



TOWN OF EAST LYME PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RECORD EAST LYME, CT

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Community Connections

Youth Services partnered with the East Lyme Police Department for the 2nd annual National Night Out. This event brought families and friends, first responders, school administrators, youth volunteers, local organizations, and food truck vendors together for a fun filled evening. National Night Out helps demonstrate what it means to belong to a community and fosters the relationship between police and members of the community.



Youth Services joined East Lyme’s family resource liaisons, the East Lyme Public Library, and Care and Share, to distribute free prevention materials, books, and school supplies the week before school started. This event is designed to help families in need of these items and connect them to other resources that are available within the community.

Use of Technology

New athletic light controllers were installed at Peretz Park at Bridebrook. The new controllers use cellular connections to allow for remote programming and control of the lights at the park. The new controllers will ensure that the lights come on at appropriate times and give staff members the ability to turn the lights on/off without having to manually do it at the park. This should result in a much higher degree of user satisfaction for the many athletic users of the park.

Recreation Programming

Summer camp programs ended with a week of inclusive kayaking. Participants were paired with a staff member in a tandem kayak provided by Three Belles Marina to learn how to paddle, control a kayak, and enjoy some fresh air out on the water.



Due to overwhelming popularity have added a second Intro to Pickleball Clinic to introduce new players to the game. We will be utilizing the courts on the Peretz Park on Tuesday and Thursday evenings to instruct 12 players at a time.

Mountain Bike Club: Has continued to run all Summer and remains very popular with participants of all ages. We had an end of summer cookout with 16 attendees. Rocky Neck State Park remains the location for our weekly rides, led by volunteer Marc Morgan, with many riders getting together on weekends to ride at other locations or partake in races.

Community Events

We had a fantastic turnout with 22 families spending the night at McCook Point Park for the Back To School Campout. Families return year after year for this event and really appreciate the special night of camping at McCook's. Families were able to enjoy the Friday night concert as the campout was getting started. We also provided each family with a s'mores kit and set up mini campfires for them to enjoy.



Summer Concerts: Concerts conclude with a special encore performance featuring Fusion sponsored by the East Lyme Public Trust. This year, attendance at the Wednesday performances on the beach was greater than the attendance on Fridays in the bandshell. Spectator feedback tells us that people really enjoy the beach during the summer. To date, we've collected about \$750 in concert donations.

Pickleball Court Construction

The Department is working with Planning and Zoning to get all necessary permits and approvals in place, and working with Public Works to remove the mound from Bridebrook park where the new Pickleball Courts will be located. Once that is done, we expect to work with a company using a cooperative purchasing agreement. Cooperative purchasing is a competitive and compliant solicitation process conducted by a government unit for use by other government units. We know up front what the project will cost will be and we are assured that the unit pricing used by the vendor meets our Purchasing policies and procedures. The benefits of using this type of project management include a shortened project timeframe, clear accountability, and professional management of sub-contractors.

For more information on how this works, the following is a link to a website that explains it in more detail. <https://www.gordian.com/resources/elevate-construction-procurement/>

Looking Ahead

Staff members are working to purchase and install new bottle filler water fountains in parks. Fountains in the park have been off since the Covid pandemic and the new fountains will be more hygienic and provide park users with improved service.

The Niantic Bay 10k was rescheduled from June 8th due to the wildfire smoke and is set to take place on September 23rd at 10am. This run begins and ends at McCook Point Park while taking runners out and around Old Black Point Road.