



Look Inside For....

Presidents Message.....2

Leadership in Challenging Times
with Ian Hill.....3

Executive Board Nomination...4

Summer Camp Summit &
NHRPA Awards.....8

Ski Social @ Cannon.....10

Granite State Track & Field....12

Professional Spotlight.....14

NNERPC Wrap-up.....27

NRPA News.....31

Happy Reading!!!

Message from Executive Director

Happy New Year!

As I sit and write this message it is hard to believe that I am in my 9th year as NHRPA’s first Executive Director. Time sure does fly and I am proud to say that our association continues to grow each year.

As we enter 2024 NHRPA will hold elections in the spring for our Executive Board. The nomination form can be found in this newsletter and I look forward to welcoming a new board later this year. Serving as a board or committee chair or member is important and something every NHRPA member should consider as that is how we continue to move our association forward.

Thank you to our current NHRPA Executive Board and all of our Committee Chairs for the great work you do and I look forward to continuing to challenge each of you to find ways to get more members of our association engaged in programs.

Finally, thank you to our Commercial Members for your continued support of NHRPA! Have a fantastic 2024!

Kerry Horne M.Ed., Executive Director, NHRPA

NHRPA Diversity Statement:

“New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Association is committed to making diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging a priority towards achieving our mission. We strive to accomplish these common ideals for the betterment of our membership and the communities that they serve.”

NHRPA PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings NHRPA Members

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season, and that your New Year has started out on a high note. It was great to see so many people at the Northern New England Parks & Recreation Conference at the Mountain View Grand Resort. There were a number of really great speakers this year. Next year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Northern New England Parks & Recreation Conference so I am sure it will be one we will all want to attend!

Registration is now open for the Leadership Summit - “**Leadership in Changing Times**” that will take place on Thursday, March 28th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Primex in Concord. Rec Desk is sponsoring this workshop along with Ben Shaffer Playgrounds and Primex. The cost of this invaluable training is just \$45 and includes lunch for the day.

The speaker’s name is Ian Hill - If you have not seen him speak before he is a phenomenal speaker that you will really enjoy. Ian is an international leader and motivational speaker. He is in contact with five professionals from NH that committed back in September. These individuals will be sharing with Ian their needs and tools they need for success. Ian then takes that information builds into his already deep toolbox and will present this one-day seminar. After the seminar, Ian will then have 30 days of video follow-up in a weekly video he sends to all those who attend the one-day workshop. This leadership journey will make you think of your impact on your community, grow you into a stronger leader, and inspire you to be a better person.

The 2nd Annual Summer Camp Summit will take place on Thursday, April 11th at Health Trust in Concord. The cost of this program including lunch is \$35.00 and registration is now open. Municipalities in New Hampshire are exempt from summer camp licensing but if something goes wrong, it may be the State Camp Licensing Standards that your program would be compared to. In the first part of this workshop, we will look at what the rules are and how they apply to camps to ensure that you are properly prepared.

In the second part of this training, we bring together a collection of seasoned professionals to talk about what makes their programs successful. We will explore topics related to staff recruitment, orientation and training, CIT programs; behavior management; addressing staff burnout and staff recognition programs. The program will then move into our Annual NHRPA Awards Luncheon program before we conclude the day with a refresher course on NH Youth Employment Laws from the NH Dept of Labor. This promises to be a wonderful day of training!

As a reminder, nominations are now open for the NHRPA Annual Awards program which will be presented at the Summer Camp Summit on April 11th. The Annual Awards ceremony is about recognizing communities and professionals who are doing amazing work in their community, and we want to display and highlight those people & programs. There is a simple nomination form available through the website and the deadline to submit a nomination is March 15th.

I hope you all have a successful winter season. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the direction of NHRPA or if there is any way that the Association can better serve you!

Respectfully Submitted, Matt Casparius, CPRE
NHRPA President, mcasparius@merrimacknh.gov

NHRPA Executive Board

President: Matt Casparius
Merrimack Parks & Recreation

President Elect: David Tovey
Exeter Parks & Recreation

Secretary | Tara Tower
Lincoln Woodstock Recreation

Treasurer | Arene Berry
Milford Recreation

Past President | Craig Fraley
Amherst Parks & Recreation

NHRPA Board Members

Laura Bryant
Concord Parks & Recreation

Justin Chaffee
Ossipee Parks & Recreation

Eric Feldbaum
Division of Parks & Recreation

John Kohlmorgen
Jaffrey Recreation

Calendar of Events:

3.14.24—NHRPA Business Meeting & Ski Social @ Cannon Mountain

3.28.24—Leadership in Changing Times featuring Ian Hill

4.5.24—Spring Rec Connect Newsletter Deadline

4.11.24—Summer Camp Summit & NHRPA Awards

5.9.14—NHRPA Business Meeting

[Full Events Calendar](#)

LEADERSHIP IN CHANGING TIMES

FEATURING IAN HILL

MARCH 28TH

9:00AM - 3:00PM

PRIMEX BUILDING - CONCORD, NH

FEE: \$45.00

PRESENTED BY:



SCAN TO REGISTER



"I believe every individual, every neighborhood and every community is one idea, one voice, one action – one person – away from being better tomorrow than it was yesterday. YOU CAN BE THAT ONE PERSON!"

SPONSORED BY:



NH Recreation & Park Association
Get out and enjoy life!



BEN
SHAFFER
RECREATION

Primex^{NS}
NH Public Risk Management Exchange

NHRPA Executive Board Nomination Form

Now Available

It is time for NHRPA Executive Board Nominations. The nomination form will be open until Friday, March 1, 2024. This is your opportunity to nominate yourself or a colleague to serve on the NHRPA Executive Board. All positions with the exception of President Elect are two year terms. The President Elect serves two years in this role and then transitions into the role of President for the following two years and then ends with two years as Past President.

If you would like more information on what the NHRPA Executive Board does visit the About Us section of the NHRPA website and review the NHRPA Constitution and Work Plan. You are also welcome to reach out to any Executive Board member for more information.

[CLICK HERE](#) to complete the Nomination Form. All nominees will be contacted to accept or decline a nomination made by someone else to confirm that they would like to be placed on the official voting ballot.

Official election ballots will be available on Monday, April 1st and election voting will close on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Results will be announced at the NHRPA Business Meeting on Thursday, May 9th.



Favorite Program or Project of 2023

Project: Farmington Parks & Recreation

Submitted by: Ryan Tumminello, Ben Shaffer Recreation

In the bustling landscape of Farmington's recreational ventures, the unveiling of Elizabeth Fernald Park in 2023 stands out as a beacon of developmental play. Created under the guidance of Farmington Parks and Recreation, this playground project was meticulously designed to cater to the distinct developmental needs of two age groups: children aged 2-5 and 5-12. Elizabeth Fernald Park was envisioned as a space fostering common experiences, shared laughter, and genuine connections within the community. With a user capacity accommodating 111 children and boasting an impressive 26 play activities, the park is a testament to collaborative creativity and thoughtful design. The park incorporates motion play features to engage children of all abilities. These features not only provide moments of excitement but also offer developmental benefits. Through activities promoting increased spatial awareness, inner ear stimulation, and balance, children are provided with a holistic playground experience where every child feels welcome and understood. Recognizing play as the cornerstone of childhood development, this custom-designed environment serves a dual purpose: it not only facilitates joyous moments of play but also nurtures essential skills that transcend the playground. Resiliency and perseverance, intrinsic values embedded in the fabric of play, are key attributes that this project aims to instill in the young minds frequenting its grounds. Elizabeth Fernald Park is a canvas where children learn to express themselves, monitor their emotions, and develop a sense of identity that fuels their self-esteem. These are foundational elements that shape their worldview and pave the way for their journey toward becoming successful and healthy adults.

Burke
PLAY THAT MOVES YOU.
BCIBURKE.COM • 800.266.1250

ELIZABETH FERNALD PARK

PROPOSAL #:13O-16O842-2



3D Designer: Alexandria

Favorite Program or Project of 2023



Program: Nordic Ski Program

Submitted by: Melissa Shaw, Colebrook Recreation

Colebrook Recreation offered a Nordic Ski program for grades 3-8 in partnership with a local venue in town. After-school sessions were provided to help students learn and improve their Nordic skiing skills. A grant was used to provide equipment to ensure every child could participate. The program was a personal favorite in 2023, as it fulfilled a long-held desire and allowed for a break from office duties.

Premier Park & Play
One Stop for all your
Playground and Site Amenity Needs
www.premierparkplay.com
premierparkplay@verizon.net
617-244-3317

A family owned business with over 30 years of experience.

- **Playground Equipment**
- **Accessibility Options**
- **Outdoor Benches, Tables and Trash Receptacles**
- **Dog Parks**
- **Shade and Shelters**
- **Outdoor Fitness Equipment**
- **Basketball Hoops, Bleachers and Sport Equipment**
- **Playground Surfacing Options**
- **Professional Installation**

mhec 
simple.savvy.diverse.™

Building a Regional Identity for Trails and Recreation

January 30, 2024 | 12:00 - 1:30pm

“If a trail is built in the forest, but no one knows it’s there...”

Many New England communities have trails for recreation, but fewer have leveraged these trails to develop intentional networks of amenities to be enjoyed by a variety of residents and visitors. Regional partnerships and collaborations can be essential in developing cohesive branding, mapping, signage, education, and promotion. Collective efforts can also be critical in devising outreach strategies that encourage inclusive, respectful, and sustainable recreational use.

Join us for this lunchtime webinar to learn from professionals and volunteers from across Northern New England about what has worked well in their regions and, realistically, what tasks and goals have presented challenges. Stay after the presentations for an open Q&A and conversation to share ideas and strategies for building recreational identities, generating community buy-in, and bolstering regional economic development.

Guest speakers:

- Lukas Ray, Community Collaboration Director, Kingdom Trail Association (VT)
- Joe Fox, Outdoor Recreation Manager, Northern Forest Center/Bike Borderlands (NH/VT/ME/QC)
- Janel Lawton, Director, NH Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development (NH)
- Tyler Ray, Founder & Director, Granite Backcountry Alliance (NH/ME), Granite Outdoor Alliance (NH)

This webinar is part of the Developing Interconnections for Regional Trails (DIRT) project, a collaboration between UNH Extension staff, UNH faculty, and external nonprofit and agency partners, supported by the UNH Collaborative Research Excellence (Core) Initiative. For more information about DIRT, please visit <https://sites.usnh.edu/dirt/>.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR WEBINAR](#)





NH Recreation & Park Association
Get out and enjoy life!

2ND ANNUAL

SUMMER CAMP SUMMIT



& NHRPA AWARDS CEREMONY

**APRIL
11 TH**

GET YOUR CAMP PREPARED FOR SUMMER
HealthTrust, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- 9:00 am - 9:30 am Registration, Coffee & Light Breakfast Fare
- 9:30 am - 10:15 am Camp Licensing Standards: What do they look like?
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Professional Round Table Discussion
- 12:00 pm - 1:45 pm NHRPA Awards Luncheon
- 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Youth Employment Laws with NH Dept of Labor

PREMIER SPONSOR



BRONZE SPONSOR



CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Share Your Summer Camp Resources

Did you know we have a new Summer Camp Resource tab on the NHRPA homepage? If you would like to share your summer camp policies, procedures, handbooks etc. please email them to executivedirector@nhrpa.com and they will be added to the resource page.



CONTENTS

Camp ideals	06
Staff responsibilities and expectations	11
Camp information and policies	18
Camper interaction guidelines	22
Emergency procedures	27

It's NHRPA Award Nomination Time!

The 2023 NHRPA Awards will be handed out on Thursday, April 11th at the Summer Camp Summit and Awards luncheon. Now is the time to nominate a peer, yourself or someone in your community for one of the awards. To see the list of awards and to link to the nomination form please [CLICK HERE](#)





Pettinelli & Associates is a recreational design firm that has been supplying quality products and service in Vermont, New Hampshire and Northern New York for more than 33 years!

We offer site evaluations and assistance to help your group with every step towards building and enjoying a quality play environment.



For information contact Bob Pettinelli

1-800-775-8153 or email: playgrdbob@aol.com

<http://pettinelliandassociates.com/>

NHRPA Business Meeting & Ski Social at Cannon Mountain

Thursday, March 14th—Meeting begins at 10am followed by skiing

Are you ready to hit the slopes at Cannon Mountain with your NHRPA peers? Join us for the March Business meeting followed by an afternoon of skiing at Cannon Mountain. If you would like to participate in the ski social please register by February 26th. After that date we will work with Cannon mountain to get information to all skiing about the RFID card you will need to ski. The cost of the card is \$5. If you participated last year and still have your RFID card you will save \$5. This ski social is sponsored by our friends at Cannon Mountain. More information on the specific location for the business meeting will be shared early in March. Join us for a great day and hit the slopes with your NHRPA peers!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



The Benefits of Outdoor Play

December 21, 2023, Department, by Colton Patak, NRPA Magazine

In our increasingly digital world, the importance of outdoor play cannot be overstated. Parks, with their sprawling green spaces, playgrounds and natural environments, offer a safe place for children to explore, learn and grow. Beyond providing a refreshing break from indoor confinement, outdoor play in parks fosters healthy child development in numerous ways.

Physical Health and Exercise—Childhood obesity rates are on the rise, partly due to sedentary lifestyles. Parks provide a dynamic and open space for children to engage in physical activities that promote cardiovascular health, muscle development and coordination. Moreover, exposure to natural sunlight in parks helps the body synthesize vitamin D, which is essential for bone health and overall well-being.

Mental Well-Being and Stress Reduction—Nature has a calming effect, reducing stress and anxiety. Parks provide a serene environment where children can connect with nature and escape the pressures of school and technology. Research has shown that exposure to green spaces can reduce symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and improve overall mental well-being.

Social Interaction and Communication Skills—Parks are bustling with children of all ages and backgrounds, providing an ideal setting for social interaction. Engaging in group-play activities fosters essential social skills, such as sharing, cooperation and conflict resolution. Children learn to communicate effectively with their peers, make friends, and develop a sense of empathy and understanding.

Creativity and Imagination—The natural world is a wellspring of inspiration for children's creativity and imagination. Whether it's building a fort with sticks and leaves or pretending to be explorers on a jungle expedition, outdoor play encourages unstructured, imaginative play. This imaginative freedom not only nurtures creativity, but it also enhances problem-solving skills as children find innovative ways to navigate challenges they encounter in their play scenarios.

Cognitive Development—Outdoor play provides a multisensory experience as children engage with natural elements. These experiences enhance sensory processing and cognitive development. Additionally, outdoor play encourages exploration and curiosity, fostering a love for learning.

Appreciation for Nature and Environmental Stewardship—Spending time in parks instills a deep appreciation for nature and promotes environmental stewardship. When children connect with the natural world, they are more likely to develop a sense of responsibility for the environment. This early awareness can lead to a lifelong commitment to sustainability and conservation.

Risk Assessment and Resilience—Outdoor play allows children to assess risks and develop resilience. They learn to navigate uneven terrain, climb structures and test their physical limits. Moreover, minor falls or scrapes in a park environment provide opportunities for children to learn how to cope with setbacks and build resilience.

The benefits of outdoor play in parks are multifaceted and essential for healthy child development. As educators and caregivers, we should prioritize outdoor play. By doing so, we empower our children to grow into healthy, well-rounded individuals who appreciate the natural world and possess the skills necessary to navigate life's challenges.

TENTATIVE 2024

STATE MEET
saturday June 15

LOCATION
winnisquam high
school

AGES
9-14 year olds



**info packets available
starting in February**

**Paul.Coats@LebanonNH.gov
to make sure your
community is included**



Dr. Tom's Lifeguard Vision Represents World's First Drowning-Simulation App

Submitted by: Dr. Tom Griffiths

After nearly a decade of research and development, our lifeguard scanning app is finally available. This app is designed to teach parents, care givers, and lifeguards to better detect drowning behaviors before it is too late. The app contains two swimming pool scenes, indoor and outdoor. Each session lasts approximately fifteen minutes and during that time, normal swimming activities take place. Life-like adult and child avatars are both utilized. Drowning scenarios taken from actual drownings caught on security camera footage are mimicked for reality and appear intermittently through each session. Viewers watching the pool scenes must tap on the distressed swimmer before they disappear under the surface of the water. It allows the viewers to spotlight the drowning process to detect and recognize distress in a timely fashion. The app is the first and only one of its kind in the world.

You can check it out <https://drtomslifeguardvision.com/> . The app is designed to help parents, care givers, and lifeguards to be more vigilant around the water and recognize drowning victims before tragedy strikes. This mental and visual training is a must for all those supervising around the water.

For additional information see the article in [Athletic Business HERE](#).



Professional Spotlight

Name: Matt Saulnier

Town: Gilford

Job Title: Recreation Specialist

Number of years you have been with the department? 7 Months, start date of June 26, 2023

If you are new to your department where did you work previously?

I worked at the Gilford School District as a paraprofessional

Why do you work in Recreation?

I enjoy the Gilford community collectively, and giving back to the place where I grew up.

What is one challenge you face as a professional?

Adhering to the new changes and trends that come with the industry

What is one program or event that you run that you would like to share with the membership?

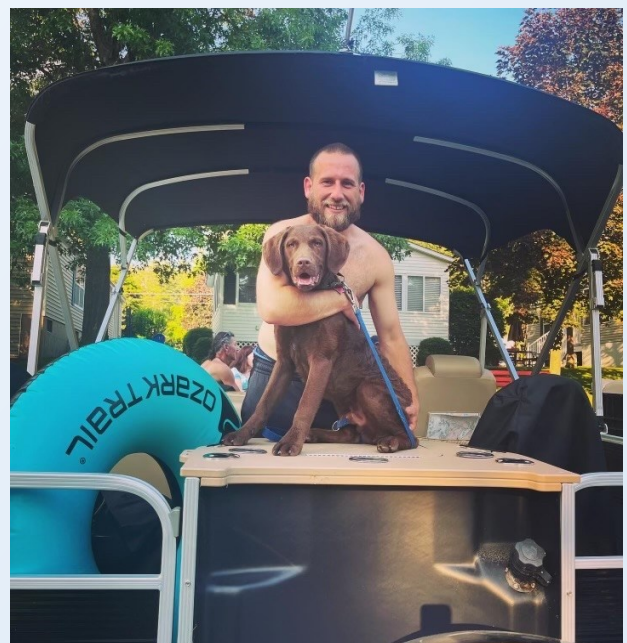
Fall/Spring Hiking Program. It provides an excellent opportunity for participants of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy what the beautiful state of NH has to offer us.

Favorite place to take groups on a trip?

TD Garden for a Celtics game



These are my dogs, aka my best friends (L-R) is Tuukka 10 (English Black Lab), Diesel 2 (Chesapeake Bay Retriever), and Jake 5 (1/2 English Black Lab & 1/2 Chesapeake Bay Retriever)



This is another photo of my dog Diesel and I getting ready to depart the marina for a family boat outing.

Personal Spotlight

Name: Matt Saulnier

Town: Gilford

Job Title: Recreation Specialist

Where did you go to school?

Gilford High School & Plymouth State University

What is your degree?

Sports Management

Where were you born?

Boston Massachusetts

Where have you lived?

Epping & Gilford NH

Favorite Recreational Activity?

Spending time on Lake Winnepesaukee

What is your favorite food?

Tied between Seafood and Italian

What is your favorite movie?

Rankin/Bass - The Year Without A Santa Claus

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Hilton Head Island, SC

What is your favorite type of music?

Classic Rock

What is your pet peeve?

When individuals chew with their mouth open

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Purchasing my first home

Finish this sentence. My dream... is to have a successful career within the Parks & Recreation Industry and leave a positive impact behind.



This is my dog Diesel and I skiing down Gunstock Mountain last year, after we had hiked up together.

Your **One Stop** Recreation Solution!

- Play Structures
- Climbing Systems
- Sports Equipment
- Outdoor Fitness
- Dog Park Equipment
- Shade and Shelters
- Site Furnishings
- Bleachers
- Safety Surfacing
- Installation Services



Mark Gallagher | **800.861.1209** | mark@nerecgroup.com
P.O. Box 1503 Westboro, MA

NHRPA State Conference Wrap-up

Submitted by: Kristine Flythe

The NHRPA State Conference back in October 2023 seems so long ago. However, we had a wonderful full day with keynote Mark Honberger and “Raising the Bar” and as an education session on “Wow Factor.” What is it about those recreation programs that sets them apart from others? What is it about those parks or recreation centers that have that ability to always draw the community in? The answer we’re looking for is: “Wow Factor!”; that ability to stand out from the crowd with something unique or unexpected... But can we have that Wow Factor without sacrificing our original mission? Yes. We. Can! Come learn “How To Wow!”

However, the state conference didn’t just highlight areas we could improve, it also had glimpses of what the last 75 years have meant for the Association.

We had 2 additional sessions on “Achieving Professional Excellence Through NHRPA” as for 75 years NHRPA has provided incredibly valuable services to its members. Unlike much of the country, many NH Recreation Professionals operate in small Recreation Departments – many are one professional departments.

Whether you are a brand-new Parks and Recreation Professional or have been in your position for a while, this session brings together a panel of “Professionals Across the Decades” to share their expertise with audience focusing on professional excellence – why it’s important and NHRPA’s role in helping them to achieve Professional Excellence.

Among other subjects the session will address: What is Professional Excellence? How does it relate to improving the quality of facilities and services in individual communities; the importance of mentorship – both as mentor and mentee and Mistakes and Successes; How a strong Association translates to better Parks and Recreation Services for NH and more.

As well as “If Only someone had told me – Lessons learned through careers in Parks and Recreation” Including Retired Honorary members in the 75th Celebration gives us a unique opportunity to tap into the vast years of knowledge. While times have changed and the challenges of today’s recreation professionals may be different than those who provided services years ago, at the heart of it, the goals are the same. Utilizing the Panel Concept this session will be a lively interchange between professionals of different decades. The facilitated panel will start with a short introduction with panelists will very briefly identify the following: The one thing that they are most proud of in their career; their biggest regret; what did or does cause them the most stress? What was their most daunting challenge and how did they face it-what was the outcome? What was the most amusing thing in their career?, their one piece of advice for professionals today. We then open the discussion up to the audience to ask any of the panel for advice on anything that they’re dealing with currently.

These 2 sessions celebrated what was, and what can be as we move forward in the Recreation field and what will unfold in the next 75 years. Large thanks of appreciation and respect to the 75th Anniversary subcommittee with Donna Kuethe, Janet Horvath, Carolyn Tracy, and Dyana Martin. The state conference has always been an opportunity to network and gain some knowledge and it has been a pleasure to serve as the conference chair. I look forward to see what Janet Horvath from Manchester, and the committee come up with for 2024.

NHRPA State Conference 2023



NHRPA State Conference 2023



**Congratulations
Wendy Werner
2023 FISH Winner**

Favorite Program or Project of 2023

Program: Youth Fishing Derby

Submitted by: Tara Tower, Lincoln & Woodstock Recreation

This event is so easy to run, and the kid's and parents' smiles and enjoyment are endless! We partner with Trout Unlimited to measure the fish and with Rotary to cook a free BBQ for all participants.



NHRPA State Conference

Thursday, October 17, 2024

@ Concord Parks & Recreation Community Center





turf products
SINCE 1970



**Our 2024 IRRIGATION Service Seminar
registration is now available
online!**

Sign up today and sharpen your skills.

4 Locations - Select one near you

Commercial/Municipal Irrigation Service Seminar

- Rye, NH February 13th 8:00 AM
- Framingham, MA February 15th 8:00 AM
- Newtown, CT February 21st 8:00 AM

Golf Irrigation Seminar

- Monroe, CT February 20th 8:00 AM

**Don't Hesitate. Classes fill up quickly.
Register online today!**

Each class is \$125. Includes all materials, promotional items and lunch.

**Click Here for Info & Registration
now**



2024 Irrigation Seminar

This class is intended for customers in the Commercial/Municipal Irrigation specialty – Not intended for Golf Course Irrigation customers.

Learn

Troubleshooting and Repair techniques for your Control System, Sprinklers, Valves and Pipe Repairs

Weather Stations, Moisture Meters, Rain Shut-offs

Lightning Protection Systems

Otterbine Pond and Lake Aerators

Where

Wentworth by the Sea Country Club

Host Superintendent: Jason Bastille

60 Wentworth Road, Rye, NH

Proper dress required: nice jeans acceptable.

Daily Schedule

8:00 - 8:30 – Sign in – Breakfast Snacks, Coffee, Tea

8:30 – 9:30 – Understanding your irrigation system.

9:30 -10:15 - Sprinklers and Valves

10:15 –10:30 — Short Break –

10:30 -12:00 - Electrical Troubleshooting

12:00 - 1:00 – LUNCH

1:00 – 1:30 – Types of Control Systems

1:30 – 2:00 – Weather Stations, Moisture Meters, Rain Buckets

2 - 2:30 – Wxline Lightning Protection Systems

2:30 – 3:00 – Otterbine Pond Aerators

Cost and Registration Information

Cost for the event is \$125.00 per person. This includes –

- Breakfast and Lunch
- All Classroom materials

Click on the link below to sign up for this class on the TPC website.

<https://turfproductscorp.rezclick.com/index.php>

All registrations will be billed to your account.

Seating is limited. Please register no later than a week before the event so we have a head count for catering.

NHRPA Representing at the 2023 NRPA Conference



Dallas, Texas

Favorite Program or Project of 2023

Program: Fall Feast @ the Bike Park

Submitted by: Brianne Rafford-Varley, City of Keene



We held a fall fest at the Bike Park this year. The event was free and open to the community. We encouraged people to come dressed in costume and/or with their bikes decorated. We had a scavenger hunt through the park, a DIY bike course for younger participants who may not be ready for the bike park, a fire with s'mores, Halloween crafts, and we held our first big air contest! This was one of my favorite events because of the wide variety of community members in attendance. We had toddlers to teens and event parents dressed up in costume riding the bike park. The event also drew grandparents and community members who wanted to just be a part of the fun and were not interested in riding the park.

Program: Ribbon Cutting at Patricia T. Russell Park

Submitted by: Andy Bohannon, City of Keene



Conceptually designed on a napkin in 2012, a ribbon cutting to celebrate a LWCF project and \$2.3 million park renovation!

Milford Recreation Breakfast with Santa

We held our Breakfast with Santa Event on Saturday December 10 from 8:30-10am. It was a huge success with 138 registered, wonderful volunteers, and sponsors.




Your inspiration. Your playground.

Rochester Commons
 Rochester, NH

Play shapes us. That's why we want to help you create the playground of your dreams. Wherever your ideas come from, whatever your vision, we can bring it to life with our unparalleled design capabilities. **Learn more by contacting your local playground consultant, O'Brien & Sons, Inc. at 508.359.4200.**


O'BRIEN & SONS
 ELEMENTS FOR A GREAT OUTDOORS
www.obrienandsons.com

©2021 Landscape Structures Inc.

Favorite Program or Project of 2023

Program: Downtown Spooktacluar

Submitted by: Janet Horvath & Eric Bukowski

Stanton Plaza was full of decorations, games, food vendors, music, and costumed revelers during the second annual Downtown Spooktacluar, produced by Parks & Rec and Economic Development. The Mayor's Office and businesses up and down Elm Street set out decorations and provided candy to trick-or-treaters. It's one of our favorites because its a collaboration with the Mayor's Office and the Office of Economic Development. It's great to see families in costume enjoying all downtown Manchester has to offer. The business really get into by decorating their store fronts and dressing up. Its an all around great community event!



74th Annual NNERPC 2023 Event Review

By: Tara Tower,

The 74th annual Northern New England Recreation & Parks Conference was held January 9th-11th at The Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa in Whitefield, NH.

This year's conference included a keynote presentation by Adam Sutton, and he was very motivating! Tuesday also included 2 institutes, 3 sessions, a user group meeting, and a new attendee meet & greet event. 16 sessions were held on Wednesday and ranged in topics from best practice panels, grant writing how-to, sessions about communicating effectively, programming sessions, and a wide variety of others. Thursday concluded the event with two informative sessions, and the conference wrapped up with endnote speaker Mark Honberger and his "Let's Get Squirely" presentation. We also made time to practice what we preach by having a wicked fun karaoke night, a fire pit, and other networking opportunities. If you attended, please take the time to complete the evaluation that was emailed to you. The information from these evaluations is used every year to plan the following year's conference.

This year's exhibit hall included 43 different vendors, with several of the vendors sponsoring additional opportunities, including Landscape Structures sponsoring the keynote speaker! Thank you to all of our sponsors for allowing us to keep the registration costs low for our attendees.

Thank you to all speakers, exhibitors, and committee members for working so hard to make this year's conference a success!

The committee will be meeting to select next year's sessions in June, and if you have a speaker in mind, please have them complete the online speaker submission form, which will be available shortly on our website.

If you have any questions or suggestions for future conferences, please feel free to email me at recreation@lincolnnh.org.



Pilot Rock®

**PARK • STREET • CAMP
SITE PRODUCTS**

Across our different product lines we offer hundreds of choices in style, size, features, materials and colors.

Commercial quality products able to withstand years of use and exposure.

Made in the USA since 1959.



RJ Thomas Mfg. Co., Inc.
Cherokee, Iowa
800-762-5002
www.pilotrock.com
customerservice@rjthomas.com



Out-of-School Time in New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Afterschool Network (NHAN) is updating its [mapping tool](#) of out-of-school time (OST) [programs and sites](#) in New Hampshire. Please help us by completing this questionnaire for your site or sites by **January 25th!**

This online tool maps OST program sites that provide care for school-aged children (kindergarten through 12th grade) during out of school hours (before and after school, summer, and days without school). This tool will provide information to the public as well as document the current state of OST programs and sites across New Hampshire. NHAN plans to use this resource to communicate and advocate for funding and policy change that enhances access to high-quality programs and professional development opportunities. The data and tool will directly contribute to informed decision-making around OST care in New Hampshire in addition to being a resource for families to locate and connect with OST Programs.

[CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE](#)

It'll Be A Graveyard Splash!

It is Plunge Weekend at Hampton Beach. Saturday, February 10th brings the 16th Annual High School Plunge back to the beach. Special Olympics New Hampshire hits a major milestone on Sunday, February 11th with the 25th Annual Penguin Plunge.

Join us for the Silver Celebration of this amazing fundraiser. This year's theme is Halloween so the beach will be filled with witches, ghosts, black cats, and all things spooky. If jumping into the icy ocean waters in winter has been lurking on your bucket list, help us celebrate our anniversary by joining us at the beach!

Plus, a special Halloween TREAT just for you, simply register by Thursday, January 25th at 11:59 pm and have a donation of any amount on your page and you will be entered to win an iPad and apple pencil! [Click here to Register Today!](#)



If you'd like to support Special Olympics New Hampshire without getting wet there are plenty of volunteer opportunities to sign up for [here](#). Or just join us on the beach-side of the State Parks building at noon on either day. Spectators are welcome to cheer our daring plungers on! Hope to see you at the beach!





Special Olympics New Hampshire

For more information visit

<https://www.sonh.org/>



Cousineau Forest Products is a wood brokerage firm located in Henniker, New Hampshire. At this facility the Cousineau operate a concentration and processing yard for various forest products including chips, bark mulch, whole tree wood chips, biomass fuel, playground surfacing, pallets and clean wood waste.

Contact: Jim Donnelly for more information!

603-748-5176 or jim@cousineaus.com

Safety Fiber
All-natural Engineered Wood Fiber

**DURGIN
CROWELL**

Durgin and Crowell Lumber
603-763-2860
www.durginandcrowell.com
jonbaker@durginandcrowell.com
Certified Playground chips
ASTM F1292, ASTM F2075 & ASTM F1951-14
Delivered anywhere in New England

NHRPA Career Center

Looking for a new job?
Visit the NHRPA Career
Center and your new job
could be just a click
away!!!

[CLICK HERE](#)

NRPA News.....



Parks and recreation is vital to community health and well-being

Leading the nation to improved health and wellness through Parks and Recreation

[Read more...](#)



Equity at the Center

Our mission is to advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

[Read more...](#)



Top Trends in Parks & Recreation in 2024

Explore the latest trends and technology impacting parks and recreation.

[Read more...](#)



AI: Here and Now

Discover how the rise of artificial intelligence will impact the field of parks and recreation.

[Read more...](#)

THANKS FOR READING

I hope you enjoyed the NHRPA Rec Connect Newsletter. If you would like to submit an article, picture, advertisement or story for the spring newsletter please submit information by Friday, April 5th to executivedirector@nhrpa.com

Contact NHRPA:

Mail: NHRPA, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord, NH 03301

Executive Director: Kerry Horne, M.Ed. — executivedirector@nhrpa.com

