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City of Fairburn

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City of Fairburn's Parks and Recreation Department Selected to Receive \$59,000 BOOST After School Program Grant Award

The City of Fairburn's Parks and Recreation Department is honored to have been selected as a recipient of the \$59,000 Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Afterschool Program Grant Award for the 2022-2023 school year.

BOOST is funded by the Georgia Department of Education through Georgia's American Rescue Plan education allocation and administered in partnership with the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network. The grant seeks to leverage out-of-school time and a whole child approach to address learning loss in Georgia. As one of eighteen organizations funded in a highly competitive selection process, the GRPA BOOST Afterschool Program Grant will allow the City's Parks & Recreation Department to operate comprehensive afterschool programming.

"The City is honored to have been selected to receive this grant award," said Mayor Mario B. Avery. "This will allow our Parks Department to increase programmatic quality and enhance our support services offered. This includes reducing barriers in education, such as transportation and enrollment costs, to ensure access for all community members and their children."

Each year the City of Fairburn Parks and Recreation Department supports over 300 youth through athletics, afterschool programming, and community events. They have shaped programs and services to meet the needs of the community. The City understands the importance of exposure, consistency, and social understanding within the community. With that, they have created their programming to provide academic enrichment, literacy assistance, health and wellness, mental health support, and leadership development.

"The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network offers its congratulations to the BOOST grantees and looks forward to providing them support throughout the grant cycle to ensure that Georgia's youth receive high-quality afterschool and summer enrichment," GSAN Director Katie Landes said. "The grantees were chosen through a competitive application process, and we believe strongly in their potential to expand access, reduce barriers, and increase quality for afterschool and summer programming across Georgia, particularly for children most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic."

"The City of Fairburn Parks and Recreation Department has been committed to providing the youth of Fairburn with quality educational opportunities since 2016," said City Administrator Tony M. Phillips. "Opportunities such as this, help to bridge any gaps between academic enrichment and recreation programming."


The City aims to make an impact on students that will carry them into adulthood. Their goal is to re-engage youth by connecting them to opportunities that will prepare them to excel academically in daily coursework and standardized tests. The focus is also to support the development of the next generation of leaders.


"The growth and enrichment of our youth goes beyond the school day and we want to play a pivotal role in youth development," said Parks & Recreation Director Chapin Payne. "In the past, our department partnered with a STEAM organization to offer interactive activities that are based on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. The focus of this program is to provide students with invigorating and enriching afterschool education. The BRIDGE Afterschool program will offer STEAM enrichment while also developing healthy lifestyle skills, literacy in action, leadership, and positive social interaction."


In preparation for the afterschool program, the City will hire certified Georgia teachers that hold active certifications. Academic reinforcement and learning acceleration strategies will address deficiencies outlined in Fulton County Schools' performance report. Tutoring services are extremely cost-prohibitive in the area and this funding will decrease financial strain and allow the City to assist more students. The grant award is also eligible for renewal for two additional years.



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