

# **Borough of Chatham**

## **Annual Report**

**2010**

### **Recreation**



# CHATHAM BOROUGH RECREATION

## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Chatham Recreation experienced another very active year. We continued to meet with Chatham Township 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.

In June of 2010 a Joint Recreation Director was named – Brian McNany. Carol Nauta was designated the Deputy Director. Mr. McNany was welcomed to this new role.

Most of our recreation efforts were directed towards youth activities. Working to expand offerings beyond athletics and including more adult offerings, new youth and adult programs was a goal for 2010. Chatham is 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 senior residents.

Youth activities offered (baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, flag football, football, lacrosse, skiing, soccer and our summer camps) continued to be popular. New youth programs/camps offered were volleyball for girls in grades 7/8, science exploration workshops, youth art sessions, babysitting classes, mini basketball, reading and tennis. New adult/family programs included a series of bus trips to New York and Broadway. Families enjoyed the Million Dollar Quartet, Mary Poppins, Billy Elliott and the Christmas Spectacular.

In 2010 Chatham Recreation took in 8,630 registrations. This was up 1,968 from 2007.

**Total increase in registrations 2007 - 2010**



Chatham Recreation began 2010 with our Ski Program. The six week program continued to be a success. Basketball was also a success for players in grades 3-8. Seven travel teams were formed in grades 6-8. Chatham Recreation continues to pay for weekend school custodial fees when a custodian is not scheduled at 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 player's clinics and coaches training. The girl's grade 5-8 softball program added teams from Summit to increase their league size for play. Those grade levels now play in a recreation league that includes Summit and Madison. The softball program added an Aquafina Competition with 3 of the Chatham participants earning recognition to compete at Yankee Stadium.

The Tennis Courts opened with a series of tennis lessons for our residents. The gate locks continued to be a deterrent for non-tennis related activities. New gate fencing will be installed in 2011 along with new signage.

The paved area at Garden Park, near the tennis courts, continues to be a very popular location for our residents. Residents appreciate the safe play area for both our youth and adults. A new piece of playground equipment was installed to replace a piece that had deteriorated underground.

As the summer approached our Summer Travel Baseball and Travel Softball teams took the fields. A Summer Boys Lacrosse League was formed with neighboring towns to give those registered players some added lacrosse opportunities. Recreation also offered over 43 Summer Camps providing in-town opportunities for our children to build on skill development or explore new activities. New camps included tennis, mini basketball, flag football, reading, art and science.

The Chatham Borough Municipal Pool provided relief to over 217 residents. Children participated in swimming lessons with the swimmers displaying their skills at our annual Water Carnival. New programs offered were adult aerobics, private swim lessons, family pizza/swim night and game days. A repair was done to the kiddie pool. 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. 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 Sunday's game the opportunity to utilize their skills. 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 sessions. A second weekday session was held for coaches to work on drills to prepare for their Saturday session.

Soccer was again a very popular fall activity. Clinics were held every Saturday with hired experienced trainers to assist the coaches and players. The trainers also held weekday skills 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 continued to be extremely pleased with the upgraded program.

The Recreation Field Hockey Grade 5-8 teams played in a New Jersey travel league. A grade 4/5/6 Saturday clinic was held weekly. Coaches introduced new players to the game.

In addition to the above youth/adult activities, other adult activities offered 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.

In the spirit of cooperation in working with other organizations, Chatham Recreation participated in the Morris County Adaptive Recreation Program (McArap). 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 on concussion awareness as part of their mission. The program gives players aged 10 and over the opportunity to take a baseline test through the Atlantic Health System.

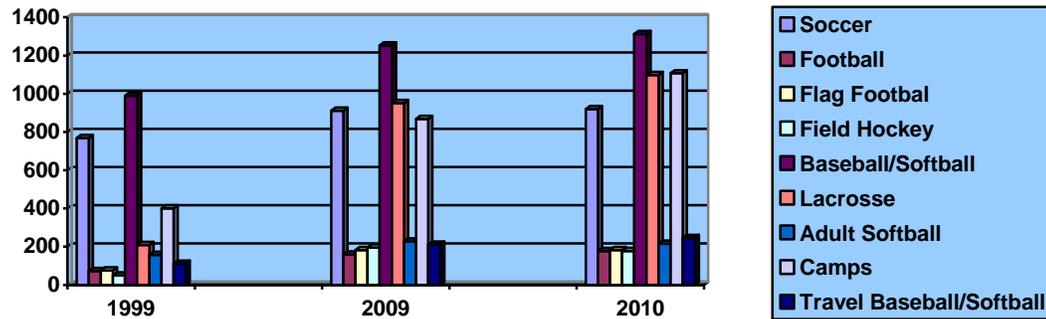
The addition of the school districts new softball and baseball diamonds gave the recreation program the ability to schedule the older grade spring teams on those fields. With Shunpike Field under renovation added large sided fields were needed for those players. Shepard Kollock continues to be on the list for upgrades to alleviate drainage issues. New backstop fencing was installed at the Lum Turf Field due to damage done to those backstops.

A Memorial Park Committee was formed to review that complex in regards to the pool as well as the fields. A survey was sent to residents regarding the pool and potential upgrades, etc. to that complex.

In evaluating our field supply and demand, the Chatham Athletic Foundations fundraising efforts continued. Those funds assisted with the renovation of Shunpike Field in Chatham Township. The project includes an all purpose turf field 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.

As we evaluate space and look at our increase in numbers, for just the basic activities, there was an increase of 2347 participants from 1999 to 2010



Training for our coaches continued with coaches taking the Rutgers Safety Training. Seven Rutgers Courses were held during the year. CPR and Defibrillator courses were offered for all coaches.

Fingerprint Background Checks continued for volunteers working with the children. Over 1,166 volunteers have been processed.

Recreation 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 to plan their season with the Recreation Directors. 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.

Our Chatham Recreation Web Site continued to be a success. New pages for the site are always being reviewed.

Community Pass, our online registration system, was utilized for program registrations. This online process has saved the department time in generating reports and registration information and enhanced the communication process to our residents.

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.

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."

## 2010 RECREATION GOALS –OBJECTIVES-ACHIEVEMENTS

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  
Achievement:  
On hold pending Shunpike opening.
  
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  
Achievement:  
On hold pending review of pool and park complex.
  
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  
Achievement:  
Proposed for 2011
  
4. Goal: Shared Services  
Objective:  
Share program ideas with surrounding towns to increase some program offerings to sometime limited numbers.  
Achievement:  
New Joint Recreation Director appointed.
  
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.  
Achievement:  
Funding provided for lighting at Shunpike Field.

6. Goal: Background Checks  
Objective:  
Continue to try to provide safe staffing for our programs.  
Achievement:
7. Goal: Evaluate new non-athletic program/activity requests  
Objective:  
Provide non-athletic activities to our residents – youth and adult.  
Achievement:  
New youth and activity programs offered to residents.
8. Goal: Tennis Court Repairs  
Objective:  
Provide safe play area for our residents  
Replace old, rusted fence gates and replace signage  
Achievement:  
Gate areas/signage to be replaced in spring of 2011.
9. Goal: Youth Drop In Activity Center  
Objective:  
Provide a safe location for the Middle School and High School youth to gather and socialize.  
Achievement:  
Discussion with members of CAF.
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  
Achievement:  
Expansion of youth sub committees

## 2011 RECREATION GOALS –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:
  - Finalize plan and renovation date.
  - Provide a progress report for additional parking
  - Provide a progress report of park renovations
  - Provide a timeline to enhance safety measures
  - Complete renovations of the current pool complex.
  
3. Goal: Funding  
Objective:
  - Finalize plan to increase current activity participant use fee as field maintenance and supply costs increase.
  
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: Provide new non-athletic program/activities  
Objective:
  - Provide non-athletic activities to our residents – youth and adult.
  - Expand non-athletic recreational needs in community
  - Develop plan to initiate new programs.
  
8. Goal: Tennis Courts  
Objective:
  - Provide safe play area for our residents
  - Evaluate court conditions for repair/renovation.

9. Goal: Youth Drop In Activity Center

Objective:

Provide a safe location for the Middle School and High School youth to gather and socialize.

Open discussions with CAF.

10. Goal: Recreation Committee/Sub-Committees

Objective:

Assist with the growing needs of the recreation department

Update the Policy and Procedure Manual.

Develop a Recreation Master Plan.

Develop guidelines for each sub-committee.

11. Goal: Fiscal reports

Objective:

Maintain fiscal responsibility with all programs.

12. Goal: Fields

Objective:

Maximize space with completion of Shunpike Field project.