



**Village of Sussex
Parks & Recreation Department**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2015**

Creating a healthy, vibrant
community for all!





Annual Bunny Lunch

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Senior Picnic

Mission Statement

The Sussex Community Center serves as a catalyst for community connection activities, a clearing house for community information and resources and a recognized leader in senior services. The Sussex Community Center staff is committed to providing a wide variety of leisure, sports, social, nutritional, cultural, volunteer and leadership opportunities for community members of all ages, through dynamic and innovative programming.

Key Department Strategies

- Maintain, enhance and improve the natural beauty of the Village parks.
- Increase stewardship of natural resources and community beautification efforts.
- Develop quality and affordable recreational program offerings to provoke fun, exciting, interactive learning opportunities for community members of all ages and socioeconomic levels.
- Provide access to parks and recreation in an effort to lead individuals to healthier lifestyles; improving the overall wellness of the community.
- Plan and utilize parks as community building locks; transforming a crowd into a community.
- Enhance and improve the sense of community through community access, connections and communications.
- Build a strong network of support through advertising, donations and sponsorships.
- Provide strong, safe and family-friendly parks, facilities and recreational services to our neighborhoods and community.
- Provide a venue for community events that would draw visitors and new dollars into our vibrant, growing community.



2015 In Review & Looking Ahead



What we've learned in 2015 is that Parks and Recreation continues to be an integral part to being a member of the Sussex community. This has been made evident through the continued increases to our program participation and facility rentals. As our team continues to grow in our roles and improve our service levels, we see the community responding positively and that's what makes our jobs so rewarding.

This past year we saw the first year of the **Sussex Farmers Market** come to life and it was undoubtedly successful. With over 25 vendors and a great showing of shoppers every weekend, the totality of hours spent by the 20-plus volunteer committee proved to be worth every ounce of sweat and determination. These folks worked diligently with us from the end of 2014 and into 2015 to ensure that the market was set up for success and the community responded as such.

Another first for the department was the **Community Rummage Sale**. Spearheaded by Recreation Program Coordinator Megan Sackett, this event came to life the first weekend in May and was another booming success with over 70 homes selling items and hundreds of shoppers searching for their treasures. We are looking forward to another successful event in 2016 and giving the community another opportunity to get out and meet their neighbors.

2015 was not shy of work on the **Civic Campus** project. Staff brought their heads together to help the vision of the building come together with the multitude of uses. Final plans were approved and the project has begun to come alive. With the foundation poured and steel bringing shape to the project, staff has diligently informed the users of the exciting changes that will come with this great new space.

It comes as no surprise to anyone that our senior program participation continues to grow. Our Boomers are now retiring and looking for new ways to stay active and social, and the Parks and Recreation Department happily provides those opportunities. The new Civic Campus building project couldn't have come at a better time as we see our Community Center getting used to its maximum capacity for our Senior Dinner Parties. It breaks our hearts to turn folks away and the new space will provide us the opportunity to serve over twice

what we can today. Senior Program Coordinator Jean Horner continues to grow the senior sponsorship, which directly benefits all that come through our doors. The relationship with the County Meal Site Managers continues to grow and provide more opportunities to all in the area. We are thankful for that relationship and are happy they will be joining us in the Civic Campus building with a great new space as well.

The Parks saw the biggest change in the way of a renovated **Disc Golf Course**. This major overhaul was so needed as the Disc Golf Course continues to be the most utilized facility in our parks. A vision for what these renovations would look like started several years ago and in 2015 we were able to finish out the process. The staff worked with a local company Max-R, a division of the Prestwick Group, to bring new life to the course and were thankful for their in-kind donation of \$5,000. Each hole was outfitted with new trash and recycling receptacles, concrete pads for them to sit on, crushed granite around tee pads for erosion control, 4"x4" recycled plastic tee markers and wood chip mulch around the baskets. The course now has an updated clean look that will be more easily maintained with those changes.

As our team looks ahead to all of the great changes that are taking place in Sussex, we are overwhelmed with joy and excitement! We are grateful to be able to provide parks and recreation opportunities to this great community and be a part of all the changes that will allow us to continue to improve the level of service we deliver.

Sasha Snapp, CPRP
Parks & Recreation Director



New Weyer Park Playground Under Construction



**Stonewood Estates
Playground**

Parks

Overview

The Village of Sussex is committed to preserving the high quality of life enjoyed by our residents, providing fiscally sound, responsive municipal services, and delivering those services in an effective, efficient and professional manner.

The Village of Sussex Parks & Recreation Department has several facilities that may be rented throughout the year. Our park system offers a variety of parks, facilities and open spaces, such as neighborhood parks, a large community park, walking, biking and running trails and conservancy areas.

The park system is open to the public daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Progress is continually made to meet the recreational needs of the community.

There are a total of 274 acres of park property, divided into 15 parks, open space areas and nature preserves.

New park funding and existing park renovations are funded from the closure of Tax Incremental Districts, grants, donations, sponsorships, agreements with developers and taxes.

The Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for design, development and management of the park system. Maintenance is performed in conjunction with the Department of Public Works.

Direct Service Provided

FACILITY RENTALS

Enclosed Facilities

- Armory Concession Stand
- Community Center
- Lion's Building
- Youth Hall

Park Shelters

- Armory Park Open Air Shelter
- Early Days Open Air Shelter
- Lion's Open Air Shelter
- North Open Air Shelter

Park Facilities

- Disc Golf 18-hole course
- Non-designated open space areas
- Melinda Weaver Tennis Courts
- Village Park Tennis Courts
- Armory Park Volleyball Courts
- Village Park Volleyball Courts
- Walking, running and hiking trails
- 10 Playgrounds

Athletic Fields

- Village Park Lighted & Hardball Diamond
- Village Park Diamonds, South, Central & North
- Armory Park Diamonds #1, #2, #3 & #4
- Armory Park Soccer Fields



**Lion's Open Air Shelter
at Sussex Village Park**

2015 Key Notes ...

We saw an increase of 15.6% in building and shelter rentals in 2015.

There is a slight decrease to the Athletic Field Rentals, mainly due to the Softball Association not running leagues on Fridays.

By the numbers...

Park Shelter & Enclosed Building Rentals									
RENTALS	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Lion's Open Air	40	37	32	27	34	11	33	32	30
North Open Air	26	21	16	13	14	3	11	9	11
Early Days Open Air	22	17	15	7	5	0	5	1	2
Armory Open Air	5	1	0	1	2	1	4	2	4
Youth Hall	55	53	65	37	3	31	15	8	0
Community Center	120	100	79	87	34	85	36	32	22
Lion's Building	51	47	57	110	94	159	89	113	132
TOTALS	319	276	289	282	186	193	193	197	201

Athletic Field Rentals									
ATHLETIC FACILITY RENTALS	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Village Park #1 (South)	85	69	75	54	63	54	55	58	53
Village Park #2 (Central)	60	48	46	24	55	55	55	58	53
Village Park #3 (North)	51	68	60	48	84	72	55	58	53
Village Park Lighted	75	97	83	144	135	103	145	177	177
Village Park Hardball	108	116	114	102	113	100	44	77	39
Armory Park #1	95	92	104	101	112	78	98	86	85
Armory Park #2	102	87	110	79	92	92	90	78	57
Armory Park #3	85	87	97	76	106	49	71	41	49
Armory Park #4	52	61	62	43	55	49	49	44	45
Soccer Fields	367	367	67	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1080	1092	751	671	815	662	662	677	611

Our programs encourage independence, including the building blocks of self awareness and respect.



Summer Day Camp

Recreation

Many recreational opportunities are offered throughout this department every day. We are a growing community and, to keep pace, we are a growing department. Today, many new programs are being established to meet the requests of the community.

Programs & Services

Youth Enrichment

Dance, Music, Playtime, Arts, Sciences, Field Trips, Cooking, Babysitting and Summer Day Camps

Youth Sports

T-Ball, Coach Pitch Baseball, Ice Skating, Soccer, Tennis, Fishing, Volleyball, Horsemanship, Swimming, Flag Football, Basketball, Archery, Golf, Bowling, Martial Arts and Sailing

Adult Programs

Dance, Fitness Programs, Table Tennis League, Basket Weaving, Arts & Crafts, Trips and Adventures, Culinary Arts and Tennis

Older Adult Programs/Events

Day Trips, Extended Adventures, Dinner Theaters, Dining, Special Parties and Picnics, Senior Fitness, Safe Driving, Golf Outing, Rock-A-Thon, Social Nights, Nutrition Classes, Senior Transportation, Bingo, Dartball, Cards, Crochet and Knitting Group

Family Programs

Birthday Parties, Parents Night Out, Open Gym, Basketball, Turkey Hunt, Easter Basket Hunt, Scarecrow Building Contest, Snowman Building Contest

Community Events

Sledding Party, Bunny Lunch, Egg Hunt, Outdoor Movies, Sounds of Sussex Concert Series, Cruise Night, 4th of July Celebration, 5K Run/Walk, Spooky Sussex, Christmas Caroling, Tree Lighting Ceremony



Ballet

By the numbers...

Program Participation Overview								
Program Area	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Preschool	300	268	397	237	150			
Youth Enrichment	857	637	567	605	533			
Youth Sports	1,241	983	902	1,269	803			
Active Adults	812	1,147	749	839	960			
Adult Enrichment	313	333	100	90	47			
Seniors	857	496	608	467	548			
Totals:	4,380	3,864	3,323	3,507	3,041			

• All of the totals are cumulative.
 • Participation was not calculated per program type.

2015 Key Notes ...

- We saw a 26% growth in our youth sports numbers due to the increased participation in our Hooper Hands program
- The Youth Enrichment numbers increased due to the Day Camp program started in 2011 and has seen continued growth each year. We offer half-day and full-day camps, working with Hamilton School District's Summer Opportunities program.
- It comes as no surprise that our senior program participation continues to grow as our senior program coordinator's hours increase and boomers continue to retire, looking for activities.



Annual Holiday Swag Event

Senior Programming

Overview

Our senior programs are designed to encourage social interactions and create new friendships, as well as entertain. Many of our programs educate through presentations, activities and new skill development.

2014 Key Notes ...

- Waukesha County Sussex Congregate Meal Site yearly participation increased 18% from 2014-2015 due to Village/County new menus and an exceptional meal site manager.
- Our many monthly themed-party social events feature entertainment, food, door prizes and opportunity for social engagement. These monthly parties are most popular of all senior programs.

2015 Senior Highlights

	2015 Number of Events	2015 Number of Participants	2014 Number of Events	2014 Number of Participants	2013 Number of Events	2013 Number of Participants
SENIOR SPECIAL EVENTS		1,040 Total		1,030 Total		
Love My Community Center Week		330		300		
Rock-A-Thon		115 (weather)	7	170		
Senior Green Thumb Planting	7	45		50	7	142 Total
Senior Picnic		100		85		
Active Aging Week		325		300		
Holiday Swag		75		75		
Caroling for Seniors		50		50		
Dinner Parties	4	320	4	300	4	300
Luncheon Parties	32	1,000	25	885	25	887
Waukesha County Congregate Meal Site	M-F Daily	6,721				
MONTHLY ACTIVITIES			4	60	4	41
Technology 101, Cooking For One, Craft Club, Book Club, Pie Breaks to Educate, Bingo	53	821	12	100	10	160
			4	40	3	36
			6	150		
WEEKLY ACTIVITIES						
Bridge, Sheephead, Polish Poker, Dartball, Dominoes, Card Games, Happy Hookers	332	2,770				

2015 Senior Dinner Parties

*Potluck From the Past
Lemon-Lime Summertime
Juke Box Saturday Night
Merry & Bright*



Annual Sledding Party

Special Events



Special Events by the Numbers								
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Special Events	21	20	20	19	16	12	11	11

Key Notes

- 2015 was the first year for the Community Rummage Sale and we had 70+ houses participate and hundreds of shoppers. We are looking forward to this being a great annual event.
- Attendance at all events continues to grow. This year we did have a slight drop in Spooky Sussex attendance due to a rain event that took place during the entire event, although it was still a great turn out with 800 participants.





Sponsorships & Grants

Rock Climbing

Sponsorship & Grant History						
PROGRAM AREA	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Recreation Brochure Advertising	\$2,740	\$2,715	\$2,975	\$3,275	\$2,725	\$2,425
Center of Attention Advertising	\$3,900	\$1,325	\$1,000	\$812	\$500	\$1,750
Park Banner Advertising	\$2,200	\$3,900	\$4,150	\$4,450	\$3,900	\$3,900
Tennis Grants	0	\$0	\$100	\$500	\$750	\$882
Special Event Sponsorships	\$6,950	\$9,025	\$8,950	\$7,650	\$6,550	\$5,500
5K Run/Walk Sponsorships	\$3,350	\$2,750	\$2,160	\$3,100	\$2,950	\$3,450
Disc Golf spobnsorships	\$5,100	\$250	\$100	\$350	\$100	\$250
Summer Day Camp/T-shirt Sponsors	\$1,850	\$1,650	\$1,300	\$150	\$150	\$0
Senior Grants	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,650	\$2,850	\$3,175	\$3,650
TOTALS:	\$29,190	\$24,715	\$24,385	\$23,137	\$20,800	\$21,807

Key Notes

Staff has made an effort to better track senior program participation and that is why there is a significant jump in some of our numbers.

Scholarship Program

In 2007, the Recreation Department noticed a need for financial assistance for some familites to be able to participate in recreation programs. A scholarship program was developed to support those needs and has been going strong ever since. It was started with the use of CDBG grant money and internal fundraising efforts now provide the funds for scholarships.

Sponsorship Program by the Numbers									
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2010	2011
Amount Awarded	\$5,175	\$6,075	\$10,800	\$13,725	\$6,662	\$12,000	\$9,175	\$10,950	\$7,200
Amount Used	\$1,815	\$1,642	\$3,667	\$4,249	\$1,971	\$3,090	\$4,268	\$2,121	\$790



Sussex Civic Center

Looking Ahead ...

2016 is already off to an exciting start. Subdivisions are popping up throughout the Village and so are numerous construction projects. This brings about a lot of excitement and opportunity to grow our programming and serve the public in more ways.

As we settle into our new space at the Civic Center this fall, we look forward to introducing the community to this great new building that has recreation spaces designed for their intended use, therefore improving the experience for all. With improvements to two parks, our outdoor areas will surely get more attention, as well.

The Parks & Recreation Department looks forward to 2017 showing us the great impact of these new spaces.



Intergenerational Day at Day Camp

Benefits of Parks & Recreation

Our health, our community, our economy and our environment all benefit from parks and recreational opportunities.

Our Health...

Recreational services provide structured and self-directed learning opportunities, imaginative artistic and play environments, social interaction, growth development both physically and mentally, promotes a more productive life and keeps you engaged in a healthier game of life individually and as a whole community. Healthy, active and informed lifestyles reduces stress, makes us less prone to obesity, diabetes, heart disease and even depression.

Our Community...

Parks and recreational services give the Village a vital identity. People need a place to connect; a common space to grow stronger social ties and parks and recreational activities provide that chance. Providing the Village with well-maintained, accessible parks, facilities and recreational services are key elements to having a strong, safe, family-friendly neighborhood and community. The Recreation Department strives to continue to maintain and enhance the great tradition of parks, trails and programs to keep Sussex active and a great place to live, work and play.

Our Economy...

Parks enhance property values, helps attract and retain business and offers a venue to hold community events that draw visitors and dollars into our community. Village parks attract users and visitors on a daily basis, year round. Park users are likely to visit local business before, during or after their visit to parks. Invest in the future — your gifts make you an active and involved participant in improving the quality of life for your children, their children and future generations.

Our Environment...

Parks preserve our natural treasures. Parks offer its visitors and opportunity to learn about our natural world. The preservation of air quality, wildlife habitats and the conservation of water all are essential components of a healthy human and natural environment.