



## **City of Port Jervis Parks and Recreation Department Year End Report 2018**

### **Mayor**

**Mr. Kelly B. Decker**

### **Recreation Commission**

**Tom Hoppey, Chairman**

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**Brandy Figeruoa**

### **Youth Recreation Members**

**Harry Tomasi**

**Logan Fitzpatrick**

### **Council Liaison**

**Gina Fitzpatrick**

### **Director of Recreation**

**Mr. John V. Faggione**

### **Recreation Secretary**

**Amy Ross**

## ***Summer Program***

### **Playgrounds**

The 2018 Summer Playground Program Started on Monday, June 25, 2018. The 7-week program ended on Friday August 10, 2018. Below is a breakdown of attendance at the three playgrounds as well as some photos.

	<u>2018- Unduplicated visits</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>
Church St.	148	733
Riverside Park	153	699
Farnum Park	<u>273</u>	<u>483</u>
	574	1915

### **West End Beach**

The beach closed for the season on Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup> after a 9 week summer season. Weekday attendance was once again fairly low. The daily average was 20 bathers. Weekend attendance picked up with an average of 70-80 bathers. The beach was open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12 pm-6 pm and weekends from 11 am-6 pm. The beach was closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On weekends we charged non-residents a \$5 parking fee and at the end of the summer we generated \$1100 (most of the money came from people who parked, then floated down the river).

### **Summer Lunch Program**

This summer we served over 50 lunches per day 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 23<sup>rd</sup> summer we have participated in the Summer Lunch Program and in that time we have served over 22,000 lunches!! This program is funded by the New York State Education Department and is no cost to the city!

### **Specialized Summer 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 8<sup>th</sup>.

Softball- was held at Riverside Park every Wednesday afternoon. We averaged 10-15 kids each day. The program ended on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Track- held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Port Jervis High School Track. The program averaged approximately 20 boys and girls. On Thursday, August 14, 2018 the end of summer Track Meet was held. The boys and girls that attended competed in the 55M, 100 M, 400M, and 800M.

## **Summer Camps**

We sponsored 3 sports camps this summer- volleyball camp, soccer camp and tennis camp.

Volleyball Camp- was held at the High School gym June 26-30. Camp was for girls entering grades 5-8. 12 girls attended.

Soccer Camp – soccer stars camp was held this summer at the high school. Two one-week camps were held (June 25-29 and July 9-14) for boys and girls ages 5-18. Each camp week averaged 35 soccer players.

Tennis –tennis had a very low turnout this summer. Only 5 kids registered. This camp has had a low turnout for the past few years and we are looking to remove it to offer a new camp- yet to be determined.

## **Summer Special Events**

Bronx Zoo Trip – On July 18<sup>th</sup> 51 people enjoyed their full day at the zoo experiencing all of the different exhibits.

NY Yankees Game on August 1<sup>st</sup> had 28 people attend. Although the Yankees came up short 7-5 against the Baltimore Orioles, everyone that attended had a great time.

Free Movies in the Park – Co-sponsored by First Assembly of God Church movies were shown on July 11<sup>th</sup> (Ferdinand) and August 3<sup>rd</sup> (Cars 3). Peter Rabbit was shown on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The July 27<sup>th</sup> movie night was canceled due to rain. We had good turnouts for the movies and the kids enjoyed themselves. Free popcorn and hot dogs were offered to all those that attended. Thank to First Assembly of God Church these nights out.

Concerts in the Park at Riverside Park - After many rain dates, the concerts in the park did very well. Rich Wilson (July 12), Mike Pacer (July 18) The Carl Richards Band (August 15), and an 80's Night hosted by DJ G (August 30) were offered free of charge to the public. Attendance was good and everyone that attended had a good time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors (A1A Tri-State Taxi, Port Jervis Teachers Association, Legato Lawn Care, Quality Bus Service, Tri-State Auto Body). 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 25 and July 9 and 23. Great crowds attended each concert and enjoyed fantastic music!

PJ REC Summer Olympics- We held this summer's Olympic Games at Riverside Park on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Our Summer Olympics (Field Day) had a great turnout with close to 70 kids. Kids competed against each other in basketball events, kan jam, corn hole, scooter relays, water relays and watermelon eating contests. The kids were served hot dogs, chips and water at lunch time and they all enjoyed ice pops, slip and slide and water balloon tosses in the afternoon. The

highlight of the day was the dunk booth. All the kids had to opportunity to dunk our playground supervisors.

Little Chefs at Rec – held on Mondays at the Youth Center. 10-15 kids enjoyed learning about and making meals that could be easily be replicated at home. Thank you to instructor, Kathy Shortell.

Food Fun with Kelly/Nutritional Program - Shop Rite sponsored a nutritional program at the Youth Center. Once a week, instructor Kelly Pearson, from Shop Rite, would work with kids about shopping for and making healthy, fun snacks.

#### Beach Fridays

Every Friday afternoon from 12:45pm-3:00pm we celebrated Beach Party Fridays at West End Beach. With help from the Dial-A-Bus we brought kids from all 3 playgrounds and the Youth Center to West End Beach Friday afternoons for approximately 2 hours. Kids were able to swim, play volleyball, kickball, kan jam, corn hole or just relax. One supervisor from each location was on hand to supervise the kids. Approximately 15-20 kids attended.

#### Preserving Port Jervis

Led by Austin Wilson, Supervisor at Riverside Park, this volunteer group once a week cleaned up city streets and sidewalks between Riverside Park and Church St. Park and West End Beach. Upon returning to Riverside Park kids were rewarded with ice pops and cold drinks. Thanks Austin for taking the lead in this project.

#### **Watershed Park Trails and Recreation Area as well as the Elks-Brox Trails**

Started in December 2015 the trails have really taken off. With multiple mountain bike races, guided hikes and a trail race being held in the trails already, we are excited about the future. The trails bring in many visitors to our city and have offered our own community the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Port Jervis. Special thanks to Mike Ward and The Outdoor Club of Port Jervis for maintaining trails and organizing events. We work extremely well together and there is a lot planned for the future!

## ***FallWinter Program***

When the weather becomes cold and the snow accumulates, the Recreation Department moves its operations indoors and some outdoors. 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.

Co-Ed Youth Basketball – Close to 80 boys and girls in grades 3-6 participated this year. This program is divided into two groups, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. For 7 weeks the kids were taught basketball fundamentals through drills. In the last session, on February 24<sup>th</sup>, all the kids participated in a skills competition and then attended an awards ceremony and pizza party. Special thanks to our instructors Mackenzie Decker, Daniel Keunjte, Steven Smalls, Warren Ponds, and Stan Buczek.

Co-Ed Youth Basketball League – This season 30 boys and girls in grades 5 and 6 competed on 4 different teams. This 6 game/6week season ended on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Tom Chuckran Cops and Kids Basketball game

On Sunday, March 8, 2018 we held our annual basketball game between the 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls from our winter basketball program and Police from Port Jervis, Deerpark and Pike County Police Departments. Spectators were asked to bring items to be donated to the Port Jervis/Deerpark Humane Society. The kids, volunteer coaches and Police men and women all did a great job. Youth Detective Scott Robertson and Recreation Director John Faggione organized the event delivered the supplies to the Humane Society.

### Adult Basketball

This program was held on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am-12:00 pm at the ASK gym. Participants were PJSJ residents 18 years and older. More than 20-25 participated each week. This program ends at the end of April every year.

### Youth Soccer at West End Beach- NEW in 2018

This past fall we worked with Forward UK soccer to provide a youth soccer program for kids ages 3-9. We had a good turnout of close to 25 kids but due to a very rainy fall (most of which fell on weekends) we were only able to offer 4 of the scheduled 6 weeks. After this fall program we decided to continue it indoors at the PJ Middle School over the winter. We scheduled a 6 week program that started on December 6 and will run through the end of January. So far response and attendance has been good (10-15 kids).

### Little Chefs @ PJ REC cooking program- NEW in 2018

To piggy back on the success of the summer Little Chefs class we decided to hold a 7-week cooking class for serious youth cooking students in the fall. Limited to 12 kids, this program filled up in one registration night. The theme was “Food from around the World”. Kids prepared,

cooked and cleaned up every week. Kids prepared food from France, Italy, China, and Germany. The last class held on December 22 the kids prepared Holiday cookies and hot chocolate for their parents to enjoy while all the kids were recognized for their hard work and dedication throughout the program. Look for this program to return in the Spring 2019. This program started November 10 and ended on December 22.

## ***Youth/Community Center***

The Youth/Community Center, once again, had an outstanding year. Youth attendance remained 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 year round and the response from the public has been terrific.

### **Youth Activities**

The Youth Center was once again a busy place in 2018. 4,491 total youth participated in activities at the Youth Center. The unduplicated total reached was 445 . While at the center the youth can participate in a variety of activities from video games to board games to billiards to homework or they can “hang out” with their friends and watch TV or watch Netflix. We also conducted many special events including Yoga, Teen Dances, trivia competitions, pizza parties, guest speakers, nutritional programs, café nights, and movie nights. Behavior by the youth has been great- 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 Use**

Many not-for-profit organizations used our facility in 2018 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 2018:

The Port Jervis School District	Port Jervis Varsity Cheerleaders
INSPIRE	Port Jervis Little League
Orange County Department of Health	DECA
Port Jervis Youth Football League	Tri-State Angels
First Assembly of God	Local Religious Youth Groups
Family Empowerment	PJ Varsity Softball Team
AHRC	4H- Sports Explorers
Train Preservation Society	Candy Cane Preschool
City of Port Jervis	Runners Club
Tri State Fencing Club	Soap Box Derby
Orange County Youth Bureau	Outdoor Club of Port Jervis

## **Special Events**

### **Snow Tubing**

On February 8<sup>th</sup> 22 adults and children attended the Snow Tubing Field Trip to Fernwood Resort in Bushkill, PA. Everyone that attended had a great time and is looking forward to next year's trip.

### **Mohegan Sun Pocono**

32 people attended the Mohegan Sun Casino Trip on March 10<sup>th</sup> and had an excellent time.

### **"Egg" cellent Races**

Due to Easter being early this year and the brutal winter we had we decided to try something different in lieu of the traditional Easter Candy Dash. This year we hosted the first "Egg"cellent Races on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. More than 30 children braved the cold and windy day to participate in three different events for a chance to win a prize. The participants split into three different age groups (0-3, 4-6, 7-9) The events were the Egg Relays, Bunny Hop Race (potato sack), and Egg Rolls/ Hot Easter Egg (hot potato). Winners were awarded a gift certificate for a free ice cream. Thank you to Ben's Fresh and Riverside Creamery for their generous donation of gift certificates for our many winners. All of the participants left with a goody bag.

### **Port Pride Day- Spring**

This year's Port Pride Day was held on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at Farnum Park and Orange Square. Volunteers collected more than 50 bags of leaves and collected garbage to help beautify our parks and help out our maintenance staff. Thank you to all the High School Honor Society students, Middle school students and all the adult volunteers for helping us out!

### **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware 5K River Run/Walk**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware River Run was held on another rainy Sunday, May 6, 2018. This marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row that we have had rain on race day. Despite the poor weather 239 participants completed the 3.1 mile run/walk. Thanks to our Police Department, DPW, Volunteer Ambulance Corp, and many volunteers who make this race happen.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Along the Delaware and Fireworks Show**

This year's event was held on July 3 and was a tremendous success. 500 people attended and were able to sample from more than 20 local food and beverage establishments Restaurants from Port Jervis, Deerpark, Westtown, Matamoras, and Montague participated. The night was capped off by a fantastic fireworks show from the top of Point Peter! Thanks to Phantom Fireworks for donating a large portion of fireworks.

### **Rocking the City to Fight Hunger**

On Saturday, September 22, 2018 we hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Drive Music Festival at Riverside Park. We asked all concert goers to bring canned food items with them as they came to the concert. All donated food was given to the First Assembly of God Church and Grace Episcopal Church. Bands performing on the 22<sup>th</sup> included- The Carl Richards Band, Side F/X, and more!! Shoprite donated and grilled hot dogs for all that attended or performed! We

received a great amount of canned food this year and we look forward to continuing this event for many years! Thank you to everyone that donated!

#### NY Jets Game Field Trip

On Sunday October- 35 people attended the NY Jets vs. Denver Broncos football game in the Meadowlands. This trip was SOLD OUT and the Jets won! This is one of our most popular trips and we will return in 2019.

#### 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Parade

After 2 consecutive years the parade was canceled due to weather conditions, the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade was finally celebrated on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Close to 300 participants dressed festively to march in the parade. Participants enjoyed donuts and cider at the conclusion. The Elks awarded prizes and candy to those that participated. Thank you to The Elks, Fort Knox Storage, PJ Volunteer Ambulance Corps, PJFD and Fire Police, PJPD and all that participated!

#### Port Pride Day- Fall

Our Fall Clean-up was held on a cold Saturday morning- November 10, 2018 (this was our rain date). Approximately 20 volunteers helped us clean up leaves and debris from Orange Square Veteran's Park on Pike Street. Thank you to all that helped out.

#### 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 22<sup>nd</sup> year that we participated. Local citizens were generous this year and donated many toys and gift wrapping supplies.

**FOR PHOTOS OF ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL  
EVENTS PLEASE VISIT AND LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: PORT  
JERVIS RECREATION.  
WE ARE ALSO NOW ON INSTAGRAM.  
FOLLOW US AT: pjrecreation.**

The Recreation Commission 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.