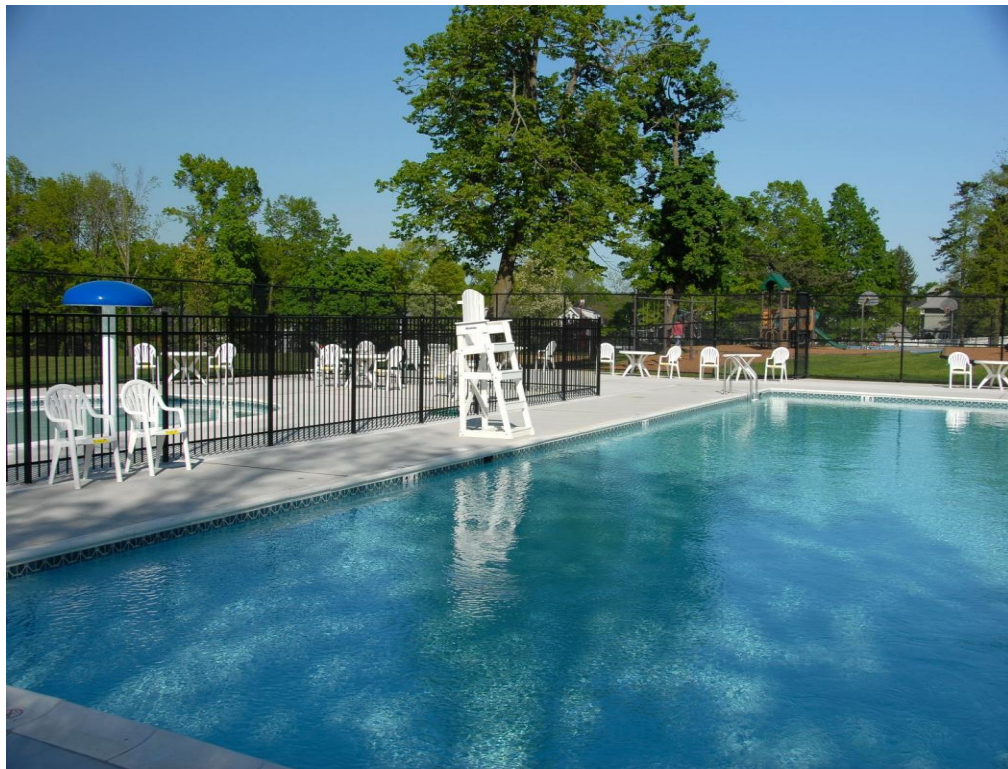


Borough of Chatham

Annual Report

2013

Recreation



CHATHAM BOROUGH - RECREATION

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Chatham Recreation continued to meet with Chatham Township to discuss and supervise joint 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 activities. Chatham is fortunate to have an 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 through Chatham Recreation or in conjunction with a Chatham "Club" included baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, flag football, football, skiing, soccer, lacrosse, wrestling, tennis and volleyball.

Activities offered to our adults included Men's Over 35 Basketball Program, a competitive 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 Golf Course.

Registration taken in through Chatham Recreation included the recreation in-town soccer program, softball, skiing, field hockey, women's and youth volleyball, men's and women's softball, men's basketball and membership to the Chatham Borough Municipal Pool. "Club" activities that collected their own registrations included baseball, football, flag football, cheerleading and lacrosse. Town resolutions were approved for the above "Clubs" and will be updated in 2014.

Recreation programs planning to have "Club" status in 2014 will be basketball and softball. Those programs would then be collecting registrations directly as their own entity. Discussion continues with Chatham United Travel Soccer to bring them under the same "Club" umbrella.

As the "Club" programs evolved bylaws, grievance committees, etc. were formulated by each club. Recreation will coordinate with the clubs scheduling, background checks, etc. Club representatives have been invited to the recreation committee meetings with the clubs operating as a quasi club/municipal activity. Recreation will continue to assist the clubs with facility needs. Coordination and communication is critical.

Spring Programming:

Baseball:

Boys Kindergarten to grade 8.

Kindergarten – Saturday sessions.

Grade 1-8: Weeknight and Saturday sessions.

Softball:

Girls Kindergarten to grade 8.

Kindergarten – Saturday sessions.

Grade 1-8: Weeknight and Saturday sessions.

Lacrosse:

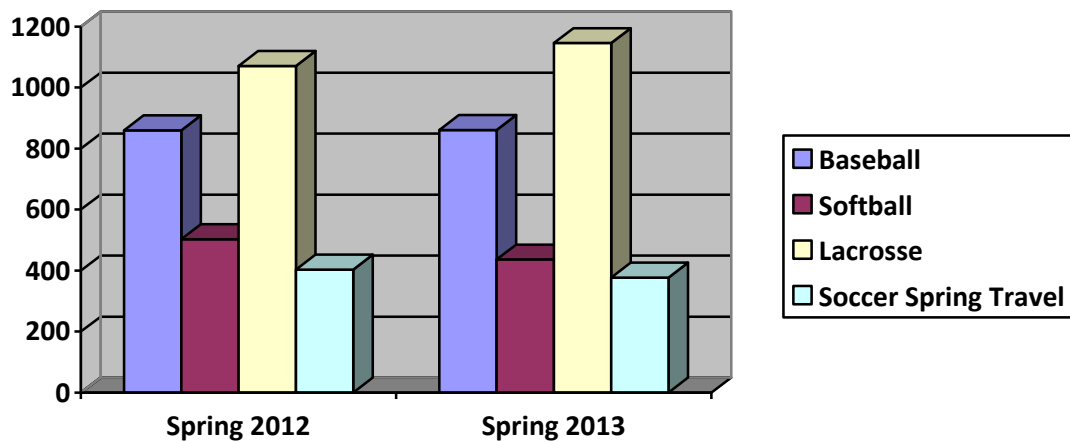
Girls/Boys grades Kindergarten to grade 8.

Kindergarten to grade 2: Sunday night sessions

Grade 3-8: Weeknight and weekend sessions.

Spring Travel Soccer:

Organized by Chatham United Travel Soccer.



Summer Programming:

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

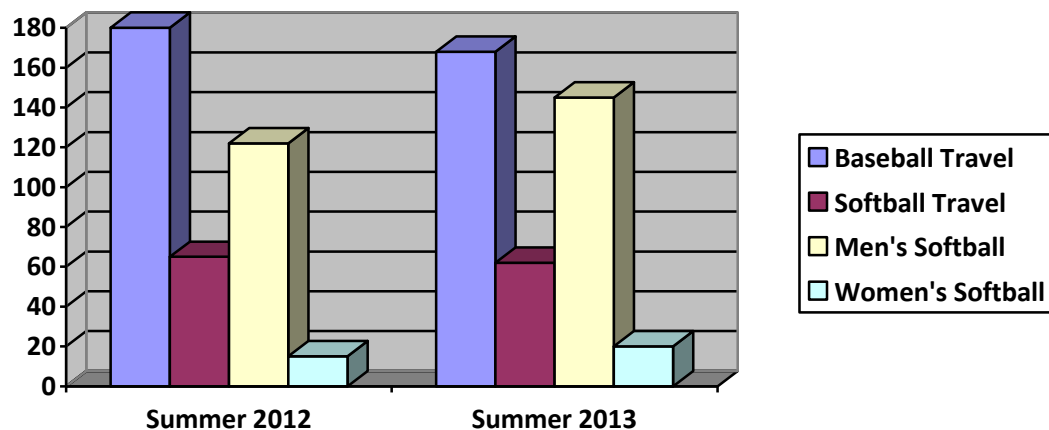
Women's Softball:

Monday/Wednesday games.

Chatham, Long Hill and Warren league play.

Men's Softball:

Weeknight/weekend games.



In addition to the above a variety of previously sponsored Chatham Recreation Summer Camps were organized by the Chatham High School Coaches. The camps provided in-town opportunities to our residents. Each of the High School Coach camps handled their own registration and most operated at school facilities.

Soccer and Multi-Sport Camps were organized to provide other alternatives to our residents as well as some of the younger age children that the high school coach camps did not cover.

Several series of tennis lessons were offered at the Chatham Borough Municipal Tennis Courts. The two separate tennis hitting walls gave residents an opportunity for practice sessions.

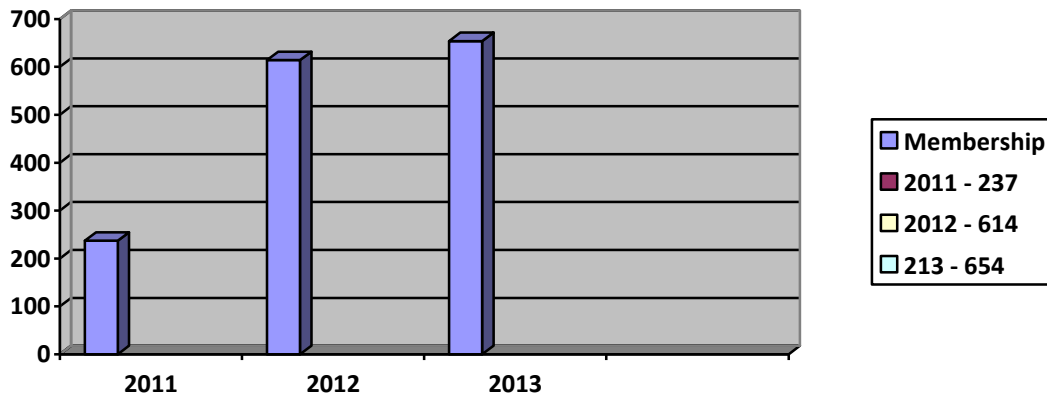
The paved area at Garden Park, near the tennis courts and playground, continued to be a popular location. Residents appreciate the safe open play area for both youth and adults.

Chatham Borough Municipal Pool - Memorial Park Pool:

The Memorial Park Pool was an enormous success. The wading pool, with the water features and graduated entry was enjoyed by the children. Children participating in lessons displayed their skills at the annual Water Carnival.

Programs offered were adult aerobics, private swim lessons and float days. Local merchants benefitted from food sales with the pool being so close to the downtown shops.

Late May members were able to register and pay online for their pool memberships. Registration was done through Community Pass which is the same online system used for our Chatham Recreation activities.



A tree near the picnic area was removed prior to the summer. With the very hot temperatures, shade became an issue. A portable pop-up canopy was ordered and placed over two picnic tables to give members some shade. A canopy to cover the picnic area will be requested for the 2014 season.

An alarmed push-bar was installed on the gate in the picnic area that leads out into the park. This provided an “emergency only” exit out of that far end of the pool complex. A staff member was posted in the area to watch that young children did not exit that location into the open park.

Pool hours were extended days when the weather was extremely hot to give members added time to enjoy the pool.

Outside the pool area the playground, fields and basketball court were a very popular attraction for those visiting the park and pool.

Fall Programing:

Recreation Soccer – Non-Travel:

Chatham Recreation reorganized this program under the Chatham Recreation umbrella.

Boys and Girls grade K-8 (insufficient 7/8 graders).

Weekday clinics with paid trainers.

Saturday clinic/game sessions with trainers and parent coaches.

Field Hockey:

Grades 4-8 (grade 4 in-town Saturday clinics, grade 5-8 travel)

Sessions: Weekday practice grades 5-8, Sunday games.

Youth Volleyball:

Grade 7/8 in-town sessions – Monday evenings.

Instruction by the Chatham High School Volleyball coach.

Tackle Football:

Grades 5-8 (4 teams).

Weeknight and Saturday practices.

Saturday/Sunday games – home at Lum Turf or Cougar Field.

Portable lighting continued weeknights at Lum Turf.

Cheerleading:

Grades 5-8 (4 grade level squads)

Weekday/weekend practices.

Cheer at home and away tackle football games.

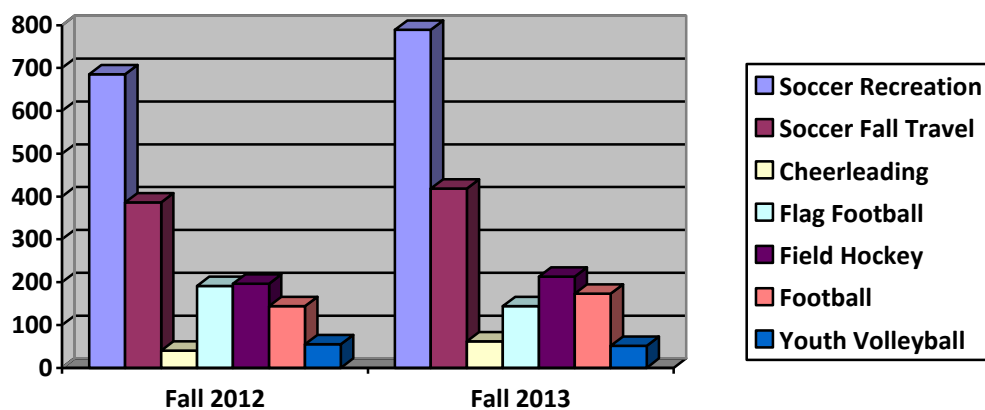
Flag Football:

Grades 3-6 in-town sessions

Weeknight drills and Saturday games.

Fall Travel Soccer:

Organized by Chatham United Travel Soccer



Winter Programming:

Ski Trips:

Trips: 6 to Shawnee in Pennsylvania (3 buses)

Basketball Youth:

Grades 3-8 boys and girls.

Groups: 8 girls and boys grade 3 sessions

Teams: 56 boys and girls grade 4-8

Sessions: Saturdays

Basketball Travel Girls/Boys:

Grades 4-8 boys and girls – Tryouts held

Grade 4 boys and girls were added to the travel program.

Teams: 19

Sessions: Weeknights/weekends home and away

Men's Basketball League:

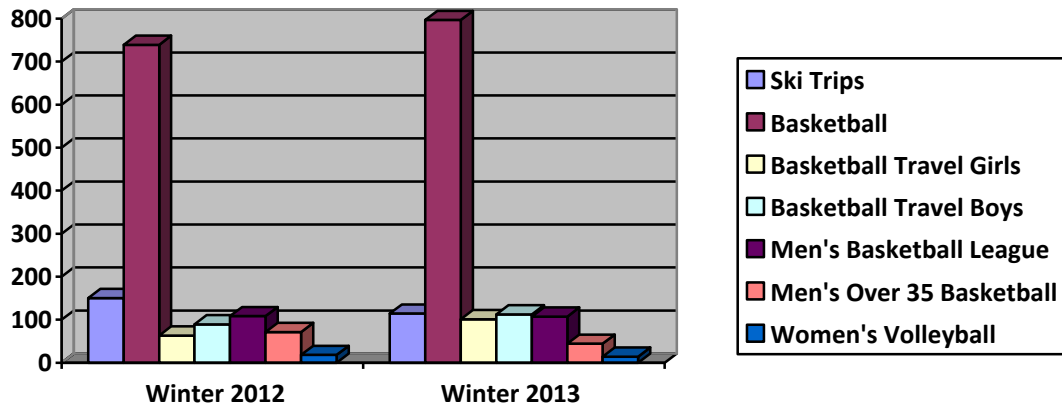
Games: Sunday and weeknights as space allows.

Men's Over 35 Open Gym:

Tuesday/Thursday open gym

Women's Volleyball:

Monday night open play.



Below are participant numbers from the above activities:

Activities	2012	2013	%
Soccer Recreation	685	789	15.20%
Soccer Fall Travel	386	418	8.30%
Cheerleading	40	62	55.00%
Flag Football	191	144	-24.60%
Field Hockey	196	213	8.70%
Football	144	173	20.10%
Youth Volleyball	55	51	-7.30%
Baseball	860	861	0.10%
Softball	503	436	-13.30%
Lacrosse	1071	1146	7.00%
Soccer Spring Travel	403	377	-6.50%
Baseball Travel	180	168	-6.70%
Softball Travel	65	62	-4.60%
Men's Softball	122	145	18.90%
Women's Softball	15	20	33.30%
Ski Trips	150	114	-24.00%
Basketball	739	797	7.80%
Basketball Travel Girls	63	101	60.30%
Basketball Travel Boys	89	112	25.80%
Men's Basketball League	108	107	-0.90%
Men's Over 35 Basketball	71	44	-38.00%
Women's Volleyball	18	14	-22.20%
Total	6154	6354	3.25%

In addition to activities that utilized Community Pass, 612 non-payment registrations were collected on Community Pass for clinics, activity information requests, Rutgers training, etc. Over 300 communications were sent to residents through the Community Pass Message Manger feature regarding registration, weather related closings, safety training courses, etc.

Community Pass has saved hours in generating reports, registration information, gathering data for interest levels, training, etc. 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 activities and contacts. Emails could also be sent through the website to residents who either wanted information about a specific activity information or overall knowledge of several programs.

In the spirit of cooperation in working with other organizations, in addition to the new “Clubs”, Chatham Recreation participated in the Morris County Adaptive Recreation Program (McArp). Chatham Recreation assisted the Chatham Youth Wrestling Club, Chatham United Travel Soccer, the Girls on the Run Program and the Chatham High School Athletic Department with facility requests.

Chatham Recreation continued to work with the Chatham Athletic Foundation. The 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. Residents enjoyed the renovated basketball facility at Memorial Park for practice and to play small sided games.

In evaluating our facility supply and demand, seasonal facility allocation meetings were held to coordinate in-season needs. 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 needs.

Chatham’s fields receive significant wear. Planning and rotation of activities is critical. The turf fields at Lum and Shunpike enable us to hold sessions that otherwise would have been canceled. The renovation at Memorial Park enabled our softball teams to have two updated fields that were level for play. Soccer was able to practice and play on the Memorial Park grass giving them an added small sided field. Drainage was installed at Shepard Kollock to alleviate saturated fields that became unplayable.

Training for our coaches continued with coaches taking the Rutgers Safety Training Course. CPR and Defibrillator courses were offered through the Chatham Emergency Squad. Lightening and Concussion guidelines were distributed, to coaches, families, our clubs and posted on the recreation website.

Fingerprint Background Checks continued for volunteers working with the children. To date over 1,550 volunteers have been processed.

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.

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

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

We want to acknowledge the assistance of Robert Venezia and the Department of Public Works in preparing our fields and maintaining our park facilities and playgrounds. We would like to thank our volunteers, our Chatham Borough Administrator Mr. Falzarano, Borough Engineer Vince DeNave, Council Liaison Jim Lonergan and the 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."

2013 RECREATION GOALS - OBJECTIVES - ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Goal: Complete drainage 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

Achievement:

Drainage completed

Ball diamond size adjusted

Quotes coming in for ball diamond backstops, etc.

2. Goal: Memorial Park Pool

Objective:

Maintain membership numbers

Expand pool committee

Continue new program offerings to members

Discuss extended pool hours

Investigate a swim team

Discuss swim lessons time/day options.

Provide an online registration system and member check in process.

Discuss options for shade in the picnic area

Increase 'spirit wear' options for additional income.

Work with area merchants

Achievement:

Membership increased.
Extended hours on hot days as needed.
Online registration system put into place.
Temporary canopy purchased for picnic area shade.
Communication continued to grasp new pool committee members

3. Goal: Shared Services

Objective:

Continue to share program ideas with surrounding towns to increase program offerings. Some smaller programs are more cost efficient when done as a group.

Achievement:

Worked with an organization TryCan to advertise activities/services/programs to those with special needs.

4. Goal: Athletic/Program enhancements

Objective:

Continue interface with the Chatham Athletic Foundation
Recommend areas for improvement
Continue to work with the school district regarding facilities

Achievement:

Discussion held with CAF on upgrades at school facilities utilized by recreation.

5. Goal Tennis Courts

Objective:

Evaluate court conditions for repair/renovation.

Achievement:

Quotes to repair/resurface the courts have been secured for 2014.

6. Goal: Privatize activities

Objective:

Assist with the transition of activities achieving "Club" status.

Achievement:

Baseball, Football, Flag Football and Cheerleading became "Club" activities.

7. Goal: Fiscal reports

Objective:

Continue to maintain fiscal responsibility with all programs.
All recreation programs are to be self sustaining
Participant fees to continue to be deposited in a dedicated facility account.

Achievement:

Programs were kept self-sustaining.
Generated participant funds will be utilized for recreation improvements

2014 RECREATION GOALS - OBJECTIVES

1. Goal: Complete renovations at Shepard Kollock
Objective:
 - Provide safe play area for our residents
 - Upgrade ball diamond areas to fulfill JIF guideline

2. Goal: Memorial Park/Pool
Objective:
 - Continue to increase membership numbers
 - Continue the online registration through Community Pass.
 - Secure added pool committee members
 - Adjust current pool hours to remain open later in the evenings
 - Continue to listen to member suggestions

3. Goal: Shared Services
Objective:
 - Continue to share program ideas with surrounding towns to increase program offerings to sometimes limited numbers.
 - Meet with Chatham organizations (library, senior center, schools, adult school, etc.) for an open discussion of their program offerings.

4. Goal: Investigate new program/activities
Objective:
 - Provide non-gym/field activities to our residents – youth and adult.
 - Expand non-athletic recreational needs in the community.
 - Develop plan to initiate further new programs

5. Goal: Tennis Courts
Objective:
 - Provide safe play area for our residents
 - Repair/resurface courts.

6. Goal; Privatize activities
Objective:
 - Assist with the transition of Basketball and Softball in achieving “Club” status.

7. Goal: Recreation Committee/Sub-Committees/Club Programs
Objective:
 - Assist with the growing needs of recreation programming.
 - Update the Chatham Recreation Policy and Procedure Manual.
 - Develop a Recreation Master Plan.
 - Develop a guideline and/or requirement for all activities, including the clubs, for safety training, new and renewal background checks and CPR/Defibrillator Training.

8. Goal: Fields/Gyms

Objective:

Maximize space working with each season's activity needs.

Continue seasonal facility allocation meetings to communicate and share facility needs.

Continue a close working relationship with the school district.

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.