



## CITY OF HOMER

Community Recreation  
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### Memo

To: City of Homer Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission  
From: Mike Illg, Community Recreation Coordinator  
Date: 6/18/2014  
Re: City of Homer Community Recreation Report

The City of Homer Community Recreation program continues to be very popular service for our community members. Our activities through a partnership with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District are located at Homer High School, Homer Middle School, West Homer Elementary and the city owned HERC building. Our mission statement is:

*"The City of Homer Community Recreation will promote community involvement and life-long learning through educational and recreational opportunities for people of all ages. This will be accomplished through maximizing usage of all community facilities and resources, while utilizing, expanding and uniting local business and school resources and expertise. Our program shall be designed to recognize cultural diversity and to address social and community concerns."*

#### Statistics

Year	Events	Programs	Part. 0-19	20 & up	Total	Visits	Revenue	Volunteers	Vol. Hours	Vol. Value
2011	6	116	1,295	1,567	2,862	15,021	\$30,158	76	2,632	\$56,272
2012	5	96	1,258	1,765	3,023	18,000	\$29,264	84	2,358	\$51,781
2013	5	91	1,575	1,719	3,294	13,957	\$33,227	75	2,925	\$64,233

In 2011, there was **2,632** donated volunteer hours, in 2012, **2,358** hours and in 2013, **2,925** hours for a total of **7,915** donated volunteer hours over the last three years. This equates to a monetary value of **\$173,813 (\$29.96/hour\*)**.

Recreation Coordinator supervises **47 individual volunteers** who often volunteer for multiple activities and **27 contracted instructors**.

\*Source: [http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

2013-14 Classes & Events			
SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	Winter
SPEC. EVENT	SPEC. EVENT	SPEC. EVENT	SPEC. EVENT
Wrestling Tournament	Spit Run	Ski Swap	Telluride Film Fest (2)
Safe Kids Fair/Bike Rodeo		Hunter Safety	Ski Swap
PRESCHOOL		PRESCHOOL	PRESCHOOL
PlayGroup		PlayGroup	PlayGroup
YOUTH & TEEN	YOUTH & TEEN	YOUTH & TEEN	YOUTH & TEEN
Popeye Wrestling	Girl's Basketball	Gymnastics Young Beg.	Playgroup
Bruin Youth Basketball	Youth Wrestling	Gym. Young Beg. Equ.	Youth Kayaking
Youth Karate	Youth Basketball	Gym. Beg. T&V	Youth Karate
Young Beg. Tumbling	Zumba Kids	Gym. Inter. T&V	Popeye Wrestling
Beginner Tumbling	Zumba Jr.	Gym.Beg. Equ.	ARTS & CRAFTS
Beginner II Tumbling	Tumbling	Gym. Advance	Lost Wax Casting
Intermediate Tumbling	Gymnastics	Playgroup	Silversmith 1
Advanced Tumbling	Gymn. Equipment	Youth Kayaking	Inter. Silversmith
Beginner Equipment	Youth Karate	Youth Karate	
Advanced Equipment	MIXED AGES	Youth BB Camp	RECREATION
Youth Soccer	Fencing	Bruin BB	Dodgeball
	Weight Room		Pickleball
RECREATION	Adult Karate	ARTS & CRAFTS	Volleyball League
Pickleball Mon.	Pick Up Basketball	Lost Wax Casting	Women's BB League
Pickleball Wed.	Morning BB	Silversmith 1	Fencing
Pickleball Fri.	Wed. Volleyball	Inter. Silversmith	Climbing
Ping Pong	Ping Pong		Tuesday Basketball
Wednesday Basketball	Tango Dance		Thursday Basketball
Tuesday Basketball	Pick Up Soccer	RECREATION	BB Sponsorship
Thursday Basketball	Pickleball Mon.	Pickleball Mon.	BB League
Women's Soccer	Pickleball Wed.	Pickleball Wed.	Sunday Soccer
Sunday Soccer	Pickleball Fri.	Pickleball Fri.	Wednesday Soccer
Wednesday Soccer		Dodgeball	Women's Soccer
Friday Soccer		Pickleball	Beginner Volleyball
Beginner Volleyball		Volleyball League	Advanced Volleyball
Advanced Volleyball		Fencing	Pickleball Mon.
Ball Room Dance		Climbing	Pickleball Wed.
Bellydance 1		Tuesday Basketball	Pickleball Fri.
Bellydance 2		Thursday Basketball	DANCE
Climbing		BB Sponsorship	Ball Room Dance
Fencing		BB League	Bellydance 1
		Sunday Soccer	Bellydance 2
		Wednesday Soccer	
HEALTH & FITNESS			HEALTH & FITNESS
Weight Room		Women's Soccer	Weight Room
Karate		Beginner Volleyball	Karate
HOME & SAFETY		Advanced Volleyball	Pilates
Hunter Ed		Women's BB League	Tai Chi
Spanish		DANCE	
Online Classes		Tango	

	Bellydance 1	HOME & SAFETY
	Ball Room Dance	Spanish
		Refurbish Class
	HEALTH & FITNESS	Online Classes
	Weight Room	
	Karate	
	Pilates	
	Tai Chi	
	HOME & SAFETY	
	Spanish	
	Online Classes	

Growing programs Every year we are seeing an increase in participation with existing programs and the request for new activities.

- Popeye Youth wrestling (90+)
- Pickle Ball (30+)
- Bruins Youth Basketball (40+)
- Pick Up Basketball (at least 20 participants each night) 3 times a week

#### NEW Activities

- Co-Ed Volleyball (over 60 participants) for participants ages 16 and older.
- Women's Basketball League (participants 16 and up) (40 participants)
- Zumba Kids & Zumba Kids Jr (summer classes)
- Dodge Ball
- Ball Room dancing
- Contra Dancing

I will report that there have been numerous request for classes and activities from community members, potential volunteers and instructors but we simply do not have the time and space to meet these requests. Another indicator of increase participation is the revenue collected so far.

As of June 17, 2014, CR has collected **\$20,700** in class fees compared to \$15,000 in 2013 and \$12,000 in 2012.

#### School Climate

I am very pleased to report that there has been excellent support and communication from local school administration and staff for the Community Recreation program. This makes a huge difference in trying to operate and schedule programs around school district activities. Because school district activities have precedent over CR activities, there are times when our programs are cancelled or moved. I am also working with the school district in regards to assisting with scheduling local field activity during the summer months.

### Artificial turf

The presence of artificial turf in our community will expand the recreation and wellness opportunities for visitors and local alike. While it is a borough field, there are expectations to have many activities on the field beyond school district activities, including organized CR activities. I will and have been working closely with the school and borough staff to assist with facilitating use. The presence of the artificial field will allow for activities beyond the typical summer months usage and allow for additional events within the shoulder seasons providing a boost to the local economy with visiting teams making their way to Homer.

### Alaska Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA) 2015 Conference

I am excited to announce that the Alaska Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA) Conference will be held in Homer in the fall of 2015. The Alaska Recreation & Parks Association is the state chapter of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and has over 250 plus members of parks and recreation professionals from different agencies throughout the state. The five major branches of this organization are: aquatics, citizen's board, parks maintenance, recreation services, therapeutic & adaptive recreation and wild lands. Parks and recreation services play a significant role throughout Alaska's tourism industry and this will be an opportunity to showcase Homer's parks and recreation infrastructure and services while providing educational and informational sessions to the participants. We will be requesting the City's support and participation as we continue to plan for this exciting event.

### Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment

This important needs assessment will ideally provide adequate information and feedback from the community in regards to parks, arts, recreation and culture in the Homer community. I believe this will be an important document not only for the Homer residents utilizing local services but will also help the greater Homer area plan for the future relating to quality of life, economic development and tourism.

### HERC Building

The demand for using the HERC gym is extremely strong and apparent as CR had to turn away activities requested by community members. Here is a typical schedule:

<b>GYM</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
10:30-12PM	Playgroup				Playgroup		
12-1PM	Pickle Ball					Open Gym	
2-4PM		Youth BB					Youth BB
3:30-5PM	Youth Wrestling		Youth Wrestling	Youth Wrestling	Youth Wrestling		
5:30-8PM	Pickleball	Women's BB	Pickleball		Pickleball		

All of these activities simply would not take place if the HERC gym was not available. While some of these activities have been in the schools, many have been bumped from the schools moving the activities to the HERC. There is also a significant amount of participants at the local skateboard park and basketball court located in the HERC property. These passive recreational opportunities are difficult to estimate how many people are using them but I would guess 10-20 throughout the day.

### **HERC Gym Stats**

**Jan. 2013 to present**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
<b>Playgroup</b>	Sept-Apr Year	107	853	\$909
<b>Pickle Ball</b>	Round	60	2608	\$4,194
<b>Youth Basketball</b>	Feb-Mar	58	1329	\$637
<b>Youth Wrestling</b>	Feb-Apr	92	4416	\$1,418
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	Mar-May	25	325	\$1,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>342</b>	<b>9531</b>	<b>\$8,158</b>

There are many proven studies that proves municipal recreational services provide many important and beneficial results including; increasing property values, attracting businesses to a community, reducing crime, extend life expectancy, improve quality of life, reduce childhood obesity (see stats below), strengthen neighborhoods and sense of community and attracting new residents to a community. While our community enjoys and offers many outdoor recreational opportunities during the warmer summer months, the Community Recreation program strives to fulfill the crucial need of indoor recreational opportunities during the colder months, especially considering our state has the highest rates of depression and suicide in the United States.

While I understand there are current discussions with potential alternate uses of the HERC building/property, I highly recommend that this building/property be designated for parks and recreation purposes considering its current use, historical use, proximity to local schools and downtown foot traffic.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services shares that obesity continues to be a serious health concern in Alaska. In 2011, 65% of adults were overweight or obese and the state has high rates of childhood and youth obesity. Overweight and obesity are alarming because both conditions increase the risk for a number of health problems, including chronic diseases, which can lead to reduced quality of life, premature death, and substantial healthcare - and productivity-related costs.

- 26% of Alaskan high school students are overweight or obese; 12% are classified as obese (2013)
- 45% of Alaskan high school students drink one or more soda or sugary drink each day (2013).
- 52% of Alaskan high school students watch TV, videos, or use a computer for non-academic reasons for three or more hours of each day (2013).
- 79% of Alaskan high school students do not meet the physical activity recommendation of 60 minutes every day (2013).
- 75% of Alaskan adults do not meet the aerobic and muscle strengthening physical activity recommendation (2011)
- 74% of Alaskan adults watch TV, videos, DVDS or use a computer outside of work for more than 2 hours every day (2011)
- 42% of Alaskan adults drink at least one sugar sweetened beverage soda a day (2011)

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/Obesity/default.aspx>