

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF

PROVIDENCE

REGISTRATION

DEPARTMENT



IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 18 1974

READ:
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Vincent Vespa
CLERK

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

To The Honorable Joseph A. Doorley, Jr.
Mayor of The City of Providence, and
The Honorable City Council

Gentlemen:

This is the first year that I have the pleasure of addressing you in my capacity as Director of the Recreation Department since my appointment in May, 1973, upon the retirement of the former director, John P. Cronin, who had served for more than 25 years.

I am certain that we can and will continue in our endeavor to provide the best possible programs and facilities for our youth.

In keeping with this spirit of progress, we have increased our outdoor lighted basketball areas in Providence from four to eleven in 1973. They now include Richardson Park, Bucklin Park, Davis Park, Gano St. Playground, Camp-Cypress Playground, Chaffee Playground, Neutaconkanut Park, Daniel Ave. Playground, Tell St. Playground and South Providence Pool Playground. The ever popular sport of basketball is always increasing in popularity due in no little part to our local college teams, led by Providence College's All-Americans, Ernie DiGregorio, Kevin Stacom, and our own Marvin Barnes who learned his basketball at the South Providence Recreation Center, and later worked at a recreation center and city playground.

We continued our tennis schools and clinics year round in the centers during the winter and on the playgrounds during the spring and summer.

The program at the resident boys camp at Point Judith continues to be more popular with our eight through fourteen year old boys. We plan to assign at least one entire week during the ten-week season to a different neighborhood recreation center with our center directors signing up children to attend.

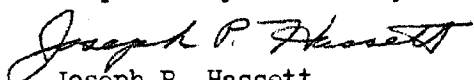
Under the vigorous leadership of our progressive Mayor Joseph Doorley, increased federal monies continue to flow into our budget for personnel year round, and for materials used during the summer playground program from Recreation Support, Emergency Employment Program, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and Model Cities. As delegate agent for the federally funded model cities Best Friends program, we can serve hundreds of inner-city youth in this "big brother" and "big sister" type program.

I wish to thank all those responsible for our successful year--my hard working predecessor Jack Cronin, my able assistants, and my staff.

Also, I sincerely thank the mayor, members of the City Council, and the Recreation Advisory Committee for their support.

May we all continue to strive to work together for another successful and progressive year in recreation.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph P. Hassett
Director of Recreation

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

IN MEMORIAM

1904 TO 1973

WILLIAM J. BRADLEY

A MEMBER OF THE MAYOR'S RECREATION ADVISORY

COMMITTEE FROM 1967 TO 1973;

WHO CONTRIBUTED OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CAUSE

OF RECREATION FOR THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

PROVIDENCE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * 1973 * *

MAYOR JOSEPH A. DOORLEY, JUNIOR

J. RUSSELL GRAY, CHAIRMAN

FRANK MOIA, SECRETARY

JOHN P. CRONIN

REVEREND FREDERICK J. HALLORAN

LOUIS I. KRAMER

KENNETH REIS

FREDERICK C. WILLIAMSON, SENIOR

JOSEPH P. HASSETT, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

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A T T E N D A N C E R E P O R T - 1 9 7 3

(October 1972 - September 1973)

(activity report)

P L A Y G R O U N D S (44)	1,777,829
SWIMMING POOLS - OUTDOOR (7)	119,622
RECREATION CENTERS - FULL TIME (10)	2,299,216
RECREATION CENTERS - SCHOOL - PART-TIME (9) . .	56,354
MIDDLE SCHOOL INTRAMURALS (8)	66,296
EVENING BASKETBALL PROGRAM	7,536
BOYS RESIDENT CAMP AT POINT JUDITH	400
JOHN E. FOGARTY CENTER FOR THE RETARDED	10,846
BOYS COMMUNITY BASKETBALL LEAGUE	6,390
INDOOR ICE-SKATING PROGRAM	600
NIAGRA ST. ARMORY CENTER	2,298
P U P P E T W O R K S H O P	42,628
T E N N I S S C H O O L S	3,891
S P E C I A L A C T I V I T I E S	55,987

4,449,893

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER</u>
Athletic Fields	5
Band Shells or Stands	2
Baseball Diamonds--regulation 90 feet	12
Basketball Courts	52
Basketball Courts--lighted	11
Boccia Courts	6
Boccia Courts--lighted	4
Camps--resident	1
Football Fields--multiple-use--soccer fields	16
Gaelic Soccer Fields	1
Ice-skating Areas--natural ice	3
Ice-skating Areas--lighted	1
Little League Fields--regulation 60 feet	17
Soccer Fields	13
Softball Diamonds--60 feet	17
Softball Diamonds--60 feet--lighted	1
Stadiums	1
Swimming Pools--outdoor--olympic size	4
Swimming Pools--outdoor--50 feet by 100 feet	3
Tennis Courts	44
Tot Lots	47

Recreation Buildings and Indoor Facilities

Section 1 - Multiple-use Recreation Buildings

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER
Large Recreation Buildings	4
Club, Field, and Shelter Houses	3
Full Time School Building Centers	5
Other School Buildings	11

Section 2 - Special Recreation Buildings

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER
1. Center for Older Adults	1
2. Center for the Retarded	1
3. Maintenance Workshop	1
4. Oceanside Resident Camp	1
5. Teen-age Center in Housing Project	1
6. Youth Center in Housing Project	1
7. Youth Center in State Armory	1

Section 3 - Indoor Recreation Facilities

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER
1. Arts and Crafts Rooms	21
2. Auditoriums	15
3. Club Rooms	21
4. Game Rooms	21
5. Gymnasium-auditoriums	5
6. Gymnasiums	20
7. Kitchen Facilities	5

SERVICES TO BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, AND LITTLE LEAGUES

The Recreation Department maintains all the 17 Little League fields, twelve regulation baseball diamonds, the 17 softball diamonds--including the lighted field at Neutaconkanut Park--which are used by the American Softball Association, the Catholic Youth Organization, Babe Ruth and Independent Babe Ruth Leagues, eight Providence middle schools, Providence Amateur League, Providence high schools, Little League, Little League farm teams, and two independent softball leagues.

In addition, men from the Public Properties Department and Recreation Department of the City line up all the fields for the games which are played.

More than 4,000 permits for fields were issued during the baseball season last year.

The fields are located as follows:

Little League Fields at Fox Point Park, Hope High School, Ascham St. Playground, two fields at Metcalf Field, Davis Park, Smith St. Playground, Joslin St. Playground, two fields at Mt. Pleasant High School, Neutaconkanut Park, Wallace St. Playground, two fields at Tim O'Neil Field-within Roger Williams Park, Harriet St. Playground, two fields in Dexter Training Grounds;

Regulation Baseball Diamonds at Hope High School, Metcalf Field, Veazie St. Playground, Davis Park, Mt. Pleasant High School, Mt. Pleasant Ave. Park, Neutaconkanut Park, Merino Park, Bucklin Park, Joseph Williams Field, Elmwood Ave., Ardoene Park, and Flynn Field;

Softball Diamonds at Gano St. Playground, Collyer Park, Hopkins Park, Danforth St. Playground, four fields at Obediah Brown Park, Valley St. Playground, Conley Stadium, Salmon St., two at Neutaconkanut Park, Bucklin Park, Shipyard Field, Richardson Park, and Flynn Field.

SUMMER BASKETBALL CLINICS ON PLAYGROUNDS

Two Basketball Clinics for boys and girls eight through 15 were held last summer on the Providence playgrounds as part of the Dave Gavit-Industrial National Banks free clinics in cooperation with Joseph Hassett, Providence Recreation Director, and other municipal recreation departments in Rhode Island.

The clinics, each of about three hours in duration, drew hundreds of Providence youngsters who were eager to learn about one of their favorite sports from their favorite local hero--Ernie DiGregorio, All-American Providence College basketball star, lead by his coach Dave Gavit and assistants, Jim Adams and Nick Macarchuk.

The first clinic was held in the St. Patrick's Schoolyard in the Smith Hill section of Providence in conjunction with the Summertime Fund. Before the clinic began, the Industrial National Bank presented \$807.69 worth of checks to the mayor's worthwhile project for underprivileged children. The second clinic was held in August at Bucklin Park in the West Elmwood-South Providence section of our city.

The children were taught basketball fundamentals which were incorporated into a series of Skill Tests conducted by the local recreation directors for all the youngsters participating in the clinics.

In addition to learning about basketball, seeing their local hero in person, and meeting the coaches, all the participants received a free autographed picture of the 1973 Providence College Eastern NCAA Championship Team.

Three Providence youngsters went on to compete in the state-wide contest later in the 1973-74 basketball season; they were: Jack Moura, Gano St. Playground; David Cook, Smith St. Playground; Joe Degnan, Smith St. Playground.

This was, by far, the best attended and most popular of the more than 20 summer playground special events.

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR TENNIS CLINICS FOR CHILDREN

A series of tennis clinics for children seven through 14 years old was held on Saturday mornings beginning in January. The clinics were held from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Danforth, Fox Point, Broad St. School, Joslin, Robert Kennedy School, Martin L. King School, and South Providence Recreation Centers.

Tennis equipment was made available to the children who needed it.

The purpose of these clinics was to give boys and girls an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis in preparation for the spring and summer season.

The schools and/or clinics were presented by experienced tennis players and teachers from Providence who were very successful in acquainting hundreds of our youth with this popular and healthful sport.

As a follow-up to these indoor clinics at the recreation centers, in the spring, a series of outdoor schools were held for Providence boys and girls on Saturday mornings beginning the last day in March and continuing until the summer playground season.

The Robert Kennedy Center clinic was transferred to the Mt. Pleasant High School courts, while the South Providence Center school-clinic was held at the Flynn Playground. The hours were from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. All Providence children were eligible to participate. In all, the attendance for this successful school was 2,298.

At present in Providence, we maintain and service 44 tennis courts at the following locations: Hope High School-8 doubles courts; Mt. Pleasant High School-8 doubles courts; Nathan Bishop School-8 doubles courts; Davis Park-2 doubles courts; Metcalf Field-Esek Hopkins School-2 doubles courts; Flynn Field-2 doubles courts; Richardson Park-1 doubles court; Roger Williams Park-8 asphalt and 7 clay courts.