

FRANKLIN RECREATION: WHERE MAKING THE HEALTHY CHOICE, IS THE RIGHT CHOICE

Going Local is a great way to start or enhance your personal health and wellness program. With over 9,400 acres of open space, including 1,000 acres of developed parkland, 60 miles of trails, 17.6 of bike paths and numerous recreation programs, you can find lots of free and reasonably priced ways to keep active right here in Franklin Township!



The Department of Parks & Recreation is not only committed to promoting the stewardship of parkland, but, also responding to public needs with a wide variety of recreation opportunities and leisure services, with a goal of improving the quality of life in the Township. You can easily visit the Department located in the Community/Senior Center at 505 DeMott Lane, in the municipal complex in Somerset, or you can visit on-line at www.franklintwpnj.org.



There are over 80 years of combined experience in the full time staff of the Recreation Department. If you have questions at anytime please feel free to contact the Recreation Office at (732) 873-1991 and ask for any of the following staff members: Alice Osipowitz, Director; Sue van Aken, Superintendent of Recreation, Saffie Kallon, Recreation Program Coordinator; Bruce Medley, Franklin Youth Initiative Coordinator; Shonda Sanchez, Senior Citizen Program Coordinator, or speak to any of our amazing office staff. The full-time staff is supported by the Advisory Recreation Council, the Advisory Senior Citizens Council and approximately 200 part-time/seasonal program instructors and volunteers that deliver program services.

General recreation programs are provided for residents of all ages. Whether six months or 60 years young, there is something for everyone. Whether you are interested in fitness, self-improvement classes, sports, special events, social experiences or summer camps, you can find something of interest in the year-round list of program offerings! In addition, the Department has been a leader in the community in coordinating a wide range of prevention and wellness programs and works with young people to develop future leaders of the community. Senior citizen programs, therapeutic recreation programs, FYI juvenile delinquency and gang prevention programs, mentoring programs, and substance abuse prevention initiatives are all a crucial part of their comprehensive service program.



The Department has been able to provide reasonably priced quality services to residents seeking community based recreation programs. Over the past several years the department goal has been to offset as much of the program costs as possible through a fee based structure to reduce the impact on the general taxpayer. The program revenue is now covering the cost of the majority of the Recreation program operating expenditures. In addition to the budget, the Department generates, operates and supports \$75,000 to \$100,000 in grant funded prevention programs annually. They have been successful in obtaining grants through the Somerset County Youth Services Commission, the SC Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse, the CDBG program, the NJJC, Somerset County Council for the Arts, United Way, NJ Dept of Agriculture, and the NJ Dept of Community Affairs Recreational Opportunities Grant for Individuals with Disabilities.



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTER

The Community/Senior Center opened in 1998. In addition to housing the office of the Franklin Township Department of Parks & Recreation, on weekdays it is a bustling center for Senior Citizen activities from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Evenings and weekends are available for scheduled use for and/or by: Recreation programs, school district groups, Township residents, and non-profit civic groups organized in Franklin Township. This 16,000 square foot facility boasts a meeting room that can accommodate up to 250 people at table seating. This large hall can also offer small meeting room space for groups of 80-100. Depending on your program or event a room with a stage and/or catering kitchen can also be reserved. The community center can be reserved Monday-Friday from 5:00pm-10:00pm and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00am-10:00pm. Organizations and/or individuals contracting for use of the center must provide the Township with a certificate of insurance which shall name the Township of Franklin additionally insured in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occasion and \$100,000 property damage. Advance payment of rental fees and a maintenance bond is required. Applications can be found on the Township obtained by calling Recreation at (732) 873-1991, option 4.

