

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

To the Citizens, Select Board, and Town Manager:



The year began with the worst skating rink season I can remember in my last 13 winters here at the Recreation Department. After a lot of hard work and a few cold days here and there, we were finally able to open the rink a handful of times this past winter. However, the days where we had good skateable ice were very few and far between.

On May 1st, our Department encountered a challenging situation when the Sandy River flooded Hippach Field with 3 – 5 feet of water. The extent of damage did not quite equal that of the flood of 1987, but it did leave some scars on our field and equipment, making things a little difficult for us this past summer. There was a large amount of debris and sediment left behind after the waters receded that was quickly cleaned up by our staff and volunteers. The Fire Rescue Department washed a thick film of river silt off the tennis courts, basketball court, and pool while our staff and 33 volunteers from Mt. Blue Baseball made quick work of picking up debris and cleaning up the rest of the park. The transformation from the beginning of the week to the end of the week was truly amazing and Hippach went from being completely covered in water and debris to hosting a home game for Mt. Blue Baseball only a few days later!

Some noteworthy capital improvements this year were new LED lights at the Hippach basketball courts, beach volleyball court, and skating rink. Thanks to the Community Resilience Program, grant funds were used to install four heat pumps at the Community Center and one at the Hippach Fieldhouse.

The newly rejuvenated Walton's Mill Park was completed this summer as well! Walton's Mill Park has experienced a drastic transformation through the support of the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Several organizations have contributed to this important project, ASF, UMF, E.L. Vining, David Maynes Studio, Acadia Civil Works, H.E. Callahan, Lakeside Landscape, NOAA, many other non-profits, Federal, and State agencies. Special thanks should be given to Maranda Nemeth and John Burrows from the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Joseph McLean from Acadia Civil Works, and David Maynes from David Maynes Studios for helping to design and oversee every aspect of this beautiful new addition to our community.

The Park has been completely remodeled and features a new restroom, pavilion, parking lot, walkways, landscaping, and natural play area for children creating a creative and engaging space along the banks of Temple Stream for residents to enjoy.

Walton's Mill Park After Dark



In the past calendar year, the Recreation Department also partnered with the RSU #9 food pantry, was able to provide 46 programs, and racked up nearly 50,000 hours of participation through programming and events to our residents and surrounding communities. These numbers do not include drop-in park/community center use for passive recreation or use from outside organizations that utilize our facilities to provide additional recreational/leisure opportunities for our community as well. Involvement in recreational activities has a direct positive impact on the mental, physical, emotional, and social health and wellness of the people in our community!

The successes we achieve each year come from employees who are dedicated to serving the people of Farmington. So please, next time you see them spending their nights and weekends running your children's sports leagues, teaching them how to swim, running our diverse adult/senior programming, or maintaining the parks around town, please let them know how much you appreciate the wonderful work they do. As always, it is our privilege and honor to continue to serve the people of Farmington!

For more information, please give us a call, email us, stop in, check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/farmingtonrec or sign up for a program at <https://farmingtonme.myrec.com/>!

Respectfully Submitted,

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Director of Parks and Recreation