

# KOTZEBUE PARKS AND RECREATION



## Memorial Day

Thank you to Chester Ballot and other Vets who helped us remember those who have served us in the armed forces.



## Kotzebue Youth Center

It's been a little over a month since the youth center had its official opening. During that time we have started Boys & Girls Club programming, several Parks & Recreation events, hosted a dance, and held 3 major events for private youth oriented groups, and a birthday party. We're just getting started though and we're working to maximize the potential of this new facility.

## Open Gym

Parks & Recreation is sponsoring almost 40 hours of open gym a week. Elementary, Middle School, Men's High School/Adult, and Women's High School /Adult all have 3 sessions per week.

## Community Garden Project

We had a gardening sale at the youth center to support local gardeners and beautify Kotzebue. We also made three pallet gardens for display in public places. We still have potting soil for sale call 442-3106 or 412-0381

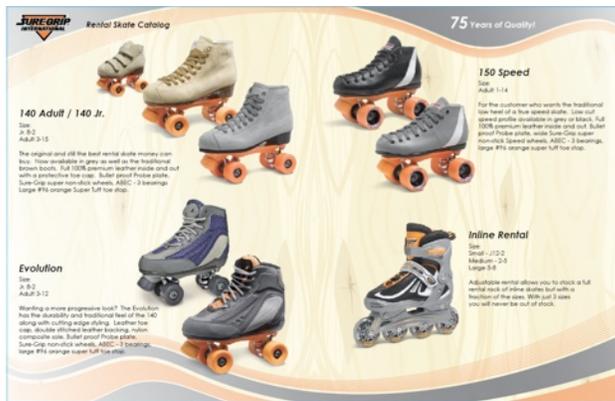
## Midnight Sun Festival

Kotzebue will have its first ever Midnight Sun Festival on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. It will feature a softball tournament, 5K run, and a food fair. We hope to make this an annual event that highlights the uniqueness of this region.



## Fourth of July Celebration

Preparations are almost complete for this year's City sponsored 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. We are coordinating with Qatnut to combine some events which will be a benefit to all. Five native dance teams are being flown in this year for Qatnut. They will be in the parade and perform on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds. The Eskimo Games usually held at the high school gym will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds as part of the City's Celebration. Best of all there will be a blanket toss demonstration at the City celebration!



## New Roller Skates for JNES

With funds from Parks and Recreation and the Rasmuson Grant, the City is purchasing 200 pairs of new roller skates as shown in the image here. These skates will replace the skates that are currently in use. Some of you may have used them when you were in school! This will allow the school and the Parks and Recreation Department to have regular skating events with up to date equipment.



## Summer Projects

The New Softball field is under construction. The fencing will soon be complete. We're not sure if we can open it this summer, but we are making progress!

We also hope to re-surface the basketball court at the Fairgrounds and replace/restore the standards and hoops.

## Mosquito Half Marathon

We are again working with Arctic Chiropractic on the Mosquito half Marathon. It is scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be the final event of the running triple crown: Midnight Sun Festival 5K, Fourth of July 5K, and the Mosquito Half Marathon. Thanks to Lew Pagel for helping with this event. Bill Kazmaier, the world's strongest man, will be here in Kotzebue to help us promote this event.