

~ RECREATION DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION ~

~ 2013 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 opportunity for each and every citizen to enrich their quality of life by offering a full spectrum of community-driven recreation activities for all ages through the provision of recreation and parks services.

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

- Offering diversified programming, activities and events.
- Assessing and responding to parks and amenities needs.
- Collaborating with community groups that share an interest in recreational goals.

New for 2013

The Recreation Department completed its first year with the program coordinator position being full-time. Support from the Budget Advisory Committee, Town officials, and voters made this change possible. With the increased hours being 50% funded by the Recreation Revolving Fund there was little tax impact in getting the additional hours funded but the resulting work output and accessibility of the department has increased dramatically. To serve the community in the most professional way possible, we are now able to maintain office hours throughout the workweek. In the past the office was subject to closing when staff had meetings and programs. The increased presence of the program coordinator allows the Recreation Director more time to plan and coordinate larger community projects as well.

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. We always welcome input from program participants, park users, and all other community members about their interests and ideas about how we can achieve a balanced recreation plan for tomorrow and beyond.

FACILITIES UPDATE –

In 2013 the Milford Recreation Department facilitated a truly collaborative community-centric project at Keyes Memorial Park. Working together with the school district and the DPW Highways crew, the students from MHS Building Trades erected a pergola on the east-facing side of the pavilion. The pavilion has been a long-time interest for local Landscape Architect Jerry Guthrie.



His donated work, along with partially donated materials from Milford Lumber, transportation provided by local parent Carolyn Magri-Halstead, and the cost-free labor from the students in Brian Carter's building trades program have helped to bring this project online while keeping costs to a minimum. To offset the cost of this project the Recreation Commission has undertaken a brick fundraising project. This allows local residents and business to show their support with an engraved brick that will become part of the flooring of this new amenity. This pergola area will not only help to beautify Keyes Park, but will also be available for reservation to host parties and community functions. On behalf of all Milford residents I wish to extend a big thanks to all who contributed to this project.

Tennis court benches were also constructed at Keyes Park in between the tennis courts. This project was completed by Eagle Scout Michael Dargie. In addition to the benches, Michael landscaped the adjacent space to help beautify the area.

2013 also brought the planning of phase III work at Kaley Park. The park now has two irrigated grass playing fields and plans call for the installation of a softball diamond for Spring, 2014. The softball diamond will be sized to accommodate base widths that are appropriate for all levels of play. The field will be named Robert (Bubba) Carson, Jr. Memorial Field in memory of Rob and his dedication to the Milford co-ed adult softball league over the past 10 years. Rob passed away this year and other players stepped up to help the league continue. A field marker was donated by Eco Stoneworks of Milford and, after engraving, will be placed at the field where a dedication ceremony will take place at the beginning of the 2014 co-ed softball season. It was a pleasure knowing Rob and working with him; the Town of Milford appreciates his efforts in making this program a continued success.

Other features and amenities will be continually added to Kaley Park to further enhance Milford's newest recreation area including benches, tables and a walking trail. Phase III is the last planned installment of park development but the future may include additional features at Kaley Park to meet relevant needs including lighting, road access enhancements, increased parking, and an additional softball diamond.

Shepard Park has dutifully hosted the Shepard Park Ice Skating Rink for the past 4 years. In that time we have made incremental enhancements to the site to better the guest experience. Last year's project was small in scale but made a huge and noticeable impact on the quality of the ice which reduced rink closures. That project entailed leveling the field to provide a better base surface for the ice rink system.

This year's project is the largest in scale to date and will no doubt have the greatest impact on the guest experience. Thanks to the Shepard Park Improvement Trust we will be opening a new Warming Hut to the public this skating season. This single structure facility will also include a storage garage to house all of the rink maintenance equipment. We would also like to thank local architect Paul Hemmerich as well as Chad Branon of Fieldstone Land Consultants for their generous help in moving this project forward. 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 fourth annual Milford Winter Festival will be held January 18, 2014. We hope to see you (and lots of snow) there.



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, synchronized swim, senior water fitness, and stroke clinics. Other programs we continued to offer throughout 2013 include babysitter training, tennis lessons, basketball lessons, drama, archery lessons, tot drop-in,

soccer camp, tot soccer, adult softball league, adult basketball league, adult volleyball, contra dance, senior bingo brunch, senior coffee hour, senior trips, recreation trips, daddy daughter dance, ice skating lessons, hockey lessons, and school vacation week fun programs.

Milford Recreation Department continues to host many community events to provide activities that encourage active participation both indoors and outdoors. Recreation 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 45th Annual Rotary Swim Meet, the GSSA NH State Championship Swim Meet, Keyes Pool Swim Lesson Fun Day, Tennis Carnival, Kids Carnival, and ice skating at the Shepard Park ice rink.



If you would like to find out more about your town recreation department please visit us at town hall, or online 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. Our program guide is published quarterly.

LOOKING FORWARD –

Similar to previous year, 2013 came and went with the prediction the EPA clean-up of the Fletcher superfund site will happen soon. The project, which will impact Keyes Park for at least two years to decontaminate the underground soil in this area, still has no definite start date. Contingency plans are in place, and although there will be a burden to park guests; we hope to minimize it as much as possible. Although it sometimes seems to move at a glacial pace, progress continues to be made toward developing the Brox property and a recreation chapter to the town's master plan. Work on the pergola addition to the Keyes Park pavilion is underway which will further beautify Keyes Park when it is completed.

SPECIAL THANKS –

Building community through people, parks, and programs is the recreation commission's vision statement, and that statement was solidly re-enforced in 2013 thanks to the many volunteers too numerous to list here. Many things went smoothly while a few were almost the exact opposite. The one thing that every project and event had in common was the people behind the scenes spending their free time to make it happen. They don't do it for the glory, for the recognition, and certainly not for financial gain. They do it for their community. They do it for you because this is your community, your town. If you haven't already, why not give a little of yourself to help keep your hometown a great place to live. You don't necessarily have to volunteer for the town, there are many great organizations and schools in Milford that would love to have just a little more help. You don't need to sign up for a long commitment. Just try it once. Who knows, you may even enjoy it.

For those who gave their time, materials, funding and inspiration in 2013, you have our deepest gratitude. For everyone else, thank you in advance for an awesome 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Banks, Recreation Director

Walter Smith, Chairman Recreation Commission