

Peters Township Parks & Recreation



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Parks & Recreation Annual Report Index

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From the Director



Mission Statement

The Parks and Recreation Department exists to provide meaningful recreation and leisure opportunities through program offerings and the provision of parks, special use areas and facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department wishes to create a positive relationship between staff, volunteers and the public through mutual respect and consideration.

In this report you will see some great accomplishments that happened during 2020, we finished the Playground and Shelter 2 replacement project, we awarded a contract for the Rolling Hills Park Phase 2 development, we hired a firm to begin the design of the Rolling Hills Park aquatic facility and much more. However, 2020 was a unique and challenging year to say the least.

We ended 2019 on a high note with increased participation numbers, new programs, a new Recreation Supervisor and high hopes for a prosperous 2020. The beginning of the year looked bright and we were charging ahead to exceed those expectations created by a successful 2019. But suddenly in March all of that changed. We closed down operation of the Parks and Recreation Department and the youth sports associations, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for what we thought would be two weeks which turned into three months. During that time on Facebook we provided daily activities for people to do at home to stay active and engaged... but it just wasn't the same. We were however, very fortunate that we had such nice weather during those months and that people were able to get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful parks and trail, we saw a significant increase in use.

In June we were able to re-open our department, but things looked different. We made many adjustments to how we operate; we implemented space occupancy limits which allows for social distancing but limited our class sizes, we required masks to be worn while participating in programs as well as in the common areas of the Recreation Center and the other spaces when not engaged in physical activity, we sanitized the room and equipment used before and after each class, we sanitized high touch areas in the facility twice daily in addition to the cleaning company, we adjusted how we schedule classes so that multiple classes are not starting or ending at the same time limiting the amount of people in the common areas at any given time, we hung signs encouraging healthy habits through the facility and in the parks, etc. But as we learned early on, 2020 would be ever changing and eventually masks would be mandated at all time while indoors regardless of activity. We rolled with the punches... Parks and Recreation professionals usually plan six months or a year in advance, but this year we were working a week or a month out not knowing what the next would bring. This in and of itself was a challenge and an adjustment for us.

Even at the end of 2020 we were still working on much shorter time frames but have become more used to not knowing what tomorrow will bring and being more prepared to face whatever it does. Even with all of these new changes and restrictions we were able to successfully run programs like summer camps and one day activities as well as summer concerts in the park, movies and even the Annual Fishing Derby in cooperation with the McMurray Rotary Club. I am proud of what our department was able to provide for the community without any major incidents.

Although 2020 was different than any year we have known, I would consider it a success considering the challenges we faced. We know that moving into 2021 we will continue to deal with those challenges that this pandemic has created, but hope that sooner than later we will be able to get back to normal and run all of our programs and special events the way we are used to. Most importantly, we look forward to watching the development of Rolling Hills Park and the opportunities it will offer for Recreation and our community.

**Parks & Recreation Director
Michele Harmel, CPRP**

Peters Township Parks



Peterswood Park

Peterswood Park (133 acres)

- New Outdoor Amphitheater
- 5 Ball Fields
- 4 Multi-Use Fields
- 1 Synthetic Turf Field
- 3 Playgrounds



Arrowhead Trail



Arrowhead Trail

- 3.5 miles paved surface trail
- Runs from Route 19 to Brush Run Rd

Tennis Center



Tennis Center

- 4 Har Tru Clay Courts
- 5 Deco Courts

Peters Lake Park



Peters Lake Park (189 acres)

- Natural Walking Trail
- Fishing Pier/Kayak Launch

Elm Grove Park



Elm Grove Park (14 acres)

- 1 Ball Field
- 1 Multi-Use Field

Venetia Park



Venetia Park (7 acres)

- 2 Ball Fields
- 1 Multi-Use Field

Rees Park



Rees Park (15 acres)

- 1 Ball Field
- 1 Multi-Use Field

Old Trail Park

Old Trail (7 acres neighborhood park)

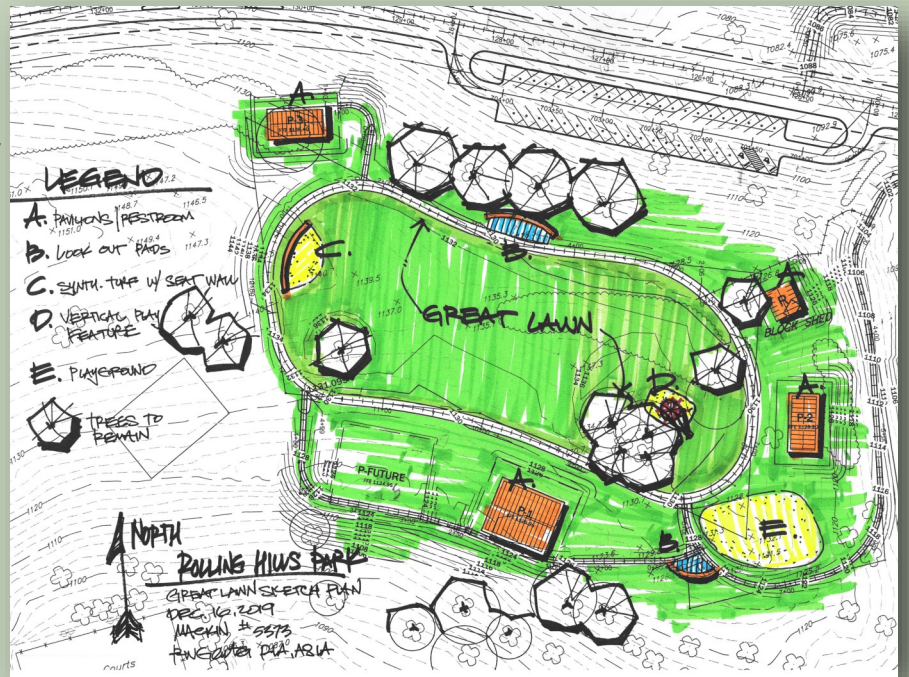
Rolling Hills Park

Rolling Hills (90 acres community park)

Phase 2 under contract

Aquatic Facility design in progress

In the Peters Township Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan that was completed in 2016 it identified that there was a need for additional park property on the western portion of the Township. Shortly after that plan was completed, the Township became aware that the former Rolling Hills Country Club was selling their property. This property is located in an area that would fulfill this need. The Township and the School District worked together to acquire the former Rolling Hills Country Club property with the intent to build a new High School on one half and develop the other as a community park to be named Rolling Hills Park. In 2018 Mackin Engineering completed the Master Plan for Rolling Hills Park.



ROLLING HILLS Park Development

The first obstacle that needed to be tackled was the main roadway that would connect from East McMurray Road to Center Church Road and would service both the High School and the park. This project was a joint effort between the School District and Township and was not free from challenge, but all worked out in the end. In 2020 after Rolling Hills Drive construction was underway, the Township went out to bid for the development of phase 2 Rolling Hills Park. Phase 2 includes the roadways, walking and biking paths (including connection to the Arrowhead Trail), infrastructure, a Park Maintenance Building as well as the Great Lawn area. The Great Lawn area includes three picnic shelters, a playground, a restroom facility, outlook areas and terminus features. Due to the unexpected cost of the treehouse type terminus feature, it was removed from this phase

of construction and will be built separately and hopefully partially funded by a grant. A contract for this project was executed in November with A. Liberoni, Inc. At the end of 2020 the company had begun mobilization, but were waiting on final NPDES permit to break ground. We anticipate the completion of this project and ribbon cutting Memorial Day 2022.

We look forward to all of the opportunities that this new park will offer not just for everyday use but for programming and some of our most popular special events as well as some new and exciting ones that we are planning.



Rolling Hills Park Aquatic Facility

An aquatic facility has always been a hot topic in Peters Township and one of the most requested facilities by the community members, including in the most recent Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan. The main constraint to building this type of facility has always been that we simply did not have property to properly house it. When the Township decided to purchase the Rolling Hills property for the purpose of a community park, this constraint no longer existed. When we hired Mackin Engineering to do a Master Plan for the park, they were instructed to dedicate space in the plan for an aquatic facility. Mackin completed this plan in 2018.

In 2020 a design team led by Kimmel Bogrette Architecture + Site was hired by the Township to design an aquatic facility for Rolling Hills Park. We established an Aquatic Facility Design Committee consisting of Parks and Recreation Board members, Council Members and Township Administration. We held our kick-off meeting in August of 2020. A very aggressive time-line for the project has been established with the intent to have a ribbon cutting for this facility Memorial Day 2022. The purpose for the expedited schedule was because Council really wanted to put something significant on the property so that the \$7.5 million investment in the property did not sit fallow and unused for a length of time. There is no other public facility in southwest Pennsylvania similar to what we are designing. This facility will not only service Peters Township residents, it will service our entire region, including Washington county and Southern Allegheny county. A market study was done to establish the need for such a facility in our area and the results show, overwhelmingly that we have the audience to support an aquatic facility of this nature. Below is an initial schematic design which is still a work in progress.



Peterswood Park Improvements

In 2018 the DCNR awarded Peters Township a matching grant in the amount of \$250,000 for the replacement of shelter 2 and the upper playground in Peterswood Park. We hired HRG to design the project and went out to bid in the summer of 2018. Unfortunately because one playground design was identified in the bid and the playground supplier for that design chose not to work with multiple contractors, the bidding process was negatively affected forcing us to make adjustments to the bid specifications and send the project out to bid yet again. This time we received a number of bids and we were able to select a contractor. We executed a contract in the summer of 2019.

The project was slow to start and we had some problems with our contractor throughout the process. Late summer 2020 we were able to open the playground while work on the shelter and ADA access was still in progress. With the COVID-19 pandemic still in full swing, it was so nice to finally open the playground and give the youth of the community an outlet during these difficult times.

By fall of 2020 the rest of the project was complete. Although the process of getting this project rolling and then dealing with issues throughout was a challenge, the final product was very nice and has been well received by the community.

As you can see in the before and after pictures the new layout provides so much more in addition to being more accessible. It is a great addition to Peterswood Park!



Peterswood Park Improvements

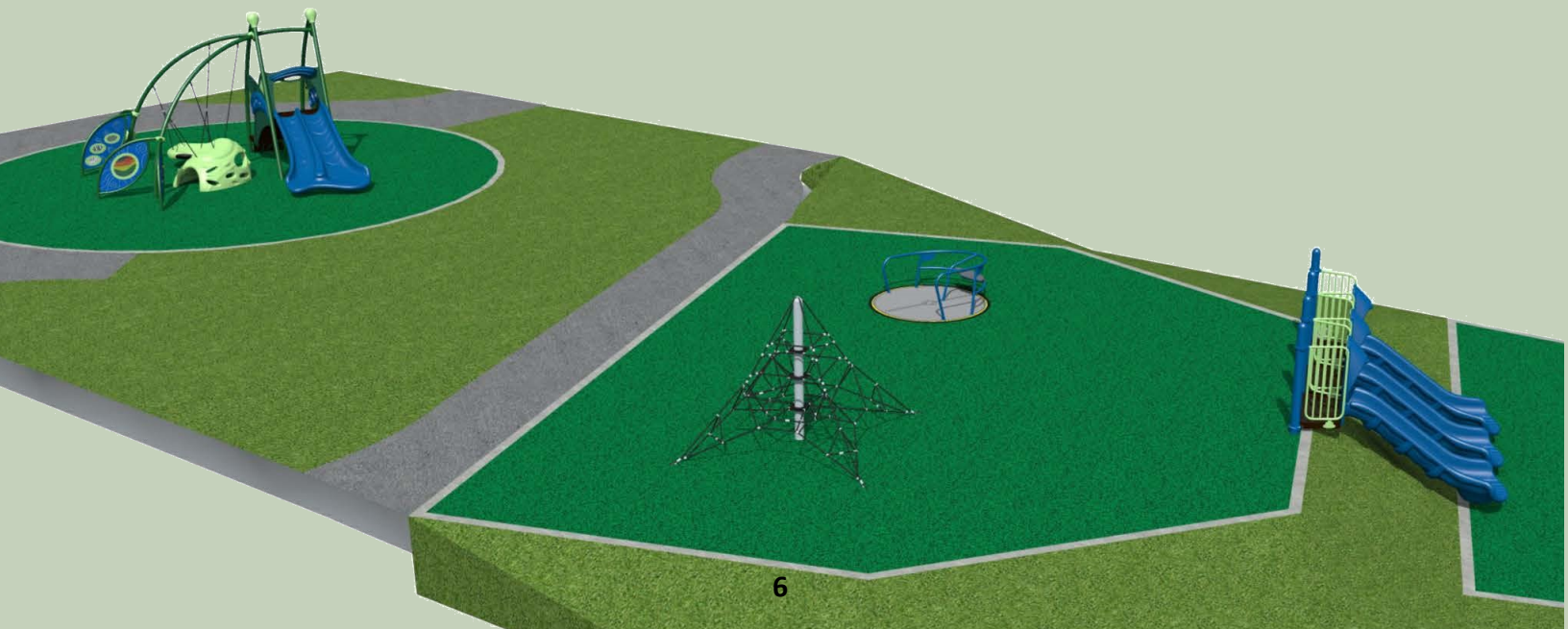
In 2008 JMT completed a master site plan for the expansion to Peterswood Park. Included in that plan was softball fields, a multi-purpose field, concession stand and restroom building, walking and biking paths with a connection to the Arrowhead trail and what they called a Tot Lot behind the concession stand and restroom building. In 2012 we held a ribbon cutting for the opening of the Park Expansion which included everything except the Tot Lot.

When we hired Pashek in 2016 to complete the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan, we asked them to identify as part of that plan all of the ADA improvements throughout our parks and facilities that would be necessary for us to be in full compliance. Since that plan was completed we have been working diligently to bring everything into compliance.

In 2019 the DCNR awarded us a matching grant in the amount of \$150,000 for construction of the new playground in the Peterswood Park Expansion which will complete everything identified in that master site plan, as well as complete the remaining ADA improvements throughout Peterswood Park. This brings us one step closer to having all of our parks accessible and compliant with the ADA requirements.

In 2020 we hired Mackin Engineering to design this project which includes; ADA improvements at Field 3 (next to the Recreation Center) Field 4 (near the green and gray playground), Hofbauer Field (football field), Field 5 (the turf field) and the new playground at the Park Expansion. In September we entered into a contract with Jeffrey Associates for the purchase of the playground equipment, the poured in place and the installation of both. We also went out to bid and awarded a contract in October with Murin & Murn for the grading and ADA improvements. By the end of 2020 we were finalizing the agreements and paperwork with anticipation of beginning construction after the first of the year. It is projected to be completed April 2021.

Below is a schematic of the new playground that will be built behind the concession stand and restroom building in the Park Expansion.



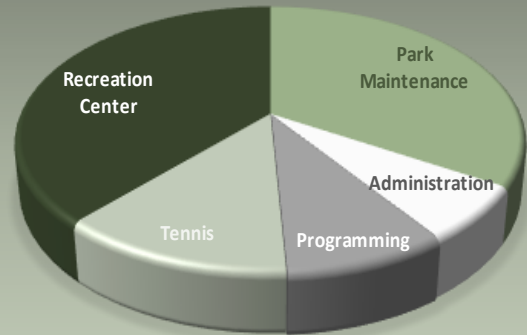
Administration

The Peters Township Parks and Recreation Department is made up of 7 full-time staff, 13 part-time staff, independent contractors, seasonal employees and volunteers. Our departmental budget is broken down into five categories of which you can see the 2020 expenditure chart to the right.

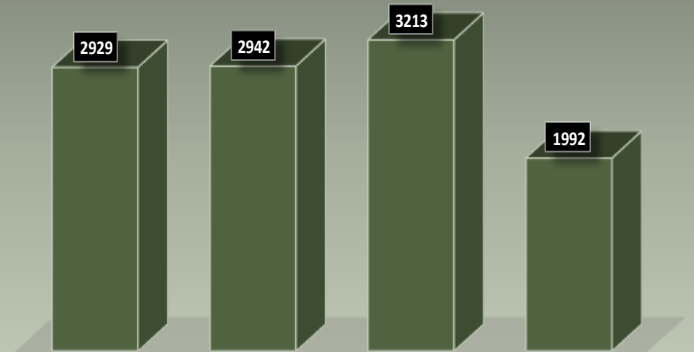
Included in the Administration portion of our department and budget are things such as office supplies, copy machine contracts, training and membership expenses. In 2020 the expenses for training was lower than normal because many of the annual conferences and training that we attend were cancelled due to the pandemic.

Michele Harmel, our Parks and Recreation Director had been selected to co-chair the annual Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Association annual conference. We started the planning and preparations in the summer of 2019. She was slated to leave on March 14, 2020 for Seven Springs where the conference was being held, and only a couple of short days before, the announcement was made that like many other things the conference was going to be cancelled. That was such a disappointment after all expended hard work and effort.

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY



PROGRAM REGISTRATION



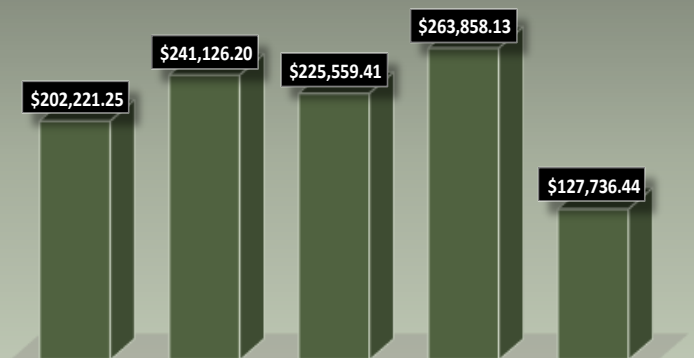
The tree main sources of advertising that we use in the Parks and Recreation Department is the bi-monthly InPeters Township Magazine, our email blasts and social media, specifically Facebook. The number of people that follow and like us on Facebook is a slow continuous climb. At the end of 2020 we had 3,303.

In 2020 we used this method of advertising even more because it was easy and convenient to get information out in our ever changing situation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike any other year we have know, we actually limited our advertising as well as registration because we had to limit our participation numbers to allow for appropriate social distancing.



Facebook was also instrumental in keeping our members and residents engaged while the Recreation Center was closed. Each day we would post different games, activities and crafts for people to do at home as well as some education information.

RECREATION REVENUES



Programming

Programming with Covid-19: A New Perspective

As 2020 progressed, we quickly learned that our day-to-day activities would be like no other. Covid-19 brought many challenges for us and made event planning unlike anything we have encountered thus far. This year pushed us to look beyond our normal procedures and events and encouraged us to look at things in a whole new perspective. Not only did we have to step back and revamp each program offered, in many cases we had to eliminate events altogether. This provided us the opportunity to move forward with new events, doing our very best to meet or exceed all state mandates with regard to social distancing and masks. We took it one day at a time, creating, and often re-creating programs and events that would still bring the community together in some way and our staff as well as the participants were grateful for these opportunities.

Although not ideal and certainly challenging, this year brought about new programs and planning ideas that will likely be used for years to come! We held numerous events throughout the year during the pandemic that were very successful, which are highlighted in the sections below.



Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat

Since we were not able to have our annual Trick or Treat Trail this year, we developed a new event, Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat! This was extremely popular and gave kids something fun to do for Halloween. The event took place at the top of Peterswood Park. We scheduled approximately 20 vehicles every fifteen minutes, which kept the flow of traffic moving at a manageable pace. With 300 kids driving by and 38 vendors (providing approximately 45 stops along the way), we knew we found the perfect alternative! The kids received lots of great treats and vendors were grateful for the opportunity to participate.

Escape Room

This year we partnered with students from the California University of Pennsylvania to put on a spooky, fun alternative to the Haunted Trail. The students helped plan the first in person, escape room held by the Peters Township Recreation Department. Escape the Rec Center invited 8 teams to compete against each other for a prize to the team that escaped the quickest! The room was sanitized in-between teams to create a safe, fun program.



The Unusual Hunt

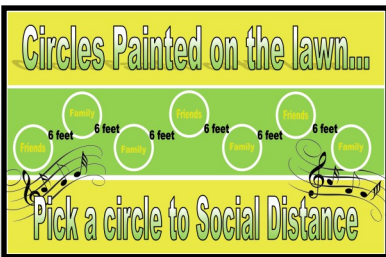
Our department in conjunction with the Peters Township Cable TV created a Halloween Movie titled “The Unusual Hunt.” With the help of some of our tried and true Haunted Trail volunteers who have helped through the years, we created a one of a kind experience unlike anything we have done before. We were disappointed we could not have the Haunted Trail this year, but enjoyed bringing out some spooky props for this special event.



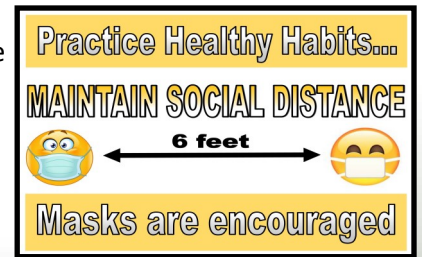
Amphitheater Events

When it comes to our events, the shining star of 2020 was without a doubt the outdoor amphitheater in Peterswood Park. With so many events cancelled, Peters Township gave residents something fun to look forward to. We knew it would be challenging to navigate, but we found creative ways to make it all happen while implementing social distancing measures. Events at the amphitheater resumed in July and continued into October. We successfully offered 10 concerts and 5 movie nights, which is amazing considering the circumstances. As heard from many, our concert line-up was one of the best yet, with great attendance at all of them. Friday Night Flicks welcomed families to enjoy movies under the stars. This year they also included the addition of classic movies geared towards older adults.

We were also able to continue offering yoga classes at the outdoor amphitheater well into October. This provided our instructors and participants with a safer alternative location while also freeing up class locations scheduled inside of the Community Recreation Center.



In July and August, we hosted the Senior Series at the amphitheater, featuring musicians John Sarkis from the Skyliners and Charlie Barth, an accomplished harmonica player. The Senior Series this year was sponsored by The Jim Dolanch Real Estate Team with Century 21 Frontier Realty.





Princess Ball

Before the pandemic closures hit, we were able to host our ever popular Annual Princess Ball (Father/Daughter Dance) in February. This program is so popular that we do very little advertising, and yet spaces for this fill up in only a few days. Our guests have a night to remember with dinner, music, pictures, and dancing.



Santa Express

Unable to offer our Annual Tree Lighting event, we had a Santa Express instead. Ho ho ho... Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted children as families drove up to get treat bags, cookies, crafts and to leave their letter for Santa Claus. With the help of the Peters Township Library and the Fire Department, we had approximately 280 children visit us! Following the event, we responded to around 120 children with letters from Santa. It was truly a night filled with magic and wonder.

Fishing Derby

Another annual event we were able to have, was the Fishing Derby with the McMurray Rotary. Although we had to keep registration smaller this year and make some minor changes, it was a huge success! Families had so much fun catching fish and winning prizes at Peters Lake Park.



Day Camps

This summer our residents were eager to get Peters Township youth back into some structured fun. Although day camp looked different this summer, the campers had a blast. Led by our full-time staff with the help of our summer intern, camps were offered for 4 weeks in July and August. All of our camps offered age-appropriate, themed activities, which include field games, sports, hikes, arts and crafts, and more. This year's weekly themes included Party in the USA, Splashtacular, Rainforest Adventures, and Under the Sea.

Senior Events

With many active senior citizens in our community, we provide numerous events to keep them entertained throughout the year. One long-standing program is our Senior Luncheons, which are typically held once a month. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were unable to offer luncheons from April through June, but made some adaptations and resumed them in July. Each event features food, activities, speakers, and entertainers. In the warm months, we moved outside and hosted picnics in the park. As the weather changed and we moved inside, we offered smaller group events called Senior Socials, which were a nice twist on our regularly offered luncheons. As previously mentioned we featured a Parking Lot Bingo and the Senior Series at the Amphitheater.



One Day Programs

With the elimination of some of our larger events, our Recreation Supervisors got busy and increased small group programming. Starting with our littlest participants, Preschool Programs offer age-appropriate, themed activities. From scavenger hunts to trips to outer space, children played games, made crafts, and went on adventures with our staff. We keep our elementary-aged children busy too! One of our more popular events is Kids Rec, which is held on days when they are not in school. With a variety of gym games, we get the kids moving and having fun with their friends. Also featured this year were Halloween Hoopla, Donut Pumpkins, and Cool Science, offering interactive, hands-on activities. For our bigger kids, we have Tween Night, which provides older children a night of fun and socialization with their friends. These one-day events allow children with opportunity to learn, play, and interact with their peers in a safe and organized setting.

This year we also introduced several family and adult programs, providing an educational resource to those in our community. In July we offered a Hike and Learn called Nature's Nasties where families went on a hike around Peters Lake and learned about some of the less desirable things found in nature. In September we coordinated with the Chartiers Creek Watershed Association and offered a free event entitled "Beyond Fish and Birds: Macros in the Lake." It was a beautiful evening and a great time was had by all in attendance. Backyard Birds was offered in November as an introduction to birding, with both adults and children participating. For adults only, we brought in certified appraiser Kurt Shaw from KDKA's Hidden Treasures to host "What's It Worth? Appraisal Fair." We had a fantastic turnout and are looking forward to offering this program in the future.

Some new programs that encouraged participants to get closer to our natural resources included Backyard Birds, Take a Hike, and Houseplant 101. Upon completion of the program, participants were equipped with the information to pursue these hobbies on their own and within the community. Programs that will build upon that knowledge and passion will be offered in 2021.



Donations and Sponsorships

In order to continue offering quality events for free or low cost, we count on the support of businesses and individuals in our community. The donations we received in 2020 include gift certificates, raffle items, food and drink items, in-kind services, and monetary support. Some events that receive these donations include Amphitheater Concerts and Events, the Fishing Derby, Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat, Santa Express, senior events, and more.

2020 Instructors

Instructor Based Programming

In 2020 we had 27 contracted instructors who offered classes through the year. These instructors were asked to overcome and accommodate so much due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Session one (January and February) was the only session that operated as usual. From the middle of March through the end of June no classes were held due to the mandated closure and the participants were refunded or given a credit for the classes that were not held. In July we were able to restart our classes and programs but with the new limitations and procedures in place, which the instructors helped to enforce. Regardless of the new limitation, the instructors were excited to come back and teach the students they missed.

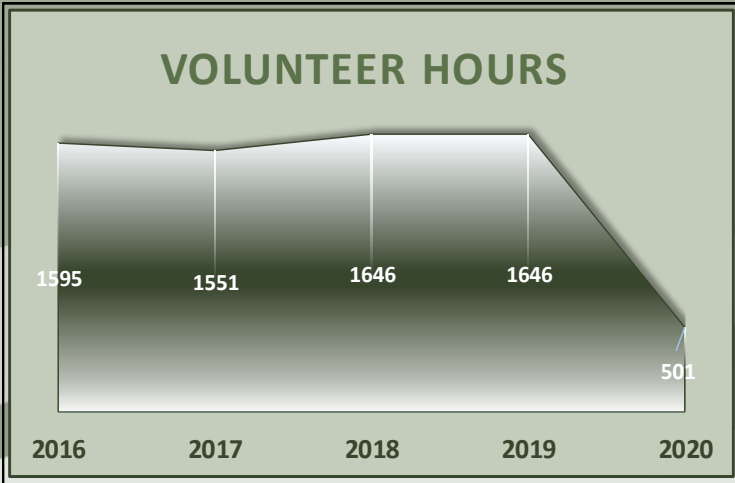
Our 8 – 14 year old youth programs really took off this year. Typically that age group is hard to program for, but this year they were some of our most well attended. The class that grew the most was our Volleyball Basics and Advanced Volleyball Basics that is taught by a township resident with a great background in volleyball. These two classes were full with 12 participants each for all the sessions we offered throughout the year and in most cases had a wait list. Because of the popularity, our instructor also started to offer one day Volleyball Gameplay which allowed her to organize teams and games for a few hours. The Gameplay is structured for the students to be able to use what they learn in the Basics and Advanced Basics classes. Volleyball has really taken off and we look to continue it in 2021.

Adult Volleyball.....	Dave Davis
Bridge.....	Joan Knoll
Card Group.....	Rae Helman
Crafting with Cricut.....	Allison Viron
Dance It Out.....	Ashley Wilson
Dog Classes.....	Paula Shimko
Insanity / P90X.....	Ann Bondi
Insanity 30.....	Jessica Berardino Cline
Karate.....	C.S. Kim Karate
Kids Cooking.....	Sarah Wray
Kids Yoga.....	Anita Dextrateur
Parent/Infant Motor Skills.....	Patty Ross
Pickleball Instruction.....	Laurel Heilman
Science Preschool.....	Mad Science
Silversneakers.....	Suzie Bode/ Ann Brucker
Silversneakers.....	Gerrie Delaney
Theater Classes.....	Lorra Brannen
Total Body Sculpting.....	Jennifer Alexander
Track for Kids.....	Victoria Kern
Volleyball Basics.....	Erin Graybill
Walk 15.....	Phyllis Miller
Yoga.....	Susan Volkar

Turning to a 2020 adult class that has grown in popularity Cricut Crafting Class. This class is taught by an instructor with an extensive background in how to use a Cricut machine. The instructor will create projects for the students work on each week. This class consistently grew in each session we offered. We are consistently trying to offer new and different classes to expand our offering to the community each year.



Volunteers



	# of Volunteers	# of Hours
Community Day Meetings	8	10
Princess Ball	11	39
Fishing Derby	7	21
Halloween Movie	9	40
Drive Thru Trunk or Treat	85	298
Tween Night	8	20
Kids Rec	4	9
Cool Science	1	2
Beyond Fish & Birds	4	8
Santa Express	4	9
Senior Luncheons	6	11
Senior Series	1	4
Parking Lot Bingo	15	30
Totals:	163	501

Many of our programs and events depend upon the help of volunteers. We are so grateful for the hands-on support we receive from our community at our programs. From big to small events, our dedicated volunteers are right there with us making it all happen. We are also thankful for the businesses and organizations who volunteer, donate, and offer their services throughout the year.

Pictured below are the wonderful volunteers that helped us out at the 2020 Princess Ball. At the end of the night we collect all of the helium balloons used to decorate and hand them out to the girls as they leave. It is one of their favorite parts of the evening.



Community Recreation Center



Located just inside Peterswood Park, the Recreation Center is two full sized basketball courts, a tenth of a mile elevated walking/running track, multi-purpose room with a small kitchen and bathrooms, conference room, classroom, fitness room with mirrored walls and wood floor and a concession stand that services both inside the center as well as the baseball field adjacent to the center. The Community Recreation Center is also home to the Parks and Recreation Department staff and offices.

In 2020 the Recreation Center went through some changes due the COVID-19 pandemic. The year started out great then took a turn, no one expected. In March the Governor mandated that Community Recreation Center and all of its offerings to close for over two months. During the closure the building was prepared to house first responders in case they were exposed to or became ill with COVID-19. In June the Recreation Center was able to open with many new procedures to help prevent the spread of the virus, but being open was a step in the right direction. Open gym became even more popular especially during the time when activities through the schools were not permitted. An issue that became apparent as open gym continued, was the lack of social distancing and compliance of the mandate to wear masks at all times, regardless of activity that went into effect in November. Some of the new procedures include; new capacity limits placed on each space to allow for proper social distancing, additional sanitation of high touch areas throughout the day, sanitizing of the room and equipment before and after each class and adjusted schedule for classes and activities to reduce the amount of people in the common areas at any given time. To further the effort to help prevent the spread we installed 3 touchless hand sanitizing stations and signs were hung throughout the facility to encourage social distancing, use of masks and proper hygiene. Although faced with new limitations and procedures our staff, instructors and members were willing to go above and beyond to keep the facility open and make the best of it. Unfortunately, the year ended with another 3 week closure and once again all classes and activities had to cease.

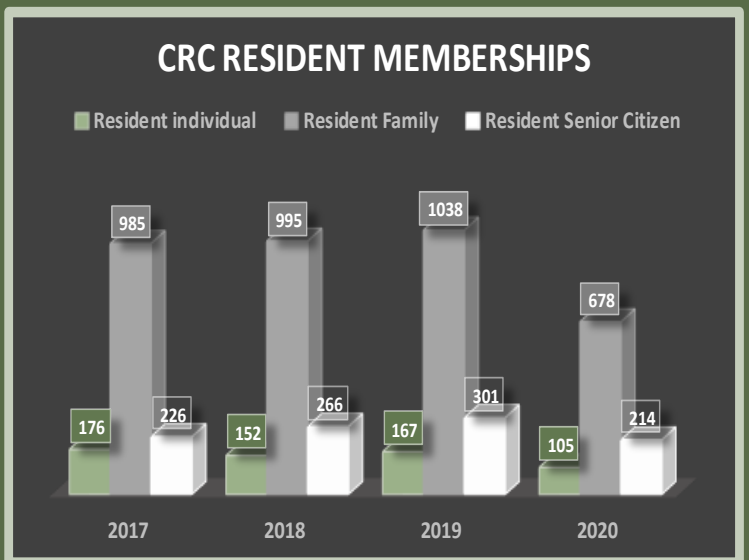
New Camera and Scanner at Front Desk

Anyone that has a membership at the Community Recreation Center can you tell you what a challenge it could be to scan your card to enter the facility. With these scanning issues, it often became necessary for the staff to take the card and assist the member. In 2020 we purchased a new scanner that would make this process more user friendly. Not only does the scanner make scanning the bar code on the membership card much easier which eliminates the necessity for the staff to handle the cards, it also reads a bar code from a picture of their membership card on their smart phone. So many people complained about having to carry their cards with them to enter... but no one comes without their phone. A new camera was also purchased to replace our old broken camera which also improved the image on the membership cards. These two improvements have been well received by our members.



New equipment for Recreation Staff

The replacement of some field equipment that staff uses was a big hit this summer at our camps and programs. With the new restrictions this year we bought dots for day camper to use. The dots were spread out appropriately distanced so that it was easy for the participants to know where to stand when out in the field. In addition, to the dot's new dodgeballs, a cart for basketballs, and a few new wiffleball bats.



Tennis

We look forward to having a more “normal” 2021 year. The fact remains that Peters Township Tennis Center is a very unique facility in Western Pennsylvania. Providing our players with an extensive list of programs including the above mentioned Tournaments, Junior and Adult Programs as well as Pickle Ball and Triples events makes our Tennis Center a great choice for the avid tennis player as well as the many beginners that we present this great game of a lifetime to.



The challenges for the 2020 Peters Township Tennis Center were many as the Tennis center operation was greatly affected by the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. We closed our facility on Sunday March 15th and reopened on Saturday June 20th. As cases of COVID-19 presented itself throughout the community the Tennis Center had to respond by restricting play by affected players. This meant that when one of our schools closed due to COVID-19 we were not allowed to have students from that school participate in any of our instructional programs. This happened with several schools at varying times and we quickly notified parents and students each time and reorganized our programs. Needless to say, because of the mandated shut down weeks and months, and with several schools periodically closing, our revenues were down significantly.

To compound financial matters for the Tennis Center, when we closed in March the tennis bubble was still up. The bubble is usually removed at the End of April, but due to restrictions by the Governor, we were not able to have the more than 40 workers to removed the bubble. This restriction pushed the bubble removal date to June 17th. The cost of powering and heating the bubble ranges from \$3,000 to \$9,000 per month. This meant that we had to continue to pay our utility bills in March, April, May and part of June and December when there was no revenue coming in.



The Tennis Staff did an impressive job implementing the newly created protocols created by the Director of Park and Recreation as recommended by the state. The staff learned the protocols and in utilizing the protocols we continued to operate in a very safe environment. Later in the year (November) we were mandated to wear masks on the court in addition to already wearing masks in the pro shop. There were many complaints but again the tennis community responded well and players got accustomed to wearing masks as they played.

We were able to hold our January and August USTA Tennis Tournaments but we did have to cancel our June USTA Tennis Tournament and our Thanksgiving and Christmas

Holiday Tournaments. We look forward to running these Tournaments in 2021.



Tennis lessons, Junior Programs and Adult Programs were also affected by the Coronavirus closures. These 3 combined for our most significant revenue losses throughout the 2020 season.



Park Maintenance

2020 started much like most other years. The parks crew was involved with their roles in winter snow removal. Regular snow routes as well as the Arrowhead Trail and all of its accesses and park steps, sidewalks, parking lots and patios were maintained for the safety of the users. With less than average snowfall the parks crew stayed busy with Police station renovations and replacing the aged steps from shelter 4 to Hofbauer Field. Other projects during this time were the removal of the playground at Old Trail, a new bench at the park expansion, an additional guardrail at the new Hofbauer parking lot and bleacher replacement at Field 1. Then on March 20th things changed.



As the COVID 19 pandemic was affecting the country the Public Works crew was told to stay home while a plan was conceived to safely maintain our facilities. The crew returned to work on April 6 with different starting times and separate sites to report to focusing on social distancing. The parks crew was able to continue the usual Spring/Summer routine of mowing and mulch bed maintenance. The parks are mowed once a week and athletic fields twice a week when possible. Mulch beds are weeded, edged, mulched and treated with pre emergent. As the summer nears the crew is usually busy opening restrooms and water fountains for summer activities but instead, this year we were closing playgrounds and the skate park for safety. Although unfortunate, the lack of activity allowed us to do some extensive field maintenance that we usually can't do this time of year.



On June 5th we got some good news. The crew was able to open all the seasonal restrooms, the playgrounds and the skate park. COVID-19 awareness signs and reminders were placed throughout the parks, pavilions, restrooms, dugouts, etc. In addition to our regular cleaning routine the restroom cleaning protocol was adjusted to sanitize all commonly touched surfaces including sinks, mirrors, dispensers, restroom partitions and door handles much more frequently. Also as a result of the virus, we saw an increase of usage on the trail and Peters Lake Park that required us to increase our focus on these areas. Extra trash cans were needed as well as more frequent maintenance. Concerts were also very popular, the crew painted 10 foot circles spaced six feet apart every week to encourage social distancing at these events.



Tree Removal



Tree Removal

Although most of the large summer events the parks crew helps to support were cancelled, such as Community Day, Touch a Truck and the Haunted Trail, the usual summer maintenance of mowing, weed trimming, field maintenance and tree removal continued. In addition, the parks crew stayed busy working to finish up the new playground and shelters 2 and 3. In anticipation of the opening the crew added metal fascia to the shelters, installed two water fountains, trash cans, poured concrete sidewalks and pads, installed a grill and electrical service at these locations, as well as signage and benches.



Shelter 2 Fascia



Shelter 3 Fascia



Shelter 3 Concrete

As we moved through fall towards winter, we winterized seasonal restrooms and water fountains. Year end maintenance was performed on the athletic fields. Snow plows, spreaders and trucks were prepared for the upcoming winter and were put to early use with an unusual amount of December snow.

Some 2020 park highlights include the replacement of the safety net between baseball fields 1 and 2, replacement of the bridge deck spanning the spillway at Peters Lake Park, Landscaping the Veterans Memorial at the Municipal Building, continuing trash can upgrades throughout the parks, created a new safe access to field 5 and the purchase of a new front deck Z mower.



Field 5 Access



Bridge Deck Replacement



Veterans Memorial



Front Deck Z Mower



Trash Cans

Parks and Recreation Board

The Peters Township Parks and Recreation Board is an advisory board to advise and recommend Peters Township Council in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Director on policies and practices, promote recreation and park services, participate in initiation, review and recommending development and monitors the compliance from the sports associations.

When the Township decided to move forward with the design of the Rolling Hills aquatic facility, a committee was established to help guide the decision for design and use of the facility. Four of the seven Parks and Recreation Board Members were appointed to participate on this committee along with three Council Members as well as administrative staff. The four members on the committee include, Pat Airhart, Jeff Crummie, Brittany Smith and John Hilzendeger.

The Parks and Recreation Board spends a significant amount of time reviewing the documentation from our 10 youth sports associations and dealing with issues as they arise. As stated in their by-laws they feel strongly that the purpose of its recreational sports programs is to encourage and develop in children a love for sports in a safe and positive environment, while teaching skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

The Peters Township Parks and Recreation Board is made up of 7 community members. Vince resigned his position on the Board in October of 2020 so they will advertise for a replacement to be appointed in 2021. Vince was one of three board members that are recommended by the School Board and approved by our Township Council. The intent of method was to have involvement and input by someone with ties to the School District because we work so closely with them by sharing facilities, fields and of course common participants.

In 2020 the board worked with the Parks and Recreation Director on reviewing policies for the purpose of creating a departmental policy manual. All future policies will be added to the manual and recorded as Council adopts them.



Board Members

Listed from left to right including years of service:

Bill Kinavey— 4 Years of service

Ed Rafferty—6 years of service

Vince Ripepi—2 years of service

Brittany Smith (front)—5 years of service

Pat Airhart, Chairman—14 years of service

Jeff Crummie, Vice Chairman—12 years of service

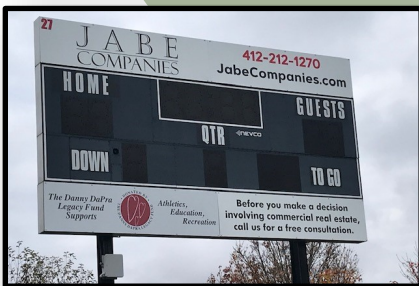
John Hilzendeger—6 years of service

Sports Associations



There are 10 youth sports associations that the Parks and Recreation Department works directly with. Each of those sports associations has its own board and by-laws by which they are governed. Each association is required to provide the Parks and Recreation required documentation and follow our policies in order to utilize our fields and facilities as well as the School District's.

In 2020 all of the sports associations were affected to some degree and some had to cancel everything. The associations that were actually able to have activities, were asked to create "Return to Play Guidelines". Having each group create their own guidelines allowed them to take ownership of them, which is a very important part of enforcement. The guidelines were submitted to the Township for review and we provided recommended changes or additions. Once approved they were able to begin. In the fall when school was back in session, we required all sports associations to halt any and all activities for any students in a school that was closed due to positive cases, for the duration of the closure. The purpose of the school closures are to provide separation of the students to help prevent transmission of the virus.



Scoreboard advertising is one way for sports associations to raise money. In 2020 we went out to bid for advertising on Hofbauer Field scoreboard and received 2 bids. We were able to accommodate space for both of the bidders. The new signs were received and hung on the sign in the fall of 2020. The proceeds for that advertising went to the Football and Lacrosse associations. Most of the scoreboards are paid for and installed by the sports associations.



Model Railroad Club

In 2019 with the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board and approval by Council the Model Railroad Club was now to be acknowledged as a Parks and Recreation program. The Program will continue as is at the Venetia School under the direction of retired Police Officer Dave Stanton's DARE. This program is a collaborative effort produced by law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents, and community to offer an educational program to reduce violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and to build individual self-esteem. The student members are in grades from 3 through 12 and have been involved with the D.A.R.E. program in school.



Holiday Railroad Display at Washington Crown Center

Here are a few photos from the award ceremony at the layout with Mr. Larry Maggi...one of our local county commissioners. They honored the group with a very nicely framed Public Service Award for their efforts and monetary donations to many Washington, PA area charities in recent years...

It was a landmark date indeed for all of the volunteers and everyone who has helped through the years. It verified the initial mission of many years ago whereby the club wanted to provide holiday cheer & happy memories to everyone.

For a long time that the efforts were appreciated and enjoyed by thousands, but the receipt of this award in these confusing times we are all living through is very much appreciated.

Hopefully being the recipient of this award will help generate some new interest to folks who have yet to learn about this club or visit the annual Holiday railroad village display. Congratulations to all who have made this possible.



Peters Township Parks and Recreation

2020 Participation Comparison

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
EXERCISE							
Ballroom Dancing	0	10		21	13	8	30
Belly/Cardio Dancing	42	94	91	88	16	7	
Body Sculpt	71	108		26		75	
Cardio (multiple classes)	42	149	154	248	197	176	145
Women's Self Defense	0		2	5	5		
Classic Step	0					51	26
Classic Aerobics	0					19	122
Core and More / Mommy & Me	0			6	27	41	
Decorating	0	2					
Interval Training	23	135	48			35	
Kick Boxing /Cardio Kick	0		13	13	43	55	69
Boxing Classes	0	10	5				
Pickleball	51	120	16		22	143	59
Pilates (4)	0		15	28	53	52	28
Piyo	0			5	40		
Power Sculpt / Hardbody	0		58	10	27		271
Silver Sneakers	206	367	214	240	151	230	264
Step It Up	0						42
Super Sculpt/Insanity	27	51	52	99	79	67	6
Tai Chi	0	2	23	29	21	13	10
Volleyball	44	91	98	99	95	62	48
Yoga (multiple classes)	210	386	338	353	308	334	310
Zumba	209	414	445	549	552	556	632
Exercise Totals	925	1,939	1,572	1,819	1,649	1,924	2,062
FIFTY-FIVE +							
Fall Festival / Flu Shots	13	30	25	29	53	38	156
Fifty Five Alive (AARP Driving)	0	68	57	48	53	60	6
Back to Basic	39	84	66	60			
Zumba Gold	34	60	76	68	70	37	
Luncheons	291	428	423	372	319	302	217
Senior Series	30	100	85				
Trips	0	257	200	264	206	0	109
Fifty-Five Totals	407	1,027	932	841	701	437	488
HOLIDAY EVENTS							
Egg Hunt/Bunny Hop	0	180	204	122	110	84	114
Frosty's Funhouse	0	0			21	14	35
Celebrate the Lake	0	40	100				
Haunted Trail	0	2,678	1,831	2,105	1,259	1,165	1,253
Princess Ball	173	173	166	161	158	149	148
Tree Lighting *Santa Express*	280	550	600		150	200	500
Holiday Events Totals	453	3,621	2,901	2,388	1,698	1,612	2,050

Peters Township Parks and Recreation

2020 Participation Comparison

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
INSTRUCTIONAL - YOUTH							
Baking/Cooking	42	15			3		4
Baseball Skills Camp	0						
Behave, Make Impressions	0						4
Choi Kwang Do /Karate	31	48	37	34	7	10	
Dance Hip Hop	0	38	38		62		
Engineering	0			4		6	
Fun Fitness & Sport	0			19	5		
South Arts	0						
Speed Conditioning	0				13		
Youth Volleyball	175	9					
Holiday Events Totals	248	110	75	57	90	16	8
INSTRUCTIONAL - ADULT							
Adult Crafts / Decorating	26	28					
Dance classes	0			2			13
Dog Obedience	15	33	19	31	24	57	63
Getting Organized	0			10			
Hypnosis / Positive Thinking	0					3	
Photography	0		7				3
Plant Based	4				4		
South Arts	0						
Sports Monster	0	50	80				
Total Body Fitness	0					6	
Ukrainian Egg	0		0	0			
Instructional Totals	45	111	106	43	28	66	79
PRE-SCHOOL / Infant							
Basketball for Children	0					42	43
Choi Kwang Do / Karate	33	43	29	63	35	9	39
Fairy Tale Princess	0			0			
Frozen Party	0			0			9
Fun with Dance/Ballet	0	19		0	8	13	7
In-House programs	219	170	168	95	142		
Kids Yoga	0	14					
Motorskills Development	0	2					
Pre-School Play/Open Gym	0		25	0			5
Pre-School Sports	0	6		26			
Pre-School Science	21	14	13	11			
Tumblers Beginners	0			0			
Zumba Kids	0			0			7
Pre-School Totals	273	268	235	195	185	64	110
SPECIAL EVENTS							
Antique Appraisal	26				29		

Peters Township Parks and Recreation

2020 Participation Comparison

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Community Day	0	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500	900	3,700
Amphitheater Events	2790	3,990	2,645	3,445	190	1,120	700
Fishing Derby	42	119	81	70	77	49	65
Super Hero Night	0	107	84	31	42		
Movie Night	360	471	475	16	33		
Touch a Truck	0	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Trick or Treat Trail	300	299	302	225	246		
Special Events Totals	3,518	9,186	7,587	8,487	5,317	3,269	5,665
SPORTS							
Baseball	884	1,043	1,290	1,179	1,806	2,103	2,013
Basketball	1590	816	1,025		620	740	1,017
Cheerleading	176	206	220	200	212	220	314
Coach's Clinic	0				10	75	33
Flag Football	0						60
Football	96	97	88	132	119	125	156
Football Camp	0	64			33	75	111
Girls Lacrosse	0	98	80	72	78	95	155
Girls Lacrosse Camp	0						55
Lacrosse *no season 2020*	0	132	108	84	97	114	291
Lacrosse Camp *no season 2020	0	51					
Soccer	921	1,958	3,180	2,540	2,157	1,985	2,013
Soccer Camp	0	177	177	131	133	167	
Softball	89	356	370		282	404	492
Softball Clinic	0		24		82	82	
Swim	119	156	300	145	145	111	125
Learn to Swim	0	170		43	132	348	291
Wrestling	0	96	73	81	74	74	65
Sports Totals	3,875	5,420	6,935	4,607	5,980	6,718	7,191
SUMMER CAMPS							
Dance Camp (7-11 years)	0			13	10	13	
Chess Camp	0						10
Cooking Camp	0	15					
Dance Camp	0						
Day Camp	21	38	19	50	122		27
Fun Fitness Camp	0						14
Playground Pals	24	57	72	87	61	54	56
Science Camp	9		10	5			
Sports Camp	24			50	20	59	
Theater Camp	15	23	10	16			
Summer Camp Totals	93	133	111	221	213	126	107
TEENS							
Teen / Tween programs	55	39	77				

Peters Township Parks and Recreation

2020 Participation Comparison

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Teen Totals	55	39	77	0	0	0	0
TENNIS							
Memberships	284	325	314	371	431		23
Adult Clinics	816	1,017	1,053	1,200	1,177		352
Junior Development Clinics	711	1,065	607	986	719		381
Lessons	1544	2,016	2,285	2,735	2,233		902
Match Play	179	116	137				
League	32	27	5				
Court Time	1337	1,477	2,546	2,171	2,011		377
Tournaments	57	300	155	197	168		68
Tennis Totals	4,960	6,343	7,102	7,660	6,739	0	2,103
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER							
Drop-In	8,441	12,009	13,060	13,320	10,085	10,656	11,169
Rental	17,605	28,384	26,374	23,735	27,306	20,210	21,086
CRC Totals	26,046	40,393	39,434	37,055	37,391	30,866	32,255