

# *Parks and Recreation*

2020 was a challenging year for everyone, including the Wilmington Parks & Recreation Department. Although Covid-19 flipped our world upside down, Wilmington parks had an increase in trail use and unstructured activities. Here are some highlights from the year:

**Special Events** were very limited this year due to Covid-19. We were not able to do our normal events such as the Salamander Hike, Easter Egg Hunt, Fishing Derby, and the Owl Prowl. Fortunately, we were able to host a drive through Trunk or Treat this year with the prescribed safety precautions in place. The event was well attended, and we were happy to bring some sense of normalcy to the kids in our community. This event was made possible with loyal support from our community partners; the Wilmington Public Library, Wilmington Fire Department, G & J Pepsi, Wilmington Church of God, Wilmington Savings Bank, Polaris, Cub Scouts Pack 777, and the Wilmington Police Department.

**Sports Leagues** served over 240 area youth this year. Due to Covid-19, we were only able to run a winter basketball league and a fall soccer league. Our volunteer coaches made each season fun, competitive and positive for our youth again this year. We appreciate their time and efforts! Special thank you to all our banner sponsors, anleague sponsors Beacon Orthopedics & Sports Medicine and Wilmington Inn for helping us fully cover all youth sports league costs for the third year in a row!

We are resilient. Although 2020 was a very challenging year, we look forward to what the future holds for our beloved park system. Thank you once again to all of our sponsors, staff, board members, volunteers and generous community. Without your hard work, help and support, we would not be able to serve our community and do what we do. Remember, these are your parks - let us know how you would like to get involved. Parks do indeed build community!

***Jermaine Issac,  
Superintendent of Parks & Recreation***

