

2011 Summer Playground Report

	Registration	Average Daily Attendance
Green Acres	59	20-30
Lindberg	84	30-40
Devonshire	39	15-20
Laubach	110	35-45

The daily average attendance at all of the parks was basically consistent with last year.

Tennis Clinic: Samantha Foulke was our tennis clinic instructor this year and did a great job. The clinics were well attended at both locations.

Arts and Crafts: Antonella DiMatteo was our Arts and Crafts instructor again this year. Antonella split her duties with Arts and Crafts two days a week and as Head Counselor. Arts and Crafts remains one the favorite events in the program and is always well attended.

Special Programs

Movie Nights: This year we showed the newly released movie Rango. It was well attended for both scheduled performances.

Park Day: Park Day was held at Lindberg Park and was a lot of fun. This year's attendance was about 110 children. Bus service was provided from Laubach, and Devonshire Parks. As in the past years there were relay races, field events, capture the flag and water games. Ribbons and candy prizes were awarded and the day concluded with hot dogs, soda, chips, and "goody bags". It was an enjoyable day for both the staff and children. Representatives from the Salisbury Press and the Salisbury Patch attended the event. As in the past the public works employees were invited for lunch as our way of thanking them for all the assistance and hard work.

Allentown Public Library Book Van: This was a new activity for the program. The book van came to both Laubach and Lindberg Parks for three scheduled Fridays to allow children to check out books. It got off to a great start but the number of participants did decrease, Over all Joan Kneiss of the APL was happy with the program and we will look to improve it for next year.

Joan Kneiss provided the following statistic:

8 – July	25 children/37 books	Total books checked out 60 to 37 children
15 – July	9 children/20 books	As of 8/1/11: 21 books have been returned
22– July	3/ children/ 3books	

Staff

Overall this year's staff did a terrific job. I had most of my counselor return so they were all experienced and well trained. I did have concerns with one counselor and worked closely with them to improve performance. Unfortunately I will not look to rehire that counselor for next year.

Antonella DiMatteo returned as Head Counselor and proved to be a great asset to the safety and supervision of the program. The staff worked well together and put together some great activities for the children. Some highlights were pizza nights, karaoke, theme dress up days, tee shirt tie-dying and the evening movie night.

Comments

We had a very successful program this summer. We had approximately 300 registered participants with 16 counselors and 1 Head Counselor. I had a lot of positive feedback from parents about our staff and program.

Unfortunately this year we did have two injuries that required medical attention. During our Playground Day one of our participants broke her wrist when she fell during a relay race. Another child broke her arm while participating at Green Acres. We have not had a serious injury such as these in many years but it is not unusual for such to occur in this type of program. Antonella DiMatteo (Head Counselor) was a great asset in both of these situations as she is also a trained EMT.

We continue to have problems with dogs in the parks (especially during program hours). This was especially problematic at Lindberg Park, Devonshire and Laubach parks where we had several participants who are allergic to dogs. We continue to have many residents who insist on bringing their dogs into the parks. Counselors continually referred the owners to the posted signs and asked them to leave. They were often met with nasty and belligerent comments. This continues to be a serious and chronic problem that I feel is not getting the attention that it needs.

In closing, I would like to thank Frank McCullough once again for all the time and energy he continues to give to the Summer Playground Program. The children and counselors look forward to seeing him every day in the parks. He continues to be a huge asset to the program and his volunteerism is to be commended!!! I also want to acknowledge Dean Drea and his crew for all the assistance they give to the counselors and children in the program. We are so appreciative of all they do!

Genny Baillie
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Recreation Director