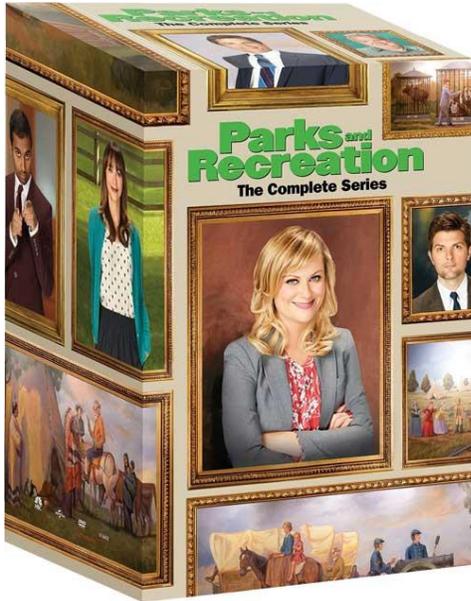


# SPOTLIGHT

19 July 2016



Summer evenings, after a long day in the sun and perhaps a little too bloated from the barbecue, it's nice to unwind by binge watching a favourite comedy. My family and I decided this summer to rewatch the entire run of the *Parks and Recreation* television series.

The upbeat theme song and bright colours of the production accurately reflect the tone of the show. On the surface, only star Amy Poehler (who portrays Leslie Knope, the deputy director of a parks department) initially comes across as energetic and positive (even Chris Pratt's man-child

character, Andy is off to a rocky start with two broken legs and a bad case of unrequited love). However, as the show progresses (admittedly slow at first), all of the characters exhibit softer sides and caring tendencies.

No small credit for this should be given to the superb casting. In addition to the aforementioned actors, Rashida Jones, Aziz Ansari, Nick Offerman, Aubrey Plaza, Rob Lowe, Adam Scott and more should all be applauded for their commitment to their off-beat characters. Everyone is unique, yet they'll likely remind you of people you know. They also play off each other so well.

As summer TV, *Parks and Recreation* works for its optimistic outlook (characters fail all the time, but everyone rebounds), loveable cast, and zany situations, but none of this is to suggest that it's brain dead. At its cleverest, *Parks and Recreation* also managed to inject a lot of then topical political satire. The series ran from 2009 to 2015, so you'll still likely recognize a lot of what they are spoofing.

If you have never watched the show, you're in for a real treat. And if you have, I can assure you that it's even funnier the second time around.

Yellowknife Public Library carries all seven seasons.

John Mutford, Public Service Librarian