

RECREATION DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION

2015 Annual Report

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.

Recreation Commission Mission Statement

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.

2015 Accomplishments

- First Annual Star Spangled 5K and 1K Blast
- Keyes Pergola landscaping and installation of tables complete.
- Completion of second ice rink at Shepard Park to be utilized for stick and puck.
- New Home Alone and Horsemanship programs
- Commemoration of the 50th year of Keyes Pool
- Hosted BreakOut Swim Clinic with 2 Olympic Medalists
- First Annual Touch A Truck Event
- First Annual Holiday House Decorating Competition

Facilities Update

After many hours behind the scenes constructing the walls for the stick and puck ice rink, installation at Shepard Park began on January 17, 2015. The water froze quickly and shortly after we were able to open the



second rink dedicated solely to stick and puck. This was made possible through the generosity of the Shepard Park Improvement Trust and the tireless efforts of many volunteers. A huge thank you also goes out to the MICE (Milford Ice) Team, a group of volunteers who set-up and maintain the ice throughout the winter season.



The pergola structure at Keyes Memorial Park was constructed in 2014 and in 2015 picnic tables were installed as well as additional landscaping. The Recreation Commission had undertaken a brick fundraising project which helped make this possible. A big thank you to the Public Works Department for the installation of the tables.

Program Highlights



2015 was a year of many 'firsts' for the Milford Recreation Department. We offered some wonderful new programs and events the community really seemed to enjoy! The highlights were: Home Alone Safety, Star Spangled 5k and 1k Blast, Breakout! Swim Clinic, Touch-A-Truck, partnering with Irish Luck Stables Horsemanship Program, Holiday House Decorating Competition, and the Holly Jolly Family Spectacular. Plus, we had Journey: An Online Health & Wellness Program, Keyes 50th Celebrations, Spectrum

Science Camp and Trick or Treat on the Oval. A very busy 2015 for sure!

The recreation department was very excited to offer a 5k once again. The Park 2 Park was organized in the past to raise funds to acquire Kaley Park, but participation went down and it was decided to not continue this race. The last Park 2 Park was in 2012. This year, it was decided to offer the Star Spangled 5k, which would take place on the morning of the 4th of July, and would allow walkers/runners of all levels, as well as be very family friendly. Strollers/wagons were allowed on the course as well as leashed dogs. A free 1k blast was offered for ages 12 and under so they could take part! We had over 70 people participate in our 1st Annual Star Spangled 5k and we can't wait to see how many join us for our 2nd.



The Olympians found their way to Keyes Park this past summer. The 3x Gold Medalist Ian Crocker and Bronze Medalist Kim Vandenberg came as a part of Mutual of Omaha Breakout! Swim Clinic to give 4 hours of Olympic instruction to all ages. It was a wonderful opportunity for avid swimmers in the area to receive feedback by the pros and help them get to the next level.

It was a last minute decision to organize a Holiday House Decorating Competition and we sure are glad we did it! We had 10 homes register for the competition and welcome the public to view their homes, who then voted on what homes they thought were the most creative, most captivating, most nostalgic and the Clark Griswold award. Over 1,000 people participated in the

voting process and many more were saying they plan to enter next year. Winning homes received prizes that were donated from Papa Joe's, Giorgio's, Robin's Egg and the Manchester Monarchs.

MRD is committed to offering something for all age groups. The Senior Coffee Connection schedule for 2016 will run from March through December on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10-11:30 am. Contact the recreation department for a schedule. On the 4th Wednesday of each month we offer Senior Brunch Bingo from 12-2 pm. Bring lunch with you and get ready to win some prizes! Both of these programs are held in the Town Hall Banquet Hall. A great effort is also made to offer affordable monthly trips during the week day for seniors to attend and enjoy!

Here at the Milford Recreation Department we are actively brainstorming, researching and planning new programs, trips and events to offer to the community. Here are some things to keep an eye out for in 2016: School Vacation Fun Days, Piano Lessons, YOGYAM Yoga, and Senior Zumba. Plus some new trips sprinkled in!

To find out more about your town recreation department, or to stay informed about all our offerings, please visit us at town hall, online at www.milfordrec.com or "LIKE" us on Facebook for continuous updates on fun activities going on right here in town.

Looking Forward

2016 promises to be an exciting year for the Milford Recreation Department and Commission. With the purchase of the property located at 127 Elm Street we hope to move forward with a subcommittee to determine and execute the next steps for this property.

After years of planning, the cleanup of the Fletcher Superfund Site has begun and is scheduled to impact the Keyes Park entrance into 2017. We are developing plans to mitigate this burden for park guests.

Plans are already in place for Milford Recreation to offer the chance to visit the Easter Bunny, cool off in Keyes Pool, enjoy a variety of music at Emerson Park, outsmart a zombie, compete in a house decorating contest, blast off in our 5k, and swiftly skate or play stick and puck on the ice rinks. It is extremely rewarding to bring you the chance to experience these and many other opportunities.

Special Thanks

The Recreation Department and Commission wish to recognize all of the community organizations, merchants, industries, businesses, and individuals for their continued support of recreation programs and events. We also sincerely thank the scores of volunteers who donated a most precious gift to our community - their time. Milford's recreational endeavors are reliant upon volunteers and would not exist without them.

In closing, thank you for making 2015 a great year for Recreation and the Town of Milford. Thank you in advance to everyone who will make 2016 even better.

Respectfully submitted,

Arene Berry
Recreation Director