

Borough of Chatham

Annual Report

2015

Recreation



CHATHAM BOROUGH - RECREATION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Chatham Borough continues to meet with Chatham Township to discuss and supervise joint recreation programs. This joint venture, with Chatham Township, is referred to as the Chatham Joint Recreation Advisory Committee (CJRAC).

Recreation efforts were directed towards youth and adult programs. Chatham is fortunate to have an active Senior Community Center whose focus is our Senior Citizens. Their resources provide both passive and active programs to our senior residents.

Youth programs offered through Chatham Recreation or in conjunction with a Chatham "Club" included baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, flag football, football, skiing, soccer, lacrosse, cross country, track, special needs adaptive track, wrestling, tennis and volleyball.

Programs offered to our adults included Men's Over 35 Basketball, a Men's Basketball League, Men's Softball, Women's Volleyball and Women's Softball. Golf permits, through Millburn Recreation, were advertised for the Millburn Par 3 Golf Course and Summit offered Chatham resident's permits to the Summit Par 3 Golf Course.

In the spirit of cooperation Chatham Borough participated with the Morris County Adaptive Recreation Program (McArap), TryCAN which is a program for children with special needs, the Girls on the Run Program and the Chatham High School Athletic Department. Communication continues with surrounding recreation departments and the New Jersey Parks and Recreation Association to share ideas and programs.

Program registrations taken through our online registration system, Community Pass, included youth basketball, cross country, track, special needs adaptive track, skiing, youth and women's volleyball, men's and women's softball, men's basketball, Rutgers Safety Training Courses and membership to the Chatham Borough Municipal Pool. "Club" programs that collected their own registrations included baseball, softball, football, flag football, cheerleading, soccer, field hockey, wrestling and lacrosse. Youth basketball will assume "Club" status in 2016 and will then directly collect their registration information and fees as their own entity.

As the "Club" programs evolved bylaws, grievance committees and codes of conduct were formulated by each club. A Resolution of Agreement was drafted and discussed with the "Clubs" for approval. Recreation continues to communicate with and support the clubs with background checks, training and facility coordination. Coordination and communication is critical with the overlap of programs both within a season and as the next season begins their planning.

Spring Programming:

Baseball:

Kindergarten to grade 8.
Weeknight and weekend sessions.

Softball:

Kindergarten to grade 8.
Weeknight and weekend sessions.

Lacrosse:

Boys and Girls Kindergarten to grade 8.
Weeknight and weekend sessions.

Track:

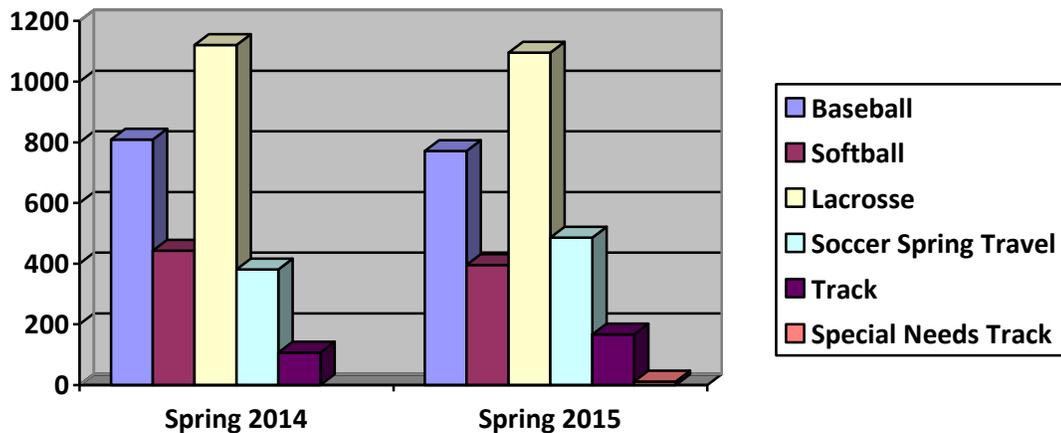
Boys and Girls grades 3-8.
Weeknight and weekend sessions.

Special Needs Adaptive Track:

Boys and Girls grades 1-5.
Sunday sessions.

Travel Soccer:

Boys and Girls ages U8 to U14
Weeknight and weekend sessions.

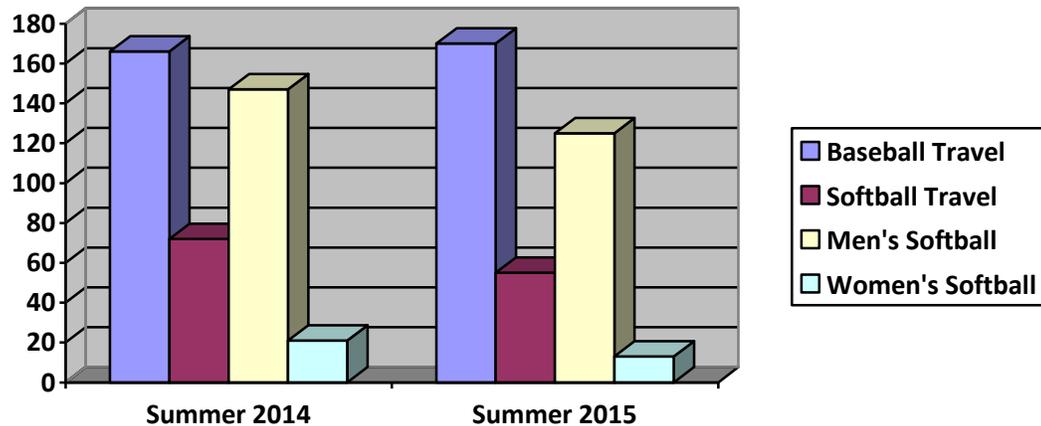


While baseball, softball, lacrosse and spring travel soccer have been consistent spring programs, Track was a new program requested by Chatham parents. Joining that new initiative was a Special Needs Adaptive Track component. This program offered an in-town opportunity to Chatham children with special needs.

Summer Programming:

Baseball and Softball Youth Travel Teams: Tryouts held
Weeknight and weekend sessions.

Women's Softball:
 Monday/Wednesday games.
 Men's Softball:
 Weeknight and Sunday games.



In addition to the above summer programs a variety of in-town camps were organized by our Chatham High School Coaches. Each of those camps handled their own registration.

Soccer, Multi-Sport and Tennis Camps were organized through recreation to provide opportunities to our younger children that the high school coach camps could not include.

The paved area at Garden Park and the tennis walls continued to give residents an area to play and congregate. Tennis court lines were re-striped and children continued to enjoy the play equipment.

Fall Programing:

Field Hockey:
 Grades 3-8
 Weekday training and weekend games.
 Youth Volleyball:
 Grade 7/8
 Monday night sessions.
 Tackle Football:
 Grades 5-8
 Weeknight/weekend practice and Sunday games.
 Cheerleading:
 Grades 4-8
 Weeknight/weekend practice and Sunday games.

Flag Football:

Grades 3-6

Weeknight practice and Saturday games.

Recreation Soccer – Non-Travel:

Boys and Girls grades K-8

Weekday training and weekend games.

Fall Travel Soccer: Tryouts held

Boys and Girls ages U8-U14

Weekday training and weekend games.

Cross Country:

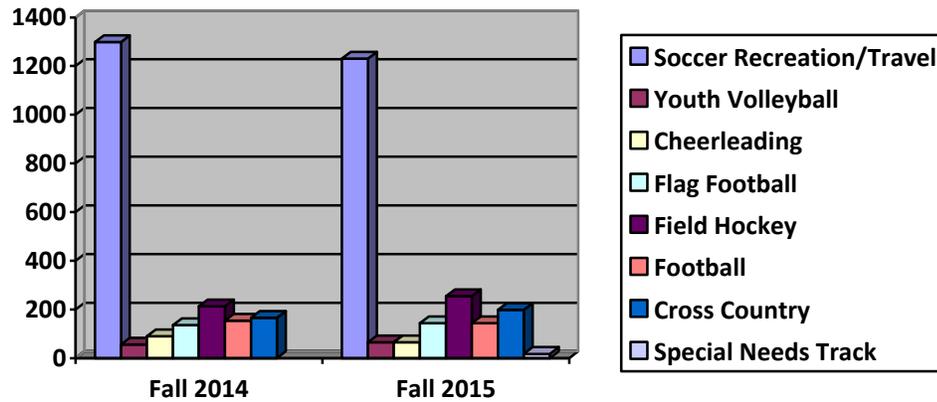
Boys and Girls grades 3-8

Weeknight training and Sunday meets.

Special Needs Adaptive Track:

Boys and Girls grades 1-5.

Sunday sessions.



The Cross Country Program continued to be a success in its second season. After a successful spring Special Needs Track Program a slightly expanded fall version was added for the children to experience. Working with the High School Sports Buddy Club the children not only participated in running stations but also tried the shot put, played some kick ball and worked on some soccer skills.

Winter Programming:

Ski Trips:

Five to six trips to Shawnee Mountain in Pennsylvania

Grades 7/8 (grade 6 as space permitted)

Basketball Youth:

Boys and Girls grades 3-8.

Basketball Travel - Boys and Girls:

Boys and Girls grades 4-8: Tryouts held
Weeknights/weekend practices and games.

Men's Basketball League:

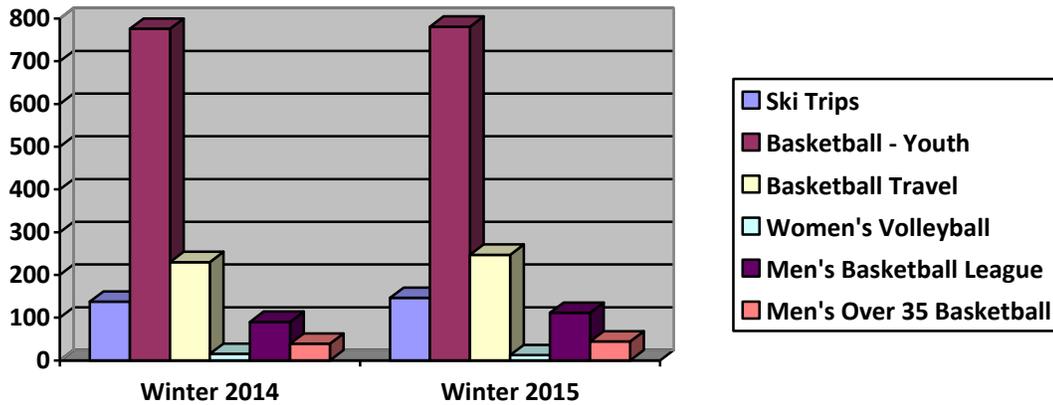
Sunday games and weeknights as space allows.

Men's Over 35 Open Gym:

Tuesday/Thursday open gym

Women's Volleyball:

Monday night open play.



As the Youth Basketball Program became closer to achieving “Club” status many of their internal operations fell with their appointed club members. The group handled travel and recreation team evaluations, selected coaches and determined their team rosters. Chatham Recreation, accepted the basketball registrations through Community Pass and purchased their game shirt and equipment. This process will be handled with the Chatham Basketball Club in 2016. They will continue to work closely with Chatham Recreation for facility use.

Below are the 2014/2015 participant numbers from the above programs

Program	2014	2015	%
Soccer Recreation/Travel	1299	1231	-5.23%
Cheerleading	90	65	-27.78%
Flag Football	135	143	5.93%
Field Hockey	213	255	19.72%
Football	154	143	-7.14%
Youth Volleyball	56	65	16.07%
Cross Country	166	198	19.28%
Track - Special Needs - Fall		17	N/A
Baseball	809	771	-4.70%
Softball	443	395	-10.84%
Lacrosse	1121	1096	-2.23%
Track	107	166	55.14%
Track - Special Needs - Spring		11	N/A
Soccer Spring Travel	381	486	27.56%
Baseball Travel	166	170	2.41%
Softball Travel	72	55	-23.61%
Men's Softball	147	125	-14.97%
Women's Softball	21	13	-38.10%
Ski Trips	137	146	6.57%
Basketball	776	781	0.64%
Basketball Travel Girls/Boys	230	247	7.39%
Men's Basketball League	90	111	23.33%
Men's Over 35 Basketball	39	44	12.82%
Women's Volleyball	15	12	-20.00%
Total	6667	6746	1.18%

Chatham Borough Memorial Park Pool:

The renovations at the Memorial Park Pool continued to be enjoyed by the membership. Children participated in group swim lessons, parents enrolled their children in private swim lessons, adults enjoyed water aerobics and families enjoyed float days. Pool hours were adjusted due to member requests. Parents of young children enjoyed the earlier start time to work around children's nap times.

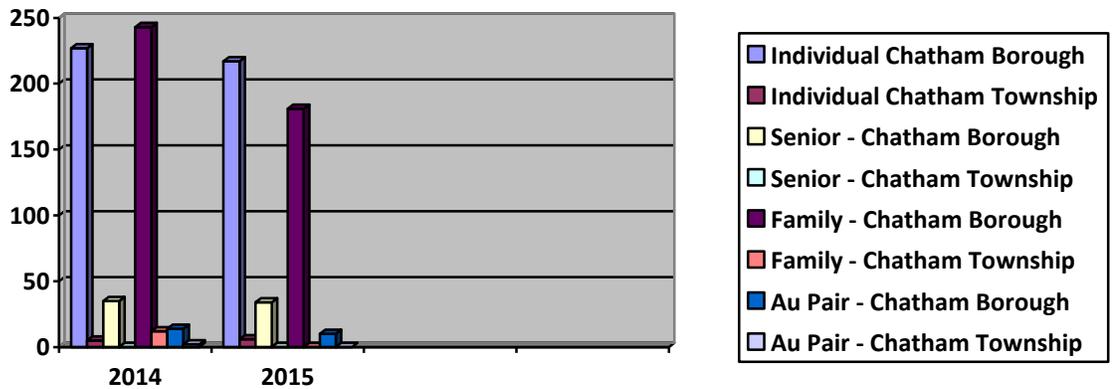
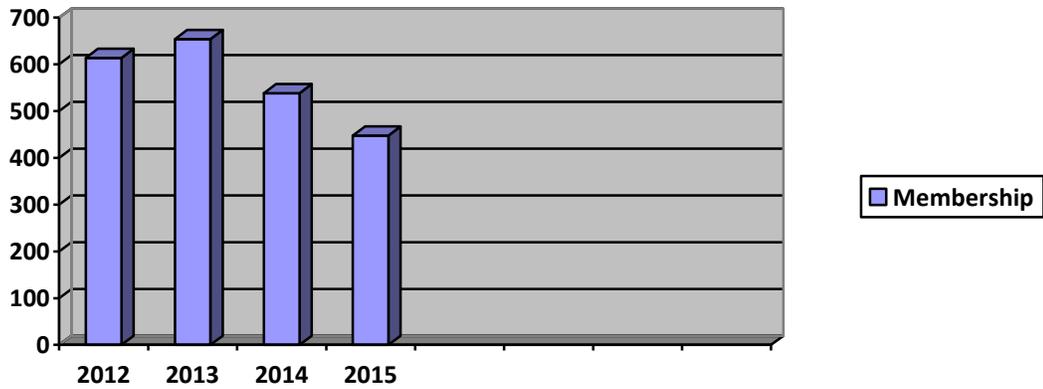
Members were again able to register and pay online, through Community Pass, for their pool memberships. Over 50% of the membership took advantage of the Early Bird fee.

While the registered member numbers dropped (538 in 2014 to 448 in 2015) the number of guests remained flat.

Members from 2014 were contacted that did not return in 2015. Twelve families joined larger pools, 8 moved from Chatham and 6 had other long term summer plans.

Members were contacted about joining the Memorial Park Pool Advisory Committee. There will be another push for this for the 2016 season as member input is critical to success.

Outside the pool area the library, playground, fields and basketball court continued to be a popular attraction for those visiting the pool.



Community Pass accepted registrations for the pool, recreation sponsored programs, clinics, activity information requests, Rutgers training and other functions for organizational purposes. Communications were sent through the Message Manager component regarding programs, weather related closings, training courses and registration information. Community Pass has continued to save hours in generating reports, program information, gathering data for interest levels and training. It has greatly enhanced the communication process to our residents.

Our Chatham Recreation Web Site continued to be a success providing a central base of information regarding our Chatham Recreation and “Club” programs. Residents could also register for email notifications regarding information about a specific program or overall information regarding several programs.

Chatham Recreation continued to work with the Chatham Athletic Foundation. The CAF continued their mission to provide funds for the ImPact testing program on concussion awareness. This program gives players aged 10 and over the opportunity to take a baseline test through the Atlantic Health System.

In evaluating our facility supply and demand, seasonal facility allocation meetings continued to coordinate in-season requests. The goal was to learn and inform each other of their seasonal requirements and then collectively share space and time. A master schedule is drawn from those requests. After typical in-season program requests are distributed, other non-typical seasonal programs are able to apply for available space and/or time.

Chatham’s fields receive significant wear. Planning and rotation of programs is critical. The Lum Side lacrosse wall has provided players an added space to build on skills. A new turfed soccer practice area, adjacent to the lacrosse wall, will open in the spring of 2016. Drainage at Shepard Kollock has alleviated saturated fields that became unplayable. After the drainage was completed the south Shepard field was renovated by our Department of Public Works. Baseball teams can now play either 46/60 or 50/70 games on that field. The Chatham Baseball Club installed dugouts and a batting cage at the site to enhance the programs offerings to the players.

Training for our coaches continued with coaches taking the Rutgers Safety Training Course. CPR and Defibrillator courses were offered through the Chatham Emergency Squad. Chatham Recreation was given the ability, administratively, to coordinate coach lists for those that coached multiple programs. A program was held for coaches and parents regarding sports injuries and concussions. It is the hope to continue to bring important issues to our Chatham families and volunteers.

Fingerprint Background Checks and Name Check renewals, through the State of New Jersey, continued for volunteers working with the children. To date over 1,950 volunteers have been fingerprint processed and over 275 renewed through the Name Check renewal process.

Cooperation and sharing with the School District of the Chatham's is critical to the success of all of our Chatham programs. The first right of refusal, in/on our school facilities enabled us to provide active year-round programs. We will continue to work closely as we share needed space.

As always, our success is due to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers. They spend countless hours coaching and working with our children and adults. Volunteer pools do continue to dwindle. This is a critical issue throughout many of our programs/clubs leading in some cases to the hiring of paid staff. Many volunteers are coaching multiple teams for some of these programs to continue to be offered.

I would like to acknowledge Tony Torello and the Department of Public Works and Borough Engineer Vince DeNave for their assistance with our field projects and facility maintenance. I would like to thank our volunteers, our Chatham "Clubs", our internal borough departments, administration and members of the Chatham Borough Council for their continued support.

In closing, Chatham Recreation will strive to continue the mission of the committee which states "Our mission is to provide advice and recommendations for a comprehensive program of community based recreational activities in the most safe, efficient and effective manner, providing accessibility and affordability, which contribute to the quality of life for all Chatham residents."

2015 RECREATION GOALS - OBJECTIVES - ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Goal: Complete renovations at Shepard Kollock
Objective:
Replace backstops and player bench fencing at the north and south field.
Replace some sprinkler heads.
Achievement:
Project completed on south field

2. Goal: Memorial Park Pool
Objective:
Increase membership numbers
Expand publicity base to reach residents.
Secure added pool committee members
Continue to listen to member suggestions
Achievement:
Member numbers did not increase for 2015.
Several member compliments were received regarding the facility and staff.
All state and local guidelines were met and approved.

3. Goal: Shared Services
Objective:
Continue to share program ideas with surrounding towns to increase program offerings.
Achievement:
Communications were made with surrounding towns as well as other NJRPA members regarding recreation and/or pool issues.
Communication continued with the school district and Chatham Township to provide facilities for our programs and clubs
4. Goal Tennis Courts
Objective:
Paint the white court lines.
Review 2015 member numbers.
Achievement:
Court lines re-painted.
5. Goal; Privatize Youth Basketball
Objective:
Close the transition of Youth Basketball in achieving “Club” status.
Achievement:
Basketball will move to their full club status in 2016.
Current club board members are being transitioned into necessary roles to take on those responsibilities full-time.
6. Goal: Fields/Gyms
Objective:
Maximize space working with each season’s program needs.
Continue seasonal facility allocation meetings to communicate and share facility needs.
Continue a close working relationship with the school district.
Achievement:
Season facility meetings continue with those seasons programs/clubs.
7. Goal: Chatham Athletic Foundation
Objective:
Continue communications regarding assistance with recreation projects benefitting Chatham residents.
Achievement:
Open discussion continues on facility needs for our Chatham youth.
8. Goal: Community Services Department
Objective:
Share ideas in providing programs and services to our residents.
Increase the pool of volunteers utilizing Chatham “Clubs”, organizations.
Achievement:

Communications continue regarding ideas for a potential new project benefitting the towns, recreation and the club programs.

2016 RECREATION GOALS - OBJECTIVES

Goal: Memorial Park/Pool

Objective:

Continue to increase membership numbers
Expand publicity base to further reach residents.
Secure added pool committee members
Continue discussion with other towns for member and program ideas.

Goal: Shared Services

Objective:

Continue to share program ideas with surrounding towns.
Meet with Chatham organizations (library, senior center, schools, etc.) for an open discussion of their program offerings and to increase volunteer pool.

Goal: Club Transition

Objective:

Youth Basketball will administer their own program, including the collection of fees, with the start of the fall 2016 season.

Goal: Parent/Coach Programming – Safety and Informational

Objective:

Provide opportunities for coaches/parents regarding health, safety and training courses/seminars.

Goal: Chatham Athletic Foundation

Objective:

Continue communications regarding assistance with projects benefitting Chatham residents.

Goal: Community Services Department

Objective:

Share ideas in providing programs and services to our residents.
Communicate with the shared service organizations (library, senior center, school district, municipal organizations) regarding current or new community events.
Increase volunteer base to assist with MYChathamNJ activities/events.

