



Parks and Recreation Commission –
Report for April, May & June 2016
Wendy Clubb, Recreation Supervisor

Swimming Pool Programs-

We held swim lessons the week of March 28th through the week of April 25th and it included Minnows, Tadpoles, and Levels 1-4. We were also able to have a shortened session (9 classes) of swim lessons in May, offering Minnows, Tadpoles, and Levels 1-4.

The pool closed the end of May for continuation of the VHS Boiler replacement project, and for the installation of a new filtration system at the pool.

Training was conducted the first part of June to cover open water guarding, customer service, communication skills, and bear safety.

Lifeguards have been guarding Ruth Pond since June 9th, Thursday-Sunday 12:30-4:30pm, weather permitting. They have seen approximately 40 swimmers in their "Protected Zone" for the month of June and have observed approximately 100 other recreation users at the pond on the "Unprotected Zone" side during their operation hours.

We are scheduling a Lifeguard Class in August as soon as the pool reopens, as well as a swim lesson session.

We are also working to re-write our swim lesson program and evaluate, re-write a few of our policies such as the minimum age that children can be at the pool without adult supervision.

Special Events-

We continued our weekly Healthier You Sponsored Activities through mid-April. Healthier You Finale was held on April 23rd with a 5K fun run and awards ceremony.

We held our annual Summer Sign-Up Fair on Saturday, April 30th. We had 7 other community booths hold their program/event registration sign up at our fair along with all P&R program registrations.

We had the annual Community Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 21st. The weather was a bit overcast, but we still had a great number of community members out picking up garbage and cleaning up our city! We also had a great BBQ with live music provided by Kayte and The Altar Boys from Talkeetna. We had approximately 80 people attend the BBQ.

We co-sponsored the annual Bite Back Fun Runs on Saturday, May 28th with Sheri Beck and Compassion International.

We worked on prep for annual Pink Salmon Festival, 4th of July events, Gold Rush Days events and other upcoming events in August and September.

Teen Center –

The Teen & Community Center has seen a steady increase of community use; however our teen use has declined during these summer months. We're also continuing with party rental increase. We hosted several school district End-of-year parties in May.

We are running all of our Summer Fun Camps out of the Teen & Community Center Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm for June and July.

We're hosting a month long Open House at the Teen & Community Center and opening up to the whole community all month of July to celebrate National Parks & Recreation Month.

Gyms-

The Auto-Belay devices were removed and sent in for recertification from the manufacturer in May, and were reinstalled in mid-June. They are good to go for another two years.

We have been open three nights per week in June and will continue in July. We have also brought the Summer Fun Camps to the wall each week.

Camps-

We have a great staff this year for camps. We held training the first week of June and covered camp policies/procedures, 1st Aid/CPR, customer service, communication skills, child development, bear safety, ALICE training, rock wall and field trip orientations.

We've held Tiny Tykes camp for children age 3-4 years. Kids in the Kitchen camps for grades 1-3 and 4-6, Awesome Hours (a morning extension to our Summer Fun) for

grades 1-6, and Summer Fun camps for grades 1-4, themes include Super Hero's, Lego's , A Bug's Life, and Outer Space.

In July, we'll have Kindee Kamp for children age 4-5 years (going into Kindergarten this fall). Kids in the Kitchen for both age groups again, Awesome Hours, and Summer Fun, themes include Dinosaurs and Alaskan Adventures. We'll also have our Adventure Camp – The Amazing Race: Valdez for children going into grades 5-8. These kids will be moving all around town, doing challenges, answering trivia, or playing games to get the clue to their next location.

Looking to the Future-

Our next events coming up:

- Friday, August 5th – Gold Rush Day Event – Kids' Scavenger Hunt in the Barney Meyring Parkstrip at 2:30pm (Hunt for items easily found within the boundary of the Barney Meyring Park Strip, the first team of 3 back before time runs out with the most items wins! Junior and Senior age groups.)
- Saturday, August 6th – Gold Rush Day Event – Pet-a-Palooza Pet Show at the Teen & Community Center at 1:30pm (Bring your pet, big or small, all critters are welcome! And show off their unique talent, quirky personality, or crazy costume!)
- Saturday, August 6th – Gold Rush Day Event – Baseball's Bonanza at the T-Ball Field on Hanagita St at 3:00pm. (The Old-fashioned game of Baseball but with a twist! You won't know some of the rules (or challenges) until you get up to bat!)
- Monday, August 15th – Monday, August 22nd – Lifeguard Class (tentative pending pool reopening)
- Monday, August 15th – Friday, August 26th – Swim Lesson sessions Minnows, Tadpoles, Levels 1-4 (tentative pending pool reopening)
- Saturday, August 20th – Museum Old Town Tour of Homes 5K (Exact name still TBD)-co-sponsored 5K fun run with the Valdez Museum
- Saturday, August 27th – RHR Four Legged 4K – co-sponsored 4K fun run with the RHR Music Festival
- Monday, September 5th – Labor Day Family Fun Runs, 1K, 3K, 5K at the Black Gold Park Strip (east end), registration starts at 10:00am, race starts at 11:00am