

Report of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Our Mission Statement: Dedicated to planning and providing recreational activities through open space and facilities for the Fremont Community including children, adults, and senior citizens.

Fremont Parks and Recreation had a great year, despite all the Covid restrictions. We added three new Commission members Debbie Caputo, Maria Knee and Michael Rydeen to join our already seasoned board members Michelle Gallant and Nancy Murray. This wonderful group of volunteers has lots of ideas and events for the future. Here are some of the great things we accomplished this year.

This past March with help from the Easter Bunny, Fremont Parks and Recreation delivered over 4,000 eggs to 194 children. The Easter Bunny loved hopping around town personally delivering eggs full of candy and little toys to 106 homes. The team was very creative and tried something different this year because of Covid and it was much appreciated by all recipients.



Fremont Parks and Recreation is trying to bring back old traditions. On May Day, (May 1st), we delivered little May Day flower baskets to 44 Fremont residents. This tradition is meant to bring a small and good fortune to those such as an elderly person, someone sick, or even someone that was having a difficult year. This tradition was popular through the 19th and 20th centuries, where people would leave a paper basket or cone containing spring flowers and sweets on each other's doorsteps, usually anonymously. Please contact Parks and Recreation if you know someone to add to the list.

<https://www.almanac.com/content/what-may-day>

On Saturday, May 8th, Parks and Recreation organized the Fremont Town Wide Yard Sale. We had 21 yard sales on the map. This is a fundraiser for Fremont

Parks and Recreation, to hopefully help fund a pavilion at the Town ball fields in the future.

The Fields at Memorial Park were open all season and a great resource for families still locked down from Covid. We observed the State's best practices in terms of signage and masks, and

families and youth were happy to be able to be outside! In some of the downtimes when FAA teams were not as active, we did extensive field upgrade work. We spent over \$3,500 updating and refreshing safety measures at the playground. This included new wood chips as well as refreshing and repairing some of the equipment. This was the first time since the installation that substantial funds had been directed to the playground area. This was a well-used resource throughout the outdoor season in 2021. We thank our neighbors at Magnusson Farms for their help getting this done with some chips donated in addition to the Town's purchases of chips and other equipment and parts.

Additionally working with our FAA partners and their schedule for field use, we did several aerovating, reseeding, and overseeding improvements, totaling over \$7,000. This primarily focused on the soccer field, which sees significant play throughout every sports season. The annual fertilizing program has been funded by voters the past couple of years and re-instituting that a few years ago has made a big difference in the quality of fields. We thank all our youth and the FAA for their patience as some of the improvements were worked into their play schedule and delayed a couple weeks of the fall season.



We were also able to complete work encumbered from 2019 to install infrastructure within the field network for future electrical improvements. There is now an outlet to each field, and much of the infrastructure installed if the Town were to some day pursue additional lighting at the park.



Fremont Parks and Recreation participated in the Fremont Public Library's Scarecrow Cookout on September 25th. There was a huge community turnout. Parks and Recreation had a table with rock painting and a scavenger hunt hike. Local children painted over 50 rocks. This was a great community event that brought together many organizations and groups in town. Thank you, Fremont Public

Library for hosting this great event.

Fremont Parks and Recreation planned an Outdoor Halloween Movie Night in October, but it was canceled because of a torrential rain storm. We intend to hold one next year.

In November, Fremont Parks and Recreation hosted their first Holiday Wreath making workshop at the Fremont Public Library. Joanna Kajka did a wonderful job teaching the event and looks forward to hosting another event. The wreaths were made from ribbon and turned out beautiful.

On Saturday December 3rd Santa made a special stop in Fremont for the Annual Santa Party and Tree lighting outside at the Ellis School hosted by the Fremont Parks and Recreation. It was a huge hit. We gave out over 150 cookies, 105 goodie bags, 110 candy canes and an endless number of crafts. Fremont children (and quite a few of their four-legged friends) told Santa what they wanted for Christmas.



There was plenty of Christmas spirit as children brought 65 letters to Santa. These Santa Letters were entered into the raffle with prizes including a gift card to Fremont Pizzeria and Holiday books. After the meet and greet with Santa, the Town tree was lit with the help of a countdown from Santa. A big THANK YOU to



Fremont Police Department, especially Sergeant Jason Larochelle for directing traffic so Fremont families could cross the street safely, the Fremont Fire Rescue Department for helping us set up, and the Biggest THANK YOU to John Linville for bringing magic to Fremont Children.

Fremont Parks and Recreation events would not be possible without all the help from our great community. We would like to thank and recognize Fremont Public Library staff, Fremont Athletic Association, Fremont PTA, Ellis School Staff, the Select Board, Town Office Staff and everyone who supported us this year.

Due to an unexpected vacancy, we are looking for a 5th Commission member. Debbie Caputo had to step down at year end and we thank her for her time and energy this year. Everyone is welcomed to attend our monthly meetings, generally held the second Tuesday of the month at the Town Hall at 6:15 pm. Follow us on Facebook for more events. We would love to hear from you, with any ideas or comments. Please email us at fremontnhprd@gmail.com. Thank you for a great year!

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Gallant Nancy Murray Maria Knee Michael Rydeen
Parks and Recreation Commission Members

Photos courtesy of Michelle Gallant