

~ RECREATION DEPARTMENT
& COMMISSION ~

~ 2011 REPORT ~

RECREATION COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT -

The mission of the Milford Recreation Commission is to serve as advocates on behalf of the Milford community in promoting recreation and leisure activities for all ages and interests by:

- Assisting the Board of Selectmen and Recreation Department with recommendations for implementing appropriate recreation programs.
- Assisting the Board of Selectmen and Recreation Department with recommendations for best utilization of existing park and recreation facilities.
- Providing a forum for communication and coordination of recreation programs and issues.
- Providing recommendations and project management for long-range community recreation capital improvements.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT VISION STATEMENT - To provide a full spectrum of community-driven recreation activities for all ages through the provision of recreation and parks services. Together with the Recreation Commission and often in collaboration with related organizations, the Recreation Department strives to enhance the quality of life in Milford by making a valued investment in the daily lives and well being of our community.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT - The Milford Recreation Department is committed to enriching and enhancing the quality of life for all community residents by:

- Offering affordable, high quality, diversified programming of recreational activities and events.
- Providing well maintained playgrounds, park spaces, and recreational facilities.
- Supporting other community groups that share an interest in recreational goals.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS –

With the end of the year and the holiday season behind us, we reflect back on the fun and accomplishments enjoyed by the community through the Milford Recreation Department programs, events and activities. As always the Recreation Department strives to meet the wide range of recreation opportunities that members of our community seek. In 2011 a Recreation Master Plan committee was established under the direction of the Recreation Commission to study the long term recreation needs of Milford and to help direct our efforts to best meet them. As we move into the new year we hope to hear from you the participants and members of our community as to how we can best shape the future of recreation in our Town.

Recreation Department programs have been expanded to encompass a wide range of activities and events. Popular new activities for 2011 included musical and theatrical performances on the Town Hall Stage, small group trips for seniors to enjoy day outings, the Granite State Zookeeper experience, toddler tumbling classes, yogalates, bootcamp and Zumba fitness classes, women's self defense course, Cinco de Mayo Zumba party and QuickStart summer tennis program. Also the coed adult softball league was expanded to include patched umpires for all games and the season concluded with an optional wooden bat tournament.



Many recreation programs enjoy continued success thanks to the participants who return season after season to enjoy the activities offered. MRD currently offers many program choices that we hope will entice all facets of interests. Programs include Keyes pool passes, ARC swim lessons, aqua animals swim lessons, parent and child swim lessons, swim team, WSI certification, lifeguard certification, aqua cardio, synchronized swim, adult fitness

swim, senior water movement, ARC babysitter training, tennis lessons, drama, archery lessons, archery tournaments, tot drop-in, soccer camp, adult softball league, adult basketball, adult dodgeball, Biggest Loser weight loss challenge, contra dance, senior bingo brunch, senior coffee hour, senior trips, recreation trips (day and overnight), daddy daughter dance, spooktacular family Halloween dance, outdoor ice skating, Water Country discount tickets, Park 2 Park 5K road race and kids fun run and school vacation week fun programs.

Recreation programs and events help make Milford a great place to live and help us keep an active and vibrant community. Milford Recreation Department hosted many free community events in 2011 all geared toward getting individuals and families out and enjoying what Milford has to offer. Free community events included the Winter Festival at Shepard Park, Easter Egg Hunt, Free Yoga Classes, Walk NH Week Challenge, Sounds on the Souhegan Summer Concert Series, 4th of July Family Fun Day, 43rd Annual Rotary Swim Meet, Keyes Pool Swim Lesson Fun Day, Tennis Carnival, and Ice skating at the Shepard Park rink (made possible with generous support of the Shepard Park Improvement Trust).



If you would like to find out more about your Town Recreation Department please visit us at www.milfordrec.com, friend us on Facebook or for current updates on fun activities going on right here in Town email recreation@milford.nh.gov to get on our email list.

FACILITIES UPDATE –

In 2011 the Milford Recreation Department raised \$43,176.00 through fundraising and donations. This money was used to develop and enhance our Town parks and recreation facilities. These alternative funding sources allowed us to provide some great improvement and expansion projects for parks and facilities that would not have been possible under the Department's operating budget.

In 2010 the Town celebrated the grand opening of a brand new park, Kaley Park. This year the field development, irrigation extension, additional parking and canoe launch were completed, wrapping up the major development work at Kaley Park. This spring we look forward to welcoming the public to the new Kaley Park and hope you will enjoy the open space, walking areas, river views and playing field space this park offers. The completion of this project would not have been possible without the ongoing support of the Kaley Foundation as well as this year's support from the Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Department of Community Development, Public Works Department, Steve Trombly, Arthur L. Keyes Memorial Trust, Milford Masonic Temple, and Eagle Scout Josh Clemens.

Keyes Park is one of the main recreation facilities in Milford and is the home to Keyes Pool which is widely used by residents, non-residents and youth groups. Prior to the pool opening this past summer the wading pool was resurfaced and painted, the pump maintenance room was upgraded with new filtration and chlorine control units, and the guest locker rooms were painted floor to ceiling. Additionally, the roof over the main pool entrance was re-shingled. This coming season we look forward to the resurfacing and painting of the large pool and additional pool house painting. Lastly thanks to the generous support of the Keyes Memorial Trust, we will be installing a new sun shade system in the wading pool area to increase comfort and provide needed protection from the sun to Milford's littlest community members. Please join us at Keyes Pool this summer and make a big splash!

Shepard Park is now home to the Shepard Park Ice Skating Rink which debuted in 2010. This 2011-2012 skating season is the second year for the ice rink at Shepard. Thanks to the generous and continued support of the Shepard Park Improvement Trust, the newly installed lighting system enables skaters to enjoy the rink into the evening hours. Milford is very fortunate to have a volunteer MICE (Milford Ice) team taking care of the rink clearing it after snowstorms and resurfacing it after heavy skating use with specialized maintenance equipment. The newest Recreation Department event, the Milford Winter Festival, was held for the first time in January and showcased the Shepard Park ice skating rink and provided many other outdoor winter activities to enjoy.

LOOKING FORWARD –

Even though the work done so far on the new ice rink has received rave reviews and compliments, the MICE members are not about to rest on their laurels. Plans are being developed to build a larger storage building and warming hut, and possibly adding a

second rink for stick and puck enthusiasts. These efforts will make for a more enjoyable skating experience for all. We also hope to include additional skating instruction as well.

The development of Milford's newest park, Kaley Park, has been a great community effort supported by the citizens of Milford and many Town departments and local organizations. The park expansion allows us to fully utilize this recreation area with additional field space and parking. The plans for Kaley do not end here though; future plans include new park amenities such as benches, picnic tables and dog clean up stations. Plans for a walking path around the park will provide an accessible means for visitors to stroll the beautiful property with views of the Souhegan River.

Also new for 2012, program participants and families will be able to register online and make credit card payments for program fees. The Recreation Department has been working diligently to bring this convenience to Milford and will be the first Town department to offer credit card payments and online registration.

Another endeavor started in 2011 is the inclusion of a recreation chapter to the Town's master plan. Members of several Town departments and organizations have begun working on the chapter. With the assistance of students from Keene State University, the group has conducted surveys and gathered an immense amount of data on just about every type of recreation imaginable. The group is in the process of compiling all the data and determining where future needs will arise. Open forums are planned for the spring and the chapter will likely be finalized in August 2012. Once completed and adopted it will be a great asset in planning future parks, facilities and programs.

SPECIAL THANKS –

Once again in 2011 the Town's recreation programs and facilities would only be a fraction of what they are without the help of our vast and growing number of dedicated and committed volunteers. Performing all kinds of tasks in all types of weather in sometimes trying circumstances, they work without complaint and do not seek any recognition. These volunteers are integral in our efforts to make the Town of Milford a better place to live and play. To give one example of their efforts, you need only think of the last time you cleared a foot of wet snow from your driveway. Our volunteers, after taking care of their own driveways, then go to the 9,000 square foot ice rink and clear even more snow, shovel pathways around the rink and resurface the ice when necessary. For those of us involved in recreation that are aware of your sacrifices we sincerely thank you all on behalf of the entire community.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Banks, Recreation Director
Walter Smith, Chairman Recreation Commission