

~ RECREATION DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION ~

~ 2012 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.

New for 2012

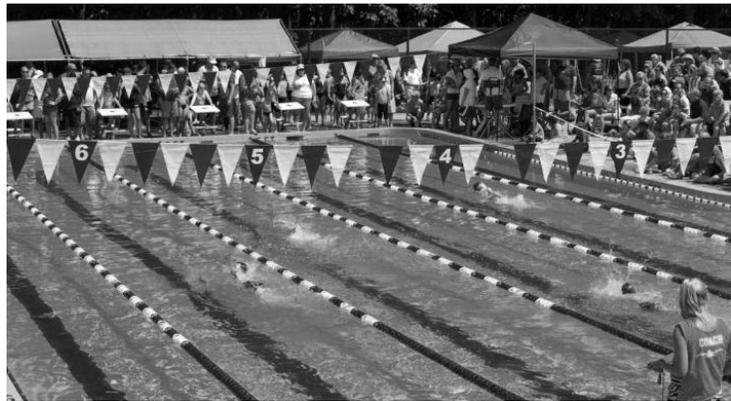
New for 2012, the Recreation Department implemented an online registration software system. This system, with access to our in-house database, allows customers to see real-time program availability down to the number of open spaces remaining. Participants and families can register online with a credit card any hour of the day from the convenience of their home or office. This project was successful in large part due to the support of the Recreation Commission and to the IT Department (Bruce Dickerson) in implementing the rollout of the service. Beyond customer convenience, the online registration system also frees up Recreation Department staff time to run more

programs and focus on long term projects. Since its implementation in February 2012, the online registration system has accounted for an average of 50% of program registrations each month.

As always the Recreation Department strives to meet the wide range of recreation opportunities that members of our community seek. The Recreation Master Plan committee is dutifully working on the Recreation chapter in the Town's Master Plan. The chapter's focus is on anticipating and preparing for the long term recreation needs of the Milford community. To assist in our efforts we conducted a survey to gauge community support, interests, and comments about current and future recreation offerings. We continually welcome input from program participants, park users, and all other community members about their interests and their ideas about how we can achieve a balanced recreation plan for tomorrow and beyond.

FACILITIES UPDATE –

In 2012 the Milford Recreation Department oversaw an extensive refurbishment of Keyes Park amenities. The Keyes Memorial Pool was resurfaced including sanding, patching/repairing, and painting. New lane line anchors were installed for the outer lanes to enable the use of standard lane lines. Thanks to generous support from the Keyes Memorial Trust (KMT) for funding, DPW



was able to install the new sunshade system over the kiddie pool. KMT and Milford Rotary Club also donated a new swim lane line system with a storage reel and new backstroke flags. Taken together, these projects demonstrate the commitment the Town has in maintaining the Keyes pool facility and also showcases the ongoing support from multiple community groups.

In addition to the work done within the pool facility, the Recreation Department oversaw the resurfacing of the Keyes basketball court and tennis courts. These projects were funded in part (50%) by the Recreation Commission Revolving Fund. A grant from USTA also funded new 10-under tennis lines for our youth tennis lessons.



2012 also brought the completion of phase II work at Kaley Park. The park now has two irrigated grass playing fields that will be available for booking spring 2013. To replace the soon to be sold diamond at the old police station property, we are looking into installing a softball diamond at Kaley Park. We will also be looking to install new amenities at Kaley Park to enhance the end-user experience and widen the scope of park offerings.

Shepard Park is now home to the Shepard Park Ice Skating Rink which is currently in its 3rd season. Many cubic yards of fill were brought in to level the Shepard Park outfield to provide a better base surface for the ice rink system. Thanks to the generous and continued support of the Shepard Park Improvement Trust, we have preliminary approval to construct a permanent storage facility and warming hut. This single structure facility will sit outside of the ball field playing area so that the park can continue to be used through all 4 seasons. The Recreation Department would be remiss if it did not again give a shout-out to the many volunteers who set-up and maintain the ice rink throughout the winter season. Milford is very fortunate to have this volunteer group affectionately referred to as the MICE (Milford Ice) team. The clearing of snow and resurfacing of the ice with hot water keeps the rink in prime shape after the heavy use it encounters throughout the days. The second annual Milford Winter Festival was held in January and cooperation from Mother Nature helped make the event a resounding success. With lots of snow already on the ground, large snowflakes fell throughout much of the event. Attendance was better than expected and double the showing from the previous year. We are looking forward to next year's event (mid-January) and hope to attract an even larger community showing.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS –

Milford Recreation Department (MRD) strives to offer many diverse program choices to meet a broad swath of interests. Our water programs at Keyes Pool include swim lessons, aqua animals swim lessons, parent and child swim lessons, swim team, WSI certification, lifeguard certification, aqua cardio, synchronized swim, senior water fitness, and stroke clinics. Other programs we continued to offer throughout 2012 include American Red Cross (ARC) babysitter training, tennis lessons, drama, archery lessons, tot drop-in, soccer camp, adult softball league, adult basketball league, adult volleyball, Biggest Loser weight loss challenge, contra dance, senior bingo brunch, senior coffee hour, senior trips, recreation trips, daddy daughter dance, ice skating lessons, hockey lessons, Park 2 Park 5K road race and kids fun run and school vacation week fun programs.



Milford Recreation Department continues to host many free community events to provide activities that encourage active participation both indoors and outdoors. Free community events included the Winter Festival at Shepard Park, Easter Egg Hunt, Sounds on the Souhegan Summer Concert Series, 4th of July Fireworks

and Family Fun Day, the 44th Annual Rotary Swim Meet, the GSSA NH State Championship Swim Meet, Keyes Pool Swim Lesson Fun Day, Tennis Carnival, Kids Carnival, The Great Park Pursuit, 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.

LOOKING FORWARD –

In September we welcomed our new Recreation Program Coordinator, Steph Zubricki to the department. Steph joins our team with an education background in Recreation Management and employment/volunteer experience in coaching/mentoring, summer camp programming, event management, volunteer coordination, and student affairs program management. We look forward to introducing Steph to our current events and programs and assisting her in organizing and expanding our community offerings.

After years of planning it looks like 2013 will be the year the EPA will begin the clean-up of the Fletcher superfund site, which will impact Keyes Park for at least two years. While we appreciate and support the effort to decontaminate the underground soil in this area, it will no doubt impact park usage. We are still developing plans and working with neighbors to mitigate this burden for park guests.

SPECIAL THANKS –

Milford Recreation has been described as a great value to the community (Budget Advisory Committee 2012). Our office is able to provide so much at such a low cost due in large part to the commitment from our Recreation Commission, our numerous dedicated volunteers and community organizations and trusts who support us financially and with volunteers. On behalf of the Recreation Commission and the Town of Milford we sincerely thank all of you for your commitment to recreation in our community. Milford is a better place because of it!

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Banks, Recreation Director

Walter Smith, Chairman Recreation Commission