



The staff at Jaffrey Parks and Recreation Department consistently works diligently to provide quality programs and facilities. This year, staff members should be recognized for their grit and perseverance, having given more of themselves and stretching their creativity while operating during the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic caused program staff to adjust quickly to new guidelines and limitations, pivoting from the outlined program plan to “building the airplane while they were flying it” all while maintaining their positivity. Their work was not easy, but they dug deep and the recreation department kept moving forward, providing resources for mental health, checking-in with at-risk populations, and being of service to the community where needed as it navigated the new normal.

During the state-wide stay-at-home orders from March – May, we provided 244 Facebook posts and nine email newsletters reaching over 7,000 people focusing on virtual program offerings, health safety tips during the pandemic, mental health and wellness tips as well as resources. During this same timeframe, we offered free rentals of folding tables and chairs for families to use during remote schooling and established a “Board Game Exchange” for residents to donate and receive board games and puzzles. We prepared a “Shopping Program” to provide residents a means of having groceries and prescriptions delivered to them in the event non-profits currently offering the service were unable to operate during the pandemic. We researched local markets and how they are operating under Covid-19 restrictions to establish an operation plan that included how to take orders, pay, deliver safely, etc. We researched and created Communicable Disease Management Plans for each “in-person” program and event we would be offering after the shut-down to ensure we were abiding by all state, federal, and industry guidelines for preventing the spread of Covid-19.

During the state shut down, March – May, we provided weekly wellness calls to patrons who regularly participated in our adult programs. Over 840 calls, texts, emails, or Facebook messages were made to 70 patrons over the 12-week period. Wellness calls helped ease stress and provided comfort and conversation to combat isolation and loneliness. The calls also allowed us to provide information about available community services to ensure residents had access to food, transportation, and healthcare, as well as the most current health and safety information from the CDC and Attorney General’s office. Wellness calls allowed us to help as we could with tasks such as shopping for hard to find items (toilet paper) and delivering masks to those who needed them. Calls resumed in November when the school district closed schools and we paused in-person programming for adult groups.

The pandemic caused the cancellation of four annual community events, 22 youth programs, 25 adult programs (including our 12-day trip to Alaska). Despite these cancellations, we were able to offer a variety of programs and events throughout the year.

During the state-wide shutdown (March – May), we created and offered 19 programs and events:

- Virtual Trivia Night
- Food Drive
- Teddy Bear Hunt
- Look on the Bright Side
- Chalk Your Walk
- Zoom Coffee Hour (online)
- Easter Bunny Drive-By
- Easter Express (home visits)
- Easter Egg Window Hunt
- Hunt for the Golden Rocks
- At-Home Camp Out
- Jaffrey’s Got Talent (online)
- Soccer Drills (online)
- Show and Tell Sundays
- Virtual Pet Parade
- Virtual Home Baking Contest
- Wellness Calls
- Youth Advisory Committee Meetings (online)



In addition to the programs and events offered during the state-wide shutdown we offered nine adult programs, 13 community events, and 27 youth programs:

Adult Programs:

- Coffee Hour -weekly
- Zumba Fitness Classes
- Zumba Gold Fitness Classes
- Lunch Bunch Trips
- Create and Connect -weekly
- Adult Dodge Ball
- Adult Wiffle Ball
- Adult Kickball
- Ice Fishing Class

Community Events:

- Annual Spring Window Painting Contest
- Annual Fall Window Painting Contest
- Father Daughter Dance “In a Bag”
- September Outdoor Craft Fair
- October Outdoor Craft Fair
- Planks-giving (virtual)
- Green Friday (virtual)
- Zumba Dance Party
- Santa Express
- Annual Letters to Santa
- Santa Drive-Thru & Food Drive
- 4th Annual Spontaneous Snowman Challenge
- 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Burn (*with tree pick-up service*)

Youth programs:

- After School Karate Class
- Club Rec
- Learn to Play Tennis
- Street Hockey
- Summit Challenge Hiking
- Leprechaun Training Camp
- Camp Rec Summer Program
- Saturday Basketball
- Afterschool Ski and Ride
- Kids Night Out
- Class - Safe Sitter Babysitter
- Dungeons & Dragons Club
- Fancy Feet Soccer
- Soccer Buddies
- Homeschool P.E. Program
- Magical Woodland Builders
- Ice Fishing Class
- Afterschool Kickball
- Teen Camp Out
- E-Sports – Super Smash Bros. Tournament
- Winter Explorers
- Youth Advisory Committee
- Spooky Campfire Stories
- Deck the Dough Cookie Decorating

In early 2020, Recreation Director, Renee Sangermano and the department’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) worked with Southwest Region Planning Commission on the topic of Youth Transportation in the Monadnock Region. The YAC piloted a youth focus group template that will be used throughout the region to gather feedback from youth about their transportation needs and potential solutions. The YAC’s participation in the focus group was reported about on New Hampshire Public Radio!

Parks, beaches, and playgrounds remained open throughout the pandemic to provide the public access to the health and wellness benefits of the Town’s recreational properties. Contoocook Beach was not staffed this year due to COVID-19 safety concerns for staff.

The Recreation Department grounds and facilities are maintained by one part-time year-round maintenance lead technician and one part-time seasonal maintenance laborer. For the past three years, Dana Kurylo led the maintenance of the Recreation Department facilities and grounds. Dana resigned in early March and we thank him for the quality of care and attention to detail he gave to the Town’s recreation facilities and grounds. Phillippe Gregory now serves as lead maintenance technician at the department.



In addition to regular preventative and routine maintenance for facilities and grounds at Community Field, Shattuck Park, Contoocook Beach, Humiston Park, and the War Memorial the following facility and grounds improvements were completed in 2020:

Contoocook Beach

- Replaced old septic pipes from toilets to the septic tank to improve flow and prevent clogs
- Removed broken and rusted chain-link fence to improve safety and provide access

Community Park

- Installed bicycle repair station and air pump

Humiston Park - Grounds

- Removed deteriorating light posts and field lights around ball field
- Replaced deteriorated garage doors on barn
- Installed a safety mat under the Sensory Wave Spinning Seat at the playground

Humiston Park – Office

- Replaced old water tank

Humiston Park – Program Building

- Installed five windows for better air circulation (*Previously this building had zero windows*)
- Installed window curtains and valances
- Replaced rotted siding
- Painted exterior of building
- Installed new cabinets and countertop in staff area to improve storage and sanitation

Various Locations

- Installed Covid-19 prevention/social distancing signage at managed properties

Per residents' requests, we assisted in the creation and passage of Chapter 155 - Article IV of Jaffrey Town Code which makes parking at the Town's public beaches (Contoocook Beach and Shattuck Park) for residents only. Residents must have a Transfer Station Permit affixed to their vehicles to park at these two locations. Permits are available at the Town Clerk's office. Vehicles without a permit will be subject to a \$50 fine and towing at vehicle owner's expense. Restrictions are for parking only. The Town's public beaches remain open for use by all persons.

Notable achievements were made by department staff this year. Renee Sangermano and Sarah Hooper, Recreation Program Manager were selected to present at the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) annual national conference about the department's Youth Advisory Committee. Caren Lewis was selected by the National Recreation and Park Association to be one of 50 recreation professionals highlighted in the July edition of Parks and Recreation Magazine. Renee was accepted into the Leadership New Hampshire program, a program that brings together leaders from across the state to identify and work towards resolving major issues facing the state. Renee also earned the National Park and Recreation Association's Certified Parks and Recreation Professional distinction.

The Playground Fund has reached approximately \$10,000 in donations of the \$40,000 needed for the installation of Phase 2 of the Humiston Park Playground Project. We thank all the businesses, organizations, and residents who donated to the playground fund this year. Every dollar gets us closer to our goal. Together, we can build it!

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Sangermano, CYSA, CPRP
Recreation Director