



The Month That Was....



NT Parks & Recreation November & December 2021 Recap www.ntparksrec.com

Well, here we are, the end of 2021. It's been a crazy year amidst the ongoing pandemic, but we are super proud of our team for finding ways to think outside the box to bring new programs and/or a new spin on old programs to safely bring you all the recreational experiences you deserve. Our parks have been bustling with new upgrades and our crews have been working hard to improve our public spaces. With that being said, sit back and read all about what went on the final two months of the 2021 year!



Adult & Senior Programming

The Senior Center was bustling with holiday excitement. We kicked things off in November, rooting on the Buffalo Bills with a gameday watch party. Participants from both the Tonawanda & NT Senior Centers collaborated on this great event featuring the game on multiple screens, along with delicious food, and prizes raffled off. We also had the distinct pleasure to provide a breakfast and ceremony to honor our

veterans during our annual Veteran's Day Breakfast. A special thanks to the numerous community groups, organizations and individuals who donated supplies and items to complete gift bags for each veteran who participated in the event.

We hosted a toy drive at the Center, where seniors donated gifts towards the NT Neighborhood Watch "Santa's Coming To Town" event which distributes gifts to the doors of local families. Staying in the Christmas spirit, the Senior Center hosted a Santa's Workshop during the annual Winter Walk Event. The public had an opportunity to stop in for some hot chocolate, and treats and participate in a craft/vendor sale while children were able to meet Santa and make



crafts/toys at Santa's Workshop for Christmas presents/keepsakes. The Travel Club celebrated the holidays with a party while also discussing details on upcoming trips to Sprauge's Maple Farms and the Lancaster Opera House for dinner and a show. We followed up our success from our first TNT gathering, with a TNT Potluck Dinner, as seniors from the Tonawandas got to mingle and enjoy each other's company over food and entertainment.



The volleyball season got under way as our Monday Division featuring four women's teams, and our Wednesday Division featuring seven women's teams took to the court for league play. Pickleball continues to be a popular venture with participants filling the courts for open play on both Tuesday and Friday nights. For those who like the exercise but wanted to skip the competition, our Zumba, Total Body Fitness and Pilates classes along with Hall Walking all heated up with a total of 80 participants enrolled.

Youth Programming

The momentum continued to build as more and more programs ramped up at the Youth Center. Basketball clinics fired away, with 270 kids participating in leagues between the ages of 8-14 year old.



Kids participated in a series of four clinics teaching the proper fundamentals to get them ready for their team assignments and league games which tip off in January. The fall touch football program consisting of 125 participants in 3 different leagues ended in exciting fashion as league championships were held under the lights at the NTHS field.

Our inaugural volleyball program featured clinics and fun mini games in collaboration with NCCC's volleyball team. Coach Matikosh and her team helped teach and fine tune the skills of 44 participants, prepping them for a mini-tournament that was held at NCCC at the end of November. The program drew raving reviews and we look to build on that momentum with a spin off program in the winter/spring.



Outside of the sports programs, there was plenty of fun to be had by others, as the Rec was popping with participants for game nights, open gym, and a variety of other structured programs including dance club, and chess masters.

The holiday season was celebrated in great lengths as the Rec





hosted a Santa's Breakfast, where kids and their families got to enjoy a morning of delicious breakfast, activities, and a meet and greet with Santa and Mrs. Clause. Meanwhile a separate Sensory Santa event was held, and tailored towards children with specific physical, developmental, behavioral/emotional, and sensory needs. This event was a quiet, engaging, and stress-free environment for children and their families to participate without the typical hustle and bustle of bigger Rec events. We also celebrated a visit from the XMas Trailer during the Winter Walk event.

Parks

Tis' the season to celebrate with lights! Our department held our annual Holiday Lighting Contest where community members had an opportunity to nominate houses that were decked out in festive lights and décor. In conjunction with the Mayor's office, winners representing each ward were presented a certificate and gift card, congratulating them on a job well done. The winners this year were 856 Ruie Road, 1084 Bowen Drive East, 1350 Abington and 683 Shad St which took home the Mayor's Award and People's Choice Award (voted on via online ballot).

Members of the community came out for our Community Tree Planting Program and helped to plant 23 trees at Pinewoods park. 11 trees were transplants from our City's tree farm, while the other 12 were trees purchased by community members as part of the PlaNT it Forward program, which saw the community purchase a total of 32 trees which were earmarked and



planted in parks throughout the City. Our parks crew additionally planted 68 street trees throughout the city, increasing our urban canopy and beautifying our city.

With the December windstorm, our crews were also busy cleaning up and clearing out several fallen trees through out parks. A fallen power pole at Raymond Klimek Veteran's park took out power to our parking lot lights and Seabees monument, but all has been restored.

Ground broke in November on the new bathroom addition at Pinewoods Park, creating a handicap/ family restroom amenity to the park for the upcoming rental season and beyond. Additional upgrades to the main pavilion kitchen are also in the works.



Initial plans for the Erie Canal Bike Path Extension have been drawn up and will soon be presented to the public for comment. This project which looks to be completed in 2023 will create a bike route connecting Mayor's Park to Botanical Gardens along Sweeney Street bridging a much-needed gap for bicycle and foot transportation along that stretch of Sweeney Street. Lastly, the City was awarded \$100,000 in grant funds from the Niagara River Greenway Committee to help fund phase 2 of the Gratwick Riverside Park Improvement Project, which hopefully will be completely funded and break ground in 2023.



Golf & More

While the golf season came to a close, there was much work to be done by our grounds crew. With undisturbed access to the course, our crew got a lot accomplished in addressing some drainage issues, while also cutting some of the phragmites (reed-like plant) that has invaded and dominated our ponds throughout the course. Installation of new irrigation heads along our tees and greens was also accomplished.

For the season, Deerwood closed out with 58,612 rounds played which was the highest total since 2016. In total the course generated

| Comparison of Yearly Rounds Played | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |
| # of Rounds Played | 58,612 | 54,278 | 44,111 | 53,121 | 49,502 |
| Gross Revenue | \$1,314,827 | \$1,111,152 | \$881,667 | \$1,019,587 | \$948,217 |

1.3 million dollars in gross sales for the season which includes greens and cart fees, tournaments, season passes, ID's and Pro Shop merchandise. Currently the course is seeking a vendor to take over operations of the Deerwood restaurant, previously operated by Fairway's. For information on how to submit a proposal, head to www.ntparksrec.com for details. Our department is doing everything we can in our power to try and secure a quality established vendor for the 2022 golf season and beyond. Golf passes and ID's for the 2022 season can now be obtained at our main office (500 Wheatfield Street) during normal hours of operation M-F 8:30am-4:30pm.

Mark your calendars...Park pavilion rentals for residents of NT begin February 7. Reservations can be made online at www.ntparksrec.com or in person at our office. To stay updated on everything going on in our department, be sure to follow us on Facebook or Twitter (@NTParksrec).

What's Coming Up?

Youth Center Open: Tuesday-Friday 4:30-8:30pm Sat. 12-9pm

Senior Center Open: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30pm

[Senior Center Newsletter](#)- Learn all about Senior Programs

[Zumba Classes](#)-Mondays 7pm Jan 3-March 7

[Pilates Classes](#)- Wednesdays 7pm Jan 5-Feb 23

[Hallwalking @ NTMS](#)- Monday-Friday 4-8pm Jan 3-April 29

[Open Play Pickleball](#)- Tues & Fri nights 6-9pm

Main Office:

Director

695-8520 x5500

alex@northtonawanda.org

www.ntparksrec.com

[@NTParksRec](https://www.facebook.com/NTParksRec)

Youth Programming:

Michelle Bernas

695-8520 x5510

mbernas@northtonawanda.org

www.ntyouthcenter.com

[@NTYouthCenter](https://www.facebook.com/NTYouthCenter)

Golf Course:

Bob Kania

695-8529

deerwoodgc@gmail.com

www.deerwoodgc.com

[@DeerwoodGolfCourse](https://www.facebook.com/DeerwoodGolfCourse)

Adult & Senior Programming:

Pam Hogan

695-8582

phogan@northtonawanda.org

www.ntparksrec.com

[@NTSeniorCenter](https://www.facebook.com/NTSeniorCenter)