

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021

Members of the Chester Park and Recreation Commission promote healthy lifestyles through recreation by providing parks and programs that meet the needs of all town residents, while maintaining a fiscally responsible operation. Most of the budget expenditures are for park maintenance, while programs are self-funded. In addition, contributions from groups and individuals in the community have helped finance various activities. The Commission is responsible for the maintenance and renovation of 7 facilities in Chester. They are North Quarter Park, Chester Creek Overlook at the Town Dock, Pelletier Park on Cedar Lake, Lake View Park on Cedar Lake Road, Parkers Point Boat Launch on the Connecticut River, L'hommedieu Park on the Pataconk Brook, and the baseball fields at Chester Elementary School.

This year the Commission continued renovations to North Quarter Park. A 9-hole Disc Golf Course was completed, with the assistance of summer staff members Katie Amara, Jackson Bisson, Sam Iselin, Randy Netsch, Egan Rothrock, Tyler Sanders, Zak Saunders, and Reece Whitney. Sandy Atkinson donated the use of the water at A Style Above Hair Salon to make these projects possible. The surfacing of the North Quarter Park Basketball Court was made possible by the donation of time and materials from Nancy and Chris Hamilton and CT Paving and was painted the following summer by volunteer, and Commission member John Saunders with his family's assistance. Commission Vice Chairman John Williams donated time and expertise with park and sign designs. Along with volunteer labor by John Williams and Ivey Gianetti, Jared Morris also contributed equipment and service for park improvements. The Chester Public Works Department expanded and upgraded the parking lot to accommodate the increase in the number of visitors using the multi-use facility.

Revenue from non-resident park passes during the summer of 2020 and June of 2021 provided income to the Town's General Fund for fiscal year 2020/2021 of \$21,490, surpassing the budget revenue, set before the COVID restrictions in 2020, by \$7,490. The end of the fiscal year also saw 22 children registered for swimming lessons at Cedar Lake, run by our Waterfront and Camp Director, Tyler Saunders.

The Children's Summer camp activities began in June and offered 12 different programs with 147 spaces filled. All program expenses, including staff payroll, operated without budget funding, through the Parks and Recreation Contra Fund. In addition to scholarship support from the Town's Human Services department, contributions were received from the M. Jones Foundation through the Middlesex Community Fund and Kim Lundgren.

In addition, self-funded programs in fiscal year 2020/2021 included outdoor Karate for children at North Quarter Park and Yoga on the Meeting House Green, offered to the entire community, free of charge, by Annette Babek.

We are fortunate to have the resources of several beautiful park facilities and exceptional employees and volunteers. They help fulfill the purpose of the Chester Park and Recreation Commission by improving the quality of life for all citizens by "*Celebrating Community through People, Parks, and Programs*".