



Letter from the Director: Spring 2019

The Saco Parks and Recreation Department has worked extremely hard to continue our mission, creating and providing active and passive recreational opportunities to promote social, cultural and physical well-being and improve the quality of life for all present and future Saco residents and its visitors. We strive to provide safe well-maintained parks, facilities, beaches and a healthy Urban Forest in addition to professional high-quality programs and services that respond to changing needs within our community.

At SPR, we strive to ensure that we are truly building a community through People, Parks and Programs. On the parks side of our department, we oversee 640 acres of land of which 143 acres are maintained. The city has 6 major recreational parks and athletic fields, 16 neighborhood parks, and many trails systems throughout the city. We have been named a Tree City USA city for the past 8 years and last fall, our department was recognized nationally by Senator Angus King for this designation. A major project for parks in spring 2019 is the Saco Middle School Tennis court, which will be reopening later this spring, as well as the addition of the 6 new pickleball courts at Memorial Field located behind C.K. Burns School. We are excited to have these courts back up and usable again.

In recreation, we have added 19 new programs which brings the department up to 70 programs this past last year. Participation in programs such as special events, summer camp, After the Bell, and sports programs has continued to grow. The SENIORity program is extremely popular with many trips selling out within minutes of registration opening, as well as weekly exercise drop-in classes, monthly breakfasts and our newest offering of educational lunch and learns. Looking ahead to summer, we are excited to continue our popular summer camp programs for grades K-8, look forward to the fifth season of the Twin City Theater Academy, and are counting the days for beach weather and the return of our lifeguards who oversee the beaches at Bayview and Kinney Shores.

I am thankful that I work with dedicated professionals who take pride and love what they do to ensure that the Saco Parks and Recreation Department will continue to achieve the highest quality of programs, parks, and playing fields for the citizens of Saco. The Saco Parks and Recreation Department would not be as successful as we are today without the great staff that work for the department.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sommer, Director of Saco Parks and Recreation Department