

Wareham Recreation Department

The Wareham Recreation Department's Mission Statement is to help individuals achieve a better sense of self through physical, social, education & creative activities that promote self esteem, confidence, & fun!

The Wareham Recreation Department oversees a multitude of programs and recreational areas throughout the Town. During the summer months, we work closely with the Municipal Maintenance Department on keeping playgrounds safe and clean. However, our need for volunteers is great. Fundraising, special events, parades, and playground enhancement are all areas that need community assistance.

Beaches & Lifeguards: The Recreation Department is responsible for hiring, training, equipping, & supervising the lifeguards at Wareham's public beaches and parking attendants at 2 beaches. On average per year 26 lifeguards are hired, however due to budget cuts we hired only 12 for the Summer of 2003 season. Budget development and monitoring is handled through the Recreation Department. Lifeguards and attendants are funded by the Town.

Playgrounds: Updated "An Outdoor Guide to Wareham" which describes each playground facility, tennis court, and ball field that is overseen by the Town. No funding was allocated for playground improvement or maintenance this past fiscal year. We hope to have volunteers assist with fund-raising.

In addition, Recreation was granted \$31,000 from the Community Preservation Grant at the April 2003 Town Meeting. This money will cover the cost of installing/purchasing a chain link fence at Westfield Playground/Camp Lakota.. The fence is the first phase towards growing grass and preserving playable fields. Westfield is a 45 acre lot that would be a fabulous addition to Wareham's sporting/outdoor participants.

Harvest Early Learning Preschool: Our preschool is licensed by the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services & Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Our certified staff, (Director/teacher) make learning fun for children aged 2-5 years in our cheerful main classroom and fun indoor play/activity room. Classes run Monday through Friday (9-11:30 AM) and (12-2:30 PM). Staff salaries, benefits, supplies, and equipment are funded by preschool tuition and recreation program fees.

Special Events: An average of 30 special events per year. Examples are the Halloween Parade, Town wide Christmas Parade, Preschool Parties, Ski Trip, Easter Egg Hunt, Magic Shows, and Bus trips to the Aquarium, Science Museums, and the Big E.

Camp Lakota: (formerly known as Camp Running River) is a day camp for children ages 4-17 years. This year we added a new component to camp, swim lessons. This offers children a way to cool off during the day, learn proper swim strokes, and water safety. In addition to our trips to the beach, campers participate in: nature, arts & crafts, tennis, sports, archery, canoeing, and special events. The camp is open from the middle of June until the end of August, which includes four, 2 week sessions. Camp Hours are 8AM- 4PM. Camp Lakota is currently an enterprise fund.

Camp staff salaries, supplies, and equipment are taken from this account.

In addition, to our day camp, The Wareham Recreation Department offers classes year round for all ages. Equipment, supplies, instructors, and marketing are all paid by program fees. Program fees are essential to the lively hood of the department. Year round staff consists of one full time Recreation Director and one part time Recreation Coordinator. The Town funds the Director's salary and benefits, however the Coordinator's salary and benefits are taken from recreation program fees.

Recreation Programs:

PRESCHOOLERS: have the opportunity to participate in Pop Tot Gym, Soccer, Arts & Crafts, Gymnastics, Nature, T-Ball, Pee Wee Tennis, Gardening, Dress-Up, Hockey, Ballet/Jazz, and Gym & Swim.

YOUTHS: can challenge themselves and develop a strong self-esteem participating in Arts & Crafts, Ultimate Frisbee, Hip Hop Dance, Yo-Yo Workshops, Judo, Kobujutsu (karate), Drama, Gymnastics, Archery, Track, Rock climbing, Softball, Soccer, Hip Hop Dance, Ballet, Canoeing, Tae Kwon Do, and Tennis.

TEEN & ADULTS: will embrace a favorite hobby or develop a new love with a variety of Aerobic classes, CPR & First Aid classes, Hip Hop Dance, Senior Stretch, Senior Tai Chi, Kobujutsu, Arts & Crafts, Judo, Tae Kwon Do, Yoga, Tai Chi, Kayaking, Tennis, Lifeguard Certification, Rock climbing, Volleyball, and Crocheting.