



CITY OF MARATHON PARKS AND RECREATION

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MEMORANDUM

Date: June 11, 2019
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Jimmy Schmidt, Parks and Recreation Director
Through: Chuck Lindsey, City Manager
Subject: Parks and Recreation monthly report

Parks Programs

Skate Park attendance has been low throughout the months of April and May. Attendance has remained on average from 4-8 skaters per night. Several groups of middle school-age youth hang around the park but do not skate. The park continues to be open nightly with an attendant present on occasion from 4-10pm. The park is open every morning around 8am and is without an attendant until 4pm. Routine maintenance continues to be performed, and ongoing tightening of screws, as well as watching for rotten ramps and boards is constant. Daily attendance records kept with an attendant present show average daily use numbers fluctuate between 1-6.

Adult Kickball is every Tuesday night at Community Park starting at 8pm. This is FREE, for ages 18+, and will run until the end of July. Join in at the Little League fields. Pick-up games are formed each week.

Adult Basketball is ongoing throughout the entire year. The Parks and Recreation Department offers this program one night a week throughout the spring. Pickup games are each Wednesday night from 7:00-9:30pm at Marathon High School gym. Cost per person for each session is \$5 per night or \$30 for the school year. This program is for adults age 18 and older. A total of 46 have registered for and attended the fall program. To date, Andre Garvey, park staff, organizes and runs this program. Nightly attendance averages 12-18 for the spring program. This program will run throughout the summer. Andre Garvey, P/R staff, runs this event.

Adult Volleyball is ongoing throughout the year and follows the same breaks as the Monroe County Schools calendar. Pickup games are on Monday nights from 7:00-9:30pm

and will continue to run throughout the summer at Marathon High School gym. Cost per person for each session is \$5 per night or \$30 for the season. This program is for adults age 18 and older. Nightly attendance averages between 12-18 players during the spring. Andre Garvey, P/R staff, runs the program. Kyrstyn Ransom, P/R staff, assists.

Home School PE is for all ages of children who are home-schooled and wish to participate in a weekly PE program. This program met on Tuesdays at 2pm for an hour each week during the school year calendar. An end-of-year prom was held with dancing and masquerade masks on May 17 at Community Park. Guests from the home school PE program in Key West also participated. This program was FREE. Austin Tubbs, Park Staff, organized and ran this weekly. Home School Tennis lessons were offered following the main program to any home-schooler in the main program. 43 youth registered and participated throughout the year. Ages ranged from 5-16. Average attendance for the sessions was 19. The program followed the Monroe County School Calendar year.

Roller Night took place Friday night, April 5, at Community Park's Basketball court. The program, which was from 7:30-9:30, hosted around 50 youngsters. Youngsters averaging between ages 4-9 skated the night away to music and also enjoyed sweets donated by Publix. Park staff served sno-cones and lemonade. A great time was had by all participants. Roller Night will begin again in fall 2019.

Earth Day Early Start was on Saturday morning, April 6, with the purpose of planting seeds to transplant on Earth Day two weeks later. Over 35 children showed up and planted sunflower, cucumber, and watermelon seeds. Also, attendees toured Phase I in Community Park to identify palm trees, coco plum bushes, gumbo limbo trees, and porter weed. Plant parts of the root, stems, leaves, flowers, and seeds were identified.

Under the Stars showed the movie *Grease* on Saturday, April 6. The movie began at dusk and those in attendance had the option of arriving and seeing the movie as a "drive-in" movie in their cars or as spectators in front seats. This was a free family movie at Community Park. Attendance was around 150. There were 27 who saw the movie from a car or truck. Zonta Club of Marathon sold concessions from the concession stand during the event. Charlotte Quinn, P/R staff, organized the movie.

Youth Tennis started in mid-April at the Marathon Community Park tennis courts. It ran until the end of the school year. Groups were divided by age and ability level and 45 signed up and learned skills of beginning tennis. Cost was \$40. Classes met twice a week. At the end of the program (the last week of May), all participants were given an age/size appropriate tennis racquet. The fall youth tennis program will begin the second week of September. Austin Tubbs, park staff, facilitates this program.

Little League, a parent-run organization, held games on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for baseball and on Tuesdays and Thursdays for softball. Saturday morning, which hosted t-ball games in Community Park, ended on Saturday, April 20. All other sport

groups ended the season on Friday, May 24 with an awards trophy. Caitrin Piscetello is the parent in charge of the league and can be reached at caitrin@hotmail.com

Start Smart Soccer started on Saturday, April 27, at Community Park. This was a beginning soccer program for ages 3-5 and involved parent assistance. The six-week program met each Saturday morning from 9-10am. The program was \$50 and reached its cap enrollment of 14. The program ended Saturday, June 1, and award medals were given out by program coordinators Andre Garvey and Genesis Villatoro.

Art in the Park was held in Community Park the morning of April 13 from 10am-noon. Arts and Crafts with baseball themes were offered for the children playing around the park while siblings played baseball. A total of 17 participants made sun catchers and other baseball-related crafts.

Earth Day activities were held at Community Park Main Pavilion on Monday evening, April 22, from 6-8pm. A selection of activities included decorating a sun-catcher of the earth, making a mosaic of the earth and what is valued there with construction paper and tissue paper, and planting seeds to take home (sunflower, watermelon). There were 32 children who participated in this activity.

Kids Night Out was on Saturday, May 18, at 6-9pm. Advanced registration was required, space was limited, and cost was \$5 per child. Children's activities included crafts, games, and movies. A total of 17 children participated.

Community-run Programs

Pops Stiglitz Co-ed Softball tournament was on the weekend of April 12-14. The organization had a home-run derby the night of April 12 and elimination games on the following Saturday and Sunday. Several thousand dollars were raised to go to local senior scholarships at Marathon High School. Park staff were present during the weekend activities.

Giant Easter Egg Hunt, hosted annually by Rotary Club of Marathon and the City of Marathon Parks/Recreation department, had a giant Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday morning, April 20, 10am at Rotary Park. Over 150 youngsters turned out to hunt for eggs, make arts and crafts, have refreshments, and have a photo made with Mr. Bunny.

Relay for Life took place at Community Park Soccer fields on Saturday, March 30. The event ran from 2-10pm. Due to a hot afternoon, crowds were less than hoped for. A Luminaria ceremony was after sunset. This was organized independently of the Parks department.

Seven Mile Bridge Run took place the morning of April 6. Park staff helped in the set-up and break-down of the event.

Upcoming Programs

Summer Fishing Fun is a Friday-night, free program being offered every Friday night in June (7, 14, 21, and 28) to give children the opportunity to advance their fishing skills. It will be from 6-8pm on Fridays at Crane Point shoreline and will run for 4 weeks. Ages 4-12. Older volunteers are welcome to assist children in developing these skills. Casting, baiting a hook with live bait, removing a fish from a hook, and rigging a pole with weights and hooks will be a part of the program. Also, children will learn about how to read an FWC chart on types of fish and the number allowed daily as well as how to measure a fish's length. Advanced registration is not required. All poles and bait will be provided. Ali Adams, P/R staff, is organizing this program.

Friday Night Kickball is a Friday-night free program being offered every Friday night in July (5, 12, 19, and 26) at Community Park from 7-8pm. This is a free program for ages 4-10 to encourage children to have fun while exercising during the hot days of summer.

Summer Camp will take place this summer for 10 weeks during Monroe County School's summer break. Camp will be on weekdays only from 8:30-4:30pm. Cost will be \$80 per camper with family discounts available. Out of town field trips will be taken twice weekly. The starting date is June 3. Registration and health forms are available on the City of Marathon's web page. Parents may register online and take care of payment (\$80/week with sibling discounts available) the first day of camp. Weekly registration is acceptable.