CRPR Agency Historical Timeline

1927
- Holmes-Foster Park lands donated to the Borough of State College - 11 acres

1928
- Resolution passed creating first State College Borough Rec. Board. State College Council appointed five-member Recreation Board.

1946
- First part-time Recreation Director hired - Charles Stoddart, through SCASD
- The State College Borough and the State College School Board started an innovative collaboration to provide year round activities for persons of all ages in arts and crafts, sports, dramatics, music, dancing, nature study, social activities, special events, and adult education. This program, the forerunner of both the school district’s Community Education program and CRPR, started small with two part-time directors, Charles Stoddard and Curt Gaylord. In addition to providing classes in “fun” subjects, the program helped adults gain skills in basic subjects like reading and math.
- Two supervised playgrounds in operation.
- Adult men’s and women’s basketball league started.
- Ice skating program started.
- Woodycrest playground area purchased.
- School budget - $2,000. Borough budget - $1,900.

1947
- Curt Gaylord appointed new Recreation Director through SCASD
- Sunset Park purchased - 9 acres, $2,500.
- Written agreement in regards to cooperation between the School Board, Recreation Board, and Council.
- First adult education program organized.
- Junior league football initiated.
- Junior league baseball program added.
- Sunday Sr. High indoor sports program started.
- School budget - $2,000. Borough budget - $1,900.

1948
- Ned Cummings appointed new Recreation Director through SCASD
- Adult men’s softball league started.
- Midget baseball league started.
- School budget - $6,000. Borough budget - $3,000.

1949
- Fran Hartzell appointed new Recreation Director.
- Additional play apparatus added to Sunset and Holmes-Foster Parks.
- Adult homemaking and adult recreation classes separated.

1950
- John Dittmar appointed new Recreation Director (p/t) through SCASD.
- At present time: 2 playgrounds, 2 parks.
- Summer landscape class started.
- School budget - $11,000. Borough budget - $3,400.
1951
- South Hills playground developed.
- School budget - $12,500. Borough budget - $3,400.

1952
- Recreation Director, John Dittmar, employed full-time through SCASD.
- Nittany Village playground developed.

1953
- East Fairmount playground established.
- Senior Citizens Club organized.
- Folk dancing added to program.

1954
- Borough Supervised Playground program expanded.
- State College Area playgrounds established
- Adult men’s volleyball league organized.
- Recreation Board name changed to Park and Recreation Board.
- School budget - $17,000. Borough budget - $4,200.

1955
- Full time secretary hired.
- State College Area playgrounds expanded.
- Model airplane class initiated.

1956
- Program and Director extended to cover College area.

1957
- Recreation Board given permission to use high school facilities for recreation.
- School budget - $25,100. Borough budget - $7,000.

1958
- Fifteen playgrounds in operation in area.
- School budget - $21,150. Borough budget - $8,500.

1959
- Suburban Playground developed.
- Overlook Heights playground developed.
- Newly-constructed Welch Pool opened by The State College Recreation Assn.
- School budget - $30,000. Borough budget - $9,500.

1960
- Charles Reich hired as Assistant Recreation Director.
- Smithfield playground developed.
- Forty-seven adult education classes offered.
- School budget - $30,000. Borough budget - $9,500.
1961
- Stormstown playground established (Halfmoon Twp.)
- Twenty-one playgrounds operated by Recreation Board.
- Twenty-one baseball fields utilized.
- State College area recreation survey and ten-year plan completed.

1962
- Westerly Parkway (High School) athletic fields completed.
- Board operated 2 pools, 20 playgrounds, used School District and University facilities.
- Corl Street paved, play area completed.
- Thirty-seven different types of programs conducted.
- School budget - $67,700. Borough budget - $16,000.

1963
- New tot-lot developed in Park Forest Village and added to the playground system.

1964
- Applications made to acquire ninety-seven acres of neighborhood park lands in the Borough, Patton, Ferguson, and College Townships under Project 70.
- A program was conducted at the Radio Park Elementary School site for the first time.
- Sailing was offered to area high school students.
- School budget - $45,012. Borough budget - $17,668.

1965
- John D. Dittmar resigns after serving fifteen years as the Director of the Department through SCASD.
- A new 7-member Park and Recreation Board was organized late in 1965 under the School Code. One member was appointed by each of the following: Borough Council, Area School Board, and the Townships of Patton, Ferguson, Halfmoon, College, and Harris.
- School budget - $13,500. Borough budget - $30,450. Township budget - $13,500 (capital only)

1966
- Robert H. Ayer appointed new Director of Parks and Recreation for the State College area.
- Acquisition of 26.4 acres for park purposes in the Borough of State College, and a State grant of $17,000 and a Federal grant of $17,000.
- Acquisition of 45.4 acres for park purposes in College Township, a State grant of $19,500 and a Federal grant of $20,000.
- A State grant of $1,500 for park site in Halfmoon Township.
- New, larger office quarters acquired in Borough Hall.
- New playground manual developed.
- Newsletter developed for Senior Citizens Club.
- Creative Dramatics for youth introduced.
- Junior High Youth Council established.
- Summer band concerts introduced.
- Peanut Carnival introduced into Department’s Special Events.
- Introduction of mobile concert for Christmas Program.
A new bookkeeping system established with a yearly audit for the Department’s Township and General Funds.

A purchase order system established.

New picnic shelter for Holmes-Foster Park, Borough of State College.

School budget - $50,274. Borough budget - $23,165. Township budget - $6,367. (operating)

1967

Steven Longwell appointed Assistant Director for the Department.

A State grant of $36,250 and a Federal grant of $17,000 were received by the borough of State College for park acquisition.

A State grant of $19,500 and a Federal grant of $18,965 were received by College Township for park acquisition.

A State grant of $5,000 and a Federal grant of $4,500 was received by Patton Township for park acquisition.

Park development plans for the Shoemaker Tract in the Borough of State College and the Stearns Tract in College Township were completed.

The Purple Pocket, a teenagers’ drop-in center, opened its doors.

In cooperation with the P.A.R.C., programs in bowling, swimming, and puppetry were introduced to youngsters in special education classes.

A gymnastic class, creative dramatics class, and a social dance class were introduced into the list of department programs for area residents.


1968

The (new) Centre Region Council of Governments agreed to take over Parks & Recreation financing, freeing the school district of all responsibility. However, the district would continue to make school facilities available for CRPR programs. The school district continued operating the Adult Education portion of the Parks & Recreation program.

A State grant of $122,224 was allocated for a second pool for the State College area - Park Forest Pool.

The first Luminaria Christmas Project was offered to area residents.

Acquisition of 10.7 acres and a State grant of $8,900 for park purposes was received by Ferguson Township.

Central Parklet (renamed Friedman Parklet in 2009) was developed in the Borough and a State grant of $10,347.75 was received for its development.

Development started on High Point Park in the Borough.

Bid let for the construction of a second pool for the State College area: Park Forest Pool.

A State grant of $10,000 was allocated for the first phase of the development of Spring Creek Park in College Twp.

Ice skating rink established for the first time in the Westerly Parkway storm water basin in the Borough.

Employee’s Handbook established.

Sailing Club established.

Judo program started.

New playground equipment installed in Green Hollow Park.

Junior High Square Dance program introduced.

Merit award received from the PA. Assn. Of Boroughs for the Department’s 1967 Annual Report.

1969
- Construction started on the second regional pool - Park Forest.
- Development completed on High Point Park in the Borough.
- Development started on Spring Creek Park in College Township.
- New summer park program established in Ferguson Township.
- A grant of $4,500 received by Patton Township for park acquisition.
- Cooperative guidelines established for the planning and development, acquisition, financing, and joint use of buildings and grounds.
- Show wagon constructed and placed into operation.
- The William L. Welch Pool placed under the operation of the Department.
- Evening park program introduced.
- Development of a family ski club program.
- New programs introduced were: neighborhood crafts, square dancing, ballet, ballroom dancing, adult touch football, open gym, social recreation for handicapped children, and youth club program for Junior High students.
- Brochure for fall and winter activities, and an aquatics manual were developed.
- School budget - $33,521.34. Borough budget - $26,510.64. Township - $24,276.02.

1970
- The opening of the second regional outdoor pool - Park Forest.
- The opening of a new park in the Borough - High Point Park.
- The completion of master site plans for Tusseyview Park in the borough and for Suburban Park in Ferguson Twp.
- The completion of the first phase of the development of Spring Creek Park in College Township.
- Received a State grant of $122,224 for the development of the second regional pool - Park Forest.
- Received a State grant of $26,938 for the development of the first phase of Spring Creek Park.
- The establishment of the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority for the purpose of financing recreation facilities.
- The establishment of a summer nature program.
- The establishment of a swim team at Welch Pool.
- The establishment of a neighborhood craft program.

1971
- The development of a master site plan for Walnut Spring Park in the borough.
- Park improvements made at Smithfield in the Borough.
- New picnic shelter for Woodycrest Park in Patton Township.
- Department is co-host of the 24th Annual State Conference of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society.
- Park improvements made at South Hills in the Borough.
- Women’s volleyball, adult badminton, open gym, and biddy basketball introduced at the new Park Forest Junior High School.
- The establishment of a model airplane class for elementary students.
- Pre-school gymnastics and swimming lessons offered.
- State College Open Swim Meet conducted for the first time at the Park Forest Pool.
- Youngsters from area parks won the Jim Thorpe Junior Olympics team championship in Carlisle, PA.
- Original production of “Johnny Appleseed” presented in area parks.
- Borough budget - $59,815. Township - $33,685.
1972
- Construction of Tusseyview Park in the Borough.
- Completion of site plans for Walnut Spring Park in the Borough and for Central Park in Harris Township.
- Completion of Phase II development plan for Spring Creek Park in College Township.
- Completion of the Centre Regional Recreation Open Space Plan.
- Program established for the tenth and eleventh grade students offering job training, summer employment, and personal recreation opportunities.
- Junior Model Airplane Club established.
- New programs offered for girls in softball and basketball.
- Borough budget - $66,140. Township - $60,324.

1973
- Completion of Tusseyview Park in the Borough.
- Construction of final development phase of Spring Creek Park in College Township.
- Construction of Suburban Park in Ferguson Township.
- Establishment of Citizen’s Advisory Committee.
- Acquisition of land for park purposes in Ferguson and Harris Townships.
- Completion of State College Area Aquatics Study.
- Community Appearance Award from the Community Appearance and Design Review Board for Central Parklet.
- Borough budget - $72,351. Township - $66,796.

1974
- Dedication of Spring Creek Park in College Township.
- Dedication of Suburban Park in Ferguson Township.
- Renovation of Smithfield Park in the Borough.
- Park Mobile Service to Baileyville and Graysdale.
- Site plans for Country Place, Fairbrook, Kaywood, and Nittany View Parks.
- Completion of a five-year capital improvement program for facilities.
- Borough budget - $78,836. Township - $93,655.

1975
- Park Mobile Service extended to High Point, Country Place, and Park Hills.
- Senior Citizen’s Horseshoe Tournament conducted.
- Teen dances provided.
- Evening movies at Spring Creek Park introduced.
- Municipal budget support - $162,412.

1976
- Reconstruction and lighting of tennis courts at Community Field.
- University’s student chapter of the American Society of Engineers constructed a covered bridge at Spring Creek Park.
- Junior Women’s Club developed a wood chips trail in Walnut Spring Park.
- Eagle Scout, Mike Williams, built a bridge at Walnut Spring Park.
- Houserville Women’s Club purchased a flag pole for Spring Creek Park.
- Eagle Scout, Nigel Wilson, controlled an erosion problem at Fairbrook Park.
- The University, in cooperation with the department, developed an exercise-jogging trail at Sunset Park.
- Municipal budget support - $177,449. Municipal pool support - $24,777.
1977
- 50th Anniversary of Holmes-Foster Park.
- Hearings held on the financial plight of the two outdoor swimming pools.
- "The Adventure of Robin Hood" was put on by the Dream Makers Children’s Repertory Theatre.
- CDT Mile Race conducted.
- Unicycle instructions offered in region.
- Evening with nature programs offered at Walnut Springs Park.
- Municipal budget support - $186,259. Municipal pool support - $29,678.

1978
- The 25th Anniversary banquet for the State College Area Senior Citizen’s Club.
- Edie Herron named the Department Volunteer of the Year for her work at Walnut Springs Park.
- A gift from the State College Women’s Club for money to purchase thermal blankets at the Park Forest Pool to save on heat cost.
- The first Hershey’s National Track and Field Event.
- The first Centre Region Kite Festival.
- The establishment of COG of the Centre Region Recreation Facility Task Force to study the need of a year-round recreation facility.
- The $33,000 HCRS Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for a multipurpose athletic field in Orchard Park in the Borough of State College.
- The $20,000 HCRS Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for the development of a tennis court at Kaywood Park and the correction of a drainage problem at Blue Spring Park in Harris Township.
- The $15,000 HCRS Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for tennis courts development at Green Hollow Park in Patton Township.

1979
- Reptile and Amphibian Programs offered by Shaver’s Creek Nature Center in a number of neighborhood parks.
- Pitch, Hit, and Run sponsored by Burger King and the National Recreation and Park Association was conducted at Spring Creek Park.
- The Wham-O National Frisbee and Hula Hoop Contest was held at Sunset Park.
- Municipal budget support - $207,995. Municipal pool support - $41,530.

1980
- 30th Anniversary dinner honoring former Parks and Recreation Director, John Dittmar.
- Charter certificates presented to College Township Seniors, Sunset Club, Pine Grove Mills Senior Citizens, and Boalsburg Senior Citizens.
- New Easter Egg Hunt established at Green Hollow Park.
- Arts and Crafts exhibit held at Sunset Park.
- New programs in sailing and canoeing offered.
- New youth and adult tennis leagues started.
- New maintenance storage building acquired.
- 200 attended annual fall banquet of the State College Area Senior Citizens Club.
- James S. Kline receives the Theodore Martin Johnson Memorial Soccer Award.
- Trail system improvements made at Walnut Spring Park.
- Playground improvements made at Kaywood and Dalevue Parks.
1981
- New Senior Citizens Club established in Halfmoon Township.
- Department sponsored Municipal Band and Nittany Valley Symphony Orchestra concerts.
- Adventure park program starts.
- Guidelines presented for capital park expenditures in Harris Township.
- Ron Weis named the department’s Volunteer of the Year.
- Borough receives grant for the acquisition of additional land for Sunset Park.
- Conversion of oil to gas at Welch Pool (for heating the pool water).
- Bids received for a Fit Trail and Play Equipment for Orchard Park.
- Borough receives a matching grant of $5,000 from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts.
- Summerfest, a series of open-air arts events presented in several parks.
- Kenneth C. Fogleman receives the Theodore Martain Johnson Memorial Soccer Award.

1982
- The Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs (DCA) selected the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department for an award in its Community Recreation Award Program. The Department was one of only three in the state to receive an award in the competitive award category for interagency cooperation.
- Acquisition of land for the expansion of Sunset Park was approved and a State Grant for $40,000 was received for the acquisition.
- The Department joined with hundreds of other departments across the country in a program known as “Life, Be In It.”
- A matching grant of $2,000 was received from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts for Summerfest ’82.
- A new park was established by Patton Township - Oakwood Park.
- Orchard Park in the Borough of State College was developed with a Fit-Trail, playground equipment, and picnic facilities.
- A Solar Roll Proposal was presented to COG for heating the Welch Pool.
- A feasibility study for the renovation of the Welch and Park Forest Pools was presented to COG.
- Park improvements were made at Kaywood and Country Place in Harris Township.
- Mt. Nittany Savings and Loan Association provided a donation for park equipment in Fairbrook Park, Ferguson Township, and financial resources for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and a Day in the Park for Senior Citizens at Spring Creek Park, College Township.
- Mary Ellen Blencoe was named the Department’s Volunteer of the Year.

1983
- A gift catalog of recreation and park needs was developed and distributed.
- An informational guide to Municipal Parks in the Centre Region was developed and distributed. This was the first guide ever published of this type and the printing of the guide was made possible by a donation from McDonald’s Restaurants.
- A grant was obtained from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts and with the financial help from the Borough of State College, Summerfest ’83 was held in Holmes-Foster Park.
- Two new parks were added to the system. Orchard Park, located in the Borough of State College, and Oakwood Park, located in Patton Township.
- The Department sponsored a special program on June 4, known as Superday, in which people of all ages participated.
- The Department was recognized as one of the leading departments in the state of
Pennsylvania for its work on the “Life, Be In It” program and was given a Merit Award by the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs.

1984
- The Middle Atlantic Region of the National Recreation and Park Association presented the Department with an award for its outstanding work in the program “Life, Be In It.”
- A grant was obtained from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts for Summerfest ’84, a series of visual performing arts programs held in Holmes-Foster Park.
- New park equipment was installed in Graysdale Park, Park Forest Tot-Lot, Fairbrook Park, and Holmes-Foster Park.
- New restrooms and a new picnic shelter added to Sunset Park.

1985
- Automatic pool water quality (chemical) controllers were installed at the Park Forest and Welch Pools.
- The firm of GWSW, Inc. was retained to complete a comprehensive Recreation and Park Plan. A state grant was received to pay 50% of the Park Plan for the Recreational Improvement and Rehabilitation Act Program.
- A grant was obtained from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts for Summerfest ’85.
- Park improvements were made in Woodycrest Park in Patton Township.
- A Playbooster (a brand of modular playground equipment) was installed in Sunset Park in the Borough of State College.
- A new restroom was constructed in Holmes-Foster Park in the Borough of State College.
- Park improvements were made in Dalevue Park in College Township.
- New play apparatus installed in Willowbrook Park in Harris Township.

1986
- Administrative office moves from the borough office to Fraser Plaza.
- Computer added to office equipment.
- Administering role given to Department for operation of the Centre Region Senior Citizens’ Center.
- Play equipment installed and landscaping completed at East Fairmount Park.
- Park improvements made at Slab Cabin and Dalevue Park.
- A grant was obtained from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts for Summerfest ’86.
- Restroom constructed at Orchard Park.
- A grant was obtained under R.I.R.A. for a master site development plan for Lederer Park.

1987
- Department received the State College Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award.
- Water Slide was installed at the William L. Welch Community Swimming Pool.
- A grant of $8,000 was received by Harris Township for new play equipment at Blue Spring Park under the State’s Recreation Improvement and Rehabilitation Act.
- A grant of $3,000 was obtained from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts for Summerfest ’87.
- A grant of $50,000 was obtained under LWCF for Lederer park.
- Department introduced the National Youth Sports Coaches Association Certification Program.
1988
- Sarah Godbey Playground established in Green Hollow Park, Patton Township.
- Borough of State College received a grant under the acquisition program of the Recreational Improvement and Rehabilitation Act for $10,683 for the Leary Tract.
- Harris Township received a grant of $8,000 under the Small Communities/Small Projects of the Recreational Improvement and Rehabilitation Act for play equipment at Blue Spring Park.
- CRPR became a member of C-Net/24.
- The Borough of State College received word that a grant of $4,500 from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts would be reserved for Summerfest '89.
- New play equipment was installed in South Hills Park in the Borough of State College.
- The Centre Region Cultural Center Task Force was established.
- Daniel Shoffner was named recipient of the Theodore Martin Johnson Memorial Soccer Award.

1989
- Ferguson Township received a grant under the acquisition program of the Recreation Improvement and Rehabilitation Act for $100,000 for the Tudek Tract.
- First phase of the Lederer Park Development was completed in the borough of State College.
- Held first Senior Games in the Centre Region.
- Provided staff support for the first Festival of Cultures event in State College.
- Completed a Parks and Recreation documentary for C-Net/24.
- Completed a tree planting program and installed new backstop at Fairbrook Park in Ferguson Township.
- Installed new play equipment in Smithfield Park in the Borough of State College.
- New picnic shelter installed in Spring Creek Park by College Township.
- Sponsored the U.S. Navy Sea Chanters Concert.
- New park improvements completed in Fasick Park by Harris Township.

1990
- The acquisition of the Tom Tudek Memorial Park in Ferguson Township and the receiving of the $100,000 grant from the State Recreational Improvement and Rehabilitation Act Program for that purpose.
- The completion of the $100,000 LWCF Grant for the development of Lederer Park in the Borough of State College.
- The implementation of the first Centre Region Iron Kids Mini-Triathlon.
- A $3,500 grant from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts for Summerfest '90.
- The installation of new play structures in the Borough of State College and the Townships of College, Ferguson, and Harris.
- The approval of renovation plans for the Park Forest Pool in Patton Township.

1991
- The renovation of the Park Forest Pool in Patton Township.
- The adoption of the Walnut Springs Park Master Plan.
- The credit card payment system was established for program registration.
- The dedication of Lederer Park in the Borough of State College.
- The installation of a plaque at the Park Forest Pool in honor of the late Dr. Edward Fagan.
- The establishment of the Ridge and Valley Outing Club.
- The cooperative efforts of the Office of Aging, State College Area YMCA, and the Department in the sponsoring of the 1991 Senior Games.
1992

- Implemented a computerized system (the SportsLog database) for program registration that resulted in a faster response time and better storage of data.
- Prepared grant applications for Ferguson and Harris Townships for park improvements under the PA Recreation Improvement and Rehabilitation Act.
- Restructured the day camp program. Combined day camp programs resulting in decreasing the department costs while improving the quality of the program.
- Revised the Department Youth Sports Policy to bring better direction for the department’s involvement in these activities.
- Offered 55/Alive Safe Driving Program developed by AARP at the Centre Region Senior Citizens’ Center.
- Established a committee to study the feasibility of developing a regional hike-bike facility.
- Developed a new method of rating parks according to the condition of installed equipment resulting in our identification of those parks that need their equipment upgraded.
- Installed new play equipment and renovated the game field area in Woodycrest Park.
- Installed new play equipment in Homestead Park and the establishment of a game field.
- Improved lighting at Welch Pool that resulted in better visibility for evening swim meets.
- 12% increase in the youth soccer program.
- CRPR included 3rd graders in our youth softball program and increased participation by 39%.
- 26% increase in the number of youth who participated on the Welch and Park Forest Swim Teams.

1993

- Prepared Recreation Improvement and Rehabilitation Grants for the Borough of State College and the townships of College and Harris totaling $87,965.
- Planned a Remembrance Tree Program for implementation in 1994. The purpose of the Remembrance Tree Program is to replace or add trees to parks and recreation areas in need in the Borough of State College, College Township, Ferguson Township, Harris Township, Patton Township, and to give the donor the opportunity to remember a loved one or event.
- Maintenance Division devised a method for automatically introducing chlorine into Welch Pool to meet standards when chemical pumps cannot keep up due to swim load and weather.
- Recreation Division established three new programs: Club Adventure - designed especially to meet the needs of active 7th and 8th graders. Step Aerobics - a fitness program for adults, and an Adult Basketball League. In addition, a cooperative arrangement was established with the State College Area School District Food Service to provide a well-balanced, nutritious noon meal for youngsters attending Adventure Park Day Camp.
- Expanded the wellness programs at the Senior Center to include: Line Dancing, Yoga, and Ballroom dancing. Also hosted the Senior Games in which 120 people participated.
- The Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority received a $2,500 RIRA Grant as prepared by the staff of the Centre Regional Planning Commission to conduct a Feasibility Study to determine the viability of converting a Railroad right-of-way to a pedestrian/bicycle trail.
1994

- The Tom Tudek Memorial Park in Ferguson Township was dedicated and opened to the general public.
- Assisted the Borough of State College and the Townships of College and Harris with grant applications under the Recreation Improvement and Rehabilitation Program. One grant was approved for $40,000 for the renovation of Central Parklet in the Borough of State College.
- The Remembrance Tree Program was implemented and allows residents to remember a loved one or event by donating a tree to park or recreation areas. Some $2,000 has been received for planting new trees in the short period that the program has been in operation.
- Provided leadership, facilities, and scheduling for some sixty organized recreation programs that reached some 12,000 people of all ages.
- The Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority established a Hike-Bike Trail Committee which led to the Council of Governments approval of applying for a planning grant for doing a feasibility study on a Hike-Bike Trail. The planning staff obtained the grant for the study which is now underway.
- A year-round aquatic program was offered to the residents of the Centre Region at the H.S. Natatorium, and the Welch and Park Forest Pool. Some 1,033 youngsters participated in the American Red Cross Lesson Program at these facilities.
- Developed programs that promoted the mental wellness of older adults at the Centre Region Senior Citizen’s Center.

1995

- Administered a Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund Community Grant for the Borough of State College for $100,000 for the acquisition of additional park land for Orchard Park.
- Administered a Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund Community Grant for Harris Township for $20,000 for play equipment for Nittany View Park.
- Began discussion with Penn State University on leasing University land for a Regional Nature Center.
- Received a Program Award from the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society for the Department’s **Friday Night Bowling Program** for individuals with disabilities.
- Increased tennis lessons for area youth from 170 in 1994 to 300 in 1995.
- Increase attendance at Fast Pitch Clinic from 26 in 1994 to 52 in 1996.
- Reached 500 youngsters in the Youth Softball Program for the first time.
- Started In-Line Skating instruction for youth.
- Extended Wee Adventure Day Camp which accommodated 64 more youngsters than were accommodated in 1994.
- Provided 21 Rec-Park Majors with leadership training opportunities.
- Started Community of Life Long Learning Program at the Senior Center to enhance educational opportunities at the center.
- Started Growing Wiser Program dealing with issues of mental wellness at the Senior Center.
- Started two new programs at the Senior Center: Tap dancing and weight lifting.
- Retained a full-time Aquatic Supervisor for the agency.
- Successfully computer networked the two outdoor pools with the main office so that program registration could be done at all three locations.
- Over 1,500 youngsters participated in the American Red Cross swim lesson program conducted by our aquatic staff.
- Replaced several items of play equipment in area parks that did not meet U.S. Consumer Product Safety Standard.
- Maintenance Division increased landscaping services to area parks.
Summer Concert Series started with Music Performance Trust Fund Local #660 and Downtown State College, Inc.

1996
- Administered a Recreation and Conservation Fund Community Grant for the Borough of State College for $12,000 for the Orchard Park Extension Site Plan.
- The Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority prepares a lease agreement with the Pennsylvania State University for their Farm 12 site and the Millbrook Marsh Wetlands Area for the development of a Nature Center.
- The agency received several awards at the 49th Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society which was held at the Penn State Scanticon from March 10-13. Director Robert H. Ayer received the Fred M. Coombs Honor Award. Recreation Supervisor, Kimberly Guadagnolo received the Outstanding New Professional Award; and Senior Center Director, Barbara Lindenbaum received a program award for the Senior Center’s Community of Life Long Learning Program.
- In cooperation with State College Area School District’s Community Education Department, a new program called “Sports and Shorts” was started this summer. It allowed participants to take academic subjects in the morning and attend our Day Camp in the afternoon.
- There was an increase of 85 participants in the Senior Games this year over 1995. Some 225 older adults participated in 10 sporting events in this year’s games.
- In cooperation with the Centre Region Planning Agency, the Centre Region Pedestrian/Bicycle Trail Feasibility Study was completed by the Sear-Brown Group.
- Larry Pharo, Manager of the State College Municipal Band, was named by the Department as their Volunteer of the Year and was honored at the Centre County Council of Human Services Volunteer Dinner in April.
- The Department received a check for $4,153 for flood damage at Spring Creek Park from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This allowed our maintenance personnel to repair the damage to the park in the spring.
- Our Park Supervisor in charge of maintenance, Gregory Roth, was certified as a Playground Safety Inspector.
- The loan for the renovations of our outdoor pool facilities was retired.
- Robert H. Ayer retires as Director of Parks & Recreation.

1997
- Ronald J. Woodhead appointed as new Director of Centre Region Parks and Recreation.
- Centre Region COG, in cooperation with Centre Regional Recreation Authority and Clearwater Conservancy, leased the 62-acre “Farm 12” from Penn State for the development of Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. Planning for improvements, as well as initial public programs, were started during 1997.
- The new agency office (relocated in August to Fraser Plaza Suite #3) provides more effective services for both residents and staff.
- Began the CRPR Strategic Planning Process, to conclude in 1998, with a Resident Survey on Parks, Recreation, and Open Space.

1998
- Volunteer Projects in municipal parks: In September, PNC Bank / United Way Day-of-Caring volunteers completed many important maintenance jobs at 7 municipal park sites, including Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. In addition, CRPR worked with 350 youth (ages 14-18) during the July L.D.S. Youth Fellowship Conference to complete 12 projects at 9 sites.
The agency convened an informal coalition of volunteer sport-group representatives known as the Centre Region Sport Council to assist in reviewing the operation of existing athletic facilities and providing suggestions for improvements.

Continued work with SCASD Community Education in offering in-service day and special event programs at schools and at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (Educational / Recreational Activity Days, Art in August, Summer Regional School of Excellence, and "Shorts and Sports", a cooperative program in conjunction with our summer day camp)

The 1st Annual Spring Spruce-Up Day was held within Centre Region municipal parks in connection with Earth Day and other community groups from Centre County to schedule Spring clean-up events within the region.

CRPR developed (introduced) the Centre Region Park Partners Program, a branch of the Gifts-For-Parks Program. This program offers groups a way to be involved in preserving the beauty of the Centre Region parks.

The “PC Learning Lab” was developed at the Centre Region Senior Center. The 4-station lab was funded 100% by a $17,000 grant from the PA. Dept. of Aging.

Agency computer network hardware & software upgraded.

The Supervised Summer Playground program was re-introduced at 5 neighborhood municipal park sites. The "Kids Club Supervised Playground Program” was offered during the summer of 1998, and provided supervised recreational activities for youngsters entering grades 3-8.

1999

Received a $71,573 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to create an interpretive wetland/water laboratory and a Web Page for the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

Benefited from the established of two endowments ($26,000.00 and $12,500.00) through the Centre County Community Foundation for the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

Initiated the “All Aboard for Millbrook” program to assist in funding the construction of approximately 1,200 feet of boardwalks and bridges at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

The addition of a Site Coordinator (seasonal, part-time) at Millbrook was instrumental in the success of the Summer & Fall 1999 programs at the Nature Center.

Hosted 46,334 individual visits to the Welch and Park Forest Pools during their summer operating season.

A picnic pavilion was constructed and the parking lot was repaved at the Park Forest Community Swimming Pool. The Welch Community Swimming Pool was sandblasted and repainted.

Received recognition from the State College Magazine operating the Best Playground at Holmes Foster Park and the Best Park at Spring Creek Park.

Successful transition of the SC Area Senior Citizens Club meeting location from St. Andrews Church to the Centre Region Senior Center, increasing the usage of the Senior Center & increasing general awareness of the Center’s program offerings. In addition, the center hosted 16,451 program visits, an increase of 2,355 or 14% from the 14,096 visits in 1998.

Since the Remembrance Tree Program’s inception in 1994, there have been 81 trees planted in Centre Region park and recreation areas, and over $12,000 donated to the program. An engraved plastic tag is attached to the donated trees displaying the donor’s name and the type of tree. In addition, the donor receives a certificate of participation in the program.
• Received 11,927 registrations for Centre Region Parks and Recreation programs. This is an increase of 788 or 7% from 1998. In particular, registrations for youth basketball rose from 133 to 180, an increase of 35%.
• Sold over 2,000 discounted tickets for 18 amusement park areas, zoos, aquariums, and historical sites. Funds from this activity are used to pay for program registration costs for individuals in need.

2000
• The agency was responsible for the ongoing maintenance and operation of 452 acres of park land, including 34 municipal parks, 2 outdoor pools, the Centre Region Senior Center, and the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. The agency acquired a new park, Haymarket Park, located in Ferguson Township.
• The agency offered a total of 658 recreation programs for youth, adults, and seniors. Most of these programs involved more than one meeting (camps, leagues, swim lessons, aerobics, etc.) and were held at sites that included the parks, schools, pools, and the nature center. Accordingly, CRPR coordinated a total of 31,119 program registrations and 849 picnic pavilion reservations.
• The Centre Region Senior Center served 4,183 noon-time meals and hosted 19,265 program visits during 2000. The number of program visits in 2000 increased by 17% from 1999 and by 37% from 1998.
• A comprehensive agency website was developed, maintained, and actively promoted during 2000. The site continues to be updated almost daily, consists of over 110 web pages, and covers all aspects of agency operations. Resident response to the site has been outstanding; it provides another means to “get the word out” about CRPR services. www.CentreConnect.org/crpr
• During 2000, Park Forest Community Pool and Wm. L. Welch Community Pool hosted a total of 46,055 recreational visits during the 100-day summer swim season. Not counting swim team or swim class visits, an average of 460 people visited the pools each day.
• The Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority proceeded with an Aquatics Feasibility Study, in partnership with funding assistance from the Commonwealth and the State College Area Family YMCA. That study will be completed during 2001. A Pool Entrance Fee Survey and also a Resident Survey was conducted. An aquatics consultant has recently been retained to complete the study project.
• Brian Wicks was named recipient of the Theodore Martin Johnson Memorial Soccer Award.
• Millbrook Marsh Nature Center hosted 3,290 visitors to programs during the 7-month season at the facility. It should also be noted that while municipal contributions totaled $30,000 for 2000, private cash donations to the nature center totaled $29,461 for the same period. The value of donated professional services to the nature center increases this amount by over $10,000. These facts reflect the true public-private partnership that has been cultivated since the center opened in 1997. This support has permitted major improvements to the facilities during 2000 such as the fire sprinkler system, structural repairs and improvements, and interior lighting and visitor safety improvements.
• The Gifts-For-Parks Program, which seeks private donations for park improvements, continues to thrive with three components:
  - **Remembrance Tree Program**: A new brochure was produced for this popular program. As of the end of 2000, a total of 127 trees has been planted in municipal parks since the program started in 1994. During 2000 alone, 31 Remembrance Trees were planted and $5,732 was donated for tree purchases.
  - **Park Partner Program**: This program was started in 1998 and has grown to 8 municipal parks that have been “adopted” by community groups.
- **Gifts-For-Parks Donations**: During 2000, private donations totaling $6,200 were made for various enhancements to the parks, pools, and programs.

### 2001
- The agency was responsible for the ongoing maintenance and operation of 470 acres of park land, including 36 municipal parks, 2 outdoor pools, the Centre Region Senior Center, and the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. The agency acquired two new parks, Greenbriar/Saybrook Park, located in Ferguson Township, and Haugh Track Park, located in Patton Township.
- Over 700 programs and events were offered during 2001. As a result, the agency conducted 40,538 customer transactions (including program or league registrations & sign-ups, pavilion reservations, etc.) A total of 814 reservation permits were issued for the 14 picnic pavilions during 2001.
- The PA Recreation and Park Society presented two awards to the agency in March:
  - the "Agency Publication & Promotion Award" for the seasonal CRPR Leisure Guides.
  - the "Excellence in Programming Award" for the CRPR Remembrance Tree Program. This program started in 1994 and continues to be very popular: in 2000, 31 trees were planted and in 2001, 30 trees were planted. Since the program began, a total of 159 trees have been planted in municipal parks using donations.
- On December 7, The Centre County Historical Society presented the "Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation" for the adaptive use of the barn at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.
- The Centre Region Parks & Recreation website was voted Best Parks & Recreation website by recNparks.com.
- Millbrook Marsh Nature Center hosted 3,290 program visits during 2001, a 15% increase over 2000.
- The Centre Region Senior Center hosted 21,572 program visits (a new record) during 2001 and served 3,870 noon-time meals.
- An agreement between the State College Area School District and the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority for the authority to renovate, operate, and maintain 5 school district ballfields at 3 elementary schools was approved.

### 2002
- The agency was responsible for the ongoing maintenance and operation of 525 acres of municipal park land at 44 sites.
- The agency operates a new park, Thompson Woods Preserve, located in College Township and the Borough of State College.
- The agency conducted 35,222 customer transactions (including program or league registrations & sign-ups, pavilion reservations, etc.) in 2002. A total of 836 group reservation permits were issued for the 16 picnic pavilions during 2002.
- Park Forest and Welch Community Swimming Pools hosted 66,451 visits (recreational, instructional, and competitive) during the 100-day summer swim season.
- The Centre Region Senior Center served 3,486 noon-time meals and hosted 24,497 program visits during 2002.
- A new fitness program, three new sports programs, and a Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Program were added in 2002. These programs include: Adult Flag Football, Rallyball Tennis, Wrestling, Pilates (Fitness), and the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Youth Fly-Fishing Day Camp.
- In April, a lease agreement for Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority to renovate, operate, and maintain 5 school district ballfields at 3 elementary schools was approved.
became effective.

- On March 26, the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society presented an award to the Centre Region Senior Center for the “Award for Excellence in Programming” for the C.A.L.L. program.
- In September, the agency received a $4,000 donation from the new Wegmans Food Market for the Centre Region Gifts-For-Parks program for CRPR youth sport leagues ($3,000) and youth recreation scholarships ($1,000).
- The Aquatics Feasibility Study was completed and presented to the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority on March 19 and presented to the COG General Forum on March 25. The study was funded in part through a grant provided by the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Grant Program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Recreation and Conservation Bureau. Funding assistance was also provided by five municipalities of the Centre Region Council of Governments and by the State College Area Family YMCA.
- The Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority (CRRA) was awarded a PA Conservation Corps grant in the amount of $85,000 for work at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center and municipal parks in cooperation with the Centre County Historical Society. The job-training program will focus on 37 identified projects at the mentioned sites. The 12-month project began in July and will involve 1 crew leader and 5 workers (age 18-25). The PA Conservation Corps will also pay for up to $20,000 of materials. This is the first time the PA Conservation Corps (operated by the state Dept. Of Labor and Industry since 1984) has awarded a grant to a municipal authority.
- A pavilion, two sun shelters, and a boardwalk bridge were constructed at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.
- The PA Conservation Corps began construction on the Boardwalk at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center in July. Phase I of the project was completed by September.
- An open house and dedication ceremony was held on June 27 at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.
- The Welch Pool and Park Forest Pool participated in National Kid’s Day on August 4 by having a “Dollar Day Admission”.
- The Centre Region Council of Governments applied for a $717,275 state grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) for the purchase of two 75-acre tracts from Penn State for future use as municipal parklands. One tract is located in Ferguson Township near the intersection of Blue Course Drive & Whitehall Road. The other tract is located in College and Harris Townships at the Oak Hall interchange of the Mt. Nittany Expressway. The parklands would have been owned by the host municipality. Due to funding limitations, the grant application was not approved for funding.

2003

- **Parks facilities** . . . during 2003 the agency maintained and operated 550 acres at 46 sites in the Centre Region.
- **CRPR activities remain very popular!** The agency processed 30,689 customer financial transactions (registrations & reservations) with customer revenue totaling $501,714. This includes the 935 picnic pavilion reservation permits issued for 2003 for the 17 pavilions.
- **Outdoor pool visits:** In spite of a record-setting year for rain, Welch and Park Forest Community Swimming Pools hosted a total of 48,070 visits during the 100-day swim season.
- The **Centre Region Senior Citizen Center** hosted a record number of program visits (17,981). A p/t Program Assistant position was added during 2003. Plans are underway to renovate and expand the center by 1,470 sq. ft.

- The **Sports Illustrated / National Recreation & Park Assn. Sportstown Award**: through a competitive selection process, the Centre Region was honored as the "Sports Illustrated 50th Anniversary Sportstown" of Pennsylvania. This recognition highlighted the value of long-term municipal cooperation in the region.

- **Child Safety Policy / Parent & Coach Outreach**: The agency implemented a policy requiring criminal background checks and child abuse clearances for staff and volunteers working with youth, and initiated efforts to provide a formal training program for CRPR youth league coaches and for CRPR youth league parents - with the support of the National Alliance for Youth Sports (www.nays.org). The training program will expand in the future.

- **Regional Cooperation “Premium Grade”**: Regional Cooperation took giant leaps forward in 2003 with the occupancy of the new COG building (including the CRPR offices), and with a joint grant application to PA DCNR to acquire municipal parklands at Oak Hall (75-acres spanning two municipalities) for active recreation activities.

- During 2003, the **CRPR Website** hosted 1,058,479 hits from 105,294 visitors - an average of 288 visitors per day - from 33,109 unique IP addresses.

**2004**

- **Oak Hall Parkland Grant:**
The $300,000 grant from DCNR to help COG purchase 68 acres of parklands at Oak Hall represents (1) the Commonwealth’s confidence in the history of municipal cooperation in the Centre Region, (2) the value of municipal parks in the Centre Region, and (3) the opportunity to consider their vision of enhancing that cooperation - extending the shared capitalization from the pools, nature center, and senior center to a regional park. During 2005 the Ad Hoc Regional Park Committee will continue to develop recommendations to that end, for consideration by the COG General Forum. A related highlight is that College Township stepped up to provide the bulk of the local share of that grant - for the future benefit of all residents in the region. It is noted that with the addition of Oak Hall parkland in 2005, total municipal parkland in the Centre Region will be 1,000 acres.

- **Centre Region Senior Center Expansion & Renovation:**
Working in partnership with State College Borough, Centre County, and 5 municipalities, the COG participated in a $140,000 project to expand and renovate the Centre Region Senior Center. The ribbon-cutting for the expanded center was held on June 30. The $45,000 share paid by COG utilized Capital Reserve Funds, and the balance was paid by State College Borough (as the building owner). The Senior Center had used the original area since it was constructed 15 years ago and the expansion increased the center by 1/3 (expanding into the offices formerly occupied by Centre Region Parks & Recreation). In conjunction with the renewed 5-year lease with State College Borough, Centre County Office of Aging agreed to continue their 25% rental assistance for the entire space.

- **Millbrook Marsh Nature Center:**
The regional nature center continued to compile a remarkable history. The efforts of a year-round supervisor (authorized in March 2003), combined with noteworthy community support, greatly enhances that success. Millbrook Marsh Nature Center program visits increased by 22% over 2003 - to a record 5,573 program visits. Countless other visitors have enjoyed the now-completed boardwalk network, thanks to the efforts of the PA. Conservation Corps and the CRPR Parks Crew. Municipal contributions in 2004 to the nature center were $20,000; cash contributions to the nature center during 2004 totaled $38,328. When the value of
volunteers are added, the nature center has generated $4 in outside resources for each dollar from municipal contributions (since it was created in 1997).

- **Customer Services Provided:**
  During 2004, the agency provided program services through 25,085 customer transactions (program registrations and admissions) including 865 picnic pavilion reservations for group uses. Most of those program registrations involved multiple meetings or classes. In addition, effective park maintenance services permitted thousands to simply enjoy the many municipal parks in the region. Overall, the agency remains as a high-visibility demonstration of the benefits of municipal cooperation.

- **Parks & Recreation Website Statistics:**
  The statistics from the CRPR webservice help to measure, to some extent, how much our residents want to know about CRPR & municipal services. "What opportunities do they provide for me / my family?" The up-to-date information provided (over 360 web pages) permits residents to explore recreation options on-line and then enjoy their various parks in-person, or to review available recreation programs. **During 2004 the agency website hosted 1,097,806 hits from 109,668 visitors - an average of 301 visitors per day.** During 2005 the agency intends to place all registration and reservation functions on-line, so that customers will be able to select and pay for a CRPR program or reservation using the Internet.

2005

- **REGIONAL PARKS:** 2005 was highlighted by the July 1 acquisition (and the Dec. 16 grant reimbursement of $300,000) for the 68-acres at Oak Hall for regional parklands, as well as the approval of the Articles of Agreement for that purchase, and the ongoing discussions regarding the cooperative planning & development of "regional parks." College Township and Harris Township are to be commended for providing the local funds necessary for this acquisition.

- **PARK OPERATIONS:** The agency operated and maintained 638 acres at 48 sites in the Centre Region. Pavilion reservation permits were issued to 648 groups during 2005. A highlight of the year involved the official opening on Labor Day of College Township's new Fogleman's Field Complex (16-acres) with three, dedicated soccer fields.

- **PUBLIC RECREATION PROGRAMS:**
  - The agency offered several new recreation programs for youth including Lacrosse, Start Smart Golf and Marksmanship. These programs generated a lot of positive feedback and will be offered again in 2006.
  - The adult softball, flag football & volleyball leagues continue to grow and remain financially self-sustaining.
  - The CRPR Summer Day Camps thrived in 2005. The reorganized camps attracted 780 participants during the summer, and revenue increased by 6%. We were able to fill camps to capacity almost every week
  - CRPR offered “Touch-A-Truck Day,” a new community event which attracted over 200 happy children who honked horns, "drove" and explored all sizes of trucks and equipment.

- **CENTRE REGION SENIOR CENTER:** During 2005 the senior center hosted approximately 29,000 program visits during 2005, an increase of 5% over 2004 (when the renovation & expansion was completed). This figure includes the CALL programs that met at the center.

- **MILLBROOK MARSH NATURE CENTER** hosted approximately 6,851 Program Visits during 2005 (for programs, events, activities, and camps). This represents a 23% increase from 2004 and a 49% increase from 2003. Program Visits do not include hikers, birdwatchers, dog walkers, university groups, family visits, and other
activities that are not scheduled through the agency. The nature center was established in 1997. The Nature Center Supervisor position was upgraded to full-time, year-round in March 2003.

- **AQUATICS**: During the 100-day summer swim season of 2005, the two outdoor swimming pools hosted a total of 49,874 visits for instruction, recreation, and competition. In addition, the youth swim lessons at the High School Natatorium (operated year-round by CRPR) enrolled 682 youngsters during 2005.

- **CRPR WEBSITE** - A redesigned CRPR website of 400 pages was posted on July 1. The web server logs show that the site hosted 1,320,551 hits from 138,624 visitors during 2005, an average of 379 visitors per day. The website focuses on promoting to residents the many available opportunities for recreation.

**2006**

**Primary Highlights of 2006:**

- Centre Region Parks & Recreation agency offered 769 public recreation programs and special events which involved 109,706 participants. The agency processed 29,655 customer financial transactions, which included 892 group reservations for pavilions. Of course most park visits involve no fees or reservations and are not reflected in these figures.

- The agency operated 48 park sites totaling 670 acres during 2006, including 44 municipal parks, two outdoor swimming pools, the Centre Region Senior Center and Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

- Community interest in the agency remains very high. For example, the agency website hosted a total of 1.57 million hits during 2006 from 168,192 visitors; an average of 460 visitors per day.

- Cooperative Advancements for Capital Projects:
  - The five participating municipalities approved the Articles of Agreement for "Regional Park Operations, Planning & Development" and for the "Ownership of the Whitehall Road Parklands."
  - The five participating municipalities approved the Park Forest Pool Master Site Plan and submitted a grant application for construction assistance.
  - A state grant was awarded to develop a Master Site Plan for the renewal of Welch Pool. That process is now underway.
  - A state grant was awarded to develop a Master Site Plan for the COG parklands at Oak Hall, and the COG approved a Development Lease to authorize that park planning and construction.
  - A state grant was awarded for the COG to acquire 75 acres of parkland off Whitehall Road.
  - The Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Capital Campaign secured $685,850 in pledges as part of the Quiet Phase of the Building Fund Campaign - representing 59% of the local goal of $1.25 million.

**Program & League Highlights**

- The implementation of the Youth Sports Renewal Plan concluded in 2006 with solid success on the new "Start Smart" programs as well as other nontraditional sports such as wrestling, judo, field hockey and lacrosse. The "Start Smart" Soccer, Football and Golf programs involved 144 youngsters in 2006 and will be continued for 2007.

- The adult sport leagues continue to grow at a time when access to indoor facilities is becoming more limited. There were 78 teams in 4 different sports in 2006, compared to 74 teams in 2005. The addition of the 104 participants in the Adult Indoor Soccer program indicates healthy interest in adult sports.

- CRPR offered (during 2006) and researched (for 2007) a variety of new programs: Parent's Night Off, Wild Wednesday Get-a-Ways; Car Care for Women; Youth Bowling Program, Hip Hop Dance Program and Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt. The
increase in participants (to 300+) and in program sponsors for the CRPR Touch-A-Truck event.

- The Leisure Guides were improved through the use of higher quality paper and local photos. This helped to increase visual appeal while promoting quality programs. In addition, we continued to explore new and inventive types of marketing & publicity outlets to improve top-of-mind awareness of CRPR in a highly competitive market.

Nature Center Highlights:
- The nature center hosted 6,964 program visits in 2006, a 2% increase from 2005 - which demonstrates both the continued popularity and the capacity ceiling of the seasonal facilities available. This count includes the 2,955 school children visiting from scout groups, charter schools and 6 different school districts. The center hosted a successful Historic Harvest Festival in November, with a record number of 305 attendees.
- $685,850 in pledges were secured as part of the Quiet Phase of the Building Fund Campaign - representing 59% of the local goal of $1.25 million.

Senior Center Highlights
- The center hosted 30,098 program visits in 2006, a 3.6% increase over 2005 and served 4,070 noon-time meals in 2006, a 12.4% increase over 2005.
- Senior Center participants logged in 8,200 miles in two new walking programs for 2006: "Walk Across PA" and "The Silver Striders." Walk Across PA is a county-wide program that allowed seniors to convert varied exercise activities into steps and mileage. The Silver Striders is an indoor walking program held at the center.
- Agency coordination of the 18th Annual Centre County Senior Games in 2006 provided 225 participants with nine different sporting events. During 2006 a modified indoor walking event was added that made the event more accessible to people with physical / health issues.
- The Senior Center provided 228 flu shots (free) to adults 60+ in cooperation with Prime Time Health, Mount Nittany Medical Center and Nittany Snow Shoe Home Health Service. Also, staff coordinated four sessions of lifelong learning courses with CALL for a 2006 yearly of 198 courses.

Aquatic Highlights
- During 2006 the two pools opened on schedule and hosted 50,696 visits, compared to 49,874 in 2005. The pool budgets recovered from the unplanned operating deficits of 2004 and 2005, and the special events at the pools proved to be increasingly popular. Safety remained a top priority by staff.
- The Park Forest Pool Master Site Plan was developed and approved by the Authority and the participating municipalities. The COG Finance Committee has been asked by the COG General Forum to prepare a funding strategy for the renewal of both pools.
- With municipal and state grant support, the development of the Welch Pool Master Site Plan got underway with a land survey and the development of a proposed land lease from SCASD.

Park Operations Highlights
- Staff continued worked to improve the effectiveness of park maintenance services:
  - Contracted repair costs were reduced by 15% by doing more repairs / maintenance in-house.
  - Staff increased the safety and appearance of our athletic fields with an aggressive turf management program.
  - All work on renovating the 5 leased ballfields from SCASD was completed.
  - The agency integrated Marjorie Mae Park and the Tudek Dog Park into the regional system.
2007

**Primary Highlights of 2007:**

- Centre Region Parks & Recreation agency offered 769 public recreation programs and special events which involved 114,000 participants. The agency processed 28,346 customer financial transactions, including 984 group reservations for pavilions. Of course, most park visits involve no fees or reservations and are not reflected in these figures.
- The agency operated and maintained 50 sites totaling 761 acres during 2007, including 46 municipal parks, two outdoor swimming pools, the Centre Region Senior Center and Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.
- Community interest in the agency remains very high. As an example, during CY 2007 the agency website hosted a total of 1.76 million hits from a total of 210,151 visitors; an average of 575 visitors per day.

**Cooperative Advancements for Capital Projects:**

- As a result of the 2006 approval of the Park Forest Pool Master Site Plan, in 2007 the Authority was awarded a $350,000 grant from PA DCNR for construction assistance. The project is moving forward with construction scheduled to start in August 2008.
- During 2007 the Authority and the 5 municipalities jointly selected a Concept Option for the Welch Pool Renewal and established a maximum project cost of $5.4 million. Final development and the approval of the Master Site Plan will proceed in 2008.
- As a result of the $38,000 state grant awarded in 2006 to develop a Master Site Plan for the COG parklands at Oak Hall, during 2007 the Scope of Work and Request for Proposals was approved by PA DCNR and the five participating municipalities. That planning process will proceed during 2008.
- With funding by Ferguson Township (up to $100,000) and by PA DCNR ($159,000), the arrangements for the acquisition of the 75-acre Whitehall Road parklands for a regional park will be ready for a closing in March / April 2008.
- The Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Capital Campaign now stands at $1,005,800 in pledges as part of the Quiet Phase of the Building Fund Campaign - representing 80% of the local goal of $1.25 million. To compliment the campaign, the release of the $1.25 million authorized by the State Legislature from the State Capital Budget has been requested from Gov. Rendell.
- PA Conservation Corp Grants: The Authority submitted a grant application to continue this partnership for the 7th consecutive year.

**Aquatic Highlights**

- During 2007 the two community swimming pools opened on schedule and hosted 51,416 visits (compared to 50,696 in Summer 2006). The pool budgets recovered from the unplanned operating deficits of 2004 through 2006, and the special event nights at the pools proved to be increasingly popular. Safety remained a top priority by staff.
- The Group Swim Lessons for Youth in the evenings have continued to be popular programs. These lessons take place year-round at the High School Natatorium. In 2007 the programs hosted 607 registrations (compared to 614 in 2006). Likewise, the popular One-On-One "Triple-O" Youth Summer Swim Lessons have continued to thrive with 81 registrations, and the 4th annual "Pedal, Splash and Dash" Youth Triathlon was a big success with 84 registrations.
- The Park Forest Pool Renewal Project continues to move forward. In 2006, the Master Site Plan was developed and approved by the
Authority and the participating municipalities with a project cost not to exceed $3.2 million. Following the state's announcement of a $350,000 grant towards construction, the preparation of detailed construction plans and bid documents got underway, and the COG Finance Committee has begun to prepare a funding strategy for the renewal of both pools.

With municipal and state grant support, the development of the Welch Pool Master Site Plan got underway with the execution of a 25-year land lease from SCASD. A conceptual option has been selected by COG and CRRA with a total project cost not to exceed $5.4 million, and the consultants are now preparing the various layout options so that the Master Site Plan can be finalized.

Senior Center Highlights
- The Senior Center served 4,084 noontime meals and hosted 31,152 program visits during the year.
- Three new chartered bus trips met with enthusiastic responses from participants. These bus trips generate the greatest revenue of all the fee-based programs.
- The Healthy Steps in Motion Exercise Program was initiated and met with a very favorable response. This program encourages "couch potatoes" to start exercising safely, and allows the more fit participants to continue exercising and challenge themselves. This program is free and is part of a health promotion from the PA Dept. of Aging.
- Due to the cooperation of the Centre County Office of Aging, Mount Nittany Medical Center and Nittany Snow Shoe Home Health Service, the Senior Center provided 223 free flu shots to adults 60+.
- The Centre County Senior Games continued to be a popular program. This year over 200 participants took part in 7 sports. Varied business sponsors enable the program to operate on a modest $5 registration fee, as well as generating additional revenue.
- Programs offering alternative approaches to health have been well received, such as the Boost Your Brain Power Series, "Mindfulness", Tai Chi, Gentle Yoga and the informal brain booster programs offered several times a month.

Program Accomplishments (Sports, Special Events, Camps, Fitness)
- Continued the effort to grow Adult Sports Leagues & Fitness Programs. The adult sports leagues remained popular with basketball and softball keeping the same amount of teams although they each had more individual participants. The flag football league grew from 14 to 18 teams and 2 divisions. The volleyball league added 1 team but also had more individual participants. More softball teams could be added with the addition of a third field. Also, the adult soccer program grew but is limited based on SCASD facility availability.
- Continued to develop the new Start Smart youth programs. The Start Smart programs all grew with 1 more football and golf session added in 2007. The soccer program had 4 additional sessions in 2007. More sessions of each program will be added in 2008 as space and resources allow.
- Assisted with the development of a Sport Field Reservation System, which will go into effect for Spring 2008.
- Summer Day Camps: 2007 was a record year for the CRPR Summer Day Camp program that includes the Wee KIDVenture, KIDVenture & Martial Arts & Culture Camp. There were 795 registrations for all these camp programs, which is a 9.2% increase over 2006. While the numbers for Wee were down throughout the summer, the other camp had great attendance which more then helped to make up for it. I am continuing to evaluate the Wee program to stat attractive and competitive with other similar programs. The Teen Wild Wednesday Get-away weekly field trips also increased in 2007. We were able to provide to 29 teens...
four trips to fun and exciting destinations in and around the Centre Region. This was in increase from 17 participants that we had in 2006.

- Special Events: Touch a Truck 2007 was again very well attended with 300+ participants and parents. We were able to attract more vehicles for the children to climb on and explore, while increasing partnerships and relationships with a variety of businesses, departments and organizations in the area. Dark in the Park, held in October in partnership with Schlow Centre Region Library, had to be held indoors due to inclement weather. Even with the change in venue, this has become a seasonal favorite in the community. We had about 145 participants. The Halloween Costume Parade was once again a huge success. With the help of so many volunteers and the generosity of the State College Lions Club, we had a record crowd of over 2,100 parade participants!

Nature Center Highlights

- During 2007, the nature center hosted 8,622 program visits, a 24% increase from 2006, which demonstrates the continued popularity of programs despite the seasonal facilities. This count includes 3,387 children visiting from scout groups, charter schools and from five different school districts.
- 93 volunteers contributed a total of 994 hours during 2007 at a value of $13,916 (using a rate of $14/hr), including the services of the MMNC Advisory Committee.
- The nature center held the "Earth Day Birthday" event for the first time in April 2007 and had a record attendance of 410 people - the highest ever at any event held at the center, including past Spring Creek Days. This is especially amazing because it was a first time event. The 5th Annual Historic Harvest Festival was held in November 2007 with 350 visitors to the event, higher than any Harvest Festival in the past.
- Additional pledges for the Building Fund Campaign were received, which brought the total of all pledges to $1,005,800. Architectural drawings for the Spring Creek Education Building and development of the Wetland Laboratory are in progress.
- For 2007, a Seasonal Program Coordinator was hired for 9-months to teach additional programs and be on-site to oversee programs & staff during activities. This new position was instrumental in the increased attendance and revenue for 2007.

Parks Highlights

- Provided general Parks Maintenance Services
- Installed bollards & vehicle control devices installed at Circleville Park (This work will be continued at other parks.)
- Spring Creek garage addition complete except for installing the overhead garage door (ordered c/o contractor).
- Playground safety renovations completed at Blue Spring Park.
- New apparatus has been delivered for Suburban Park and the swing safety pit has been constructed.
- Sunset Park equipment has been delivered and assembled; installation is pending.
- Thompson Woods Preserve - new signs installed. The construction of an info kiosk pending work by the Eagle Scout.
- The 2007 PA Conservation Corp work was completed; the grant for FY 2008 was prepared and submitted.
- The nature center boardwalk extension (1,200 ft.) is complete except for the final 50 ft. loop to Puddintown Rd.
- Installed new swing set at Fasick Park.
- Replaced roof on the Kaywood Park pavilion.
- Built and installed picnic tables in single table shelters.
Hosted the 2007 Keystone State Games for Men’s Lacrosse (for the 2nd year)

- Started planting in the new, Native Tree Nursery at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.
- Planted 16 Remembrance Trees and installed 2 memorial benches.
- Integrated the Tudek Community Gardens & Dog Park into the park system.
- Installed all new floor boards and stairs on deck at Oak Hall rental house.

2008

Pool Renewals:
- Finalized the Pool Renewal Funding Package for $7.9 million. The coordinated effort to finalize the Pool Renewal funding package is also noteworthy as a sign of "municipal cooperation at its best" as well as a sign of each municipality's faith in the future of that cooperation.
- Park Forest Pool construction is now underway, on schedule (over 50% complete) and on budget ($3.2 million).
- Continued work on the Welch Pool Renewal Master Site Plan.
- Obtained a $375,000 state grant for the Welch Pool Renewal construction project. Total Project $5.4 million.

Regional Parks:
- Selected a consultant and began work on preparing the Master Site Plan for the Oak Hall regional parklands with the assistance of a $38,000 state grant. Total Project $76,000.
- In May 2008 the closing for the Whitehall Road parklands was completed. The $159,000 reimbursement grant from the state was received.
- Obtained a $40,000 grant to prepare a Master Site Plan for the Whitehall Road regional parklands.

Park and Program Operations:
- A year-round menu of public recreation programs and special events was offered for all ages.
- Thanks to regional cooperation, a total of 783 acres of parklands across the region were maintained for residents to enjoy.
- Reflecting high interest, during 2008 the Centre Region Parks & Recreation website hosted 2.12 million hits from 217,002 visitors; an average of 594 visitors per day. The successful implementation of Internet registrations by the agency has also been very popular with residents and staff.

Special Facility Operations:
- The two outdoor swimming pools hosted a total of 48,122 daily visits.
- Senior Center: During 2008 the center served an average of 24 noontime meals and hosted an average of 37 program participants each weekday.
- The nature center was awarded a grant from PA Fish & Boat Commission to start a new Flyfishing For Bass Camp (for youth in 2009).
- A $200,000 construction grant to the nature center for the Spring Creek Education Building was confirmed by PA DCNR in October 2008. Including the grant, a total of $1,029,655 has been raised to proceed with the project.
- PA Conservation Corp: For the 7th consecutive year, the Authority won a competitive application process to secure a PCC grant valued at $103,000. The local cost is $5,000. The Authority recently reapplied to be considered for the 8th straight year for this program.
Awards:
- In April 2008, the COG & the Recreation Authority were recognized with a "Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence" in Building Community Partnerships - related to the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

2009
Park and Program Operations
- A comprehensive, year-round (and popular) menu of public recreation programs and special events was offered for all ages.
- Thanks to regional cooperation, a total of 783 acres at 51 sites across the region were maintained for residents to enjoy. 1,086 pavilion reservations were issued in 2009 by the agency, exceeding 1,000 permits for the first time.
- Reflecting high interest, during 2009 the Centre Region Parks & Recreation website at www.crpr.org hosted 2.63 million hits from 267,410 visitors; an average of 732 visitors per day. In addition, the Internet registration service for agency recreation programs has become very popular with residents.
- The state awarded a PA. Conservation Corp (PCC) grant to the Recreation Authority for the 8th consecutive year. The value of each grant is set at over $100,000 annually and the local cost is $5,000. The Authority recently applied to be considered for the 9th straight year.

Special Facility Operations
- The Centre Region Senior Center provided 4,528 noontime meals and hosted 17,222 program visits during 2009.
- Millbrook Marsh Nature Center hosted 10,301 program visits during 2009, a 6% increase from 2008.

Pool Renewals
- The renewed Park Forest Pool opened on 13 Jun 09 with total project costs under the established budget ceiling of $3.2 million. State funding assistance was provided for both the Master Site Plan and for the construction project.
- The Welch Pool Master Site Plan was completed, approved and implemented with project costs estimated at $5 million, within the allotted funds. While state funding assistance was again provided for both the master plan and the construction project, the bulk of the costs were provided by the long-term cooperation of the five participating municipalities. Site work began in December, working towards a Fall 2010 completion and a May 2011 reopening.

Regional Parks Initiative
- Completed the Master Site Plan for the Oak Hall Regional Parklands with the assistance of a $38,000 state grant. The plan was approved by the COG General Forum in October.
- Selected the consultant for the Whitehall Road Regional Parklands Master Site Plan and started the planning process. A $40,000 state grant is assisting with the project.
- Began consideration of a proposal from Harris Township for COG to acquire the Hess Softball Field complex.
2010

Park and Program Operations
- CRPR offered a comprehensive, year-round and popular menu of public recreation programs and special events for all ages.
- Operated a total of 829 acres at 52 sites across the region for residents to enjoy. 951 pavilion reservations were issued in 2010 by the agency. A recycling program was successfully initiated at 5 parks.
- www.crpr.org hosted 2.8 million hits from 293,090 visitors; an average of 802 visitors per day. In addition, the Active.Net Internet registration service for agency recreation programs has become very popular with residents - generating $79,332 in revenue (compared to $55,000 for 2009).

Special Facility Operations
- The Centre Region Senior Center hosted 20,630 program visits and provided 4,408 noontime meals during 2010 (which is 3,408 more program visits and 120 fewer meals than 2009).
- Millbrook Marsh Nature Center hosted 11,103 program visits, an 8% increase from 2009.
- In 2010, Park Forest Community Swimming Pool solely hosted 60,859 visits, which means that Park Forest Pool successfully hosted 150% of the 2009 visits there! (Welch Pool was closed for construction; the renewed Park Forest Pool opened in June 2009.)

3. 2010 Capital Projects
- The Welch Pool Renewal Project is nearing completion (Spring 2011) and the reopening on May 28, 2011, within the authorized $5.4 million budget.
- Millbrook Marsh Nature Center will provide year-round services thanks to the 2010 construction of the Spring Creek Education Building. The building is being funded by private contributions, municipal contributions and a $200,000 grant from the PA DCNR. Construction started in April and will be completed and dedicated in Spring 2011.
- The COG was awarded a PA DCNR grant for $191,000 to assist with the 2011 acquisition of a 25-acre parcel to complete the Whitehall Road Regional Parklands.
- The Master Site Plan for the Whitehall Road Regional Park (100-acres total) was completed with the assistance of a $40,000 state grant. The plan was approved by the COG General Forum in August.
- The COG approved the acquisition of the John Hess Softball Field Complex (21 acres) as the third “Regional Park.” Safety and ADA renovations are now underway to permit an April 2011 reopening. A Master Site Plan is now being prepared for long term improvements.

2011

PRIMARY OPERATIONS
- The agency operated a total of 829 acres at 52 sites across the region - including 42 municipal parks and 10 regional sites. 863 group reservations were issued for the 24 reservable picnic pavilions. 107 reservation permits were issued for the 36 sportfields. The sportfield permits involved a range of durations from single-games (including pavilion groups), weekend events and season-long reservations.
- CRPR again offered a comprehensive, year-round and popular menu of public recreation programs and special events for all ages. With respect to active recreation, 107 teams competed in nine adult sport leagues (4 softball leagues, 2 basketball leagues, 2 volleyball leagues, 1 flag football league); 16 adult fitness programs were offered with a total of 561 participants.
- With over 1,000 pages available, the website at www.crpr.org hosted 3.3 million hits during 2011, a 21% increase from 2010 (at 2.8 million hits). $ Based upon
the success of the park recycling program initiated in 2010, a “Waste Watcher Award” was presented to the Authority.

- The Authority Board approved the implementation of two new policies: The “CRPR Safe Sportfield Policy” was implemented to prevent dangerous conditions for players and to protect wet sportfields from abuse. The “Young Lungs At Play” anti-smoking campaign was implemented (with municipal endorsements) in an advisory capacity at all park playgrounds across the region.

CENTRE REGION SENIOR CENTER
- The center served 3,388 meals and hosted 37,782 program visits during 2011. $1,908 program sessions were offered at the senior center.
- 50 volunteers contributed a total of 1,261 hours.

MILLBROOK MARSH NATURE CENTER
- In 2011 the nature center hosted 12,633 program visits, a 13% increase from 2010, which demonstrates the continued popularity of MMNC programs coupled with the new year-round building. This number will increase in future years thanks to those improved facilities.
- The new Spring Creek Education Building was opened in April 2011 within the approved budget at a total project cost of $1,067,360. The project was funded by $888,000 in private and municipal contributions, plus a $200,000 Growing Greener II grant from the Commonwealth.
- 121 volunteers contributed a total of 1,850 hours to the nature center during 2011.

AQUATICS
- The 10-year initiative to replace both swimming pools concluded successfully with the Grand Reopening of Wm. L. Welch Pool on Memorial Day Weekend. Welch Pool now joins the renewed Park Forest Pool, which reopened in June 2009, to once again serve as “community recreation magnets” in the region.
- In 2011, the two new pools attracted a total of 110,567 visits during the 101 day swim season = an average of 1,094 visits per day for recreation, instruction and competition. By comparison, in 2008, the last summer both old pools were open, the total visit count was 48,122.
- The final Project Cost ($4.9 million for Welch Pool and $3.2 million for Park Forest Pool) permitted the Pool Renewal Loan to be reduced from the authorized $7.9 million to $6.6 million. In addition, a total of $787,500 was invested in the pool renewal projects via grants from the Commonwealth.
- From a financial standpoint, the two new pools generated sufficient revenue in 2011 to pay all planned 2012 operating expenses plus provide $50,000 to offset some of the annual repayment towards the capital loan.

REGIONAL PARKS
- A Phase 1 development schedule and $8.9 million funding package was jointly approved by the Recreation Authority and the COG for the Oak Hall & Whitehall Road sites.
- A consulting agreement was prepared and approved by the Rec. Authority with Pashek Associates for the Phase 1 developments at the Oak Hall and Whitehall Road sites.
- The three sites were leased from the COG to the Recreation Authority for development and operations.
- In December, the Commonwealth announced the approval of a $300,000 grant to assist the Phase 1 Construction at Whitehall Road Regional Park. With that announcement, the total state grant investment now totals $1,028,000 to the COG Regional Parks Initiative for acquisition, planning and development. Oak Hall Regional Park
- An amended Master Site Plan was prepared, proposed and approved by the 5 municipalities.
Detailed planning began for the Phase 1 development project. Whitehall Road Regional Park.

Public sewer service was approved by the COG General Forum in February.

The 25-acre parcel (to complete the planned 100-acre park) was acquired in May. Detailed planning will begin in 2012 for the Phase 1 development project. John Hess Softball Field Complex.

While it was not possible to complete the extensive Safety / ADA Renovations during 2011, the three renovated fields hosted 741 games of softball involving 1,482 teams. Of those games, 257 were part of 7 tournaments held there. The updated facilities generated many compliments - along with tournament commitments for 2012 events. Work on the remaining tasks, including the new public water service, will proceed so that all 4 fields will be open by May 2012.

2012 PARK OPERATIONS

• The agency maintained and operated a total of 900 acres at 54 sites across the region. • 827 group reservations were issued for the 27 reservable picnic pavilions. • 98 reservation permits were issued for the 36 sportfields. The permits involved a range of durations from single-games (including pavilion groups) to weekend and season-long reservations.

• Improvements continued across the park system including working with Ferguson Township on (1) the Phase 3 construction at Tudek Park, (2) new playground equipment at Park Hills Park and (3) re-roofing the Tudek Park Storage Building.

PROGRAM OPERATIONS

• CRPR again offered a comprehensive, year-round and popular menu of public recreation programs and special events for all ages. 118 teams competed in 9 adult sport leagues (5 softball leagues, 1 basketball leagues, 4 volleyball leagues, 1 flag football league). With respect to adult fitness programs, a total of 396 participants enrolled in 13 exciting classes offered in 2012. Three new youth recreation programs were offered in the Fall of 2012 - the most popular was the Kids’ Yard Sale with 25 young entrepreneurs and many more stopping by to shop.

• In July, Niki Tourscher joined the staff in the new position of Program Manager to assist guiding the expanded responsibilities of the agency. • The “CRPR Child Safety Policy” was updated to include awareness training for staff working with youth.

• The Winter/Spring Active Guide saw a major format change for a user-friendlier format. • The agency developed a new logo to be introduced in early 2013.

AQUATICS

• In 2012, the two new pools attracted a total of 139,828 visits during the 101 day swim season = an average of 1,384 visits per day for recreation, instruction and competition. While this is the highest visit count on record for the pools, the priority for staff remains on swimmer safety. In 2008, the last summer both old pools were open, the total visit count was 48,122.

• 5,092 season passes were sold, significantly more than the previous high total of 4,507 in 2011. • 1,140 registrations were processed for aquatic programs such as swim lessons, swim teams and specialty programs. • The two pools generated sufficient revenue in 2012 to pay all planned 2013 operating expenses plus contribute $70,000 to offset some of the annual repayment towards the capital loan.

CENTRE REGION SENIOR CENTER

• The center served 3,632 meals and hosted 22,667 program visits. 2,434 program sessions were offered. • 6 volunteers contributed a total of 118 hours at the senior center.

• 25 seniors enjoyed a Thanksgiving Day meal and time with friends as the Senior Center. 5. MILLBROOK MARSH NATURE CENTER

• The nature
center hosted 11,706 program visits, a 7% decrease from 2011. While the total visits continue to indicate a popular facility, the decrease reflects a challenge in terms of providing attractive, fee-based programs during a troubled economy.

- Two additional Specialty Summer Camps were added for a total of 11 Summer Camps in 8 weeks.
- Winter Family programs were offered for the first time in Winter/Spring 2012. Three successful annual events were held: Earth Day Birthday, Historic Harvest Festival and the Scarecrow Stuff-It Contest (new for 2012).
- The focus for 2012 was to increase rentals and facility uses. There was an increase of 28% in the number of visitors to rentals and a 12% increase in visitors to meetings.
- 100% of the Phase 1 Building Fund Campaign pledges were paid in full during 2012. Furnishings, appliances, and amenities such as wireless internet and an LCD projector were all added to the Spring Creek Education Building during 2012, all purchased with donations. In addition, donations were received to assist the 2013 construction of the long-planned Visitor Parking Area.
- A $4,000 grant was received from the Central PA Convention & Visitors Bureau to install educational signs along the boardwalk (to be completed in Spring 2013).
- 149 volunteers contributed a total of 1,607 hours to the nature center during 2012.

 REGIONAL PARKS

- Since 2004, the Commonwealth has approved grants totaling $1,020,166 for the COG Regional Parks Initiative (acquisition, planning and Phase 1 construction for Oak Hall and Whitehall Road Regional Parks). In 2011 the Centre Region COG financed $7 million for Phase 1 construction at the two parks. Oak Hall Regional Park
  - While the initial Phase 1 construction bids were rejected since they were over budget, the rebids were opened in early-January. As a result, construction is scheduled to start in Spring 2013 within the project budget, which will permit the park of open fully in Spring 2015. Whitehall Road Regional Park
  - The Land Development process is now underway with Ferguson Township. It is expected that bidding for the Phase 1 construction will be requested in June with construction beginning in September. This will permit the park to open in Fall 2015.
- During 2012 the COG General Forum endorsed a proposal to incorporate the new Centralized Parks Maintenance Facility into this park. The planning process for this facility is now underway; the Master Plan for the park will be revised to reflect this addition. John Hess Softball Field Complex
  - A Dedication Ceremony was held by the Recreation Authority on 16 May 2012 to commemorate the renewal of this regional landmark. • During 2012 the four renovated softball fields hosted 744 games of softball. Of those games, 397 were part of 10 tournaments hosted there. The updated facilities continued to generate many compliments - along with inquiries for 2013 tournament events. • Following the completion of a state-mandated Archeological Survey, public water service was provided to the complex.
  - The site also provided an ideal setting for other special events.

 ONLINE SERVICES.

- 2012 Customer-entered Internet Revenue for programs and pool season passes increased to $119,522. • 2012 Total Customer Revenue was $1,100,041.
- With over 1,000 pages available, the CRPR website hosted 3.4 million hits from 299,308 visitors with an average of 817 visitors per day during 2012 - a new record!
• To assist with publicizing local recreation opportunities, free e-Newsletters were distributed monthly to subscribers; the CRPR Facebook page was updated regularly.

After 2012, CRPR switched to providing Annual Reports. Please use the link in our About CRPR Menu to review our Annual Reports.