

# CITY OF KINGSTON

## Parks and Recreation Department

kgilfeather@kingston-ny.gov



Steven T. Noble, Mayor

Kevin D. Gilfeather, Superintendent

---

### City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Department 2017 Summary

Staff: 13 full-time  
5 part-time (1 program and 4 maintenance)  
Approximately 75 seasonal staff, including: laborers; park program; tennis; collectors at Andretta pool and lifeguards

Leadership: Kevin Gilfeather, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation  
Contact Information: (845) 481-7333 / [kgilfeather@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:kgilfeather@kingston-ny.gov)  
More information at: [www.kingstonparksandrec.org](http://www.kingstonparksandrec.org)

2017 budget - \$2,144,850

#### Department Functions:

Our mission is to “Create Community through People, Parks & Programs” and this is accomplished by developing, organizing and implementing a large variety of recreational, leisure and educational nature-based activities, programs and events that meet the needs of all age ranges and populations in the City of Kingston and our surrounding neighboring towns. Activities and programs are available for individuals from pre-school to school age to young adults and active older adults. These programs, activities and events are conducted in the City’s 11 beautiful parks, 3 community centers, 1 of only 4 Hudson River beach fronts, at the Andretta Pool; and at the Forsyth Nature Center facility. The maintenance staff is responsible for approximately 150 acres of park land, in addition to the maintenance of the community centers and pool throughout the calendar year, and for working with the program staff to provide all of the activities, special events and respected programs that the department conducts.

#### 2017 Accomplishments

##### *Activities, Programs, and Events*

- More than 7,710 people were served through registered programs, activities and events
- There were over 50,000 visits to the Forsyth Nature Center by local residents & people touring the area from throughout New York State and beyond
- 168 permits for park rentals were issued for family picnics, anniversaries and birthday parties
- Over 485 youth ages 6-14 years old enjoyed a summer of fun participating in the Summer Parks Program, Junior Naturalist Program, tennis and swim lessons, and basketball camp
- 149 adult sports teams, with 1,650 young and active adults, participated in women’s and men’s softball, co-ed beach volleyball, fall/winter indoor volleyball, and over 30 basketball
- 200 people participated in 4 bus trips to Broadway shows, Lake George, Mets baseball and the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City
- 2,610 school-age children learned about the wide range of environmental activities and how to become a steward of making sure their community can make the “reduce, reuse, recycle” concept a reality

- 103 volunteers were recruited to assist the Department in providing programs & services in our youth basketball, youth flag football, youth swim lessons, and after-school mentoring programs, as well as to provide tours of our Forsyth Nature Center facility and planting flowers at the entrance of each park in September
- The Department spearheaded a number of City special events that included: the Kingston Earth Fair & Expo; the “Love Your Parks” community bike ride; the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Kingston Kayak Festival; the Senior Picnic at Rotary Park; the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Children’s Day Parade; the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Forsyth Nature Center Fall Festival with our “Friends of the Forsyth Nature Center” not for profit partner; and Boo at the Zoo
- Kingston was host to the 2017 Northeast Gold Cup BMX event at Kingston Point Park BMX track in September, which drew 1,750 riders, ages 2 to 61 years old, and approximately 5,000 visitors from 11 states and the provinces of Ontario & Ottawa
- The Department reestablished school holiday program offerings, including a successful spring break program which was attended by 13 youth, ages 9 through 12
- The Department staff worked together to provide 3 families with a total of 8 children a Christmas to remember with the donation of gifts to open on Christmas Day and grocery store gift cards for the families to enjoy a Christmas dinner
- The Department received a \$5,000 donation from Ron Woods to assist in providing 70 youth, ages 6-13 years old, the opportunity to enjoy a 7-week summer camp experience at Hasbrouck and Hutton parks

### *Facilities*

- The “Ron Woods Tennis Court Complex” at Forsyth Park was completed in July as the second part of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Forsyth Improvement Grant. This renovation included re-surfacing, re-lining, and re-painting of the court surface and new exterior fencing
- To minimize the amount of paper products purchased, a total of 12 new energy efficient hand dryers were installed at the Andy Murphy Neighborhood Center, Everette Hodge Community Center, Rondout Neighborhood Center and Stone Building at Hasbrouck Park
- A new roof and skylights over the gymnasium was installed at the Rondout Neighborhood Center
- 11 new cooking grills were installed in various park facilities for the benefit of the public
- 3 new pickleball courts were built at Loughran Park
- The Department was awarded a \$52,700 Hudson River Estuary grant for ADA improvements at Kingston Point Beach
- The Department purchased a electrical vehicle for staff use, continuing our efforts to reduce the need of fossil fuel sources
- The Department secured donated funds for and purchased 10 disc golf course baskets as the first phase in creating a 9-hole disc golf course within our park system

## 2018 Goals

- Complete the development of the Department brochure to be available online and in Spanish for the public
- Expand our community program offerings with new initiatives to include a young adult (21-35 age range) Adventure Club that will explore all of the wonders of the Hudson Valley, partnering with the Chamber of Commerce's YUP program and offering kayaking
- Coordinate a community 5k walk/run with the proceeds to be donated to veterans
- Complete the re-grading of the Block and Kingston Point softball fields
- Replace the roof and the pool filter at the Andretta pool in time for the summer season
- Launch a "park photo contest," in which the submitted photos of our beautiful park & recreational facilities can be viewed on our website and Facebook page
- Continue to provide high school and college age individuals the opportunity to work with the people the department serves
- Identify funding sources to give the Andy Murphy Neighborhood Center a much needed interior face lift
- Continue to be the leader in innovative and traditional recreational programming in our area