



Centre Region Council of Governments
CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
CENTRE REGIONAL RECREATION AUTHORITY

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Serving the Borough of State College and the Townships of College, Ferguson, Harris & Patton

Centre Region Parks & Recreation *2012 Highlights*

9 Jan 2013

Thanks to regional cooperation...

1. **PARK OPERATIONS**

- The agency maintained and operated a total of 900 acres at 54 sites across the region.
- 827 group reservations were issued for the 27 reservable picnic pavilions.
- 98 reservation permits were issued for the 36 sportfields. The permits involved a range of durations from single-games (including pavilion groups) to weekend and season-long reservations.
- Improvements continued across the park system including working with Ferguson Township on (1) the Phase 3 construction at Tudek Park, (2) new playground equipment at Park Hills Park and (3) re-roofing the Tudek Park Storage Building.

2. **PROGRAM OPERATIONS**

- CRPR again offered a comprehensive, year-round and popular menu of public recreation programs and special events for all ages. 118 teams competed in 9 adult sport leagues (5 softball leagues, 1 basketball leagues, 4 volleyball leagues, 1 flag football league). With respect to adult fitness programs, a total of 396 participants enrolled in 13 exciting classes offered in 2012. Three new youth recreation programs were offered in the Fall of 2012 - the most popular was the Kids' Yard Sale with 25 young entrepreneurs and many more stopping by to shop.
- In July, Niki Tourscher joined the staff in the new position of Program Manager to assist guiding the expanded responsibilities of the agency.
- The "*CRPR Child Safety Policy*" was updated to include awareness training for staff working with youth.
- The Winter/Spring Active Guide saw a major format change for a user-friendlier format.
- The agency developed a new logo to be introduced in early 2013.

3. **AQUATICS**

- In 2012, the two new pools attracted a total of 139,828 visits during the 101 day swim season = **an average of 1,384 visits per day** for recreation, instruction and competition. While this is the highest visit count on record for the pools, the priority for staff remains on swimmer safety. In 2008, the last summer both old pools were open, the total visit count was 48,122.
- 5,092 season passes were sold, significantly more than the previous high total of 4,507 in 2011.
- 1,140 registrations were processed for aquatic programs such as swim lessons, swim teams and specialty programs.
- The two pools generated sufficient revenue in 2012 to pay all planned 2013 operating expenses plus contribute \$70,000 to offset some of the annual repayment towards the capital loan.

4. CENTRE REGION SENIOR CENTER

- The center served 3,632 meals and hosted 22,667 program visits. 2,434 program sessions were offered.
- 6 volunteers contributed a total of 118 hours at the senior center.
- 25 seniors enjoyed a Thanksgiving Day meal and time with friends at the Senior Center.

5. MILLBROOK MARSH NATURE CENTER

- The nature center hosted 11,706 program visits, a 7% decrease from 2011. While the total visits continue to indicate a popular facility, the decrease reflects a challenge in terms of providing attractive, fee-based programs during a troubled economy.
- Two additional Specialty Summer Camps were added for a total of 11 Summer Camps in 8 weeks.
- Winter Family programs were offered for the first time in Winter/Spring 2012. Three successful annual events were held: Earth Day Birthday, Historic Harvest Festival and the Scarecrow Stuff-It Contest (new for 2012).
- The focus for 2012 was to increase rentals and facility uses. There was an increase of 28% in the number of visitors to rentals and a 12% increase in visitors to meetings.
- 100% of the Phase 1 Building Fund Campaign pledges were paid in full during 2012. Furnishings, appliances, and amenities such as wireless internet and an LCD projector were all added to the Spring Creek Education Building during 2012, all purchased with donations. In addition, donations were received to assist the 2013 construction of the long-planned Visitor Parking Area.
- A \$4,000 grant was received from the Central PA Convention & Visitors Bureau to install educational signs along the boardwalk (to be completed in Spring 2013).
- 149 volunteers contributed a total of 1,607 hours to the nature center during 2012.

6. REGIONAL PARKS

- Since 2004, the Commonwealth has approved grants totaling \$1,020,166 for the COG Regional Parks Initiative (acquisition, planning and Phase 1 construction for Oak Hall and Whitehall Road Regional Parks). In 2011 the Centre Region COG financed \$7 million for Phase 1 construction at the two parks.

Oak Hall Regional Park

- While the initial Phase 1 construction bids were rejected since they were over budget, the rebids were opened in early-January. As a result, construction is scheduled to start in Spring 2013 within the project budget, which will permit the park to open fully in Spring 2015.

Whitehall Road Regional Park

- The Land Development process is now underway with Ferguson Township. It is expected that bidding for the Phase 1 construction will be requested in June with construction beginning in September. This will permit the park to open in Fall 2015.
- During 2012 the COG General Forum endorsed a proposal to incorporate the new Centralized Parks Maintenance Facility into this park. The planning process for this facility is now underway; the Master Plan for the park will be revised to reflect this addition.

John Hess Softball Field Complex

- A Dedication Ceremony was held by the Recreation Authority on 16 May 2012 to commemorate the renewal of this regional landmark.
- During 2012 the four renovated softball fields hosted 744 games of softball. Of those games, 397 were part of 10 tournaments hosted there. The updated facilities continued to generate many compliments - along with inquiries for 2013 tournament events.
- Following the completion of a state-mandated Archeological Survey, public water service was provided to

the complex.

- The site also provided an ideal setting for other special events.

7. ONLINE SERVICES

Active.Net: the on-line database service that processes and reports all CRPR revenue transactions.

- 2012 Customer-entered Internet Revenue for programs and pool season passes increased to \$119,522.
- 2012 Total Customer Revenue was \$1,100,041.

The CRPR Website: www.crpr.org

- With over 1,000 pages available, the CRPR website hosted 3.4 million hits from 299,308 visitors with an average of 817 visitors per day during 2012 - a new record!
- To assist with publicizing local recreation opportunities, free e-Newsletters were distributed monthly to subscribers; the CRPR Facebook page was updated regularly.

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