

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022

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 of net expenditures is 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. Members of the Commission on June 30, 2022 were Chairman Michael Abramson, Linda Carlson, Kristin Dean, Paul McAndrew, Dawn Saunders, John Saunders, and Kurt Ziemann.

This year the Commission continued renovations to North Quarter Park. Commission member, John Saunders, painted the basketball court, with additional members of his family. A bike rack and three new signs were installed. Commission member, Paul McAndrew, assisted Parks and Recreation staff members filling the tees on the 9-hole disc golf course with processed gravel, reclaimed from projects by the Public Works department. In addition, the Bates/B field at Chester Elementary School was re-seeded to repair vehicle damage from the previous summer. Revenue from non-resident park passes during July and August of 2021, and June of 2022, provided income to the Town's General Fund for fiscal year 2021/2022 with an unprecedented amount of \$16,468, exceeding the Town's budget by \$7,468. The Town beach on Cedar Lake operates a safe and enjoyable swimming area thanks to our seasonal Parks and Recreation staff and has continued to sell a high volume of nonresident passes throughout 2022, totaling 163, to contribute to the fiscal year ending in June of 2023.

Self-funded programs include the Children's Summer Camp, which operated at North Quarter Park, in a modified format during the summer of 2021, as there were no public buildings available for use by our department. Despite the restrictions, the department filled 102 different program spaces and registered 21 children for swimming lessons. The Commission received a generous grant for the Children's Camp program from the M. Jones Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Children's outdoor programs continued with 57 spaces registered in the fall during three full days off from school with sports and crafts at North Quarter Park, and 36 spaces on the three early dismissal days at Chester Elementary featuring Field Hockey and Lacrosse. Basketball for grades K through 6 had 60 participants in the winter, and the spring Early Bird Running Club, with Paul McAndrew, had 50 participants. American Red Cross Babysitter's Training with First Aid, CPR, and AED was taught by the Director, and a sand art activity venue was offered at the Duck Races.

As the fiscal year ended in June, the Commission began its 2022 summer season, with 214 spaces filled by February and 91 different children registered for a full camp program, which contributed \$23,496 to the Town's General Fund. Swimming Lessons, with 27 children registered, contributed \$810. The staff in 2022 included Camp Director and Head Swimming Instructor Tyler Saunders, Waterfront Supervisors Brianna Livingston and Zach Saunders, Arts & Crafts Directors Darlene Pollock and Abby Amara, Sports and Science & Nature Director Randy Netsch and our fantastic staff of lifeguard certified Camp Counselors Jackson Bisson, Kyra Brennan, Juliette Linares, Reece Whitney, Lindsey Valentino, Jack Guthrie, Chloe Clark, Will Fleischer, Cooper Pitts, Erin Brennan, and Mika Carlin. Camp teen volunteers were Jake Calandrucchio, Caleb Chapman, Finn Heiser, Cody Saunders, and India Sharp.

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.*"

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth A. Netsch

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Director of Parks and Recreation