



As we reflect upon all that has been accomplished at the Recreation Department in 2018, gratitude is an overwhelming sentiment for the commitment of the recreation department staff in fulfilling our mission to create and sponsor recreational opportunities for all community members, which enhance the quality of life and provide a positive and safe environment for body, mind, and spirit. The Recreation Director is the only full-time staff member. All that was achieved this year was due to the dedication of Caren Lewis, part-time administrative assistant who also oversaw older adult programming; Sarah Hooper, part-time program coordinator, and Dana Kurylo part-time maintenance technician, with the assistance of our seasonal summer staff, Department of Public Works, and numerous volunteers including JPRD's Youth Advisory Committee. The strength and dedication of the Recreation Department team was very evident this year as they pulled together over the very busy summer months while the Recreation Director was on an unanticipated medical leave. The part-time staff handled the challenge beyond expectations as everyone shared responsibilities beyond their normal scope of duty to ensure the residents received the quality of service they have come to expect. Thank you to all the Recreation Department staff for going above and beyond.

In addition to the major projects listed, the part-time maintenance staff at the Recreation Department oversees 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. Snow removal for the public walkways at the Town Offices, Police Department, Public Library, and Town Common are also under the Recreation Department's responsibilities as well as the set-up and clean-up for all elections and town meeting.

In January 2018, Recreation Director, Renee Sangermano, presented at the Northern New England Recreation and Park Conference. Her presentation entitled "For the Youth, By the Youth" showcased the Department's Youth Advisory Committee, one of the first in the state, and taught other recreation professionals how to create and utilize their own Youth Advisory Committee to expand program offerings to teens, develop a youth volunteer base, and teach career/leadership skills.

The unpredictable, finicky weather of early 2018 impacted the experience of participants in our outdoor winter programs. We saw temperatures drop to -10 degrees and then shoot up to 45 degrees in the same week. Combine the erratic temperature changes with the rain storms and it made for a challenging winter to keep the ice rink open for public use. Our before school program known as Club Rec was able to use the ice rink every morning it was open through the generous donation of youth ice skates from the public. The children in the Club Rec program were excited to learn to ice skate, play ice hockey, and just loved their time on the ice rink skating before school.

We expanded the afterschool ski program this year by renting a school bus with larger capacity than the Recreation Department's mini-bus but participation numbers remained the same with 22 children participating in the program that went only on Tuesdays to Crotched



Mountain. For the 2019 season we plan to go back to a two-nights per week schedule, using the Recreation Department bus with a smaller capacity.

The Recreation Department partnered with New Hampshire Fish and Game the first weekend in February to offer a free Learn to Ice Fish class. Twelve adults and children participated in this two-day program which entailed a class room experience as well as a 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 2nd 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. Many families participated in this challenge with over 20 photos of snowmen and other snow creatures being submitted to our Facebook page.



During the first few month of the year, we finished transforming the “warming hut” into a more welcoming multipurpose space with its first public showing held at the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The fresh coat of paint and new floor coating provided a pleasant space for visits with the Easter Bunny and face-painting for the couple hundred people who came out for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Humiston Park. Additional building improvements included the removal of the old, unsanitary concession equipment and a re-construction of the old kitchen area to a new storage area with concession capabilities. These changes allow the department to better utilize the space we currently have to better serve department and resident needs.

Spring of 2018 saw the design, prep-work, and installation of phase one of the new playground at Humiston Park which was funded by a grant from GameTime, Inc and the recreation revolving account. Our part-time maintenance staff did a fantastic job prepping the site for this project and overall installation costs were reduced by volunteers who donated their time and equipment to install the new playground equipment. We would like to thank everyone who had a hand in the installation of the new playground: Jaffrey residents, Franklin Pierce College athletes, Keene Young Professional Network, Department of



Public Works, and the Jaffrey Parks & Recreation Department staff. We would also like to thank Panara Bread, Dunkin Donuts, Subway, and Apollo Steel for donating food to fuel our playground building volunteers. There will be many smiles over the 20-year lifespan of the playground thanks to your hard work and donations.

Thank you to McDonald’s for donating \$1000 to the Playground Fund at their grand re-opening. Funding for Phase 2 of the Humiston Park project is still needed. Together we can build it!

Thank you to the community members who helped replace the deteriorated staircase to the Humiston Park Press Box. We had been



trying to find a contractor to complete this job for a couple years, but the small nature of the project made it unfavorable to contractors. Thank you to Gordon Olin for building the staircase and all other community members who donated their time and materials for the project.

One of the costliest acts of vandalism the Recreation Department has experienced was committed in July 2018 at Humiston Park. Installation hardware and play equipment were stolen or destroyed just six weeks after the new playground was installed. The playground had to be closed for four weeks as we awaited replacement hardware and equipment to arrive from the manufacturer and our part-time maintenance crew to secure all nuts and bolts on the remaining equipment.

Over the summer, local high-school student Allyson Hocter completed her Silver Girl Scout project “Pom-Poms for Our Playgrounds”. Allyson's project consisted of fundraising for and donating a new spinning piece of playground equipment that seats one child. This spinning seat features a five-point harness making it usable for children of all abilities and requires interaction from children (one seated, one spinning the seat) in order to operate the spinning seat. This seat was a wonderful addition to the Humiston Park Playground as it made the playground more accessible to all children.



Humiston Park saw other improvements this year including the removal of the old softball dugouts and backstop fencing. The softball infield diamond was removed many years ago under a different Recreation Director, but the dugouts and fence were not removed at that time and the dugouts were becoming decrepit. The Department of Public Works removed the dugouts, a new fence was installed at the same height and alignment as the current fence line on Howard Hill side of the park, and landscaping was completed to provide the proper elevation to blend the new grass area created by the dugouts removal with the rest of the green space.



The cinder block storage building located behind home plate was a major undertaking this year as the damaged cinder block wall, which serves as a retaining wall for the Recreation Department driveway, was replaced with a poured concrete wall. Cracks in the remaining cinder block walls of the storage building were repaired and the termite damaged rafters were replaced.

In addition to regular maintenance and upkeep at Shattuck Park and Community Park, we removed dead trees at Shattuck Park and increased handicap accessibility with the installation of hard pack walkways and bleacher pads at Community Park. A new fence and walkway from Union Street to the Rail Trail was planned to be installed in late 2018 but due to unseasonably cold temperatures and winter weather arriving a month earlier than normal, the installation of the fence and walkway had to be postponed until Spring 2019.



Projects at Contocook Beach were completed to improve safety and handicap access. We removed the cement handicap ramp that was no longer serving its purpose due to shifting over time. We used hard pack to raise and level an area from the pavilion to the parking lot to provide handicap access to the pavilion and concession stand. The handicap parking spots were also relocated to have better access to this new handicap accessible entry way.

In addition to the handicap accessibility projects we completed at Contocook beach, a large dying tree was removed near the beach access path and the parking area was regraded multiple times due to damage caused by vehicles doing “burnouts” and “donuts” in the dirt parking area. We spend time and resources to improve the parking area each time it is damaged by “burnouts” and “donuts” to provide quality and safe recreational properties for our residents and deter vandalism.

We strive to make a pleasurable experience for all users of our properties. There are many small things done throughout the year that have a big effect on the overall condition of our facilities and grounds as well as programming.



Programs for older adults continued to gain in popularity in 2018. Our monthly Lunch Bunch trip has consistently sold out as word spreads of how fun the trips are each month traveling to a different restaurant, diner, or pub within one to one and a half hours from Jaffrey. Other bus trips we offered were to Disney on Ice, Boston Flower & Garden Show, and the famous Foster’s Clambake in Maine. Our weekly Coffee Hour program is held on Wednesdays from 9:30am-11am at the Jaffrey Civic Center. Attendance at this weekly program has increased with an average of 15-20 people attending weekly. Coffee and refreshments are provided for participants as they socialize and enjoy the changing art exhibits. On the third Tuesday of the month, we host a Women’s Social. This new evening program is held at the Jaffrey Women’s Club Cutler Memorial Building and allows women in all ages and stages of life the opportunities to connect. Social isolation and loneliness are risk factors for the health and wellness of all and the Recreation Department offers programs that allow people the opportunity to socialize with others which builds friendships and community while decreasing health risks.

The Recreation Department’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) concluded its third calendar year in operation. Thank you to the YAC leadership board for their hard work and dedication: Kamryn Coll, committee chairman; Kyle Frederick, vice-chairman; Patrick Greenough, secretary. 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. The YAC works directly with the Recreation Director to create programs so teen programs provided by the Recreation Department are designed for the youth by the youth. All youth are encouraged to join the YAC



and make Jaffrey a more fun place to be a teen. Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of the month September through June.

The YAC Teen Dance series has gained in popularity and increased to six dances throughout 2018. Each dance had a theme: Winter Semi-formal, Shamrock Dance, Bonfire, Beach Party, Black Light Dance, and Halloween Costume Dance. Mother nature did not cooperate for the outdoor dances to be held. Most dances were held at the Woman's Club Cutler Memorial Building. The Halloween Dance was held at the American Legion function hall and we would like to thank the American Legion Post 11 for sponsoring the Teen Halloween Dance.

In addition to our year-round programs, basketball and no-school day programs were indoor programs offered during the winter. The Youth Basketball Program ran Saturday mornings through January and February. The 69 children participating in the program ranged in age from preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The single "no-school" day camp programs we offered were not needed by residents as we had to cancel due to low enrollment. School break weeks watch movies, roller-skate, and play laser tag.



The Annual Easter Egg hunt was held on a Saturday March 24, 2018 at Humiston Park. Over 2,000 brightly colored eggs dotted the snow-covered field thanks to the volunteers from our weekly Coffee Hour who filled all the eggs with treats and the Youth Advisory Committee who "hid" all the eggs around the park. 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 for providing a Mr. E. Bunny, and painting faces.

In the spring, a 3v3 Soccer Program and QuickStart Tennis was offered for children and adults, and a Teen Camp-Out was held at the Franklin Pierce University (FPU) "Bubble". The QuickStart Tennis program was made possible by the USTA who provided all the equipment to play. The 3v3 Soccer program was a very active, non-stop soccer experience different than traditional soccer with only three players to a team which allows players to hone their skills in quick play decision making, ball handling, and in-game communication. The Teen Camp-Out was a night filled with great fun and very little sleep as 24 teens spent the night playing games, watching movies, and eating snacks. We are thankful to the FPU Men's Ice Hockey Team for volunteering as chaperones through most of the overnight event.

The 2nd Annual Spring Window Painting Contest had 10 participants and the annual Halloween Window Painting Contest had 20 participants of all ages, children through adults.

Safe Sitter Baby Sitter training courses were 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 day program, Challenger Sports British and TetraBrazil 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.



Contoocook beach was open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. For the first time in three years we had a fully staffed lifeguard crew. Thank you to the budget committee for approving the pay raise that encouraged more lifeguards to apply. The snack shack was staffed for the same time schedule. Shattuck Park has not been staffed with lifeguards for three years due to lifeguard shortages and we are no longer budgeting for lifeguards at Shattuck Park.

The new school year brought the second year of Club Rec, our active before-school morning care program. This program has seen a 100% increase in participation this year. The children enjoy time each morning actively using their brains and bodies engaging in outdoor games, activities, and craft projects.

In September, we kicked-off our fall youth sports programs including soccer and our second year of NFL Flag USA Football. The soccer program served children in preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and we had 96 participants in 2018. The flag football program served children in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and we had 24 participants. Thank you to all our youth sport volunteer coaches. These programs are only able to exist because of your willingness to give your time to the children of Jaffrey.

October saw the start of two new reoccurring programs. Please join us on Mondays from 10am to 12pm for our Monday Writing Group. Bring your writing project and enjoy a welcoming space amongst other writers. Writers of all ages and abilities welcome. On the third Tuesday of the Month, please join us for a Ladies Night Out – Women’s Social from 6:30pm-8pm. This evening is a time for women of all ages to set aside for themselves (because they are so good at making sure their families are well cared for) to develop friendships and socialize with other ladies in the community. Ladies Night Out-Women’s Social is held at the Cutler Memorial Building through the generosity of the Jaffrey Woman’s Club.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Hoopla moved a few hundred feet from the Community Field to the Rail Trail providing a fun-filled path from public parking areas to Main Street for TEAM Jaffrey’s Downtown Trick or Treat. Thank you to JPRD’s Youth Advisory Committee for volunteering to run the carnival games.



The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Father-Daughter Dance, sponsored by the Woodbound Inn, was held on November 16, 2018. A sold-out event again this year with 160 people in attendance, we once again had to turn away approximately 25 people and we will be looking for a larger facility to hold the event next year. The Father-Daughter Dance is a 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 joining the young lady in your life for this magical evening filled with smiles, excitement, and love. 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 our volunteer DJ again this year, and the YAC members who volunteered to be doormen and help at check-in.



The Annual Town Tree Lighting event was held on the first Friday of December. The temperatures were very cold and approximately 150 people joined us on the Town Common for the Town of Jaffrey's Annual Tree Lighting held on December 7, 2018. The Common was decorated with festive luminaries and sounds of Christmas music. Town Manager Jon Frederick accompanied by his wife Lyn Frederick, attempted to read "The Polar Express" but wireless microphone difficulties

delayed the start of the story and they only made it through a few pages before Santa's escort could be seen and heard coming down Main Street. 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: Monadnock Santa, Jaffrey Girls Scouts, Brownies, and Daisy troops; Jon and Lyn Frederick; Jaffrey Police Department; Jaffrey Fire Department; and JPRD's Youth Advisory Committee.

The Annual Holiday Craft Fair held at Conant High School's Pratt Auditorium continues to be a favorite community tradition held on the second Saturday in December, now in its 38<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. Approximately 600 patrons walked through the doors on this bitterly cold day. Thank you to Monadnock Santa for joining us at the craft fair and to all the vendors who donated items to the Recreation Department's raffle fundraiser to benefit Playground Fund. 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. The YAC took it upon themselves to run the concessions stand this year with all profits going to the Playground Fund. Thank you to Athen's Pizza, Monadnock Inn, and Subway for supporting the YAC's efforts in fundraising for the Playground Fund by donating food items for the concessions stand.

2018 was truly a year of community collaboration and celebration. With much appreciation for the generosity of the Jaffrey community and the people who have helped the Recreation Department achieve great things this year, thank you for being part of our journey this year. We look forward to more years ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Renee Sangermano, CYSA  
Recreation Director