



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

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PROVIDENCE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MAYOR WALTER H. REYNOLDS

HONORABLE FRANCIS J. McCABE, CHAIRMAN

DR. JAMES L. HANLEY, SECRETARY

ANDREW J. BELL, JR.

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\*REV. WILLIAM M. DELANEY

MRS. S. FOSTER HUNT

REV. CHARLES W. McCONNELL

MRS. ALBERT PILAVIN

FRANK E. TRAFICANTE

\*Resigned September, 1953

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## R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the Reverend William M. Delaney has for many years been a valued member of the Mayor's Recreation Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, his wide knowledge of recreation programs, his sound judgment in solving problems and his profound insight and wisdom in all matters connected with the business of this Committee have been a distinguished contribution to the improvement of this Community; and

WHEREAS, Father Delaney has seen fit to resign from this Committee for reasons connected with his priestly duties and assignment to another city;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is unanimously resolved that the Secretary be instructed to convey to Father Delaney the sincere regrets felt by the members of this Committee, both severally and as a body, at his resignation, and their hearty good wishes and earnest hopes that their beloved friend and colleague may find high inspiration and success in the new works which he has undertaken in the service of Almighty God.

To the Honorable Walter H. Reynolds,  
Mayor of the City of Providence, and  
The Honorable City Council.

Gentlemen:

The year 1953 has shown an increase in attendance in recreation centers, in school recreation centers, in playgrounds, in special events and in swimming pools. We believe these increases are due to a constant improvement in program and a greater diversity in activities. Special events that have stood the test of time like the Junior Olympic have added features. New special events have been developed as a stimulus to encourage greater participation. The Travelling Theatre has been a motivating force in dramatics and provides a cultural medium as a bulwark against the so-called "cultural lag" that critics of recreation programs in our nation have asserted. It is now well-established that creative use of leisure time contributes to the development of the individual and, as a consequence, improves the cultural tone of the community.

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The master plan for recreation has been released by the Planning Commission. The capital improvement program for the fiscal year 1953-54 is listed in tabular form elsewhere in this report and contains location of projects, appropriations and types of work that will be done. As our recreation facilities expand so does the cost of maintenance. Every effort is being made to conserve the tax dollar and at the same time to conserve the resources that have been entrusted to our care.

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Recreation is far more than structures and fields. It is imperative that good leadership exists at all levels in order that the program can be dynamic and the morale high. The raising of salary scales during the past year will increase the stability of our department by retaining our experienced staff in the public service and will offer inducement in the recruiting of the highest qualified personnel. Mr. Waldo R. Hainsworth, District Representative for the National Recreation Association, offered this splendid tribute to our staff when he wrote: "How fortunate you are in having such a dedicated and loyal group around you."

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The policies of the athletic program have been established with a view to realizing the maximum value of athletics through encouraging mass participation and providing opportunities for such purpose.

Safety for participants in all sports has been our utmost concern and there has been a reduction in injuries. Safety campaigns have been conducted and in our in-service training periods, coaches and officials have been instructed in methods of preventing injuries.

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A feature of 1953 was the New England Area Recreation Conference held in Newport, Rhode Island and high-lighted by a tour of Providence. Recreation people from the cities and towns of New England were our guests. They visited Roger Williams Park with its beautiful flowers in full bloom and were treated to a preview of the new Planetarium prior to its public opening.

The Federal Hill Pool Center was scheduled for the next stop and there awaiting the conference delegates were the members of the Providence Recreation Advisory Committee, who cordially received them and greatly enhanced the warmth of the welcome that we so earnestly wished to extend to our guests.

The fine gymnasium was fittingly decorated for the occasion and several booths depicting the recreational progress of Providence presented exhibitions of the handiwork of the children from all of our centers. The demonstration was a manifestation of the skill, ingenuity and motivating ability of our staff. After the banquet Governor Dennis J. Roberts delivered an address that inspired us to better serve our profession by stressing the values of leisure time activities and he paid tribute to the recreation worker ". . . who was protecting America's greatest investment, her youth."

Next in order was a trip to the South Providence Pool Center

where a Family Fishing Rodeo was in progress. Our guests were delighted to see the large pool filled with water and teeming with trout donated by the Rhode Island State Fish Hatcheries. How happy we were at the closing of the conference to hear the expressions of gratitude from our New England co-workers.

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The Aid to Worcester Week--a never-to-be-forgotten week--which was originated by the children in our summer playgrounds to help the tornado-stricken children of Worcester was an indication of the inherent love of children for their neighboring children in distress. More than six-hundred dollars was raised by the children, principally by baseball games, dramatic shows and auctions. Two temporary playgrounds were set up in two trailer villages that housed the homeless children; a permanent set of apparatus was installed in a housing development and enough funds were left over for a Christmas party.

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Our department is doing all in its power to prevent juvenile delinquency. In order to further develop the process of integrating boys in our year-round recreation program we have established a field worker system. These field workers consist of a staff of five men, selected because of their special abilities and background in youth work. Their duties are to encourage boys who are reluctant to take part in organized recreation activities by personal contacts and to bring them under the guidance of our recreation staff and to motivate them towards a constructive use of their leisure time.

The field workers will be on duty in the evening hours and will work in those areas where the indices of juvenile delinquency are highest. They will form a liaison with the recreation center directors and keep constantly in touch with youngsters under their guidance. The recreation center directors will find what type of

recreational activity the boy desires and develop the skills that have been lying dormant because of lack of opportunity for expression.

The field worker may find it necessary to make home visitations and in so doing can assist the parents who have found it difficult to control the activities of their son and his associations during the evening hours. Parents need help in handling a recalcitrant son and the field worker through his tactful approach and sympathetic understanding can bring happiness to the parents where great concern and worry over their son's habits existed before.

We are confident that the field worker system can be of great value in preventing delinquency, because for the past two years our department has employed a field worker as a pilot project and the results have been so satisfactory that the expansion of the field worker system is warranted.

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I am grateful to Mayor Walter H. Reynolds and the Recreation Advisory Committee for their guidance and inspiration. Their vision in formulating the policies of our department has been the foundation upon which the framework of our physical plant and program have been developed. Providence is marching forward in the field of recreation. Our excellent staff is diligently working to increase the health and happiness of our people by constantly endeavoring to offer them expanding opportunities for leisure time expression.

Respectfully submitted,

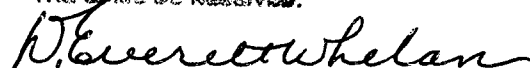
  
John P. Cronin  
Director of Recreation

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 4 - 1954

RECORDED:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECORDED.

  
P. Everett Whelan  
CLERK

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

SPECIAL EVENTS

The special events listed below are city wide in character. The primary purpose of the special event is to make our city recreation conscious and to give people, young and old, an opportunity to demonstrate their particular skills and leisure time expressive patterns.

In addition to the individual satisfying his physical and cultural needs the special event develops a deeper sense of civic awareness, because some of these events are held in conjunction with agencies that promote municipal advancement. We are pleased to state that we participated in events in co-operation with charitable agencies and therefore the participant takes part in an activity that motivates him toward a sense of responsibility to his less fortunate fellow-beings.

Radio	Tournament of Champions
Family Fishing Rodeo	Fishing Rodeo
Television	Ping Pong Tournament
Football Skills Meet	Baseball Skills Meet
School Boy Touch Football League	Thanksgiving Treasure-Day
Veterans' Basketball League	Girls' Community Basketball League
Snow Modeling	Easter Egg-Hunt
Intra Playground Baseball	Boxmobile
Community Boys' Basketball League	R.I. on Ice
Clean Up Week	Children's Travelling Theatre
Boys' Day	Block Dancing
Little Sister and Brother	Parents' Day
Arts & Crafts Exhibition	Aid to Worcester Week
Wild West Gold Rush	Pet Show
Tennis Clinic	Junior Olympics
Playground Festival	Prize Day

Golden Age Program



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

\*City-Wide Special Events  
1954

JANUARY

January 18 (Monday)--Newsboys Delivery Skill Contest  
January 19 (Tuesday)--Ping-Pong Tournament (Centers Only)  
January 26 (Tuesday)--Indoor Golf Skill Meet (Adults)

FEBRUARY

February 12 (Friday)--State-Wide Ping Pong Tournament  
February 16 (Tuesday)--Tournament of Champions  
February 23 (Tuesday)--Basketball Skills Meet  
Feb. 23-26(Tues.--Fri.)--Auto-Modeling and Modeling Show

MARCH

March 7 (Sunday)--Kite Flying and Saucer Meet  
March 16 (Tuesday)--Gymnastic Meet  
March 21 (Sunday)--Rhode Island on Ice  
March 22-28(Mon.--Sun.)--Table and Floor Games Tournament

APRIL

April 12 (Monday)--Auto-Plane Jet Show  
April 15 (Thursday)--Family Fishing Rodeo  
April 18 (Sunday)--Easter Egg Hunt  
April 24 (Saturday)--Bicycle Club Trips

MAY

May 4 (Tuesday)--Box Hockey and Nok Hockey Tournament  
May 4 (Tuesday)--Marble Tournament  
May 8 (Saturday)--Baseball Skills Meet  
May 9 (Sunday)--Doll and Carriage Show  
May 16 (Sunday)--Bicycle Championship Meet  
May 22 (Saturday)--Bicycle Club Trips

\*Dates and events are subject to change, also events may be revised to meet changing situations, etc.

\*\*Consult Playground Activity Calendar for Special Events in June, July, August and September. Calendar will be issued at a later date, preferable in the latter part of May.

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

FACILITIES

2 Multiple Use Buildings - Swimming Pools	2 Archery Lanes
17 Wading Pools	4 Handballs
10 Centers	16 Gymnasiums
42 Playgrounds	4 Boccia Courts
1 Ski and Toboggan Run and Tow	2 Coasting Lanes
4 Skating Rinks	1 Picnic Area
23 Shelter Houses	4 Skating Ponds
24 Baseball Diamonds	2 Fishing Pools
10 Football Fields	2 Bowling Greens
12 Tennis Courts	3 Cinder Tracks
4 Woodwork Shops	4 Soccer Fields
1 Machine Shop	12 Showers
3 Art Metal Shops	1 Floodlight Football
1 Cricket Field	Field

ACTIVITIES

Basketball (Intra-Center)	Dramatics
Basketball Jr. - Sr.	Arts and Crafts
Basketball (Intra-Center)	Machine Shop
Basketball (Girls)	Talent Show
Baseball	Block Dancing
Softball	Square and Social Dancing
Tennis	Social Hour
Handball	Bandminton
Ping Pong	Sewing
Shuffleboard	Movies
Volleyball	Television
Checkers	Gymnastics
Chess	Woodworking
Horseshoes	Children's Theater
Tetherball	Exhibits
Skating	Golfing
Skiing	Low Organized Games
Marbles	High Organized Games
Bicycle Safety	Couple Sports
Top Spinning	Rhythmical Activities
Roller Skate Safety	Combative Sports
Swimming	Conditioning
Life Guarding	Apparatus
Water Pagents	Art Metal
Pageants	Instrumental Instruction
Movies (Slides)	Radio Story Telling
Glee Club	Scouting
Bicycle Club	Modeling
Playgroung Band	Modeling Craft
Band Concert	Radio-Program
Newspaper	Pool
Bowling	Lawn Bowling

Weight Lifting

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

ATTENDANCE REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30th, 1953

(This is a PARTICIPATION Report, does not include Spectators)

PLAYGROUNDS, RECREATION CENTERS AND SWIMMING POOLS

Playgrounds.....	793,640	793,640
*Recreation Centers.....	307,943	307,943

SWIMMING POOLS (2)

Federal Hill Pool

Paid Attendance - Children..... 17,821

Paid Attendance - Adults..... 378

Total Paid Attendance..... 18,199

Free Swimming..... 10,591

Total Attendance Federal Hill Pool..... 28,790      28,790

South Providence Pool

Paid Attendance - Children..... 30,064

Paid Attendance - Adults..... 310

Total Paid Attendance..... 30,374

Free Swimming..... 15,990

Total Attendance South Providence Pool.... 46,364      46,364

Total Attendance Playground, Recreation Centers and  
Swimming Pools..... 1,176,737

\*Recreation Centers closed for three weeks during polio  
epidemic.

Capital Improvement Program (Bond Issue)

<u>Project</u>	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	Deferred Project
Sackett Street Playground	23,575	---	---	---	---	---	---
Smith Street Playground (Extension)	10,000	---	---	---	---	---	---
Joslin Park Swimming Pool	---	---	---	400,000	---	---	---
Smith Hill Swimming Pool	---	---	---	---	---	---	400,000
Willard Avenue Playground	---	90,000	---	---	---	---	---

1954 Playground Improvement Program (Other Structures and Improvements)

Sackett Street Playground	(Rough grading tot area).
Smith Street Playground, (Extension)	(Rough grading to lay ground work for little league field).
Camp-Cypress Sts. Playground	(Preliminary development of tot area).
Gano Street Playground	(Replacing fence where playground has been extended).
Sessions Street Playground	(Placing of baseball back stop and football goal posts).
Windmill Street School Tot Lot	(Fencing in area).
Dexter Training Ground Area	(Placing of major size baseball field and little league field).

\$10,000. has been appropriated for these improvements. This amount will come from current revenue.

1954 General Account (Authorized Trusts and Specials)

Davis Park	125,000	---	---	---	---	---
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CITY OF PROVIDENCEDEPARTMENT OF RECREATIONFISCAL YEAR - OCTOBER 1st, 1952 to SEPTEMBER 30th, 1953

APPROPRIATION.....\$269,506.85

EXPENDITURES:SALARIES:

Administrative Staff.....	\$ 26,723.25
Maintenance Division.....	49,479.38
Summer Program.....	29,664.74
Swimming Pool Instructor.....	1,016.25
South Providence Pool.....	8,808.26
Federal Hill Pool.....	8,853.45
South Providence Pool Center.....	7,712.88
Federal Hill Pool Center.....	7,491.42
Plain Street Center.....	12,809.75
East Street Center.....	14,451.38
Benefit Street Center.....	14,557.96
Roger Williams Jr. High School Center.....	1,655.69
Gilbert Stuart Jr. High School Center.....	2,026.13
Broad Street School Center.....	1,282.62
George J. West Jr. High School Center.....	2,602.57
Oliver H. Perry Jr. High School Center.....	2,054.13
Chad Brown Housing Center.....	198.10
Special Activities.....	4,065.07
Community Special Services.....	96.90

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES:

Administrative.....	1,310.34
Maintenance Division.....	14,728.44
Summer Program.....	6,872.98
South Providence Pool.....	5,727.11
Federal Hill Pool.....	5,634.93
South Providence Pool Center.....	668.37
Federal Hill Pool Center.....	703.98
Plain Street Center.....	2,828.90
East Street Center.....	3,152.44
Benefit Street Center.....	3,280.22
Roger Williams Jr. High School Center.....	349.17
Gilbert Stuart Jr. High School Center.....	372.56
Broad Street School Center.....	364.47
George J. West Jr. High School Center.....	375.42
Oliver H. Perry Jr. High School Center.....	347.50
Chad Brown Housing Center.....	48.30
Special Activities.....	3,275.31
Community Special Services.....	164.25
Capital Outlay.....	2,450.00
Other Structures & Improvements.....	11,976.66
*Additional Appropriation (For curbing, sewer assessments, medical bills, etc.).....	4,716.26
Total Expenditures.....	\$264,897.54

Unexpended Balance..... 4,609.31

RECEIPTS:

Federal Hill Swimming Pool and Center.....	\$ 1,876.60
South Providence Swimming Pool and Center.....	3,083.90
Roger Williams Park Tennis Courts.....	649.80
Coca Cola.....	331.56
Miscellaneous.....	43.00
	<u>5,984.86</u>
Total Unexpended Balance & Receipts.....	\$ 10,594.17

