

REPORT OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION – CALENDAR YEAR 2006

2006 was a successful year for the Town of Upton's Recreation Commission. We were able to finalize the Recreation Master Plan, we offered additional recreation programs, along with the Planning Board we successfully obtained Community Preservation Act funds to obtain concept plan and environmental analysis work for the potential Glen Echo athletic field and we have continued working towards the objective of getting a full-sized athletic field on that site.

The Upton Town Beach and Athletic Facility had a very successful beach program in the summer of 2006. This would not have been possible without all of the good work done by the Swim Instructor, Swim Aides, Lifeguards, Gatekeepers, and the Groundskeepers. The beach program's success also would not have been possible without the assistance and support from Parks Supervisor John Johnson, Jr. and DPW Administrative Assistant Carol Peterson. We would like to thank them all for their efforts in 2006.

During the summer of 2006, the Recreation Commission ran a new Summer Program at the Upton Town Beach and Athletic Facility named the Kids@Play Summer Program. Approximately 150 different children spent part of their summer at this fun program. Without the hard work of all of the Program Directors and Counselors this successful program would not have been possible, so we thank them for their important contributions.

As usual, the Town Beach Softball field saw plenty of use from the Upton Youth Club's various softball teams and the Upton Men's and Women's Softball Leagues in 2006. The Town Beach Soccer field was off-line for all of 2006 to allow the seeding that took place in the Fall of 2005 as part of the re-grading and irrigation work to take hold and grow sufficiently to support the amount of play this field gets when open. We expect play to resume on this field in the Spring of 2007.

The West River Street Soccer field had a very busy schedule of Under-10 boys and girls games and some practices in both the Spring and Fall of 2006. The condition of this field would best be described as fair presently, although practices were limited on this field in 2006 in an effort to allow the grass to grow more fully, this did not happen. Due to its location in the Flood Plain, this field is limited to an organic fertilization program that is often much more slow-acting than a more conventional 4-step program. The Recreation Commission has been gathering quotes for the work necessary to get irrigation on this field in 2007 to help the grass grow much better at this site.

The Howard Leland Memorial Field behind the Memorial Elementary School was opened to baseball play in the Spring, and soccer practices and games in the Fall. Although the irrigation problems of last year were not an issue, the conditions of the fields were poor. With the heavy rains in the Spring, we found that there are significant drainage issues in the smaller baseball diamond's infield, and in the right field section of the larger field. The poor condition of the soils used to develop these fields also did not allow for significant grass growth in many areas. While these fields were used as much

as possible given their present conditions, the Rec-Com does recognize that improvements could be made and are investigating ways to make that happen so that these fields can be better utilized.

Much work was done in early 2006 to finalize the Recreation Master Plan for Upton which was completed in mid-2006. We thank the many citizens who contributed time and knowledge to assist our consultant from Recreation Facilities Consulting as he worked his way through the plan. Among other things, this plan provides data that supports the general consensus in town that we have a shortage of athletic facilities when compared against our population and the user community size and the future growth estimated in Upton. We plan to accelerate work in 2007 towards closing this field shortage gap.

In December of 2006 an outdoor ice rink was purchased with proceeds from the Kids@Play Summer program and installed in the tennis court at the Memorial School. We would like to thank the handful of townspeople who assisted in assembling and filling this rink with water, your efforts are greatly appreciated. The last thing now is a blast of extended cold air to freeze this up and allow people to use this rink!

In 2006 , the Upton Recreation Commission offered the following new recreation opportunities to Upton:

- Kids@Play Summer Program for grades K-7
- Summer Golf lessons at Red Farm Golf Course
- Summer Tennis Lessons
- Summer and Fall free/reduced rate Kayaking and Canoeing at the Town Beach
- Holiday Gingerbread House Contest
- Outdoor Ice Rink at Memorial School Tennis Rink (cold weather needed)

Existing programs:

- Swim Lessons at Upton Town Beach
- Life Guard coverage at Upton Town Beach

The present Recreation Commission is very interested in offering additional recreation opportunities to the citizens of Upton. We are also open to suggestions on future programs, you can drop us a note at: Rec-Com, PO Box 808, Upton or via e-mail at reccom@upton.ma.us – we would like to hear from you.

We look forward to working with and for the citizens of Upton to drive more recreation opportunities in town.

Dave Adams, Chairman
Jacqueline Pilot
Tim Alibozek

Calendar Year 2006 Upton Recreation Commission Financial Results

Town Beach program:

\$ 8000.00	Lifeguard/Gatekeeper salary account starting balance
- \$ 8000.00	Partial salary to Summer employees

\$ 0.00	Ending balance *

* remainder of above salaries are paid out of gate/swim lesson receipts which are deposited into the Parks Dept. Revolving Account. The Parks Dept. has been processing the payroll for the lifeguards/gatekeepers/swim instructors/swim aides over the past years.

Ice Rink Maintenance:

\$ 1000.00	Ice Rink Maintenance beginning account
- \$ 0.00	No expenditures in 2006

\$ 1000.00	Ice Rink Maintenance balance

Kids@Play Summer Program:

\$ 4000.00	Seed Money Account for startup expenses
- \$ 2958.00	Startup Expenses
- \$ 1041.92	Returned to Town's General Fund after FY '06 closed

\$ 0.00	Seed Money Account Balance

\$ 43,710.00	Kids@Play Revenue
- \$ 25,052.10	Kids@Play Expenditures

\$ 18,658.90	End of Summer Balance
- \$ 5464.56	Out Door Ice Rink

\$ 13,193.34	Kids@Play Balance

Summer Golf Lessons:

\$ 2150.00	Lesson Revenues
- \$ 1402.50	Expenses

\$ 747.50	Golf Lesson Balance

Gingerbread Contest:

\$ 161.00	Contestant registration

\$ 161.00	Gingerbread balance (expenses were paid out of New Program account)

Fiscal Year 2007 New Programs Account:

\$ 2500.00	Beginning Balance
- \$ 209.02	2006 expenditures

\$ 2290.98	New Programs 2007 balance