



HOURGLASS FIRST FRIDAY FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

January 2020 Forum

Lancaster Recreation Commission

At the January First Friday Forum Heather Dighe, Executive Director of the Lancaster Recreation Commission, presented on her organization's work in the community. The Lancaster Recreation Commission (Lancaster Rec) was established in 1909 as the Lancaster Playground Association. The Lancaster Playground Association established playgrounds throughout the city; held summer programs at school yards, playgrounds and baseball diamonds; and held community parties, dances and band concerts. In the summer of 1920, Miss Mildred Wiley was hired as Superintendent of Recreation. She transformed the organization into the Lancaster Recreation and Playground Association in just two years. On January 1, 1961, the City of Lancaster and the School District of Lancaster developed an agreement for the Lancaster Recreation Commission.

Today Lancaster Rec is supported by three governmental units, the City of Lancaster, Lancaster Township, and the School District of Lancaster, who contribute funds to Lancaster Rec. Currently Lancaster Rec operates: twelve Before and After School Childcare sites; two Early Childhood Education program locations with eight classrooms including McCaskey Early Learning Center; three Senior Centers; four Full Day Summer Camps; Summer Playground Programs that see more than 3,500 children every summer; more than 50 youth sports programs and clinics; the largest adult softball league in the state of PA; free meal programs for children and seniors that provide thousands of meals each year; and special family events, including Open Streets Lancaster, Daddy-Daughter Dance and Mom Son Fall Ball.

Due to its rich history and demonstrated success in providing community based recreation services, the Lancaster Rec is uniquely positioned to serve the recreation, education and community needs in Lancaster. Because Lancaster Rec is a hometown agency, and not part of a larger conglomerate, the organization can respond quickly and dynamically to meet the needs of the Lancaster community. It is also able to keep its programs affordable for residents because the organization is supported by community resources. The Lancaster Rec will continue to work to make Lancaster a great place to live and make lifelong memories.



Heather Dighe
Lancaster Recreation
Commission
Executive Director

*"Much of our work is undertaken with community partners as a way to keep our costs very low so we can provide recreation based programs to low-income families."
- Heather Dighe*

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