

City of Marysville Parks & Recreation Department 2004 Year End Report

The Summer Playground Program provided adult supervised recreational activities for children in grades K-6 at various parks in the City. Eljer Park and Mill Valley Park were the two locations. Two new girls, Katie Pasture and Leslie Buckley, staffed the program; they had different ideas and approaches to the program.

The 2004 pool season was a typical pool season. The outside temperatures were hot and cool. Season pass sales steady. The continued improvement of the City's Municipal Pool is still a major goal of the Parks & Recreation Department. Each year, we strive to improve the appearance and daily operation of the pool. The recreation programming such as swim lessons, scuba lessons, and family swims are strides in the right direction. The YMCA at the Municipal pool conducted aqua aerobics. It was a good fit since they have an aqua aerobics instructor on staff.

The end of the pool season historically was very challenging because many of the lifeguards return to high school or college. This year, we did not experience a shortage. It was business as usual until closing day.

The Parks & Recreation Department organized the Vendor's Square for the Honda Homecoming again in 2004. The location was the downtown parking lot across from City Hall. The vendors were very pleased and the logistics of the entire event went smoothly. The 2004 Honda Homecoming was a record attendance year.

"A Day in the Park" continued to be a success. Kroger's, Big Bear, Nestle R & D, and Home city Ice provided much needed product to make his day possible by their generous contributions and the Union County United Way for their monetary contribution. The citizens of Marysville can celebrate the "Parks" by gathering information from the various non-profit organizations that are there to provide games and knowledge of their organizations, by sharing with fellow citizens, and enjoying food, entertainment, and swimming. There is a constant effort by the Parks & Recreation Department to improve this day and make it better for all. Clowns were on hand to provide balloons animals to the children. Many council members volunteer their time for this event and that is greatly appreciated.

Ice skating on the tennis courts at Eljer Park was offered as a safe alternative to skating on the City ponds. This location is lighted and offers ice skating from 9am to 10pm. Early the weather cooperated but then warmed up.

The Parks and Recreation Department mailed the annual newsletter in April of 2004. We sent out approximately 1200 copies. The newsletter contained information about the pool and the summer programs and activities.

The “Concert in the Park” program is on the rise. The attendance is growing and I look forward to the continued growth of the attendance. The year, the popular band was the British Invasion, a Beatles knockoff group.

The “Ten days of Hoops” at the Eljer Park basketball courts experienced an excellent attendance by grades 5-6 and 7-8. The total participation was 27 children in the lower grades and 22 children in the upper grades. I anticipate continued growth for this program.

The development of a 76 car parking lot in Mill Valley Park, South, was a very popular improvement to the park. The parking lot allowed two new soccer fields to be utilized by the numerous soccer associations.

The same area of Mill Valley Park was also the site for the completion of the Reforestation Project, which was 75% funded by the Clean Ohio Fund. The Mill Valley Reforestation Project was chosen by the Union County Soil and Water Conservation District as the Conservation Project of the 2004 year.

The City accepted the responsibility of the MacIvor Conservation Easement. We will work in conjunction with the Human Society of the United States on this property. The MacIvor family donated .65 acres to the City to be able to access the easement for educational purposes.

In conclusion, the City of Marysville Parks and Recreation Department is growing and moving in a positive manner to compliment the community of Marysville. The Parks and Recreation Department has no full time employees and the Superintendent is part-time, therefore, many of these accomplishments would not be possible without the assistance of the Building and Grounds Department Superintendent and his department, and Ellen Carter, the Administrative Assistant at the Public Service Center.