



THE CITY OF GUNNISON RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S 2015 – FALL SIX MONTH REPORT

With winter looming right around the corner, the past six months seem like ages ago for The City of Gunnison's Recreation Department. Over the past six months we have seen thousands of participants come through our programs, facilitated hundreds of games, multiple events, and have pressed on with the goal of providing a variety of quality recreation programs and events in a safe and healthy atmosphere. Here are some of the highlights from the past six months for our department.

April is a transition month from winter and into spring for our department. It is also a time for a few events that we host. Ginny Baylor our Aquatics Manager, the pool staff, and our recreation team hosted an underwater Easter Egg Hunt (otherwise known as Eggquatics) on April 4th. The event was very well attended and a tremendous success. Last April we also started a lacrosse program, thanks to the help of some eager parents and coaches to see lacrosse in the Gunnison Valley. The program was very successful with over 85 kids in the program and they participated in three tournaments throughout Western Colorado. Another new recreation event that we administrated last spring was our first pickleball tournament. We teamed up with staff from Western State Colorado University, used their Fieldhouse, and put on a wonderful tournament with over 90 participants. People in the pickleball community were thrilled with our efforts and we look forward to hosting the event over the same weekend in 2016. We were in full swing with our spring programs in April. Gymnastics, Soccer, Climbing, Basketball, and Sporties for Shorties were just some of the successful programs that took place last Spring, and helped us get geared up to a very busy summer.

May, June, and July are wonderful months in Gunnison. Trees bud out, the fishing picks up, and our recreation department begins our busiest time of the year. We began May with our Gunnison Freeze girls basketball program hosting their home tournament over March 1st and 2nd. Teams from Bayfield, Olathe, Montrose, Grand Junction, and other towns throughout Western Colorado attended, and though our teams don't win a lot of those tournament games they do gain valuable experience to take with them into middle school basketball. Also in May we the first annual fishing derby. We planned this event to take place on the Saturday after school got out and I don't think that we will change that date moving forward. We had over 250 kids participate and the event, and with the help of some great sponsors such as Gene Taylors, Amerigas, The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, West Elk Archers, and the National Park Service, there is no shortage of activities for kids to participate in. The fishing derby is a great way to kick off the summer.

In late May, and early June we roll out our summer programs which in turn means that it's all hands on deck for our staff. On top of full programs and the chaos that comes with that, we also administrate the Diamonds in the Rockies Youth Softball Tournament over June 20th and 21st, and the CARA gymnastics meet over the following Saturday, June 27th. Our softball tournament brings hundreds of people to town and was our largest to date with 32 teams participating. That particular weekend Gunnison also hosted the Wild Hogs Motorcycle Club so hotel rooms were at a premium, and several of the softball teams either camped, or were forced to stay outside of city limits. This was the second time we have hosted the CARA gymnastics meet and we hope to make it an annual event. Over 100 gymnasts participated, and our Recreation Coordinator, Kyla Leonard does an outstanding job

of making sure that that meet is extremely organized. Like I previously mentioned, our summer programs throughout June and July keep our staff as busy as possible. Between tee ball, rock climbing, mountain biking, the BMX racing series, OTA baseball, Babe Ruth baseball, youth softball, adult softball, aerial dance, gymnastics, youth tennis, adult tennis, pickleball, senior fitness classes, Mountain Roots gardening, our Summer Adventure Camp, etc, our recreation staff has plenty on their plate.

In August we began to wind down our summer programs and get ready for our fall programs. It's a good time to regroup from an extremely busy summer, wrap up summer programs, and get ready for some busy fall programs. Carving up Colorado, and the annual car show were two extremely successful events that took place on the same weekend. At the end of August we closed the Community and Aquatics Center for our annual cleaning. Our fall offerings came out in late August when kids were back in school and our fall programs began in September.

This September we have seen great fall registration numbers. Our youth soccer program, which is always well attended, is again high in registration numbers. We have high enrollment in gymnastics, volleyball, cheerleading, climbing, youth football, and our adult fitness classes. Our youth tackle football teams have played Montrose, Olathe, Buena Vista, Salida, as well as Delta. We are excited about the new opportunity to play different teams as well as host them and showcase our wonderful town.

One of the major things that our department worked on throughout the spring, summer, and into the fall was our Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It was an informative process and a great opportunity to hear from community members, stakeholders, like communities, and staff about what we have, what we are doing well, what we need to work on, and where we are heading. After completing virtually everything that was on the last master plan, it is good for our department to have a set of projects, programs, and goals to work towards in the coming years.

The past six months have been busy and very fulfilling for our department. We have always been proud of our programs and events that we put on. We will continue to administrate quality programs, search for new programs to fill the needs of community members, and make sure that there is always a program offered in Gunnison that will enrich and enhance the quality of life of our patrons.

Sincerely,

The Gunnison Recreation Department