

Westerville Parks & Recreation Department

350 North Cleveland Avenue • Westerville, Ohio 43082

Our Mission is to enhance the lives of our citizens and our community by providing quality and diverse leisure facilities, programs and services and by preserving and/or developing our natural areas.

FACT SHEET SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMS



The City of Westerville Parks and Recreation Department provides Special Needs Programs and activities to assist families and special needs citizens within a safe environment for socialization, development of coordination and motor skills. The special needs population, as with many areas of Westerville's population, is growing each year. The Recreation Division offers a variety of programs to increase their sense of inclusion in the community.

Access to Recreation

This program is designed for teens at the middle and high school levels; young adults are also welcome. Teens and young adults will enjoy these fun-filled outings designed for persons who require special assistance under the supervision of a trained leader. Access to Recreation opportunities are provided most quarters. Fees include transportation, leadership costs and entrance fees depending upon activity. Persons needing assistance with toileting, feeding or dressing during an activity should make personal arrangements for assistance. Details of these trips can be found at the Community Center or by calling Eric Dicke, Program Supervisor, at (614) 901-6542.

Inclusion Services

The department encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. To facilitate opportunities for people with and without disabilities to engage in leisure pursuits together, Westerville Parks and Recreation provides inclusion support services.

Reasonable accommodations are provided to enable an individual's successful participation in our general recreation program. A general recreation program may be modified using adapted equipment and or supported services, but the structure of the general recreation program, group size, and staff remain the same. A minimum of two weeks notice is required to insure appropriate accommodations.

Dances

The department offers a variety of holiday-themed and seasonal dances where teens can interact with other teens in a safe and supervised environment.

What Are the Benefits of Special Needs Programs?

The benefits of these programs for the special needs population are often the same as they would be for any child, teen or young adult:

- **Increased confidence and independence**
- **Activity and exercise**
- **The opportunity to interact with other kids, develop friendships, and build relationships**
- **Positive role modeling by adults**

To make accommodations for inclusion services, please call Phyllis Self, Recreation Superintendent, a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program at (614) 901-6506.

Direct specific questions regarding individual facilities' accessibility features can be directed to the Community Center Hotline at (614) 901-6500; TDD line (614) 901-6413.

