



## **Monthly Department Report – July 2017**

### **Program Updates**

Senior Trips/ Programs: Seniors traveled up to Owls Head for the day – the weather didn't allow for the Air Show to take place, but they enjoyed the museum and lunch at Moody's Diner. In addition to the weekly shopping trip to stores in North Windham, there was a group that headed to Biddeford for shopping at the Marketbasket and lunch at Mulligan's.

Youth Programs: There were 18 youth from our Summer Track Program that qualified for the state meet at Massabesic High School in August.

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

Summer Camp: Summer Camp ended on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup> with some special events held to celebrate a great summer. Included in that was a camp-wide picnic at our own Dundee Park. We received 27 parent surveys back with the majority of responses indicating that the services, staff and programs were in the Good – Excellent range.

Family Offerings: The Discount Ticket program concluded in August. We sold 36 tickets to Aquaboggen, 96 tickets to Funtown/Splashtown and 21 tickets to York's Wild Kingdom. This is a service we offer to the community that also serves to support the Maine Recreation and Park Association.

### **Special Events Update**

Summerfest: Together with the council, we will be working on establishing a charge for the committee to follow moving forward.

Summer Concert Series: The final two concerts for the season were held in August – Rick Charette had over 500 people in attendance for his concert on August 2, and there were 90 people that attended the concert provided by the Greg Burns Trio on August 9<sup>th</sup>. The American Legion Auxiliary hosted the concession stand for Rick Charette, and a local 4-H equestrian group hosted the concession on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Windham Trails Day: On Saturday, August 12 we had approximately 15-18 volunteers come out to participate in this 1<sup>st</sup> annual event that was coordinated by our Park Ranger, Molly Bennett. Molly partnered with a local business, Maine Alpine Guides, in putting together some maintenance tasks at both Lippman Park and Lowell Preserve for the group of volunteers to

assist us with. Following the clean-up and maintenance portion of the event, lunch was provided for all, and then there were demonstrations offered by Maine Alpine Guides. The department intends to build on this event and make it an annual event with the additional programs offered as well to get people out to our trails and make them aware of the great recreational opportunities they provide.

Arts in the Park: The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee has listened to the requests of some community members, and has proposed an Arts in the Park Event to take place on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. This event will be held at the Town Hall Park from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., and the department is working in partnership with Advisory Committee members to pull this event together.

### **Facility Updates**

Donnabeth Lippman Park: The swingset has been ordered, which will be one more enhancement of a very popular park. The maintenance building was sided during the summer months, so the roof will be the last of that rehab project.

Lowell Preserve: The Park Ranger completed her duties in August, and returned to college. She accomplished a lot in a short time this summer, and the addition of that seasonal position proved very effective for the department. Her presence at all of our outdoor facilities throughout the summer months was helpful in establishing community connections for the department.

Dundee Park: The park continued to see much activity throughout the month of August. The Dundee Duck signs were delivered to our office at the end of August, so they will be erected next Spring, and will replace old and worn signage throughout the park. The Summer Lunch Program concluded on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. A full report for the 2017 Season has been included in this month's report.

### **Department Projects**

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

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 attended the Summer Concert Series and National Night Out this summer.

Sebago Lake Chamber of Commerce - Amazing Chase: This committee began meeting again in January to initiate plans for the 2017 event, which will be held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> this year. This has been a very helpful way for me to connect with the business community.

Summer Lunch Program: I continue to work with this committee to establish a Summer Lunch Program that meets the needs of our community. There were some changes implemented at the Dundee Park location this summer to try to enhance the program, and the Dundee Park staff have been credited with being very helpful to the volunteers involved with that program. It is my hope that we can establish a program that might be able to serve the needs of youth attending our summer camp programs.

National Night Out: The department participated in this 1<sup>st</sup> annual event held at Shaw Park in Gorham this year, and was represented by offering fun games and activities for youth. This event was very well-received by the numerous individuals and families from Gorham, Windham and surrounding towns who participated. We look forward to hosting the event next summer, and will work together with the Police Department to have it be as successful as the first one.

Monthly department staff meetings on Friday mornings

### **Future Event Dates**

Saturday, September 16 – Amazing Chase

Saturday, October 14 – Arts in the Park

Saturday, October 28 – Halloween Adventure