

Kentwood Parks and Recreation-Kelloggsville Partnership



Mission: Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs. The Recreation Department is responsible for the coordination of recreational and sports activities for many groups within the City of Kentwood. The Recreation Department is also responsible for growth and development of many of our beautiful parks.



Location:
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Phone:
(616) 656 - 5270

Website:
<http://www.ci.kentwood.mi.us/recreation/default.asp>

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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Senior Activities

- Bingo, Educational classes, healthy lifestyle programs, special events and more are held at the Activities Center.
- For more information about Senior Programs, please visit:
<http://www.ci.kentwood.mi.us/cityhall/Departments/recreation/senioractivities.asp>



Special Events

- A Flea Market and Baked Goods Sale is held yearly.



Organized Athletics

- **Adult Programs:** Kentwood Parks and Rec offers different sports for adults in the community seasonally. Softball, soccer, and additional options are available.
- **Youth Programs:** Kentwood Parks and Rec offers different sports for adults in the community seasonally. Softball, soccer, and additional options are available.



Fitness Programs

- Dance, yoga, and a variety of other classes are available. Additionally, there is an open Recreational fitness center.
- For more information please visit:
<http://www.ci.kentwood.mi.us/cityhall/Departments/recreation/fitness.asp>



Inclusive Programs

- Kentwood Parks and Rec offers various fitness and athletic options for individuals with a physical or mental disability.



Kentwood Parks

Parks in the Kentwood area are maintained and run by Kentwood Parks and Rec. Trails, playgrounds, tennis courts, splash pads, and community rooms are available at various locations. A park locator is available here:

<http://www.ci.kentwood.mi.us/cityhall/Departments/recreation/parklocator-facility.asp>

STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

There are Service Learning opportunities for Elementary, Middle and High School students at Kentwood Parks and Recreation.

Because Kelloggsville High School and Elementary School share land with the Recreation Center and Veteran's Park (on adjacent property), there are plenty of opportunities for strong community connections. Ideally, an encompassing 'Adopt-A-Park' concept will allow for a wide variety of service projects that will fit many different curriculums and age ranges. Below are some possibilities for service learning projects.

Senior Activities

Many activities are available for seniors at the Rec Center. Students of all ages would be able to assist with events such as bingo, coordination of dances and creation of special events to serve seniors. Students can help to educate seniors in the Kelloggsville Community about these resources.

Kitchen Upgrades

Kentwood Parks and Rec's kitchen is in dire need of some upgrades and replacement products. A shop class could help to repurpose current cupboards or create new ones from the old material. Middle or High School English classes could research organizations willing to donate supplies or items for the kitchen, and follow up by writing letters of request to these organizations.

Once renovations are complete, Kentwood Parks and Rec hopes to be able to hold adaptive classes in the kitchen, teaching basic cooking skills to individuals who need additional assistance because of either physical or mental disabilities.

Adaptive and Inclusive Programs

Students could assist with any of the many inclusive sports and fitness programs Kentwood Parks and Rec provides. One example is the Bocce Ball League, held at Home Acres Park at 44th and Division (inside or close to Kelloggsville School District). Students would first learn the rules of the game and act as officials/refs or provide assistance during play. This is an ideal option for middle-schoolers. Curriculum options are endless. For example, this activity provides real life examples for a science class studying Biology and the structure and function of the human body, a Social Studies class studying citizen involvement in the community, a journalism class might write stories or publish a newsletter for the athletes.

Youth Sports

High Schools students could practice leadership skills by helping to officiate or coach different group sports, depending on the season.

*Sustainable Change in the Park

Because Veteran's Park is used by so many Kelloggsville community members as well as students, creating an atmosphere that is mutually beneficial for all is important. Addressing environmental, social and other issues could be part of an inclusive effort by many different grades levels to make Veterans Park a safe, fun, and clean place to be. Below are some possibilities related to sustainable, beneficial changes that fit the 'adopt-the-park' model.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Middle School / High School Teen Council

This is something that existed at Kentwood Parks and Rec about six or seven years ago. This teen council was run by some students from Kelloggsville High School and was quite successful. These students organized park clean-ups, fundraising events for KHS as well as Kentwood Parks and Rec, Overnights, and dances. Additional projects that have been suggested include Family Fun Nights (organized and run by the students in this group) during the winter, and a safety and anti-bullying program with Kelloggsville Elementary School. The safety program was suggested based upon observation of fights on occasion as elementary school students cut through Veteran's Park.

Graffiti Problems

Kentwood Parks and Rec has had a large problem with graffiti and tags on benches and outlying buildings in Veteran's Park. Creatively addressing this problem could be a school-wide effort, tying in many different classes with each making a curriculum specific contribution to the solution. Teachers can work collaboratively or individually.

Cleaning Kentwood Parks

Trash removal, landscaping and maintenance of facilities at all Kentwood Parks are continuous needs. Students who choose to 'adopt' Veteran's Park could work in many ways to reduce litter. Working on a regular basis to check on and maintain cleanliness at the park, noting issues with playground or other equipment and reporting it to the Rec Center, and encouraging others to take care of the parks in their community are some of the many ways students can participate.

Curricular connections could include many disciplines and grade levels. Examples include: Science (obtaining samples for study, understanding ecosystems, and discussing the role of humans in preserving the environment), English (researching environmental issues, writing persuasive arguments to encourage responsible stewardship) or Social Studies (citizenship and the democratic process, understanding governments role in maintaining public spaces, cultural differences in recreational traditions and activities).

Home Acres (located at 44th and Division) is another Kentwood area park in the district that could use similar help.

Spanish Language Signs

Please reference Kelloggsville Project Planner at:

http://kentidservicelearning.com/?page_id=1196

A third year high school Spanish class translated the Kentwood Parks and Rec spring/summer brochure into Spanish for distribution to the largely Spanish -speaking community surrounding Kelloggsville. This project can be continued and expanded. The park needs brochures, park signs, newsletters, and additional written material translated or created in Spanish. A first year or second year Spanish class could work on various aspects of this project.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Plexiglass Display Board

There is a need for a 'community event' type board outside of the Rec Center. Once this board is in place, it would be available to the entire Kelloggsville Community to post upcoming events, socials, and community activities. Students in a shop class can create the board. Students in an English class, Social Studies class, or even student council can create a sustainable system to ensure that the community is aware of the board's existence, develop a procedure for incoming postings, put up new postings and take down old postings, and utilize the board for Kelloggsville District School events as well.