

CITY OF WEST BRANCH PARKS AND RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT 2011

A message from the Director.....

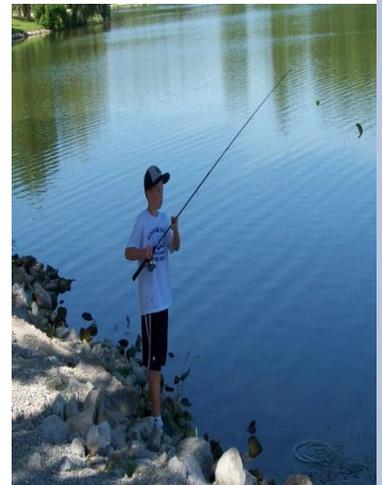
Providing the quality of service that citizens have come accustomed to requires the energy of a very committed city staff, the dedication of an active Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, the interest and support of City Council and the citizens of West Branch. The commitment to excellence is taken seriously among those of us who are dedicated to providing West Branch with the very best in parks and recreation services.

We are very grateful for the many volunteers and sponsors who give so freely of their time and who continue to be devoted to our youth and adult programs. Their support and continued interest allows us all to develop and maintain excellent facilities, parks, trails, programs and services. We appreciate those who are devoted and contribute to the health and wellness of West Branch and truly understand the benefits that Parks and Recreation brings to each citizen and continue to support this department and its goals for the future.

Melissa Russell
Director, Parks and Recreation

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"We do better together, not alone. We need to play together to feel alive. We need to share together to feel whole. At any age, we need to feel, recreate, breathe!"

Patricia Miller,
Recreation Therapist



PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

THE PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDS AND REVIEW POLICIES,
RULES, REGULATIONS, ORDINANCES AND BUDGETS RELATING TO PARKS AND
PLAYGROUNDS OF THE CITY. THREE-YEAR TERMS ARE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR
WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

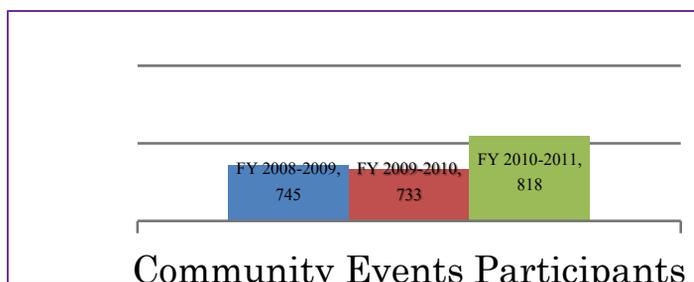
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

SHANE STAKER	2010
LISA CORR	2014
BETH NOE, SECRETARY	2013
BECKY HOSIER	2013
TIM SHIELDS	2014

Park and Recreation Community Events

Parks and Recreation continues to partner with many organizations to provide quality programs for the community. Community Events give people of all ages a chance to have fun and relax in an affordable manner. The number of participants increased slightly this year, partly due to the addition of two events that had not taken place in FY 2009-2010, Trivia Night and Scarecrow Festival. Other programs that took place this year were the Frosty Frenzy, Christmas Past and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Community Events also provide excellent opportunities to showcase West Branch to persons outside of West Branch. RAGBRAI and Hoover's Hometown Days are wonderful examples of how many community groups pulled together to show the best of West Branch. In July, around 10,000 bike riders passed through West Branch on the final day of RAGBRAI. Around 5000 of those riders stopped for breakfast in West Branch. The event went smoothly due to the cooperation of multiple groups and business owners in West Branch.



ADULT PROGRAMMING

Parks and Recreation has been committed to providing quality adult programs. This year the addition of Fitness classes has been a huge success. Parks and Recreation has 2 different instructors offering classes: Angela Herren teaches Pilates and Holly Carpenter teaches Zumba, Boot camp, and 3-2-1. Classes have the highest attendance in the winter months. Classes have utilized the West Branch Community School districts gyms for the larger classes as well as 3-2-1. Town Hall has been used for some of the smaller classes.

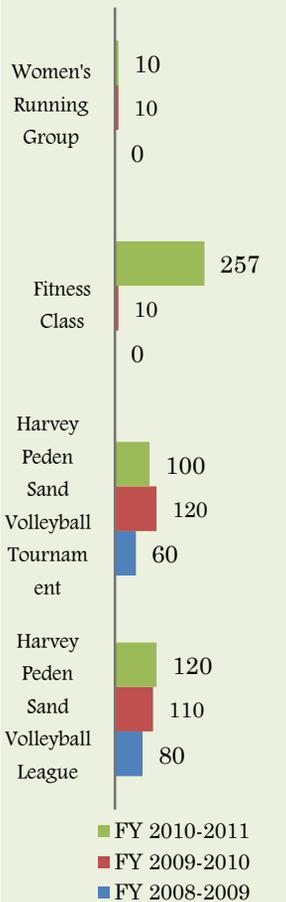
The Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball League continued to have high participation. This year there were 12 teams who participated in regular season play and 10 of those teams played in the end of the season tournament. This year I reformatted the tournament from previous year. We started play a little earlier and limited pool play to 30 minute matches. Because of the few changes made in the tournament pool play it enabled tournament to finish by 1:00am.

Overall the participation have increased over the past year from 250 participants in 2010 to 487 in 2011. I expect it participation to continue to grow over the next year with the addition of future adult programs.

"You can learn more about a man in an hour of play than in a lifetime of conversation."

PLATO

Adult Programs



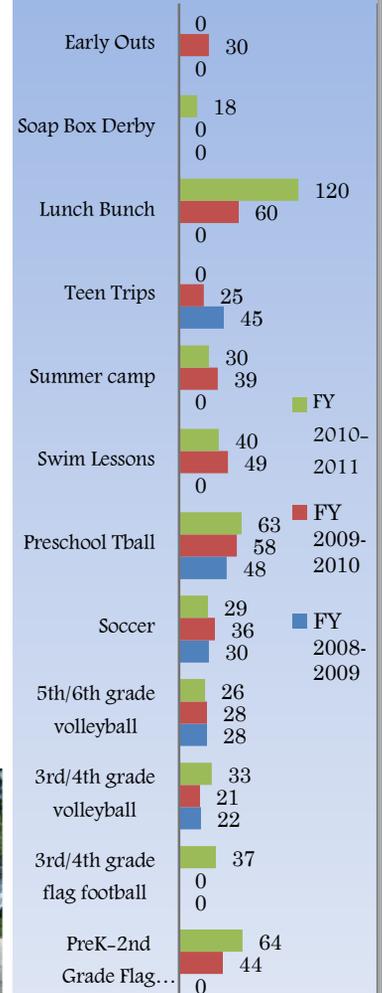
YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Youth programs continued to thrive this year for Parks and Recreation. Program participation fluctuates with different age levels and grades. One struggle we have had is getting people to register for a program by the deadline. The teen trips were cancelled this year, due to lack of registrations by the deadline. Lunch Bunch did had higher participation this year. I hope next year to find additional funding so that this program can be expanded. With the closing of Cookson, early out drop ins were discontinued this past year. Youth athletics continued to do well this year. Several new programs were added; the Soap Box Derby and 3rd/4th grade Flag Football. The other programs remained fairly consistent. I expect program participation to remain consistent over the next year.



Soapbox Derby 2011

Youth Programs



2010-2011 Highlights

- **Lions Soccer Field** Public Works completed the parking lot Lyons Field. This has created a stable parking area for events at Lyons Field. Funding for the project was taken from the Parks and Recreation Park Land CD.
- **RAGBRAI 2011** The City of West Branch Staff, Main Street, Lyons Club, and various community members pulled together to make RAGBRAI 2011 a success. Various business and non profits organizations provided breakfast meals for the riders. This year the City of West Branch charged a vendor fee to help offset City expenses such as port potty fees and entertainment.
- **Hoovers Hometown Days** Parks and Recreation and the West Branch Public Library teamed up to organize activities on village green; such as inflatables, face painting, bubbles, and a giant chess board. Acciona provided a financial donation which helped to cover the costs of the inflatables. All events on Village Green were free for participants.
- **Fitness Classes** Fitness classes were a huge success for Parks and Recreation. A variety of classes were offered such as Boot Camp, Pilates, and Zumba. Wednesday evening classes were the most popular classes.
- **3rd/4th grade flag football** Flag Football in the past had been organized and run by a group of parent volunteers. This year the Flag football fund were donated to the City and Parks and Recreation organized the league. Parents still coached and volunteered in the concession stand. 3rd/4th grade flag football was played at the High School as it has been done in the previous years. High School referees were either paid or earned Silver Cord hours. Concession stand earnings helped to offset referees payment.
- **Land Site Study** Shive Hattery was commissioned to prepare a site study at various locations for a potential Recreation Center and City Office Building. 3 locations were evaluated; the current Cookson location, property behind Crestview Rehabilitation Center, and a site at the Meadows Subdivision. Funding for the Site Study came from the Parks and Recreation CD.

The Year Ahead....

In 2012, Parks and Recreation will continue to pursue land options for the future site of a recreation center in West Branch. The year will also add new programming such as youth basketball and new community events.

Parks and Recreation continues to strive to improve programming for participants of all ages. We expect to continue to see participation growth in 2012.

2012 looks to be an exciting year for the City of West Branch!

