

SPLASH PARK

at NSA Mid-South

As one of 11 bases recognized in 2012 by Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) as a four-star Navy-accredited Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) program, NSA Mid-South, Tenn., is a model for other bases in the area of delivering stellar quality-of-life programs and facilities.

“It was a tremendous honor for our program to achieve the Navy MWR four-star level of accreditation,” notes MWR Director Ronnie Miles. “The primary measures used were: compliance with Navy MWR Program standards, nonappropriated (NAF) financial management, personnel management and customer satisfaction.”

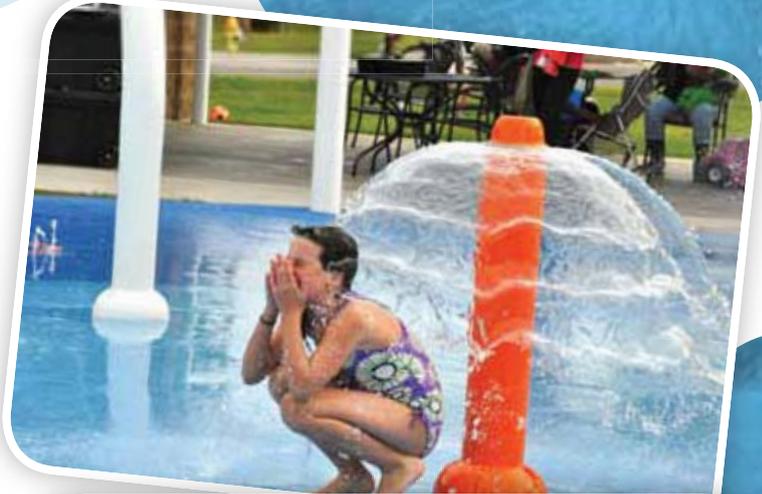
While NSA Mid-South is categorized as a small program, Miles says the MWR department prides itself on delivering “a highest quality level of program and services that are targeted to our population,” he points out. “NSA financial performance in FY11 did meet the marginal level set for a four-star rating; however, our Personnel and Customer Satisfaction scores were in the upper percentile of the metric scoring. To achieve this goal, our personnel have had to be very flexible and creative. Sharing of resources, cross-training of personnel and engaging our customers in our business strategy is critical in the financial environment we face today.”

NEW SPLASH PARK

One of the most visible and exciting new projects the base completed recently is the new Splash Park, which opened in July 2012. This \$350,000 investment was funded through a NAF grant from CNIC, and included the addition of 12 water features, a restroom, a covered pavilion and outdoor seating.

“Our outdoor pool facility was severely damaged following the base flooding in May of 2010,” Miles explains. “As this was the only aquatic program on base, this severely impacted our ability to meet this critical need of our community. A replacement facility would require a MILCON-level project, and realizing this effort would be many years before funding would be possible, we were looking for affordable solutions.”

The base MWR department did the research, which led to the idea of creating a Splash Park facility. “We decided to locate the new facility in an area that not only allowed all on-base housing residents to access the park using existing walk paths, but also located it in an area with easy vehicular access,” says Miles.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NSA MID-SOUTH MWR

The design-build project was awarded to Sherrick Construction, Inc., the general contractor, and the Spray Park equipment was purchased from Rain Drop Products.

“The primary requirements were to provide an area and water features to support up to 50 children ages 10 and under,” Miles explains. “The park also includes restrooms, a covered pavilion and a recycled water-management system that includes a timer, which is user activated.”

The Splash Park opened just in time for summer last year, and has been well received by the base community. “While the property targets pre-teen youth, our parents like the factor of

easy access,” notes Miles. “The park is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, and there is no requirement to provide lifeguards, so the annual operating cost is much lower than traditional swimming pools or water parks. The families enjoy the freedom to choose the best time to use this facility, unlike the traditional swimming pools, which have established hours for use, especially for general recreational swimming.”

As part of the initial site planning, Miles points out that MWR projected additional features to be added to this facility. “The water circulation system is designed to easily add features,” he says. “We are looking at larger pieces that target our younger teen population.”

As part of their contractual requirement to deliver a rendering of the park for marketing purposes, the contractor collaborated with Rain Drop Products to develop a special Youtube video, which allowed the base to market to the community what the finished product would look like and highlighted all of the spray park features.

Additional features the base is looking to add include more covered pavilion areas throughout the park site.

BUOYING MWR

In addition to the new Spray Park, the base has completed numerous MWR projects in the past few years, and is in the process of completing others, all with an eye on giving sailors and their families the high-quality programs and facilities they deserve.

Most recently, the base completed the renovation of its Joe Dugger Fitness and Sports Complex (building 499), which included replacement of HVAC systems for the entire complex. In the Fitness Center, the project also upgraded the service area, added new floor treatments using Mondo flooring systems and is in the process of adding a new Family Fitness area. On the

Recreation Center side of the complex, the project included additional office space to support the consolidation of the Information, Ticket and Travel program, Single Sailor program and Navy Getaways Lodging programs. The total investment for this project was \$1.9 million.

“The project has taken over nine months to complete with the Fitness Center opening in April 2013, and the Recreation Center scheduled to open in early May 2013,” notes Miles. “The project was funded as part of the building 499 renovation project grant from OSD [Office of the Secretary of Defense]. Once this project is completed and all programs have relocated to this complex, we will have reduced our operational storefronts from four to two and reduced our operational footprint by over 60,000 square feet.”

The project included two outdoor basketball courts featuring the Sports Court flooring system at a cost of \$350,000, and was funded as part of a Fitness Facility grant from OSD.

The Outdoor Tennis Court renovation involved the resurfacing of three outdoor and two indoor courts, as well as replacing fencing and constructing a new covered patio. Total investment was \$60,000, and the funds were made available as part of the OSD Fitness grant program in 2011.

The new artificial turf Golf Chipping Green, which cost \$58,000, included the creation of a 3,000-square-foot green along with an artificial turf hitting area incorporated into the golf practice facility. Product was designed and installed by X-Grass, Inc., and was funded by a NAF Grant from CNIC.

The base also constructed a new bathhouse (including restrooms, shower areas and laundry) at the Navy Lake RV Park in June 2012, using combined contractor and Seabee personnel from NMCB-1 and NMCB-11 Battalions from Gulfport, Miss. The \$80,000 project was funded by OM&N special projects, through Naval Facility Engineering Command, Navy Region Mid-West.

New projects on the horizon include construction of an Indoor basketball facility to be constructed adjacent to the Fitness Center. This project is currently in the technical review phase of awarding. Two other fitness projects slated to begin in late FY13 or early FY14 are the construction of a multi-purpose artificial turf facility and six-lane running track. “This facility will replace older facilities located on the north side of the installation, and will allow more consolidation of our sports facilities to the south side of base, where our primary base operations exist,” Miles explains. “These projects are currently having their RFP [request for proposal] being developed. These three projects have been funded by OSD Fitness grants.”

Miles notes that one of MWR’s goals for 2014 is to create a well-balanced business program that “targets the core needs of our customer, while increasing revenue growth by new facility and program development,” he says. “As part of our long-term growth strategy we have developed a facility master plan that allows the relocation of more business activities to sites that are not encumbered by restrictive base access policies, and consolidating more of our programs and services to fewer storefronts, dramatically reducing operational footprint. We believe that regardless of the challenges we will face with reduced APF [appropriated fund] resources, we will continue to provide the highest level of service. And by continuing to focus on developing and empowering our personnel, engaging our customers, investing wisely and always remembering why we exist — to serve the men and women in uniform.”

—GRF

