



Monthly Department Report – July 2017

Program Updates

Senior Trips/ Programs: Seniors joined our neighboring communities on a Lunch Cruise on Casco Bay, and also attended the weekly Concert Series at Dundee Park. Plans for August include the Owls Head Transportation Museum's Air Show.

Youth Programs: The Summer Track Program continued throughout the month of July, with 40 youth ages 5-14 participating in this program. Windham hosted the meet on July 20, and will compete in the regional meet in August to try to qualify for the state meet at Massabesic High School. Wayne St. Peter's Youth Tennis Camp was offered in July, with 3 children participating in the ½ day program and 5 in the full day program.

Adult Programs: Most adult programs are complete for the summer, but our group of men's league participants continue to have open gym once/week.

Summer Camp: Summer Camp began on Monday, June 26th. In addition to the varying enrollment options and enrichment activities offered to 251 kids, we also added some additional activities during the course of the summer. There was an overnight camping trip to Dundee Park, an overnight trip to Adventure Bound Whitewater Rafting, a kayaking experience for all at Dundee Park, and a tubing down the Saco River. Community service projects were completed, with senior campers working on the high school community garden, and all three camps working on a Food Drive that brought in many donations to the Food Pantry. Themed activities were offered throughout the 7 weeks, and we received 24 parent surveys back with the majority of responses indicating that the services, staff and programs in the Good – Excellent range.

Family Offerings: Discount Tickets are available to be purchased in our office for Funtown/Splashtown, Aquaboggen and Yorks' Wild Animal Kingdom, with sales continuing through the month of August.

Special Events Update

Summerfest: The Summerfest Committee attended the Council Meeting on July 25th so that we were able to publicly acknowledge their dedicated service to the community. Kelly Mank has announced that she is stepping down as chair of that committee. The council will be working on establishing a charge for the committee to follow moving forward.

Summer Concert Series: The first concert of the season scheduled for July 12 was postponed to August 9th due to poor weather conditions. The two concerts held in July were well attended, and the Lions Club and Windham Parks and Recreation Adventure Bound campers benefited from hosting the concession stand at those two concerts. Mulberry Farms came to the concerts each week as part of a proposed pop-up Farmer's Market.

Facility Updates

Donnabeth Lippman Park: The swingset has been ordered, which will be one more enhancement of a very popular park. Most of the work on the maintenance building has been completed, but with the summer weather upon us, the park maintenance employees have moved outside to complete all that needs to be done at this time of the year.

Lowell Preserve: The new Park Ranger has continued to do much of the work needed with signage and trail markers, and new maps are being developed. She connected with the NE Mtn Biking Association to establish a partnership with the local organization, and discussions have been held about possible joint offerings. She also began to put together plans for a Community Trail Day in August designed to bring folks out to our trails and do some additional clean-up and maintenance.

Dundee Park: The park was teeming with activity throughout the month of July, with 22 groups reserving spaces throughout that month. Area Recreation departments that brought their camps to us included Portland, Biddeford, Standish, Hollis, Lewiston, Falmouth and Old Orchard Beach. The Dundee Duck was created with assistance from Nikki Jarvais of Rinck Advertising. The duck will be used on new signage throughout the park that will be a family-and- children friendly way to promote both the rules and the offerings at the park. On July 10, the Summer Lunch Program began serving lunch at the park on Mondays- Fridays.

Department Projects

New signs for our buildings with the department logo have arrived, and will be placed at each of the buildings at our outdoor facilities

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

Create new signage for Dundee Park

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

Camp Staff - 3 camp directors, 3 assistant camp directors, 1 Senior Camper Coordinator, 1 Art Director, 16 counselors

Park Ranger – New seasonal position, hired to visit and monitor activities at all of our parks/trails and establish connections with our users

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 June, the 7-member Ad Hoc Committee began working on this process, and have been meeting regularly throughout the summer.

Be the Influence: I continue to participate with this committee and seek ways to provide quality programs that can help our youth feel valued. The coalition director participated in the first concert with many folks visiting her table.

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. The first day of the summer lunch program will be Monday, July 10th and will end on August 11th.

National Night Out: I have worked together with representatives from Gorham Parks and Recreation, the Gorham and Windham Police Department and the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department to plan activities at Shaw Park in Gorham for National Night Out; this event will likely become an annual event, and the plan would be for Windham to host it next year.

Monthly department staff meetings on Friday mornings

Future Event Dates

August 2nd – National Night Out

August 11th – Last day of summer camp