025,383</b>                |   |  |
| <b>1060026 Total</b> |                                |                                |                      |                      |                        | <b>-2,397,366</b>               |   |  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>   |                                |                                |                      |                      |                        | <b>-2,397,366</b>               |   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      |                      |                        |                                 | *Per the FY23 Supplemental Budget, the SPR Fund Balance realized a District reduction |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      |                      |                        |                                 | <u>1,103,000</u>  |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      |                      |                        |                                 | *Estimated Year-End SPR Balance   |  |
|                      |                                |                                |                      |                      |                        |                                 | <u>-1,294,366</u>   |  |

30. Please provide a complete accounting of all federal grants received for FY23 and FY24, to date, including the amount, the purpose for which the funds were granted, and, for FY23, the amount of any unspent funds that do not carry over.

DPR did not receive any federal grants in FY23 or FY24.

31. Did the agency receive any grants in FY23 or FY24 to date from sources besides the federal government? If so, what was the source and duration of the grant(s), and what was it used to accomplish?

In FY23, DPR received a grant for \$50,000 from the National Park and Recreation Association to support the Roving Leaders in providing out-of-school time youth mentoring. In FY24, DPR received a grant for \$92,559.25 through the Recreational Trails Program at the District Department of Transportation. DPR will use this grant to make improvements to the Pope Branch Trail.

32. Please list the grants issued by DPR in FY23 and FY24 to date.

Please see [Attachment 32. FY23 Executed Grants.pdf](#).

33. Please describe DPR's process for selecting grant recipients.

In FY23 and FY24 to-date, DPR has issued grants per statutory requirements for the competitive grants and the sole source process pursuant to the Grants Act <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2972>.

DPR grants include grants that have requirements stipulated in statute, such as the grant to operate public ice skating program at the Fort Dupont Ice Arena. Other grants are specified by the DC Council as enhancements to DPR's budget, such as the grant to Horton's Kids for high impact tutoring or the grant to provide maintenance to Yards and Canal Park.

In addition to these grants identified by the DC Council, DPR operates the Rec for All Community Grants program. This program invests in organizations that expand recreational offerings and provide residents in underserved communities with safer high-quality events, programs and affordable recreation opportunities. In FY23, DPR awarded organizations that provided inclusive and accessible recreational opportunities to all members of our community. Through these programs, we strived to promote physical, social, and emotional wellness, foster a sense of community, and enhance the quality of life for all individuals, regardless of ability, age, race, gender, or socioeconomic status. We are committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that celebrates diversity and encourages lifelong learning, growth, and personal fulfillment.

- **Grantees addressed the following Rec for All Core Values in their programming:**
  - Equity: Ensuring that all individuals have equal access to recreational opportunities and resources, regardless of their age,



ability, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.

- Inclusion: Creating a welcoming and supportive environment that values and respects diversity and promotes the participation of all individuals in recreational activities.
- Empowerment: Encouraging individuals to take an active role in their own recreation and wellness, and providing them with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to make informed choices.
- Community: Fostering a sense of belonging and connection among individuals and groups and promoting social engagement and civic participation through recreational activities.
- Sustainability: Encouraging responsible use of natural resources and promoting environmentally friendly practices in recreational activities.
- Innovation: Embracing new and emerging technologies and practices to enhance the quality and accessibility of recreational opportunities.

34. How does DPR conduct oversight over its grant recipients to ensure funds are used as intended?

DPR requires quarterly and, sometimes, bi-annual reports during the grant's performance period. We also request a final grant report. In addition to this reporting, DPR uses a range of strategies to monitor grantees throughout the performance period, such as site visits, check-ins with grantee points of contact, and the direct coordination between DPR staff and grantee program operators to ensure all grantees uphold the agreed upon deliverables in their agreement with DPR.

35. Please list the task forces and organizations the agency is a member of, and any associated membership dues paid.

DPR is a member of the following Task Forces:

- Artificial Turf Working Group
- Urban Forestry Advisory Council
- District of Columbia Commemorative Works Committee
- Pedestrian Advisory Council
- Capital Trails Coalition
- District Working Group on Public Restrooms
- Kingman Island Advisory Group
- DC Bicycle Advisory Council
- DC Flood Task Force
- Anacostia Waterfront Working Group

DPR or DPR staff are dues paying members of the following Organizations:

- National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA)
- Maryland Recreation & Parks Association (MRPA)
- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
- American Planning Association (APA)
- Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)
- National Forum of Black Public Administrators
- Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE)
- City Parks Alliance (CPA)

36. Please describe the agency’s most successful partnerships and collaborations in FY23 and FY24 to date.

DPR relies on the support of individuals, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and businesses that are committed to DPR’s mission to make a sustainable impact on the communities we serve across the District. DPR partners provide time, resources, in-kind services and/or financial support that allows DPR to extend the reach of many of our programs and services. Our most successful, standout partnerships include:

- The National Symphony Orchestra: Event Partner
- Arena Social Arts Club: Programmatic Partner
- YMCA: Programmatic Partner
- Dreaming Out Loud and City Blossoms

The National Symphony has partnered with DPR as a part of its In Your Neighborhood series to bring live musical performances to our recreation sites and parks. Past events range from full National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) concerts and chamber performances to instrument petting zoos and masterclasses. Since the birth of this partnership, the NSO has worked with DPR to impact over 1,200 residents by using the power of music to unite, empower, and celebrate the legacies of DC’s creative communities East of the River.

In March of 2023, DPR directed this partnership’s efforts at the Ward 5 community and executed an event to bring the look, feel, elegance, and most importantly the sound of the Kennedy Center straight to the Ward 5 community hub that is Turkey Thicket Recreation Center.

Over 400 residents were able to attend a free concert featuring a full symphony orchestra and gain exposure to a level of musicianship that is often kept behind a high-cost barrier. The partnership with the NSO is ongoing and they will be working with DPR to plan multiple rec center “takeovers” in the years to come where families are given an intro into classical music through an orchestral fusion of the popular songs they know and love.

The Arena Social Arts Club is a DC-based nonprofit with a mission to preserve and promote the visual, performing, and literary artwork of people of color through educational workshops and high-level gallery displays. After over a year of planning and creative brainstorming, DPR was able to finalize a partnership with this organization that would establish a full-time artist-residency program that serves as a pop-up art gallery for local curators and an educational hub for our residents and cultural arts program participants. In

September of FY23, DPR unveiled the “V-Street Studio” in Ward 1. We transformed Harrison Recreation Center into a new vibrant cultural arts space in DC's U Street Corridor dedicated to showcasing the works of local artists and art exhibits. Over 300 residents attended the inaugural launch of the studio where DPR highlighted the abstract canvas work of a DC-based artist and pair that with programmatic samplings of art class, t-shirt design, rhythmic dance, and information sessions about upcoming programming.

The Arena Social Arts Club V St Studio will continue to facilitate at least 6 unique programs this year that will service over 100 art students in addition to scheduling pop-up art galleries throughout the year and coordinating a specialized children’s art workshop with Meridian Public Charter School located across the street.

The YMCA has been a long-standing partner providing a variety of programs to a variety of demographics. Fit and Well Seniors program for seniors age 60+ residing in the District of Columbia features 119 land and 26 aquatics classes in all 8 Wards of DC in addition to health and lifestyle assessments, intergenerational activities, social clubs, and a mobile unit – all free of charge. In FY22, over 5,000 seniors participated in the Fit and Well Senior programs. In FY23 pop-up experiences designed especially Families to learn, play and be inspired by science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) have begun.

Lastly, The DPR Urban Farm partnership with Dreaming Out Loud and City Blossoms has grown from one site at the Farm at Kelly Miller to a second site at Fort Stanton Recreation Center. This spring will be the start of the first full growing season for the partnership at Fort Stanton which is revitalizing an urban agriculture site that had been underutilized for several seasons due to infrastructure issues.

Our Partners worked with the DPR Environmental Programs Division and multiple skilled volunteer organizations to improve the usability of the site and are excited to grow fresh produce for the community, provide creative educational programming to youth and offer opportunities for neighbors to help grow and harvest vegetables, flowers and herbs.

37. Please identify any legislative requirements that the agency lacks sufficient resources to implement correctly.

DPR does not presently have any legislative requirements that it lacks sufficient resources to implement.

38. Please identify any statutory or regulatory impediments to your agency’s operations.

DPR does not presently have any statutory or regulatory impediments to our operations.

39. Please list all regulations for which the agency is responsible for oversight or implementation. Please list by chapter and subject heading, including the most recent revision date.

DPR is responsible for the oversight and implementation of DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR) Title 19 § § 700-799. DPR revised § § 716, 717, 719, 720, 723, 725, 729 and 799 on June 10, 2016. The other sections were last revised in part in 1999, 2001, and 2007.

- 700. Operation of Recreation Units
- 701. Reporting Accidents
- 702. Smoking, Drinking, and Gambling
- 703. Responsibility for Government Property
- 704. Reporting Losses, Damage, Hazards
- 705. Reserved
- 706. Recreation Trust Fund
- 707. Revolving Fund, Reimbursements, and Authorization
- 708 to 709. Reserved
- 710. School Facilities Under Agreement with the Board of Education
- 711. Use of School Facilities: Custodial Services
- 712. Use of School Facilities: Commercial Activities
- 713. Use of School Facilities: Other Limitations
- 714. Reimbursement for Heat, Light, and Janitorial Supplies
- 715. Department of Recreation Buildings and Grounds
- 716. Establishment of Fees716. Establishment of Fees
- 717. Priority of Permitted Uses717. Priority of Permitted Uses
- 718. Responsibility for Repairs to Properties
- 719. Establishment of User Fees for the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center and Other Similar Tennis Facilities
- 720. Support for Parks, Facilities, Recreational Activities, and Events
- 721. Repealed
- 722. Repealed
- 723. Recreational Activities
- 724. Residency
- 725. Permits
- 726. Repealed
- 727. Free Meetings for P.T.A., CIVIC, and Citizen Groups
- 728. Responsibility for Use of Facilities and Equipment
- 729. Commercial Activities for the Sale of Goods
- 730. Statement of Purpose
- 731. Dog Parks: General Provisions
- 732. Dog Parks: Application Process
- 733. Dog Parks: Site Guidelines and Specifications
- 734. Dog Parks: Complaints and Enforcement
- 735. Dog Parks: Operating Rules
- 799. Definitions

40. Please explain the impact on your agency of any federal legislation or regulations adopted during FY23 and FY24 to date that significantly affects agency operations or resources.

Through the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ([Public Law 117-2](#)), DPR has received additional funding in FY21-24 to enhance critical DPR initiatives that expand access to Gold Standard recreational programming while advancing the District's efforts to address public safety and the District's COVID-19 recovery. This funding supports DPR program areas such as Boost Camps, Roving Leaders, Access to Late Night Recreation, and FITDC3 to provide residents with additional opportunities to engage in DPR's high-quality programming, particularly for youth.

41. Please list and describe any ongoing investigations, audits, or reports on your agency or any employee of your agency, or any investigations, studies, audits, or reports on your agency that were completed during FY23 and FY24 to date.

DPR is not aware of any investigations of the agency or its employees by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Office of the District of Columbia Auditor (ODCA), or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA) in FY22 or FY23 to date.

42. Please identify all recommendations identified by the Office of the Inspector General, Auditor, or other federal or local oversight entities during the previous three years. Please provide an update on what actions have been taken to address these recommendations. If the recommendation has not been implemented, please explain why.  
DPR is not aware of any such recommendations.

DPR is not aware of any such recommendations.

43. Please list all pending lawsuits that name the agency as a party and provide the case name, court where the claim was filed, case docket number, and a brief description of the case.

OHR Litigation:

Hamilton v DPR, 23-283DC(CN), alleging retaliation for protected activity involving a complaint of sexual harassment (comments) that was not substantiated in an investigation. (July 2023)

EEOC Litigation:

Banks v DPR, EEOC Charge #570-2023-01281, Failure to Accommodate, (June 2023)

AG Tort Litigation:

Bensidhoum v. DC (2021 CA 003780 B)- (2019) Slip and fall at SW Duck Pond, alleged walkway obstruction.

Contract Appeal Board

Appeal of Hughes Group (2020) Potomac Pool modernization dispute. DGS and OAG are defending this case.

CAB Nos. D-1564 & D-1568 (Consolidated)

44. Please list all settlements entered into by the agency or by the District on behalf of the agency in FY23 or FY24, to date, including any covered by D.C. Code § 2- 402(a)(3), and provide the parties' names, the amount of the settlement, and if related to litigation, the case name and a brief description of the case. If unrelated to litigation, please describe the underlying issue or reason for the settlement (e.g., administrative complaint, etc.).

Two Settlements were executed:

1. DPR offered a payment in exchange for resignation for a union employee who was separated from DPR when the separation was not sustained by the arbitrator. \* Confidential personnel matter.
2. OAG settled a tort claim for \$25,000.00 for a leg injury sustained by a DPR football program participant in Carmelita Marshall, et al. v. DC (2022CA004638B) (2018).

45. Please list any administrative complaints or grievances that the agency received in FY23 and FY24, to date, broken down by source. Please describe the process utilized to respond to any complaints and grievances received and any changes to agency policies or procedures that have resulted from complaints or grievances received. To date, for any complaints or grievances that were resolved in FY22 or FY23, describe the resolution.

- AW (January 2023 Dispute over 9-day suspension) – DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR) Chapter 16 Grievance Process.
- JH (January 2023 Harassment) – Agency Sexual Harassment Officer (SHO)/Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor (EEO).
- BA (Feb 2022 Grievance over transferring employee to new location.) – Labor Union Contract Grievance Process, issue resolved.

46. How does DPR ensure its employees deliver quality customer service?

DPR prioritizes the delivery of quality customer service by all its employees. Customer Service is a core competency for all employees as part of their annual performance reviews. Additionally, staff receive regular communications from senior leaders about the importance of quality customer service. DPR also evaluates performance through customer experience surveys, program surveys and routinely highlights examples of good customer service.

47. Please provide metrics on customer service for FY23 and FY24 to-date.

In FY23, DPR launched an online customer experience survey that was disseminated through a variety of channels. DPR has collected 3,758 surveys in FY23. This data shows that:

- 75% of respondents reported a positive experience with DPR;
- 83% of respondents agreed that DPR staff was courteous and professional;
- 77% of respondents reported that the information provided was easy to follow and/or helpful;
- 67% of respondents reported that the facility/amenity was clean and well maintained; and

- 69% of respondents reported that DPR staff was knowledgeable and able to resolve their issues effectively.

DPR has collected 41 online customer experience surveys in FY 24. This data shows that:

- 72% of respondents reported a positive experience with DPR;
- 78% of respondents agreed that DPR staff was courteous and professional;
- 74% of respondents reported that the information provided was easy to follow and/or helpful;
- 69% of respondents reported that the facility/amenity was clean and well maintained; and
- 68% of respondents reported that DPR staff was knowledgeable and able to resolve their issues effectively.

Additionally, DPR collects customer experience feedback through DPR collected customer service data through a survey of program participants. DPR received 761 surveys to-date in FY24. Through these 85% of respondents reported having a positive customer experience at DPR.

48. How does the agency solicit feedback from customers? Please describe.

The Department of Parks and Recreation solicits feedback through various methods that include but are not limited to interviews, surveys, town halls, virtual meetings, etc. In FY23, DPR issued seasonal surveys to patrons for events, permits, and programming to solicit feedback. In FY24, DPR plans to issue a programmatic evaluation emphasizing customer feedback related to programs.

a. What has the agency learned from this feedback?

In FY23, surveying allowed us to gain knowledge and feedback that DPR will continue to review and utilize throughout FY24 planning and operations. A few highlights from these surveys include:

- Five hundred ninety-seven out of 702 responses demonstrated they had a positive experience overall.
- 85% had a positive experience based on the survey and highlighted programming being a part of the experience.
- Surveying indicated that DPR programs have improved participants' physical health, connected them with new people, and helped them learn new skills.

b. How has the agency changed its practices due to such feedback?

DPR uses feedback in various ways throughout the agency. DPR considers customer feedback when making determinations regarding programming, such as whether to initiate new programming or add existing programming to expanded locations or age groups.

49. What has the agency done in the past year to make the agency's activities more transparent to the public? In addition, please identify ways in which the agency's activities and information retained by the agency could be made more transparent.

DPR takes very seriously its responsibility to serve its constituents as a transparent agency and takes a multi-prong approach to communicate with its diverse base of constituents.

In FY23, DPR continued to build upon its digital marketing infrastructure by using our online events and program hubs, (DPR.Events and DPRPrograms.com) to capture residents as subscribers and create a consistent cadence of email blasts that are sent to approximately 130,000 constituents, providing updates on events, activities, programs, and operations. With the eblasts serving as our broadest and quickest form of communication, we then build a more targeted approach to segmented audiences within our patronage that identify residents by the services and offerings that they typically use with DPR.

Reaching these targeted audiences requires a mix of direct face-to-face marketing, strategic social media, utilizing free neighborhood posting listservs and Facebook groups, digital and on-air advertising, and at times, passing flyers and knocking on residents' front doors.

In FY23, DPR continued to expand its community engagement footprint by adding more resources to its external affairs division, which executes multiple grassroots campaigns including community meetings about capital projects, neighborhood canvassing campaigns, and strategic info-sessions for the most in demand services DPR offers – summer camp lottery, sports program registration, etc.

Our external affairs division performs an estimated 450+ hours of direct engagement with our communities, across all eight wards and through MOCR and MOCA coordination as well.

DPR has also ramped up our distribution of press releases to two per month to give local media more of a chance to spread the news about our work on our behalf.

In addition to pushing out more information and DPR content, we worked strategically on the backend to grow our following and increase the sheer number of people who receive our digital messaging. In fact, in FY23, the @DCDPR Twitter account grew to over 31,000 followers - representing a 19% growth from FY20. Similarly, the @DCDPR Instagram account grew to 16,000 followers, a growth of 12% from FY20.

The items mentioned above are vital for transparency and proactive outreach when we have something that we think the public needs to know. But part of good governance is having accurate information, ready to go when the public has questions for your agency.

It's also important to note that earned media continues to be an effective outlet for DPR to maintain transparency and get the word out about our services. for its constituents. In FY23, DPR executing a District-wide marketing campaign called Rec for All, to highlight a



historic investment programs, access, and increased hours that would result in more recreational opportunities for all constituents. Our ad placement on WMATA buses and train stations, local radio, niche publications and earned media that was generated through high-level events, agency generated was able to leverage 147 positive mass media placements, totaling over 25 million impressions on television and online media outlets.

These major media impressions further informed the public about all of our initiatives and brought more people than ever before under the DPR tent.

As the District continues to serve its diverse population, DPR continues to play a critical role in leveling the playing field and ensuring all constituents have access to fun and leisure. From kids and teens, adults and seniors, and even dogs, DPR remains laser-focused on expanding its reach and bringing world-class recreation right to every resident's doorstep.

50. Please provide information on the status of each of DPR's capital improvement projects, including projects currently in active design or construction and projects that have been funded but not yet started.
- a. Detail of project
  - b. Current status
  - c. Timeline for completion

Please see [Attachment 50. DPR Capital Projects by Status.pdf](#).

51. How does DPR determine priority of use for the permitting of its parks and recreation facilities, including athletic fields? How are DCPS schools treated in this order?

Title 19, Chapter 7 of the DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR) instructs DPR regarding the order of priority for granting permits to use the agency's spaces. DCPS and DC Public Charter Schools place third, just after DPR-sponsored activities and partners with which DPR has a written agreement and before other outside groups. Please see § 717.2 below.

§ 717.2 If more than one (1) applicant is seeking a permit for the same permitted use or equipment at the same time, the Department shall establish the following priority:

- a. Department-sponsored activities;
- b. Non-profit partners such as Programmatic Partners, Park Partners, and Collaborative Partners or designated organizations recognized by the Department in a written agreement;
- c. Athletic programs organized by DCPS, District public charter schools, or the DCSAA for competitive league play and not for intramurals;
- d. Youth non-profit organizations, including schools, principally serving District residents;
- e. Adult non-profit organizations principally serving District residents;
- f. Other organizations, groups, or individuals for private use that are based in the District; and then
- g. Others.

52. What are DPR's current hours of operations at its recreation centers and pools?

**Recreation Centers**

**Monday through Friday 6:00am to 9:00pm; Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm.**

- Bald Eagle Recreation Center
- Barry Farm Recreation Center
- Columbia Heights Community Center
- Deanwood Recreation Center
- Edgewood Recreation Center
- Emery Heights Community Center
- Kenilworth Recreation Center
- Rosedale Recreation Center
- Turkey Thicket Recreation Center

**Monday through Friday 9:00am to 9:00pm; Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm.**

- Aruthur Capper Community Center
- Benning Stoddert Recreation Center
- Chevy Chase Community Center
- Ferebee-Hope Recreation Center
- Fort Stanton Recreation Center
- Hillcrest Recreation Center
- Lamond Recreation Center
- North Michigan Park Recreation Center
- Palisades Community Center
- Raymond Recreation Center
- Ridge Road Recreation Center
- Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center
- Sherwood Recreation Center
- Trinidad Recreation Center
- Woody Ward Recreation Center

**Monday through Friday 12:00pm to 8:00pm.**

- Arboretum Community Center
- Douglass Community Center
- Fort Davis Recreation Center
- Fort Stevens Recreation Center
- Friendship Recreation Center
- Hamilton Recreation Center
- Hardy Recreation Center
- Harrison Recreation Center
- Harry Thomas Recreation Center
- Hearst Recreation Center
- Joe Cole Community Center

- Kalorama Recreation Center
- Lafayette-Pointer Recreation Center
- Maccomb Recreation Center
- Marie Reed Recreation Center
- Marvin Gaye Recreation Center
- New York Avenue Recreation Center
- Parkview Recreation Center
- Petworth Recreation Center
- Stoddert Recreation Center
- Takoma Community Center
- Upshur Recreation Center

**Monday through Friday 8:00am to 8:00pm**

- Brentwood Recreation Center
- Guy Mason Community Center

**Monday through Friday 12:00pm to 8:00pm, Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm**

- King-Greenleaf Recreation Center

**Monday to Friday 12:00pm to 8:00pm, Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm**

- Shepherd Park Community Center

**Monday through Friday 8:00am to 6:30pm**

- Randall Recreation Center

**DPR Pools**

**Monday through Friday 6:00am to 9:00pm, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am to 5:00pm**

- Wilson Aquatic Center – OFFLINE
- Takoma Aquatic Center
- Barry Farm Aquatic Center
- Deanwood Aquatic Center

**Monday through Friday 6:00am to 9:00pm, Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm**

- Turkey Thicket Aquatic Center
- Rumsey Aquatic Center
- Marie Reed Aquatic Center
  - Note: Closed to the public 8:30am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday for DCPS programming.

**Monday through Friday 12:00pm to 8:00pm**

- Ferebee-Hope Aquatic Center

**DCPS Pools**

**Open to the public Monday through Friday 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM; Closed to the public for DCPS Programming Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.**

- Roosevelt
- Dunbar
- Ballou (Coming Soon)

**Closed to the public; Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM DCPS Programming**

- Cardozo
- HD Woodson

53. Have DPR’s hours of operation changed significantly in FY23 or FY24 to date?

In FY23, the Bowser administration and DPR are expanding hours at DPR recreation centers for residents of all ages but especially for teens. The expansion of operating hours begins on March 27, 2023, with eight high-demand recreation facilities opening 15 hours every weekday and eventually expanding hours to a total of 45 recreation centers by April 24, 2023. The expansion of hours addresses a growing desire among teens to be more interested in leisure usage of DPR’s gyms, fitness centers, eGaming lounges, etc. DPR will limit programming and permits during the expanded hours to ensure availability of these highly utilized recreation assets for teens.

**Eight Recreation Centers Expanding Hours on Monday, March 27, 2023:**

Weekday hours will expand from eight hours to 15 hours and Saturday hours will double from four hours to eight hours. The old weekday operating hours were 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; the new weekday hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The old Saturday hours were 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; the new Saturday hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In April, an additional 37 recreation centers will expand to varying operating hours.

|                        | <b>Old Hours*</b>      | <b>New Hours</b>      | <b>Daily Operating Hours Change</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday - Friday</b> | 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. | 8 → 15 hours per day                |
| <b>Saturday</b>        | 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  | 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | 4 → 8 hours per day                 |

The first eight recreation centers to begin expanded hours on Monday, March 27, 2023:

- Columbia Heights Community Center (1480 Girard Street NW)
- Emery Heights Community Center (5701 Georgia Avenue NW)
- Turkey Thicket Recreation Center (1100 Michigan Avenue NE)
- Edgewood Recreation Center (301 Franklin Street NE)
- Deanwood Community Center (1350 49th Street NE)
- Kenilworth Recreation Center (4321 Ord Street NE)
- Rosedale Recreation Center (1701 Gales Street NE)
- Barry Farm Recreation Center (1230 Sumner Road SE)

**22 Additional Recreation Centers Expand Hours on Monday, April 10, 2023:**

Next, on Monday, April 10, DPR will launch the expansion of hours at 22 additional locations, including 18 locations expanding to eight hours on Saturdays.

|                        | <b>Old Hours*</b>                 | <b>New Hours</b>      | <b>Daily Operating Hours Change</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday - Friday</b> | 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.            | 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. | 8 → 12 hours per day                |
| <b>Saturday</b>        | 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.<br>/ Closed | 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | 4 → 8 hours per day                 |

*\*Hours may vary at some sites*

As of Monday, April 10, 2023, these 18 centers operate from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturdays:

- Hillcrest Recreation Center (3100 Denver Street SE)
- Ferebee Hope Recreation Center (700 Yuma Street SE)
- Fort Davis Community Center (1400 41st Street SE))
- Woody Ward Community Center (5100 Southern Ave SE)
- Benning Stoddert Community Center (100 Stoddert Place SE))
- Sherwood Recreation Center (640 10th Street NE)
- Trinidad Recreation Center (1310 Childress Street NE)
- Palisades Community Center (5200 Sherrier Place NW)
- Chevy Chase Community Center (5601 Connecticut Avenue NW)
- Raymond Recreation Center (3725 10th Street NW)
- North Michigan Park Recreation Center (1333 Emerson Street NE)
- Lamond Recreation Center (20 Tuckerman Street NE)
- King-Greenleaf Recreation Center (201 N Street SW)
- Riggs-LaSalle Recreation Center (501 Riggs Road NE)
- Arthur Capper Community Center (1000 5th Street SE)
- Ridge Road Community Center (830 Ridge Road SE)
- Fort Stanton Recreation Center (1812 Erie Street SE)
- Bald Eagle Recreation Center (100 Joliet Street SW)

As of Monday, April 10, 2023, these four centers operate from 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturdays:

- Shepherd Park Community Center (7800 14th Street NW)
- Marvin Gaye Recreation Center (15 61st Street NE)
- Guy Mason Recreation Center (3600 Calvert Street NW)
- Arboretum Community Center (2412 Rand Place NE)

**15 Additional Recreation Centers Expand Hours on Monday, April 24, 2023:**

Finally, on Monday, April 24, 2023, DPR expanded hours at 15 additional locations to operate 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Monday – Friday:

- Joseph H. Cole Recreation Center (1299 Neal Street NE)
- Hearst Recreation Center (3950 37th Street NW)
- Hardy Recreation Center (4500 Q Street NW)

- Upshur Recreation Center (4300 Arkansas Avenue NW)
- Park View Community Center (693 Otis Place NW)
- Petworth Recreation Center (801 Taylor Street NW)
- Douglass Community Center (1921 Frederick Douglass Court SE)
- Brentwood Recreation Center (2311 14th Street NE)
- Harry Thomas Recreation Center (1743 Lincoln Road NE)
- Friendship Recreation Center (4500 Van Ness Street NW)
- Lafayette-Pointer Recreation Center (5900 33rd Street NW)
- New York Avenue Recreation Center (100 N Street NW)
- Takoma Community Center (300 Van Buren Street NW)
- Glover Park Community Center (4001 Calvert Street NW)
- Marie Reed Recreation (2200 Champlain Street NW)

54. In FY23 and FY24 to date, how many times have DPR facilities, including swimming pools, opened late or closed? Please break down by facility and provide the length of each delay and why it occurred.

Please see the following:

[Attachment 54A. CR Closures and Delays.pdf](#)

[Attachment 54B. AQ Closures and Delays.pdf](#)

55. Please provide a list of DPR programming and attendance in FY23 and FY24 to date broken down by Ward, facility, gender, and age group.

Please see [Attachment 55. DPR Programming & Attendance FY23 to 12.31.23.pdf](#).

56. Please describe how DPR determines its recreation programming offerings across its facilities and how DPR identifies gaps in programming.

During the initial design of facilities, DPR hosts several community meetings to gauge a sense of what programs they would like to see in the facility during design. Each facility is tailored to meet recreational demands through community input. DPR also utilizes the expertise of the program and recreation center managers to determine what programs can be best utilized at facilities based on daily usage and community requests. In addition, DPR has developed an external affairs team that is solely dedicated to community outreach and information sharing. This team attends neighborhood commission meetings, and community events, and routinely canvases communities to engage residents on programmatic gaps.

DPR has 8 core program areas:

- Seniors Services
- Sports, Health, and Fitness
- Youth Development
- Environment and The Great Outdoors
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Kids, Camps, and Cooperative Play

- The Arts and,
- Social Recreation

DPR's program division aims to provide each core program area.

57. Please describe how and when DPR would make the determination to cancel or discontinue a DPR program. Please provide a list of programs that were cancelled discontinued in FY22 and FY23 to date.

DPR's program threshold is to cancel any program(s) that have not met the minimum enrollment requirement by the third week of the open registration or launch date. This standard ensures that the agency makes the best use of its resources and reallocates them to other facilities, if possible. Programs can make adjustments as needed or required to ensure continued operations and community needs.

Additionally, DPR may cancel or discontinue a program if a partner, volunteer, or contractor can no longer provide the services. DPR attempts to ensure that programs maintain existence through various marketing and promotion avenues such as social media, community meetings, radio ads, and diverse social networks.

Please see the following attachment for a list of programs that were canceled or discontinued in FY23 and FY24 to date.

Please see [Attachment 57. Canceled Classes.pdf](#).

58. How does DPR gain input from youth on the program offerings they would like to see and how does DPR use this information?

DPR continues to run an active teen division that proactively engages with youth through a continuous, informal feedback loop. DPR youth programs participate in Learn24, a network of afterschool and summer opportunities supported by Mayor Bowser to ensure children and youth in the District have access to quality educational and enrichment opportunities beyond the school day. DPR increases its daily and continuous feedback by partnering with the Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute, High School Internship Program, and Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program, where DPR serves over 900 youth for six weeks to gain feedback and information from youth, including a formal youth summit.

59. In FY23 and FY24 to-date, how has DPR served the recreation needs of seniors across all eight wards?

DPR has ensured recreation and leisure activities, supporting mental, physical, social, and emotional health and well-being, are available and equitable in all eight Wards for residents and visitors ages 55+. In FY23, DPR connected with new participants by expanding Senior Day programs and operations at Guy Mason and Palisades (Ward 3), Brentwood (Ward 5), and Hillcrest (Ward 7). DPR has existing Senior Day operations at Ferebee Hope (Ward

8), Turkey Thicket (Ward 5), Harry Thomas (Ward 5) while Kennedy (Ward 2) is offline, Woody Ward (Ward 7), Marvin Gaye (Ward 7), Fort Stanton (Ward 8), Riggs-LaSalle (Ward 4), Deanwood (Ward 7), Emery Heights (Ward 4), Chevy Chase (Ward 3), Lamond (Ward 4), Arthur Capper (Ward 6), Bald Eagle (Ward 8), Ridge Road (Ward 7), Fort Stevens Senior Center (Ward 4), King Greenleaf (Ward 6), North Michigan Park (Ward 5), Edgewood (Ward 5), and Columbia Heights (Ward 1). Our expansion includes continued partnerships established with external agencies such as East of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative (ERFSC), whose work includes Senior Day Friendship Cafe programs at Arthur Capper (Ward 6) and Kenilworth (Ward 7). These partnerships have helped increase participation by hundreds at the Senior Spa Day events hosted at Fort Stanton Recreation Center (Ward 8). This special event provides free pampering, lunch, and beneficial resources for seniors. After the break in service from the pandemic, we partnered with Terrific Inc., which has now transitioned to Genevieve N. Johnson, to increase the number of meals provided at the Lamond Recreation Center (Ward 4) and Fort Stevens Senior Center (Ward 4) Senior Day programs based on the increased participation at these locations. This partner is actively working with DPR to expand their operations to serve additional seniors in Ward 4 at the actively growing population at Emery Heights and Riggs-LaSalle. The Senior Day Meal program at New York Ave Recreation Center (Ward 5) continues to operate with our partnership with Seabury Resources.

In 2023, DPR's Senior Luncheon Cruise sold out within hours. DPR also offered a second, free generational end-of-the-summer cruise in September 2023 with our Roving Leaders Division for bonding and dancing. DPR's Senior Fun Camp at Camp Riverview served 80 residents, providing a 3-day, 2-night getaway. The Early Bird Drip Pool Parties, a spin-off of DPR's youth engagement Late Night Drip, at Theodore Hagens in July and Fort Stanton in August 2023, had full registrations that will lead us to add a third location in summer 2024. Lastly, our quarterly line dance socials and hand dance parties ultimately led to our first-ever Senior Prom. This event maxed out registration within a few days of posting for 300 people.

60. Please provide an update on DPR's Communal Farm Program. How do District residents benefit from the program?

DPR's Communal Farms are urban agricultural sites organized as communal production spaces managed by DPR staff, community volunteers, and local organizations. There are currently four DPR Communal Farms: Lederer Gardens, Edgewood Rooftop Farm, 16th Street Communal Farm, and Woody Ward Communal Farm.

The essential purpose of these sites is to provide space as food hubs, a source of workforce development, hands-on educational opportunities, crop management, integrated pest control, food production, and food distribution. The farms address food insecurity through weekly engagements, vegetable giveaways, and demonstrations.

DPR's Park and Environmental Division continues to address the concern of identifying greenspaces to promote more urban agricultural opportunities for the District of Columbia's residents.



In the 2023 growing season, DPR Communal Farms grew and partnered with Capital Area Food Bank to give away over 10,000 pounds of produce to communities in need. DPR distributed food through 132 produce giveaways four times a week (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays) from May to December. This partnership has created exposure opportunities for residents and volunteers to be introduced to career pathways within the agriculture industry. For example, during Black Environmentalist Month, DPR provides participants with engagement opportunities to obtain information from employers. Additionally, in FY23 the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce came to the Black Environmentalist Month Conference to share information about higher education and career opportunities for workforce development along with the University of the District of Columbia and DC Public Libraries. Residents also had the chance to participate in 60 program enhancements, including gardening workshops, food demonstrations, floral arranging, mushroom foraging, beekeeping, honey extraction, and herbal medicine making, allowing hundreds of participants to benefit from the communal farm program.

61. How is DPR promoting and growing urban agriculture in the District? How many new community gardens did DPR open in FY23 and FY24 to date? How does DPR work with District agency partners to expand urban agriculture opportunities?

DPR promotes and grows urban agriculture in the District by strengthening outreach, effectively targeting demographics that are underrepresented in urban agriculture. Through programs such as the DC Youth Environmental Summit, for example, nearly 300 Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) high school students gathered for the sixth-annual Summit with 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>-grade peers from five different schools to grow food, perform waterway restoration and forestry on a farm in Southeast, Washington, DC (The Well in Ward 8). With workforce development as a core value, students engaged with over 20 federal and local government agencies, universities, and organizations for full-ride scholarship opportunities and career resources and to build primary professional skills, from mock interviews and resume workshops to learning how to tie a tie for the first time.

DPR also continues to manage and build community gardens throughout the District, further promoting and growing urban agriculture. DPR has 33 community gardens, hosting over 1,000 gardeners, and provides resources and knowledge free of cost at each site. DPR's Communal Farm Program and our seven partner farms offer instruction and education to community gardens. These farms provide land use to nonprofits to operate sites as production farms, education farms, and youth gardens.

In 2023, DPR began community meetings to discuss the implementation of DPR's first Nature Center at Fort Greble and the reconstruction of the Kenilworth Recreation Center and Community Garden at Kenilworth Park. DPR also expanded programs and personnel in FY23 to expose residents to new recreational environmental skills such as kayaking, senior walks, trail maintenance, and more.

Urban Agriculture supports programs that add value to the landscape. Currently, DPR offers five ongoing programs to support residents, as described below:

1. DPR Garden Tool Share – enables residents to check out an array of garden tools and equipment from Twin Oaks and Lederer Gardens.
2. DPR Greenhouse Cooperative – a pipeline program for non-profits and school/youth gardens that produces seedlings in 4 DPR greenhouses (Lederer Gardens, Twin Oaks, Ft. Lincoln, and Arboretum).
3. DPR Compost Cooperative Network – provides 40 self-sufficient compost cooperatives across the District, granting residents an opportunity to compost their food scraps in critter-proof and smell-proof, three-system compost bins.
4. DPR Urban Grower Certificate Course – certification courses are offered to residents and provide both in-person and recorded classes to hundreds of residents annually.
5. DPR Urban Beekeeper Program – hosts dozens of personal and communal beekeepers across eight beekeeping sites. In 2023, the communal beehive produced and gave away over 200 pounds of honey during DPR’s Communal Farm weekly veggie giveaways.

DPR is part of several interagency working groups that work on District-wide policies and initiatives around urban agriculture, including the Urban Ag Sister Agency working group led by the Department of Energy and Environment’s (DOEE’s) Office of Urban Agriculture, and the Interagency Waste Division working group led by the Department of Public Works (DPW). DPR is also partnering with the District Department of Transportation’s (DDOT) Urban Forestry Division to install food forests around the city. DPR has begun the installation of a food forest in Marvin Gaye Park at Lederer Gardens in the Spring of 2023. DPR effectively works with the Department of General Services (DGS) to coordinate the maintenance of 44 DPR urban agriculture sites in DC. Finally, DPR works with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) on the Shared Roots Program, matching people looking for a garden space (many from our community garden waiting lists) to places needing gardeners, like unused school gardens in the summer. In FY23, we created a partnership with Ward 8 Health Council.

62. How has DPR incorporated food distribution into its urban agriculture program?

DPR Communal Farms are urban agricultural sites organized as communal production farms managed by DPR staff and community volunteers to provide various ways for community members to receive free food, volunteer, and participate in hands-on educational opportunities. By 2023, DPR expanded its Communal Farms from three to four and increased the number of produce giveaway days to nearly 150 veggie giveaways collectively, now four times per week, from May to December. The four sites communally grew and gave away almost 10,000 lbs. of produce grown directly at DPR Communal Farms to hundreds of primarily food-insecure seniors who live in our community.

In FY23, DPR has successfully met its goal to partner with Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) to provide 10,000 lbs produce grown throughout the mid-Atlantic region,

nonperishable and perishable food boxes, and even turkeys during the holidays, at the weekly giveaways. Produce is delivered to Lederer Gardens monthly and then distributed alongside produce harvested locally at Communal Farm sites to District residents at all Communal Farm Sites, as well as delivered to nearly a dozen DPR recreation centers, including but not limited to sites in food insecure neighborhoods such as Deanwood, Kenilworth, Ferebee Hope, Woody Ward, Marvin Gaye and more.

Through program enhancements, DPR also introduced a hand delivery service of over 300 pounds of fresh produce harvested at DPR Community Gardens and Communal Farms to seniors at DPR recreation centers throughout the Spring, Summer, and Fall seasons.

63. How has DPR utilized its Camp Riverview facility to expand environmental learning opportunities for District residents?

In FY23, DPR expanded its gardening programming at Camp Riverview by adding six planters and doubling participation in our day-long and overnight visits for youth and senior campers. DPR has utilized our Camp Riverview facility to expand environmental learning opportunities for District residents for our intergenerational populations with offerings such as:

- Kayaking
- Biking
- Nature Trail Walks
- Nature Scavenger Hunts
- Reptile Workshops
- Birds of Prey Workshops
- Crabbing Classes
- Deep Sea Charter Boat Fishing

64. How many meals did DPR serve in FY23 as part of the Summer Food Service Program? How does that compare with the number of meals served in FY22? How many sites did DPR sponsor as part of the program?

In FY23 DPR served 222,338 meals as part of the Summer Food Service Program. This is an increase of 9,460 meals as compared to the 212,878 meals served through the program in FY22. IN FY23, DPR sponsored 85 sites as part of the Summer Food Service Program.

65. How does DPR work with its food vendor to ensure that the food tastes good and is high quality? Does DPR do any child satisfaction surveys related to the food served through the Summer Food Service Program?

DPR works with the food vendor daily to ensure high-quality meals are being provided consistently and that all menu meal options follow the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) meal pattern requirements. DPR requires the food vendor to hold food-tasting events at various DPR recreation centers before the Summer Meals Program starts. The target audiences are children, parents, and caregivers. During these tasting events, satisfaction surveys and interaction with the children, asking them questions to obtain real-

time responses and candid feedback. These results are collected and provided to the vendor to help inform menu planning.

Child satisfaction surveys from DPR's food-tasting events offer strategic feedback to inform the vendor's menu planning prior to the start of the summer food service program. Also, throughout the Summer Meals program, we request feedback from children/camp participants and DPR employees when the monitors conduct daily site visits and at special events.

66. What challenges do children face in accessing the Summer Food Service Program, and how could DPR's program be improved to reach more children?

DPR received feedback from community-based organizations that children and parents faced challenges accessing meals at some Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) site locations due to high crime activity events in certain areas. Parents did not feel safe allowing their children to go outside to visit recreation centers during the summer months due to the ongoing violence in their communities. DPR strives to foster a safe environment at all facilities. DPR provides a comprehensive approach to addressing violence through positive youth engagement programs for the youth in the community throughout the summer. Furthermore, DPR utilizes strategic partnerships with DC Central Kitchen to provide mobile meals at five outdoor pool locations throughout the summer, Monday-Saturday, to increase the accessibility of meal sites and participation so that children can more easily obtain meals. In addition, a partnership with the DC Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) and DC Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (DC SNAP-ED) programs provides nutrition education at various DPR Summer Camps to ensure healthy eating habits and awareness.

67. How many children and meals were served at DPR facilities in FY23 and FY24 to date as part of the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program?

In FY23, for the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program, 27,590 meals were served, and 26,497 children participated as part of DPR's afterschool programs at 24 sites. To date, in FY24, 7,331 meals have been served for the Child and Adult Care Food Program for At-Risk Afterschool Meals programs, with 6,501 children participating in DPR's afterschool programs at 29 sites.

68. How many DPR locations participate in the program?

For the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program, 24 sites participated in FY23, and 29 sites are currently actively participating in FY24.

69. Of the meals served through this Program, how many are hot meals, and how many are ready-to-eat snacks (i.e., granola bars)?

For FY23 and FY24, all meals provided for DPR's Afterschool Meals Program are ready-to-eat Supper and Snack meals following the US Department of Agriculture Child and

Adult Care Food Program (USDA CACFP) meal pattern guidelines. In FY23 and FY24, all participating DPR sites did not have the electrical infrastructure to support warming station equipment to serve hot meals at the correct temperatures per DC Health code requirements.

70. How many children participate in afterschool programs at DPR facilities and do not receive meals through the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program?

In FY23, for the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program, 26,497 children participated in DPR's Afterschool programs at 24 sites. Of these, 498 children declined meals that were available. In FY24, for the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program, 7,331 meals were served to 6,501 children participating in DPR's Afterschool programs at 29 sites, and 33 children declined a meal. They brought their own food.

71. Did the agency participate in any ethics training in FY23 and FY24 to date?

From December 1-8, 2023, DPR's Office of the General Counsel/Ethics Officer delivered a mandatory 90-minute ethics training to all DPR staff. In addition, as DPR onboards new employees and managers, they will receive ethics training from the Office of the General Counsel/Ethics Officer during the agency's monthly orientation for new employees. Confidential and Public filers completed mandatory annual Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA) training, and any additional training that they willingly participated in through BEGA or Percipio.

72. Please provide a list of types and dates of training/information sessions the agency has planned for FY24.

Please see [Attachment 72. FY24 Training Plan.pdf](#).

73. Please describe DPR's process for Summer Camp registration. How does DPR promote equity through this process?

DPR Camp Lottery is a random lottery system used for DPR summer camp registration for DC Residents. DPR introduced the lottery system in 2023 to create a more fair and equitable system to allocate its limited number of camp slots.

Before 2023, DPR used a first-come, first-served online registration that struggled to meet the growing demand for summer camps. With caregivers all having to be online at once, the online registration system was overwhelmed, and camp slots would sell out within minutes. Many families found the previous registration process frustrating and unfair to those with limited access to technology, English as a second language, or those who could not be online when registration opened.

The new DPR Camp Lottery is designed to:

- Create a more equitable and fair process.
- Simplify and streamline the process for families to select camps.

- Provide adequate time for families and caregivers to consider and rank all the camp options and locations.
- Allow siblings to link registrations for families that need that accommodation.

Customers have two weeks to make their camp selections. After the lottery registration window has closed, the registration system will randomly select participants from those who have registered. Customers will register for up to 3 choices of camp types and locations per child per camp session. There are four camp sessions. After the lottery closes, DPR rosters for each camp will be randomly selected from those who have registered. Camp slots are randomly selected entirely through our Recreational Management Software System, RECTRAC.

Customers will receive their lottery results shortly after the Lottery Registration closes. Once lottery results are run, customers will receive an email and an “enrollment offer” if selected. Customers will sign in and then “Accept” or “Reject” the offers given. As a customer accepts an offer for placement, payment is due, the child is enrolled into the camp, and a receipt for that enrollment is emailed to the customer. If the customer rejects a camp slot, the intended slot will be offered to those on the waitlist who were not initially offered a slot at that particular camp.

DPR will employ a system to facilitate siblings attending camp to accommodate parents’ schedules for further convenience to our customers. Linking choices for siblings will be a choice for parents as a part of the Lottery Enrollment process.

DPR also offers a Reduced Rate program for residents who qualify. The application for 2024 opened in December of 2023.

### **Camp Dates 2023**

- Session 1: June 26 - July 7, 2023 (All camps are closed for July 4)
- Session 2: July 10 - July 21, 2023
- Session 3: July 24 - August 4, 2023
- Session 4: August 7 - August 18, 2023

74. The Broadcast Journalism program at Deanwood Recreation Center has received much acclaim for its work. Can you detail the results from the program thus far since its inception and for FY24 to date? Does DPR plan to utilize a similar template for any other teen programs?

Please find below a list of highlights and accomplishments of the Deanwood Youth Radio Broadcast Program over the past year.

- Deanwood students participated in the NPR WAMU “Lift Every Voice” Black History Month program. Eight students recorded 1:30 min segments to highlight the stories of changemakers in Black history. These segments played on all NPR WAMU stations throughout the month of February 2023. <https://wamu.org/story/23/02/01/lift-every-voice/>

- Deanwood students participated in the three-part NBC series called “Gun Violence: A Call to Action” during which the young people offered solutions to the challenges issues that DC teens currently face.  
<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/dc-gun-violence/dc-teens-on-gun-violence-gun-violence-has-definitely-deprived-me-of-my-youth/3472976/>
- The Deanwood Radio Broadcasting program was featured in the international government news publication Voice of America in which the story focuses on the journey of two of the Deanwood students and benefits they gained from participating in the program. the results of them being in our program.  
<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/media-program-helps-young-people-in-washington-dc/7366844.html>
- The Washington Post highlights how the program benefited participant Jordan Williams, building his communications and research skills. When Jordan had the opportunity to interview Magic Johnson, he was so impressive that Magic Johnson offered to pay his entire college tuition on the spot. In addition to Jordan, the program has sent 38 students to college and of those 23 received full scholarships.  
<https://wapo.st/45G7X26>
- Deanwood student Jordan Williams and the Deanwood program was highlighted on news channel 4 after he was given a full scholarship from Magic Johnson on a spot because of his high-level skill of journalism and asking, precise, skillfully crafted questions during an interview.  
<https://nbcwashington.app.link/uET8OA9fhDb>
- Sixteen program participants were invited to participate in a week-long sports management communication training by the Howard University Sports Management Department. During the training, students visited multiple sites to observe the day-to-day operations and the work of communications staff at local sports organizations such as the Washington Wizards headquarters, the Washington Mystics headquarters, DC Convention Center, and the Washington Nationals Stadium.

DPR is exploring ways to incorporate additional audio-visual and recording technology programming across its sites, including the Kennedy Recreation Center, which is presently undergoing modernization.

75. Please provide an update on the capital projects under DPR, including the projects that received funding in FY24, such as Fort Greble Recreation Center and Malcolm X Recreation Center at Bard.

Please see [Attachment 50. DPR Capital Projects by Status.pdf](#) for an update on all current active capital improvement projects, including Fort Greble. Please note that DPR is not yet tracking the progress of projects where funding becomes available in later fiscal years, such as the Malcom X Recreation Center at Bard, which is funded in FY25 and FY26.

76. Please provide a detailed response on DPR’s lifeguard procedures, including:

- a. Which credentials are required to become a lifeguard or aquatic employee, and are there any performance test requirements?

Lifeguards are required to have an Ellis & Associates lifeguard license as well as a Department of Health Certified Pool Operation license. The lifeguard license is maintained through eight hours of training a month as well as an annual renewal. The pool operator license is renewed every three years through recertification via course completion, passing an exam, and applying to the Department of Health.

Individuals desiring to become pool and spa operators shall attend a training course approved by the Department of Health.

- b. Have all pools met the safety requirements required to be open for visitors and staff?

The Department of Health certifies Basic Business Licenses for all DPR pools every two years stating that each pool has met the safety requirements required to be open for visitors and staff.

- c. What is the adequate number of lifeguards and DPR staff necessary for a pool to be open to the public?

As specified in the 2017- 25C DCMR-DC Swimming Pool, Spa, and Saunas regulations, there shall be a minimum of one lifeguard capable of observing the swimming pool on duty for every 50 bathers permitted in the water. A pool and spa operator shall be on duty during all hours the aquatic facility is open to the public. DPR ensures that an individual functioning as both a lifeguard and pool and spa operator is in compliance with the requirements identified in the 2017- 25C DCMR-DC Swimming Pool, Spa and Saunas regulations.

In addition, when staffing lifeguards at pools, the aquatic facility's staffing plans shall include diagrammed zones of patron surveillance that:

- (a) Ensures qualified lifeguards are capable of viewing the entire area of the assigned zone of patron surveillance;
- (b) Ensures qualified lifeguards are able to reach the furthest extent of the assigned zone of patron surveillance within 20 seconds;
- (c) Identifies whether qualified lifeguards are in an elevated stand, walking, in-water, and/or other approved position;
- (d) Identifies any additional responsibilities for each zone;
- (e) All areas of an aquatic facility are assigned a zone of patron surveillance; and
- (f) Lifeguard zones of patron surveillance are required in aquatic facility plans submitted for review.

Pool management shall increase the number of lifeguards based on the number of bathers in the swimming pool.



- d. Is there a plan to ensure that pools are not open unless there is an adequate number of lifeguards and DPR staff available?

If there is not an adequate number of lifeguards and DPR staff available to open a facility in its entirety, staff shall follow the Aquatics Division's "shrink the pool" policy, restricting amenities and special attractions, and allowing guests access to the main portion of the pool as defined by the zones of patron surveillance. Programming shall be canceled if there is not an adequate number of lifeguards and DPR staff available but there are enough staff as defined by the Department of Health to open the facility. If there are not enough lifeguards and DPR staff available to open the pool, staff shall communicate that through the chain of command, and support will be arranged to provide adequate staff. Leadership will be alerted of any operational disruptions. DPR will not open a pool unless there is the necessary staffing on-site.

77. How does the agency assess whether programs and services are equitably accessible to all District residents?

- a. What were the results of any such assessments in FY23?
- b. What changes did the agency make in FY23 and FY24, to date, or does the agency plan to make in FY24 and beyond, to address identified inequities in access to programs and services?
- c. Does the agency have the resources needed to undertake these assessments? What would be needed for the agency to more effectively identify and address inequities in access to agency programs and services?

DPR ensures programs and services are equitable and accessible through continuous review of data via our RecTrac system, surveying, and feedback sessions. For example, summer camp data shows that we are increasing access. Between Summer 2022 and Summer 2023, the number of families and individual children served and enrolled in camp increased. The number of families receiving reduced rate discounts on program registration grew by 184%, dramatically expanding the number of families receiving discounts. In addition, DPR saw families receiving reduced rates increase their participation in DPR's programs overall.

In FY24, DPR will conduct an internal program evaluation to help the agency identify potential inequities and opportunities to further support access to programs and services.

DPR continues to evaluate and identify opportunities to further address agency needs and support. DPR works with its partner agencies, partner organizations, and stakeholders throughout its assessments to provide equitable solutions for all.

78. Does the agency have a racial or social equity statement or policy?
  - a. If not, please explain why not.

- b. If so:
- I. Please provide a copy of that document or policy statement.
  - II. How was the policy formulated?
  - III. How is the policy used to inform agency decision-making?
  - IV. Does the agency have a division or dedicated staff that administer and enforce this policy?
  - V. Does the agency assess its compliance with this policy? If so, how, and what were the results of the most recent assessment?

Yes, Ready2Play includes both an Equity Statement and an Equity Framework to guide DPR's future decision-making and budget decisions. DPR's Equity Statement, as adopted in Ready2Play is as follows:

“The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is committed to providing all people in the District of Columbia, regardless of their race, ethnicity, language proficiency, financial status, abilities, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or age, the highest quality of recreational amenities, programs, and access to parks and healthy nature across the District.

In practice, Park Equity means tailoring and targeting interventions and engagement to address and redress the injustices experienced by various communities and populations caused by institutional racism, disinvestment, and lack of representation. Pursuing equity is both a process and an outcome. It must focus on meeting people where they are and working alongside them to ensure they have the access, resources, and opportunities needed for a healthier, enjoyable, and more resilient lifestyle.

To this aim, every community and individual in DC shall:

- Have access to parks, recreation centers, aquatic facilities, and other recreational amenities of the highest quality and design excellence across the city.
- Be able to easily receive services and access the operational systems of DPR to utilize the park system.
- Be engaged and be heard in park planning, design, and programmatic decisions.
- Be empowered to advocate for parks in one's neighborhood.
- Have access to high-quality programming that meets the needs and desires of the population served.
- Have access to facilities, landscapes, and natural areas properly maintained.
- Feel safe, comfortable, and welcome at all parks in all neighborhoods.
- Be able to receive language assistance services at all DPR facilities, programs, and events.

DPR as an agency commits to being transparent and accountable for how decisions are made. DPR also commits to being representative of the populations it serves and will promote equity training to staff.”

The Equity Statement and Framework were developed as part of the Ready2Play engagement process to guide the plan's recommendations. DPR planners researched

similar equity statements from other District agencies as well as national examples. The draft policy statement was shared publicly for comments. It was also shared with the Mayor's Office of Racial Equity for feedback. The Equity Statement is part of the broader Equity Framework which was used throughout Ready2Play to inform the plan's recommendations. The Equity Framework takes into account a multitude of factors, including a socio-demographic equity index to develop an overall score that can be applied across sites to help prioritize improvements to certain sites or proactive maintenance audits and attention.

DPR's planners will continue to track the equity framework and make adjustments as needed. As new data becomes available, DPR will update Equity index scores. At the same time that Ready2Play was in development, DPR's Office of the Director participated in a workgroup, through the Mayor's Office of Racial Equity to develop an equity strategy for the agency. While this was a separate initiative from DPR's Ready2Play plan, DPR staff involved with this equity strategy, coordinated regularly with DPR's planners to ensure that the strategy was aligned with the policies and goals of Ready2Play.

Given that Ready2Play was adopted and officially released in December 2023, implementation of the policy has not been in place long enough to perform an assessment of compliance. DPR's planners will report regularly on the progress of Ready2Play's recommendations through an online dashboard. As part of this tracking the data that feeds the Equity Index and Framework will be updated annually and compliance to the policy will be tracked through this reporting. DPR's leadership will use this information to inform decision making to help ensure equitable access to recreational services and programs across all eight wards.

79. How has DPR utilized, or plans to utilize, FY24 funds for repair and maintenance of fountains and splash pads? What locations are targeted for maintenance, and what is the budget per-location?

DPR, in collaboration with DGS, has pinpointed several splash pad locations requiring significant capital investment and renovation to ensure their continued operation. Note that each site will require approximately \$625,000, which is in line with our budget of \$5 million for the blitz of these locations:

- At Takoma Community Center, the pad surface is deteriorating, potentially necessitating upgrades to pumps and filters. While the vault was replaced last summer, there's a need for a new wet deck, as well as some features and equipment within the vault.
- Lafayette-Pointer Park currently has a small and basic pad with only one large feature. Upgrading is desirable, requiring a new controller to enable individual feature activation for enhanced user experience.
- Fort Stevens Recreation Center requires a complete overhaul of its spray park. The existing setup comprises eight or nine ground sprays on a turf triangle, which

appears inadequate. Expanding the pad size and installing a new controller are essential.

- 14th Street and Park Splash Park faces recurrent electrical issues, with ground sprays malfunctioning and tile mosaics in need of repair. This site is a priority for CM Nadeau for summer, necessitating reconstruction of electronics and deck repairs.
- Watkins Recreation Center suffers from electrical and drainage issues, with vaults experiencing water intrusion problems. Electrical system upgrades are imperative.
- King Greenleaf is currently undergoing assessment for necessary improvements.
- Westminster Splash Park resembles Lafayette-Pointer in its simplicity, requiring potential upgrades to electrical and plumbing systems, as well as consideration for new features, pending community interest in a major upgrade.
- Hillcrest Splash Pad the pad surface is deteriorating, potentially necessitating upgrades to pumps and filters.

80. Is DPR currently pursuing or planning to pursue new cooperative maintenance agreements or other partnerships with the National Park Service? What is the process for deciding on locations for NPS partnerships and the process for entering into an agreement?  
Please see the response to question 81.

81. How does DPR plan to work with the National Park Service and other federal partners like the Department of Defense to negotiate cooperative maintenance agreements or park acquisitions as outlined in the new Ready2Play Master Plan? Are there identified partnership sites DPR intends to pursue first?

DPR met with the National Park Service (NPS) at the outset of the Ready2Play plan to inform them that the plan would be proposing recommendations for potential Collaborative Management Agreements (CMAs) and Transfer of Jurisdiction (TOJs). NPS was very receptive to this proposal and was involved in various interagency conversations throughout the duration of the planning process. There are a number of TOJ discussions that are already underway with NPS regarding specific capital projects that are funded. DPR and NPS previously discussed meeting to determine if there could be a number of TOJs or CMAs packaged together, potentially for smaller parks or parks within the same NPS unit or superintendent. Ready2Play has a number of sites that are recommended for TOJs, but the plan did not assess every single federal site and, in particular, did not do a comprehensive assessment of smaller federal park sites. Given that DPR has received various requests from residents, ANCs and Councilmembers regarding the one-off transfers of small federal parks, DPR plans to undertake a detailed assessment of small federal parklands over the next year to develop a strategic approach to which of these smaller spaces make sense for the District to potentially pursue a TOJ or CMA on and to study what the potential capital and ongoing operating impact of pursuing these transfers

may be. This study will inform future conversations with NPS about packaging small parks for transfer, potentially similar to how a number of small parks were transferred under Home Rule in 1972.

Final sites identified in Ready2Play as potential sites for TOJs/CMAs with federal agencies:

- 5th and I Street NW
- Anacostia Recreation Center Grounds
- Armed Forces Retirement Home (western grounds)\*\*
- Brown EC/Langston Courts
- Buzzard Point Park
- Carter Barron Amphitheater
- Chinatown Park
- Downtown DC small parks\*
- Farragut Park
- Fort Bayard Park
- Fort Circle Park (Monroe and Eastern)
- Fort Circle Park on South Dakota
- Fort Dupont Activity Center and Concert Stage Fort Dupont (Lanham Estates)
- Fort Dupont Playground
- Fort Mahan Park
- Fort McNair (trail easement)\*\*
- Fort Reno Park
- Fort Slocum Park
- Fort Totten Park
- Francis Courts
- Kenilworth Park North
- Malcolm X and MLK (part of Shepherd Parkway)
- Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park
- Mule Yard (C & O Canal)
- Oxon Cove
- Poplar Point
- Playground near Francis Gregory Library
- Rabaut Park
- River Terrace
- Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium (RFK)
- Additional NPS properties included in the DowntownDC Parks Master Plan<sup>49</sup>, released in March 2023.

\*\* Currently under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Defense.

**Note:** The list above does not include all the small parks and parcels in various communities that would be of interest for DPR to be grouped into one or multiple transfer of jurisdiction packages from NPS to the District.

82. Please describe the District’s participation in the Trust for Public Land’s “[Park Equity Accelerator](#)” and what technical assistance resources DPR is being provided. TPL’s resources indicate that the District is participating in the program to “develop a systematic approach to park maintenance.” What are DPR’s planned deliverables from this work?

Washington, DC was selected as one of only seven cities nationwide to participate in the Trust for Public Land’s (TPL) Park Equity Accelerator program. One of the key concerns that DPR planners heard during Ready2Play was the inequity in park maintenance across the city. Some of this is driven by the neighborhood resources which can assist park maintenance and advocacy for parks in wealthier neighborhoods through the creation of friends of groups and/or BID partnerships. Given the District’s multi-agency structure to park maintenance where a bulk of work is done by DGS, but some other maintenance responsibilities fall to the District Department of Transportation’s Urban Forestry Division (DDOT UFD), Department of Public Works (DPW), Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), or to DPR’s Park and Field Care Team, this study will look at the dynamics of this current structure and evaluate processes and procedures that DPR can put in place on the front end to effectively evaluate and audit the need for park maintenance. The study will also look at the potential for the District to acquire management responsibility over a significantly larger amount of green space through transfers or cooperative management agreements with NPS and will provide recommendations on how to evaluate and prepare for the ongoing operating impact of this potential growth. TPL will assist with research on national best practices on park system maintenance, convenings with other cities addressing similar issues and will meet monthly with DPR staff throughout the course of the calendar year. TPL will produce a final report with recommendations that DPR can pursue to assist DGS and our other agency partners to more proactively monitor and address park maintenance, laying out recommendations that are within DPR’s purview to pursue.

83. What are DPR’s goals for “Action 1B.8” in the Ready2Play plan regarding new design and use guidelines for public plazas and small public spaces? Does the Department advise that the ownership and management of plazas be consolidated under one agency, whether that’s DPR or another agency like DDOT?

The intent of this action is for DPR to work with its agency partners including the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Office of Planning (OP) to develop guidelines that can be used in the development of new plazas and small public places, many of which are being created as part of larger private development projects. There are many cases that come through the planned unit development process, large tract review, or other OP development review processes that include some form of public space, that is distinct from a traditional park, often these are plazas, courtyards, or promenades that will be privately operated but open to the public. DPR’s intent would be for these guidelines to promote inclusive design of public space for all types of users, ages and abilities, so that DC’s public realm is dynamic, interactive, and welcoming for all.

DPR does not have a position on whether consolidation of all publicly managed plazas should be under one agency. However, the question of public use of these plazas and the

regulatory process for permitting is something that could be looked at through these guidelines discussions as it would be in the District's benefit to create a process that is simple, uniform and easy to follow for DC residents and organizations who would like to active these spaces in some way and add to the vibrancy of the city.