



The Month That Was...

NT Parks & Recreation Recap



www.ntparksrec.com

Welcome to our new monthly publication! Our intent is to highlight some of the great and exciting accomplishments of our department while also giving you a heads up on what is on the horizon. The publication titled "The Month That Was" will be published monthly and give you a glimpse into every aspect of our department from parks and the golf course, to youth, adult and senior programs. Being our first edition, let's get you caught up on what has been happening...



Youth Programming

Covid may have closed the doors of the Youth Center but the fun has spilled to the outside, as our team was busy filling the schedule with outdoor events & entertainment. 26 kids participated weekly in our NT Rec Sports program that takes place at Wurlitzer Park on Wednesday & Saturdays. From a variety of sports, to snowball fights and outdoor fun, this program has given

youth an outlet to engage in physical activity. Overall 36 total participants took part in our Pick-Up Parking Lot Hockey program held three days per week, while 95 total participants took part in our Pick-Up Flag Football program offered three days per week.

February finally brought some snow, and our team pounced on the opportunity to take 30 students sledding at Lewiston Reservoir Park. Students hit the hill and enjoyed a snack and hot chocolate before loading up and heading back home. "My son said it was the first time in awhile he felt like he was able to have a normal experience engaging with his friends", said one parent who applauded the trip.

Our team engaged the kids virtually as well, providing craft kits for 55 youth to assemble with virtual "instruction" as well as 16 students who engaged their appetite in our virtual cooking club where supply packs were delivered to their doorstep and we walked them virtually through some delicious recipes. Our team also played a part in the old adage, "neighbors helping

neighbors" with our [Shovel Out NT](#) program that linked student volunteers with community members in need of help shoveling their driveway. Several virtual contests also took place to keep engagement up!





Adult & Senior Programming

Our team at the Senior Center has stayed busy with the doors open for key services such as the Niagara County Nutrition Program which served 175 lunches in February. Our weekly senior grocery shopping program continued to fire on all cylinders, providing transportation to and from the grocery store to seniors in need every Wednesday. Though COVID has limited our ability to engage with seniors

in a normal capacity at our Center, our team has stayed dedicated to keeping in touch with our members through their Care-Call program which places an emphasis on calling our over 400 members to check in with them; providing a friendly voice and an opportunity to link members with the help they need. To continue to engage with the community, 62 craft kits were assembled and delivered to seniors to give them creative opportunities to stay productive. Our team also created a Senior Center Facebook page ([@NTSeniorCenter](#)), providing a means to virtually connect with the community with cooking & baking tips, recipes and videos, while also providing helpful recreation, health & fitness articles.

Several key partnerships were made with the NT Neighbors Indeed and the NTPD Retired Police Wives group to assist in providing care kits, gifts and supplies to those in need. In place of dinner dances and outings, special meal deliveries and pick-ups became the new norm as over 250 meals ranging from Veteran's Breakfast, Holiday Dinners, and Valentines Day Breakfasts were provided to senior community members.



We took our service one step further with the creation of the [CVAP Program \(Covid Vaccine Assistance Program\)](#), aiding seniors who were struggling to navigate the process of getting registered for a Covid vaccination. From answering questions, to registering seniors and getting them on an eligible waiting list, this program has served over 90 people to date. "I was so stressed out and confused with the whole process but being able to call the Senior Center and get assistance was a huge relief. It really put my mind at ease, and the staff were so nice and helpful", said one program participant.

Even though snow is on the ground, it won't be long before the weather turns for the better. Registration for our Adult Softball League got underway in the beginning of February, as we look to build on the framework of the 2020 season that successfully navigated all the new COVID rules and regulations. [Registration](#) continues through March with the season beginning in mid-May. We expect 4-5 leagues and approximately 40 teams to participate in the 2021 season.





Parks

After a mild start to winter, the low temperatures finally remained steady enough for our [ice rinks](#) to open on January 28th. Two rinks located at Christiana St and Pinewoods Dr have been a hit with the public. The implementation of two separate rinks allowed for hockey enthusiasts to play on one designated rink while open skate could be enjoyed on the other. Kudos to our Park maintenance staff

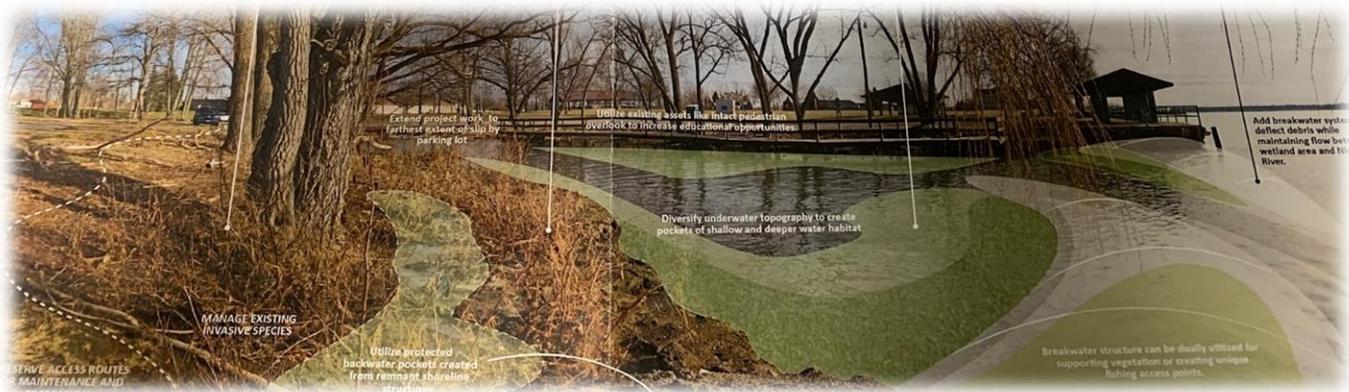
for their daily prep of the rinks which include shoveling, scrapping and re-icing the surface so the rinks could be enjoyed daily. Maintenance staff also took the time and creativity to use some old scrap metal to create two hockey goals which were left onsite for public use. With snow falling more frequently in February, our crews stayed busy keeping all bike/walking trails plowed including the Gratwick Riverside Bike Trail, Raymond Klimek Veteran's Park, Sweeney Bike Trail, Heritage Park Trail, along with all park entrances and parking lots to keep our parks accessible all year long!

After much anticipation, our Parks division finally received a new truck to add to our fleet. The truck was much needed as an additional plow vehicle and will be heavily used in the spring/summer utilizing the extended cab to safely transport our cutting/trimming crews to the job site with equipment.



Our Department has stayed busy working with Engineering & DPW in the planning and execution of paperwork and preparation for upcoming projects that will enhance your park and recreation experiences. These projects include..

- Raymond Klimek Veterans Park Living Shoreline Project-** We are working with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper who secured a grant through the New York Power Authority Greenway Ecological Fund to transform, protect and enhance the main slip at the park. The goal will be to increase aquatic, riparian and upland habitat and create a thriving shoreline environment that supports local wildlife including fish spawning and resting habitats. RFP for design anticipated for May with construction to begin in November. Project completion expected in 2022.





- **Urban Forestry Grant-** \$50,000 was awarded from the DEC for a Tree Inventory and Community Forest Management Plan. RFP for services will go out in April-May and inventory process for all trees in the City ROW will take place in the summer. Public kick-off meeting will take place in late spring-early summer to explain the process and how the CFMP will benefit the City.
- **Additional Parking Upgrades at Raymond Klimek Veterans Park-** With grant funds from the Dorothy C. Darlak Memorial Fund, we will be working with DPW

to create additional parking in closer proximity to the pavilions and Seabees Monument. Work will commence in April-May. Addition of park signage to identify the park and welcome visitors will also be installed with the available funds with no direct cost from the City.

- **Gratwick Park Improvements-** Bid results came in much higher than expected for construction of two additional pavilions at Gratwick Park. As a result we had to re-phase the project, and will only be able to implement the construction of one pavilion along with a bathroom trailer unit to be housed at the park to increase the quality of amenities and draw more people to the park. Final approval of the re-phased project is expected March 24 by Niagara Greenway Commission and Niagara County Legislation and the bid award to RB MAC Construction will follow, with construction to commence in April and be completed in June. Overall the budget for the pavilion and bathroom along with picnic tables and landscaping will total \$288,417 with the Greenway Grant covering \$268,500 of the phase 1 project cost.

- **Pinewoods Pavilion & Restroom Upgrades-** Nussbbaumer & Clark was awarded the bid for their engineering and design services to upgrade the restrooms and main pavilion using funds from a DASNY Grant totaling (\$91,450) and a City match of \$27,750. The project aims to kick off in late Spring.



- **Green Infrastructure Project @ Botanical Gardens-**

We have been collaborating with NTBGO (NT Botanical Garden Organization) on a Green Infrastructure project that aims to prevent stormwater runoff from the street and parking lot from entering the canal via the boat launch. With the help of Trautman Associates, we will be finalizing the 2-phase plan and presenting it to the Council for approval to seek out grants which aim to cover 90% of the cost. The project includes repaving, addition of bioretention areas, and implementation of permeable concrete pavers to help filter the stormwater runoff and prevent contamination and pollutants from entering the canal.



Golf & More

Though there is snow on the ground, our maintenance crew is ramping up and preparing to build on the momentum from the 2020 season. Currently focusing their attention on equipment repair and maintenance, the crew also has played a part (with the help of DPW) in addressing drainage issues at the front of Fairway's Restaurant, as well as other outdoor and course maintenance as weather allows while also adding

plowing assistance of our facilities and the NT Public Library parking lot to their "to do" list. We are currently in the process of interviewing to fill a full-time laborer vacancy with expected appointment to be made in April, adding a much-needed member to the team responsible for maintaining the course throughout the year.

From an operations standpoint, we began accepting applications for leagues and tournaments in the beginning of the year and have also been processing golf ID/pass memberships. Over 90 ID/passes have been renewed thus far, with an expectation that pass renewal will ramp up heavily in the next few months as we draw closer to golf season. We expect to process approximately 700 pass/IDs when all is said and done, generating an estimated \$90,000 in revenue from passes/ID sales.

In addition to golf ID's our office has also been accepting [reservations for pavilion rentals](#) as well as processing [boat launch trailer parking permits](#). Both permit stickers and pavilion reservations can be done online or via an in-office appointment. Golf ID's are not available for renewal online as we are issuing new ID cards to all participants as part of a system update. For more information on fee schedules, reservations and [appointments](#) you can head to our website at www.ntparksrec.com or call the office at 695-8520.

What's Coming Up?

Registration is now open for the following activities/events:

[Youth Spring Flag Football League](#) (April 10-June 12) Divisions for boys grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 & girls 5-8

[Youth Pre-Season Softball Clinics](#) (May 1-May 22) ages 8-16

[Youth Softball League](#) (June 8-August 12) Divisions for ages 5-7, 7-12 and 12-15

[Dyngus Day Senior Dinner](#)- April 5 (3-4pm) Dinner pick-up at Senior Center. Call 695-8525 to reserve.

[Adult Softball League](#)- Men's and Women's Leagues open. Registration deadline is March 31.

Easter Egg Hunt- SAVE THE DATE April 3! (Times & locations to be determined)

We just received approval to put on the event! It will certainly look different due to restrictions. Pre-registration for the event will be required. Expect an official announcement with all the details by March 10 via our website and social media outlets.

Golf Course:

Bob Kania
695-8529

deerwoodgc@gmail.com
www.deerwoodgc.com
[@DeerwoodGolfCourse](https://www.instagram.com/DeerwoodGolfCourse)

Youth Programming:

Michelle Bernas
695-8520 x5510

mbernas@northtonawanda.org
www.ntyouthcenter.com
[@NTYouthCenter](https://www.instagram.com/NTYouthCenter)

Main Office:

Director
695-8520 x5510

alexnd@northtonawanda.org
www.ntparksrec.com
[@NTParksRec](https://www.instagram.com/NTParksRec)

Adult & Senior Programming:

Pam Hogan
695-8582

phogan@northtonawanda.org
www.ntparksrec.com
[@NTSeniorCenter](https://www.instagram.com/NTSeniorCenter)