

Borough of Chatham

Annual Report

2011

Recreation



CHATHAM BOROUGH RECREATION

2011 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.

Most of our recreation efforts were directed towards youth activities. Working to expand offerings beyond athletics and including non-athletic offerings, youth and adult, became a reality. 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, skiing, soccer, tennis, junior golf, volleyball and our summer camps) continued to be popular. Youth non-athletic programs/camps offered included science exploration workshops, youth art sessions, babysitting classes, reading, music, guitar, keyboarding, aviation and chess. New adult/family programs included a series of bus trips to New York and Broadway. Families enjoyed the Wicked, Mama Mia, Lion King, Jersey Boys, Memphis, Phantom of the Opera, Sister Act and the Addams Family.

In 2011 Chatham Recreation took in 6,401 registrations.

Chatham Recreation began 2011 with our Ski Program. The six week program continued to be a success taking 131 skier/snowboarders to Shawnee in Pennsylvania. Basketball was also a success for players in grades 3-8. Twelve travel teams were formed in grades 5-8. 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 became a club activity operating as a quasi club/municipal activity. Recreation continued to assist the program with training and field space.

The Chatham Recreation Baseball and Softball Program added player's clinics and coaches training. The girl's grade 5-8 softball program continued to play teams from Madison and Summit to increase their league size for play. The softball program continued their Aquafina Competition.

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.

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.

As the summer approached our Summer Travel Baseball and Travel Softball teams took the fields. Recreation also offered over 69 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 277 residents. Children participated in swimming lessons with the swimmers displaying their skills at our annual Water Carnival. Programs offered were adult aerobics, private swim lessons, an adult swim night, game and float days. The Pool Committee met to formulate plans with the borough engineer for an updated facility for the 2012 season. That would include an expanded deck, new kiddie pool, updates to the current large pool and a new picnic area. The renovations began soon after the pool closed on Labor Day. 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. The 8th and 5th grade teams moved on to both play in their grades Suburban Youth Football Championship Game which brought great excitement to the football program. The Youth Football Cheerleading Squads held practices during the week to prepare for the Sunday Youth Football games. One of our coaches, Bob Kautzman was named Coach of the Year, our League Coordinator Tom Aloia was named League Rep of the Year and our outgoing League Coordinator Gino Pascarella was recognized for his years of service to the league. Also recognized as Chatham league scholarship winners was Meg Gordon, a cheerleader and Jack O'Neill a football player

Our fall Flag Football teams enjoyed their Saturday sessions. A second weekday session was held for coaches to work on drills with the players 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. 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 (McArp). Chatham Recreation assisted the Chatham United Traveling Soccer Club, the Chatham Youth Wrestling Club, the Chatham Lacrosse Club and the Girls on the Run Program with space after all of the school and 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 Shunpike Turf Field came into play during the summer giving the summer travel teams a new location to play their games. In the fall, because there are lights at that complex, additional sessions were held for teams for practices during the season.

In evaluating our field supply and demand, a field committee was formed to share ideas of each others spacing needs for their program. The goal was to learn and inform each other of each of their requirements and then share space and time.

Chatham's fields, due to enrollment, again had significant wear and tear. Planning and rotation of activities was critical. The turf fields at Lum, with the very wet spring, enabled us to play games that otherwise would have been canceled.

Training for our coaches continued with coaches taking the Rutgers Safety Training. CPR and Defibrillator courses were offered for all coaches.

Fingerprint Background Checks continued for volunteers working with the children. Over 1,300 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. Moving some additional activities into club models, like lacrosse, will be completed in 2012.

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, Council Liaison Jim Lonergan, 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."

2011 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 guidelineAchievement:
 - Project put on hold

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.Achievement:
 - Project to be completed in 2012.

3. Goal: Funding
Objective:
Finalize plan to increase the current activity participant user fee as field maintenance and supply costs increase.
Achievement:
A \$15 participant fee will be assessed each participant per activity per season.
4. Goal: Shared Services
Objective:
Share program ideas with surrounding towns to increase some program offerings to sometime limited numbers.
Achievement:
Program offerings were offered to residents with children who had special needs - TryCan
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:
Communication was made to the school district regarding safety padding on bleachers in the high school and middle school gyms. That project was completed by the school district.
6. Goal: Background Checks
Objective:
Continue to try to provide safe staffing for our programs.
Achievement:
This program will continue to provide a safe environment for our participants.
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.
Achievement:
New trips were held and well received.
New activities were offered.

8. Goal: Tennis Courts
Objective:
Provide safe play area for our residents
Evaluate court conditions for repair/renovation.
Achievement:
New tennis classes were held with increased numbers learning that activity.
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.
Achievement:
This objective will continue in 2012.
10. Goal: Recreation Committee/Sub-Committees
Objective:
Assist with the growing needs of the recreation department
Update the Policy and Procedure Manual.
Develop guidelines for each sub-committee.
Achievement:
The baseball committee began work to become a club activity.
Lacrosse completed their goal of becoming a club activity.
11. Goal: Fiscal reports
Objective:
Maintain fiscal responsibility with all programs.
Achievement:
Programs were self sufficient through registration fees.
12. Goal: Fields
Objective:
Maximize space with completion of Shunpike Field project.
Achievement:
Shunpike turf field was completed for the summer season.

2012 RECREATION GOALS –OBJECTIVES

1. Goal: Alleviate drainage issues at 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:
Complete renovations of the current pool/park complex.
3. Goal: Shared Services
Objective:
Continue to share program ideas with surrounding towns to increase some program offerings to sometime limited numbers.
4. 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 further new programs.
5. Goal: Tennis Courts
Objective:
Provide safe play area for our residents
Evaluate court conditions for repair/renovation.
6. 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.
7. Goal: Recreation Committee/Sub-Committees/Club Program
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.
Assist sport committees in the formation of independent clubs.
8. Goal: Fields/Gyms
Objective:
Maximize space working with each season activity needs.
Continue a close relationship working with the school district.

