



GROTON PARKS & RECREATION

CONNECTING
A HAPPY,
HEALTHY
COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

GROTONREC.COM



GROTON
PARKS & RECREATION



OUR IMPACT IN 2019

Last year, we served our mission to build up Groton as a healthy, happy and more connected Community.

Through our four pillars of service and strategic Community Partnerships, we strive to positively impact Groton's Quality of Place as a community where people want to live, work and invest.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Connecticut Special Olympics

Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce

Groton Open Space Association (GOSA)

Groton Utilities

Ledge Light Health District

Visit grotonrec.com/partners for our full list of 150+ local community partners.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

We foster health and wellbeing by offering accessible recreation programming, affordable essential services and resources that support active lifestyles.

The Groton Senior Center received a grant from NRPA to train instructors in Walk with Ease from the Arthritis Foundation. On a trip to Ellis Island, one Walk with Ease program participant said she “ventured the 193 steps to walk up the Statue of Liberty to the top!”



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We bring money into the community by offering recreational programming, park traffic and special events that serve Groton residents and draw visitors.

Hundreds of participants from Groton and neighboring communities take part in the Tour de Noank and Mystic Irish 5K races each year.

I ran the Tour de Noank 5k on Saturday. Thank you so much for an awesome day, drove all the way from PA and it was perfect. - Philadelphia Marathon runner in training.



CONSERVATION

We act as a steward of Groton's parks, trails and public beaches – conserving natural resources by using best practices to manage open spaces and coastal shorelines.

Shennecossett Golf Course is participating in the Monarchs in the Rough program by planting milkweed seeds. Golfers love it! The golf course also has a planting area for Operation Pollinator: that is well received.

Although I have relied on that area for errant shots over the years, I recognize that the pollinators need a lot more help than my slice. Yet another reason I LOVE Shennecossett! - Adam Joseph



SOCIAL EQUITY

We work with local partners to engage in outreach, offer services to fill essential community needs, and grow a financial aid program that increases access to programming.

The Adaptive Karate class has been life changing for my son, Maxwell, who has a rare bone disorder which causes him to have muscle weakness and fracture easily. This class has given him confidence and a sense of strength and control of his body that hasn't been able to experience before. Sensei Ralph does an amazing job of pushing his students to excel while accommodating each of their individual limitations. - Kristie Lundgren

GROTON'S FUTURE

Athletic Field & Park Accessibility improvements

Focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Agency Accreditation

Assisting Neighbors with Food Insecurity

Community Survey - leading to new facilities

National Accreditation for Senior Center

Senior Center National Award for Programming Excellence

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Summer Camp Job Fair

Esker Point Beach Sand Reclamation

Assumed Management of Noank Community Garden

Hosted National American Championship Karate Tournament

Shennecossett was featured in New England Golfing Magazine in an article titled "A Road Trip through Connecticut"



Dear Partners,

This report highlights some of the great strides that were made this year in fulfilling our mission to help build a healthy, happy and connected community. We are forging new partnerships with local business and organizations with like-minded missions to better serve the community.

Seniors Cautious About Money (SCAM) - The Groton Senior Center was one of four Nationally Accredited centers in the United States selected by the National Council on Aging to work on a pilot program to prevent the financial exploitation of older adults. The center received a grant of \$10,000. 104 seniors attended the program in 2019.

Cognitive Safety and Awareness Program - We collaborated with the Groton Police Department to facilitate information sharing between individuals and families affected by cognitive diseases and the police to promote positive interactions.

2020 is looking even more positive!

Community Needs Assessment - Results from a community-wide survey to assess the recreational needs will provide essential direction for development of recreational facilities and programs for the future.

Food Insecurity - Working in collaboration with Groton Public Schools, we will provide healthy after-school meals for children ages 5-18 at the Groton Community Center. This is part of a larger initiative to expand the accessibility of the community center to all residents.

Agency Accreditation - The department is working towards national accreditation that requires compliance to 151 standards of best management practices across multiple disciplines.

Groton Parks Foundation (GPF) - Expand efforts with the this tax-exempt organization whose mission is to increase public awareness of and achieve broad community support for unmet equipment and program needs of Groton's Park and Recreation system.

Here's to another great year!



Mark Berry
 Director

How you can partner with GPF to build a healthy, happy, connected community.



Support & Sponsor

Support a park project or program



Adopt a Park

Advocate for maintenance and improvements



Fundraising

Host a fundraiser for local projects & programs



Join

Join a committee and lead a cause.

For more information go to grotonrec.com or call Groton Parks and Recreation at 860-536-5680.