



CITY OF KETTERING
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

2015



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Department Recognition

▷ The City of Kettering was awarded Champion in the population category 50,001 – 100,000 in the 2005 America in Bloom Competition.



▷ The Aquatics staff participated in the Regional Lifeguard competition — we took 1st place and 3rd place.

▷ The Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department received the second place (“Silver”) Healthy Communities Award from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. This is a new award category for the annual OPRA Awards of Distinction; they recognized us for our high quality, expansive health-improving efforts.



Angie Riviello

▷ Angie Riviello was asked by the Professional Skaters Association to be a presenter for the International Profession Skating Association’s conference held in Denver in May.

▷ The Kettering Ice Arena hosted a national seminar for the Professional Skaters Association. We had approximately 60 coaches attend our one-day seminar and were one of 15 sites across the United States that are hosting these events.

▷ Once again our rink has been awarded the Excellence on Ice award from the Professional Skaters Association, deeming our facility a progressive training site for skaters. We are still the only ice rink in Ohio to have received this award!

▷ The PRCA Department won the following Ohio Parks and Recreation Association awards in 2005:

- **Park Area Development Award \$500,001-\$1,000,000 Superior: Skate Plaza**



- **Program Awards — Preschool Programs And Events, Ages 0-5, Outstanding: New & Improved Parent/Child Swim Lesson Program**
- **Program Awards — Teen Programs And Events, Ages 12-18, Outstanding: Partners For Healthy Youth: Youth Week**
- **Category 23 — Management Innovation/Special Project Award, Honorable Mention: Kettering Neighborhood Parks Community Building Program**

▷ Long-time Parks Board member Jim Trent won the NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council award for Outstanding Board Member.



On the cover: A local teen tests his skills at the newly constructed skate plaza.

Personnel / Trainings

▷ After 12 years of service, Marilee Pretzinger resigned as Senior Center Supervisor.

▷ After 26 years of service Frank Postle has retired as Parks Superintendent.

▷ Mike Fleener accepted the position of Parks Superintendent after his tour of duty in Afghanistan.

▷ Barry Sanders has been promoted to Parks Supervisor.

▷ Nan Buehrer joined our team as the new Senior Program Supervisor for the Charles Lathrem Center.

▷ Susan Buck, who has worked for many years as Special Event Coordinator, accepted the position of Senior Program Coordinator.

▷ Laurie Jakoplic resigned as Senior Fitness & Wellness Supervisor.

▷ Kettering Youth Council prepared to launch the Kettering Youth Leadership Academy for at least 27 Kettering youth. The program will run January–December 2006.

▷ The PRCA Department retreat was held in December. Key result areas were developed from discussions at this retreat and will be the main focus of attention throughout 2006.

▷ Mike Lehner accepted the Sport/Fitness Coordinator position.

▷ Cory Juliano was hired as the Youth Development Coordinator.

▷ Bill Tschirhart accepted the Business Services Manager position.



Nan Buehrer



Mike Fleener



Mike Lehner



Barry Sanders



Bill Tschirhart



Susan Buck

“The Tree & Plant Division of the Kettering Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department has provided extraordinary services for the City of Kettering. The City’s Living Tree Program is a model for other communities.”

— American In Bloom Judges

Projects in the Works

▷ Works on Paper opened at the Rosewood Arts Centre. Select artists from a 50-mile radius of Dayton participated in this juried show. Over 100 people attended the opening reception.



▷ Many volunteers came out on April 9 for a workday at Pondview and Southdale Parks.

▷ The Friends of Polen is being formed which is a volunteer-based fund-raising organization whose purpose is to raise funds to help preserve the history of Polen Farm.

▷ The BMX Association held their state race at Delco Park in July 24.

▷ Partners for Healthy Youth, through various community surveys and committee meetings, have selected 12 character words that will be promoted throughout the schools and community.

▷ The 17th Annual Art on the Commons festival was held with a large crowd of 25,000 at Lincoln Park Civic Commons.

▷ The Rosewood Arts Centre Demo Day was held in August and featured demonstrations by both youth and adult art instructors. Language, theatre and dance instructors were on hand to talk about their classes. Performances for Tap Dance, Eastern India Dance and Irish Dance were held throughout the two hours in the theatre. The Rosewood gallery and darkroom were opened with tours of the show and the darkroom facilities. Over 200 first-time visitors came to the facility and nearly \$1,000 in registrations were taken during that two-hour period.

▷ The Walk Kettering Program came to the end of year-long life in September with a 1.5 mile Fun Walk at Holiday at Home. We are still receiving mileage data and will finalize the program with a feature story on one of our walkers. To date, 14,000 miles have been accumulated by program participants.

▷ The Art in Public Places Committee discussed possible projects for future planning and to review Ohio artists who may become involved. It was determined that the next public art project would involve a series of RTA bus stops designed by an artist.

▷ We created the new and improved IPAP (Infant, parent and preschool) swim lesson program that started in the spring of 2005. This program received an Outstanding Award from OPRA.



Partnerships / Sponsorships

▷ The Aquatics staff teamed up with the Kettering Fire Department to teach water safety to over 40 kindergarten and first grade classes in Kettering elementary schools. Students who participated in the program learned to always swim with a buddy, the proper way to put on a lifejacket, water safety rules, how to test lakes and pools before entering and ice safety.

▷ AMBUCS generously donated \$4,000 to the Discovering Abilities Through Recreation program. The donation was used to offset the cost of transportation for program participants.

▷ Clear Channel acted as media sponsor for Kids Fest through their "Keeping Kids Healthy and Safe" program.

▷ In response to the sponsorship packets sent out in 2004 we have received \$26,733 in sponsorships from over 50 agencies plus \$16,150 in in-kind services for 2005.

▷ Stacy Schweikhart, University of Dayton MPA professors and representatives from the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, developed an MPA course that used a team of graduate students to replicate the successful Oak Park Project in the Southern Hills neighborhood. This was an eight-week program.

▷ The project support grant submitted to Montgomery County Cultural District and Culture Works was recommended for 100% funding. This is highly unusual; however, the panel reviewing the grants felt the project was tremendous and the Rosewood

Arts Centre was an excellent program. Rosewood Arts Centre received \$8,075 for the project "New Art in Contemporary Times: Contemporary Art from the 1960's to the Present."

▷ The CIL hosted the Grandparent's Day Ice Cream Social in partnership with Kettering Medical Center at Polen Farm on September 11, 2005. Estimated attendance was more than 4,000.

▷ Free Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra tickets were distributed through Kettering schools as part of a grant received through the Kettering Community Foundation.

▷ Approximately 150 patrons attended the Skate Away event.

▷ The Art in Public Places committee joined in partnership with the City of Kettering Engineering Department in providing an artist designed bus stop sponsored through a grant from the Dayton Regional Transit Authority. The design will be produced in multiple bus stop areas over the next several years and provide Kettering with a unique identity.



New Programs / Procedural Changes

▷ International clay artist Joe Bova conducted a two-day workshop at the Rosewood Arts Centre. The workshop was attended by 19 professionals in the field of clay.

▷ In April the Kettering's Partners for Healthy Youth officially kicked off a year of activities designed to help strengthen area youth and families with a citywide celebration of Kettering teens. Kettering Youth Week included a temporary Teen Center and the first annual YoPoFi Cup — an all-day sports competition involving Kettering YOUTH, POLice officers and FIRE fighters. The week was a great success with more than 250 teens attending the temporary Teen Center at Town & Country Shopping Center. All middle and high school students were recognized by their schools for their skills and talents with stars hung in the cafeteria, each bearing a student's name. The Kettering Youth Summit offered more than 200 Kettering teens an opportunity to take an active role in their community. Members of the Kettering City Council, Kettering Board of Education and Kettering Senior Advisory Board greeted students as they arrived at school and let them know how important they are to our community.

▷ The second annual Ice Box Spring Adult Hockey League attracted seven teams of adults to participate (increased by a team from 2004). Approximately \$15,458 was collected for participation fees, up by \$2,908 from the inaugural season.

▷ Online summer camp registration resulted in all spaces for Camp on the Go selling out in three days, ensuring that only residents got spaces in our most popular camps.

▷ A National Skate Week clinic was held during January and had a great response from the public. Over 130 participants enjoyed lessons and demonstrations.

▷ Chinese New Year Celebration in partnership with Dayton Association of Chinese Americans was a huge success with over 550 people attending.

▷ The CIL hosted a Red Hat Pajamas and Pancakes Party in September with more than 50 in attendance. The group is open to women over the age of 50 and is a great chance for them to socialize and prove they are young at heart.

▷ The new Home Party Extravaganza in October sold out of all 40 spaces. The event was free to the public and allowed them to shop from home party retailers without the pressure to purchase, which is common at traditional home parties.



Department Happenings

▷ Summer softball signups concluded with registration numbers at 214 teams, which is 11 more than last year and the highest number we have had in three years. The ASA notified us that we had the highest league participation of any of its membership in the Dayton Metro Area (Montgomery County).

▷ The Macular Degeneration Seminar in April was a huge success with 140 participants. This was up approximately 35 over last year. We were able to raise a net revenue of \$241 from the lunch sales.

▷ Preschool classes were up 28% over 2004 largely due to music classes with instructor Dorie Donges.

▷ Session Two of the After-School Enrichment Program began with 52 clubs including clubs such as fitness club, German club, gymnastic club, around the world club, sign language club, internet club, Spanish club, music theory club, sci-fi club, and clogging club.

▷ More than 2,100 students participated in the Land Lab Environmental Education Program this school year.

▷ The Kettering Youth Council Executive Board, along with chaperones Martha Brzozowski (Kettering Youth Counselor), Sonja Rom, Cory Juliano and Matt Rugh (Van Buren Principal), attended and presented two sessions at the 2005 Healthy Communities, Healthy Youth Conference in Dallas, Texas.

▷ KidsFest at Lincoln Park had approximately 1,800 in attendance.

▷ BubbleFest hosted a large crowd on 463 at the Kettering Ice Arena.

▷ Go 4th! 2005 was held on July 4 at Delco Park with approximately 57,500 in attendance.

▷ We enjoyed another year of large attendance at the Family Carnival.

▷ Discovering Abilities Through Recreation hosted a Luau with 70 in attendance.

▷ Attendance for the Water Park was up by 12,000 people for the month of August compared to 2004 due to the record high temperatures we have had.

▷ We started nine classes for the City's learn to skate program. The enrollment was 32 people with a total attendance 1,063 people for the month of October. Attendance was up in October by 322 patrons over the previous year.

▷ The Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center open house in October proved to be a considerable success with an estimated attendance of 2,400 - 3,000 interested citizens. 411 charter memberships were sold, which exceeded our charter membership goal.

(Continued on Page 8)



Department Happenings (Continued from Page 7)

▶ The Mayor's Tree Lighting in December was successful with over 2,000 visitors.

▶ Frazee ticket sales set another record at \$2.1 million.

▶ The first-of-its-kind street-style skate plaza opened in June. The plaza received a Superior Award from OPRA.

▶ First annual SeaFest seafood festival was held in August with perfect weather and record attendance for a first time festival.

▶ Sold out performances by Gavin DeGraw/Howie Day, Huey Lewis & The News, Willie Nelson, the ParrotHead band and the Menu's. Near sell outs by Duran Duran and Journey.

▶ A new Partners for Healthy Youth website was launched, connecting families with community resources.

▶ The PRCA on-line registration service, which is one of only five in the state, took in \$115,000 in 2005.

▶ The Home School Academy is designed to address the needs of non-public school students who are looking for an academic structured program that can be used in ac-



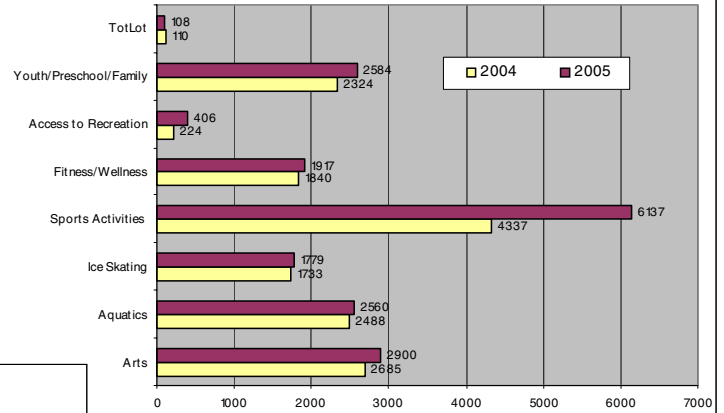
creditation standards. This program at Rosewood is designed to provide hands-on projects at Rosewood as well as at home work study to accomplish the homework standards.

▶ The new concrete and paver area around the 9/11 stone carving (intersection of Lincoln Park and Ackerman) is Seitz Plaza. The patio area was built from donations and acts as an area for local remembrances of the 2001 terror attacks.

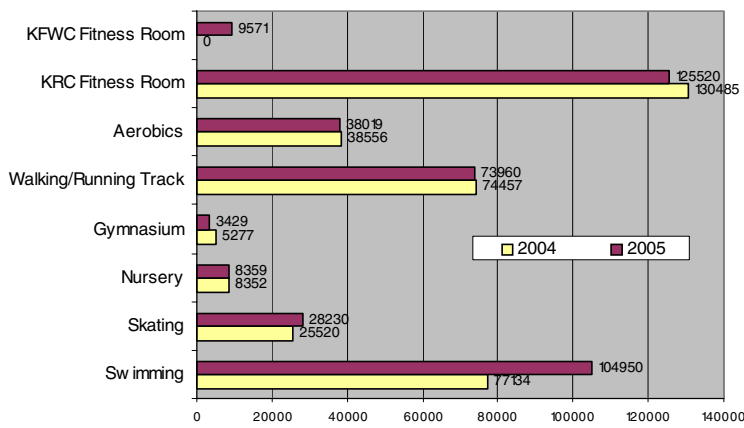
▶ The Frazee Pavilion was listed as one of the Top 100 venues by Pollstar.



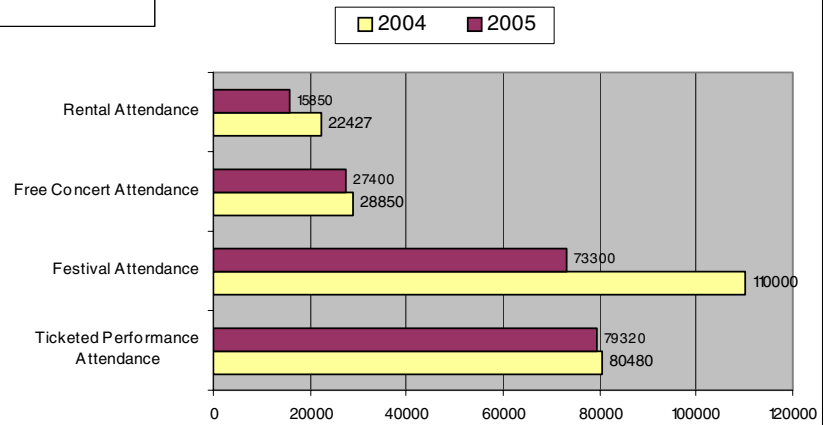
Enrollment Comparison



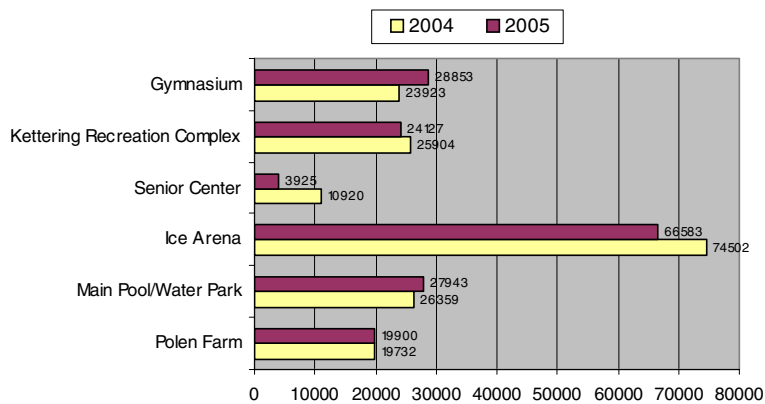
Drop-Ins/Pass Visits



Fraze Attendance Figures



Rental Information



Statement of Purpose

The mission of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department is to improve the quality of life for all residents of Kettering by providing a wide variety of leisure and cultural activities, special events, facilities and services that encourage health, fitness, relaxation, enjoyment, cultural enrichment and learning as well as providing opportunities for community

involvement.

It is also the purpose of this department to improve the quality of the City's urban setting by enhancing the appreciation and care of the natural environment through maintenance and development of open space, parks, roadside areas, government grounds and medians.

Administrative Staff

Mary Beth Thaman
Director

Mike Fleener
Parks Superintendent

Connie Campbell
Cultural Arts Superintendent

Karen Durham
Fraze Pavilion General Manager

Claudine Heizer
Communications/Marketing Manager

Sonja Rom
KRC Facility Manager

Bill Tschirhart
Business Services Manager

Stacy Schweikhart
*Division Manager, Programs/
Special Projects*

Kathy Schommer
Family Program Coordinator

Cory Juliano
Youth Development Coord.

Tammy Erdmann
Aquatics Supervisor

Ed Merritt
Ice Arena Supervisor

Jim Engelhardt
*Division Manager, Fitness,
Sports and Special Facilities*

Jerry Finley
Fitness/Sports Coordinator

Nanette Buehrer,
Senior Center Supervisor

Mike Lehner
Sport/Fitness Coordinator

Larry Early
Parks Supervisor

Barry Sanders
Parks Supervisor

City Council

Marilou Smith, *Mayor*

Peggy B. Lehner, *Vice Mayor*

Bruce E. Duke, *Councilmember*

Donald E. Patterson, *Councilmember*

Keith Thompson, *Councilmember*

Joseph D. Wanamaker, *Councilmember*

Raymond P. Wasky, *Councilmember*

Steven C. Husemann, *City Manager*

Advisory Board

Jim Trent, *Chairperson*

Jerry Barnett, *Member*

Robert Chapman, *Member*


Vince Chalecki, *Member*

Sue McCall, *Member*

George Bayless, *Ex-Officio Member, Kettering Arts Council*

Robert Luther, *Ex-Officio Member, C.I.L. Senior Advisory Board*

Zac Sideras, *Ex-Officio Member, Kettering Youth Council*



“We love the ice arena, the friendly staff and overall atmosphere. We wouldn’t go anywhere else for our skating needs.”

“This is an exceptional skating program and is invaluable to the city. Don’t change a thing!”

“Ms. Patty is great! The kids respond well to her and her teaching style. Ms. Patty makes learning fun!” (preschool class)

“Can’t put in words how wonderful the KRC nursery is!”

“I have lived in Kettering for 28 years and the Rec Center and the swimming programs are the best in the nation!”

“We love KRC Main Pool staff very much. Everyone here makes us at home. We thank you very much for job well done!”

“Everyone is courteous and very helpful! We enjoy our time here!” (ice arena)

Thanks

Our success would not be possible without the support of many volunteers, civic and fraternal organizations, businesses, corporations, youth athletic groups and other agencies. The Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department thanks all involved groups for their cooperation and continued support during 2005.

- Amateur Softball Association
- AMBUCS
- Applebees
- Aspen Waterford
- Avada Audiology
- Beltone Hearing
- Bethany Lutheran Village
- BMX Association of Kettering
- Bob Ross Buick GMC Hummer
- Brighton Gardens
- Catholic Youth Organization
- Charles I. Lathrem Senior Advisory Board
- Christ United Methodist Church
- Clear Channel Radio
- Coke
- ComForcare Senior Services
- Comfort Keepers
- Community Foundation for Kettering
- Community Golf Course
- Continuum Design
- Crestview Nursing Center
- Culture Works
- Damon's
- Day Air Credit Union
- Dayton Area Heart and Cancer Association
- Dayton Daily News
- Dayton Disc Golf Association
- Dayton Heart Hospital
- Dayton Lady Hoop Stars
- Dayton Metro Youth Basketball
- Dorwood Optimists
- East Kettering Recreation Club
- First Day Financial
- First Kettering Athletic League
- First Mortgage Banc
- Five Rivers MetroParks
- Friendly's
- Great Britain Buckeye Soccer
- Harborside Healthcare
- Hauer Music
- HCR Manor Care
- HCR Manor Care
- Heidelberg Distributors
- Hudson, Jon Barlow
- Jazzercise
- Kettering Amateur Baseball Commission
- Kettering Art in Public Places Committee
- Kettering Arts Council
- Kettering Board of Education
- Kettering Children's Choir
- Kettering City Schools
- Kettering City Swim Team
- Kettering Civic Band
- Kettering Cobras
- Kettering Medical Center
- Kettering Officials Association
- Kettering Parks Foundation
- Kettering Police Department
- Kettering PRCA Advisory Board
- Kettering Soccer Club
- Kettering Sports Medicine Center
- Kettering Wildcats Football
- Kettering Youth Council
- KMCN Community Wellness
- Krispy Kreme
- Krogers
- Laurelwood Assisted Living
- Legacy Village
- Lifeline Screening
- McDonald's
- Medicine Shoppe
- Meijer
- Mental Health Services
- Miami Valley Cable Council
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Montgomery Co. Alcohol, Drug Addiction, Montgomery Co. Arts and Cultural District
- Montgomery Co. Visitors & Convention Bureau
- Motorwerks
- Oak Creek Terrace
- Ohio Arts Council
- Ohio Dept. of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services
- One Lincoln Park/Manor
- P&R Communications
- Pepsi
- Phoenix Beverage
- Provident Bank
- Quail Run Tennis Center/Kettering Tennis Center
- Rollandia Golf Center
- Schumacher Crane, Inc.
- Sinclair Community College
- SISCA
- St. Leonard's Assisted Living
- State Farm Insurance ~ Linda Nervis
- Suites at Walnut Creek
- Sunrise/Brighten Gardens
- Sycamore Glen Retirement Center
- The Light Fantastic
- Ticketmaster
- Time Warner Cable
- Tobias Funeral Homes
- Town & Country Shopping Center
- Trinity Community of Beavercreek
- Trinity of Beavercreek
- United Way
- Wee Firebirds
- Wellness Connection of the Dayton Region
- Wellness Connection of the Miami Valley
- Wells Institute
- Wildcats


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THE BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION ARE ENDLESS!