

**THE CITY OF WHITE PLAINS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Summer Report

July 31, 2023

Kittrell Park Basketball Courts

The renovated courts were completed and opened to the public on Thursday, June 15. The renovation was to both full courts and included: drainage, fencing, surfacing, poles, backboards and rims. The courts were painted a vibrant blue and red. We hosted a basketball clinic during the week of June 26 and the Youth Summer Basketball Clinic and League for k -9th graders began play that week as well. The renovation went very smoothly and the residents have expressed satisfaction with the results.

Gardella Pool

We have been meeting weekly with DPW and a design team to develop the plans for a new Gardella Pool. We expect to have a preliminary design completed by the fall to share with the RAC.

Hockey

We were able to resolve the issue with the resident who didn't make the team. Two spots opened up on the team and we were able to offer the spots to 2 White Plains residents one of which was the complainant. We will also be offering a new hockey program for youth 12yrs and under. This will allow us to offer training and in-house league play to youth from 7 – 12 yrs of age. Previously the program ended for youth at the age of 10 Years old.

Teen Programs

We have offered 2 “After Hours” High School Only programs this summer, neither of which has been as successful as we would have liked. On Friday, June 23, we hosted a Teen Roller Skating Night at the Ebersole Ice Rink, 10 Teens attended. We believe that the primary reason that the night was unsuccessful is because we required pre-registration in order to guarantee that we would have roller skates available. We think they would prefer a drop-in situation. Unfortunately we don't have that luxury because we don't own roller skates and the company we contracted to provide skates was limited in supply.

On Monday, July 24 we hosted a Teen Pool Party at the Kittrell Pool. We also had low attendance at this function. We believe that the pre-registration requirement we are implementing is not attractive to high schoolers.

Farmers Market

The market has picked up since May and we are now seeing more customers joining us each Wednesday. We now have 3 produce farmers regularly joining us each week. This has helped considerably. The Music at the Market program has good attendance and is held bi-weekly.

Fall/Winter Guide is on its way to the printer and will be mailed to resident households by mid-August. We are planning for registration to begin the week of August 21. New program offerings to include; Fencing, Preseason Basketball Training, Zumba for Tweens, Dance from the Heart for those with Disabilities, Intermediate Hockey League -12U and White Plains Revolution-Bike Criterium.

Summer Camp started on July 5. We are hosting camp at 4 locations; Camp Chickadee at Ridgeway School, Camp Panawok at Mamaroneck Ave School (MAS), Camp Quarropas at Eastview School, Camp Condor at WP High School. The total amount of campers we have registered this summer over the course of the 6 weeks is 550. To date camp is going relatively smoothly.

Pools opened on Father's Day Weekend. We were able to secure 29 lifeguards to work various shifts. However, unfortunately, we still have some shifts that are uncovered and as a result we will incur some overtime costs in order to keep the pools open. To date we have not compromised a day of swim due to lack of staff. We have sold 994 pool passes to date.

Father's Day Concert

Held at Turnure Park approximately 300 people attended the Gentlemen of Soul Concert.

Independence Day Celebration

There was an administrative issue regarding insurance requirements being met by the fireworks company. However, it was rectified and the show went off without a hitch. We estimate attendance at about 8000. Food vendors, inflatables, neighbors, friends and fireworks!

Summer Concert Series

The site of the concert series has been moved to Renaissance Plaza Park from Court St and attendance has been great. Concerts are held on Wednesdays at 7pm. To date 3 concerts have been held and the final one will be held on Wednesday, August 2 featuring The International Women in Reggae.

Neighborhood Nights

The Neighborhood Nights programs are held at 6:30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays at various parks. The program was expanded this year to include 7 different neighborhood parks. We have had good participation levels at Mattison Park and the Slater Center. There has been moderate participation at the other parks.