

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA  
2024-2025 BUDGET**

**COMMUNITY RECREATION**

**FISCAL YEAR 2024 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- ✓ Continued to serve the community providing recreational facilities and programs for all ages:
  - Held several special events with a combined attendance of over 93,000 event participants.
  - Granada Golf course continued to operate at capacity with over 50,000 rounds of golf.
  - The Granada Pro Shop was renovated and opened for operation.
  - Continued to provide programming to adults through the Adult Activity Center. In the past fiscal year, the center registered over 22,000 visits. In addition, there were over 9,000 different program registrations.
  - The Youth Center was a focal point of activity with an approximate 450,000 visits to the Youth Center facility, field, and playground. There were over 13,000 individual program enrollments and approximately 35,000 fitness center visits. Summer camp increased with over 4,000 summer camp registrations.
  - Venetian Pool continued to be a premier destination for visitors with over 55,000 visitors to the pool.
  - The Country Club's athletic club and pool had over 50,000 visits to its facilities. The Country Club also hosted over 150 revenue-driven events.
  
- ✓ Continued the development of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion services provided to participants. This year department staff presented programs, innovations, and initiatives such as:
  - Received the National Inclusion Project Accreditation for City-run Camps and Programs at the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center.
  - Introduced events to the DEI population that would coincide with larger city-wide events to provide a programming experience that would better serve this community. Events included the Sensory Friendly 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration at the Ruth Bryan Owen Waterway Park in conjunction with the larger Coral Gables Fourth celebration at the Biltmore Golf Course, Gentle Trick or Treat event in conjunction with the Youth Center eggstreme egg hunt, and the Gentle Trick or Treat event to celebrate Halloween.
  - Provided events to the community through partnerships including the International Cochlear Implants Day with the University of Miami and Battle of the Badges kickball game with City Police and Fire Departments.

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- ✓ Developed service innovations and resource additions that increased customer service, cost savings and quality of life goals.
  - Completed the transition from gas blowers to electric blowers for maintenance tasks.
  - Introduced the use of recycled mulch made within the city for use at playground parks.
  - Installed 16 new dog waste stations to bring the total of dog waste stations maintained by the Department to over 145. Installed 4 new Little Libraries, 25 benches, 4 picnic tables, and 9 new memorial benches in parks.
  - Installed new LED lighting in the Youth Center fitness center and the Granada Golf Course Pro Shop.
  - Initiated several battery and recycling stations at Community Recreation facilities.
  - Through a partnership with Doody Calls, the city received 40 new dog waste stations for the dog waste program.
  
- ✓ Developed new program and event offerings that met resident’s needs, increased customer satisfaction and advanced quality of life goals.
  - Introduced several new programs and events in recreation facilities including increased open play for pickleball and flamenco dance at the Youth Center, Tango classes, summer camp program and Holiday events such as Cars and Santa, 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ and Memorial Day Bash event at the Country Club, Fleet Week Naval Band Jazz Waves Concert at Venetian Pool, Halloween Spooktacular, Golden Egg Hunt, domino club, Zumba after hours and DIY jewelry making at the Adult Activity Center and the Funky Pickle Tournament with over 300 pickleball players at the Biltmore Tennis Center.
  
- ✓ The Community Recreation Department received accolades and recognitions this year including:
  - The Department continued annual compliance with National Reaccreditation by the Commission of Accredited Parks and Recreation Agencies and has maintained National Accreditation for its 23<sup>rd</sup> year.
  - Tennis Operations Supervisor Robert Gomez was awarded the USPTA Lifetime Achievement Award for his 30 years of service in tennis.
  - The Venetian Pool was awarded the Jeff Ellis and Associates Gold Award for water safety. Venetian Pool also featured on FIFA World Cup 2026 Promotion.
  - The Coral Gables Country Club Voted the Best Wedding Venue in Miami-Dade in Miami Herald’s Miami-Dade Favorites issue.

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✓ Assisted in the development and renovation of parks and facilities.

- Implemented multiple projects at Venetian Pool. The Pool resurfacing project was completed. The Concession stand construction is underway and scheduled for completion in 2024. Planning has begun for Structural repairs at the pool facility.
- Several construction and improvement projects were completed including the resurfacing of the clay courts at Salvadore Tennis Center, the Salvadore Dog Park, The Kid’s Lounge at the Coral Gables Country Club, the resurfacing of the youth center basketball courts for pickleball use and the exterior painting of the Youth Center building.
- Construction completed on the Granada Golf Course Pro Shop, construction on the Granada Diner project is underway and scheduled for completion in 2024.
- Completed the community input process and concept design process for several upcoming projects including Phillips Park, Blue Road Park, William Cooper Park, Nellie B. Moore Park, and Toledo and Alava Park.

