



## **City of Port Jervis Parks and Recreation Department Year End Report 2019**

### **Mayor**

**Mr. Kelly B. Decker**

### **Recreation Commission**

**Tom Hoppey, Chairman**

**Dawn Jones, Vice-Chair**

**Debbie Cunningham**

**Mike Latini**

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**Corey Puopolo**

### **Youth Recreation Members**

**Liam Tomasi**

**Katie Duryea**

### **Council Liaison**

### **Director of Recreation**

**Mr. John V. Faggione**

### **Recreation Secretary**

**Amy Ross**

## ***Summer Program***

### **Playgrounds**

The 2019 Summer Playground Program Started on Monday, July 1, 2019. The 7-week program ended on Friday August 16, 2019. Below is a breakdown of attendance at the three playgrounds as well as some photos.

	<u>2019- Unduplicated visits</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>
Church St.	192	808
Riverside Park	143	355
Farnum Park	<u>254</u>	<u>554</u>
	589	1,717

### **West End Beach**

We had a rough start to the summer at the beach this year due to all the rain and high river conditions. We had to delay our opening 4 days and then had to re-set the ropes after rain and high water conditions receded. However, after the slow start the rest of the summer ran pretty smoothly. The beach closed for the season on Sunday August 18 after an 8-week summer season. Weekday attendance was fairly low- daily average of 15-20 bathers. Weekend attendance picked up with an average of 85-100 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. Weekend parking was very crowded this summer- many people floating down the river. On weekends we charged non-residents a \$5 parking fee and at the end of the summer we generated a little **over \$3100** (most of the money came from people who parked then floated down the river).

### **Summer Lunch Program**

This summer we served over 55 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 24<sup>th</sup> summer we have participated in the Summer Lunch Program and in that time we have served over 23,000 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>.

Track- The track program had a steady turnout of 20-25 kids each week. The program ended on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The last night of the program we scheduled a track meet where the kids could participate in the long jump, 100 meter dash and 400 meter run.

Youth Soccer- was held Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday at the PJ High School. Tuesday nights is for ages 10-14, Wednesday nights is for ages 4-6 and 7-9 and Thursday nights is for ages 15-18. More than 40 kids are participating this summer.

### **Summer Camps**

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

Football Mini-Camp- was held at Church St. Park June 24-27. Camp was for boys and girls entering grades 1-8. More than 60 kids participated in this non-contact camp. Thanks to PJYFL for partnering with us to provide this camp.

Volleyball Camp- was held at the High School gym the week of July 15-18. Camp was for girls entering grades 5-8. 12 girls attended

Soccer Camp – was held on Glenette field at the Port Jervis Middle School this year. Camp was held July 1-5. Camp was for boys and girls ages 5-18. Camp week had over 25 kids attend.

### **Summer Special Events**

NY Met Game Field Trip on July 25<sup>th</sup> a group of 25 headed to Citi Field to watch the Mets take on the San Diego Padres in a 12 pm day game. All that attended had a great time with a 4-0 Met victory!

9/11 Memorial and Museum Field Trip on August 13<sup>th</sup> 25 people attended the field trip to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. I highly recommend visiting the Memorial and Museum that preserves such a poignant piece of our history.

Outdoor Movie Night at Riverside Park- Thanks to First Assembly of God Church for sponsoring these movies. Movies were scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and August 21<sup>st</sup>. However, due to rain all three movie nights were canceled this summer.

Concerts in the Park at Riverside Park - Weather forced cancelations or postponed a few of our scheduled shows.

The Parting Glass performed on July 10<sup>th</sup>

Ryan Wilson performed on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Rich Wilson was rescheduled for July 30

DJ G performed an 80's night on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

DJ Howie, put on a 50's and 60's night on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Farnum Park Concerts Al Gessner and the Broome Street Wind Ensemble Band performed 3 concerts this past summer at Farnum Park. Concerts were held Monday evenings at 7 pm. Dates were- July 1, 15 and 29. We had a good turnout for each concert with an average of 60-75 people.

PJ REC Summer Olympics- Our Summer Olympics (Field Day) had a great turnout with close to 70 kids. Kids competed against each other in basketball events, sidewalk chalk competitions, bat spin 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 our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Watermelon Eating Contest.

Little Chefs at Rec – held on Tuesdays 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.

#### Special Event Friday

Every Friday afternoon the Summer Program would host a Special Events day for the youth in the community. A Knight Camp was offered in week one. Participants learned about fencing and jousting. The National Parks came to visit Riverside Park to discuss water safety for Week 2. The youth enjoyed a beach day at West End Beach for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week. Multiple First Responders came to present on Week 4. The final Special Event Friday was celebrated with a hike on the Watershed Trails.

Jump-Out Basketball with the Police Department- On July 25<sup>th</sup> the PJPD and PJ Rec Dept. joined forces and put on a basketball event at Church St. Park. Basketball competitions were held, food and drink were provided and music was played. This event was the idea of Police Chief Worden and Recreation Director John Faggione. The idea for the event was to bring the kids (including teens) out to the park and play basketball with the police. We wanted to show the kids that the police are just like everyone else and break that sometimes negative image police have with youth. It was a great success with many kids participating and seeing the PD in a different light.

#### Preserving Port Jervis

Led by Austin Wilson, Supervisor at Riverside Park, and 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 continuing this project for another summer.

#### 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!

### ***Fall/Winter 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 55 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 8 Saturdays (January 5- February 23) the kids were taught basketball fundamentals through drills and games. In the last session, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders participated in a skills competition and then attended an awards ceremony and pizza party. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders played a league game due to two snow days the previous two Wednesdays. Special thanks to our instructors, LaAsia Brown, Steven Smalls, Warren Ponds, and Mackenzie Decker and Stan Buczek.

Co-Ed Youth Basketball League – This season close to 30 boys and girls in grades 5 and 6 competed on 4 different teams. Due to snow days this season was reduced to 6 weeks (down from our normal 8 weeks). The season ended on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. DUKE defeated North Carolina to win the championship. Arizona State beat PITT in the consolation game. Thank you to Scott Robertson for officiating the games along with Michael Conklin. Thanks also to Matt and Mallory Conklin and Harry and Liam Tomasi for helping with the scorer's table and manning the front door.

#### Tom Chuckran Cops and Kids Basketball game

On Saturday, March 2, 2019 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.

#### Adult Basketball

This program was held on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am-12:00 pm at the ASK gym. Participants were PJSD 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-

Our 6-week Youth Soccer program kicked off on September 15<sup>th</sup> at West End Beach. Close to 40 kids ages 3-15 signed up and participated. Ages 4-6 practiced at 11 am and ages 7-10 at 12pm and ages 11-15 were held at 12pm as well. Lessons ran through October 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking into a winter program at the Middle School starting in January 2020.

### Little Chefs @ PJ REC- 2019 Fall Edition

Our new cooking program started Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. The class was full with 13 excited kids. This program was held at the Youth Center every Saturday morning from 9:45 am- 12:15 pm. The program ran for 5 weeks. Kathy Potter, once again, led this wonderful program.

## *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 2019. 4,491 total youth participated in activities at the Youth Center. The unduplicated total reached was 450. 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 Teen Dances, trivia axe throwing, 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 2019 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 2019:

The Port Jervis School District  
INSPIRE  
Orange County Department of Health  
Port Jervis Youth Football League  
First Assembly of God  
Family Empowerment  
AHRC  
Train Preservation Society  
City of Port Jervis  
Tri State Fencing Club  
PJFD

Port Jervis Varsity Cheerleaders  
Port Jervis Little League  
DECA  
Tri-State Angels  
Operation PJ Pride  
PJ Varsity Softball Team  
Orange County Youth Bureau  
Candy Cane Preschool  
Outdoor Club of Port Jervis  
Soap Box Derby

## **Special Events**

### **Mohegan Sun Pocono**

On Saturday March 9, 2019 more than 50 adults attended our trip to the Wilkes-Barre PA casino. Everyone had a great time and some even came home ahead!

### **“Egg” cellent Races**

Mother Nature did not want to cooperate so this years’ event, held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> was forced to relocate from Church Street Park to the Youth Center. Although our turnout of participants was not as high as expected those that attended did not let the rain dampen their fun. The children that participated played hot potato, musical chairs, and raced each other in an egg relay. The small group of participants each picked a prize, received a goody bag, and posed for a picture with the Easter Bunny.

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

This year’s Port Pride Day was held on Saturday, April 6<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 Operation PJ Pride for co-sponsoring the event and all the volunteers that helped us get a jump start on preparing our parks for the spring and summer.

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

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware River Run was held on another rainy Sunday, May 5, 2019. This marks the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row that we have had rain on race day. Despite the poor weather 202 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.

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

This year’s event was held on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and was a success. More than 350 people attended and were able to sample food 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.

### **NY Jets Game Field Trip**

On Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> - 42 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 hope to return in 2020.

### **71<sup>st</sup> Annual Halloween Parade**

The 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Halloween Parade was celebrated on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. The weather was beautiful and allowed for close to 300 participants, dressed festively, to march in the parade.

Participants enjoyed donuts and cider at the conclusion. The Elks Lodge #645 awarded prizes and candy to those that participated. Thank you to The Elks, Fort Knox Storage- for handing out treats, PJ Volunteer Ambulance Corps, PJHS Marching Band, PJ Fire Police, PJPD and all that participated!

#### Port Pride Day- Fall

Our Fall Clean-up was held on an extremely cold Saturday morning- November 9, 2019. Approximately 15 volunteers helped us clean up leaves and debris from Orange Square Veteran's Park on Pike Street. Thank you to all that helped out.

#### PJ Stone Challenge

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual PJ Stone Challenge was held on November 23, 2019 in Elks-Brox Park. Close to 100 people participated and more than \$3000 was raised for the Outdoor Club of Port Jervis. This event was sponsored by PJ Rec, OCO PJ and the Shop Tattoo.

#### 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 23<sup>rd</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.