



KOTZEBUE PARKS AND RECREATION



Open Gym

Open gyms were very successful in January and February. So much so, that we had to request additional gym space from the NWABSD. We now run a separate session on Sundays for K – 5th Grade at the JNES gym while we also run the open gym for grades 6th – 8th. We also have added a session for High

School as well. Mae Mendenhall has been heading up a Women's open gym which is also on Sunday. We have been averaging 40+ participants per week at all open gyms combined.



REC Center

We have added additional days and times for the Rec Center. The Rec Center is now open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for early morning workouts 6:00 am to 7:30 am and on Monday 5:00pm to 9:00pm. This was at the request of community members who wanted to work out early and also wanted evening hours on Monday so they didn't have two consecutive days where there was no access to the Rec Center. Between all additional sessions combined we are averaging 25 more visits to the Rec Center per week. Membership numbers are also increasing. We have also added a new venue to the Rec Center. Wallyball is now set up on one of the racquetball courts. We have a tournament planned for March 27th and 28th.

Family Skate Night

On January 24th we had a Family Skate Night at the JNES gym. There were 60 kids in attendance. Everyone really enjoys this event but the skates need to be replaced. Parks and Recreation has submitted a grant request for new skates to a foundation with grants for suicide prevention activities. Hopefully we'll be able to buy new skates soon and we'll be able to hold more regular events like this.



Community Garden Project

We had our first meeting on January 15th. We decided try a small project for 2015 that would focus on encouraging people to garden by making ready to plant pallet gardens that would beautify the community and provide fresh produce. The approach would be two pronged in promotion. One would encourage organizations to make pallet gardens and one would encourage individuals to start pallet gardens. The City would supply the materials for the gardens which would be sold to organizations and individuals. Our second meeting was on March 3rd and was well attended. We are organizing those interested into a committee that will implement this plan.



Judge's choice winner. Picture submitted by Antonia Commack

Photo Contest In January and February we held a photo contest ask people to send in their best photos taken in Kotzebue and around the region. We had some really great photos submitted. The community enjoyed weighing in on their favorite pictures as they were displayed on the new City Facebook Page. A panel of local judges picked the best photos in three different categories.

Search And Rescue Basketball Tournament

The Parks and Recreation Department helped promote and organize this event. It was a good event for a great cause. Search and Rescue did a good job running the event. It was well attended. We were happy to support this event.

March Events We have some fun events scheduled for March that include a town shamrock search for kids and a Wallyball Tournament at the Rec Center along with our other regularly scheduled events.

Spring Festival Parks and recreation has taken over the organization and coordination of the events surrounding the running of the Kobuk 440. Maija Lukin has left us some big mukluks to fill, but we'll do our best. It will be good practice for running an even larger event on the 4th of July.