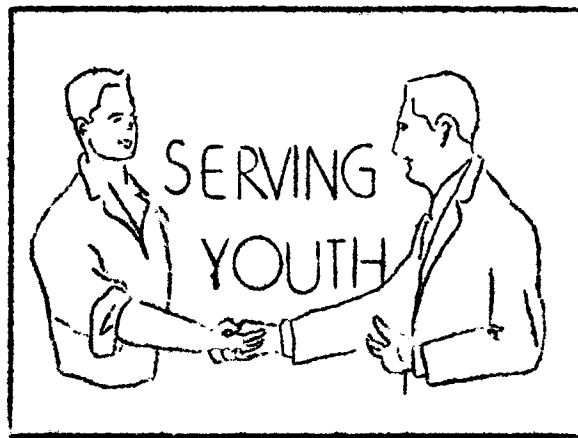


1972 ANNUAL
REPORT



PROVIDENCE
RECREATION
DEPARTMENT



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

Telephone 421 - 7740 Ext. 365 to 368

Casino, Roger Williams Park, Providence, R. I. 02907

Dr. John P. Cronin
Director

May 22, 1973

Honorable Vincent Vespia
Providence City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, R.I.

Dear Mr. Vespia:

Enclosed is the annual report for the Providence Recreation Department
for the year 1972.

Sincerely,

John P. Cronin / EDF
John P. Cronin
Director of Recreation

JPC:EDF

ENCLOSURE

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 7 1973

READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Vincent Vagstad CLERK

PROVIDENCE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * 1972 * *

MAYOR JOSEPH A. DOORLEY, JUNIOR

J. RUSSELL GRAY, CHAIRMAN

FRANK MOIA, SECRETARY

WILLIAM J. BRADLEY

REVEREND FREDERICK J. HALLORAN

LOUIS I. KRAMER

KENNETH REIS

FREDERICK C. WILLIAMSON, SENIOR

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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:

It has been another year of progress for us here in the City of Providence.

The federal government continued to supplement our staff by assigning more people to our programs in 1972, especially during the summer. Personnel from four different federal agencies--the Emergency Employment Program, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Opportunities Industrial Center, and the Recreation Support Program--worked under the leadership of our own staff. Consequently, because of these additional workers, we were able to provide more service to our youth. We increased the number of playgrounds open during the summer from 40 to 45. An additional week of program was provided in many neighborhoods where the federal monies were available beyond our usual budgetary limit of ten weeks.

In evidence of the diversity of our program, we can report that the Providence Senior Citizens Center registered membership is now 1,800, with an average daily attendance of over 120.

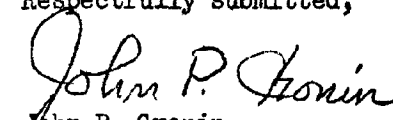
Expansion of our tennis program continues in response to its ever-growing popularity. Tennis schools were held for children 8-15 years old on Saturday mornings at the Flynn Playground, Roger Williams Park, Hope High School, and the Mt. Pleasant High School Tennis Courts. Some tennis raquets and balls were provided by our department.

We continue our cooperation with other social and public agencies such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Fire Department by including children's participation programs for Clean-up and Fire Prevention Weeks at our recreation centers.

In the past, I have expressed my thanks to the mayor, members of the City Council, and the Recreation Advisory Committee for their assistance and cooperation, and I do so again this year.

However, 1972 has a special significance to me as I contemplate my retirement from the Recreation Department after twenty-seven years of exciting and rewarding public service to Providence. The work which I have dilligently and happily pursued for these many years has been to provide the best possible recreation facilities and program to our youth and adults. If I have succeeded to some degree in this, it has been for many reasons--not the least of which is my belief that it is a privelege to have been able to associate with youth--our greatest asset and promise for the future.

Respectfully submitted,


John P. Cronin
Recreation Director

A T T E N D A N C E R E P O R T - 1 9 7 2

(October 1971 - September 1972)

(activity report)

P L A Y G R O U N D S (45)	2,097,592
SWIMMING POOLS - OUTDOOR (7)	138,511
RECREATION CENTERS - FULL TIME (10)	1,596,957
RECREATION CENTERS - SCHOOL - PART-TIME (9) . .	56,354
MIDDLE SCHOOL INTRAMURALS (8)	61,719
EVENING BASKETBALL PROGRAM	6,536
BOYS RESIDENT CAMP AT POINT JUDITH	400
JOHN E. FOGARTY CENTER FOR THE RETARDED	21,684
BOYS COMMUNITY BASKETBALL LEAGUE	5,290
SUMMERTIME CAMPING PROGRAM	750
ICE SKATING AT RHODE ISLAND AUDITORIUM	4,300
P U P P E T W O R K S H O P	66,267
S P E C I A L A C T I V I T I E S	50,970

4,107,330

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL NUMBER
Athletic Fields	5
Band Shells or Stands	2
Baseball Diamonds--regulation 90 feet	12
Basketball Courts	52
Basketball Courts--lighted	4
Boccia Courts	6
Boccia Courts--lighted	4
Camps--resident and day	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
Picnic Areas	2
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

Section 3 - Indoor Recreation Facilities

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

Intramural Program in The Middle Schools

The school intramural program was conducted for boys and girls at the eight Providence middle schools: Esek Hopkins, George J. West, Gilbert Stuart, Nathan Bishop, Nathanael Greene, Oliver H. Perry, Roger Williams, and Samuel W. Bridgham.

The program began on October 11, 1971 and continued for 25 weeks, excluding the three weeks of school vacations. The average staff consisted of four supervisors a day--two men and two women physical education instructors--for one and a half hours a day, four days a week. This cost approximately \$96 each week for each school, coming to a total of \$2,400 for each school for the school intramural year.

This program proved very successful and was well attended with a total attendance of 61,719 for the eight schools.

The activities, which were held outdoors as well as indoors, included basketball, softball, touch football, soccer, tennis, floor hockey, volleyball, gymnastics, track, swimming, trampolines, physical fitness, modern dance, dramatics, music, badminton, bowling, whiffleball, arts and crafts, slimmastics, and tournaments, play days, meets, and stage presentations in drama and dance. The activities varied according to the special skills of the instructors, availability of facilities and supplies, and the desires of the children in a particular school.

Special programs included a track meet for boys and girls, a boys basketball tourney, a girls volleyball tourney, gymnastics competition for girls, and a boys and girls gymnastic exhibition. Trophies and ribbons for award assemblies are also provided upon request.

Senior Citizens Center Report - 1972

The Providence Senior Citizens Center now has a registered membership of 1,800 people, with a daily attendance of between 85 to 130 men and women making use of the facility.

There are fifteen affiliated clubs which meet at the center each month. These clubs take special monthly trips with bus transportation provided by the center.

Each Christmas, a bazaar is held at the center with all fifteen clubs assisting in this endeavor which raises money for the center. These funds help to pay for the annual Senior Citizens Day in the Park, meeting expenses for the Center Council, and other center projects.

Each year an art and arts and crafts exhibit of articles made in the center is held at the Providence City Hall.

The program includes television, pool, cards, lunch, arts and crafts, painting lessons, sewing lessons, holiday parties, music, trips, and meetings. Community service projects are also included with volunteer work encouraged for worthwhile organizations.

In addition, social service referral work is done by the dedicated center staff headed by the director and registered social worker.

The center operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is located at 51 Empire St. in Providence.

Boys Camp Progress Report - 1972

The former Fort Nathaniel Greene (South Reservation), Point Judith, Rhode Island is now known as the Providence Boys Camp, formerly Junior Polic Camp; it was deeded to the City of Providence June 10, 1957 and has been utilized in full accordance with the original agreement to be used as a camp.

In 1970, two barracks and a storage house were painted and refurbished with new window frames and doors at the cost of \$5,000. A new septic tank for two buildings was installed in 1970 at the cost of \$785. A new macadam road was built in the camp for \$6,000. Each year it is necessary to do much reshingling on the roofs as the severe winter storms remove many shingles. The fences are replaced as required.

The property is maintained by recreation personnel and public properties personnel of the City of Providence. These improvements to the property contribute to its successful continued use as a resident boys camp and a day camp for retarded boys and girls as well as boys and girls from the inner city. Joseph Hassett, Assistant Director of Recreation, served as Administrative Director of the camp. There are twenty-seven full-time employees who are all summer workers for the camping season.

There are picnicking facilities including tables, benches, and parking areas for visitors to the camp. There is no public transportation system to this property but the camp owns a bus to transport campers to and from the camp and the city. The camp bus takes campers swimming daily, to other camps, ball parks for program, field trips, and any place for special activities and educational trips.

During the sixteen years that the camp has been in operation from 1957 through 1972, approximately \$80,000. has been spent on development of this property at a rate of \$5,000 a year. Seventeen thousand dollars is spent annually for operating costs while \$5,000 is spent each year for maintenance and repairs.

Other than the funds appropriated by the city, there is no other revenue. However, the camp does receive some foods from the Federal Storehouse of Surplus goods such as butter, flour, beans, cheese, and the like.

Approximately 2,100 adults and children have used the camp for picnics and outings during the year; most of these are weekend visitors to the campers. Almost 11,500 fishermen and fishing clubs use the water-front during the year, as well as approximately 2,000 skin and scuba divers and clubs.

Boy scouts use the camp for weekend hikes before and after the regular camping season. Fishing clubs and scuba diving clubs also use the camp before and after the regular season.

The camp is a resident boys camp which can accommodate 100 boys at the same time; the camping season is divided into four two-week sessions during the regular camping season for boys 8-14 years old. The program includes swimming, fishing, field trips, basketball, over-night hikes, arts and crafts, music, movies, softball, cook-outs, football, and low-organized games.

-2-

Since 1968, approximately fifty disadvantaged city youth were transported daily, Monday through Friday, to the camp for recreation, swimming, and a hot meal each summer.

Since 1969 through 1972, for two weeks before the regular season, a day camping program for approximately twenty retarded boys and twenty retarded girls was added. They were transported back and forth to the camp from Providence by the Recreation Department's bus.