Dryden Recreation & Youth Commission

- 2014 Annual Report
  - Recreation Activities
  - Youth Development Programs
  - Community Grants

- 2014 Youth Needs Assessment
  - Process
  - Highlights
  - Themes & Recommendations
Goal:
To provide a high quality of life for all town residents by assisting in facilitating opportunities to participate in healthy and satisfying recreation and leisure activities, and supporting and increasing access of town youth to programs that build skills, confidence, leadership, and supportive relationships with peers and adults.

2014 Membership:
Stephanie Mulinos – Chair
Steve Meyer – Vice-Chair
Tracy Kurtz
Vicki Wilkins
Tom Fuchs
David Bravo-Cullen
Rick Ryan
Joe Solomon, Town Board
Jennifer Jones, Rec. Director
Kris Bennett, TCYS Liaison
Recreation vs. Youth Development

Recreation is...
Noun;
1. refreshment by means of some pastime, agreeable exercise, or the like.
2. a pastime, diversion, exercise, or other resource affording relaxation and enjoyment.
~Webster’s Dictionary

Youth Development is...
Noun;
A process which prepares youth people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences which help them to become socially, morally, emotionally, physically, and cognitively competent.
~www.youth.gov
Recreation Activities Offered in 2014:

Adult/Family:
- Pickleball
- Co-ed Softball
- Co-ed Kickball
- Father/Daughter Dance
- Music in the Hollow
- Dryden Music Series
- CPR Training

Youth:
- Sertoma Soccer (new in 2014!)
- Indoor Movie Night at DES
- Karate
- Baseball
- Football
- Track & Field
- Lacrosse
- Cheerleading
- Basketball
- Wrestling
- Summer Camps
- Spring Egg Hunts
2014 DRYC Annual Report

Youth Development Programming:

- Dryden Youth Program
  - 39 Programs
  - 170 Participants

Programs included:
- Primitive Pursuits
- Iron Chef/Outdoor Cooking
- Lunch Bunch
- Community Helpers
- Health & Wellness Day
- Monday Makers
- Hiking Trips
- Overnight Camping Trips
- Animal/Environmental Explorers
- Canoe Trips
- Nature Arts
- Fun with Frisbees
2014 DRYC Annual Report

Youth Development Programming:

  - Served 26 families located in 3 mobile home parks within the Town of Dryden
  - 65 Participants
  - Cornell Student Mentors

Programs included:
- Autumn Adventures
- Leadership Council
- Cooking Matters
- Mentors in Training
- Nitty Gritty Thursdays
- Crafting in the Park
- Word Buffs
- Lego Robots
- Summer Afoot
- Plant Medicine
- 4-H Fair & KICKS
- Music Wizards
- Animal Tracking
- Just for Teens
- Stay Fit
2014 DRYC Annual Report

Youth Development Programming:

• Youth Employment
  ✓ 17 Youth Participants
  ✓ 9 Work Sites
  • Clark’s Shurfine Foods
  • Primitive Pursuits
  • Dryden Community Center Café
  • Dryden Summer Camp
  • Freeville Summer Camp
  • Southworth Library
  • Camp Earth Connection
  • Back to Basics Bulk Food Store

Program included:

- Interview Skills Training
- Learning the value of money
- Learning patience
- Learning assertiveness skills
- Learning Public Health Standards
- Evaluation of Program by Participants
# 2014 DRYC Annual Report

## Youth Development Programming – 2004 vs 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2004 Programs</th>
<th>2014 Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Youth Services</td>
<td>Rural Youth Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OURS/YOURS</td>
<td>OURS/YOURS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dryden Youth Jobs</td>
<td>Dryden Youth Employment Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooktondale Camp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Dryden Police &amp; Community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Conservation Corps</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Finding Our Strength/Finding Our</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coddington Community Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Training for Youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeville Youth Jobs</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# 2014 DRYC Annual Report

## Youth Development Program Funding – 2004 vs. 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>County Funding</th>
<th>State Funding</th>
<th>Town Funding</th>
<th>Total Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$35,235</td>
<td>$4,188</td>
<td>$39,423</td>
<td>$78,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>38,205</td>
<td>3,927</td>
<td>39,882</td>
<td>82,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>39,513</td>
<td>4,128</td>
<td>43,641</td>
<td>87,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>33,264</td>
<td>2,887</td>
<td>44,252</td>
<td>80,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>16,222</td>
<td>1,718</td>
<td>42,039</td>
<td>59,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>18,693</td>
<td>3,207</td>
<td>64,946</td>
<td>86,846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- 2011 – MYSS was cut by 50%
- 2014 – OURS was extended to 4 days/week and Youth Employment Program was expanded.
## 2014 Community Grants:

$15,000 was available for Community Grants in 2014. The list of recipients were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dryden Community Center Café</td>
<td>Music Events</td>
<td>$1,481</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dryden Farmer’s Mark</td>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dryden United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Community Dinners</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dryden Veteran’s Memorial Home</td>
<td>New Roof</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
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<td>Ellis Hollow Community Center</td>
<td>Poolside Lighting</td>
<td>$814</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Dryden Wrestling</td>
<td>Singlets</td>
<td>$700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neptune Fire Company</td>
<td>Jr. Fire Academy 1</td>
<td>$1,615</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neptune Fire Company</td>
<td>Jr. Fire Academy 2</td>
<td>$1,319</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southworth Library</td>
<td>Teen Programing</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dryden Historical Society</td>
<td>Annual Festival</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Varna Community Center</td>
<td>Programming, Music Event</td>
<td>$700</td>
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# 2014 DRYC Annual Report

## 2014 Community Grants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Town Funding</th>
<th>Number of Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2014 Youth Needs Assessment

Purpose:
To gather information from youth in the community that will assist DRYC in developing and refining youth programs in the town. Needs assessments are completed every 3-6 years.

Process:
Input was obtained by DRYC from:
• Community Stakeholders Forum
• Student Surveys
• Parent Surveys
2014 Youth Needs Assessment
Community Stakeholders’ Forum

Dryden’s Challenges:
- Transient families
- Youth are over-programmed
- Adult mental illnesses not treated
- Low parental interest in activities
- Youth have a sense of entitlement
- Low funding availability
- Transportation

Dryden’s Strengths:
- Town location & size of community
- Youth are more sophisticated & enthusiastic
- School system invokes community pride
- More electronics, more global awareness
- Youth are more honest & realistic
2014 Youth Needs Assessment

Student Surveys

Results:

- 74% state there is good availability of after-school activities
- 50%+ state there are good opportunities for youth to become involved in the community
- 95% enjoy hanging out with friends
- 51% would like more to do outside of school, better parks and a recreation center in town.
- 88% think there’s a good variety of places to eat in Dryden
- 23% state the people and community are the best things about Dryden

- 62% state drug/alcohol use is medium-big problem
- 16% of youth reported using alcohol, 3rd highest rate in Tompkins County
- 74% state bullying is a significant issue
- Cost, transportation and having to watch younger siblings restrict youth from participating in programs

111 students completed the survey; 97% were 10th graders (15-16 years old)
2014 Youth Needs Assessment

Parents’ Perspectives

• 80% of activities are sponsored by the school
• 60% believe community programs are very important for youth development
• 40% state youth programs do not align with interests
• 62% state program costs are too high or they have to travel too far
• 12% of parents state their children are frequently bullied
• Parents would like to see more outdoor activities, sports, environmental/natural activities, educational opportunities, arts programs, and activities suitable for girls be offered
2014 Youth Needs Assessment

Common Themes:
• Parents want a community center and safe recreational facilities
• Transportation is an issue, whether public or private
• Communication about available activities should include e-mail and flyers sent home
• More programs that teach social skills are welcome
• There is a strong sense of community in Dryden

Recommendations:
• Move forward with a community center and recreational facilities
• Communication/coordination with public/private transportation options, including community organizations and carpooling
• Additional programs to address bullying, ethics, leadership and responsibility
• Offer online youth programs for those youth that cannot attend in person
2014 Youth Needs Assessment

Acknowledgements:

Community Stakeholder Forum Participants:

- Patty Ard, Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund
- Paul Streeter, Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund
- Shelley Lester, Cornell Cooperative Extension Rural Youth Services Supervisor
- Dave Hall, Cornell Cooperative Extension Rural Youth Services Program Manager
- Lt. Mike Watkins, Village of Dryden Police
- Don Scutt, Dryden Kiwanis
- Louis Gatto, SUNY Cortland Professor
- Sandy Sherwood, Dryden Central Schools Superintendent
- Mary Ann Sumner, Dryden Town Supervisor
- Kris Bennett, Tompkins County Youth Services Department
2014 Youth Needs Assessment

Acknowledgements:

• Dr. Sharon Todd, Professor & Chair of Recreation, Parks & Leisure Studies Department, SUNY Cortland
• SUNY Cortland Graduate Students enrolled in Recreation Research & Evaluation I & II
• Dryden Middle and High School Students
• Parents of Dryden Youth