



## Limington Parks & Recreation Department

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Citizens of Limington,

Over the past year our department continued to expand program opportunities for all ages, update and improve our facilities, and most importantly; bring our community together in so many ways! Our department expanded to two full-time staff members, we added our own transportation with the addition of a truck and a bus with commercial driver licensing, we began the process of improving the fields at Blake Memorial, and our programs have continued to grow in attendance and variety.

Across our childcare programs, there were some big growth milestones this year. Both during the '24/'25 school year and the current '25/'26 school year our daily attendance rose to 47 children in the afternoons for aftercare and 32 in the mornings for before-care. This is up from 8 children when these programs started two years ago. On teacher in-service days and early release days we are typically capped out at 50 children with a wait list. At Camp Moy-Mo-Da-Yo we had a full roster of 100 children for all six weeks of camp, with 72 children participating for all six weeks and 38 participating in individual weeks. In addition to regular daily activities like swimming, canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, and camp games, our campers had plenty of field trips as well. Many of our campers kicked off the summer by joining us in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade after helping make a float for the department and decorating our new bus. Other trips included Aquaboggan water park, Smiling Hill Farm, Happy Wheels, a visit for carnival week from Fahie Fair Foods, and Sebago Lake State Park. In our vacation camps, over February, April, and December school breaks our staff provided fun filled weeks for the children with trips to Seacoast Fun Park for snow tubing, Pondicherry Park in Bridgton, Dr. Drew's education center, and a really great day of ice fishing down at Moy-Mo-Da-Yo. The growth, success, and smiling faces at these childcare programs wouldn't be possible without the amazing staff running them. We were very fortunate all year long with staff, many of whom just started this summer and have continued to work in the school year programs rounding out our team that make it all possible. Big thanks to Lexi Phillips, Hannah Mason, Kelcie Bradeen, Cerissa Morse, Nichole Sanborn, Emma Bradeen, Mel Callanan, and Jamie Worden our childcare coordinator that controls the chaos!

In other programs Limington youth participated in existing programs like t-ball, soccer, basketball, track, explorers club, and Pokémon club, but also new programs like our softball clinic, coach-pitch baseball, youth rugby, and a youth entrepreneur market at the Old Town Hall. Jamie Worden put together a very well attended introductory clinic for softball when she saw the need of many girls in town that hadn't played before and weren't quite ready to join a team. On the baseball side of things, we had many players who were beyond t-ball, but not quite ready for little league. This sparked some coach-pitch teams between Limington and Hollis that fit the middle ground between the two. Regarding rugby, we created the Tri-County Highlanders team (the first youth rugby team in Maine!) and had our first spring season playing teams from New Hampshire, New York, and Massachusetts. Our players range from kindergarten to eighth grade, and we are looking forward to our next season as more Maine teams are formed and our roster grows. Thanks to Tim Folley and Addie Trifero for making this possible. Both of these volunteers are veteran rugby players and became certified coaches to start the program.

Although basketball is nothing new to Limington, 2025 saw a resurgence of what the sport means to our town. With both girls and boys teams representing our town for the first time in many years, the program really took off. Mike Hanson and Vicky Hillock coached both the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade and the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade boy's teams, while

also spreading their wealth of knowledge to the girl's teams and the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade players. Nate Johnson and Ashley King took the reins of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade girls' team. It is hard to put into words how much growth these children saw over the course of the season, but you know it was successful when you have kids that decide basketball is their sport and that's all they want to focus on going forward. These volunteer coaches went above and beyond with adding extra games, taking their teams to tournaments, getting in extra practices, and creating a growing basketball culture in our town. Before the end of the year, basketball was in full swing again for a season that typically starts in January- be sure to get to a game!

Programs aside, our department hosted many successful events this year. Annual events like our Fourth of July Parade, Trunk or Treat, Breakfast with Santa, community meals, and community yards sales, but also new events like the Easter Egg Hunt and the Festival of Trees. The Festival of Trees event was an overwhelmingly successful event that surprised us all. We knew it would be a good event, but the over \$9,000 raised for our Fire Department was completely unexpected. This event was unique in that it was such a widespread volunteer effort that involved different departments and personnel, town businesses and their owners, volunteers from other town organizations and recreation programs. Our coffee social group collectively made a tree for the event and volunteered to help during all three days of the event and then there were many community members that just wanted to be involved. This event didn't cost anything to the town, but the hours contributed by volunteers, the trees donated by businesses- some of which had over \$1,000 invested in those trees- and the teamwork to make it all happen was incredible. And to top it all off, the community turned out in force to support the event. There was continuous foot traffic all three days of the event. Thank you to Becki Webster, the mastermind behind this great event!

Although it's not a new event, I do want to mention that our weekly coffee social on Wednesdays at 9:30am at the Old Town Hall is quite the event, and if you haven't been you are missing out! The fun and laughter this group creates each week is second to none. They make newcomers feel like family and you are going to be roped into a game of Swoop or Banagrams immediately. What started as three people at the beginning is now 30 or more people showing up weekly to see each other. This year-round weekly event is open to anyone and everyone, so I can't recommend stopping in enough.

Across our facilities there was a lot of progress made as well. With the addition of the new Buildings and Grounds technician position for the town (Thank you Jake Smith!), a lot of work was completed or began at the Old Town Hall that has been put off for far too long. Repainting the building and window trim began with more to come this spring, plans for new front double doors are in the works, plumbing has been updated, and overall, the building is getting the minor updates and fixes it has so badly needed. At Blake Memorial field Nate Johnson, a resident and volunteer coach for the department, donated his time and equipment to redo the entire outfield area of Field Two that gets used as our big soccer field so that our teams would have actual grass to play on. He also helped raise donations for the project and plans to continue helping with the rest of the field space this spring. Once loam, fertilizer, and new grass seed were put down, again a volunteer effort made watering the field space several times of day possible to get this new grass going.

After such a successful year, I'd like to acknowledge how thankful I am for the community I get to serve. The Parks & Recreation Department wouldn't have this level of success without the continuous support from other town departments, other town employees, and most importantly the large number of volunteers from our community that make our programs and events possible, our facilities better, and our town a place you want to be live in. There are many staff in our department and other town departments that volunteer outside their normal hours, donate, and/or contribute to everything we do and don't always get recognized. And then there are community members who are passionate and knowledgeable and are kind enough to share that

with our department by volunteering and making community even better. Town business owners offer sponsorships without being asked or help solve the last-minute issues that come up before events and programs. While there are only two full-time employees and a handful of part-time/seasonal employees in this department, there is a significant number of community members who volunteer in so many ways to make this department what it is. THANK YOU. It's greatly appreciated and makes coming to work every day a pleasure.

For 2025, you will see that the town budget has been reorganized. Regarding parks & recreation, what has historically been three different departments- Recreation, Moy-Mo-Da-Yo Beach and the Old Town Hall- have all been combined under Parks & Recreation (07-6101) in leisure services. In addition, all Buildings and Ground related line items from those budgets have been moved to buildings and grounds. Utilities for all three have been moved to Town Operations and fuel & maintenance for the rec truck and bus have been moved to Fleet Maintenance.

<b>REVENUE TOTALS FOR:</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
(07-6101) Recreation-	\$27,047	\$85,296	\$116,718
(07-6101) Camp MMDY-	\$49,527	\$73,725	\$92,185
(07-6601) MMDY Beach-	<u>\$28,377</u>	<u>\$33,268</u>	<u>\$32,138</u>
<b>Total P&amp;R Revenue-</b>	<b>\$104,9551</b>	<b>\$192,289</b>	<b>\$241,041</b>

<b>Total appropriation 2025 (07-6101, 07-6601, 07-1302):</b>	\$409,226
<b>Total Actually spent 2025:</b>	\$380,476 (figure is approximate as of 12/31/26)
<b>Total Revenue 2025:</b>	<u>-\$241,041</u>
<b>Actual cost to taxpayers for 2024:</b>	<b>\$139,435</b>

**Proposed appropriation 2026 (07-6101):** **\$384,909**

Respectfully submitted,

Madison Moody

Parks & Recreation Director