MPA students present reports on splash pads to Grady Archway for SPLOST funding

At the request of the Grady County Archway Partnership Community Health & Wellness Issue Work Group, UGA MPA graduate students provided a report on publically owned and operated splash pads in Georgia and Florida.

As part of the issue work group’s goals to address key target areas of reducing obesity and chronic disease, enhancing parks and recreation amenities and increasing physical activity for all ages they requested data and research into this area. Information includes best practices, lessons learned and general comparison of public splash pads to inform local leadership and citizens on the costs, maintenance, operations, features, staffing and funding sources. The report should be an invaluable resource to public administrators in the southeastern United States responsible for parks and recreation in developing and operating splash pads.

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Community Health and Wellness was identified by the Grady County Archway Partnership Executive Committee as one of four community priorities. An issue work group of was formed and they established the following goals, target areas and sub-committees.

GOALS:

Goal #1: Establish a Health Issue Work Group that represents a partnership among healthcare and social service providers to identify and prioritize community-wide issues, challenges, and opportunities that impact the health and wellness/well-being of Grady County residents.

Goal #2: Create a community-wide health education and wellness program to help reduce healthcare costs.

Goal #3: Improve access to care, particularly prenatal care and education.

Goal #4: Enhance parks and recreation facilities and programs to promote healthy lifestyles for children and adults to include retirees.

TARGET AREAS:

1. Obesity & Chronic Disease
2. Mental Health
3. Accessibility & Affordability
4. Wellness Education

SUB-COMMITTEES:

1. Health Education – Nutrition
2. Physical Activity, Parks & Recreation
3. Fresh Foods and Gardening
4. Vision Committee