

DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA



ABOUT THE POSITION

The City of Newport News is recruiting a strategic thinker who can lead and inspire its Parks and Recreation Department. This role is your opportunity to maintain a legacy of excellence and shape the future of recreation, leisure, and special events in Newport News through bold, cutting-edge ideas and innovative programs.

Imagine creating vibrant cultural arts initiatives that celebrate the creativity and diversity of our community, while designing fresh opportunities that captivate the growing population of young and maturing professionals. You'll lead a nationally recognized department and work with an engaged team that shares your passion for enhancing the lives of our diverse residents and visitors.

If you have a bold vision, innovative spirit, and a passion for leadership, this role will allow you to make an indelible mark on Newport News' future.



PARK AND RECREATION BY THE NUMBERS

+8,000

PARK ACRES

36

PARKS



4

**COMMUNITY CENTERS, 1
UNDER CONSTRUCTION**



2

18 HOLE GOLF COURSES



82

SPORTS FIELDS



104

PLAYGROUNDS



\$34.5 MILLION

FY 25 OPERATING BUDGET



218

FULL TIME EMPLOYEE ALLOTMENTS

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT



In addition to high-quality recreational facilities, Newport News Parks and Recreation hosts a vibrant array of events throughout the year, bringing the community together for fun, celebration, and enrichment. Signature events include the annual "Celebration in Lights," a dazzling holiday drive-through light display that transforms Newport News Park into a winter wonderland. Families can enjoy seasonal festivities like the "**Spring EGGstravaganza**," featuring egg hunts and activities for children, and the "**Children's Festival of Friends**," which offers entertainment, crafts, and games for all ages. The department also organizes youth-focused programs such as sports leagues, summer camps, and educational workshops, fostering growth and engagement for the city's youngest residents. With events like the "**Stars in the Sky**" Independence Day celebration, complete with live music and fireworks, Newport News Parks and Recreation ensures there's something for everyone to enjoy year-round.

Lastly, the department houses the Animal Welfare Division and the Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter, which provides the professional and humane treatment of local wildlife and homeless animals through programming, outreach, education and compliance.

ABOUT NEWPORT NEWS

Newport News, recently named an All-America City in the summer of 2024, is located along the Hampton Roads harbor banks in southeastern Virginia. It is a major East Coast port and one of the Commonwealth's largest cities, with a rich heritage dating back to the founding of the United States. Newport News and surrounding areas offer safe and family-friendly neighborhoods, high-quality schools, and access to many recreational and cultural opportunities, such as the Ferguson Performing Arts Center, the Virginia Living Museum, and the Noland Trail.

Newport News abuts the City of Hampton and is minutes away from Newport News/Williamsburg Airport, Norfolk International Airport, and Richmond International Airport, which serve the Hampton Roads region. Amtrak connects to Newport News on the Northeast Regional line.



The city is home to Christopher Newport University, a public liberal arts university with an enrollment of approximately 5,000 students. Hampton University, Old Dominion University, and Norfolk State University are in neighboring Hampton and Norfolk, and the College of William and Mary is situated just over 20 miles northeast of Williamsburg.

The city's major industries are shipbuilding, research, and defense. Huntington Ingalls Industries is the region's largest employer, with a workforce of nearly 24,500 in its Newport News Shipbuilding division.

ABOUT NEWPORT NEWS

Newport News's Vision:

A diverse and prosperous waterfront city of science, technology, innovation and art where people come together as a vibrant, inclusive community.

Newport News' Mission:

To enhance the quality of life in the City of Newport News for current and future generations to thrive.

Newport News's Values

- Community Engagement
- Opportunity for All
- Creativity and Innovation
- Stewardship
- Fun

The City of Newport News operates under the Council-Manager form of government. Six City Council members are elected from three districts – North, Central, and South – while the Mayor is elected at-large. Elections are nonpartisan and members serve staggered four-year terms.

Newport News has a FY2025 approved operating budget of over \$1.1 billion and[TB1] an approximate employee count of 3,600 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions across all funds. The Department of Parks and Recreation directly reports to the Assistant City Manager of Community Well-Being.

[FY 2025 Adopted Budget](#)



THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of **leadership and diverse innovation** in parks and recreation management, complemented by strong skills in strategic planning, team development, and community engagement and special events.

This individual will be committed to investing in the next generation through youth development and engaging programming, creating innovative and inclusive recreational opportunities. They will ensure that young people have access to safe, welcoming spaces to learn, grow, and thrive. The ideal candidate will inspire leadership, creativity, and social connections among younger residents by encouraging participation in cultural, athletic, recreational, and community-focused programs.

Collaboration with community partners such as athletics clubs, civic and religious organizations, schools, and other stakeholders will be pivotal in designing and delivering impactful programming tailored to the unique needs of Newport News' youth.

Expertise in policy development, budget management, and driving operational efficiency will be crucial, as will the ability to foster an inclusive and collaborative workplace culture. Exceptional written and verbal communication skills are essential for effectively connecting and interacting with city leadership, staff, and the community. Additionally, experience with large-scale project management and the capacity to navigate complex challenges with creativity and sound judgment will set the ideal candidate apart as a dynamic leader for Newport News.

YOUR NEXT **BREAKTHROUGH** **CAREER** STARTS WITH US



Additional Qualifications

Bachelor's Degree in Parks and Recreation, Business Administration, Public Administration, or a related field and 10 years of progressively responsible experience in parks and recreation management with 5 -7 years of supervisory experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Advanced degree or professional designation as a Certified Parks and Recreational Professional (CPRP) desirable.

Compensation

The City offers a very competitive and comprehensive compensation package. The anticipated hiring range for the position is \$165,000-\$175,000 DOE.

Benefits

- Relocation Assistance
- Health/Dental/Vision/Life
- Deferred Compensation
- Flexible Spending Accounts
- Long & Short Term Disability
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Discounted fitness center memberships
- State Retirement via Virginia Retirement System (VRS)

How to Apply

Application materials can be submitted at :
nnva.gov/jobs



Other Helpful Links

- [Full Job Description](#)
- [Benefits Information](#)
- [Parks and Recreation Website](#)
- [See more of what Newport News has to offer](#)

For questions please email recruiting@nnva.gov or call 757-926-1800

Committed to diversity the City of Newport News is an Equal Opportunity Employer