

City of Rockland

Recreation Department

Mission Statement

The mission of the Rockland Recreation Department is to provide a range of high-quality wellness and recreational programs, community service and park facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

Department Description

The Rockland Recreation Department is the community leader in youth and adult wellness. We provide programs and facilities where all people, young and old can come together for physical activity and socialization. We have a community building that offers everything from preschool and youth programs to adult and senior programs. The Recreation Department offers organized youth and adult sports programs, open gym and a game room for free play, After School and Summer Camp child care for activity and socializing, meeting rooms for nontraditional groups and outdoor parks for many forms of recreation. It is our intention to provide programs and facilities that will allow the members of our community a place to improve their quality of life by staying active.

Previous Year's Highlights

- During the past year the Recreation Department was open for a full year with all programs back on track and running when and where they were supposed to be. This made things easier for us not trying to run programs at another facility or just getting back into ours with some projects still unfinished. The building is back to a regular routine and the biggest part to that is we were able to refinish the gym floor for the first time this year. The floor had to acclimate for 18 months before we could use the water base finish over the oil base that goes on for the first time.
- With the help of the council, the Recreation Department began an aggressive PR campaign that helped us get the word out about our renovation bond. The renovation bond went to the public on the November Ballot and passed by a 2/1 margin. This will help us stop all the leaks in the building once and for all. The masonry project will start in April and then in a few months when this is done we will move on to the next step. The next step will take place at the end of the summer with perimeter drains and roof caps. This project will hopefully stop all water infiltration in the building.
- Sports Programs went very well this year, our soccer program had increased numbers while our basketball program saw a decrease. The soccer program had a mass increase in younger kids that doubled the teams in the K, 1st & 2nd grade league. We went from 4 teams to 8 teams. In our 4th, 5th & 6th grade basketball league we had fewer kids and were forced to go from 6 teams to 5 teams in both the boys and girls league. This created a scheduling hiccup that I feel Benjie handled very well.

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- The weight room was revamped with new paint and flooring, that has made the room look more like a real weight room. The whole room was reorganized to increase the traffic flow while working out. We hope that we can keep the improvements coming over the next year.
- I have worked with the High School to re-establish a group of skaters and bikers that want to help monitor and maintain the skate park. They have been meeting on a weekly basis and even held a dance here at the Recreation Building to raise money for the park. Two work groups were organized during the summer to help repair the park. The first group was from the U.S.S Wasp during the Lobster Festival and the second was from Lonza here in town.
- The beach house at Johnson Memorial park had an exterior renovation with all the landscaping around the building. The old over grown bushes were removed and replaced with nice mulched planting beds that were filled with annuals and perennials. The plants were put in by the kids in our Summer Day Camp program.
- The Recreation Department started an adult Dodge ball League here at the recreation building. The league had 8 teams and ran for 7 weeks. This was a very well received program for the first year and will hopefully grow in the future. We are also planning on having an adult kickball league in the spring. This league will start in May and run for about five weeks. We hope that it is as successful as the dodge ball league was.

Goals & Objectives

- Monitor and complete the renovation projects that will be performed as part of the voter approved bond.
- Complete all necessary steps to have the Sidewalk Grant start during the summer of 2012.
- Work with the State of Maine to get needed materials to improve the boat dock at JMP.
- Make ADA improvements to the rear entrance on the Union St. side of the building.
- Completion of both CIP projects that will make the entrance and parking area of the building more user friendly.
- Make improvements to the equipment in the weight room.
- Make improvements to the city playgrounds. (as needed)
- Look at staffing and make improvements to the front desk sign in.
- Continue to increase adult programming at the Recreation Department.

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5-Year Goals & Objectives

Over the next 5 years the Recreation Department will continue its efforts to make improvements to both facilities and programming. We have many facilities around the city that are in need of major work. The Recreation department will be working on improving community partnerships and fund raising activities in order to support in these efforts.

➤ *Recreation Building*

- The Recreation building will continue to maintain the improvements that have been done over the past few years.
- Make improvements to the ventilation system in the building and lowering energy costs.
- Complete weight room renovations and upgrade the equipment.

➤ *Johnson Memorial Park*

- Make improvements to the beach and the flow gate in order to stop the erosion of the sand.
- Work with MDEP and the Army Corp of Engineers on the boat launch ramp and dock.
- Make building improvements to allow for larger groups for Summer Day Camp programs.

➤ *Old County Rd Fields*

- Seek grant funding in order to develop a comprehensive use plan.

➤ *Playgrounds*

- Develop equipment replacement plan.

➤ *Snow Marine Park*

- Explore feasibility of converting this Park into youth sports fields to allow for larger programs.
- Seek funding sources for both planning and development of this park.