



# TOWN OF EAST LYME PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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## Monthly Report September 2023

### Recreation Programming

Intro to Pickleball Clinics- Have been very well received and we are halfway through the two sessions, both full with 12 participants in each. The number of new players continues to surge.

Indoor Pickleball- We have once again partnered with Lyme Shores Racquet Club to host indoor play as the weather turns cold. Playing in a tennis facility provides the ultimate playing experience with great lighting, playing surface and safe boundaries around the courts. We will have up to 32 players on 6 courts in the October-November session and welcome players of all skill levels. I intend to run these as two-month sessions through March.

Mountain Bike Club- Has a tremendous turnout each week, almost always above 10 riders, and will begin to wind down as the daylight dictates. The club has continued strong led by the volunteer effort of Marc Morgan, who keeps the club fun and welcoming for lower-level riders while also allowing more skilled riders to challenge themselves on more difficult terrain.

Giving Garden Seminar Series- We have partnered with the EL Giving Garden to host seminars here at the community center on some Saturday and Sundays throughout the Winter. Topics and presenters are still being finalized, these seminars were popular last winter as patrons look to expand their knowledge and success with home gardening.

### 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 to begin near the end of October removing material. Most of the construction should be accomplished over the next few months, but the courts won't be fully complete until next spring when it is warm enough to apply the court paint.

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## Facility Upgrades

The installation of a heat pump with indoor heads in each of the restrooms at Hole in the Wall Park was completed. These heads should allow for the restrooms to remain open during the winter months, greatly improving the experience of visitors to the Niantic Bay Boardwalk. There are still a couple of outstanding plumbing items to address and the replacement of some of the permeable parking surface to bring the project to closure. Once that is done we expect to return the remaining funds back to the Town to be reallocated towards other projects.

New Playground surfacing was installed at McCook Point Park and Peretz Park at Bridebrook. The first layer is wood fiber that provides cushioning, and then rubber mats are placed on top to make the surface fully accessible.



## Community Partnerships

September is suicide awareness month. In efforts to help spread awareness, Youth Services partnered with the Brian Dagle Foundation to offer a mental health and suicide prevention pop up event at East Lyme High School.

Youth Services also supported the Out of the Darkness Walk held at McCook's Park, hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Brian Dagle Foundation. The purpose of this event is to raise suicide prevention awareness and bring community members together who have been affected by suicide, as well their supporters.

## Looking Ahead

Staff members are working with Niantic Main Street and community partners to provide several holiday events.

- The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Stroll is scheduled for November 25 and Parks and Recreation contributions include sponsoring the Strolling Magical Elves, lighting, sound and our inflatable movie screen.
- The 35th Annual Niantic Light Parade is set to take place on December 9, with planning meetings beginning now.
- We will be bringing back the Magic Show with Santa on December 15. This popular event features Santa and his magical assistant with a show geared toward families with kids ages 3-7.