

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT Annual Report 2015-2016

Auburn is home to some of the most unique recreational opportunities in the state of Maine. Year round our residents can utilize a diverse pool of amenities and facilities for both their passive and organized recreational needs. Whether they're playing indoor soccer at Ingersoll Turf Facility or enjoying a friendly game of Beano with the Seniors at the Hasty Community Center, the programs and services Auburn Recreation provides helps make our city a great place to live, raise a family, and have fun!

Over the last several months, the Recreation Department underwent staffing changes when three new faces joined the team. The new staff has brought with them creative ideas and renewed energy. Our goal is to keep the tradition of past programs, as well as open the door for new and innovative activities.

Our senior programming was given a boost by the start of our first part-time Senior Programmer. With her help, our Senior Group took over ten day-trips this past year including one where they enjoyed the Foster's Clambake in beautiful York Harbor, Maine. Additionally, many seniors have enjoyed the specialty luncheons, daily walking at Ingersoll Turf, and other enrichment programs such as Line Dancing.

Throughout the year, our popular adult sports leagues offered both competitive and recreational needs for those involved. We registered over 40 slow pitch softball teams (men's league and co-ed combined) and we registered 35 basketball teams. Drop-in Pickleball has also quickly grown with over 20 participants consistently attending each day.

The Hasty Community Center had approximately 77,600 users over the course of the year. Our busy season continues to be winter, with youth basketball players making up 35 teams from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, approximately 315 participants.

Our Social Media efforts have paid off with an increase in Facebook followers. In the past several months, over 300 new followers have joined, bringing our total number of followers to 856. We've also created an events page for the Summerfest that has gained over 550 followers in just two months.

New programs and special events were extremely popular this year including:

- Our first Father/Daughter Dance with over 150 duos dancing the evening away at the Norway Savings Bank Ice Arena
- The first season for the Auburn Community Garden was a major hit with all 24 plots being utilized
- The Recreation Department took a bigger role in supporting the L/A Art Walk and helped increase participation from the Auburn side of the river
- The Annual Winterfest - outside of being a warm winter - had great participation as well, and the committee is looking to make it a bigger event next year. Staff efforts to build

Recreation Dept.  
July 2016

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City of Auburn

the ice rink in Festival Plaza were recognized by the community despite the warmer-than-usual winter temps. In future years, the department is hopeful to make this ice rink available for the entire winter season for citizens to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sabrina Best  
Recreation Director