



REC Report

QUARTERLY RECREATION UPDATE

FALLING INTO AUTUMN

At Waterbury Rec we love the changing of the seasons. For our department, autumn means enjoying every last bit of warm sun on Dac Rowe playing soccer, or spending time seeing the gorgeous foliage at the crest of the Waterbury Community Trail, or even hucking a disc against the chains as you walk through the fallen leaves at the Center Chains course at Hope Davey Park.

Fall also means the change from our summer camp to our afterschool program and the return of some of our annual events! We have the return of our Canvas and Cocoa Event, the second annual Pumpkin Chucking Contest and Food Drive, and we have restarted monthly Kids Nights Out! There are some new events, too: Kids Bowling Party, our gift making series for tote bags, recipes in a jar, and gingerbread houses. Waterbury Recreation will again help with the River of Lights parade.

In the waning sun, Katie and I are also working on our Recreation Building. Before winter, we hope to have a bit of a face lift at Anderson Park! Be sure to sign up for one of our events, or come to play in the park, to stay updated and cheer us on while we prepare, mend, and paint the building.

AFTERSCHOOL WITH WATERBURY REC

Afterschool started at the same time as the school year and our program emphasizes outdoor time. Children in the program engage in a variety of fun, enriching, and engaging activities such as sports, group games, walking field trips, and time to unwind at the end of the school day. We are based at our rec building in Anderson Park, but spend as much time as we can in the park and around town.

For the start of our afterschool program, we've focused on soaking up every last drop of sunlight with plenty of time outside in our park. From obstacle courses, to hip hop dance instruction, to many basketball challenges, afterschool kids are getting their energy out. We also have given a lot of attention to learning through play to build curiosity in our community. We've walked our community paths to find rocks for our rock tumbler, we've looked for animal tracks along the Cross Vermont Trail, and we've celebrated the start of fall by practicing our dexterity with cutting shapes from fallen leaves.

The change of weather does not keep us from playing outside! However, we do take some "warm-up" breaks indoors and as daylight dwindles we will spend more time inside especially at the end of the day. This leaves time for indoor activities from jump rope, coloring pages and bead animals!

SUMMER RECAP

With summer in the rearview, we want to celebrate the successes at Waterbury Recreation. This summer we had themed camps, updated pool hours and our programs continued to focus on the outdoors, being in nature, and building a sense of community. Thank you to our terrific summer staff that made it all possible.

Waterbury Rec had 243 unique campers attend summer camp for either full summer sessions or weekly sessions.

243
campers



431
swimmers



431 campers and registered public received swim lessons, building the life skill during the pool's summer hours.

71%
from Waterbury
Just under half of campers attended for the entire summer, and 52% attended for just a week. Over 71% of campers were Waterbury residents.



Summer Camp provided 9558 hours of care to campers, offering camp from 8am - 5pm for 8 weeks of summer

9558
hours




PARK PROJECTS

This fall we’ve leaned into our park projects from raised garden beds to new connecting paths to flood clean up and much more.

We are grateful for terrific partners and volunteers that have made our long list of projects possible. We’ve completed additional raised beds for our Children’s Garden - ready for next year! With help from the Highway Department, we’ve completed a less steep walkway from Dac Rowe to the Children’s Garden and north community gardens - Thanks Celia!! The longstanding volunteer team has been making upgrades to the Waterbury Community Path since this summer. There have been additional updates to the Center Chains disc golf course: tree plantings as well as tee and basket relocations.

In early October, Waterbury Recreation was a community service location in Harwood’s Harvest Fest. Fifty students visited our parks to help paint picnic tables, clean up from the flood, and prepare our playground for a new surface material. Having their help allowed us to finish work that was not scheduled for this year! Thank you Harwood!

We are in the process of spending the awarded funding from our VOREC grant at the Ice Center soccer fields and for the new playground surface material at Hope Davey Park with most of the work being completed before winter. 2025 will usher in these updates in our parks!



New pathway from Dac Rowe to the Children’s Garden. Perfect location for leaf peeping!

EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>CANVAS AND COCOA</p> <p>Friday, Oct 18 at 7pm</p> <p>\$35</p>	<p>KIDS PUMPKIN CARVING</p> <p>Thursday, Oct 24, 6:15pm</p> <p>\$25 R, \$35 NR</p>	<p>KIDS BOWLING PARTY</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov 5, 3:30pm</p> <p>\$30 R, \$35 NR</p>	<p>KIDS LEGOS NIGHT</p> <p>Thursday, Nov 14, 6:15pm</p> <p>\$25 R, \$35 NR</p>
<p>PUMPKIN CHUCKING & FOOD DRIVE</p> <p>Friday, Nov 16, 11am</p> <p>Free!</p>	<p>GIFT SERIES: RECIPE IN A JAR</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov 19, 6:15pm</p> <p>\$15</p>	<p>GIFT SERIES: TOTE BAGS</p> <p>Tuesday, Dec 3 6:15pm</p> <p>\$15</p>	<p>KIDS CANVAS NIGHT</p> <p>Thursday, Dec 12, 6:15pm</p> <p>\$25 R, \$35 NR</p>

And more!

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES:

HELMETS for SALE!



Waterbury Recreation has partnered with the University of Vermont Medical Center to provide affordable helmets. We are selling helmets for \$15 each. This partnership is thanks to the non-profit program Protect Your Head at All Times (PHAT). PHAT has the mission to promote the use of helmets in all sports and activities that involve a risk of head injury.

If you are interested in a helmet, please visit our webpage (Programs>Special Events> Protect Your Head) to request your helmet!

ARTISTS & HISTORIANS: Look Here!

Waterbury Recreation and the Waterbury Historical Society have teamed up to organize rotating exhibits in the Steele Community Room. The town is pleased to have this dedicated space to entertain, inspire, inform, educate, and at times, highlight Vermont and the Waterbury area.

Interested exhibitors should submit an application to the selection committee available on Rec’s website. The committee reviews application at least once a year, or more as needed.

Past exhibits include a family history from George Woodard, an informative display from the Brain Injury Alliance of Vermont, art from the local Watercolor emerging artists, and hung now, an exhibit from the Waterbury Historical Society.