

Borough of Chatham

Annual Report

2009

Recreation



CHATHAM BOROUGH RECREATION

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Chatham Borough Recreation experienced another very active year. We continued to meet with the Chatham Township Recreation Department to discuss and supervise joint programs. This joint venture with Chatham Township, referred to as the Chatham Joint Recreation Advisory Committee (CJRAC), formulated bylaws and completed a Policy and Procedure Manual. This manual along with a Code of Conduct will continually be updated.

As in previous years, most of our recreation efforts were directed towards youth activities. While adult activities were still an integral part of our overall program, space dictates what we are able to provide. Non-athletic activities, to add to our programs, are being developed for both our youth and adults. Art, science, child care courses and bus trips will be some of the activities brought in to Chatham Recreation. Chatham is also fortunate to have a very active Senior Community Center whose focus is our Senior Citizens. Their resources provide both active and passive activities to our residents.

With the eleven basic youth activities currently offered (baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, flag football, football, lacrosse, skiing, soccer and our summer camps), we continued to discourage playing multiple activities. In 2009 Chatham Recreation had over 8070 registrations. This was up 1408 from 2007.

Total increase in registrations 2007 - 2008



Chatham Recreation began 2009 with our Ski Program. The six week program was a great success. The new added gym space at the Middle School and Washington Avenue School has given us the ability to get all of our recreation and travel basketball sessions scheduled alleviating past limitations. Recreation continues to pay for school custodial staffing for weekend gym use when a custodian is not scheduled for a facility. Registration fees continue to cover that expenditure.

In the spring, our Girls and Boys Lacrosse Programs continued to expand. Parents took clinics in the younger grade levels and became trained as coaches or assistants moving up with their child's grade.

The Chatham Recreation Baseball and Softball Program added further clinics and coaches training. The girl's 5-8 softball program added some teams from Madison to increase their league size for play. Inclement weather pushed several baseball sessions to the Lum Turf diamonds.

The Tennis Courts opened with a series of Professional Tennis Lessons for our residents. Those lessons continued into the summer and fall. The gate locks continued to be a deterrent for non-tennis related activities. New gate fencing will be installed in 2010 along with new signage.

The paved area at Garden Park, near the tennis courts, was a very popular location for our residents. Residents appreciated the safe play area for both our youth and adults. It is hoped a new piece of playground equipment will be installed in 2010 to replace a piece that had deteriorated underground. Residents from the area have offered input on a piece they would like to see installed.

As the summer approached our Summer Travel Baseball and Softball teams took the fields. An informal Summer Boys Lacrosse League was formed with neighboring towns to give those registered players some added lacrosse opportunities. Recreation also provided over 20 Summer Camps providing in-town opportunities for our children to build on skill development or explore new activities.

The Chatham Borough Municipal Pool provided relief to over 260 residents. Children participated in swimming lessons with the swimmers displaying their new skills at our annual Water Carnival. A leak in a pipe to the Wading Pool was repaired as well as a broken skimmer. Skimmers were repaired at the large pool. New grates were installed to conform to pool safety guidelines. Cost estimates were received for needed pool upgrades. I attended a class by the Joint Insurance Fund titled managing Community Pools. Outside the pool area the playground was a very popular location for those visiting the park, library and pool.

As the summer ended, our Youth Football Teams began practice on the Lum Turf Field. Six temporary light units were rented for early September for the team's two weeknight practices. League games were held at Cougar Field. Due to the increased numbers in some grade levels, extra games were held on Saturday afternoons to give players who did not receive as much play time at Sundays game the opportunity to utilize their skills. One of Chatham's 8th grade coaches (Scott Lynch) was named Coach of the Year by the league. One of Chatham's 8th grade players received a league scholarship as did two cheerleaders for essays they wrote about how their football/cheerleading experience affected their lives. The Youth Football Cheerleading Squads held practices during the week to prepare for the Sunday Youth Football games.

Our fall Flag Football Teams enjoyed their Saturday morning sessions. A second weekday session was added for coaches to work on drills with the players to prepare for their Saturday session.

Soccer was again a popular fall activity. Clinics were held every Saturday with experienced hired trainers to assist the coaches and players. The trainers also held weekday sessions for each grade level. A 4v4 formation was set for the teams to give the players more touches to the ball to increase their skills. Players received updated soccer shirts and families were extremely pleased with the upgraded program.

The Recreation Field Hockey Grade 5-8 teams played in a New Jersey travel league. A grade 4 Saturday clinic was held weekly, after the upper grades completed their sessions. Coaches stayed and introduced new players to the game.

In addition to the above youth activities, adult activities offered through Chatham Recreation were a Men's Over 35 Basketball Program, a competitive Men's Basketball League, Men's Softball, Women's Volleyball and Women's Softball. We sold golf permits, through Millburn Recreation, to the Millburn Par 3 Golf Course and offered resident's permits to the Summit Golf Course.

Chatham Recreation, in consideration of economic situations around us, reduced several registration fees and also disbanded late fees.

To assist Senior Citizens in the community, a link was added to our recreation website promoting the many activities and bus offerings by the Senior Center.

In the spirit of cooperation in working with other organizations, Chatham Recreation participated in the Morris County Adaptive Recreation Program (McAarp), and we assisted the Chatham Community Band with their music supplies. Chatham Recreation assisted the Chatham United Traveling Soccer Club, the Chatham Youth Wrestling Club and the Girls on the Run Program with space after all of the school and our recreation needs were met.

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

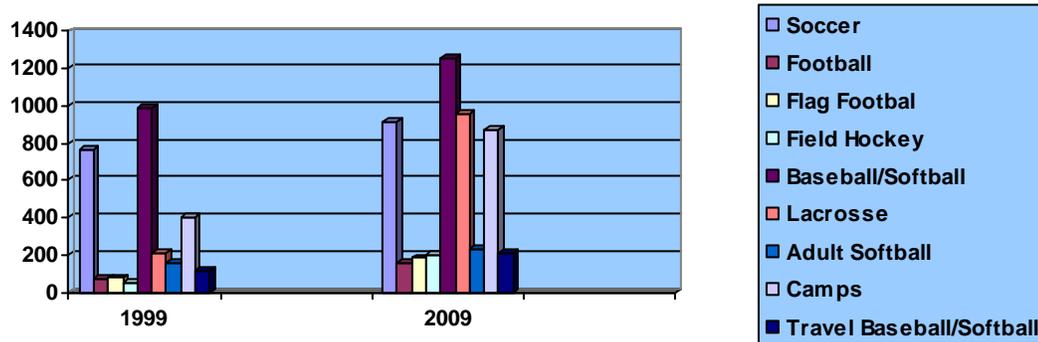
With school construction projects completed, the reopening of fields at Lafayette and Washington Schools was a great asset to the expanded spring program. The school district upgraded and added softball diamonds behind the Middle School. They also are upgrading the JV Baseball Field behind the High School with financial assistance from the Chatham Baseball Club. Shepard Kollock continues to be on the list for some upgrades to alleviate drainage issues. The Lum Front Field had a new backstop installed, an on-deck batting area and new safety fencing placed around its player benches. At Lum Turf, safety fencing around the player benches and on-deck batting areas were installed at both fields. New backstop fencing will be installed at the turf field in 2010 due to damage done to those backstops.

A Memorial Park Committee has been formed to review that complex in regards to the pool as well as the fields. Funds were approved for upgrades at Memorial. A recommendation on a proposal will be made to the council.

In evaluating our field supply and demand, the Chatham Athletic Foundations fundraising efforts continued. Those funds will assist with a second project in Chatham Township. That project was approved by the DEP. Plans will commence to produce a turf field at Shunpike Field in 2010 as well as upgrading the ball diamonds.

Chatham's fields, due to enrollment, again had significant wear and tear. Planning and rotation of activities was critical. Problems with cicada killers again appeared at two ball diamonds. Activities using those fields were moved to other locations.

As we evaluate field space and look at the increase in numbers using these fields for just the basic outdoor activities there has been an increase of 2224 participants from 1999 to 2009.



Training for our coaches continued with coaches taking the Rutgers Safety Training. CPR and Defibrillator courses were held for all coaches. Defibrillator units were purchased, through the Babbitt Foundation, for 5 field areas in the borough. Protocols were written and approved. Over 170 coaches have been trained thus far. Bill Nauta, a member of the American Heart Training Faculty with the Atlantic Health System, was instrumental in training our volunteers as well as taking on the responsibility of the defibrillator training.

Fingerprint Background Checks continued for volunteers working with the children. Coaches successfully completing their background checks receive a card from Chatham Recreation. Over 975 volunteers have been processed.

In 2009 we continued to develop additional activity sub-committees and league coordinator positions. The sub-committee is a group of active representatives within their activity interest. They met periodically to plan their season with the Recreation Directors and Recreation Committee Liaison. From that group, league coordinators were assigned the responsibility of communicating information to the other coaches within their grade leagues. This generated a very enthusiastic group of volunteers who worked closely with the Directors to put a product forth for the participants. These volunteers became an integral part of the planning process.

As the Chatham's look at the future of the CJRAC, the administrators of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township invited key volunteers from each Chatham activity to discuss recreations future. New ideas were discussed and ways for committees to assume more responsibility for their particular activity.

Our Chatham Recreation Web Site continued to be a success. New pages for the site are always being reviewed. A video from the Joint Insurance Fund was streamlined on to the site for volunteers to view.

Community Pass, our online registration system, was utilized for every program registration. This online process has saved this department time in generating reports and registration information.

Cooperation with the School District of the Chatham's was critical to the success of all of our programs. Joint sharing was paramount in our planning as was constant communication. The first right of refusal, on our school fields and in our school gyms, enabled us to provide an active year-round program. We will continue to work closely as we share needed space for our activities.

An Interlocal Agreement continues between Chatham Borough, Chatham Township and the School District to permit Borough and Township employees and/or volunteers to take care of minor repairs on school fields recreation utilizes.

As always, our success is due to the efforts of many volunteers. They spend countless hours coaching and working with our children and adults. To honor many of those volunteers a Volunteer Reception was held for all Chatham Recreation Volunteers. Seventeen former Chatham Recreation Committee Members, coaches, assistants, etc. were given tokens of appreciation for the hours of service they devoted to our programs.

We want to acknowledge the assistance of the Department of Public Works in preparing our fields and maintaining our park facilities and playgrounds. They continue to perform miracles during poor weather and in keeping with increased usage demands. We would like to thank our volunteers, our Chatham Borough Administrator Mr. Falzarano, Mayor Vaughan, Council Liaison Jim Collander, the members of the Chatham Borough Council and Robert Venezia and his Department of Public Works employees for their continued advice and 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."

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Nauta
Recreation Director

2009 RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Goal: Finalize joint construction project at Shunpike Field
Objective:
Provide an added safe location for our residents
Provide relief to existing complexes
Achievement:
Turf field to be completed in 2010.
2. Goal: Complete renovation at Shepard Kollock Park
Objective:
Provide safe play area for our residents
Install drainage to increase field usage
Upgrade ball diamond areas to fulfill JIF guideline
Achievement:
Plan approved by DEP
3. Goal: Explore grant opportunities
Objective:
Assist with funding facility repairs/enhancements
Achievement:
Grants explored – matching funds discussed with school district.
4. Goal: Develop a Recreation Master Plan
Objective:
Identify field needs
Review school demographics
Evaluate existing fields
Prioritize needs and locations
Interface with the Planning Board
Complete a field utilization report
Achievement:
To be completed in 2010.
5. Goal: Memorial Park
Objective:
Meet with committee to formulate plan for the entire complex.
Provide a progress report for additional parking
Provide a progress report of park renovations
Provide a timeline to enhance safety measures
Achievement:
New Memorial Park Committee formed to make recommendation in 2010 about the complex and the current pool.

6. Goal: Facility enhancements
Objective:
Work in conjunction with the Chatham Athletic Foundation and Board of Education
Recommend areas for improvement
Complete on-deck batting/fencing areas at Lum Turf Field and Front Lum
Achievement:
Lum Front backstops, benches, safety fencing completed.
Lum Turf safety fencing completed.
Lum path into turf completed.
7. Goal: Continue Background Check Procedure
Objective:
Ensure safe staffing for our activities
Ensure periodic evaluations are completed
Achievement:
Over 979 checks done since the inception.
8. Goal: Evaluate new program/activity requests
Objective:
Insure space
Consider impact on existing activities/program
Achievement:
Art/science/child care courses and bus trips are being evaluated.
9. Goal: Tennis Court Repairs
Objective:
Replace old, rusted fencing securing the courts
Achievement:
New signs received and new gate fencing to be installed early 2010.
10. Goal: Review Recreation Bylaws/Policies and Procedures
Objective:
Ensure goals are satisfied
Evaluate program fees
Finalize organizational chart
Achievement:
To be updated with future plan.
- 11: Goal: Community Pass and Website
Objective:
Ensure necessary updates are incorporated
Achievement:
Pages added and Community Pass updated continually with new programs.

12. Goal: Work with Municipal Alliance and Senior Citizens
Objective:
Assist with non-athletic activities for our youth and seniors
Achievement:
Information distributed through our website and community television stations.

2010 RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Goal: Finalize a plan for Shepard Kollock
Objective:
Provide safe play area for our residents
Install drainage to increase field usage
Upgrade ball diamond areas to fulfill JIF guideline
2. Goal: Memorial Park
Objective:
Formulate a plan
Provide a progress report for additional parking
Provide a progress report of park renovations
Provide a timeline to enhance safety measures
Provide a review of the current pools
3. Goal: Funding
Objective:
Discuss increasing the current activity participant use fee as field maintenance and supply costs increase.
Discuss a turf replacement fund.
Generate fee analysis of program costs
4. Goal: Shared Services
Objective:
Share program ideas with surrounding towns to increase some program offerings to sometime limited numbers.
5. Goal: Athletic enhancements
Objective:
Continue interface with the Chatham Athletic Foundation
Recommend areas for improvement
Continue to work with the school district regarding facility needs/repairs.
6. Goal: Background Checks
Objective:
Continue to try to provide safe staffing for our programs.

7. Goal: Evaluate new non-athletic program/activity requests
Objective:
Provide non-athletic activities to our residents – youth and adult.
8. Goal Tennis Court Repairs
Objective:
Provide safe play area for our residents
Replace old, rusted fence gates and replace signage
9. Goal: Youth Drop In Activity Center
Objective:
Provide a safe location for the Middle School and High School youth to gather and socialize.
10. Goal: Interface with new Recreation Staff.
Objective:
Assist with the growing needs of the recreation department
Complete/update a Policy and Procedure Manual
Develop a Recreation Master Plan