



City of Kingston

PARKS & RECREATION

creating community through people, parks & programs

2020 Recap Newsletter

2020 will go down as a very memorable year for all of us. Throughout the year we have been blessed to be able to provide programs, improvements and friendly faces to those in our community.

We thank each of you for your continued support and enthusiasm! While our program lineup looked a little different this year, Kingston Parks and Recreation worked hard to create new, fun and most importantly, safe programs for our community to enjoy.



Programs and Events

Sport Leagues

During the pandemic, we sadly were not able to host our usual number of sports programs.

However, we were still able to provide some of our well-loved programs.

- ◆ In January, we hosted our 5-7 year old Basketball Clinic which focused on developing basic skills, learning the rules of the game and proving a great way to get out some energy. We now have 18 fresh new basketball players!



- ◆ During the winter, we also hosted our extremely popular Youth Biddy Basketball league which provided a season of basketball practices and games for ages 7-18. This year we had over 250 participants!

- ◆ A new league emerged in 2020 called the Kingston Disc Golf League. During August-September participants were welcomed to stop by our new Disc Golf course, at Kingston Point Park and learn about the game. This fun filled atmosphere was a great start to a new program here at Kingston Parks and Recreation.



- ◆ Also popular this year was our Youth Co-ed Flag Football league. Both our 7-10 year old league and our 11-14 year old league provided local youths an opportunity to get outside and practice their skills on the field. Congratulations to all our teams on a great season!



Programs and Events

This year there was a busy one at our parks and beach as people seemed to want to be outside more than ever!

- ◆ Our Kingston Kayak program hosted a record year with over 120 kayakers, not including a specialized tour for Young Ulster Professionals (YUP). We loved being able to explore the Hudson River with both novice and experienced kayakers.
- ◆ We were so happy to partner with Bike Friendly Kingston and Tour de Kingston to host our annual Community Bike Ride. Featuring two rides, one a 12+ miles, the other an easy 3 miles. Our program drew in 30 participants who joined us for a tour.
- ◆ This year, Kingston Parks and Recreation hosted our annual clean up at Rotary park. With the help of over 25 volunteers, Rotary park was sparkling clean and freshly painted.



Programs and Events

Alternative Learning

- ◆ This summer, the City of Kingston partnered with the Center for Creative Education, Family of Woodstock, the Boys and Girls Club and Kingston Read and Write to offer a summer Youth Enrichment Program at four locations across Kingston. Despite the pandemic, Kingston Parks and Recreation was pleased to be a part of the team which provided free local summer fun to the youth of our community.
- ◆ As schools restarted, Kingston was able to offer alternative learning locations within the community at the Boys and Girls Club, The Center for Creative Education, The Everett Hodge Center and the Rondout Neighborhood Center. Each center provided students with a safe space to attend their distance learning classes, individualized attention, meals, computer assistance, and recreation. We thank the community for coming together to offer all students the opportunity to continue their education during these very difficult times.



Programs and Events

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Due to the pandemic, our normal line up of programs, including in-school field trips, Junior Naturalist Summer Camp and our popular Naturalist Passport Series were unable to run this year. Our staff worked hard to develop new and safe programming to provide important education about our natural world.

- ◆ Our school programs ran from January through March (was stopped due to COVID) and educated over 650 students about the importance of the watershed, migrations and how maple sugar is made!
- ◆ We also offered a new school program “Owl Pellets” that focused on the importance of raptors and balance of our ecosystems. This program was a big success, with registration filling up in one week!
- ◆ Along with educating our youth, our department also offered a free new program called “I Love Nature” which ran for three weeks in October. With 10 participants, we studied our wetland ecology, migratory birds, mammals and reptiles! We are hoping to run a Winter version of this program in February so keep your eyes out for registration.
- ◆ During the year, our Environmental Educator hosted weekly science programs at our after-school centers, the Rondout and the Everette Hodge, which included fun field trips to our local parks. These programs were put on pause after our shut down, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The buildings were repurposed to host our Summer Youth Enrichment Program. Throughout July and August, each program hosted a special hour-long environmental program.



Park Projects

We here at Kingston Parks and Recreation are always looking to improve our parks and programming options. This year we are excited to share with you a few of the improvement projects happening in our parks.

- Hasbrouck Park Pavilions' roof has been replaced.
- Hutton Park pavilion will be refurbished.
- Barmann Park had the perimeter fence and overgrown vegetation removed, and the playground will be expanded.
- Rickel Knox Park will have a new playground and play surface. We will also be adding new benches, a new handicapped accessible entryway, front fence and mural.
- Loughran Park received new playground equipment and we made repairs to pieces of the existing playground.
- Kingston Point Park had renovations done to construct a new accessible ramp to the bathrooms and an accessible changing room, plus new accessible parking spaces and a beach access pathway.
- Kingston Point Park will have construction of a brand new U-12 soccer field and parking lot, and playground.
- Everette Hodge Center will be retrofitted with a new accessible door, and will have drainage improvements.
- Andretta Pool was repaired and the plumbing was upgraded. A brand new Splash Pad will be installed.
- Dietz Stadium Complex and parking lot will benefit from a new master plan and major renovations.
- The Rondout Neighborhood Center will have an all new HVAC system, all new LED lighting and other upgrades. Will have an all new community kitchen.
- Several parks will have WIFI and security cameras installed.
- TR Gallo park is having a full replacement of its electrical system.
- All park pole lighting has been replaced with LED lights.
- Van Buren Street Playground will have a new shade structure.



Thank You

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity, for the City of Kingston Parks and Recreation, we could not do it with you! A special thanks to just a few of our sponsors

- ◆ Ron Woods
- ◆ Herzogs
- ◆ City of Kingston Parks and Recreation committee
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