



Monthly Department Report – May 2017

Program Updates

Senior Trips/ Programs: Along with the weekly shopping excursions, the seniors traveled to Marketbasket in Biddeford in early May, followed by lunch at the Cracker Barrel in South Portland. Later that month, there was a group that traveled to the Botanical Gardens in Boothbay Harbor to enjoy their beautiful gardens, with lunch in their Café. Upcoming trips for the Summer include a Lunch Cruise on Casco Bay, the Tate House Museum, and the Owls Head Transportation Museum's Air Show in August.

Youth Programs: The After School Mad Science Program completed its final session in early May. The Spring Session of our After School Yoga Program on Wednesdays for children in Grades K-5 concluded in early May. During April Vacation, we offered a Kite Flying Workshop and partnered with SACC so that their children could participate in this as well, and we had 19 youth join us for this. The Happy Hearts Creative Movement program completed its 6 week session for children ages 3-5 in May, with 8 children participating in this. We held our final Early Release Day Program in May, with 20 middle school children going to Monkey Trunks after a pizza party in the gym. Registration for the Summer Track Program opened in May, with the program scheduled to begin on June 14th.

Adult Programs: Pickleball completed its final session in May, and will begin back up in the fall.

Summer Camp: Registrations for the 2017 Summer Day Camps opened on Monday, April 24th, which was a month earlier than usual in order to allow people more time to make payments. We are offering both the regular camp day enrollment option along with the extended day option this year, which serves both the needs of the working parent, or the parent who wants to provide their child with an affordable summer camp experience, but does not need extended day supervision. In May, we provided parents with the Enrichment programs that are being offered this year, and they will have an opportunity to enroll in these extra offerings which do have an associated fee involved, but are beyond the typical camp activities. These include Zumba, Cycling, Paddling (kayaks and canoes), Swim Lessons at SJC, Video Production, an Adventure Bound trip for the oldest campers, and an overnight camping experience at Dundee for the oldest campers.

Special Events Update

Summerfest: Our department is working with the Summerfest Committee to facilitate the work that they are doing to offer the community another great event on Saturday, June 24th. We are managing the registration process as much as possible, and will also aid in the communication piece with all participants as we get closer to the date. Information about this event is on our website, along with a link to the Summerfest website.

Summer Concert Series: All of the bands have been booked for the series, which will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. from July 12 – August 5. We have also secured 4 community organizations to manage the concessions at the concerts.

Find It Here Windham – Trails Edition: Find It Here is a photo scavenger hunt of outdoor experiences in Windham designed to encourage families and individuals to get outside in conjunction with National Trails Day on June 3rd. This program opened up in May to teams of two or more people, and we had 14 families register to take part in it.

Facility Updates

Donnabeth Lippman Park: Work continues on the storage building at Donnabeth Lippman Park and our part-time park maintenance worker returned in May for the season. We are also planning to install swings at the park this spring to enhance the existing playground there. A story was put out on the Storywalk Trail in May in anticipation of our many park visitors happy to have Spring arrive.

Lowell Preserve: As soon as weather permits and our seasonal part-time maintenance employee returns to work, there are plans to repair a bridge on one of the trails, and to put new signage in the section of trails that had been logged by the owners of that property along the border of the preserve.

Dundee Park: We began to accept group reservations for Dundee Park in April and began to promote our park passes as well. The park opened week-ends only on May 27th.

Department Projects

Beginning to work on updating trail maps to include new trails, as well as other trail systems not currently included in current map

Staffing Levels

Year-Round Staff – 3 Full-time, 1 Part-time, 2 Per Diem Van Drivers

Trail/Maintenance Staff – 1 Full-time; 1 part-time seasonal

Dundee Staff – 2 Park Managers, 10 Lifeguards, 4 Park Attendants

Organization/Town Meetings

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: The second major goal of the committee has been to continue research regarding the community's interest in future development of a community center. In May, the committee interviewed and selected 7 community members to begin working on this process.

Be the Influence: I continue to participate with this committee and seek ways to provide quality programs that can help our youth feel valued.

Amazing Chase: This committee began meeting again in January to initiate plans for the 2017 event, which will be held on Saturday, September 16th this year.

Summer Lunch Program: Once again, the Summer Lunch program will be held at Dundee Park, and I have worked with that committee to put all logistics in place. Parents that qualify are given a free Dundee Park Pass in order to come into the park with their children each day.

Monthly department staff meetings on Friday mornings

Future Event Dates

June 14th – Summer Track Program begins

June 24th – Summerfest

June 26th – 1st Day of Summer Camp

July 10th – 1st Day of Summer Lunch Program

July 12th – 1st Concert of the Season