

2017 saw continued expansion in youth, teen, and adult program offerings and facilities and ground improvements through the dedication and diligence of the department staff. A big “Thank You” is due to the staff of the Recreation Department team for reaching and surpassing programming and maintenance goals. To: Caren Lewis, Dana Kurylo, Anne Maher, our seasonal maintenance staff, program coordinators, lifeguards, summer counselors, Youth Advisory Committee, and numerous volunteers: the department’s success is because of you!



Thank you to the many residents who have taken time throughout the year to stop and compliment us on how beautiful the parks and facilities are look. Dana Kurylo, our lead maintenance technician, with assistance from our seasonal maintenance staff and the Department of Public Works, have completed various improvement projects throughout the year that have enhanced the look of each recreational property under our care.

The part-time maintenance staff at the Recreation Department is responsible for the daily and seasonal care and maintenance of recreation facilities and grounds located at Community Field, Shattuck Park, Contoocook Beach, Humiston Park, and the War Memorial. The Recreation Department is also responsible for snow removal for the public walkways at the Town Offices, Police Department, Public Library, and Town Common as well as the set-up and clean-up for elections and town meeting.

In addition to the responsibilities listed above, the following projects were completed:

#### Community Field:

- Rebuilt, relocated, and painted the storage shed.
- Created new “hard pack” pathways and bleacher pads
- Moved fencing, created pathways, and removed a concrete slab to make the facility ADA compliant.
- Improved the softball infield and outfield.
- Regraded lawn area to reduce trip and fall hazards.
- Regraded parking lot area.
- Completed a water mitigation project with the help of the DPW
- Removed hazardous trees.

#### Contoocook Beach:

- Painted support beams.

#### Shattuck Park:

- Removed hazardous trees.



#### Humiston Park:

- Completed War Memorial improvements.
- Removed overgrown shrubs with the help of the DPW
- Improved the batting cage area.
- Painted exterior bathrooms and installed new exhaust fans and lights.
- Improved the lawn.
- Completed ballfield improvements to the infield and outfield.
- Painted exterior doors on all buildings.
- Removed old playground equipment.
- Site prep work for new playground.
- Painting of “multipurpose” room.



The Recreation Department’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) concluded its second calendar year in operation and continues to meet the first and third Mondays of the month September through June. The mission of the YAC is to build a connection between youth, during their middle-school and high-school years, and their community, by giving the youth a voice in what services are provided for their age group by the Parks and Recreation Department in a team environment where the youth feel heard and their ideas validated. Any youth in grades 6+ are invited to apply to be a member to the YAC and work directly with the Recreation Director to create programs specifically for middle and high school aged youth so teen programs provided by the Recreation Department are designed for the youth by the youth. The YAC has helped the department create over 40 offerings for teens including classes, field trips, summer camp activities, and a teen dance series throughout the 2017 calendar year. This is a significant increase in offerings compared to the approximate 9 offerings for teens offered in 2014, the year prior to the creation of the Recreation Department’s Youth Advisory Committee.



Our monthly adult trip program, “Lunch Bunch”, which began late fall of 2016 saw a growth in popularity throughout 2017. Traveling to a different restaurant, diner, or pub within one to one and a half hours from Jaffrey each month, the Lunch Bunch program allows our adult residents to get out of the house and socialize in a relaxed environment.



Our weekly adult coffee club held on Wednesdays from 9:30am-11am at the Jaffrey Civic Center, continues to be a well-attended. Coffee and refreshments are provided for participants as they social and enjoy the changing art exhibits.



Unlike the previous winter, January and February 2017 provided consistent cold temperatures which enabled plentiful enjoyment of outdoor winter activities. The ice skating rink was open for many weeks and kids of all ages twirled and dance, or shot hockey pucks. The afterschool ski program ran at maximum capacity with 22 children skiing or snowboarding at Crotched Mountain on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons for five weeks., The Recreation Department partnered with New Hampshire Fish and Game to offer a free Lean to Ice Fish class, and participants enjoyed hands-on practice out on the pond.

The winter weather also provided the opportunity for residents to “snow” us what they were made of in our First Annual “Spontaneous Snowman Challenge.” Jaffrey residents were encouraged to get outdoors and enjoy the snow by spontaneously making a snowman anytime during the winter season. Congratulations to The Cummings family for being the first “Spontaneous Snowman Challenge” winners!

Indoors, the Youth Basketball Program ran Saturday mornings through January and February. 75 children ranging in age from preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade took advantage of this opportunity to hone their skills on the court. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are reminded that they are also welcomed to participate.

School break weeks provide an opportunity for the children to try something new. February school vacation trips had children bowling, swimming, rock climbing, skiing and snowboarding; playing at the Franklin Pierce Bubble; watching movies, roller-skating, and playing laser tag. While during April school vacation week, children got a spring time version of our Adventure in Movement summer day camp program and a chance to work on their basketball skills at Pure Shot Basketball Camp.

March brought our first spring window painting contest with 16 participants of all ages, children through adults. Our annual Halloween window painting contest had 25 participants of all ages, children through adults.

The Annual Easter Egg hunt was held on a Saturday April 8, 2017 at Humiston Park. Nearly 1,500 brightly colored eggs dotted the snow-covered field. Within minutes, the eggs were gone and the children were delighted by their collection. Thank you to our volunteers from Conant High School Interact Club who hid eggs, provided a Mr. E. Bunny, and painted faces. Thank you to the volunteers from our weekly Senior Coffee Hour who filled all the eggs with treats for the event. A special thank you to Amy



Caron for volunteering her photography skills and capturing the magic of the event. Images can be found on our Facebook page.

May saw the start of our first afterschool golf program for teens through a partnership with Shattuck Golf Club. The program had maximum participation with 13 youth receiving golf instruction and time on the course each week.



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mother-Son Extravaganza held on June 2, 2017 had us sporting grass skirts and bowling with coconuts at Contoocook beach for a luau themed beach party. This outdoor event was attended by 32 mothers and sons who braved temperatures lower than average and a breeze off the lake.

*Brrr!*

Our annual June trip to Maine for the famous Foster's Clambake was once again sold out as well our trip to see the Tall Ships in Boston, and our Safe Sitter Baby Sitter training course held in June and July. Thank you to The River Center and the Jaffrey Fire Department for partnering with us so we could offer the Safe Sitter class.

Summer time activities kicked-off at the end of June and continued into July and August with the return of our Adventure in Movement (AIM) summer camp program, Challenger Sports British Soccer Camps, Marlin's swim team, Pure Shot Basketball camp, baseball camp, our annual trip to see the Red Sox, and swim lessons at Contoocook Beach. The summer also brought the new adult fitness classes at Contoocook beach including: Aqua Zumba classes, yoga, and kick boxing.



New this year, AIM counselors and one week of our teen AIM campers received Basic Water Rescue Training from JPRD's Lead Lifeguard Katie L'Ecuyer, a certified Water Safety Instructor. We invited counselors from Rindge Recreation Department to join in the training so we could spread the water safety message.

Contoocook beach was open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. It was guarded five days a week throughout the summer due to lifeguard staffing shortages. The snack shack was staffed for the same time schedule. Shattuck Park was not guarded this year due to lifeguarding staff shortages and budget reductions.

In August, we wished Anne Maher, the department's part-time program coordinator, farewell after one year of service. Anne oversaw the department's usual line-up of youth programs in addition to organizing and implementing new programs for the department including a spring window painting contest, afterschool golf for teens, adult fitness classes on the beach, adult wiffleball, and flag football.



The new school year brought the start of Club Rec, our active before-school morning care program, overseen by Tom Fahey. Tom's background as a camp counselor, tennis, and hockey coach has allowed children in our Club Rec program to learn new games, learn how to play tennis, and learn how to skate. Thank you to the community members who donated ice skates so all the children in our Club Rec program could learn to ice skate.

In September, we kicked-off our Saturday morning youth soccer program and our first NFL Flag USA Football program held on Sunday mornings. The soccer program served children in preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and we had 97 participants in 2017. The flag football program served children in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and we had 26 participants in our inaugural year. Thank you to all the volunteer coaches for these programs. Without you, we would not be able to offer these youth sport programs.



In the fall of 2017, the Recreation Department applied for and was awarded a grant to build a new playground. The old playground had reached its end of life (20 years old) and no longer met playground safety standards as indicated by a report completed by a certified playground safety inspector. Some hazards identified in the report were not able to be corrected.

The new playground equipment will be installed in late spring 2018, will meet current safety standards, will meet ADA requirements, and will serve more children and ages. The old playground was removed in early December and site work was begun for the springtime playground installation.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Halloween Hoopla entertained approximately 300 people throughout the course of the evening with carnival games, a costume contest sponsored by McDonald's of Jaffrey, hot food, and a spooky trail created by the Recreation Department's Youth Advisory Committee. Thank you to Conant High School's Interact Club and JPRD's Youth Advisory Committee for volunteering to run the carnival games.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Father Daughter Dance, sponsored by the Woodbound Inn, was held on November 11, 2017. A sold-out event again this year with 160 people in attendance, we once again had to turn away approximately 25 people. The Father Daughter Dance is one of our favorite events of the year. We try to create an affordable, special evening to honor the bond between little girls and their father/father-figure. Thank you to all the fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and family friends for devoting your evening to the young lady in your life. The smiles, excitement, and love which emanates from both these little ladies and their special guy, fills the room. You are creating memories

to last a lifetime. Thank you to all those who helped make this year's event possible, our sponsor The Woodbound Inn, Colls Garden Center & Florist, Caren Lewis, Tim Boudrieau for being the dj, and the many volunteers from Conant High School's Interact Club who helped us decorate and photograph the event.



Over 200 people joined us on the Town Common for the Town of Jaffrey's Annual Tree Lighting held on December 1, 2017. The Common was decorated with festive luminaries and sounds of Christmas carols provided by the Girls Scouts, Brownies, and Daisy troops. Town Manager Jon Frederick accompanied by his wife Lyn Frederick, read "The Polar Express" while children waited with excitement for Santa Claus to arrive with silver Christmas bells in hand. With lights and sirens ablaze, all knew Santa was on his way, arriving by fire engine courtesy of the Jaffrey Fire Department and escorted by the Jaffrey Police Department. Upon arrival, Santa greeted the crowd and provided the Christmas magic needed to light-up the Town Tree to the delight of all. Thank you to the all the organizations and individuals who helped us create this magical holiday event: Jaffrey Girls Scouts, Brownies, and Daisy troops; Jon and Lyn Frederick; Conant High School Interact Club; Jaffrey Police

Department; Jaffrey Fire Department; Jaffrey Public Library; Jaffrey Park and Recreation Department's Youth Advisory Committee.

The Annual Holiday Craft Fair held at Conant High School's Pratt Auditorium continues to be a favorite community tradition, now in its 37<sup>th</sup> year! Handmade and other goods from over 60 vendors were on sale while Santa Claus visited with children young and old, along with his elves. Over 650 patrons walked through the doors while an impending winter storm threatening to start at any moment. The broken-down concession food truck would have left us with no concessions, but the event was rescued by Jennifer Greenough. Thank you to Jennifer! Jennifer pulled a concession stand together for us at the last minute and oversaw it all day, with help from Michael Greenough and the Youth Advisory Committee as well. Thank you to the Recreation Department's Youth Advisory Committee for volunteering to help where needed during the event, including helping set-up and clean-up the event, assisting Santa Claus, and working in the concession stand. Thank you to Conant High School Interact club members for assisting Santa Claus and helping with day-of advertising.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Sangermano

Recreation Director