



Monthly Department Report – September, 2016

Program Updates

Discount Tickets: Within the next few weeks, we will receive information about Discount tickets for area ski resorts, and we will sell those as a service to the community and as a way to support the Maine Recreation and Park Association. The department will also receive up to \$2.00 for each ticket sold.

Senior Trips/ Programs: Our senior programs are becoming extremely popular, and we have had a number of new participants taking part in the varied offerings. We now have 86 seniors who have requested to be on the mailing list for our quarterly senior newsletter, and that list continues to grow. In September, we had a group go shopping and out to lunch in Kittery, and then we joined the neighboring communities for a Foodie Tour in Portsmouth, NH. We have also had a few new people sign up for the weekly shopping trips in North Windham on Wednesdays.

Youth Programs: We introduced the first session of the After School Mad Science Program for children in Grades K-3, and will be offering a program later this Fall for Grades 4-5 at Manchester School. We are also accepting registrations for the Home Alone Program and Red Cross Babysitting, which has been a very popular program in the past with the teen population.

Adult Programs: We began the registration process for the Men's Basketball League, and also adopted the Men's Tuesday and Thursday Open Gym program, which had been happening in the past but without a sponsor. Since the school was in need of this group to be sponsored by an entity, we promoted this program and opened it up to others as well. We are also currently selling season passes for the Sunday morning Open Gym Basketball and Volleyball programs which will begin in November.

Facility Updates

Donnabeth Lippman Park: We have met with an engineer in order to have plans drawn up for improvements needed to the storage building. This will provide a winter

workshop area for Kevin Bailey, now that his hours have increased to 32 hours/week year-round.

Skatepark: The additional materials that were needed have been purchased, and the other park elements were removed by our two park employees and some Public Work employees. Unfortunately, we have been unable to get the contractor to get back to the park to complete the project. He had scheduled the work on 3 separate occasions, and each time either weather or his own work schedule has prevented him from coming.

Dundee Park: The park was closed for the season on September 7th. A report about our successful season and a report from our student intern CiAnne Plummer were provided to the council on September 13th.

Department Projects

The student intern is working to help us establish stronger partnerships with each of the Youth Sports Organizations. A survey was sent out to each of them in order to determine ways that they feel our department can support their efforts. An immediate plan is to assist them in promoting the week-long summer camps that many of them provide, and find ways to enable the Windham Parks and Recreation Day Camp participants to participate in those camps as well if they are interested in doing so.

At the encouragement of the Town Council, I have met with Sebago Technics to initiate the process of having the Community Park Concept Plan that was developed in 2006 updated to reflect the new plans and the existence of the Community Gardens. I am currently gathering the materials necessary to submit a grant application to the State's Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Staffing Levels

Year-Round Staff – 3

(Part-time Recreation Programmer Sarah Davenport hired in September, and she is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 3.)

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

Student Intern from SJC (Casidee Couture) working 10-12 hours/week

Organization/Town Meetings

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: The committee continues to work on its two major goals. The first is the skatepark rebuild project, along with the development of a multi-purpose park at that location so as to serve more types of users. The committee chair Pat Moody gave a presentation to the council on Tuesday, September 13 and the committee was pleased with the positive response of the council. The second major

goal is to continue research regarding the community's interest in future development of a community center. The on-line survey is still available for people to complete throughout the fall, and the committee plans to have a presence on Election Day to encourage the public to complete the survey. The committee is also working on its plans for a Halloween Adventure on Saturday, October 29th.

The Amazing Chase: The Amazing Chase was held on Saturday, September 24th, with 13 teams traveling around the Sebago Lakes Region to accomplish both physical and mental challenges in pursuit of the most points. The event was a great success and is sure to grow bigger each year. It was a great way to showcase many of the recreational opportunities in this region, and it also served to raise funds for Feed the Need.

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

Monthly department staff meetings on Wednesday mornings

Future Event Dates

Halloween Adventure- Saturday, October 29th

Community Tree Lighting – Sunday, November 27th