

**City of Port Jervis Parks and Recreation
Department**

Year End Report 2015

Mayor:

Kelly Decker

Recreation Commission:

Tom Hoppey, Chairman

Luann McCarthy, Vice-Chairperson

Debbie Cunningham

Dawn Jones

Mike Latini

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Council Liaison:

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Director of Parks and Recreation:

John V. Faggione

Recreation Department Secretary:

Amy Ross

Recreation- End of Year Report 2015

Summer Program

Playgrounds

The 2015 Summer Playground Program Started on Monday, June 29, 2015. Below is a breakdown of attendance at the three parks and the Youth Center.

	<u>2015- Unduplicated visits</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>
Church St.	247	1,691
Riverside Park	206	755
Youth Center	79	701
Farnum Park	<u>131</u>	<u>553</u>
	663	3700

West End Beach

Due to budget cuts- West End Beach was closed for the 2015 season.

Summer Lunch Program

This summer we served over 1400 lunches to the kids at 4 different locations- Church St., Farnum Park, Riverside Park and the Youth Center. Lunches were prepared by the PJ School District. Lunches were served daily at 12:00 pm. This was the 20th summer we have participated in the Summer Lunch Program and in that time we have served over 19,000 lunches. This program is funded by the New York State Education Department and is no cost to the city!

Specialized Programs

Street Hockey- was held at Church St. Park every Monday-Wednesday-Friday morning. We averaged 15-20 kids each day. The program ended on August 18.

Basketball- was held at Church St. Park every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. We averaged close to 50 kids each day. The program ended on August 20.

Little Chefs of PJ Rec- was held at Farnum Park every Tuesday afternoon. We averaged 5-15 kids each day. The kids prepared a different meal each week with the help of Kathy Shortell. The kids also made more than 500 oatmeal raisin cookies that were given out FREE at National Night Out on August 4. This program ended on August 18.

Softball- was held at Riverside Park every Friday afternoon. We averaged more than 20 kids each day. The program ended on August 14.

Tennis- was held at Church St. Park Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We averaged 10 kids each day. The program ended on August 13.

Soccer Camp- was held at the PJ High School the weeks of July 6 and July 13. More than 70 kids participated over the 2 weeks. This was the 5th year of this camp.

Volleyball Camp- We held our first Volleyball Camp the week of August 3. This camp was for girls entering grades 4-9. More than 20 girls participated!

Track- was held at the PJ High School every Tuesday and Thursday evening. We averaged 15-25 kids each night. The program ended on August 6 with a “Track Meet” where ribbons were awarded to winners.

Rotary Skate Park at Riverside Park

The old and deteriorated hockey walls were removed from the Rotary Skate Park located at Riverside Park. This is no longer a supervised facility however signs are posted with rules and regulations and to tell participants that proper safety gear is still required. The park is open daily during daylight hours.

Summer Special Events

Yankees Game field trip- was held on July 21, 2015. 30 adults and kids attended as we watched our New York Yankees take on The Baltimore Orioles. The Yankees won 2-1 in a great pitcher’s duel.

Free Movie in the Park – The Recreation Department and the First Assembly of God Church co-sponsored 2- free outdoor movies at Riverside Park on July 22 and 29. Both movie nights were well attended. Thank you to First AG Church for their help!

Dorney Park field trip – was held on August 7, 2015. 40 adults and children attended this annual field trip. The weather was fantastic and everyone had a great time and are already looking forward to next year’s trip!

National Night Out – The 9th Annual National Night Out event was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at Riverside Park. National Night Out is a national event that is held the 1st Tuesday in August across the country. National Night Out is an event that brings the community and law enforcement agencies together to combat crime. The event was a huge success with close to 2500 people attending. Thank you to the Port Jervis Police Department and National Night Out Committee for putting this event together!

The Summer Concert Series at Riverside Park- We hosted 7 concerts this summer and unfortunately we experienced very low turnout. The Recreation Commission will discuss the plan for next summer- whether to continue on a reduced schedule or cancel entirely. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors (A1A Tri-State Taxi, Erie Restaurant and Hotel, Hawks Nest Realty, Port Jervis Teachers Association, Port Jervis

Youth Football League, Quality Bus Service, Tri-State Auto Body, Court Madonna #114 Catholic Daughters of America, Port Jervis Little League, Al's Music Shop). Their support makes the Summer Concert Series possible.

Broome Street Wind Ensemble Band concerts- We hosted 3 concerts at Farnum Park this summer. Concerts were held on June 29 and July 13 and 27. Great crowds attended each concert and enjoyed fantastic music!

PJ REC Summer Olympics- We held this summer's Olympic Games at Church St. Park on August 13, 2015. Kids were able to compete in hot shot basketball, 50 Meter Dash, Standing Long Jump, Softball Toss, water Balloon Toss, Scooter Relay, Tennis Hot Shot and Basketball Foul Shots. We had 3 age groups (7-9, 10-13, 14-17) compete throughout the day and winners were crowned at the end of the day. PJ Rec staff prepared lunch for the more than 75 kids that participated.

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament- Our 3rd Annual Tournament was a HUGE success! Held at Church St. Park on Saturday July 25, 2015- more than 60 teams participated and kids from as far away as Poughkeepsie came to PORT to play in the tournament. We had 4 age groups (9-11, 11-14, 14-16 and 16-19) competing all day long with champions crowned in each age group. Thanks to Cory Puopolo for organizing the event. Thanks also to PORT Boys Basketball coaches, Shoprite, Roy's Corner Café, Texas Lunch, DJ Charli Magos and all the volunteers for making it a great day!

Scranton Yankees field trip- was held on August 19, 2015. 40 adults and children attended and watch the Scranton Yanks beat their rival Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs 3-1. This trip also was a reward for close to 20 kids that participated in our summer program. These kids were awarded "Kid of the Week" throughout the summer for good behavior or helping out park supervisors.

1st Annual Tri-State Triathlon- On Sunday August 16, 2015 we held our first Triathlon here in Port Jervis!! Close to 50 participants swam 400 meters in the Delaware River then biked 10 miles through Port Jervis and Deerpark- including beautiful Hawks Nest and finished with a 5K run through Port Jervis! It was a beautiful day and we had many compliments on how well organized the event was. Many spectators added that they would love to compete in it next year! Thank you to all the volunteers- more than 50 that helped make this a great day in Port Jervis! Looking forward to next year's race!

Winter Program

When the weather becomes cold and the snow accumulates, the Recreation Department moves its operations indoors. We offer the community a variety of indoor activities for all ages. Below is a breakdown of the winter activities that we offered to the community.

Sleigh Riding Hill

The sleigh riding hill is set up at West End Beach prior to the first significant snow fall. Children and adults can use the hill daily during daylight hours. No skis or snowboards are allowed.

Busy Body

Busy Body is held on Saturday mornings in the fall for a total of eight weeks. Megan Smith was the instructor for the Fall Busy Body. She did an excellent job creating crafts for all the different holidays and seasons throughout the program.

Youth Karate

This program was a success that averaged 25 boys and girls each session. Lessons were held at Espie's Tang Soo Do Academy on Front Street. Program instructor was, once again, Dalen Espie. Dalen does a fantastic job with the kids and many participants continue to work with Dalen after our program ends.

11th Annual Co-Ed Youth Basketball Instructional Program

More than 80 boys and girls in grades 3-6 participated. There was a skills competition and awards ceremony held at the last session. Program instructors were Warren Ponds, George Hossaan, James Misszuck, Jenny McElroy, and volunteer Dawn Jones.

Co-Ed Youth Basketball League

Four teams competed this season. 40 boys and girls in 5th and 6th grade from our Saturday morning program participated in the league. This program was a tremendous success. Special thanks to volunteer coaches for all of their help. This league continues to be popular and we look forward to the next season being even better. The 6th annual Cops Vs. Kids Basketball Game was held on March 8th. Admission to the game was a non-perishable food item that was donated to the local food pantry.

Adult Basketball

This program was held on Monday evenings from 8-10pm at the ASK gym. Participants were PJSD residents 18 years and older. This program was a success.

Youth/Community Center

The Youth/Community Center, once again, had an outstanding year. Youth attendance remained extremely high and we continue to attract many new civic organizations to our facility. The Youth/Community Center provides positive intervention programs to the youth of the community and the response from the public has been terrific.

Youth Activities

The Youth Center was once again a very busy place in 2015. 6,144 total youth participated in activities at the Youth Center. The unduplicated total for the Recreation Room stands at 406 different kids that have used the room. The unduplicated total for teen night is 240. While at the center the youth can participate in a variety of activities from video games to board games to billiards or they can “hang out” with their friends and watch TV or watch a video. There are computers available in the recreation room and Port Jervis High School Honor Society students volunteer their time at the Youth Center. Behavior of the children has been great and they understand that if the Youth Center rules are broken there will be consequences. I would like to thank the entire Youth Center staff for their year dedication to the youth of the community. They are the reason the Youth Center is such a success.

Community Activities

Many not-for-profit organizations used our facility in 2015 for their regular weekly, monthly and quarterly meetings or for their special events. We provide a rent free facility equipped with a state of the art kitchen and audio-visual equipment. Below is a list of organizations that used the Youth/Community Center in 2015:

The Port Jervis School District
4-H of Orange County
Orange County Department of Health
Port Jervis Youth Football League
First Assembly of God
Family Empowerment
AHRC
Defensive Driving Course
Train Preservation Society
City of Port Jervis
Tri State Fencing Club
Right Choices- Wade Young

Girl Scouts of Port Jervis
PJ Varsity Volleyball Team
DECA
Tri-State Angels
Local Religious Youth Groups
PJ Varsity Softball Team
Dept. of Social Services
Port Jervis Little League
Candy Cane Preschool
Red and Black Touchdown Club
Soap Box Derby
Junior Lions Club

Special Events

Snow Tubing

On February 24th adults and children attended the Rec sponsored field trip to Bushkill Pennsylvania to snow tube at Fernwood Resort. Everyone that attended had a great time and is already looking forward to next year.

Easter Candy Dash

This year's dash was held Saturday, April 4 2015. Approximately 125 children and adults attended the event and made a "dash" for the candy. All children left happy with candy and 3 lucky kids won Easter Baskets. In addition, we had a "Guess How Many Jelly Beans in a Jar" contest in three age categories.

Spring Park Pride Day

This year's clean-up was scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2015. Several organizations combined their efforts and worked together to clean Orange Square.

22nd Annual Delaware 5K River Run/Walk

The 22nd Annual River Run was held Sunday, May 3, 2015. 360 people participants crossed the finish. Thanks to our Police Department, DPW, Volunteer Ambulance Corp., and many volunteers who make this race happen. Special thanks to Bob Bell and the entire Bell Family for their continued support and dedication to this race and the Recreation Department. Next year's race is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, 2016. Mark your calendars!

20th Anniversary Youth Center Celebration

Thank you to all that attended the Youth Center 20th Anniversary celebration on June 30, 2015. It is hard to believe that 20 years has gone by already! Thank you to all that have made 20 years possible and looking forward to the next 20 years!

The ACME Extreme Downhill Race

This year's races were held over Labor Day Weekend- September 4-5-6, 2015. Tom Barnhart is the race organizer and once again it was a success. More than 80 participants hit Sky Line Drive and raced against each other all weekend long. Participants came from as far away as Puerto Rico and South America! This race has become a favorite by participants because of the closed course (road closed to vehicles) and safety procedures in place (ambulance on site, hay bales at hairpin turns and race spotters all along the course).

Rocking the City to Fight Hunger

On Saturday, September 19, 2015 we hosted the 2nd Annual Food Drive Concert at Riverside Park. We asked all concert goers to bring canned food items with them as they come to the concert. All donated food was given to the First Assembly of God Church. Bands performing on the 19th included- The Carl Richards Band, Side F/X, CBX,

Ponytails and more!! Coffee and water was served as well! We received a great amount of food that filled up the back of a van!! Thank you to everyone that donated!

69th Annual Halloween Parade

The 69th Annual Halloween Parade was held on Sunday, October 25, 2015. More than 300 people participated in the parade on a beautiful cool fall day. Participants in the parade included the Port Jervis Police, the Mayor and Members of the Common Council, the Port Jervis High School Marching Band, the Port Jervis Volunteer Ambulance Corp. and the VFW Color Guard. Fort Knox participated with a decorated moving truck and pictures with Scooby Doo. Once again, the Elks Lodge #645 was the parade co-sponsor and awarded prizes to the children at the end of the parade. The Recreation Commission served apple cider and donuts to all parade participants as well.

NY Jets Game Field Trip

35 adults and children attended the NY Jets football game on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at Metlife Stadium. Everyone that attended had a great time as the Jets beat the Washington Redskins.

Fall Park Pride Day

On Saturday, November 14, 2015 the Port Jervis Recreation held "Fall Park Pride Day" in our City parks. This was our annual fall clean-up. More than 100 bags of leaves were collected at Farnum and Church St. Park with the help of more than 20 students and adults. Special thanks to all of the groups for participating with us.

Santa's Toy Box

The Recreation Department, once again, participated in the holiday toy drive, Santa's Toy Box. The Youth Center served as a drop off location for new toys that were then distributed to area youth- through the Elks Organization. This year was the 19th year that we participated. Despite the sluggish economy, local citizens were generous this year and donated many toys and gift wrapping supplies.

FYI

The Recreation Department would like to thank the Mayor, Members of the Common Council, and all of the other City Departments for all their help and support throughout the year. It is a privilege to work with all of you and I look forward to our continued working relationship.

The Recreation Commission mourns the loss of long time Commission member and friend Luann McCarthy. Luann had been a member of the Recreation Commission for the past 20 years and was its Vice-Chairperson for the past 15 years. She was on the committee that created the Delaware River Run back in 1993. Luann was also very involved in the Halloween Parade. Luann was instrumental in connecting the Recreation Department and the School District- especially when it came to organizing youth volunteers. She will be missed but not forgotten. RIP Luann.