

IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION  
STRATEGIC PLANNING  
August 27, 2008

INTRODUCTION

Parks and recreation facilities and services are essential elements that contribute to the health and livability of the Irmo and Chapin communities. The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission was created in 1969 to provide these services within the Lexington County portion of School District Five of Richland and Lexington Counties. In 1981, the Commission was assigned the responsibility by Lexington County Council to serve as the District's Council on Aging. The Commission seeks to create a Strategic Master Plan that will serve as a map to guide planning and provision of District facilities and services over the next ten years.

The goals of the plan include:

- Clearly define the purpose of the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission.
- Inventory existing conditions.
- Compare facilities and programs to national standards to help determine what our standards and aspiration could/should be.
- Engage in extensive community dialogue and provide opportunity for participation in the process by all stakeholders.
- Identify community needs and desires.
- Establish realistic short-term and long-term goals.
- Develop strategies for responsible resource allocation to achieve the community's goals.
- Produce a strategic document that is accountable, dynamic and best reflects the overriding wishes of the community.

**Strategic Master Planning Has Begun Your Help is Needed**

Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission is developing a Strategic Master Plan to establish a vision and guide decisions for our District over the next ten years. Public and staff participation are integral parts of this process to ensure the Plan reflects the needs of our community.

You are invited to participate on a variety of levels. Over the next ten months members of the community will be asked to serve on stakeholder committees, complete surveys, and attend public forums to learn more about parks and recreation in the District and to speak out regarding concerns or ideas they may have for the future. Each month the Commission will receive in public session information gathered through these methods.

**How can I get involved?**

- **Serve on a committee.**  
**(Committee selection completed: Focus Group – 10/28/09, Task Force – 12/23/08)**
- **Complete and return your survey.** **(Survey ran from: 12/1/08 – 01/31/09)**
- **Attend public forums and speak out.** **(Meetings will be scheduled in April 2009)**
- **Attend monthly Commission meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Check the website for location or call 772-1228.**

**We invite you to follow the planning process here on the ICRC website. Updates will be posted as reports are presented and accepted by the Commission after each monthly Commission meeting.**

During meetings on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and August 5<sup>th</sup> the Commission and staff met to discuss Goal #1 for the Strategic Master Plan. In addition, this gave opportunity to explore the organizational strengths, challenges, factors critical to success and major issues. We felt that identification of stakeholders was vital to achieving an end result that is reflective of those who live in our community.

**GOAL #1:**  
*Clearly define the purpose and value of the  
Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (District) in the community*

## **Discussion Result**

### **Identify purpose, products and value to the community**

#### **Purpose**

- To foster, support, enable affordable accessibility to recreation programs, facilities and green space for all ages and abilities
- To promote and provide for health and wellness opportunities for all ages and abilities
- To develop and mentor youth
- To provide social support services for senior citizens
- To provide environmental education and awareness

#### **Products**

- Programming – to support healthy lifestyles for youth, adults, senior citizens and families
- Facilities and green space – to provide for safe play, public use, and provision of programs
- Services – to provide safe, accessible, quality recreational opportunities
- A better community – through connecting people

#### **Value to Community**

- Community building by connecting people through programs, volunteerism, and a shared sense of place
- Youth development through mentoring, coaching, education, employment and healthy, positive non-school experiences
- Family support through youth, senior citizen, and special needs programs
- Protection and provision for safe, clean public green space, gathering places, and emergency shelter spaces
- Economic impact through tourism, enhanced property value, jobs, and purchase of goods and services

#### **Strengths**

- Commitment to quality staff, volunteers, programs and facilities
- Fiscal responsibility and stability
- Commitment to operational transparency
- Unity of purpose
- Flexibility and creativity
- Strong community partnerships
- High community expectations
- Located in a quality community
- Communications and technology

## **Opportunities and Challenges**

- To develop open lines of communication with the public
- To build strong community consensus with stakeholders
- To further the purpose of ICRC with available resources
- To maintain our strengths
- To accurately assess community need
- To identify and obtain resources
- To effectively inform stakeholders as to the purpose, products, and plans of ICRC

## **Critical Success Factors**

- Community Support
- Leadership
- Vision
- Identification of financial resources
- Fiscal management

## **Major Issues**

- Development of a strategic plan
- Revenue sources
- Consensus of critical stakeholders

## **Stakeholders**

- District residents
- Community at large
- Families
- Senior Citizens
- Children
- Homeowners Associations
- Civic Organizations
- Community Partners (School District Five of Richland and Lexington Counties, SCPRT, Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, Central Midlands Regional Planning Council, Saluda Shoals Foundation, USC, SCDNR, SCANA, County and Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies, Lower Saluda Advisory Council, Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission, Richland County Recreation Commission, The River Alliance
- Elected Officials
- Arts Organizations
- Independent Athletic Leagues and Organizations
- Businesses
- Tourism Organizations
- Sponsors
- Churches
- Staff